

TODAY'S VERSE

Habakkuk 3:19 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Shantel Morris smile? "When I see high school kids of all ages finding success when they didn't feel they could be successful," said the 1991 Noblesville High School graduate and former NHS Singer of three years. She is a graduate of Ball State University with a degree in entertainment architecture. Shantel worked at Walt Disney Universal Studios in the show and ride department, as a show and ride designer and lived in Orlando, Fla. Her expertise was combining theater and design, and also used that in Orlando, where she and her husband, Jim Morris, operated Trilemma Productions equity theater company. She met her husband when he was executive director for a theater alliance in Florida. "Our worlds crossed in theater; that's how we met." They have two children in school. She is now a real-estate broker and owns her own brokerage and still does design and has her own design company. Since moving back to Indiana, she has been choreographing NHS productions since about 2013 and is considered a part-time musical assistant. She operates a dance program for a couple of schools in Indianapolis, Center for Inquiry School 84 and has helped out with Brave Youth Society in Indy, and has helped with choreography with some other schools. What else makes her smile? "The No. 1 thing that makes me smile is when I see a kid actually figure out their character and they finally figure out how to bring that character to life. It's like a light bulb goes on for them in all things, the acting side and for the importance of the story they're telling."

And Another Thing...

The Fishers Police Department will be conducting its annual property destruction after April 10, 2022. The property that is identified as having no evidentiary value and remains unclaimed by its rightful owner will be destroyed. Any property that is associated with an active case, which has not been adjudicated will not be destroyed and cannot be released to its owner. Any evidence that is considered illegal to possess by Indiana Statute will not be released.

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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!



\$38 million

The Center for Rural Affairs is applauding the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its dedication to

climate-smart agriculture following the agency's announcement Monday that it plans to invest \$38 million in a new program aimed at increasing cover crop acres. In addition, a key change to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) was announced.



\$100,000

The Hamilton County Household Hazardous Waste Center's annual costs have increased from \$40,000 to more than \$100,000 annually because of tighter recycling restrictions and the public not being fully aware of the restrictions.



26

Westfield Mayor Andy Cook has announced that Rob Gaylor is the new Fire Chief for the Westfield Fire Department with a Swearing-In Ceremony. Chief Gaylor succeeds Chief Marcus Reed who retired at the end of 2021. Chief Gaylor has 26 years of experience under his belt. He has been in the Fire and EMS service since 1995 and a member of the Westfield Fire Department since 2004.

December 2021 bucked the typical trend of a quieter residential real estate market during the holidays. Monthly real estate statistics from F.C. Tucker Company revealed that December 2021 pending home sales increased



4.4 percent compared to December 2020.

4.4%

1,393,574

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

67,017

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

62,538,796

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

19,319

How many Hoosiers have died because of this pandemic.

529

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

840,286

How many Americans have lost their lives to the pandemic.



FHD encourages vaccinations with holiday hours on MLK day

Fishers Health Department (FHD) announced today that it will offer vaccinations and testing during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday on Monday, January 17.

"With many schools and businesses closed for the holiday, this is a prime opportunity to complete your first round of vaccinations or get boosted so that you can protect yourself and your loved ones from this latest COVID surge," said Monica Heltz, public health director for the Fishers Health Department.

The Fishers Vaccination Clinic (12520 E. 116th Street) will be open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Monday, January 17 for both walk-ins and appointments.

Weekend hours will continue as usual, open Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and closed on Sunday. Appointments can be made at fishers.in.us/vaccine. Fishers Health Department has given nearly 90,000 vaccines to date, and more than 9,000 vaccinations in the past 2 weeks as the new omicron variant contributes to rising cases.

The Fishers Testing Site (4 Municipal Drive) will be open from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. for drive-thru testing, along with priority testing for students and staff of K-12 Fishers-based schools from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Tests can be

See FHD Page A6

Superintendent Niedermeyer on Senate Bill 167

Dr. Beth Niedermeyer
Superintendent, Noblesville Schools

Proposed Indiana education legislation Senate Bill 167 has made national news recently due to some of the alarming consequences this legislation could impose on public schools if it were to be adopted into law.

Education legislation is often written without any input from actual educators and with little regard for how it will actually work in the real world. I feel it's my responsibility to share what this proposed legislation would mean for Noblesville Schools and schools throughout the state.

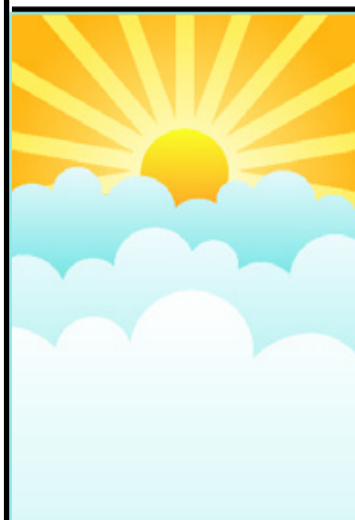
As currently written, the legislation would:

Prohibit teaching accurate historical facts, both in K-12 education and to adults at the college level.

Prohibit teaching general so-

See BILL Page A6

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 8:08 a.m.
SET: 5:46 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 36 °F
Low: 28 °F



- Wacky Holiday Today**
- Organize Your Home Day
 - National Dress Up Your Pet Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1559 Elizabeth I is crowned Queen of England
- 2005 The European Huygens space probe lands on Saturn's moon Titan
- 1967 The Summer of Love is launched with the Human Be-In



Births On This Day

- 1741 Benedict Arnold American/English general
- 1969 Dave Grohl American singer-songwriter, musician, director

Deaths On This Day

- 2016 Alan Rickman English actor
- 1898 Lewis Carroll English author

INSIDE TODAY

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OBITUARIES

Robert "Rob" Christie



HONEST HOOSIER

Happy 74th birthday to musician T Bone Burnett. No, he wasn't particularly famous but what a cool name!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you're planning a trip overseas, make sure you contact your doctor early to see if you need to receive recommended vaccines.

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.



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

TODAY'S QUOTE

"We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us. The old skin has to be shed before the new one can come."
Joseph Campbell

TODAY'S JOKE

The boss made a resolution to lose 25 pounds for New Year's. He's only got 32 more to go!

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
42 AIR PATCHY POSS. WIND	28/36 TURNING COLDER	21/32 SNOW CHANCE SOUTHWEST	17/32 SNOW SHOWERS POSSIBLE	21/31 FLURRIES, BREEZY	28/37 MOSTLY CLOUDY	20/38 MOSTLY CLOUDY

Wolfsies ask themselves if they've seen this show

My wife and I were starting to watch a Netflix series when I said: "This looks familiar. Have we seen it before?"

"I'm not sure, Dick. But if we have seen it, I don't want to watch another eight episodes. That would be a big waste of time."

"But I don't remember how it ends, so why not watch it anyway?"

We were faced with a big decision to rewatch or not watch. We chose to move on to another show, this one with eight episodes for each of three seasons. We watched three episodes and once again, we were puzzled. "I know we've seen this, Dick," said Mary Ellen as the woman in the scene steps to the edge of the cliff to consider taking her life.

"Okay, Mary Ellen, if we saw this already, tell me: does she jump or not?"

"Oh, I have no idea, but I could never forget that cute turquoise blouse she's wearing."

A few weeks ago we were watching a movie starring George Clooney.



DICK WOLFSIE
Life in a Nutshell

My wife is a big fan, so when I said in the first few minutes that I was certain we had watched it before, she went into complete denial, hoping to convince me to view the entire movie again. I didn't mind. I remember how one guy in the flick had thinning gray hair like mine and I loved how he combed it. A guy doesn't forget something like that. But did he turn out to be the real serial killer? I had no memory of that.

This is not the only case for one or both of us forgetting unforgettable moments. After Mary Ellen and I had been married for six years, we were reminiscing about how we first met. In the course of the

conversation, we realized we had actually met three years earlier than we thought, when we sat next to each other in a restaurant with mutual friends, then shared a cab back to our respective apartments. She'd have remembered me if I looked like George Clooney, and I'd have remembered her if she had jumped off a cliff after dessert.

But back to movies. Last week we were searching for some light entertainment. A few minutes in, I said to Mary Ellen, "I am 100 percent positive we have seen this. I recognize that guy."

"Of course you do. That's Mr. Potato Head. This is Toy Story 2."

"He looks a little different than I remember."

"He was also in the first Toy Story, Dick. But he had a different nose."

And finally, our current viewing includes a British series called Unforgotten, which is ironic because we apparently had not unforgotten it. That was a complicated double negative, but Heidi,

my proofreader, is on vacation, so I can get away with it. After three episodes, we both knew we had seen it before, and again we debated whether to finish it. We must have watched it when we lived in our previous home, when we had a much smaller TV, a lousy popcorn maker and a worn-out sofa. So we watched every episode all over again and totally enjoyed it. Location. Location. Location.

We have now decided to start keeping a log of what movies and series we watch, which ones we liked and those we didn't. Mary Ellen is keeping track of plot and character development as well as the big stars in each production. I'm on the lookout for actors who know how to effectively comb thinning hair.

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.

SNHU announces Fall 2021 Dean's List

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students

must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6.

Amy Kinyon of Carmel
Daniella Deposki of Indianapolis
Chance Carr of Noblesville
Curtis Hitzeman of Indianapolis
Kara Miller of Fishers

SNHU announces Fall 2021 President's List

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students

must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6.

Amy Kinyon of Carmel
Daniella Deposki of Indianapolis
Chance Carr of Noblesville
Curtis Hitzeman of Indianapolis
Kara Miller of Fishers

New leadership for the Indiana FFA organization

The Indiana FFA Association and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture announce the hiring of Tamara (Tami) Ketchen as the new Indiana FFA Association Director. Ketchen currently serves as the assistant FFA director for the Association and previously held the role as director from 2015 to 2018.

"We are extremely excited to have Tami back as director of the FFA Association," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's secretary of agriculture. "During her previous time with the department, she was a crucial part of the FFA team and helped develop youth education initiatives that live on today. I look forward to working alongside Tami once again to promote and elevate FFA to our legislative leadership and businesses."

Indiana FFA is a dynamic youth

organization that provides students opportunities for leadership development, personal growth and career success.

"Tami is a great addition to our leadership staff at the department and I am eager to work with her in this role," said Bruce Kettler, ISDA director. "Our department works hand in hand with the Indiana FFA Association and that organization is very close to my heart. I have full confidence that Tami will ensure our youth development, education and FFA chapters are taken to the next level."

As director of the Association, Ketchen will oversee programs, collaborate with ISDA staff to progress agricultural education, enhance communications between FFA advisors and members, as well as act as a liaison between Indiana FFA and National FFA. She will also be responsible for continuing the implementation of the

Association's strategic plan.

"I am incredibly thankful to be back as director of an organization that I love so much," said Ketchen. "FFA is incredibly important for our students and for our state and I look forward to building relationships with advisors, businesses and legislators to promote youth agriculture education for years to come."

The Indiana FFA Association has 216 chapters serving over 11,600 Indiana FFA members. In this role Ketchen will oversee the Indiana FFA Pavilion at the Indiana State Fair, coordinate the completion of strategic plan initiatives, lead the Indiana FFA Association Board of Trustees and help with leadership training for the Indiana State FFA Officers. She will also manage the team of FFA and ag education employees within ISDA.

Ketchen graduated from

Purdue University in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education. Prior to her position as assistant director of the Indiana FFA Association, Ketchen held the role of Field Atlas Program Manager with AgriNovus Indiana.

ABOUT ISDA
The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. Administratively, ISDA reports to Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

Application deadline for teacher scholarship and stipends is quickly approaching Jan. 30

Students in high school or college who are planning to teach or work in school administration in the State of Indiana have until January 31 to apply for one scholarship and two teaching stipends.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is encouraging students to act quickly, as there is limited funding available. All three financial aid opportunities can be applied for at ScholarTrack.IN.gov.

"Educators play a pivotal role in preparing students for higher education and the workforce," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers. "The Commission is pleased to provide these financial aid opportunities to fund future educators' higher education and build Indiana's teacher pipeline."

Scholarship:

Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship: The Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship provides 200 high-achieving high school and college students interested in pursuing a career in education the opportunity to earn a renewable scholarship of up to \$7,500 each year during up to four academic years. In exchange, students agree to teach for five years at an eligible Indiana school or repay the corresponding prorated amount of the scholarship. The Commission will review all applications and notify applicants of their scholarship status via email by March 18, 2022. For instructions on how to apply, and for a full list of eligibility requirements, visit learnmoreindiana.org/futureteacher.

Stipends:

Earline S. Rogers Student Teaching Stipend for Minorities: This stipend is available to minority students (defined as Black or Hispanic and Latino individuals) who plan to participate in student teaching or a school administration internship as part of their degree requirements during the semester they receive the stipend. The maximum amount a student may receive is up to \$4,000. Priority will be given to student teaching applicants.

Student Teaching Stipend for High-Need Fields: The Student Teaching Stipend for High-Need Fields is available to students who plan to teach special education (any grade), middle school math, middle school science, high school math or high school science. The maximum amount a

student may receive is up to \$4,000.

For questions about state financial aid, students can contact the Indiana Commission for Higher Education by phone at 888-528-4719 or via email at awards@che.in.gov.

About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates and defines Indiana's postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana's financial aid programs, including the 21st Century Scholars early college promise scholarship, which celebrated 30 years in 2020. Learn more about the Commission's Reaching Higher in a State of Change strategic plan at www.in.gov/che.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE OF INTENT
Franklin 31 LLC (10734 Bay Bridge Way, Fishers, IN 46040) is submitting a Notice of Intent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management of our intent to comply with the requirements of 327 IAC 15-5 to discharge storm water from construction activities associated with Pep Boys located at the northeast corner of S.R. 32 and Promenade of Noblesville Pkwy, Noblesville, Indiana. Runoff from the project site will discharge to the South Fork Sly Run. Questions or comments regarding this project should be directed to Matt Dixon, Franklin 31 LLC.
TL18649 1/14 1t hspaxlp

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE
The following will be sold for charges:
18702 CHAD HITTLE DR WESTFIELD
On 02/01/2022 @ 02:00 PM
2018 JEEP 1C4HJXDG7JW299632 S2,203.00
TL18640 1/14 1t hspaxlp

LEGAL NOTICE
In compliance with 327 IAC 15-5 (Rule 5), notice is hereby given that CRG Residential, located at 805 City Center Dr., Ste. 160, Carmel, IN 46032 is submitting a Notice of Intent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for their intent to discharge storm water from construction activities associated with the Altum's Redevelopment Demolition project located at 11335 N. Michigan Road, Carmel, IN 46032, Clay Township, Hamilton County. Runoff from the project site will discharge to the existing storm sewer in Michigan Road. Any questions or comments regarding this project should be directed to the CRG Residential.
TL18641 1/14 1t hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF THE Mud Creek/Sand Creek Drainage Area, T. J. Patterson Arm Hyde Park Phase 1 Partial Vacation
Station 59+35 to Station 68+16
Station 12+72 to Station 14+45
Station 68+16 to Station 73+06
Station 0 to Station 4+02
NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that a petition to vacate has been received by the Hamilton County Surveyor for the Mud Creek/Sand Creek Drainage Area, T. J. Patterson Arm, Hyde Park Phase 1 Partial Vacation across Parcel 13-11-22-00-00-008.000 owned by MAB Capital Investments, LLC (Station 59+35 to Station 68+16; Station 12+72 to Station 14+45; Station 68+16 to Station 73+06; Station 0 to Station 4+02) and that a hearing is scheduled for January 24, 2022 at 9:15 A.M. on that request.
Objections to the VACATION of the drain must be filed in writing not less than five (5) days before the date of the hearing.
The Board will consider whether the drain performs the function for which it was designed and constructed; whether the expense of maintenance outweighs the benefits to be derived therefrom, and whether the abandonment thereof will not be detrimental to the public welfare.
HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh
Executive Secretary
TL18639 1/14 1t hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF THE Intracoastal at Geist Drain Maintenance Assessment Increase & Shed Extension
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board concerning the reconstruction of the Intracoastal at Geist Drain, Maintenance Assessment Increase & Shed Extension on January 24, 2022 at 9:10 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. Construction and maintenance reports of the Surveyor and the Schedule of Assessments proposed by the Drainage Board have been filed and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.
HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh
Executive Secretary
TL18638 1/14 1t hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF THE Williams Creek Drainage Shed, Clay Creek Drain Arm Miller Extension
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board concerning the reconstruction of the Williams Creek Drainage Shed, Clay Creek Drain Arm, Miller Extension on January 24, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. Construction and maintenance reports of the Surveyor and the Schedule of Assessments proposed by the Drainage Board have been filed and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.
HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh
Executive Secretary
TL18637 1/14 1t hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF THE Vermillion Drain, Northwest Fortville Subdivision (Hancock County) Shed Change
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the Vermillion Drain, Northwest Fortville Subdivision (Hancock County) Shed Change on January 24, 2022 at 9:10 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana, and which construction and maintenance reports of the Surveyor and the Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been filed and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.
HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh
Executive Secretary
TL18636 1/14 1t hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF THE Hinkle Creek Drain
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the Hinkle Creek Drain on January 24, 2022 at 9:10 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to increase the amount of the maximum unencumbered amount of the maintenance fund for the Hinkle Creek Drain to be increased from four (4) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance of the drain to eight (8) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance. The Board will not consider an increase in annual maintenance assessments at the meeting. The previously established Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been previously approved and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.
HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh
Executive Secretary
TL18635 1/14 1t hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF THE Stony Creek Drain, Nenni Woods Subdivision Extension
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board concerning the reconstruction of the Stony Creek Drain, Nenni Woods Subdivision Extension on January 24, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. Construction and maintenance reports of the Surveyor and the Schedule of Assessments proposed by the Drainage Board have been filed and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.
HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh
Executive Secretary
TL18634 1/14 1t hspaxlp

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Indiana Traffic Safety Director appointed to National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board announced today the appointment of Robert Duckworth to the Board. He will serve as the Governors Highway Safety Association representative, replacing five-year Board member Bob Stevens.

Currently, Duckworth serves as the Director of Traffic Safety for the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), where he is responsible for developing and implementing programs to reduce crashes and traffic fatalities in the state.

"We fully expect Robert to carry a strong voice for the state highway offices," National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Mandi Seethaler said. "He personifies a commitment to safety in all that he does, both on and off the job. At the same time, we would like to thank Bob Stevens for his many years of service and wish him well moving forward."

Before joining ICJI in 2018, Duckworth worked as a deputy sheriff and emergency paramedic

for 18 years. It was during that time that he developed a passion for traffic safety and educating parents and caregivers about the importance of proper child seat use.

In 2005, Duckworth became a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, but encountered challenges early in his career due to a shortage of available instructors, who were required to sign off on each recertification at the time. Recognizing a need, he decided to become an instructor through the Indiana Safe Kids program, and three years later, he was reviewing recertifications and training new technicians in the area.

"What motivated me then is the same thing that drives me now: making sure every child is properly secure in their vehicles," Duckworth said. "As I used to tell my students, we can't take away the difficulties parents face on a daily basis, but one thing we can do is make sure their kids are safe on the road. I look forward to furthering that mission and working

with my colleagues on the board." Today, Duckworth continues to be a child passenger safety advocate, working to expand Indiana's vast network of technicians and fitting stations.

Some of his biggest accomplishments at the agency include setting up a program of regional Child Passenger Safety Specialists and helping Indiana become a national model for the implementation of the National Digital Check Form, a tool that allows technicians to record, analyze and share data from car seat checks.

"Robert will be a valuable and productive member of the Board representing GHSA," GHSA Executive Director Jonathan Adkins said. "His experience leading a State Highway Safety Office and his expertise in child passenger safety programs will help the Board tremendously. We thank Robert for serving in this important role."

Duckworth currently lives in Greensburg, Indiana, with his wife and two kids. In his spare

time, he serves as a volunteer firefighter in the community, continuing his work in public safety. Throughout his career, he has received the Paul Harris Fellow Award, Ray Bentley Fire Service Award and the Indiana Drug Recognition Expert Longevity Award for 15 years of service.

Established in the mid-90s, the National Child Passenger Safety Board provides recommendations and guidance on the curriculum used to train certified child passenger safety technicians. The program is managed by the National Safety Council and promotes child passenger safety through education, mentorship, engagement and innovation.

Visit www.cpsboard.org to learn more about the National Child Passenger Safety Board or www.cji.in.gov to learn more about the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board, a program managed

by the National Safety Council, seeks to maintain the quality and integrity of the National Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training. The program is used to train and certify child passenger safety technicians and instructors. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS Board, please visit the Board's website at www.cpsboard.org.

About the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) is the state planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety and victim services. ICJI is designated as the state administering agency for distribution of federal funds and as the state Statistical Analysis Center for research. ICJI is responsible for coordinating and collaborating with local, state and federal entities to identify, assess, plan, resource and evaluate new and emerging issues facing the criminal justice and public safety spectrum.

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Conservative business leader Mark Hall announces campaign for Hamilton County Council

Mark Hall, local entrepreneur and business owner formally announced his campaign for Hamilton County Council today. Mark Hall was clear about why he is running for local office. "Now is the time to elect new, conservative leadership for Hamilton County. We don't need more of the same from lifelong politicians." Hall also added that he will be a voice for conservatives on the Hamilton County Council. "We must stand up for our conservative principles based in free markets, free speech and respect for individual rights. We cannot expect to get the same results for our community without fighting for the princi-



Mark Hall

ples that made Hamilton County so special," Hall stated.

Mark and Lisa Hall have been married for 42 years and proud to have three grown children and seven grandchildren. Hall is the Founder and CEO of TalentLogistiX based in central Indiana, employing over 200 people. The Hall family is also focused on giving

back to the community through service. Mark is a board member and Past President of Truth at Work and Mark and Lisa also lead a charity, FeedingTeam.org. Mark Hall is a job creator, a fiscal conservative and outspoken advocate for our constitutional liberties.

"Now is the time to elect new, conservative leadership for Hamilton County. We don't need more of the same from lifelong politicians." -Mark Hall

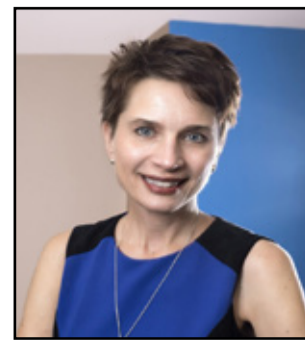
For more information please visit www.markfhall.com and <https://www.facebook.com/MarkFHallHamiltonCountyIn>. You may contact him at 317-832-1104 or mark@markfhall.com

Jocelyn Vare officially files to run for State Senate District 31

Jocelyn Vare submitted all required candidate documents with the Indiana Secretary of State today. Vare is running for Indiana State Senate District 31 in 2022. State Senate District 31 was redrawn in 2021 to include all of Fishers, Geist, and parts of Noblesville and the Northeast Side of Indianapolis.

"I see the new district as a fresh start for voters," explains Vare. "Many people will be voting in District thirty-one for the first time and I look forward to hearing what they need from their state senator."

Vare is a business owner who is dedicated to public service. She proves it through her active roles with community non-profits, public education advocacy organiza-



Jocelyn Vare

tions, and as an at-large member of Fishers City Council. Vare was the first Democrat elected to municipal office in the city of Fishers and won her election with strong bipartisan support, including an endorsement from the Fiscal Conservatives of Hamilton County.

Vare maintains clear focus on goals of transparency, balance, and

representation. She achieves the goals by listening to neighbors, residents, and constituents she serves. Vare embraces her reputation for shining a light on decisions others would prefer to leave behind closed doors. An unapologetic independent thinker, she always returns to and keeps the promises she made to those who elected her.

"Everyone deserves a public servant who represents them - someone who puts them first, works hard, and thinks independently," said Vare adamantly. "I am that public servant. I have always been centered by local issues that make a difference in people's lives, like caring for our neighborhoods and educating our kids."

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Girl Scouts of Central Indiana kicks off 2022 Girl Scout Cookie Season

Girl Scouts of Central Indiana kicked off the 2022 Girl Scout Cookie Season in central Indiana, where consumers can support local Girl Scout entrepreneurs by purchasing their favorite cookies. Girl Scouts are now selling the new Adventurefuls, an indulgent brownie-inspired cookie with caramel-flavored crème and a hint of sea salt, and an incredible taste of adventure in every bite. Adventurefuls join the whole portfolio of iconic Girl Scout Cookies including favorites like Thin Mints®, Samoas®, and Tagalongs®. This season, Girl Scouts of Central Indiana is participating in a national collaboration with food ordering and delivery platform DoorDash, so girls have an additional way to facilitate contact-free cookie orders. Starting in February, in select cities, consumers can order Girl Scout Cookies for delivery on the DoorDash app. Local Girl Scouts will track and fulfill orders, manage

inventory, and more. You can get Girl Scout Cookies in central Indiana through March 13. If you know a Girl Scout, ask how she's selling cookies via the Digital Cookie online platform for direct shipment or local delivery. In February, Girl Scouts will also run cookie booths at supermarkets and other local retailers. And beginning Feb. 18, consumers can enter their zip code to purchase cookies online from a local troop for direct shipment or donation to local causes. Every Girl Scout Cookie purchase fuels local Girl Scouts' adventures throughout the year: exploring what interests them, discovering their passions, and taking action on issues they care about. Whether they're using their STEM skills to solve a problem, changing a law to help their community, having a courageous outdoor experience, or starting an innovative nonprofit, Girl Scouts build a better future for them-

selves and the world. And through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, including by earning new Cookie Business badges, girls get a taste of being entrepreneurs and learn important online and offline business skills that set them up for success in life. To purchase Girl Scout Cookies this season:

- If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to her to find out how she's selling cookies, including via the Digital Cookie online platform.
- If you don't know a Girl Scout, visit www.girlscoutsindiana.org/cookies, or use the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder app for free on iOS or Android devices to find socially distant or contact-free cookie booths when they are available in your area.
- Starting in February, use the DoorDash app to order via contact-free delivery from DoorDash in select cities.
- Beginning Feb. 18, enter your zip code into the Girl

Scout Cookie Finder at www.girlscoutsindiana.org/cookies to purchase from a local Girl Scout troop online for shipment to your door or to donate cookies to local causes. We Are Girl Scouts Girl Scouts bring their dreams to life and work together to build a better world. Through programs from coast to coast, Girl Scouts of all backgrounds and abilities can be unapologetically themselves as they discover their strengths and rise to meet new challenges—whether they want to climb to the top of a tree or the top of their class, lace up their boots for a hike or advocate for climate justice, or make their first best friends. Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors, and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them. To join us, volunteer, reconnect, or donate, visit girlscoutsindiana.org.

How to quickly pay off your holiday credit card debt

The holidays may be over but their financial impact is likely to add extra strain in the new year for the 36% of individuals who took on debt to pay for gifts, decorations and more in 2021, according to LendingTree.

"It's easy to feel overwhelmed if you brought holiday debt into the new year," said Michael Sullivan, a personal financial consultant with Take Charge America, a nonprofit credit counseling and debt management agency. "But with a little focus and hard work, you can create a plan of action that will pay off that debt as quickly as possible so you can focus on your other big money goals for 2022 like buying a home or taking a dream vacation."

Sullivan shares six tips to help you quickly pay off your holiday debt:

- Stop using credit cards. To start, you must stop incurring new debt. Stop using your credit cards as you work to pay off your balances.
- Eliminate (or minimize) expenses. To free up additional cash for debt payments, scour your budget or online bank ledger for expenses you can eliminate or minimize. Is there a subscription you can pause or cancel? Try negotiating a lower rate for your phone or cable bills, or switch service plans or providers to save.
- Explore gig work. The quickest way to pay off debt is with more income. Consider gig work like food delivery with DoorDash or Postmates, or driving for Uber or Lyft. Depending

on your skills, you could perform odd jobs like dog walking or errands with TaskRabbit. You can find part-time remote work on sites like FlexJobs or UpWork. Apply your gig earnings toward your debt.

- Pause non-essential savings. Have you been saving for a new car, vacation or home? Consider hitting pause temporarily and redirecting those funds to your holiday debt.

- Use holiday gifts. It's not as exciting as buying new clothes or splurging on a night out, but using cash gifts you received can help put a dent in your holiday debt.

- Consider a balance transfer. Explore a balance transfer to save on interest charges. Many card issuers offer 0% interest on balance transfers for a period between 12 and 18 months. Remember to factor in the transfer fee, which usually is a percentage of the balance being transferred.

For additional debt help, consider a free credit counseling session from Take Charge America.

About Take Charge America, Inc.

Founded in 1987, Take Charge America, Inc. is a nonprofit agency offering financial education and counseling services including credit counseling, debt management, student loan counseling, housing counseling and bankruptcy counseling. It has helped more than 2 million consumers nationwide manage their personal finances and debts. To learn more, visit takechargeamerica.org or call (888) 822-9193.

US Department of Labor launches pilot program to provide off-base transition assistance to veterans

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced that its Veterans' Employment and Training Service will extend its traditional Transition Assistance Program curriculum beyond the active military installations it currently serves to at least 50 locations in at least 20 states to expand their efforts to improve employment-related outcomes in areas where large veteran populations face high rates of unemployment. The five-year Off-Base Transition Training pilot program begins Jan. 18,

2022, and offers 10, two-hour, instructor-led employment skills and workforce development workshops for veterans, including veterans serving currently in the Reserve Component (National Guard and Reserve members), and their spouses. The core curriculum has four modules offered in-person and virtually. Beginning Jan. 24, 2022, VETS will offer 10 virtual workshops. Participants may choose the modules that best meet their needs and schedule. VETS will start the pilot at eight locations in Califor-

nia, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas, chosen using current annual unemployment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Initial pilot sites are Los Angeles and San Diego, California; Boston, Massachusetts; Fayetteville, North Carolina; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Houston, Dallas and San Antonio, Texas. The agency plans to expand the pilot to at least 50 locations. In its effort to help veterans and their spouses to join the civilian workforce, Employment Resource

Coordinators will work with partner organizations to host the workshops in each state, and coordinate and schedule training. They will also offer referral services to local agencies, such as American Job Centers and interested partner organizations that meet requirements needed to host workshops. Organizations interested in hosting workshops, should contact VETS-OBTT@dol.gov or their VETS' state director. Register for an in-person or virtual Off-Base Transition Training workshop or learn more about the program.

1 in 4 Hoosiers would NOT stop to help a stranded driver in a snowstorm, survey finds

- However, Hoosiers among the most likely to help another driver.
- Most people would rather walk 5 miles than accept a lift from a stranger.

Driving during winter can often be a treacherous task if roads are filled with ice and snow, causing many drivers to break down and possibly be stranded for long stretches of time. The holidays can also be a tricky time to get hold of vehicle assistance companies, especially if the car has broken down in a remote area with no phone signal...

Gunther Volkswagen of Coconut Creek surveyed 3,000 drivers across the country, asking if they would stop and help a fellow driver who had been stranded in a snow-

storm with a broken-down vehicle. Surprisingly high, almost a quarter of drivers in Indiana (23%) admit they would NOT stop to help. Reassuringly, however, it seems that on the whole Indiana is a state of 'Snowstorm Samaritans' whereby the majority (77%), would come to a fellow driver's aid. In fact, drivers in this state are among the most likely in America to help out. When these figures were analyzed by state, perhaps unsurprisingly (given they are among the coldest and least populated states) those in Idaho and Wyoming seemed to have the biggest hearts when it comes to helping out other road users, with 91% of people in these saying they'd stop to assist a driver stranded in bad

weather. Comparatively, this figure was just 42% in Nevada - in other words, most here would not stop to help. It was also discovered that more than 3 in 4 respondents said they'd go the extra mile (pardon the pun) and give a stranded driver a lift to a place of safety if their car had broken down. The survey also found that 55% said they are more likely to help a stranded woman driver who has broken down, as compared to if they were a man. Lastly, it was found that 67% of drivers said if their car broke down in a heavy snowstorm, they'd rather walk 5 miles into town than accept a lift from a stranger. It seems some are more afraid of their safety in the hands of

other people, as compared to harsh weather conditions... However, it's important to note that in an emergency, your vehicle provides you and passengers with temporary shelter and also makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. It's possible to lose sight of your car in poor visibility or snowy skies, therefore, increases your risk of getting lost if you walk around. If the weather proves too dangerous for driving, it's always a good idea to stay home if you're concerned about your safety. However, if you must make a long drive or cross-state road trip while the roads are slick and snow-covered, it's in your best interest to maintain a slower speed overall and increase your following distance for safety reasons. For example, if you encounter a car in front of you that suddenly brakes on an icy road, it's better to drive at a slower pace in case you

need to brake quickly too. Additionally, it's a good idea to have an emergency supply bag on hand in case you may need it, on top of your usual breakdown kit. Some supplies that could come in handy are:

1. Cold-weather gear, such as warm clothing suitable for extreme weather (in case you need to be outside the car).
2. Phone charger.
3. A flashlight, as well as extra batteries.
4. Glass scraper to remove ice or snow from your windows or windshield.
5. Medication and first-aid kit, especially if you or any passengers have chronic conditions.
6. Extra food such as non-perishable snacks, in case you get stranded, as well as water.
7. Spare tire.
8. Always keep half a tank of fuel in your car in case you run out in a desert area.
9. Jumper cables.
10. Emergency red trian-

gle.

11. Duct tape.
12. Wrench or pliers.
13. Local maps in case you can't access signal for map apps on your phone.

'It can be daunting to plan a long drive or road trip during poor weather conditions, however, sometimes these scenarios are unavoidable if you need to be somewhere,' says Joseph Gunther IV for Gunther Volkswagen of Coconut Creek. 'It's advisable to keep a safe following distance and maintain a much slower speed than usual at all times. Be prepared in case of emergencies and make sure each item in your supply kit is fully functioning should you need it. Most of all, make sure you're in the right state of mind to operate a vehicle when driving in poor weather conditions. Don't exert yourself if you're feeling tired and of course, and don't drive while intoxicated.'

BILL From Page A1

ciology concepts, both in K-12 education and to adults at the college level. Threaten to criminalize teachers, driving educators out of a profession that is already undervalued and in the midst of a desperate shortage. Redirect time and money away from student academics to manage increased government bureaucracy. In addition to the great disservice this would do to Hoosier students, it also stands to threaten the strong academic reputations of our Indiana educational institutions, and our ability as a state to attract residents and economic development. The legislation does speak to the importance of curriculum transparency for parents and taxpayers and on this point I couldn't agree more.



Dr. Beth Niedermeyer

In fact, the public already has the right to review curriculum, express concerns, ask questions, provide input and seek accommodations.

At Noblesville Schools we engage regularly with our public in this manner including (1) community representatives on our annual curriculum program review teams, (2) digital classroom accounts so parents can follow and review class lessons and materials, (3) parent/teacher

meetings, open houses and teacher communications, and (4) academic content on our website.

We've made significant enhancements to the curriculum area of our website and are currently adding even more academic content, by grade level and subject, for easier public access to this information.

School legislation impacts not only the students of today, but the success of our state in the future. I urge the Noblesville community to find your legislators and make your voices heard in support of students, teachers and a strong Indiana.

You can find more information on SB 167, similar bills in the House HB 1134 and HB 1040, and other proposed education legislation at the Indiana General Assembly.

FHD From Page A1

scheduled at fishers.in.us/testing. The Fishers Testing Site has administered more than 97,000 tests since opening in April 2020.

For more information on the steps you can take on how to protect yourself and loved ones from the omicron variant, visit fishers.in.us/coronavirus. The FHD continues to support

CDC recommendations for protection from COVID that include vaccination, masking up, and avoiding large indoor or poorly ventilated gatherings.

About Fishers Health Department

Created in April 2020, the Fishers Health Department exists to bring a high level of health and safety services to the residents of

Fishers. The FHD serves its residents through COVID-19 Pandemic support, vital records, immunizations, environmental management, food safety and permitting, vector control, well and septic services, communicable disease management, and educational support. For more information, visit fishers.in.us/healthdept.

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Recently fired or resigned? Five (5) job reference myths and facts

Few things are more important to one's livelihood than their employment, so it's critical to ensure that nothing in your job-seeking arsenal is costing you future employment. In particular, if you have been fired or have resigned, you need to carefully consider 5 commonplace myths that could inhibit your job seeking efforts. While the need for a good job reference is critical to employment success, many candidates take little time or effort to assure that their references are portraying them in the best possible light. Very often, this oversight occurs because of incorrect assumptions about how references (and reference checking) work.

Among the questions for which you need to know the answers: How are references conducted? What are employers allowed to say? And are yours working for, or against you?

Reference Checking Myth No. 1:

Companies are not allowed to say anything negative about a former employee during a documented reference check.

The Truth: While many companies may have policies that dictate only title, dates of employment and eligibility for rehire can be discussed, reference persons frequently violate those rules in providing bad references about former employees despite company policies.

Think about the boss with whom you had philosophical differences...or the supervisor who sexually harassed you. Can that person be trusted to maintain a professional standard? In many cases the answer is no; approximately half of Allison & Taylor clients receive a bad reference, despite the fact that many companies have strict policies in place prohibiting negative references.

Reference Checking Myth No. 2:

Former employers direct all reference checks to their Human Resources departments, and those people won't say anything negative about me.

The Truth: Most Human Resources professionals will follow proper protocol during reference checks. However, in addition to WHAT is said, reference checkers also evaluate HOW something is said. In other words, they listen to tone of voice and note the HR staffer's willingness to respond to their questions.

Both are critical factors in reference checks - how will your employment be reflected in their responses?

(On a related note, Human Resources is generally allowed to divulge whether a person is eligible for re-hire. What will they say about you?)

Reference Checking Myth No. 3:

It's best to have my employment references listed on my resume and distribute them together.

The Truth:

Your references should be treated carefully and with respect; you don't need companies that may or may not have a real interest in hiring you pestering your employment references. Keep your references separate from your resume, and only provide them when requested. Better still, have a list of your references readily available (in the same format/font as your resume) to be given to a prospective employer. When offered (for example) at the conclusion of an interview - in a highly professional format - it can create a very proactive (and favorable) ending impression.

Reference Checking Myth No. 4:

Once a company hires me, my job references really do not matter anymore.

The Truth: Not all companies finish background and/or reference checks before you are hired. Many employment agreements and contracts include a stipulation that says the employer can hire you with a 90-day probation period. During this time, they will not only evaluate your job performance but, in some instances, will do background and reference checks. During this time, if the results are unsatisfactory, they have the legal right to terminate your employment.

Reference Checking Myth No. 5:

I sued my former company and according to job reference laws, they are now not allowed to say anything

The Truth: Job reference laws can be bypassed and may not entirely protect you. Under job reference laws your former employer may not be able to say anything definitive, but do not put it past them to carefully take a shot at you while still in accordance with the law.

As an example, a former boss or an HR staffer may say "Hold on a minute while I get the legal file

to see what I am allowed to say about Mr. Smith." Although not allowed to "divulge anything" as stated by job reference laws, they just indicated there were legal issues surrounding your employment. This implication can torpedo your job prospects.

Many people discover the error of their assumptions the hard way - by losing out on the perfect job because of reference issues. Check your own references before you provide them to employers to ensure you can address potential problems before they cost you the job.

For more information on reference checking, and what to do if a negative reference is impeding your chances for a new job, please visit www.AllisonTaylor.com.

About JobReferences.com & Allison & Taylor, Inc., the Reference Checking Company

The principals of this firm have been in the business of checking references & credentials for corporations and individuals since 1980. Over 40 years of assisting job seekers and those companies hiring them.

For those seeking a promotion or a new job opportunity: Check your former employment references. Don't lose an opportunity due to mediocre or bad job references. JobReferences.com will call your former employer obtain your references, document them and give the results to you.

Board member of Workplace Fairness - Workplace Fairness is a national nonprofit organization that provides information, education and assistance to individual workers and their advocates nationwide and promotes public policies that advance employee rights.

Highly acclaimed with employers, employees and the media alike. Compliments and mentions from influential publications and writers at The Wall Street Journal, Christian Science Monitor, The New York Times, Workplace Bullying Institute, ABC Newswire, Forbes, USA Today, Hcareers, Fortune and MyFox News provide insight into our services.

AllisonTaylor & JobReferences.com are headquartered in Michigan. For further details on services and procedures please visit <https://www.allisontaylor.com/> or <https://www.jobreferences.com/>

Is it too late to reduce your monthly mortgage payment by refinancing?

(StatePoint) Experts say that with mortgage rates beginning to rise, refinancing your home now might be your last best chance to lower your monthly mortgage payment, as rates remain near all-time lows.

Those who refinanced early in 2021 have already reaped the benefits. Borrowers who refinanced their 30-year fixed rate mortgage into another 30-year fixed rate mortgage during the first half of 2021 saved over \$2,800 in mortgage payments on principal and interest annually, according to a recent Freddie Mac research report.

But mortgage rates are rising. Indeed, in October 2021, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage, which is the most common type of mortgage, rose to its highest point since April, surpassing 3.0%. Freddie Mac forecasts that mortgage rates will continue to rise, averaging 3.5% for the 30-year fixed in 2022. That's up from an average of 3.0% in 2021.

So is it time to refinance your home loan? To help you make an informed decision, Freddie Mac is offering answers to commonly asked questions about the refinancing process:

- What does refinancing mean? When you refinance your mortgage, you're applying for a new

mortgage to replace your current one, which will result in a new rate, term and monthly payment. The most common type of refinance is a no cash-out refinance, in which you're refinancing the remaining balance on your mortgage.

- When should I consider refinancing? Generally speaking, refinances make the most financial sense when average interest rates are at least half a percentage point lower than the interest rate on your current mortgage. Another reason to consider refinancing is if your financial situation has improved, allowing you to secure a loan with a shorter term and own your home sooner. Finally, if you currently have an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) and it's adjusting upward, you may wish to convert to a fixed-rate mortgage that provides you with the security of consistent payments.

- Is refinancing free?

Although refinancing your mortgage could save you money both in the long- and short-term, it isn't free. For the most part, refinancing costs are similar to what you paid when you purchased your home, including a loan origination fee. There are required services involved, such as appraisals, and state and local fees that can vary significantly based on where you live.

The average cost to refinance is almost \$5,000, so you should carefully consider how long you plan to stay in your home to ensure the savings to outweigh the costs.

- Who should handle my refinance? You don't have to use your current lender to refinance your loan. In fact, it's in your best interest to shop around and compare multiple lenders' loan estimates in search of the best terms and cost. It may take more time, but even a difference as small as one-quarter of a percentage point can save you thousands of dollars over the life of your home loan. The good news? Rates are often negotiable. In other words, you can ask lenders to match the rate quoted by another lender.

There may be no time like the present to lock in the lowest possible rate and receive the highest monthly savings. To get a sense of what refinancing could save you, access Freddie Mac's refinance calculator, along with additional homebuying and refinancing resources, at myhome.freddie.com.

As with any big financial endeavor, you'll want to do your homework, look carefully at your short- and long-term goals, and work closely with your lender to do a cost-benefit analysis.

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The Noblesville Times

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A8

Never interfere with a party destroying itself

Never interfere with a party in the process of destroying itself. In 2021 the Democrats, even with favorable press, did not need an opposition party to accomplish this. We note some examples.

Abandoning Americans in Afghanistan to the Taliban destroyed the world's confidence in America's historic promise that they could count on America to help shield them from tyrannical governments. Moreover, Americans who travel broadly knew that it could have been them caught and abandoned behind enemy lines by their own government. Leaving behind, so callously, Afghans who had shed blood with and for us for twenty years, did not set well with most Americans. Getting out of Afghanistan and the war had support but not the cowardly way we did, leaving \$90 billion of weaponry in enemy hands. The military know that they may have to face the weapons this administration so incompetently left behind.

Most Americans do not approve of Biden's handling of the Southern border crisis either. Kamala Harris, whom Biden called on to bale out his unpopular opening of the United States to the world and every criminal in it, only amplified the image that Democrats did not care about Americans living here. By Oct. 25, 2021 the administrations' approval rating had fallen to 36%.

The Democrats answer to the COVID "Pandemic" was always medical tyranny. You may have your freedom: when everyone is locked down for months, when everyone is forced to wear a mask, then two masks, when all distance six feet from others, when all get a mandated (forced) experimental "vaccine," and when vaccines don't work, then mandated boosters every four months. Even now California and Washington D.C. have returned to mandatory masking. This when they could not document that ANY OF THESE MEASURES SAVED A SINGLE LIFE but were instead destroying businesses, the economy, education, the Constitution and freedom.

Too few Democrats recognized the threat to freedom so they accelerated its loss. Their news still censors the fact that more

people died with COVID during 2021 under Biden leadership, than 2020 under Trump. And, Free states had less COVID infection and death than non-free states. Even now, New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is condemning Florida for not locking down its people while she is filmed enjoying its beaches and freedom without a mask.

With censorship protecting tyranny, fans at sporting events began spontaneously erupting into chants, "F Joe Biden, F Joe Biden," demonstrating their utter contempt for the man and his party. Such a chant had never been used by crowds in American history. By this time 61% of Americans believed that the country had seriously gotten off on the wrong track. Asked if the above expletive chant was appropriate 59% said that it was (X22 Reports, Ep. 2112B, Oct. 27, 2021). This, while the Democrat news outlets and Big Tech praised Biden and censored opposing information of him and their party.

The expletive chant was soon changed by the unappreciating controlling press to "Lets Go Brandon," weakening the power of the original vile meaning, although still derogatory. President Trump said he liked the original one better; likely those first uttering it do as well.

Meanwhile a "We Love Trump" chant spontaneously erupted in the Virginal governor's race between former Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Republican Glenn Youngkin (X22 Reports, Ep. 2612B—October 27, 2021). The same chant had erupted at least three times while Trump was on the campaign trail in 2020 ("We Love You," Chant Breaks Out at Trump Rallies," LibertyUnderFire, September 25, 2020). Obviously such extreme polar opposite chants "F Joe Biden" or "We love you" were unlikely ever previously used by large crowds in U.S. history.

A November Rasmussen Report, published by USA Today, asked poll takers, "What is the one thing you want Biden to do this year? The popular answer, "Resign." (X22 Reports, Ep. 2623B, Nov. 9, 2021). A month later a national poll reported that only 22% of Americans wanted Biden to run again (X22 Reports, Ep. 26455, Dec 6, 2021).

By this time U.S. productivity declined by 5.2% in the 3d Quarter—the largest quarterly drop in 61 years" (X22 Reports, Ep. 2649A, Dec. 10, 2021). This while the US Consumer price inflation jumped to 9.6% over the previous November—the largest one year increase ever. Consequently consumer prices soured: gasoline 58%, Rental cars 37%, used cars 31%, hotels 26%, steak 25%, utilities 25%, bacon 21%, pork 17%, furniture 12%, fish 11%, new cars 11%, chicken 9%, bikes 9%, eggs 8%, coffee 7.5%, apples 7%, milk 7%, flour 6%, rent 3.5%. Under Trump 2018 inflation was 2.2% and 2019 was 2.5% (X22 Reports, Ep. 2652A, Dec 14, 2021). Under Biden every American, rich or poor, lost almost 10% of the value of all his money.

Paper currency is losing value before we can spend it. Since 1913 the value of the dollar has declined 96% (X22 Reports, Ep.2649A, Dec. 10, 2021). In fairness this is due to both political parties, neither able to say no to debt ceilings and selling their votes. "Seventy seven percent say inflation is America's biggest problem, a bigger problem than COVID; of these 57% blame Biden" (X22 Reports, Ep.2650A, Dec. 12, 2021). This after but one year in office.

By the end of 2021 The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll showed that only "40% of Likely U.S. Voters approve of President Biden's job performance. Fifty-eight percent (58%) disapprove. The latest figures include 19% who Strongly Approve of the job Biden is doing and 48% who Strongly Disapprove."

Again, "Never interfere with a party in the process of destroying itself." Trump Republicans aren't.

Dr. Harold W. Pease is an expert on the United States Constitution and a syndicated columnist. He has dedicated his career to studying the writings of the Founding Fathers and applying that knowledge to current events. He taught history and political science from this perspective for over 30 years. Newspapers have permission to publish this column. To read more of his weekly articles, please visit www.LibertyUnderFire.org.

Develop a plan for moving forward in 2022

Proverbs 29.18 "Where there is no vision the people perish. "Everyone needs a strategy. You may be 25 or 85 years in age. Who cares? Probably the only one who cares about your age is you. Your age either tells you that you are too young or too old. Remember, age is only a number. We have to put numbers aside and go with our hearts. If God is in it then don't worry about the number.

What do you want to do? One of the ways to know the will of God is to determine what we believe we would enjoy doing. The will of God is what we would determine to do if we just had enough sense. We will never rise above what we do not want to do. If we want to do something our chances of success are greater.

What is stopping you? Consider your life and where you want to be and



GLENN MOLLETTE
Guest Columnist

determine the blockades. Sometimes the greatest blockade is the decision to move forward. Until we make that decision we aren't going anywhere. Once we know then we can assemble what is required to reach our destination.

Learn from the past and put it behind you. Past failures often eliminate us from life participation. We remember when we failed. A life that is fearful

usually accomplishes far less than the life that has faith and confidence. Fear freezes us in our tracks.

Who are you today? Who you are and the direction you are going is far more important than where you have been. You can't change the past but you can steer your life in a new direction.

Develop a life action plan. Why not plan a strategy for the next six months and even the next year? You and God can determine where you will be. Start today!

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

Americans would pay a heavy price for amnesty

Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill are scrambling to find a way to amnesty illegal immigrants in their nearly \$2 trillion budget bill.

The Senate parliamentarian, who decides what provisions can and can't be included in the bill that's being advanced under the filibuster-proof "reconciliation" process, shot down their first two proposals. So now, lawmakers are proceeding with "Plan C" -- which would grant illegal immigrants "parole," a status that gives illegal immigrants work permits and a reprieve from deportation, without immediately granting them green cards.

Lawmakers are also plotting to expand legal immigration levels. All told, their current plan would increase the number of immigrants living and working in this country by several million people at a minimum.

Such rapid growth will put immense strain on our resources, both financial and natural, and the ensuing damage to our environment threatens to set progress there back by a generation or more.

Our country is not underpopulated by any reasonable reckoning. Schools are already over-

crowded, especially for young children. California, for instance, would need to build a new school every day for five years to provide class sizes of 15-19 students. Over the next 50 years, immigration is set to account for 96% of the increase in school-age children.

Mass migration is making life more difficult -- and expensive -- for working-class citizens. Just like everyone else, migrants need a roof over their heads -- so they compete against low-income Americans for our scarce supply of rental housing. Nationally, the median rent has surged over 16% since January, in part because of competition from new arrivals.

Environmental groups pretend to be blissfully unaware that adding so many people to the population does irreparable harm to the environment.

Transportation is another example: more people mean more cars, gas or electric, creating more traffic and more emissions (electric cars pollute too -- albeit at the power plant, rather than the tailpipe). More development requires the clearing of woods and fields to make way for pavement and

parking lots. Federal data shows that around 90% of open space lost in the past decade -- both urban and rural -- can be attributed to population growth. Yes, more and more of our unique outdoor heritage is being lost.

This sprawl comes with serious environmental and health consequences, threatening wetlands critical for clean water and flood protection as well as harming endangered species. The American Southwest, in particular, faces a dystopian future of water shortages as its population skyrockets. Lake Powell just above the Grand Canyon is now at 29% of capacity, an all-time low, an astounding 156 feet below full capacity.

Poll after poll shows that amnesty is unpopular -- as we all see right before our very eyes that such an unsustainable flood of migrants is worsening the quality of life for all. The only question is whether our leaders will grow backbones before it's too late.

Mark Thies, Ph.D. is an Engineering Professor at Clemson University whose research is focused on energy and sustainability. This piece originally ran in The Hill.

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