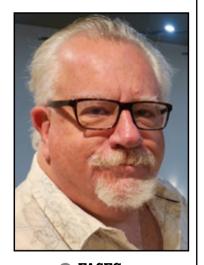
### TODAY'S VERSE

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.



FACES OF **HAMILTON COUNTY** 

What makes Tom Smith smile? "Being on stage," said the 72-year-old Westfield resident, who is on the board of directors of Main Street Productions, which operates Westfield Playhouse. Most recently, Smith was found attending a Playhouse board gathering to recognize a \$100,000 contribution to new Playhouse donors, philanthropists Frank and Katrina Basile, and the theater was renamed to Basile Westfield Playhouse. Next up, Westfield Playhouse presents "Of Mice and Men," opening tonight and continuing a total of eight performances, through Feb. 20. The Marion, Ind., native and Ball State University graduate caught the acting bug just a few short years ago after retiring from the FBI. He has played a drunken choir director in "Our Town" at The Belfry and, before that, a drunken custodian in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at The Belfry and a drunken dime-store owner in "Picnic" at Westfield Playhouse. He played a drunken cabman in "The Matchmaker" at Buck Creek Players, a drunken handyman in "Hide and Seek" at Carmel Community Players, a drunken priest in the Fringe Short Play Festival, and a drunken newspaperman in "More Light" at the Nickel Plate Arts. He also portrayed the narrator, an adult John Boy Walton, in Westfield Playhouse's production of "The Homecoming: Waltons" Christmas Story" and the narrator in Westfield Playhouse's "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance." His first lead acting role was as Grandpa Jack in Buck Creek Players' "The Unexpected Gift." He also played Judge Taylor in Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre's "To Kill A Mockingbird." More recently, in summer 2021, he portrayed a shy Irish butcher who has a chance meeting at a London train station with a wacky 40-something American, in "Heisenberg: The Uncertainty Principle," at Westfield Playhouse. In 2020, he was cast as Sir Claud Amory, a reclusive and rich scientist, in Center Stage Community Theatre's production of Agatha Christie's "Black Coffee" play in Lebanon. He loves acting with kids and attending their shows. "That's what makes me smile. I religiously follow the careers of the kids that I work with to see what happens to them," said Smith, a mentor for the Westfield Playhouse Youth Adviso-

### And Another Thing...

ry Council.

Attention junior and senior high school students looking for a career, summer apprenticeship, and/or internship in the local construction trade industry. Potential opportunities await at the first annual Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Job Fair for area students and their parents. This complimentary networking, information sharing, and recruiting event will take place at Hamilton Heights High School, Arcadia, Ind., on Wed., Feb. 16, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. To register to attend or for more information contact event organizer, Eric Fisher at efisher@hhschuskies.org.



**NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA** 

**WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM** 



Photo courtesy of Will Smith

Amanda Wingfield (Lauren Taylor, Noblesville) and her son Tom Wingfield (Adam Fike, Indianapolis) fight over Tom's work ethic while Tom's sister, Laura Wingfield (Emily Hauer, Noblesville) looks on in fright during rehearsals of the new Hyperion Players production of "The Glass Menagerie," tonight through Sat. at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville.

# **New Hyperion Players Theater To Open Tonight With First Play**

There's a new theater in Hamilton County, and it's called the Hyperion Players.

It's a dream come true for BETSY REASON
Noblesville's The Times Editor

Noblesville's Ian Hauer and his childhood

friend, Adam Fike, who created the theatrical group, which will have its first stage production opening tonight.

The Glass Menagerie," by Tennessee Williams, will be on stage for three performances, at 7 p.m. today, Friday and Saturday at The Ivy Tech Auditorium at Ivy Tech Hamilton County in Noblesville. Tickets are \$10.

Hauer, who is not only the theater's co-creator but is also directing the play, said, "Run-

ning a theater company has been a longtime dream of mine. Telling stories is in my blood. It's something I've always been drawn toward."

He said, "Our community can't have too many artistic outlets, especially with the growth we've seen over the past few decades."

How will Hyperion Players be different from other groups and what will the group offer that others don't?

Hauer, 31, said, "In our early years, we'll focus on dramas and comedies with small adult casts. The shows will be a blend of classic plays, newer scripts and origins by Hoosier playwrights.'

Hauer and Fike hope to recruit and develop artists who have never worked in theater before or haven't been around the stage for a long time.

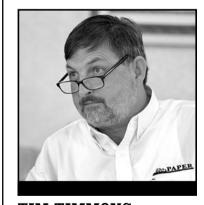
"We also want to look at using venues in creative ways, incorporating that into our storytelling. We won't be connected to just one physical space."

While Hyperion Players was fortunate to get the first show at The Ivy Tech Auditorium at Ivy Tech Hamilton County campus in Noblesville, the group is scouting venues for three pilot-season shows for 2022-23 and have dates for two of them. All three shows will be in place by the time Hyperion Players' season is announced in May. As soon as those shows are set, he'll begin securing show licenses and working on venues and directors for the following 2023-24 season.

Hauer, a new playwright, in December 2020, brought to The Ivy Tech Auditorium his origi-

⇒See BETSY Page A5

# Timmons Updates This, That & 'Tuther



TIM TIMMONS

**Two Cents** 

Notes found scribbled on the back of an EKG printout

In the immortal words of

Gomer Pyle, thank you, thank you, thank you! In my wildest dreams I never imagined hearing from so many of you. There have literally been hundreds of messages - and heck, most of them were even friendly!

From e-mails to phone calls to get well cards and even a nice picture of Jesus standing behind the surgeon you guys have touched my ailing heart. I'll never be able to adequately say thanks. You have given this newspaper vagabond many smiles and even a few tears - happy ones!

THE BIG question I get most often is how did the surgery go. Well, a funny

thing happened on the way to the hospital. First, and a so sincere (NOT!) thank you to former President Obama and his wonderful healthcare plan, the surgery had to be authorized by the insurance company. In fairness, I get it. This ain't gonna be a cheap process. But it also wasn't like I was going in for a nose job. You might think bypass surgery gets some priority.

In all fairness, I should also point out that my wife and I asked for a short delay because we were in the middle of moving – but that didn't have anything to do with the insurance snafus we went

See TIM Page A5

# The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset RISE: 7:47 a.m. SET: 6:18 p.m.



High/Low **Temperatures** High: 32 °F Low: 25 °F



**Wacky Holiday Today** 

- National Flannel Day Umbrella Day
  - Teddy Day



### What Happened On This Day

- 2009 Two satellites collide in space
- 1964 Bob Dylan's album "The Times They Are A-Changin'" is released





### **Births On This Day**

- 1744 William Cornwallis **English Admiral**
- 1929 Jerry Goldsmith American composer, conductor

### **Deaths On This Day**

- 1755 Montesquieu
- French philosopher • 2005 Arthur Miller
- American playwright

# INSIDE TODAY

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Indiana Facts and Fun	A6
Indiana The Strong	A7

Don K. Jessup **Paul Allen Forner** Esta Mae Hunter **Tanner Bradley** Thomas A. Branum, Sr. Barbara Lucille Barker



### TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Smoking does not relieve stress - it actually reinforces it.

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.

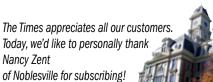


# **□ TODAY'S QUOTE**

"Young love is a flame; very pretty, often very hot and fierce, but still only light and flickering. The love of the older and disciplined heart is as coals, deep-burning, unquenchable." -Henry Ward Beecher

### OBITUARIES HONEST HOOSIER

OK folks, be sure to get your special someone something nice for Valentine's Day – and for heaven's sake, shop local!



### 🗢 TODAY'S JOKE

Why is Valentine's Day a skunk's favorite holiday? Because they're very scent-imental!





PAGE TWO THURSDAY, FEB. 10, 2022

# **OBITUARIES**

### Don K. Jessup

March 26, 1934 - Feb. 1, 2022

Don K. Jessup, age 87, of Sheridan, passed away at home on the morning of Feb. 1, 2022

Born March 26, 1934 on the family farm homestead, he was the son of the late Lester Jessup and Mary (McDonald) Jessup. News of his birth spread quickly after the local newspaper mis-printed that he weighed in at 80 lbs.

Mr. Jessup graduated from Sheridan High School in 1952. During his high school years he was involved in many activities: 4-H; Poultry judging, where in 1951 Don placed 1st in the nation; Boys' Council; Class Sergeant-at-Arms; Class Vice-President; S Club; and of course, Sheridan football, where he lettered playing tackle. After graduating, he joined the United States

Army and served for two years.

Mr. Jessup married Donna Nicholson on March 17,

After serving our country, he returned home to Sheridan to work on the family farm. The farm kept the Jessups busy for many years and eventually turned to hog farming with prize winning Hampshires. A championship legacy began in 1963 when Mr. Jessup helped his brother Dale win the Grand Champion 4-H Barrow. In 1964 he had the Grand Champion Barrow as well as Grand Champion pair of Barrows at the Indiana State Fair open show. The legacy continued with his son Garry, who won Grand Champion 4-H Barrow in 1968. In 1970, Mr. Jessup had the Grand Champion boar at the National Type Conference. That was also the year he won the Carcass Division at the Hoosier Spring Barrow

Jessup & Jessup Farms also produced corn, soybeans and wheat until 2003, when Mr. Jessup retired from farming. He was also one of Pioneer Hi-Bred's top Seed Sales Reps, taking over the dealership from his father and working another 20 plus years.

Mr. Jessup was a member of the East Union Christian Church. He enjoyed snowmobiling, fishing, and family lake trips, which he did until his early 80's. A highlight of his snowmobiling days was a trip where he and Donna snowmobiled in Yellowstone National Park. He also enjoyed sports, especially football. He was extremely proud watching his grandsons contribute to the number of Blackhawk state championships added to the water tower. Family was his true passion and he especially loved watching his granddaughters sing and perform. His latest joy was spending time with his great-granddaughter, playing, laughing, and talking together.

Survivors include his loving wife, Donna Jessup of Sheridan; brother Dale (Sandy) Jessup of Greencastle; sons Garry (Lea) Jessup of Sheridan and Chris (Jody) Jessup of Sheridan; Grandchildren Dayne (Jenna) Jessup of Kirklin, Taylor (Sam) Newblom of Carmel, Jake Jessup of Sheridan and Erin Jessup of San Diego, California; and great-grandchild Darby Jessup of Kirklin.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lester and Mary (McDonald) Jessup.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 4 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Thu., Feb. 10, 2022 at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th Street, Sheridan.

Funeral Services with Military Honors is currently scheduled for 11 a.m. on Fri., Feb. 11, 2022 at the funeral home.

Burial will follow at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan. Pastor Mark Knapp will be officiating.

Memorial contributions can be made in Don's name to East Union Christian Church, 1711 E. 296th Street, Atlanta, Ind., 46031 or the Alzheimer's Association at act.alz.org.

### **Paul Alan Forner**

Aug. 1, 1953 - Feb. 6, 2022

Paul Alan Forner, 68, of Fishers, passed away unexpectedly on Sun., Feb. 6, 2022 while on vacation.

He was born on Aug. 1, 1953 to Leonard and Nanojean (Gilbert) Forner in Aurora, Ill.

Mr. Forner worked for Carrier Corp. as an engineer. He was a member of St. Louis de Montfort Catholic Church and loved to fish, play golf, and travel.

Survivors include his wife, Jeannine Allen Forner; daughter Amanda Marie (Jason) Gutierrez and Teresa Lynn (Brad) Fisher; sons Jon Paul Forner and Stephen Michael (Kelly) Forner; sister, Sharron Wadell; sister-inlaw, Teresa Forner; and 14 grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Lenny Forner and Tom Forner.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tue., Feb. 15, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers. Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. on Wed., Feb. 16, 2022 at St. Louis de Montfort Catholic Church, 11441 Hague Road,

Condolences can be made at www.randallroberts.com.



## **Employment Opportunity**

The Town of Sheridan has an immediate full-time **Accounts Payable/Utility Clerk** position available in the Clerk's Office. You may pick up a job description and application at the Sheridan Town Hall located at 506 South Main Street, Sheridan, IN 46069 or you may mail your Resume to the same address, or it is available at www.sheridan.org. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 11, 2022, by 4:00 p.m. No calls please.

**Equal Employment Opportunity Employer** Participates in E-Verify

### **Esta Mae Hunter**

July 28, 1926 - Feb. 4, 2022

Esta Mae Hunter, 95, of Sheridan, passed away on Fri., Feb. 4, 2022, at Rawlins House of Pendleton, Ind.

Born July 28, 1926, in Jamestown, Ind., she was the daughter of the late

Marvin V. and Mary F. (Cragun) Barker. Shortly after graduating from Sheridan High School in 1944, Mrs. Hunter went

to work for Firestone and it was there that she met her future husband, Charles Floyd Hunter. They were married on Dec. 20, 1946 and spent the next 52 years creating a lifetime of memories.

Mrs. Hunter held a variety of jobs throughout her lifetime but caring for her family was her chosen profession. Blessed with a caregiver's heart and a nurturing soul, her family and friends were always a priority in her life. For many, many years, she, along with her sister Ruth Anna, lovingly helped care for their aging mother while at the same time, tending to the needs their own families. When the kids were all grown and started having families of their own, "grandma" became her new favorite word, and the grandkids, her favorite topic of conversation. Taking care of her family wasn't the only thing that she prioritized; she also knew how important it was to remember their family history. Mrs. Hunter was a living Family Bible. She had a knack for genealogy and was the go-to authority when you were trying to figure out who was who and what was what. If nobody else in the family seemed to have the answer, go ask her.

Mrs. Hunter's strong faith helped guide her throughout her entire life. She was a very active member of Christian Liberty Church, where she was both pianist and organist for many years. Her legacy will live on through her loving family and the lives she touched.

Survivors include her three sons, Jack (Georgia) K. Hunter of Ninevah, Thomas H. Hunter of Arizona and C. Lorin Hunter of Arizona; three daughters, Karen S. Ballard of Pendleton, Anita (Mike) M. Sedwick of Sheridan and Mary (Jeff) Lu Wade of Muncie; 17 grandchildren; several great and great-great grandchildren; brother, John (Phyllis) P. Barker of Kirbyville, MO; sister-in-law, Vera Barker and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers, Meredith Barker and wife Lillian, Don Barker and wife Hilda, Maurice Barker and Marvin Lester Barker and wife Barbara; two sisters, Ruth Anna Roberts and husband Leon and Rowena Barker; 2 grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren; son-in-law, Larry Ballard; and her husband, Charles Floyd Hunter on Aug. 26, 1998.

Services are scheduled to be held at 7 p.m. on Sun., Feb, 13, 2022, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th Street, Sheridan, Ind., with Visitation scheduled to run from 4 p.m. until the time of service.

Pastor Rich Barker and Pastor Jeremiah Barker will be officiating.

Mrs. Hunter will be laid to rest at Anderson Memorial

Park in Anderson, Ind. Memorial contributions may be presented to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

### **Tanner Bradley** Oct. 2, 1994 - Feb. 5, 2022

Tanner Bradley, 27, of Beech Grove, passed away on Sat., Feb. 5, 2022 at his home.

He was born on Oct. 2, 1994 in Noblesville.

Mr. Bradley was a carpenter for the past 4 years. He loved spending time with his son, his brothers and his nieces and nephews. He was loved by everyone.

Survivors include his father; Jeffrey Bradley; mother, Tracey Cretsinger Hanner; son, Kendrick Bradley; brothers Dustin Bradley and Mitchell Bradley; and grandparents John and Pat Bradley.

The Bradley family has entrusted Randall & Roberts Funeral Home with Tanner's care.

Condolences can be made online at www.randallroberts.

### **Thomas A. Branum Sr** March 6, 1937 - Feb. 7, 2022

Thomas A. Branum Sr., 84, of Fishers, passed away on Mon., Feb. 7, 2022, at Riverview Health in Noblesville.

He was born on March 6, 1937 to Delmer and Margaret (Gregg) Branum in Clinton, Ind.

Mr. Branum grew up in Parke County, Ind. and graduated from Rosedale High School in 1955. He was a financial

planner for over 40 years, working for Equitable Life Assurance Company. A huge part of his life was being a member of Rotary International, joining in 1977, having perfect attendance for over 37 years. He served as District Governor for Central Indiana (1995-1996), served on the Rotary International Board of Directors (2007-2009), and he was Chairman of Rotary's Reach-out Africa Program (2010-2015).

Mr. Branum was on the Board of Hamilton Centers, Past Master of Rosedale Lodge and Past President of Alexander Hamilton chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was a member of Carmel United Methodist Church. He loved animals, especially horses and dogs. Mr. Branum loved traveling with his wife, Linda, and the rest of his family. He wanted to make sure his grandchildren saw the world, taking them on international trips.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Linda (Gardner) Branum; daughter, Kimberly Branum; sons, Thomas Branum Jr. and Gregg Branum; grandchildren Becky (Jeremy) Dyson, Jonathan (Lora) Webster and Victoria (Justin) Sue; and his great-granddaughter, Shea Dyson.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, James Branum and Joseph Branum.

Services are scheduled to be held at Heartland Church, 14900 E 126th St, Fishers, Ind. 46037 on Sat., Feb. 12, 2022 at 12 p.m., with Sr. Pastor Darryn Scheske officiating. Visitation is scheduled to run from 10:30 a.m. until the time of service at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fishers Rotary Water Is Life Project (FishersWaterIsLife.com) or The Rotary Foundation (Rotary.org).

Condolences can be made online at www.randall-

### **Barbara Lucille Barker**

Dec. 26, 1933 - Feb. 4, 2022

Barbara Lucille Barker, age 88, passed away at her home in Sheridan, Ind., surrounded by her loving family on Fri., Feb. 4, 2022.

Born in Tionesta, Penn. on Dec. 26, 1933, she was the daughter of the late Rev. George J. and Lucille (Topping) Rennard.

Mrs. Barker attended school in Tionesta through her Junior year. Her family then moved to Kilgore, Texas where she graduated with the Class of 1951. On Aug. 8, 1953, she married Marvin L. Barker, and the two of them would set off on a lifetime of adventure, side by side for the next 58 years.

Mrs. Barker loved to travel and always found work wherever she and Marvin would settle for a little bit. During their years in Texas, she hired on as a driver with Wells Fargo, and later signed on with the Dallas -Fort Worth Airport as a shuttle bus driver. This move ultimately led her into a position as a school bus driver. It wasn't always work, work, work with her; her love of animals seemed to shine wherever she was. While in Texas, she tried her hand (successfully of course) at raising Lovebirds. In Indiana, she worked as a seamstress with Aero Drapery for over 20 years, and also worked seasonally at Stuckey Farm Market, helping to handle their draft horses. And while living in Florida she found yet another job the fit her perfectly – working in the gift shop at Busch Gardens in Tampa, Florida.

Mrs. Barker was artistic, and her creativity was spread across many different areas. There always seemed to be a project of some sort going on at any given time. She enjoyed sewing, knitting, and crocheting, as well as making doll clothes, and for many years, had her own kiln and enjoyed making pottery. However, music was her specialty. She was kind of a one-man (or woman) band. From accordion to guitar, to various wind instruments, Mrs. Barker could play them all. She also loved singing in choirs, as well as playing the piano and organ for church. She was the church organist for the Sheridan First Christian Church for many years.

Mrs. Barker was deeply devoted to her family; however, she was also extremely committed to practical jokes, and what better target than family and friends. Her longstanding household joke was to set all the clocks in her house to different times (usually 5 to 10 minutes apart) so that they would constantly be chiming throughout the day. She loved watching the confused looks on the grandchildren's faces. Another favorite was her little sample bottle. She always carried around her bottle of miniature milk stools, and never missed an opportunity to ask if anyone needed to see them. Her favorite targets were doctors and nurses. "I brought a stool sample if you need one" - followed by a look of uncertainty as to what might get pulled from her purse - and an eye roll and sigh from whoever accompanied her to her appointment.

Mrs. Barker was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, whose strong faith and love for her family is a legacy that will carry on for generations.

Survivors include sons, John (Tracy) Barker of Sheridan, Kenneth (Bobbie) Barker of Franklin, PA and Jason Barker of Sheridan; daughters Teressa Fisher of Thorntown, Marlene Pettigrew of Sheridan, Donella (Mike) Corlett of Sheridan and Wanda (Charles) Wright of Sheridan; many grandchildren and a multitude of great grandchildren; sisters Lois Thompson of Oklahoma and Sharon Sowders of Atlanta, Georgia; brother-in-law, John P. (Phyllis) Barker of Kirbyville, MO; sistersin-law Vera Barker, and Connie Hambrick-Rennard: many nieces and nephews; and her Canine BFF and grand-furbaby, Koko.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers George Rennard and Ron Rennard; brothers-in-law and sisters-in law; Ruth Anna Roberts and husband Leon, Rowena Barker, Esta Mae Hunter and husband Charles, Meredith Barker and wife Lillian, Don Barker and wife Hilda and Maurice Barker; son-in law Phillip Fisher; her grand-furbaby, Shep; and by her loving husband, Marvin Lester Barker on April 24, 2012.

Services are scheduled to be held at 7 p.m. on Sun., Feb. 13, 2022, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th Street, Sheridan, Ind., with Visitation scheduled from 4 p.m. until the time of service.

Pastor Rich Barker and Pastor Jeremiah Barker will be

# **Center For Performing Arts, Fifth Third Bank Announce Multi-Year Sponsorship Deal**

Patrons visiting the Center for the Performing Arts in the coming weeks will notice something new at the Palladium and at the James Building, which houses the Tarkington and the Studio Theater.

The Center and Fifth Third Bank today announced the first-ever naming partnership for the ticket counters that serve the Center and its six Resident Companies, which now carry the name Fifth Third Bank Box Office.

The multi-year partnership was officially launched this morning with a ribbon cutting by Center President/CEO Jeffrey C. McDermott, Fifth Third Bank Regional President Michael Ash and Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard. The financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

"We could not be more excited to welcome Fifth Third Bank into the Center's family," McDermott our dedication to the Central Indiana community, and we look forward to hosting its customers at our performances, education programs and community events."

said. "Fifth Third shares

In addition to enhancing the bank's brand and providing opportunities to entertain clients, the partnership includes ticket discounts for Fifth Third Bank cardholders. It also brings together two community-minded organizations committed to the arts and education.

"Fifth Third Bank is thrilled to partner with such a prominent arts and culture institution as the Center for the Performing Arts," Ash said. "The Center's ability to provide enriching performances, educational programming, and overall community engagement makes it a pivotal partner in Carmel, and we look forward to the coming years.'



# **Local Entrepreneur to Open Blo Blow Dry Bar in Fishers**

Blo Blow Dry Bar, North America's original blow dry bar franchise, will open its newest bar on Feb. 11 in Fishers, Ind.. Located next to the Fishers District at 11595 Whistle Dr., Suite 102, the new bar will offer guests five signature styles on its hair menu, a la carte options, a variety of hair treatments, plus five signature makeup looks and a brand-new section of customized looks to provide endless inspiration.

Also, for a limited time, the new bar will offer a Founder's rate for its signature Mane Squeeze Membership that includes two blowouts a month for \$85, plus perks such as \$5 off each additional

blow out, 10% off retail and makeup services, and a complimentary monthly add-on perk!

The new bar is owned

and operated by local entrepreneur Theresa Shadley. Shadley has lived in the Indianapolis area for over five years and has an extensive background in the beauty industry. As a licensed Cosmetologist, Shadley has worked for large global brands to develop and grow their Education and Sales teams. Most recently, Shadley was VP of Sales for Kenra Professional, a beauty brand headquartered in downtown Indy until it relocated in 2018. Upon the relocation, Shadley opened her first Pure

Barre Franchise in the Indianapolis area and now owns 3 successful franchise locations. As a longtime blow dry bar customer, she saw the need for a brand with a history of success in the industry and decided to open her very own location in Fishers.

"I'm looking forward to helping my Fishers friends and neighbors look and feel their best." Said Shadley "Blo's talented stylists, welcoming environment and vibrant community makes the bar an exciting addition to the Northside of Indy. I'm thrilled to bring one of the most recognizable brands in the beauty industry to the Fisher's District area."

To celebrate the opening, Blo Blow Dry Bar guests will be able to purchase one blowout for \$34, this offer runs from Feb. 11 – Feb. 19.

Blo Blow Dry Bar is on a mission to create a space where people of all ages, ethnicities, and orientations are welcomed, represented, and made to feel gorgeous while emphasizing the need for self-care and wellness. Combining a sophisticated design with a fun and energetic environment, Blo cultivates a seamless and enjoyable experience for guests upon their arrival, during, and after their services. Expertly trained blo-ers are available for

consultation seven days a week to meet the needs of all guests. The brand's hair menu includes five signature styles from sleek and straight to bouncy curls, plus a wide assortment of customized looks including updo's and braids. Blo Blow Dry Bar also offers makeup services from expert artists on hand to help guests look and feel amazing for any occasion.

Blo Blow Dry Bar is open Mon. – Sat. 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information on Blo Blow Dry Bar in Fishers, please visit https://blomedry.com/blo-fishers/ or call 317-436-1638.

About Blo Blow Dry

Blo Blow Dry Bar transformed beauty norms and reinvented the salon industry when it launched the "no cuts, no color" concept: only blow outs. Since opening its first location in Canada in 2007, Blo has grown to over 140 locations across the U.S. and Canada and continues to expand rapidly. With a mission to enhance the lives of those in the community through the power of flawless blow outs and beauty services, Blo Blow Dry Bar offers perfectly styled hair and exceptional customer experiences

seven days a week. For

more information visit

www.blomedry.com.



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# \$500,000 In New Federal Grant Funds **Available For Specialty Crop Industry**

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), beginning Feb. 15, will seek project proposals from Indiana's specialty crop sector for funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. Eligible projects must enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in Indiana, defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture and nursery crops.

"Indiana is home to an abundance of agricultural sectors, including a robust specialty crop industry that contributes significantly to our economy," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture. "The funding

through this program, whether that be research. market development or education and training, will help to greatly advance this industry in our

The USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program offers federal funding annually to the state departments of agriculture to support their specialty crop industries. Indiana's allocation is \$486,095.35.

ISDA created and distributed a funding priority survey in early 2022 for specialty crop funding; respondents included stakeholders across the specialty crop industry. Based on the survey suggested projects included enhancing food safety, pest and disease control,

developing organic and sustainable production practices, and developing local and regional food systems. When the application opens please refer to the notice of funding opportunity for a full list of suggested projects.

Funding will not be awarded to projects that benefit a particular commercial product, or provide a profit to a single organization, institution or individual. Each project must identify at least one of the new USDA performance measures that specifically demonstrates the project's impact on enhancing the competitiveness of eligible specialty

crops.
"These funds have the potential to make a substantial impact on the specialty crop industry," said Bruce Kettler, Indiana State Department of Agriculture director. "I encourage those involved in the specialty crop sector to apply and work toward further supporting this industry and enhancing its significance in our state."

Applications open on Feb. 15, 2022 and are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on March 8, 2022. Proposals must be submitted online through the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Grants Management System. ISDA will host a SCBGP webinar for interested applicants on February 22, 2022. Registration information is available on ISDA's Funding Opportunities website.

### U.S. Soybean Farmers Weigh In On **Vilsack's Rural Climate Initiative**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced a new \$1 billion investment in partnerships that support climate-smart farming, ranching and forestry practices and that expand market opportunities for those climate-smart commodities to increase their competitive edge.

The American Soybean Association was engaged in that program announcement on Monday.

"ASA appreciates USDA's announcement of the new Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities initiative, which we hope will help soy farmers throughout the country and the agricultural value chain to address climate change," said Brad Doyle, ASA President and Arkansas soy grower. "America's soybean farmers welcome opportunities to

grow sustainable markets for their crops, including as food, feed, biofuels, and other biobased goods, and through export programs like the Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol. Unlocking a new climate-smart commodity marketplace is a positive next step for our industry, and we are pleased to see what innovations this pilot program delivers."

ASA commented on the early stages of the partnership program in November. As soy growers learn more about these new revenue stream opportunities, ASA reiterates that the industry has established long-term goals for sustainability, and soybean farmers work day to day through good farming practices to do their part and remain committed to the environment.



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# **UBETSY** From Page A1

nal drama, "American Brutus."

He said he would continue to write plays, which is a lengthy process, but the originals Hyperion Players will produce will be from other writers, too. In the theater group's early stages, there won't be any musicals because they're too expensive to secure and expensive to produce.

"The Glass Menagerie" has been entirely funded by the cast and crew. "We agreed on that when we selected the play, and it's been fantastic to see the level of buy-in from this team," he said.

After this show ends and before the pilot season begins, the Hyperion Players board of directors will put together plans for the first fundraiser and will solicit sponsors. "As with any community theater, our funding will come primarily from sponsors, donors and grants," Hauer said.

He's spoken to fellow artists from various local theater groups. "The Hamilton County artistic community is tight-knit, and we're often sharing props, offering rehearsal space and recommending auditions to one another," he said. "As for what we're asking of the community: we just want you to come and see our shows."

Hyperion Players' co-creators have been friends since childhood. They met in 1999 and first acted together in 2005. "We've been best friends for a long time," Hauer said. "You know how some families keep track of how tall their kids are getting by marking lines on a wall? Adam has a line on my parents' wall. (And) my photo is on his parents' fridge. He was best man at my



Photo courtesy of Ian Hauer

lan Hauer of Noblesville (left) and his childhood friend, Adam Fike, are co-creators of the new Hyperion Players theater, which has its first show opening tonight through Saturday at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville.

wedding, and I was best man at his. We started talking about this (theater) idea around 2008, then seriously sketching out what it could look like in 2016.

Fike has a college degree in theater and has worked in the industry, "so his knowledge has been essential throughout this process," Hauer said. He and his wife currently live in Indianapolis, but they've talked about moving to Fishers. "I'm trying to convince them to look a little farther north," said Hauer, an Old Town Noblesville resident who married fellow thespian Emily Smith in October 2020.

In December 2020, Hauer and Fike decided they were ready to start moving forward with Hyperion Players, a name in Greek mythology that means the Titan of light and wisdom.

"We pulled together about a dozen artists we knew but didn't overwhelm everyone with the vision for a new theater. Instead, since we were still operating under a pandemic, the group would meet once a month and read through a script together. After reading,

we'd talk about the design and production ideas," he said. "We'd also toss around general thoughts on theater, and I'd take careful notes.'

In August, the group selected the favorite from among the plays they'd read, and that was how "The Glass Menagerie" was chosen.

"From the beginning, we knew we wanted to put on a show in 2022, but it wasn't always certain it was going to be under the Hyperion banner or that we'd have nonprofit status," he said.

So auditions for the play were for the group only. "It so happened that only five of our group wanted to act, and the rest preferred to be on crew, which was just about perfect for this show," said Hauer, who cast and blocked the show in December and rehearsals began in January, just five weeks ago, meeting three times a week. The recent snowstorm only canceled two rehearsals which were replaced with Zoom video-conferencing rehearsals.

Hyperion Players was designated as a 501(c)(3)nonprofit in 2021. "I've been through the non-



Photo courtesy of Will Smith

Jim O'Connor (Zach Catlin, Indianapolis) lights candles after the power goes out at the Wingfield residence, while Amanda Wingfield (Lauren Taylor, Noblesville) and Tom Wingfield (Adam Fike, Indianapolis) disagree on the reasons for inviting him to dinner during rehearsals of the new Hyperion Players production of "The Glass Menagerie," tonight through Saturday at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville.

### Want **TO GO**?

What: Hyperion Players, a new Hamilton County-based theatrical nonprofit organization, will present its first stage production, "The Glass Menagerie," by Tennessee Williams. Directed by Ian Hauer of Noblesville. When: 7 p.m. today through Saturday (Feb. 10-12). Where: The Ivy Tech Auditorium at Ivy Tech Hamilton County, 300 N. 17th St., Noblesville. Enter through Door No. 1.

How much: \$10.

Good to know: Patrons are asked to wear masks or face coverings.

Tickets: Online at https://hyperionplayers.com/, also cash or check only at the door.

profit application process before, so I had some idea of what I was getting into. There are quite a few moving pieces, and you have to be sure to dot every 'i' and cross every 't.' I must've re-read that application a dozen times to make sure everything was correct." The group applied in the summer and received a letter of determination near the end of the year.

This is the 13th time in the director's chair for Hauer. He was born in Minnesota, raised in Newburgh, Ind., and has lived around here for the past decade. He graduated from IUPUI in 2014

with a Bachelor of Arts in History and currently serves as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Indiana Treasurer of State. Besides theater and history, he enjoys writing, watching movies, genealogical research, playing chess and hiking with Emily.

Lastly, why does Hauer love live theater so much?

"There's an electricity to live theater that can't be captured anywhere else, and there are moments that are impossible to replicate. When you've poured months into a show, and it comes out right in the end, it's immensely satisfying. When you're directing

### Want **MORE**? MEET THE CAST

Here the cast of "The Glass Menagerie," opening tonight:

Tom Wingfield, played by Adam Fike of Indianapolis; Amanda Wingfield, Lauren Taylor of Noblesville; Laura Wingfield, Emily Hauer of Noblesville; and Jim O'Connor, Zach Catlin of

### Want **MORE**?

MEET THE CREW Director, Ian Hauer of Noblesville; stage manager, Kristin Hilger of Noblesville, set design/ construction, Adam Fike; assistant set design, Beth Fike of Indianapolis; light board operation/ social media, Callie Cox of Lebanon; sound board operation, Hope Oetjen of Indianapolis; sound design, Zach Catlin; properties manager, Elizabeth M. Voss, Indianapolis; hair, makeup and costume lead, Lauren Taylor; makeup and costume assistant, Emily Hauer; and promotional material, Evan Gilmore of Marion.

and explaining something to an actor, and you see them grasp a concept for the first time, it's delightful. When you're in the (light and sound) booth and you hear the audience murmur with delight at a lighting effect you've chosen, you can't help but smile," Hauer said.

"And when you're acting, pouring your efforts into a character and you stumble out for bows afterward, the feeling of relief and joy is magical."

- Contact Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com.

# **UTIM** From Page A1

through for two weeks. After that got worked out, I got COVID. No, I am not making this up. Heck, I still don't have all my sense of smell back.

So finally, everything was set to go for Monday, Jan. 31. However, a nurse called me the night before and said that the surgeon had an emergency heart transplant come up, so my surgery was postponed.

I certainly understand the magnitude of what that meant to two different families. One got the worst news they could get while the other family, who I assume had been waiting for a miracle of their own, got great news.

My operation pales in comparison and I absolutely get that.

But let me back up 48 hours.

I went to the hospital for some pre-op testing and blood work Friday. In addition, the hospital gave me a bunch of instructions on what I

could and could not do for the two days leading up to the big event. That included giving me a powerful soap (that had a sting to it) and specific instructions on scrubrub-a-dubbing everywhere from the neck down. Heck, they even handed me a couple of brushes so that I could get under finger and toe nails – and in and around my nether regions! (Did I mention it stung?)

After getting it all done and dried off, I stood beet red and feeling a little liked a potato that had been cleaned with a wire brush before going in the oven. There was only one thing left to do. I had to apply a glob of gooey ointment on a swab stick and coat the inside of both nostrils. To be fair, it wasn't hard – just weird and a little gross. But after 38 years of marriage, I have learned to follow instructions. So I dutifully completed that last task.

And then the nurse called . . .

Like I said, gotta smile about this.

The following week the hospital called to set things up again and, you know the rest, we got hit with snow and ice and everything shut down.

I could not make this up if I wanted to!

So now, everything is back on. They tell me we're set for Feb. 24. Well, that's the schedule. I just heard that the insurance has to give its blessing again . . .

I HAVE purposely not mentioned names of anyone who've sent in well wishes. Most wouldn't care, but I did get one note that specifically asked me to keep their name private. It came from a politician who I have taken to task both privately and in this space more than once. However, they did not ask that I keep the message from you, so I want to share the following:

"You are wrong more often than you are right, but I hope that you come through this surgery with flying colors and you return to work soon. You write that we need more civil debate and on that note you and I agree. There is much value in your questions and I will miss them while you are gone. Of course, as soon as you come back and commence your writings again, I will be happy to tell you how wrong you are once more."

Thanks! (I think.)

NOT SURE WHAT this means, but I have not been watching the national news on Fox, CNN and the other usual suspects. And wouldn't you know it but my blood pressure has gone down. Coincidence? I think not.

- Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns The Noblesville Times. He is a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at ttimmons@ thetimes24-7.com.



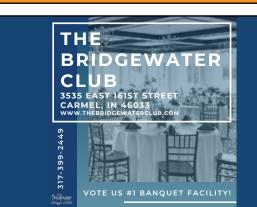
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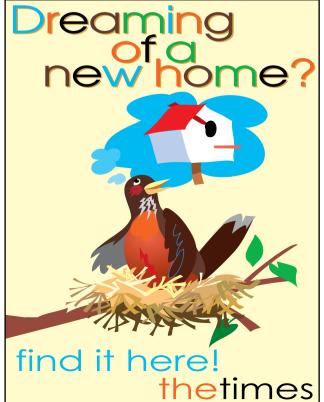














# Did You Know?

- Floyd County is the second smallest county in Indiana with only 148.96 square miles.
- New Albany, the county seat, experienced the Ohio River flood in 1937, leaving the town drenched in over 10 feet of water.
- The county was founded in 1819 and named after Brigadier General John Floyd.
- Floyd County has a population of 75,283 residents.
- New Albany is 15.11 square miles and has around 36,372 residents.

# Got Words?

Fayette County was a vital supply and medical center during the Civil War and was a stop in the Underground Railroad. How do you think the county has been influenced by its critical, historical role in the United States?

# Stumpers

1. How old is Floyd County?

- 2. What percentage of the county does New Albany make up?
- 3. What is the population density of the county?
- 4. How long ago did the Ohio River flood take place?

per square mile 4. 82 Years Answers: 1. 200 Years 2. About 10.14% 3. Around 505

# Word

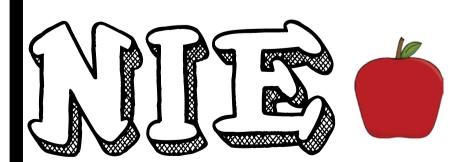
# Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

- 1. WEN LYNBAA
- 2. DOFYL YTUCON
  - 3. 00FDL
  - 4. LIIVC AWR
  - 5. IOOH RIRVE

4. Civil War Era 5. Ohio River Answers: 1. New Albany 2. Floyd County 3. Flood

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Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022 **A7** 

# **Purdue's Online Engineering Master's Programs Remains At The Top Latest U.S. News Rankings**

Purdue University's online engineering remains among the nation's elite in the newest U.S. News & World Report rankings of the Best Online Programs. The rankings, released Tuesday (Jan. 25), have Purdue in the No. 1 spot in four specific categories, and the university's full array of online engineering programs is at No. 3 for the second year in a row.

Purdue online master's degrees in Electrical Engineering, Industrial Engineering and Mechanical Engineering all rank No. 1 for 2022, just as they were in 2021. Additionally, Engineering Management rose to No. 1 in its category, up two spots from a year ago. The online Civil Engineering master's is No. 2, also the same as 2021.

Collectively, online master's programs from the Purdue College of Engineering rank third among 112 colleges and universities considered for ranking, again the same as in 2021. Purdue's online engineering master's programs trail only Columbia University and the University of California, Los Angeles. Purdue is tied with Pennsylvania State University in the third spot — ahead of three other Big Ten schools listed in the top 10: the universities of Illinois (sixth), Michigan (seventh) and Wisconsin (ninth).

"Online learning is now

proven as essential to the future of higher ed," said Mung Chiang, executive vice president for strategic initiatives and the John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering. "Purdue Engineering continues to expand the scope of offerings, broaden the range of students and university and corporate partners, and innovate the use of virtual labs and machine learning for human learning. Our faculty and staff have also elevated the level of excellence, as recognized

ing in the country." Purdue also ranks No. 5 in online engineering master's programs for veterans. The newest rankings can be viewed online.

again in this top-three rank-

"Student success is our primary focus," said Dimitrios Peroulis, Purdue's Michael and Katherine Birck Head and Reilly Professor, Elmore Family School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. "Besides our dedicated faculty members, our online students can engage with a variety of advisors, success coaches, and, of course, their on-campus and online peers. We will keep innovating in this space to provide additional learning opportunities for our growing Purdue Engineering online community."

In other U.S. News rankings, the Purdue College of Education online master's programs rank No. 22, up

20 places from 42 in 2021.

Purdue is engaged in an initiative to build a best-inclass collection of online courses and programs to better serve a variety of students, professionals and corporate partners with high-quality offerings that are accessible, affordable and demonstrably beneficial. Offerings from throughout the Purdue system are accessible through the unified web portal at online.purdue.edu.

"Even before the pandemic, Purdue recognized that a diverse online portfolio meeting the high academic standards that Purdue is known for was essential to its mission and its future. indeed the future of higher education in general," said Gary Bertoline, senior vice president for Purdue Online and Learning Innovation. "These latest rankings are just one more sign that we're headed in the right direction. We will continue to strive toward leadership in the online education space."

The organizers of the annual U.S. News rankings analyze such factors as the quality of students entering a program; online teaching practices so students stay enrolled and graduate on time; how the programs employ technologies to allow students flexibility; and the quality of student support services, career guidance and financial aid

resources.

Also weighed are faculty credentials and training, including the degree to which online instructors' credentials mirror those of on-campus faculty and the training instructors receive to teach distance learners.

In addition, U.S. News conducts a peer assessment survey of high-ranking academic officials, in the case of the engineering rankings deans of engineering schools and top online learning officials, as an important element of reviewing Purdue and other institutions for ranking.

**About Purdue University** Purdue University is a top public research institution developing practical solutions to today's toughest challenges. Ranked in each of the last four years as one of the 10 Most Innovative universities in the United States by U.S. News & World Report, Purdue delivers world-changing research and out-of-thisworld discovery. Committed to hands-on and online, real-world learning, Purdue offers a transformative education to all. Committed to affordability and accessibility, Purdue has frozen tuition and most fees at 2012-13 levels, enabling more students than ever to graduate debt-free. See how Purdue never stops in the persistent pursuit of the next giant leap at https:// purdue.edu/.

# **Hoosier Housing Help Assistance With COVID**

Indiana tenants and landlords can now find key resources for relief and recovery at HoosierHousingHelp.com. Hoosier Housing Help is designed to connect Hoosiers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with tools for pre-eviction support and federal funds for emergency rental assistance.

More than \$400 million in rental assistance has been authorized by the federal government for the state of Indiana. Anyone who has experienced financial hardship associated with the COVID-19 pandemic is encouraged to learn more about their options for relief and recovery.

The Indiana Eviction Task Force is working to ensure fair solutions are available for anyone involved in eviction matters. As part of the effort to create awareness on the resources available, the Task Force is encouraging both tenants and landlords to visit HoosierHousingHelp. com for more information on receiving funds to cover past due rent, pay for future rent, reduce outstanding balances owed, or pay for utilities and home energy costs.

Free settlement conferences with landlords, tenants and a neutral facilitator are also available

to allow all parties to explore solutions whether or not an eviction case has been filed. Participants in pre-eviction prevention or diversion programs—like fast-track facilitation or rental assistance—may be given time to complete applications and determine eligibility before a court decision.

Additional resources for legal aid and social services are also available on the Hoosier Housing Help website at HoosierHousingHelp.

About the Indiana Eviction Task Force:

The Indiana Supreme Court launched the Indiana Eviction Task Force in Sept. 2021 to establish a statewide pre-eviction diversion program and improve the distribution of emergency rental assistance funds. There are about 50,000 eviction cases in Indiana currently. The Task Force includes wide representation with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Indiana Legal Services, Inc., Indiana Apartment Association, Indiana Office of Management and Budget, judicial officers, and attorneys. More about the Task Force can be found at courts. in.gov/iocs/committees/ eviction.

# Indiana students to get free FAFSA filing help at College Goal Sunday

Financial aid professionals from across Indiana will be volunteering at 40 sites to help collegebound students and their families open the door to financial aid during College Goal Sunday. The event is set for 2 PM (local time). February 27th, 2022.

The free program assists Indiana students in filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAF-SA). The FAFSA form is required for students to be considered for federal and state grants, scholarships, and Federal student loans at most colleges, universities, and vocational/technical schools nationwide. The FAFSA MUST be filed by April 15 to be eligible for Indiana financial aid. One of many reasons College Goal Sunday is so important is because many families perceive the form to be too complicated and time consuming to complete. In less than one afternoon during College Goal Sunday, students and their families can get free help and file the form.

"Filing the FAFSA can

seem daunting to Hoosier students and families," said Indiana Commissioner for **Higher Education Teresa** Lubbers. "However, it's an important step for anyone interested in education beyond high school. College Goal Sunday provides an opportunity for individuals to receive one-on-one assistance from financial aid experts to insure their FAFSA is completed accurately before the deadline."

Now in its 33rd year, College Goal Sunday has helped more than 94,000 Indiana students and families complete the FAFSA properly and on time. College Goal Sunday is a charitable program of the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA). College Goal Sunday

Doubles the Help Offered "The event on February 27th will be the second of two College Goal Sunday events ISFAA is offering this FAFSA filing season." said Bill Wozniak, co-chair

of College Goal Sunday. "We hope all Hoosiers who have not filed already,

take advantage of College

Goal Sunday, file the FAF-SA, and get one step closer to fulfilling their educational goals."

According to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, programs like College Goal Sunday are reaching first-generation college students. In recent years, according to CHE statistics, more single-parent Hoosier families have filed for financial aid, indicating programs like College Goal Sunday are reaching high-risk students and their families.

"Students who don't complete their financial aid paperwork properly and on time are often very disappointed when they find out how much financial aid they lost," said Wozniak. "This is why the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association not only continues to provide College Goal Sunday, but offers two events during the year. If our assistance gives students a better chance at education beyond high school and less debt, we're fulfilling our mission."

What students should

bring

Students should attend College Goal Sunday with their parent(s) or guardian(s), and parent(s) should bring completed 2020 IRS 1040 tax returns, W-2 Forms and other 2020 income and benefits information. Students who worked should also bring their income information. Students 24 years of age or older may attend alone and bring their completed 2020 IRS 1040 tax return, W-2 Form or other 2020 income and benefits information. Students and parent(s) are encouraged to apply for their U.S. Department of Education FSA IDs at studentaid.gov before logging in to the

Volunteers will walk through the online form line-by-line and answer families' individual questions as needed. All sites offer FAFSA online capabilities and many have Spanish interpreters. A complete list of sites is available at College-GoalSunday.org.

Attendees may win a

scholarship from College Goal Sunday

Students may also win one of five \$1,000 scholarships. Students who attend College Goal Sunday and submit a completed evaluation form will automatically be entered in a drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship. The winners will be notified in spring and scholarships will be sent directly to the higher education institution selected by the winning students.

21st Century Scholars benefit

21st Century Scholars are income-eligible students who sign a contract in the seventh or eighth grade promising they will graduate from high school, meet grade point requirements, fulfill a pledge of good citizenship, and apply for college financial aid. Upon high school completion, Scholars who have fulfilled the commitment and demonstrate financial need receive state funds to help cover their college tuition and fees for up to eight semesters

at eligible Indiana public colleges or an equal dollar amount at eligible Indiana private colleges. To fulfill their pledge scholars must submit a completed FAF-SA form on time, College Goal Sunday can help. Program is a national

model

College Goal Sunday originated right here in Indiana and is now a national model. Following Indiana's example, College Goal Sunday events organized by more than 34 states have opened doors to higher education for hundreds of thousands of students all over the country.

For more information about College Goal Sunday visit CollegeGoalSunday.org.

College Goal Sunday is a cooperative, charitable effort of the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA). It is provided in cooperation with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, and is funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc. and INvestEd.

# AARP Indiana Is Now Accepting 2022 Community Challenge Grant Applications

**AARP** Indiana invites local organizations and governments across the state to apply for the 2022 AARP Community Challenge grant program, now through March 22, 2022.

These grants fund quick-action projects that help communities become more livable in the long-term by improving public spaces, transportation, housing, civic engagement, coronavirus recovery, diversity and inclusion, and more. Now in its sixth year, the grant program is part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live.

"We have seen across our state that these quick-action projects can lead to long-lasting improvements for Hoosiers," said AARP State Director, Sarah Waddle. "We are excited to get the 2022 Community Challenge kicked-off and see what ideas are submitted to help make communities across Indiana become great places for people of all backgrounds, abilities and ages."

Since 2017, the Community Challenge has

funded over 800 projects nationwide, including 14 right here in Indiana. The program provides direct support to all community types, with nearly 40 percent of past projects benefitting rural communities, 20 percent going to suburban locations and 40 percent improving urban

AARP will prioritize proposals that support residents age 50 and over, are inclusive, address disparities, directly engage volunteers and aim to achieve one or more of the following outcomes for all residents, especially people age 50 and

older:

• Support communities' efforts to build engagement and leverage funding available under new federal programs through laws like the American Rescue Plan Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and more.

• Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.

 Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements.

• Support a range of housing options that increases the availability of accessible and affordable

 Ensure a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion while improving the built and social environment of a community.

• Increase civic engagement with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of inclusion.

 Other community improvements; including health services, community development, and coronavirus pandemic

recovery.

The Community Challenge is open to 501(c) (3), 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits and government entities. Other types of organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to tens of thousands for larger projects.

The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. ET, March 22, 2022. All projects must be completed by November 30, 2022. To submit an application and view past grantees, visit www.AARP.org/CommunityChallenge.