

**➔ TODAY'S VERSE**

Ecclesiastes 3:14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it.



**➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY**

People who call our community their own.

What makes Jeff Lockridge smile? "Good music and good friends," said the 51-year-old Arcadia resident, who was born and raised in Noblesville. He is a maintenance technician for Hamilton County and is also part of the crew for the shuttle bus service that transports county employees from the vacant Riverview Hospital-owned parking lot to the Judicial Center while the county's parking garage is under construction. "This is an added responsibility," Lockridge said. "I want to make sure that everybody gets one and off safely and to the parking lot every day." Last day of shuttle service is today, as the new parking garage opens during a ribbon-cutting ceremony today at Eighth and Clinton streets. He has been making sure county employees get to the bus safely everyday from 4:10 to 5:30 p.m. Lockridge was born and raised in Noblesville and graduated in 1989 from Hamilton Heights High School, where he met his wife, Leigh, a graphic artist. They've been married 33 years. His daughter, Aynsley, 32, a 2007 grad of Hamilton Heights, works in the county probation department. "She's a marvelous kid." What else? "I play music, electric bass, been in bands off and on pretty much my whole life. I was in a band (Sidewinder) for about seven years, and we played all over Indiana." He was self-taught. "That's what we did back in the day, around here, we ran the street and played music." He's worked for the county for 16 years, and before that worked at Perfecto Manufacturing for 16 years and built custom tanks. Busiest time of the day for the bus shuttle? "The first load is the busiest." We probably have six to eight loads of employees. "They love it. We help them off, and we help them on." Read more about the shuttle service and the new parking garage in the Betsy Reason column in today's edition of The Times.

**And Another Thing...**

Governor Eric J. Holcomb is directing flags in the State of Indiana to be flown at half-staff in remembrance of the one million American lives lost to COVID-19. Per President Biden's order, flags should be flown at half-staff immediately until sunset on Monday, May 16. Gov. Holcomb is asking businesses and residents in Indiana to lower their flags.

# The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

50¢ WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

While the new Hamilton County government employee parking garage was being built, employees were shuttled to and from the vacant Riverview Hospital-owned parking. Shuttle pickup (by Janus and Boys & Girls Club buses in the morning and Noblesville Schools (above) buses every afternoon) was on Logan Street in front of the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center.

## Final Bus Stop Today as Parking Garage Opens



**BETSY REASON**  
The Times Editor

Hamilton County government employees -- who've been shuttled on buses from the vacant Riverview Hospital-owned parking lot on the west side of White River for the past year -- have a new, covered and consolidated place to park.

The \$11.5 million Hamilton County Parking Garage -- that's been under construction since May 2021 at the location of the county government-owned former surface lot used for Hamilton County Employee Parking at 225 N. Ninth St., in downtown Noblesville -- opens during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. today.

"It's a good view from the top floor," said Hamilton County superintendent Steve Wood of the five-story garage, located in half of a city block on Clinton Street between Eighth and Ninth streets, about a block north (or three-minute walk) from the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center and the Historic Courthouse. He said the new parking garage "should be a benefit to the whole community because it frees up a lot of parking spaces."

Since construction began on the parking garage, county gov-

➔ See BETSY Page A6

## Local National Merit \$2500 Scholarship Winners Announced



On Tuesday, National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced this year's National Merit \$2500 Scholarship winners. The 2,500 Merit Scholar designees were chosen from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding Finalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Ten Hamilton County students were included among this year's winners, the most of any county! They are:

- Jackson J. Hu - Carmel

- Ella C. Joliet - Carmel
- Yiling Q. Li - Carmel
- Jack H. Liu - Carmel
- Jinhee Won - Carmel
- Vanessa Xiao - Carmel
- Rishabh S. Bhadouriya - Fishers

- Anish R. Kambhampati - Fishers
- Luis F. Ojeda Aguiar - Fishers
- Delaney F. Shoemaker - Noblesville

National Merit \$2500 Scholarship winners are the Finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The number of winners named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the nation's graduating high

➔ See WINNERS Page A6

## Fishers Seeking Applicants for Nonprofit Grants



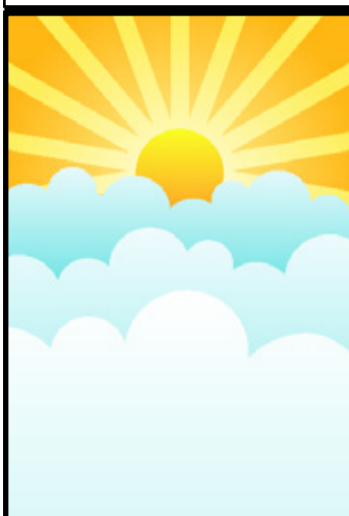
The City of Fishers seeks non-profit applicants for its 2022 Fishers Nonprofit Grant program. The grant application will remain open through June 1 at 1 p.m.

The Fishers City Council's Nonprofit Grant Committee will administer a total of \$120,000 in funding for the 2022 grant cycle.

Registered 501(c)3 nonprofits based in Fishers or that serve Fishers residents are encouraged to apply. Priority will be given to organizations that make a large impact on Fishers residents. The committee will award grants based on proven

➔ See GRANTS Page A6

### The Daily Almanac



**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 6:30 a.m.  
SET: 8:50 p.m.



**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 84 °F  
Low: 60 °F



**Today is...**

- World Cocktail Day
- International Hummus Day
- National Leprechaun Day



**What Happened On This Day**

- 1950 The first Formula One World Championship season kicks off
- 1981 Pope John Paul II survives an assassination attempt
- 1989 Thousands of students begin a hunger strike on Tiananmen Square in Beijing



**Births On This Day**

- 1914 Joe Louis American boxer
- 1950 Stevie Wonder American singer-songwriter, pianist, producer

**Deaths On This Day**

- 1975 Bob Willis American singer-songwriter
- 1977 Mickey Spillane American mobster

**➔ INSIDE TODAY**

- Obituaries..... A2
- Dick Wolfsie..... A2
- Service Directory..... A3
- Kenny Thompson..... A3
- Classifieds..... A4
- Things to Do - Betsy Reason..... A5
- Business & News..... A7
- Voices of Our People..... A8, A9

**➔ OBITUARIES**

**John Andrew Takach**

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **HOWARD KENLEY** for subscribing!



**➔ HONEST HOOSIER**

It's Friday the 13th, for crying out loud. Oh well, might as well make it a lucky day and forget all the bad stuff!



**➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Kids need a minimum of 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily.

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**

"If people are doubting how far you can go, go so far that you can't hear them anymore."

- Michele Ruiz

**➔ TODAY'S JOKE**

What do dentists call their X-Rays?  
Tooth pics!

**13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST**

86 SUNNY AND PLEASANT	80/84 SUNNY AND PLEASANT	62/82 PARTLY CLOUDY WITH SHOWERS	61/80 PM SCATTERED SHOWERS AND STORMS	56/75 BREEZY AND SUNNY	53/74 MAINLY SUNNY	54/78 PM SCATTERED SHOWERS AND STORMS
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED



## OBITUARIES

### John Andrew Takach

April 30, 1947 - May 10, 2022

John Andrew Takach, 75, of Carmel, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on May 10, 2022 following a five year battle with Burkitt's Lymphoma.

He was born April 30, 1947 in Middletown, Ohio to the late Mary Margaret (Domanich) Takach and John Thomas Takach.

Mr. Takach attended Bishop Fenwick High School in Middletown, Ohio before attending Marian College in Indianapolis where he pursued a BS in Mathematics. While at Marian he met the love of his life and wife of nearly 53 years, Eileen (Butkus) Takach. They were married June 7, 1969 just after graduation. He went on to obtain a MA in Education Supervision from Ball State University.

Mr. Takach was a beloved middle school math teacher for over 40 years teaching at IPS schools 53, 21 and 98, John Marshall Middle School, Shortridge Middle School and briefly at Arlington High School and Lincoln High School in Detroit, MI. He exuded a fatherly presence of unconditional love and deep respect for each of his students, always seeking creative ways to reach those with particular challenges or difficulties wanting them to recognize their own dignity and goodness. Others said that he made everyone around him "better people". Often on trips to the mall or at the drive-through of fast food restaurants former students would spot him and eagerly greet "Mr. T" who many called their favorite teacher and who remembered him many years and even decades later.

Mr. Takach's personal interests and hobbies were many and varied throughout life from stained glass window-making to woodworking to, most-recently, acrylic painting. His favorites were definitely golf, gardening and spending time with his beloved grandson and granddaughter. Many of his neighbors say they "knew all was well with the world" when they saw him riding his bright orange lawn mower around the yard or chatting in the driveway with neighbors walking their dogs.

He loved his wife and children unconditionally with deep thoughtfulness, unfailing generosity, selflessness, creativity and a playful sense of humor. Eileen, John and Sr. Michela (Jennifer) are eternally grateful to have had a husband and father who is so very difficult to lose because of how well he loved each of them.

Survivors include his wife Eileen (Butkus) Takach; two children John (Michelle) Takach and Sr. Maria Anne Michela (Jennifer) Takach, S.V.; grandchildren Parker and Chloe Takach; sisters-in-law Anita (Les) Philipp and LaVerne (Martin) Thompson; brother-in-law Rick (Madeleine) Butkus; and many cousins, extended family members, friends and former students.

Visitation is scheduled to take place Monday, May 16, 2022 from 5-7 p.m. in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 14658 Oak Ridge Rd, Carmel, IN, 46032. There is also scheduled to be an hour of visitation beginning at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 17, 2022 followed by the Mass of Christian Burial.

Burial will be in Carmel Cemetery, which all are welcome to attend.

Please join us to remember John and celebrate his beautiful life!

Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of Life (sistersoflife.org), 38 Montebello Rd, Suffern, NY 10901 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org).

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to serve and care for the Takach family.



Julia Kozicki (left), Lion Jen Carr (center), and Lion Tim Baker, Sponsor.

## Noblesville Lions Induct Jen Carr

On Wednesday evening, the Noblesville Lions Club inducted new member Jen Carr. Jen was sponsored by Lion Tim Baker.

The Lions Club asks for anyone interested in becoming a Lion member to contact any Lion member as to the specifics.



Photo courtesy of the Noblesville Lions

(From left to right) Lion Steve Morgan, Lion Gary Hipes (Chair) and Lion Kennedy Penwell enjoy some donuts before heading to make their deliveries.

## Noblesville Lions Deliver Flowers for Mother's Day

On Saturday, May 7th, the Noblesville Lions assisted Adrienes Flowers make deliveries for Mother's Day. Quite a few Lions assisted in this

endeavor. As you can see by the photo, work only commenced after a few donuts! Adrienes made a donation to the club for their help.

## Let Me Sleep On It



DICK WOLFSIE  
Life in a Nutshell

I recently got tested to see if I had sleep apnea. Sleep disorders can be serious, but my overnight stay in a "sleep lab," had a few lighter moments.

Before leaving that evening, Mary Ellen helped me lay out a few things we thought were important to take with me, like extra underwear, a toothbrush, glasses and a good book. She also suggested I take my own pillow, just to make my experience feel more like home.

When I arrived at the medical building, I took the elevator to the third floor. The office was windowless and the door was locked, so I rang the

buzzer.

"Can I help you?" asked a man's voice through the intercom.

"Yes, I am here to go to sleep." I felt strange saying that, like I had just stumbled drunk into Motel 6.

Stewart came out to greet me and to take me to my room, which as nice as any Holiday Inn. I thought I'd lighten the mood so I asked Stewart where the ice machine was. Noting his reaction, I decided that would be my last joke of the night. That's called reading the room.

Stewart asked: "Does your wife say you snore?"

"She has no idea because she sleeps in another room...maybe because I snore."

"Mr. Wolfsie, then how do you know you snore?"

"I get a lot of complaints from the neighbors."

I opened my little suitcase and took out the items I had brought with me.

"I hope I'm not the first patient to bring his own pillow," I said.

"No, but you are the first senior citizen to bring his blanket."

Stewart attached about 40 electrodes to my head, chest and legs. My doctor wanted to know if I was breathing properly when I slept. Did I have restless legs? Did I toss and turn all night? As you can see on my Facebook page, I was really wired. Even more than usual.

I asked Stewart how people fall asleep with all those attachments. He handed me a remote and said, "This should help." I tried to turn the TV to the History Channel, which always makes me sleepy. The TV did not go on, but the mattress got firmer. It was a remote for the Sleep Number bed.

Stewart explained to me that his job was to sit in a nearby room, observe me sleeping for six hours and record all the data. That's a long time to watch me on a screen. For 30 years my segments on WISH-TV were only three minutes long and that was more than enough for most

people.

If I had to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night, which happens to me only 100 percent of the time, I simply had to wave at the camera and Stewart would come into the room to unhook me. Then I needed to take the entire box with the attached wires into the bathroom with me. It was like carrying a time bomb. Stewart waited in the hall. Way too much pressure on me! I have enough trouble in Lucas Oil Stadium bathrooms when six guys are waiting impatiently behind me at the urinal.

The next morning, Stewart shook my hand and said: "It was a pleasure meeting you." It would have creeped me out if he had said: "It was a pleasure watching you."

- 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.

## Meeting Notes

### Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals - North District

Meeting Agenda  
Wednesday, May 25,  
2022 at 7 p.m.

One Hamilton County Square, Suite 306, Noblesville, Indiana 46060

Hamilton County Commissioners' Courtroom, County Council Chambers, First Floor, Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, Noblesville, Indiana

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Communication/Reports:
4. Approval of Minutes - February 23, 2022
5. Old Business: Nothing to present.

6. New Business: A. NBZA-S.U.-0003-05-2022 Special Use Public Hearing
- B. Concerning: Permitting an equestrian riding lessons business to operate as a Special Use in an A-2 Agricultural District.

C. Location: 21911 Riverwood Avenue, Noblesville, White River Township, Hamilton County

D. Zoning: A-2  
E. Property Size: 4.95 acres

F. Owners: Robin Brenner

7. Director's Report:
8. Legal Counsel Report:
9. Next BZA Meeting - Wednesday, June 22, 2022
10. Adjournment

## Rep. Spartz Helps Introduce Bipartisan 'Investigate Russian War Crimes Act'



Rep. Victoria Spartz

Yesterday, Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-IN) and Rep. Sara Jacobs (D-CA) introduced the Investigate Russian War Crimes Act, bipartisan legislation to allow the United States to provide material support or funding to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for their investigation of Russian war crimes and atrocities in Ukraine. Currently, U.S. law forbids any federal funds from being directed to the ICC.

"The loss of life and atrocities I have seen in Ukraine is heartbreaking and tragic," said Rep. Spartz. "These purported war crimes are inhumane and cannot be ignored by the international community for justice to be served."

Last month, the ICC announced that it would become a participant in investigations into alleged core international crimes committed in Ukraine. "Russia's conduct in

Ukraine has been appalling and demands a full international war crimes investigation," said Rep. Jacobs. "I am proud to introduce this legislation that will strengthen the international community's ability to hold Putin accountable, help the United States work collaboratively with the ICC, and boost our global leadership."

For more information, please visit Spartz.house.gov.

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# Draft Day Wrap-Up and Noteworthy Tid-Bits from Kenny

Erich Barnes always believed he belonged in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The former Purdue standout defensive back's resume reads like a Hall of Famer. Barnes is one of the few NFL players to earn All-Pro honors with three different teams. Seven of his 45 career interceptions were returned for touchdowns. When he retired in 1970, Barnes owned the second-longest interception return in NFL history (102 yards against Dallas in 1961).

But 20 years before his death at the age of 86 on April 29, Barnes sensed he would not live to make a speech in Canton, Ohio.

"I thought I belonged in there," Barnes said in 2002. "If they put me in, they do. They don't, they don't."

"I'm not going to lose any sleep over it because deep down inside, I know I was good enough.

Guy's I covered - Paul Warfield, Bobby Mitchell ... all these guys are in - also know."

Barnes had unfortunate timing in his career. The Chicago Bears, who took him in the fourth round of the 1958 NFL Draft, were



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

in a down period. Traded to the New York Giants in 1961, Barnes' path to an NFL championship was blocked by the Green Bay Packers. Barnes arrived in Cleveland in 1965, one year after the Browns won their most recent NFL title.

"I played for three teams and ... when you're not associated with one team, nobody (in the press) sort of adopts you," Barnes said. "I've been told a few times by people it's political. You really have to campaign."

Barnes' biggest moment at Purdue was a record-setting 95-yard touchdown pass from Len Dawson in 1955. That mark stood until Drew Brees and Vinny Sutherland teamed up for a 99-yard touchdown in

1999. Barnes credited Jack Mollenkopf's coaching at Purdue for helping him last 13 seasons in the NFL.

"His thing was to be aggressive and if you couldn't tackle, you couldn't play for him," Barnes said. "You had to hit and you had to make the tackles. That was Mr. Halas' cry too. You had to be a hitter to play for that team."

Barnes prospered while playing for George Halas and the Chicago Bears, making the Pro Bowl in his first two seasons. After being traded to New York, Barnes made the Pro Bowl in each of his four seasons with the Giants.

"You play the same type of ball with a lot of franchises, nobody knows you're around," Barnes said.

Barnes finished his career with his favorite team as a child, the Browns. He made his final Pro Bowl appearance in 1969.

NFL Draft wrap-up  
Purdue All-American wide receiver David Bell is rated as the Cleveland Browns' best overall draft

pick by ESPN's Todd McShay.

"Bell probably won't be a Rookie of the Year candidate, but he's an instinctive and versatile pass-catcher who runs crafty routes and has sure hands," McShay writes.

"The speed is a red flag -- he ran a 4.65 in the 40-yard dash at the combine and followed it up with a 4.71 at his pro day -- but he still has a lot of upside. Bell hauled in 93 catches for 1,286 receiving yards last season, both of which finished in the top 15 in the nation."

Reliable hands, though, offset the speed issue in the opinion of Browns executive vice president/general manager Andrew Berry.

According to a story at clevelandbrowns.com, Bell was credited with just 11 drops while catching 232 passes in his three seasons at Purdue.

"We think he's a guy who can really play both outside and inside," Berry told clevelandbrowns.com. "But we think that he can really make a living with his size, his savvy and his hands in the slot."

Pro Football Focus gave high marks to the Kansas City Chiefs for taking former Purdue star George Karlaftis with the 30th overall pick.

"Karlaftis (was) the biggest steal of Round 1," Pro Football Focus' draft analysis states. "He (was) one of the few game-wreckers in college football last season. The 6-foot-4, 266-pounder boasts some of the best hand usage in the class and plays with big-time power."

Karlaftis said all the right things before signing a fully guaranteed four-year contract earlier this week. Some reports have indicated he received a multimillion dollar signing bonus and the contract's value approaches \$12 million.

"I'm going to start off as the lowest man on the totem pole and work my way up," Karlaftis said following his selection. "When you find (something) you love, work as hard as you possibly can at it. I don't think it makes much sense to dedicate almost your whole life to something if you're not going to give it your maximum ability

every single time you're out there."

Purdue's third NFL draft pick, Zander Horvath, was described by NFL.com as "a prototypical core special teams type with upside as a sub-package pass catcher as an H-back or fullback."

Horvath was taken in the seventh round by the Los Angeles Chargers.

Noteworthy  
Purdue has had 10 Indiana Miss Basketball winners but its 2022-23 roster will have an Illinois Miss Basketball as well.

Sophie Swanson, a junior guard from Barrington High School, won a close vote conducted by the Chicago Tribune. Swanson led Barrington to a 30-6 record and a state runner-up finish in Class 4A.

She averaged 21.4 points and 5.2 rebounds, breaking school records for points in a season (750) and a game (40).

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

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## Carmel High School Senior Named as 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholar



Sec. of Education Miguel Cardona

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona today announced the 58th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars, recognizing 161 high school seniors for their accomplishments in academics, the arts, and career and technical education fields. Among those named was Carmel High School senior Kevin Wang.

"Our 2022 Presidential Scholars represent the best of America, and remind us that when empowered by education, there are no limits to what our young people can achieve," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "Today, I join President Biden to celebrate a class of scholars whose pursuit of knowledge, generosity of spirit, and exceptional

talents bring our nation tremendous pride. Throughout one of the most trying periods in our nation's history and amid our recovery from the pandemic, our students have once again demonstrated their strength and that they have so much to contribute to our country. Thanks to them, I know America's future is bright."

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selects scholars annually based on their academic success, artistic and technical excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as a demonstrated commitment to community service and leadership.

One other student from Indiana was selected, Signature School (Evansville) senior Sneha Yelamanchili.

Of the 3.7 million students expected to graduate from high school this year, more than 5,000 candidates qualified for the 2022 awards determined by outstanding performance on the College Board SAT or ACT exams or through nominations made by chief state school officers, other partner recognition organizations and YoungArts,

the National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists.

As directed by Presidential Executive Order, the 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars are comprised of one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at-large, 20 scholars in the arts and 20 scholars in career and technical education.

Created in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored over 7,900 of the nation's top-performing students. The program was expanded in 1979 to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, literary and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.

The Presidential Scholars Class of 2022 will be recognized for their outstanding achievement this summer with an online recognition program.

A complete list of 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars is available at <http://www.ed.gov/psp>.

## Center for Performing Arts Names New Director of Human Resources



Jill Clark

A nationally certified professional with experience in diversity, equity and inclusion issues is the first full-time Director of Human Resources for the Center for the Performing Arts and the affiliated Great American Songbook Foundation.

Jill Clark has served in similar posts for Integrity Staffing Solutions, the Board of Certified Safety Professionals and Fishers-based Memory Ventures. An Indianapolis native and North Central High School graduate, she holds a bachelor's degree in HR management from

Franklin University and is pursuing a master's degree in communication from Purdue University.

Clark's certifications include the Senior Certified Professional designation from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), Senior Professional in Human Resources from the Human Resource Certification Institute, and Certified Diversity Professional from the Society for Diversity & Inclusion. She also is an evaluator and facilitator with the Society of Diversity & Inclusion and has served on the IndySHRM Board of Directors as the Director of Diversity & Inclusion.

In her new post, Clark will oversee the development, management and evaluation of the Center's HR initiatives, policies, strategies and core values.

"Jill has the ideal experience and skill set to guide our efforts in maintaining and enhancing a welcoming, supportive workplace that represents the Central Indiana community we serve," said Jeff Steeg,

Vice President of Operations for the Center and the Songbook Foundation.

The mission of the nonprofit Center for the Performing Arts is to engage and inspire the Central Indiana community through enriching arts experiences. Its campus in Carmel, Indiana, includes the 1,600-seat Palladium concert hall, the 500-seat Tarkington proscenium theater and the black-box Studio Theater. The Center presents and hosts hundreds of events each year, including the Center Presents performance series, featuring the best in classical, jazz, pop, rock, country, comedy and other genres. Educational and experiential programming for all ages includes children's concerts and camps, book clubs, lectures, and classes in music and dance. The Center is home to the affiliated Great American Songbook Foundation and provides space and support services for six resident arts companies. More information is available at [TheCenterPresents.org](http://TheCenterPresents.org).

## Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Seeks Public Input on Future of Park

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) invites the public to participate in an online survey to determine the community's vision for Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park located near 146th Street and River Road. The survey is open now and will remain open through Monday, May 23.

CCPR and consultants from landscape architecture firm MKSK hosted

the first round of public open houses and focus groups from April 27-May 5. The online survey is the next phase of CCPR's efforts to gather public input for the development of the Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park Master Plan.

Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park was donated in 2021 and comprises approximately 63 acres in a unique, natural setting in northeast Carmel. Addi-

tional public workshops and online options will be offered throughout the master plan process. Stay tuned to CCPR's social media and [carmel-clayparks.com](http://carmel-clayparks.com) for more information.

You can complete the survey online at [https://ccpr.formstack.com/forms/tmnp\\_master\\_plan\\_concept\\_survey?mc\\_cid=72644916c5&mc\\_eid=7292975ef2](https://ccpr.formstack.com/forms/tmnp_master_plan_concept_survey?mc_cid=72644916c5&mc_eid=7292975ef2).

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# Kiwanis Kite Flying Day Among 25 Things to Do



## BETSY REASON The Times Editor

Here is our weekly list of 25 Things to Do in The Times:

1. Noblesville Farmers Market is open for the season 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville. Parking is offered at the nearby Mexican restaurant that was torn down, at BlueS-ky Commerce, both just west of the park, and at the park's Green Room parking lot, which will be restricted to vendor spaces and handicapped parking only during the weekly market.

2. Noblesville Preservation Alliance is accepting community donations 10

a.m. to noon Saturday and 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. May 17 at Preservation Hall for the third annual NPA Flea Market on Logan and Clinton streets, set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 21. Residents can be vendors at their home for \$25 donation per household. Visit [www.preservationhall.org](http://www.preservationhall.org).

3. Join in a Family Kite Flying Day, sponsored by Noblesville Kiwanis Sunrisers, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at East Pavilion of Dillon Park in Noblesville, rain or shine with things to do in the pavilion. Hot dog, chips, drink and a kite for \$5, open to all ages.

4. The Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville's 36th annual Auxiliary Auction, themed '80s Prom style,' is 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Harbour Trees Golf Club, sponsored by the Tocash Family, at \$175 per person, and live music by Greta Speaks and hors d'oeuvres buffet, proceeds to the club, with reservations required.

5. Grab your binoculars and join Hamilton County Parks for Beginner Bird Walks at 8:30 a.m. Sundays and Wednesdays at Cool Creek Park in Westfield and 8:30 a.m. the first Wednesday, through June at Strawtown Koteewi Park in Noblesville.

6. Attend a free Planning for the Future afternoon workshop from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at Bethel Lutheran Church in Noblesville, with guest speakers Jim Hogle of U.S. Consumer Credit Restoration Association, Kay Hartley of Hartley Funeral Homes in Cicero, Bethel Pastor Allen Schoonover and a Thrivent Financial Services. This is an informational workshop, not a sales seminar, with reservations at 317-773-4315.

7. Deadline is Monday for applications to sign up to be a contestant in the Hamilton County 4-H Fair Queen contest on July 8.

8. Bring your favorite vinyl to play on a provided turntable at 5:30 p.m. on Turntable Thursdays at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

9. Get up early for the

23rd annual Hamilton County Master Gardener Plant Sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 21 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville.

10. Noblesville Preservation Alliance's third annual Flea Market on Logan and Clinton streets will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 21. Residents can be vendors at their home for \$25 donation per household.

11. Make plans to attend the free Indiana Peony Festival, in its second year, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 21 at Seminary Park in Noblesville. Also, a VIP ticketed event, Peonies in the Park, will be 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. May 20 in Seminary Park, with peony-inspired dishes and drinks from 10 local eateries, for \$100 for VIP tickets. There is also a Brunch & Blooms brunch crawl on May 21. For more on the Peony Festival, visit <https://www.indianapeonyfestival.com/>

12. A used bicycle sale and donation day will be 10 a.m. to noon May 21, sponsored by Recycled Cycles at the group's repair shop at 810 E. Main St., in Westfield, at the top of the drive, north of Big Hoffa's BBQ. Top-condition bikes will be for sale at bargain prices, with proceeds to purchase parts to repair other bikes, under the sponsorship of Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County.

13. Carmel Arts & Design District presents "Art

of Wine" from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. May 21, for ages 21 and older, with unlimited wine tastings from participating wineries for \$30. Tickets go on sale today on eventbrite.com

14. The Belfry Theatre will have auditions for ages 5-18 for Disney's "Frozen Jr.," Apprentice Players summer youth production 3-5 p.m. May 22 and 6-8 p.m. May 23 at EnPointe Indiana Ballet in Noblesville, with performances July 28-31 at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville.

15. The Noblesville High School Music one-day-only Mattress Sale Fundraiser is 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 22 at Noblesville High School

16. Binding the Wounds of War workshop to help understand the invisible wounds of war will be offered 9 a.m. to noon May 26 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Noblesville, featuring trained counselors from Fort Wayne-based Lutheran Military and Families Ministries.

17. Westfield continues its Movies in the Plaza series at dusk tonight, featuring "Inside Out" on May 27 on the Great Lawn at Grand Junction Plaza, with more movies every fourth Friday through October. June 20: PAW Patrol the Movie.

18. Get your team together for the June 3 Darlington Bed Race in downtown Noblesville to benefit Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville. It's the same day as the Noblesville Lions Pork Chop

Dinner, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 3 on the Courthouse Square with all-you-can-eat pancakes 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. June 4.

19. Main Street Productions presents "Rumors" by Neil Simon, at Basile Westfield Playhouse, June 2-12, directed by Jen Otterman.

20. Auditions are June 5-6 for Main Street Productions' "30 Reasons Not To Be in a Play," by Alan Haehnel, at Basile Westfield Playhouse, directed by Tanya Haas, on July 28-Aug. 7. Info at [westfieldplayhouse.org](http://westfieldplayhouse.org)

21. Deb Castino Memorial Golf Outing is June 7 at Harbour Trees to benefit Boys & Girls Club.

22. Carmel Community Players presents "Medley of Murders," directed by Tanya Haas, June 10-19, at Carmel Friends Church.

23. The next Shred Day will be 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (or until trucks are full) June 11 at Hamilton County Household Hazardous Waste Center in Noblesville.

24. Roy Reynolds, known for his Elvis tributes, will sing from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. June 11 at the Noblesville Jim Dandy.

25. Save the date: Put on your dancing shoes for the mid-July return of Noblesville Main Street's Noblesville Street Dance on July 23 on the Courthouse Square.

- Contact Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes24-7.com).

## Indiana Poll Reveals Bipartisan Support for Protecting Wetlands



Indiana has lost more than 85 percent of its wetlands - important natural infrastructure that buffers communities against flooding, absorbs carbon pollution, and provides habitat for vulnerable birds and other wildlife. Today, in recognition of American Wetlands Month, Audubon Great Lakes released findings from an Indiana state-wide poll, which shows that Hoosiers, overwhelmingly, do not want wetlands protections weakened.

Ninety-four percent of Indiana voters believe that state leaders should either strengthen (49%) or maintain (45%) Indiana's current wetland protections.

Last year, there was public outcry over Senate Enrolled Act 389, which rolled back protections for more than 400,000 acres of wetlands in Indiana. It also led to the creation of the Indiana Wetlands Task Force. The Task Force has been directed to examine wetlands issues in the state and recommend solutions and preservation strategies. The Task Force will meet tomorrow, Wednesday, May 11 and throughout the year. A report of their findings is expected later this year.

"Recent rollbacks of Indiana's wetland protections are out of step with the concerns of everyday Hoosiers, who have made it loud and clear that they want to see their legislators strengthen wetlands protections, not weaken them," said Brian Vigue, Policy Director for Audubon Great Lakes. "It's crucial that decision makers and members of the Indiana Wetlands Task Force heed the concerns of residents to protect the future of Indiana's wildlife and outdoor recreation economy."

Indiana voters support and want more wetland protections. Key findings from the poll include:

- Protecting fish and wildlife habitat is important to nearly every Hoosier. Ninety-two percent (92%) of Hoosiers say "issues involving

protecting fish and wildlife habitat, lakes, rivers, stream and wetlands" are an important priority to them personally. This sentiment is shared by 86% of Republicans and 97% of Democrats.

- Hoosiers believe protecting water habitats is more important than landowner and developer rights. By a near 4:1 margin, Hoosiers prioritize protecting water sources and habitats (52%) over protecting landowner and developer rights (14%).

- Weakening clean water protections is unpopular across party lines. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of Hoosiers would have a "less favorable" impression of a state legislator who voted to relax wetland protections - including strong majorities of Republicans (64%), Independents (63%) and Democrats (86%).

- Voters want science-based rules and standards to protect Indiana's remaining wetlands. Three quarters (75%) of Hoosiers support the state's wetland task force basing new wetland rules and standards on science.

May is American Wetlands Month, which raises awareness of the importance of wetlands to wildlife and communities. Wetlands filter pollutants out of water, store a tremendous amount of water to protect local communities from flooding and drought, and help support the state's outdoor recreation economy, which generates more than \$15 billion in consumer spending a year.

Wetlands also serve as vital habitat for wildlife, like the federally endangered Mitchell's satyr butterfly, which is only found in two U.S. states, and vulnerable birds like the Black Tern, Marsh Wren, Least Bittern, and Pied-billed Grebe. Audubon Great Lakes' marsh bird monitoring shows that some of these species have decreased by as much as 80 percent in just a few short decades.

Scientists say North America has lost more than 3 billion birds over the past half-century, and that two-thirds of North American bird species at risk of extinction due to our warming planet. In addition to being some of

the best places for bird habitats, wetlands can reduce harmful emissions that contribute to climate change by naturally storing carbon.

Audubon Great Lakes wetland restoration work with partners in the Calumet region of Northwest Indiana is showing early signs of success. The 40-year trend of marsh bird population declines are stabilizing, and several species populations are increasing in breeding abundance in newly restored wetlands.

"Indiana voters want to see legislators conserve this state's natural resources," said Vigue. "Our restoration work in Indiana shows that it's not too late to restore Indiana's important habitats for the benefit of wildlife, and Hoosiers everywhere."

The poll was commissioned by Audubon Great Lakes and conducted by Public Opinion Strategies, a nationally recognized prominent Republican polling firm with extensive experience polling for several successful Republican candidates in Indiana. The statewide poll of 600 registered voters in Indiana was completed December 16-20, 2021. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus four percentage points. The full results and analysis can be found online at [https://gl.audubon.org/sites/default/files/indiana\\_wetland\\_policy\\_deck\\_final.pdf](https://gl.audubon.org/sites/default/files/indiana_wetland_policy_deck_final.pdf).

Audubon Great Lakes is a regional office of Audubon, learn more at [gl.audubon.org](http://gl.audubon.org) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon works throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. State programs, nature centers, chapters, and partners give Audubon an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire, and unite diverse communities in conservation action. A nonprofit conservation organization since 1905, Audubon believes in a world in which people and wildlife thrive.

## Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra to Present 'Greetings From Worlds Old & New', Weekend of May 19th - 21st

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra presents "Greetings From Worlds Old & New," featuring guest conductor Jaime Martín, pianist Awadagin Pratt and ISO Principal Bassoon Ivy Ringel for three performances, May 19-21, at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. The program includes Jerod Tate's Ghost of the White Deer, Jessie Montgomery's Rounds for Piano and Orchestra (a piece co-commissioned by the ISO), and Dvořák's "New World Symphony."

The musical roots of North America are explored in this concert, as the ISO performs music by Jerod Tate, a classical composer and citizen of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma. Based on Native American Indian lore, Tate's Ghost of the White Deer describes the quest of a lovesick man searching for a white deer, which is sacred to the Chickasaw people. Acclaimed African-American composer Jessie Montgomery brings us a piano concerto co-commissioned by the ISO along with several orchestras throughout the United States, and the popular "New World Symphony" by Dvořák helped to validate American music and lore as a source of musical inspiration in the late 1890s when it debuted.

Tickets can be purchased online at the ISO website, <https://www.indianapolis-symphony.org/>.

Performances begin at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 19; 8 p.m. Friday, May 20; and 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 21. Per the ISO health and safety guidelines, proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test administered within 72 hours of the concert start time is required for entry. Masks are optional at Hilbert Circle Theatre. For more information regarding the policies of the Hilbert Circle Theatre, please visit the ISO website.

Jaime Martín took up the position of Chief Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in February 2022. In September 2019 he became Chief Conductor of the RTE National Symphony Orchestra



and Music Director of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. He has been Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Gävle Symphony Orchestra since 2013, and his time there has brought the orchestra a new level of international recognition through highly acclaimed recordings and touring performances. Having spent many years as a highly regarded flautist, working with the most inspiring conductors of our time, Jaime turned to conducting full-time in 2013 and has become very quickly sought after at the highest

Among his generation of concert artists, pianist Awadagin Pratt is acclaimed for his musical insight and intensely involving performances in recital and with symphony orchestras. Pratt received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Johns Hopkins as well as an honorary doctorate from Illinois Wesleyan University after delivering the commencement address in 2012. In 1992 Pratt won the Naumburg International Piano Competition and two years later was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant. Since then, he has played numerous recitals throughout the U.S. Pratt is a professor of piano at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. He also served as the Artistic Director of the World Piano Competition in Cincinnati and is currently the Artistic Director of the Art of the Piano Festival at CCM.

Ivy Ringel is the Principal Bassoon of the

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Prior to her time in Indianapolis, Ringel served as the Principal Bassoon of the Atlanta Opera Orchestra and the Des Moines Metro Opera Orchestra. As an active freelance musician and teacher in the Atlanta area, she held a teaching position at Morehouse College, and taught masterclasses at Columbus State University (GA). She also ran a large private studio and taught group classes at several Atlanta-area middle and high schools. Ringel performed regularly with orchestras such as the Houston Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Chattanooga Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Louisiana Philharmonic, and the Jacksonville Symphony.

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, at home and thriving in the heart of Indianapolis, offers an exceptional artistic and musical experience. The orchestra is open to all and dedicated to creating an inclusive and innovative experiential environment that is inspiring, educational, and welcoming. The ISO celebrates historically beloved performances while engaging audiences by introducing new voices through programming including the DeHaan Classical Series, the Printing Partners Pops Series, the holiday traditions of AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration and the popular Bank of America Film Series. For more information, visit [www.indianapolis-symphony.org](http://www.indianapolis-symphony.org).

Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

**BETSY** From Page A1



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

**The Hamilton County government employee parking garage (under construction above) opens today with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. at 8th and Clinton streets in downtown Noblesville.**

ernment employees have been using the county's temporary park-and-ride offering.

Wood said about 65 county employees each morning and a few more in the evening, "when the weather's bad," took advantage of the free shuttles, from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. weekdays, then again at the close of business at 4:30 p.m., for the past year. Morning buses were provided by Janus Developmental Services and by the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, with county building and grounds employees as drivers. Evening buses were yellow school buses and were provided by Noblesville Schools.

The garage broke ground on Monday, May 10, 2021, and is opening today, on Friday, May 13, 2022. (Yes, Friday the 13th.)

The county shuttles also transported court juries,

as well, 50 to 60 jurors a day, a couple of days a week. And those numbers have been growing since Covid restrictions have been lifted.

Employees will begin using the parking garage this afternoon with the last bus shuttles to run today.

"We're ready. My staff's wholeheartedly ready," said Wood, 56, Noblesville, a 1984 graduate of Noblesville High School who has worked for the county for about 20 years, the past 11 years as superintendent.

Wood said the parking garage access badges are ready so that the 380+ employees can gain entry to the automated access control-entry points.

"We actually took 380 cards yesterday (Tuesday) and tested every card through each (parking) gate. We're going to start handing those out today (Wednesday). On Friday

afternoon, county employees may park there."

"Through the week, the county parking garage is only for county employee parking. There are 380-some employees, plus jurors will come in to get a ticket and they'll get it certified (validated) at the courts. Certain days of the week, we'll have 100 jurors come in," he said.

There are 483 parking spaces, but Wood counts 488 spaces, including tight areas where motorcycles can park.

"After government hours, (Hamilton County) Commissioners have deemed it would be free for public parking," Wood said. That means the public can park in the new garage after 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. weekdays, every weekend 5 p.m. Fridays to 7 a.m. Mondays, plus holidays in which the county offices are closed.

He said the county will use a tracking system that will allow them to track when people are using the garage and how long they are staying. "The building is full of cameras," Wood said. "We're videoing everything that happens, all corners of that building."

"During operational hours, obviously it's closed (to the public); that's the reason it was built, right? Is to allow for these people not to be parking on the street and get them confined into one location for parking. That should open up a lot of parking around town," Wood said. "Park anywhere they like, first-come, first-serve."

The garage features an elevator on the southwest side, two stairwells, all camera up, well lit, motion lighting. We hope the city and the community and everybody gets good usage of it after hours. During regular hours, it is only open to the govern-

ment county employees," he reiterated. The elevator is monitored and goes to a call station. The plan was to build the fifth floor later, but Wood took it to the County Council to go ahead and build the fifth floor now, rather than later.

Wood talked about the project. "Panel walls with brick saved a lot of money and saved a lot of time," he said. It's the first panel building I've ever done. It was kind of neat. The brick inlays. You see how well it looks, right? It fits in. We tried to go as close as we could with the old Court-house looks. And I think it does pretty good ... We tried to match the facades the best we could."



Steve Wood

**Want MORE?**

**What:** Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the five-story \$11.5 million Hamilton County Parking Garage.  
**When:** 10 a.m. today (Friday, May 13).  
**Where:** On Clinton Street, between Eighth and Ninth streets, downtown Noblesville.  
**Public parking hours:** 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. weekdays and 5 p.m. Fridays-7 a.m. Mondays on the weekends.

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As far as staying on task and on time, Wood said the price of the building didn't come in any higher.

"We ordered everything ahead of time with the BOT (build-operate-transfer) contract. It stuck to a price; there's no additional cost ... By getting everything ordered ahead of time, that saved us a lot of issues, saved us a lot of money, a lot of time," Wood said.

During construction, he said, when they were digging the foundation,

they found concrete bunkers, foundations, nothing really hazardous, but all representing the history of the property, which has been an old power plant, a lumber company, homes and Metro bank. "We got to see a lot of history," he said.

Hamilton County historian David Heighway shared the history of the property area. There was a grist mill there in 1866. It was the Evans & Sohl flour mill in 1883. In the early 1890s, it was the Metzger lumber company. It was the Pinnell-Dulin Lumber Company between 1890s and the 1970s. The property was changed to parking in the 1980s, he said.

Wood, who is thrilled with the opening of the new garage, has heard a lot of positive comments, including from adjacent neighbors Rowland Printing and Bolden's Cleaners, whose businesses are across the street. Business owner Joan Bolden often made small talk with Wood when she came in daily at 5 a.m. to open the dry-cleaning business and came outside to watch the early-morning construction work. Wood said, "She was very complimentary."

- Contact Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes24-7.com).

**WINNERS** From Page A1

school seniors. These Scholars were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors, who appraised a substantial amount of information submitted by both the Finalists and their high schools: the academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT); contributions and leadership in school and community activities; an essay written by the Finalist; and a recommendation written by a high

school official. NMSC finances most of these single-payment National Merit \$2500 Scholarships. Corporations and company foundations that sponsor awards through NMSC also help underwrite these scholarships with grants they provide in lieu of paying administrative fees. Scholars may use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university. 2022 National Merit Scholarship Competition This year's National Merit Scholarship Program began in October 2020 when high school juniors took the PSAT/NMSQT, which served

as an initial screen of program entrants. Last fall, the highest-scoring participants in each state, representing less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors, were named Semifinalists on a state-representational basis. More than 16,000 Semifinalists had an opportunity to continue in the competition. From the Semifinalist group, over 15,000 students met the very high academic standards and other requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. By the conclusion of the 2022 program, about 7,500 Finalists will have earned

the "Merit Scholar" title and received a total of nearly \$28 million in college scholarships. NMSC, a not-for-profit corporation that operates without government assistance, was founded in 1955 specifically to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of scholarships offered each year are underwritten by approximately 400 independent corporate and college sponsors that share NMSC's goals of honoring scholastically talented youth and encouraging academic excellence at all levels of education.

**GRANTS**

From Page A1

success, organizational strength, cooperation and collaboration, and reliability. For more information on the open grant round and to apply visit <https://www.fishers.in.us/1091/Nonprofit-Grants>. Grant awards are anticipated to be disbursed this summer. Final awards will be subject to Council approval.



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# FRIDAY Business Notes and NEWS DAY

Friday, May 13, 2022

A7

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## Purdue University Global Names Vice President Of Organizational Culture And Chief Diversity Officer

Tiffany G. Townsend, Ph.D. is eager to strengthen Purdue University Global's robust reputation as a leader in online education. She has been hired as vice president of organizational culture and chief diversity officer, beginning July 1 and reporting to Chancellor Frank Dooley as a member of the university's senior leadership team.

In this newly created position, Townsend will support Purdue University Global's mission and strategy by fostering a learning environment that is diverse, inclusive and equitable for all students, faculty, staff and administrators. She will guide and implement diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives at both the institutional and department levels, while supporting and building systems of inclusion through policies, procedures, practices, customs and leadership. In addition, Townsend will foster collaborative relationships within the Purdue University system to align strategies and initiatives.

"As an online, public university that is tied to a very strong educational legacy, Purdue University Global is well positioned to dramatically change the landscape of higher education, particularly as it relates to making education more accessible and affordable to a vast array of students," Townsend said. "I am extremely excited to join the team at Purdue Global, and I look forward to working with the Purdue Global community to reimagine higher education."

As a clinician and scholar, Townsend has worked for over two decades to ensure that all individuals, regardless of ethnicity, sex or socio-economic status, have access to the knowledge and resources necessary to facilitate healthy functioning and overall well-

being.

"The entire university is excited that Dr. Townsend is bringing her expertise, experience and insights to Purdue University Global," Dooley said. "With her as a key member of our team, we will be a better and more relevant university."

Townsend comes to Purdue University Global from Augusta University, where she has held dual positions of chief diversity officer and associate professor of psychological sciences since 2019. She established a comprehensive DEI training program that included a suite of diversity courses, in-person workshops and online training modules to ensure that all students, staff and faculty were exposed to fundamental DEI concepts and principles.

Townsend also currently serves as president of the Georgia Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education and has been selected as a fellow with the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.

"During the search process, I was very impressed by Purdue Global's commitment to creating an equitable work and learning environment for its students, staff and faculty," Townsend said. "I want to thank the search committee, members of the university community and especially Chancellor Dooley for entrusting me to be the first to lead this effort."

"My role as the inaugural chief diversity officer will be to harness the energy for DEI that is already present at the university and work to co-create a plan with the Purdue Global community to realize its equity vision."

Prior to Augusta University, Townsend was senior director of the Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs for the American

Psychological Association from 2011-19. She previously held faculty positions at Georgetown University Medical School (2006-19) and Penn State University (1998-2006).

Townsend earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Spelman College. She earned her master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from George Washington University. Her work has been featured in several journals, books and media outlets, including the Washingtonian, Los Angeles Times and San Diego Union-Tribune.

About Purdue University Global

Purdue University Global delivers personalized online education tailored to the unique needs of adults who have work or life experience beyond the classroom, enabling them to develop essential academic and professional skills with the support and flexibility they need to achieve their career goals. It offers personalized paths for students to earn an associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree, based on their work experience, desired pace, military service, previous college credits and other considerations – no matter where they are in their life journey. Purdue University Global is a nonprofit, public university accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. It is affiliated with Purdue University's flagship institution, a highly ranked public research university located in West Lafayette, Indiana. Purdue University also operates regional campuses in Fort Wayne and Northwest Indiana, as well as serving science, engineering and technology students at the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) campus. For more information, visit [purdueglobal.edu](http://purdueglobal.edu).

## Ag-Celerator Fund Invests \$100,000 In Nanobio Designs, A Genetic Detection Company

NanoBio Designs LLC, a company that provides grain distributors and seed suppliers with onsite, rapid genetic detection solutions, has received a \$100,000 investment from the Purdue Ag-Celerator, an agriculture innovation fund.

Ryan Skaar, chief operating officer of NanoBio Designs, said new DNA testing solutions are needed because of growing regulatory oversights to label genetically modified food. The company's ExpressSeed platform reduces genetic testing from three to five days to just minutes.

Skaar said the Ag-Celerator funding allows NanoBio Designs to establish its laboratory presence in Indiana.

"With an established lab presence, we will be able to more effectively collaborate with Purdue University," he said. "Collaborations with Purdue and industry partners will be key to our ability to commercialize the ExpressSeed platform."

Ag-Celerator, created in 2015, is a \$2 million innovation fund designed to provide critical startup support for Purdue University innovators who bring Purdue patented intellectual property or Purdue "know-how" technologies to market. The fund is operated by the Purdue Foundry, with assistance from the Purdue

College of Agriculture, Purdue Research Foundation Office of Technology Commercialization and the agricultural industry.

"Purdue Agriculture celebrates and actively supports the innovation and entrepreneurship that ensures discoveries from the lab move into the fields, facilities and lives of our stakeholders," said Bernie Engel, senior associate dean of research and graduate education.

Riley Gibb, director of business development for Purdue Foundry, said, "Farmers, growers and producers are always among the fastest adopters of new technologies. Their passion to strengthen crop and livestock production pushes agriculture startups like NanoBio Designs to deliver innovative technologies. We're proud that Ag-Celerator investments support those technologies."

In August 2021, Ag-Celerator eligibility was opened to startups in all agricultural fields. Previous recipients of Ag-Celerator investments are AkanoCure Pharmaceuticals Inc., Heliponix, Insignum AgTech, JUA Technologies International LLC, Karyosoft LLC, Krishi LLC, LeafSpec AgTech, Ongenia LLC, Phicrobe LLC, Progeny Drone Inc., Rogo Ag LLC, Veril-

ity Inc., VinSense LLC and ZeaVaxx.

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-this-world 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://stories.purdue.edu>.

About Purdue Foundry

The Purdue Foundry is an entrepreneurship and commercialization hub whose professionals help Purdue innovators create startups. The Purdue Foundry is managed by the Purdue Research Foundation, which received the 2019 Innovation and Economic Prosperity Universities Award for Place from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. Contact the Purdue Foundry at [foundry@prf.org](mailto:foundry@prf.org).

## BBB Welcomes New Board Members To Their Team

BBB® Serving Central Indiana (BBB) welcomed three new board members who understand the importance of trust in the marketplace: Roger Elkins (Williams Comfort Air), Amanda Parker (Collective Alternative) and Mel McMahon Stone (Indiana Owned).

The board of directors are composed of local business leaders who help BBB, a nonprofit of more than 100 years, create a community of trustworthy businesses and charities.

"In order to strengthen our community, it takes leaders who not only believe in our vision, but are an exemplar of trust and integrity," said Central Indiana BBB President and CEO, Cathy Armour. "We are honored to have these leaders further their commitment to our mission by serving on our board."

Roger Elkins, director of HVAC Service for Williams Comfort Air located in Indianapolis, Louisville, Cincinnati and Columbus. Elkin has remained in the HVAC industry for more than 30 years as a leader, emphasizing the importance of trust and integrity in business practices. Previously, he was the sitting president for the HVAC Association of Indiana and now serves as the Vice President of the Speedway 500 Moose Lodge.

Amanda Parker, owner and founder of Collective Alternative, started the company in 2008 after a successful career in the marketing industry. The goal for

Collective Alternative was to, "make business personal" and this goal continues to remain at the top of the list by collaborating and assisting small businesses in central Indiana. To do this, Parker effectively leads her team with these core values: integrity, transparency, initiative, accountability, relationships and partnership. With a knack for leadership, Parker was spotlighted in a feature, "Leading Women in Business: Indianapolis" in publications such as Forbes, Fortune and The Oprah Magazine and named BBB's 2020 Person of Integrity.

Mel McMahon Stone, is passionate about highlighting the efforts of Indiana businesses. In 2014, she co-founded Indiana Originals, a promotions and branding company for Indiana-owned businesses. Then, in 2020 she co-founded Indiana Gifts, an online gift shop featuring products made by local Indiana companies. Stone leads Indiana in promoting businesses and nonprofit organizations alike as she is the executive producer of the WIBC Radiothon for The Salvation Army, a WISH influencer at Make a Wish, was a past member of the Indiana Chapter TEARS Foundation and acts a consultant for several nonprofits and businesses. Stone is a proud member of the IJB Forty under 40 class and was named the 2021 Emerging Entrepreneur of the National Association of Women Business Owners.

## Celebrating Small Businesses: Moving From Surviving To Thriving

(StatePoint) Small businesses are the heartbeat of communities. They pump life into neighborhoods, making them vibrant places to live, work and raise families, and are key to millions of local jobs. In fact, approximately 50% of all Americans are employed by a small business and 99% of American businesses are small businesses, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Every year, National Small Business Week celebrated during the first week of May, acknowledges the contributions that America's entrepreneurs make to the economy, culture and overall business community.

"Small business is big business," said Wells Fargo's head of Small Business Derek Ellington. "As a bank that proudly serves over 3 million small business customers, we are still supporting small businesses in their post-pandemic recovery, but we're also seeing many growing businesses bringing new ideas to life, and going from surviving to thriving. Now more than ever, it's an important time for small businesses because they are such a vital part of the economy."

National Small Business Week also marks an important time for entrepreneurs to further economic growth, strengthen their business, and deliver on the products and services the nation depends on every day. To help your business thrive, Wells Fargo offers the following four tips:

1. Be flexible. If there was one glaring lesson business owners learned from COVID-19, it was to be flexible. Businesses had to revamp their online offerings and create a digital, ecommerce presence. Most had to change relationships with supply chains and vendors or reduce hiring. When it comes to business planning for the next six, 12 or even 18 months, one thing is certain: flexibility will be key. Between staffing demands, supply chain delays and rising interest rates and inflation, write your plans in pencil. Most importantly, be nimble enough to pivot,

using your experiences over the past two years as a guide.

2. Stay in the know. Stay informed of the latest developments that could impact your business. For example, what do rising rates and growing costs of supplies and services mean for you? A small business banker can help you understand your options based on your particular business and needs, and make any necessary adjustments. Keep in touch with your tax advisor, accountant, and local chambers of commerce to stay in the know.

3. Prepare for new competition. Now that life has regained a sense of normalcy, new business trends are emerging fast. To prepare for new competition, stay ahead of your competitors and drive new growth:

- Know your customers, and find and solve their pain points
- Ensure you have competitive pricing
- Change your business model and services to stay ahead
- Provide exceptional customer service to existing and new customers
- Target new markets

4. Invest in growth strategically. To continue to grow, innovate and attract the best employees, demonstrate that you're willing to invest in the future. However, it's never cheap, and you might not be able to afford needed investments with your current revenue. Before borrowing money or taking out a loan, consider opportunities like changing your payments or receivable collection process, or reducing expenses. Then look into the right lending opportunities when you are ready to accomplish big milestones like expanding, relocating, or adding new technologies with more capabilities. Strategic growth is all about investing in the right areas of your business at the right time to create an infrastructure in which you can flourish.

Whether you're a seasoned business owner or new entrepreneur, consider using these tips to succeed and thrive in an ever-changing environment.

# FRIDAY

## Voice of our PEOPLE

The Times of Noblesville

Friday, May 13, 2022

A8

## Primary Over, Time To Move Forward

Polls are closed. Voters have spoken. It's time to get going.

It's been said before – many times – in this space that we're so lucky here in this little corner of God's green earth. Politically speaking, we don't have the issues that our brothers and sisters in Washington, or even Indianapolis, have. For sure, there is a little grumbling and griping about politics. That goes with the territory. But for the most part, we go through primaries and elections in relative peace and harmony. You don't see and hear the mudslinging that is prevalent in many places.

Thanks goodness!

But we can do better.

Do you hear anyone saying that all is well? Aren't we in one of the most divisive times in U.S. (and perhaps human) history? Have opinions from reasonably intelligent people ever been more polar oppo-



**TIM TIMMONS**  
Sagamore News Media CEO

site? And make no mistake, the unprecedented leak from the Supreme Court regarding abortions is only going to make those polar opposites dig in more.

There's one single item missing. One single item that is critical. Want to have a magic wand to wave that fixes things? Find a way to restore

this one single item and you'll have it.

Respect.

Even here locally. Montgomery County has been divided for quite a while on critical issues. Do we devote significant resources to growing, or do we keep things like they are? It wasn't that many years ago when County GOP Chair and political candidate John Pickerill told this reporter that he wanted Montgomery County to look just like it did when he grew up decades before. Flash forward to today. The city and county spend a fair amount of time and money on economic development to foster growth.

Which side is right? Which is wrong. Neither. Both are entitled to think and act the way they believe best. That's what elections are all about.

It's after those elections that things go off the rails. One

side, one philosophy wins.

We move forward. Except we don't. More and more the losing side says they're taking their ball and going home. Some won't even acknowledge the winning side, let alone respect it.

Thing is, it's not about who gets the respect. It's about respecting the process. It seems like each election we slide apart a little farther. The national politicians don't help when they sling more mud than a teen-ager in a pig wrestling contest. Win or lose, they call out their opponents by comparing them to everything unholy.

That is filtering down.

Simply put, we don't respect the process of voting anymore. We don't respect what this country is based on – that everyone is entitled to their opinion and the majority rules.

If the Republic is to survive

we need to find a way back to mutual respect. Election winners and losers don't have to become bosom buddies, just respect the process that got them to where they are. If your side wins, govern with grace. If your side loses, hold your tongue and work toward winning the next election.

Fair and square. Without the hi-jinx. Ditto for all of us non-politicians, too.

The process has survived for 246 years. Add in one simple thing and it has a good shot at 246 more. Keep up the division and who knows. Even Vegas might not touch the odds on that one.

*- 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 timmons@thetimes24-7.com.*

## Bringing Me Into The Fold

The one thing that you will not find in my underwear drawer is organization. There are no neat stacks; no neatly regimented ranks and files of folded tidy whites, ready to serve the underlying cause. What you will find is row after row of briefs, rolled tightly, and stacked like cordwood, cushioning the top drawer of my dresser.

The idea for rolling underwear came from my Mother. She once packed fourteen days worth of clothing for a family of four into a single beer case for our camping trip. She laid each garment out, one by one on the bed, folded them once, then rolled the entire wardrobe into individual tight coils, pressing the air out as she went along.

She surmised that, when packing traditionally, much of the space is used up by air, thus limiting the amount of available space for other items. By applying pressure, she was able to squeeze out much more than



**JOHN O. MARLOWE**  
The Good Sport

anyone ever thought. The IRS adopted her thinking some time ago.

Personally, I don't care whether my underwear drawer has too much air in it or not. Nevertheless, I've used her roll-up method of storage for years. That's because I can't fold.

For some reason, when Mother Nature was restocking my gene pool, she failed to give me the folding gene.

It's true. Even as a child, I couldn't fold things. I hated making paper airplanes, because while my friends' airplanes were streamlined, and soared gracefully on the gentle breeze, my paper airplanes tumbled through the air like someone left the cargo bay door open.

I can't fold anything. My towels are all rolled neatly in the linen closet. Cloth napkins are rolled tightly in the cherry chest. Extra blankets are rolled up in the laundry room. I rolled up my tuxedo for the plane ride to my brother's wedding, last fall in Los Angeles.

I can't fold in egg whites, and I've lost a fortune playing poker, because when I have a bad hand, I can't fold. I even have trouble folding my arms.

At Christmas time, I never purchase presents that don't

come in a square box, because gift wrapping is essentially folding with something in the way.

This week, my friend Brian, received a phone call from a professional recruiter, requesting that he apply for a Quality Engineer job at ILC Aerospace in Dover, Delaware. The job was in their space suit division. Personally, I can't see Brian being responsible for the safety of our astronauts in space, but honestly, he did a great job in his last position assuring the public's safety from the packaging that the COVID-19 vaccines use.

To date, there have been no COVID-19 related paper cut deaths.

Brian wasn't going to take the job at ILC, until he learned that they also make blimps. It seems that the giant airships that flourished in the 1930's are making a comeback. They are slow, but they can carry huge payloads at low fuel costs.

The recruiter told Brian that

ILC is shipping everything from high altitude weather balloons to luxury airliners. Once a month, every employee at the Dover facility is required to assemble in the giant hangar to fold a blimp for shipping.

Fold the blimp?

Logic would tell me that to ship a blimp, all you have to do is fill it with helium and fly it to the customer. But no! These things are going out UPS!

My thoughts immediately returned to my Mother. How long would it take to squeeze the air out of a blimp? How big is that beer case?

Regardless, I thought this might just be the job for me. Folding a few blimps would surely give me the skills to fold anything. Well, maybe not anything.

Even God can't fold a fitted sheet.

*- John O. Marlowe is an award-winning columnist for Sagamore News Media.*

## Ask Rusty – Can A Widower Get Full Survivor Benefits Early?

Dear Rusty: My wife passed from COVID-related heart disease in 2020, just short of her 65th birthday. I will be 66 in May 2023. Do I have any recourse for a part of her benefit? Online at ssa.gov it says I can retire 4 months early due to her passing. Is that true? I'm confused on these issues. Signed: Confused Widower



**ASK RUSTY**  
Social Security Advisor

Dear Confused: Our condolences on the untimely loss of your wife. To answer your question, you are already eligible to collect a survivor benefit from your wife, but you may wish to consider a few points before deciding when to do that:

- If you claim your survivor benefit now, before your full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 6 months, the amount you get will be reduced. The

reduction would be 4.75% for each full year early (.396% per month early). If taken at your FRA, your survivor benefit would be 100% of the amount your wife was receiving (or was eligible to receive) at her death, but if you claim it before your FRA, it will be reduced.

- You will become eligible for your full survivor benefit 4 months earlier than your normal FRA; in other words, you can

### Social Security Matters by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

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get 100% of the benefit your wife had earned up to her death when you are 66 years and 2 months old. But, if you are still working at that time, you will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which may affect your eligibility to collect benefits earlier than your full retirement age. The earnings test applies until you reach your FRA, so if you claim your survivor benefit before your FRA

and exceed the earnings limit, you will lose some of your survivor benefits. The earnings limit for future years isn't yet known, but the 2022 limit is \$19,560 per year, or \$1,630 per month for the remainder of the year if you claim mid-year. If you're working full time at a decent salary, you would probably be disqualified from receiving early survivor benefits (because your benefit amount wouldn't

be sufficient to offset the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit).

- It's possible for you to claim your survivor benefit completely independent of your own SS retirement benefit. So, for example, you can collect only your survivor benefit first and allow your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow, up to age 70 when it reaches maximum. That might be prudent if you expect at least average longevity because it would allow you to maximize your personal benefit while still collecting your survivor benefit (average longevity for a man your current age is about 84). For clarity, you don't get your survivor benefit in addition to your personal benefit – you get one or the other (whichever is more).

Considering your circumstances, if you are

now working full time and will continue to do so, it may be prudent to wait until your full retirement age (66 years and 6 months) to collect your full survivor benefit (thus avoid the earnings limit). At your FRA, you can take your unreduced survivor benefit (only) and allow your own SS retirement benefit to continue to grow, up to age 70 if you like. At age 70, your personal SS benefit would be 28% more than it would be at your FRA and would replace your smaller survivor benefit from your wife.

If you're not currently working full time or if you stop working, the earnings limit won't apply and you can claim your full survivor benefit (only) at age 66 and 2 months, and still defer claiming your own benefit until a later age for a higher amount (but don't wait longer than age 70).

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# FRIDAY

## Voice of our PEOPLE

The Noblesville Times

Friday, May 13, 2022

A9

## Ala Carte

On the Wolfsie refrigerator, next to a photo of me hugging Goofy at Disney World (I was a mere 57 years old at the time) is Mary Ellen's list of items to be purchased on her next trip to the supermarket. Needless to say, there is frequent updating, like if we consume the last of the mayonnaise or the dog got into the pantry and gobbled up all the raisin bran. Our beagle did that frequently. The good news is that it made him very regular.



cheese, broccoli, skinless chicken breasts, and granola. Here's the question: If that's pretty much what the list always looks like, how did all the other crapola we eat end up in our kitchen? Who smuggled in the chips, the hard

salami, the doughnuts and the creamed spinach soufflé—which contains an alarming 27 grams of fat? I am the culprit, of course, and that is why I avoid food shopping with my wife. When we do go together, I'm on a very short leash and the chances of getting any treats are zero, even if I beg. I wish my wife would treat me more like a dog. I deserve it.

We used to go to the store together all the time. She was confusing its significance with the aisle we walked down 40+ years ago. But there's a huge difference: After I said "I do" in 1980, Mary Ellen didn't

say, "I don't think this is good for you," or "Are you sure this is what you really want?" and when we kissed during the service, she definitely didn't say: "You still have plenty of this back home."

I'm second-guessed about everything I put in the shopping cart. Here are some of Mary Ellen's favorite expressions:

No one still living eats white bread.

Yes, we do need baked beans, if you don't count the 24 cans on top of the pool table.

Why are you buying low-fat trail mix bars? You know you're not

going to eat them.

Why are you buying cheese puffs? You know you're going to eat them.

Mary Ellen has junk-food radar and more often than not, she'll locate my hidden cache with just a glance. I try to sneak things into the basket, but it's tough to hide a large Tombstone pizza under a can of peaches. Having to put an item back on the shelf is the most humiliating thing that can happen to a guy—at least in public.

Recently I ran into a friend at the grocery. "Hey, Dick, doing a little reverse shopping, are you? You must be here with the wife."

To avoid future embarrassment, I told Mary Ellen that this week I was going to go to the store alone. She said that was fine, and Saturday morning she handed me a sheet of paper.

"Thank you, Mary Ellen, but I don't need a shopping list."

"Oh, it's not a shopping list. It's a permission slip."

*- 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.*

## Celebrate Mother's Day

Celebrate Mother's Day anyway you can but don't miss the opportunity to honor mom. The opportunities pass us by. While mom is alive is the time to do something for her. Too often someone dies and we want to make sure we attend their funeral and buy flowers. We talk about missed opportunities. While your special person is alive is the time to cherish and make a big deal about that person.



**GLENN MOLLETTE**  
Guest Column

or trimming shrubbery. People buy flowers and take mom out to dinner typically on Mother's Day. It is no secret that flowers have become even more expensive and many restaurants are having employee

issues. If you had to wait to be served in the past this Mother's Day may be challenging. Consider taking mom a card and writing her a letter. Tell her how you feel about her and thank her for being a great mom. The main thing is don't forget the day. If you are a long way from home by all means make a phone call.

I know some great mothers. My wife is a phenomenal mother. I have sisters, daughters and a daughter in law who are great mothers. So, there are plenty of people around for me to honor this weekend. I suspect you may know one

or two. Even if they aren't family, wish them a happy Mother's Day.

My mother has been in heaven for a long time and so has the mother of my two sons. Mother's Day is a tough day for them as they lost their mother when they were 20 and 17 year's old. My wife's mother passed just a few years ago. It happens. The chair at the table suddenly is empty and all you are left with are pictures and memories.

I miss the long telephone conversations with my mother. We talked on the telephone for 30 minutes sometimes twice a week.

When I was a child, she was my advocate. She was my school tutor. We didn't eat out growing up so she kept food on the table three times a day. When I was a small child, we still had a wringer washing machine and the water was not great. We caught rain water in large tubs and then carried it in to wash clothes. I remember a couple of summers of carrying water from the creek to wash clothes. She ironed clothes for an entire day every week. It was a great day when we were finally able to have an automatic washer and dryer.

Mom worked hard and

about twice a week dressed up really nice and she and dad went to church. Like most of our mothers I could write a lot about her but Eula Hinkle Mollette was a wonderful mother. She loved me, corrected me and supported me. I know there were times I disappointed her but she never disconnected from me. She was always there as best as she could be.

The point is don't miss celebrating Mother's Day. You only have one mom. Cherish every minute.

Hear Glenn Mollette every weekday morning EST at 8:56 and 11:31 on XM radio channel 131

## Christian Leaders and Controversies: The Case of Francis Collins

By Dr. Jan F. Dudd

There is always a dilemma for Christians in best handling and reacting to the positions and counsel of Christian leaders. Often these are people we have grown to trust and respect as followers of Christ.

Their convictions at times are consistent with Christian principles and biblical wisdom. They champion appropriate positions and defend causes from a historically Christian perspective. They gain traction and respect even among cultural, political, and religious opponents because of the internally consistent strength of their arguments and their winsome and gracious demeanor.

And yet, it is impossible for any fallen and sinful person to be right all the time. Similarly, it is quite possible—and regularly demonstrated—that the unregenerate are not always wrong.

As a case in point, contrast Dr. Francis Collins and President Donald Trump.

Trump, not convincingly a born-again Christian, became president in large measure because he promised to represent conservative Christians and their concerns. His appointment of originalist judges to federal courts and the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as his attendance at events like the annual March for Life while he was in office (this was unprecedented for a president), were encouragements to many Christians. Yet his demeanor was consistently characterized as non-Christian. Such may well have cost him re-election. Christians and conservative political analysts will debate for decades whether he was a net positive or negative influence on America. Clearly, both cases can be made. Different Christian voices have weighed in on the matter. Many Christians, even conservatives,

felt that Trump used them for his personal gain and prestige.

In certain notable ways, a case could be made that the Francis Collins' situation at times echoes the debate over Donald Trump among Christians.

Dr. Francis Collins, the famous geneticist, was and is vocally Christian. He has clearly identified as such, and he has taken heat for it. For example, in the summer of 2009, after his nomination as director of NIH by President Barack Obama, outspoken atheist Sam Harris attacked Collins in the New York Times as unfit for the job because of his religious convictions.

Collins became known to many Americans during his direction of the Human Genome Project through the 1990s. In February 1998, Scientific American profiled Dr. Collins with the headline "Where Science and Religion meet: The U.S. head of the Human Genome Project, Francis S. Collins, stives to keep his Christianity from interfering with his science and politics." That article quoted Dr. Collins saying he is "intensely uncomfortable with abortion." He said that he does not advocate changing the law and is "very careful" to ensure his personal feelings on abortion do not affect his political stance. The article went on to say: "researchers and academics familiar with Collins' work agree that he has separated his private religious views from his professional life. He shows no influence of religious beliefs on his work other than a generalized sensitivity to ethics issues in genetics."

In essence, what these people were saying is that Francis Collins is such a good scientist because you can hardly tell he is a Christian from his work.

As a much younger biology professor at the time, I was aghast at this.

A Christian has separated his religious views from his personal life. Why is that a good thing?

I emailed Dr. Collins at the time, asking him if Scientific American had it right. Maybe the article misunderstood Collins? My email was never answered. Not that I expected that it would be, given my obscurity and his standing and responsibilities. Still, the article troubled me, as I was always left with the lingering question.

Dr. Collins went on to launch the BioLogos Foundation, a Christian/science interface organization that advocates for the reconciliation of modern science and Christianity. The idea is that nature and scripture are both from God and ultimately are not in conflict. This reflects Dr. Collins' Christian convictions and his love of science, the study of God's physical world. Give Dr. Collins credit for leveraging his popularity, leadership qualities, and obvious pastoral instincts for the noble cause.

Ultimately, I met Dr. Collins several years ago at a conference and heard him speak. There is no reason he would remember our quick contact in an elevator any more than he would remember my email. However, one cannot help but be impressed by his genuine humility and his concern for the spiritual health of the people around him. He has made it clear that he believes that Jesus Christ is incarnate and divine and that humans are made in the image of God (although he rejects the historic Adam), and that salvation is real.

Yet, inconsistencies remain. Dr. Collins seems to allow his science to inordinately arbitrate over biblical truth, or at least when the two are portrayed as in conflict. As his professional life has unfolded, it has become clear that the Scientific American article had

gotten a lot right. It is fair to say that he has remained uncertain about when human life begins. He concedes that the fertilized egg is alive at conception, but believes that maybe it is not quite human. Consequently, in his 2010 book, The Language of Life, he advocated for experimentation using excess human embryos from in vitro fertilization (IVF) that are stuck in cryo-storage with uncertain futures, "so that some good could come from them." He has never publicly disavowed human embryonic research because he sees its potential fruitfulness. In fact, as late as last summer, experiments involving human embryonic cells and mice was supported by NIH funding at the University of Pittsburgh.

There are ongoing ramifications of Dr. Collins' acceptance of abortion as the law of the land. The Scientific American article in 1998 mentioned that Dr. Collins was concerned that embryonic genetic testing might lead to abortions of fetuses that have conditions that are less than disastrous. The article did not suggest what he would consider "less than disastrous."

For instance, would my great-nephew's Down's syndrome condition be considered less than a disaster? Princeton bioethicist and legal scholar, Dr. Robert George, made a clearer case in his 1998 address to the American Political Science Association Convention, stating, "once I was a child, once I was an infant, once I was an embryo, I cannot say I was once an egg or a sperm." However, it is clear that the viable sperm and egg are quite alive. Also, it is good to remember what we say in the Apostle's Creed. "He was conceived ... born ... suffered ... died ... and ... rose again."

What human is not on that trajectory of life and death? The Bible teaches

that we all are.

This leaves many conservative Christians convinced that Dr. Collins would rather come down on the side of a quote from his old boss, President Barack Obama. In March 2009, Obama signed an executive order that lifted President George W. Bush's 2001 ban on federal funding of human embryonic research. "Today ... we will lift the ban on federal funding for promising embryonic stem cell research," stated Obama. "We will vigorously support scientists who pursue this research. And we will aim for America to lead the world in the discoveries it one day may yield." Obama continued, "Promoting science isn't just about providing resources—it is also about protecting free and open inquiry. It is about letting scientists like those here today do their jobs, free from manipulation or coercion, and ... that we make scientific decisions based on facts, not ideology."

Obama insisted that "I'm going to let scientists do science. I'm going to remove politics, religion, and ideology from that."

Of course, the reality is that such a thing cannot be done. The president's own politics and ideology were clearly stated and inserted.

One would hope that Dr. Collins would be more comfortable with the principles articulated in President George W. Bush's 2006 State of the Union Address. "A hopeful society has institutions of science and medicine that do not cut ethical corners, and that recognize the matchless value of every life," stated Bush. "Tonight, I ask you to pass legislation to prohibit the most egregious abuses of medical research—human cloning in all its forms ... creating or implanting embryos for experiments ... creating human-animal

hybrids ... and buying, selling, or patenting human embryos. Human life is a gift from our Creator—and that gift should never be discarded, devalued, or put up for sale."

These are all ethical issues that have confronted Dr. Francis Collins as a man of science and of faith. The issues more recently included COVID mask and vaccine mandates. To many in the evangelical community, the pro-life appeals he made for the mandates have rung increasingly hollow, and his seeming inconsistencies have been bothersome.

Os Guinness, in his book, The Magna Carta of Humanity, brings out a principle that every intentional Christian should keep in mind: "The notion of arguing on behalf of the true, the right, and the good lies behind the Biblical principle of corrigibility." Guinness quotes Jewish Hebrew scholar Jonathan Sacks, "We are all open to challenge. No one is above criticism, no one is too junior to administer it, if done with due grace and humility."

This requires knowing scripture and applying its logical conclusions, consistently. Otherwise, our ability to be salt and light is diminished, and we can be played. Francis Collins needs to add salt and light. Many of us have admired him, and we expect more from him in his Christian witness to science.

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