

TODAY'S VERSE

Job 27:6 My righteousness
I hold fast, and will not let
it go: my heart shall not re-
proach me so long as I live.



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

What makes Mya Ponto smile? "Being around my friends and hanging out with people from school," said the then 14-year-old Noblesville resident. Today's feature is a look back at one of *The Times'* previous Faces of Hamilton County. She is a freshman at Noblesville High School and, before that, she attended Noblesville West Middle School. She was found in summer 2021 working a summer job at the concession stand at Forest Park Aquatic Center, which celebrated its 90th anniversary in June 2021. Over the summer at the pool, she worked concessions, checked in guests and sold memberships. Her favorite job duty? "I like doing the concessions. I get to make people's food and give it to them." Favorite food to make and eat? "I like making pretzels a lot." She is the daughter of Matt Ponto and Amy Ponto and has a then 10-year-old brother, Camren. Pets? "I have one dog and two cats." Her dog is an English bulldog named Stella. When she wasn't working, she said she loves to swim and hopes to become a lifeguard there. Over the summer, she had plans to camp at Starve Hollow State Recreation Area in Indiana. Forest Park Aquatic Center is open for the season noon to 8 p.m. Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Sundays and noon to 7 p.m. weekdays. Admission is \$6, with memberships and donor-level memberships available. To read more about Friday's Forest Park Aquatic Center ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new video board, thanks to private donations, read more in an upcoming edition of *The Times*. For more about the pool, visit <https://www.forestpark-pool.org/>

And Another Thing...

The Nickel Plate Arts Maker Faire will showcase the works of our talented local artisans and makers on the downtown Noblesville Courthouse Square. Fishers Maker Playground will be represented at this event with a booth space of our own as well as spaces for some of our maker members. The event will take place on Saturday, June 18th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. In part due to the work of the Hamilton County Community Foundation, this year all Kid Entrepreneurs-makers ages 17 and under will have their booth fee waived. This event will happen in conjunction with St. Michael's Strawberry Festival, a beloved (and delicious!) annual event! Come snack on a delicious strawberry shortcake while perusing a variety of handmade goods, including wood items, handmade books, pottery, bath and body items, craft art, jewelry, home decor, and more. Don't miss this family-friendly event!

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Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty - I'm a Widower with 3 Minor Children - What About Social Security?

Dear Rusty: My wife passed away a few days ago and I have three children - ages 15, 11, and 10. Is there anything I need to do? Signed: Suddenly Widowed

Dear Suddenly Widowed: We are so sorry to hear of your wife's passing; please accept our condolences for your loss. Here's what you need to know about Social Security:

- Your wife's minor children will all be eligible for a survivor benefit, which will be based upon the Social Security benefit



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

amount your wife had earned up to the month she died. The children can collect their survivor benefit until they are 18 years old (or 19 if they are still in high school).

- The standard minor child benefit amount is 75% of your wife's "primary insurance amount" (or PIA, which is the

➔ See WIDOWER Page A6

Are You Curious if an Assisted Living Facility is Right for You?

by John Grimaldi

The vast majority of seniors say that they want to spend their so-called "golden years" in their own homes. Assisted living facilities are not an option for those who want to socialize with neighbors, family and friends, are able to get around on their own and feel safe and secure in their own homes.

A poll conducted by Capital Caring Health, a nonprofit provider of elder health, and the online health website, WebMD,

found that "88% of people between the ages of 50 and 80 said it was very or somewhat important to them that they live in their homes as long as possible." But the reality is that not all of them are prepared.

"Aging in place is trending due in part to the fact that growing old is not as debilitating as it used to be," says Gerry Hafer, Executive Director of the AMAC Foundation, the

➔ See GRIMALDI Page A6

Are the Places You Spend Time Asthma Friendly?

(StatePoint) Asthma is a lung disease that makes breathing difficult for over 24 million Americans. While there's no cure, there are steps you can take to help control it so you can lead a normal, healthy life.

This is why the American Lung Association's Promoting Asthma Friendly Environments through Partnerships and Collaborations Project is

➔ See ASTHMA Page A6

Theater Director Helps Youth Have Fun in CCP Summer Play



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

Knowing how difficult rejection can be as an actor, Tanya Haas doesn't want that rejection to discourage a young person just starting out exploring being on stage.

That's why she only directs shows that are "no-cut." The policy allows students who might never get to be on stage otherwise to participate in shows, she said.

"I love working with the students, both first-timers and those with some experience under their belts. I somewhat selfishly enjoy helping to mold young actors, encouraging those with little or no experience,

challenging those with more experience," Haas said.

While she considers herself an actress first, she gets "a different kind of satisfaction leading young actors through the course of putting on a production."

She's currently directing 15 youth, ages 11-18, who hail from in and around Hamilton County, in Carmel Community Players' Rising Star production, "A Medley of Murders," which opened Friday and continues through June 19 at Carmel Friends Church.

The two-hour show features three one-act humorous murder mysteries -- "Cheating Death," "Murder at the Art Show" and "Death of a Dead Guy" -- the first two shows making up the first act, the third show making up the second act, and there will be at 15-minute intermission. Tickets are still available.

Haas, 49, of Carmel, a stay-at-home mom who has been involved with CCP for 14 years and is a former board member, directed CCP's Rising Star production, "Back to the '80s," in 2016, and experienced great success with the youth. So she was asked to direct again. While

➔ See BETSY Page A6

NPD Therapy Dog Luna to Serve as 2022 July 4th Parade Grand Marshal

Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen has selected Noblesville Police Department Therapy Dog Luna as the grand marshal of this year's Fourth of July Stars & Stripes Forever Parade sponsored by Gaylor Electric. The 1-year-old black lab joined the police force earlier this year. Luna's job is to comfort and love people. She helps police officers, firefighters, first responders and community members dealing with stress or trauma.

"The Fourth of July is about celebrating our freedom and independence and Luna helps members of the community regain their own freedom from mental health issues. Luna's presence helps to calm and de-escalate stress and emotions in people who are having a bad day and need help," said Jensen. "Therapy dogs help break down barriers to communication. By combining emotional support and therapeutic interventions, such as nuzzling and laying on the lap of someone in crisis, Luna helps reduce anxiety and stress, in addition to biological

stressors like heart rate, blood pressure and breathing."

Officer Ben Lugar is Luna's primary handler. They both went through training together and Lugar will join her in the parade. Luna's first day on the job was in February and on that same day, she was deployed to her first call.

"The child was just going through a pretty stressful environment and home life. The child was in crisis mode and just hearing that Luna was out there helped instantly calm that child down so we could get the family connected to resources. Luna helped the child know that we are here to support you," Lugar said.

Luna is part of Noblesville's NobleAct created in 2020 by Mayor Jensen. The initiative is meant to help victims in need from substance abuse to homelessness and even those dealing with mental health issues. Adding therapy dog's into public safety is a newer concept and Luna is the first in Hamilton

➔ See LUNA Page A6

➔ **HONEST HOOSIER**

On this date 21 years ago, Timothy McVeigh was executed as punishment for his role in the Oklahoma City Bombing.



➔ **INSIDE TODAY**

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➔ **TODAY'S QUOTE**

"If you work on something a little bit every day, you end up with something that is massive."
- Kenneth Goldsmith

➔ **OBITUARIES**

Valerie Lee Rihm
Janet Carson Sietsma
Betsy Vest

➔ **TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Cut 250 calories a day from your diet to lose a half a pound a week. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in *The Times* and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



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

➔ **TODAY'S JOKE**

Jack said he can converse with his vegetables. So that means Jack and the beans talk.



13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

73 FRS FRI	59/79 HIGHER AMOUNT OF CLOUDS SAT	63/83 5-10% CHANCE OF STRAY STORMS SUN	68/90 HIGHER AMOUNT OF STRAY STORMS MON	75/97 RECORD WINDS TUE	76/96 RECORD WINDS WED	74/91 HOT, STORMY THU
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I CAN HEAR, BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND



Did you know that the earliest sign of hearing difficulty is often the complaint that "I can hear, but I can't understand." While this type of comment may seem contradictory, it makes a lot of sense to the hearing care professionals at Beltone. In an industry that is often confusing to consumers – our goal is to make patients comfortable in a no pressure environment. At Beltone, our hearing screenings and evaluations are always complimentary. We take the time to get to know you and your medical history and explain the results of your evaluation in an easy-to-understand way.

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P.S. We know there are hundreds of hearing aid advertisements out there promising different things. We see the news stories that talk about over-the-counter hearing aids. We can tell you the truth about "cheap" hearing aids—they don't work very well. At Beltone we are dedicated to finding a hearing solution that is right for both you and your budget!



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Scam Warning: New Sextortion Scam Making Its Rounds On Social Media, Preying On Teens



BBB Serving Eastern Michigan is warning against a new sextortion scam making its rounds on social media, preying on Michigan teens. BBB first heard of this scam in a news article where a seventeen-year-old from Marquette, MI, committed suicide after being the victim of the scam, which has now made its way to the lower peninsula.

How does the scam work?

A teen receives a friend request from an attractive stranger on social media. They appear to be similar in age and have similar interests, so the teen accepts the request. What is really happening is the scammer

has first researched the teen by looking at their social media accounts and finding their interests, they then create a fake profile for another teen with similar interests. Once the victim friends the scammer, they create a relationship, eventually sending a nude photo of the fictitious teenager, asking for one in return. Once the scammer receives the nude photo, they then blackmail the victim, threatening to share the photo with friends and family if they don't pay. Once the victim pays, they ask for more money and the harassment continues.

According to the Daily Press, in the case of the Marquette teen, the scammers released the photos, once he stopped responding.

"This is a very scary social media scam that is affecting our youth," said Melanie Duquesnel, BBB president and CEO. "Once the photo has been sent, it's impossible to get back. These scammers are very savvy and use your interests against you to create a fictitious

person you can connect with. That's why it's so important to prevent scammers from finding as much information about you as possible."

BBB Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula has the following tips to help protect you from social media scams.

- **Too hot to be true.** Scammers offer up good-looking photos and tales of financial success. Be honest with yourself about who would be genuinely interested. If they seem "too perfect," your alarm bells should ring.

- **Don't friend people you've never met.** It is easy to want to accept every friend request that you receive on social media, but scammers will often use social media to gain access to your personal information. Regardless of what a person's social media says, if you have mutual friends, went to the same school, etc. don't friend someone you have not met in person.

- **Share with care.** Posts on social media last a long time. Consider

who will see the post, how it might be perceived by readers, and what information it might reveal about the individual posting it.

- **Manage privacy settings.** Check the privacy and security settings on web services and apps and set them to your comfort level for information sharing. Each device, application or browser used will have different features to limit how and with whom you share information.

- **Implement two-factor authentication on accounts and devices.** This adds another layer of security to your logins. Two-factor authentication sends a code to your phone or email to check the account owner is the one logging in.

- **Consider a password manager.** A written list works, but if you're worried about losing it, type up an electronic list and label it as something other than "PASSWORDS." Keep the list updated and organized as well as secretive. Avoid keeping the list on the device, as

it will only make it easier for the thief to access the apps and personal data stored on it.

- **Still not convinced? Consider a reputable password manager to store your information.** These easy-to-access apps store all your password information and security question answers, in case you ever forget. However, don't forget to use a strong password to secure the information within your password manager.

- **Personal info is like money: Value it. Protect it.** Personal information, such as purchase history, IP address, or location, has tremendous value to businesses – just like money. Make informed decisions about whether or not to share data with certain businesses by considering the amount of personal information they are asking for and weighing it against the benefits you may receive in return.

- **Look closely at the content.** Scammers and spreaders of false information often fill their feeds with stock images, memes or other

recycled images that are not original. Scroll through and see how far back their posts go, if it is only a couple of days, that's a huge red flag. They may use profile pictures that are not of an actual person, or simply an avatar. Be wary of accounts with no original images. Posts that contain no written content at all, or written content with many spelling or grammatical errors, could be signs of a fake account as well.

Regardless of whether your social media is private, there are other ways scammers can gain access to your personal information. They can send you phishing links that, when you click on them, it downloads malware to your device, giving them access to anything on it, which is what has happened to other victims. If it's not something you want falling into the wrong hands, be wary about storing it on your device.

For more tips on how to secure your social media and protect yourself from scams, visit bbb.org

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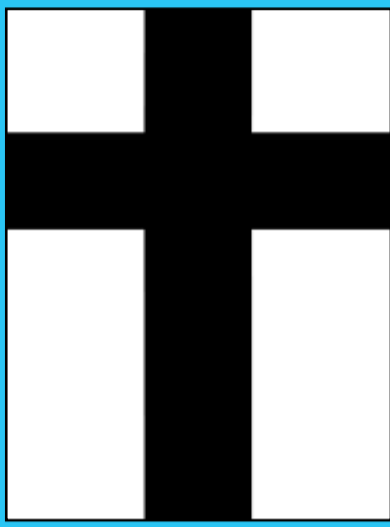


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WEEKEND

In The Home

A7

Weekend, June 11 - 12, 2022

TIM TIMMONS, Publisher @ JOE LARUE, General Manager @ MELISSA MEME, Account Executive @ BETH HEDGE, Business Manager

Hosting Tips For Backyard Summer Gatherings

(StatePoint) It's the time of year for backyard bashes with friends and family. The best part about being the host? Creating relaxing summer vibes with great food and wine.

Joe Welch and Zach Feinberg, good friends and co-founders of In Good Taste, a new kind of winery on a mission to make wine more accessible and less intimidating for the everyday drinker, offer these backyard party tips for warm weather fun:

Summer Sips
The best wines for summer are refreshing and feature high acidity, a light-to-medium body, and a dry flavor leading to a crisp finish. Think whites, rosés and light-bodied reds. To invigorate your guests and enhance the subtle tasting notes of

these wines, serve them at a slight chill. Be sure to consider your glassware, too. "Stemmed glassware keeps warm hands off cold wines and helps maintain the right temperature for longer," says Welch.

Pairing Tricks
When pairing wine and cheese, an easy place to start is by looking for cheese from the same region where the grape first originated. While this works in most cases, these quick, additional rules that look at age, depth and complexity can help you take pairing a step further:

- Young and soft cheeses with silky textures and creamy body pair especially well with young and lively wines full of fruit, good acidity and spirited aromas.
- To stand up to the richness and in many

cases, sharpness of aged cheeses full of rich, fatty and savory flavor, choose old, bold and rich wines with good tannins that leave a tacky feeling on your tongue.

- Salty cheeses pair especially well with sweet wines, as the saltiness brings out the sweetness even more.

Take a Flight
Anyone who has enjoyed a thoughtful wine flight knows that variety is the spice of life. Whether you're throwing the party yourself or need the perfect hostess gift, consider In Good Taste's flights, which are offered at every price point in the brand's patented 187 milliliter mini bottles, giving hosts the ability to put eight different wines on ice. Really delivering on those light, summery vibes is their Califor-

nia Wine Mixer tasting flight, which includes all the greats, including Rosé, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay, along with some surprises. The brand makes snacks easy for hosts too, offering a premium selection of meat and cheese with Antonelli's Cheese Shop's carefully curated Cheese Meats Treats tray. To shop flights and gifts, book a virtual or in-person wine tasting with an expert, or for additional wine 101, visit ingoodtaste.com.

"You don't need to be a sommelier to get wine right at your backyard gatherings and other events," says Feinberg. "Wine is for anybody who enjoys it, and with a little bit of know-how, this aspect of summer hosting can be fun, not stressful."

Rethink Your Lawn

(Family Features) Who has time to continuously care for that carpet-like, green grass almost everyone longs for? Nearly no one. Cultivating a lush, green lawn takes time, can be expensive and is a mainstay on weekend to-do lists spring through fall. Now that's a serious commitment.

Traditional turf lawns require a lot of maintenance. You must mow and remove weeds often, plus the amount of water usage can be staggering. The average American family uses 320 gallons of water per day, about 30% devoted to outdoor uses, according to the EPA. More than half of that is used for watering lawns and gardens. Nationwide, landscape irrigation is estimated to account for almost one-third of all residential water use, totaling nearly 9 billion gallons per day.

It's about time to rethink the obsession with turf grass lawns and take a page from the past; clover can help create a great-looking lawn. Several decades ago, clover was considered so essential for lawns that it was a standard component in lawn seed mixes and wasn't considered a weed. Clover was branded a weed when agricultural chemical companies created herbicides to rid lawns of broadleaf plants. The herbicides had no effect on grass, but killed everything else, clovers included, which is how clover became identified as a weed.

It's not too late to renovate your lawn and reintroduce the springy, soft, green carpet of clover back into your lawn. It's fluffy on the feet, aids in both weed and erosion control and, when used to overseed existing lawns, fills in bare spots fast.

Today, as interest grows in more natural, eco-friendly ways to care for grass, you might consider totally replacing your lawn with an option like Miniclover, which should not be confused with invasive white Dutch clover.

"Miniclover is about one-third to half the size of white Dutch clover, producing a thick, carpet-like appearance that blends well with turf," said Troy Hake, president and owner of Outsidepride.com, which offers

a multitude of seeds, including grasses, clovers, wildflowers, herbs and more. "It's especially attractive, cost effective, eco-friendly and can help you get that thick, lush, green lawn your neighbors will envy."

In addition to providing weed and erosion control, the fluffy lawn alternative offers a variety of benefits:

Nitrogen fixer. Miniclover takes nitrogen from the air and "fixes" it in your soil, eliminating the need to apply nitrogen plant food because it does the work for you, keeping lawns green and growing while adding natural nitrogen to the soil.

Drought tolerant. Miniclover has longer, deeper roots than turf grass, reaching down into the soil for the moisture they need, so you won't need to water as much during normal weather conditions. Plus, it stays green year-round and is resistant to drought and tolerates wet conditions.

Controls weeds. Its dense structure and growth habits help suppress existing weeds and the establishment of new weeds, as it grows via stolons (stems that grow horizontally along the ground).

Low to no maintenance. You can mow Miniclover – the more it's cut, the smaller the leaf size – or simply let it grow, as it only grows 4-6 inches tall and doesn't get unwieldy, making it an ideal lawn alternative or healthy addition to your lawn.

Thrives in sun to partial shade. Unlike some turf-grass types, Miniclover does well in partial shade that receives at least some direct sunshine daily.

Stands up to foot traffic. It has superior wear tolerance over turf grass, does well in compacted soil and fills bare spots quickly.

Makes great groundcover. Grow it alone or, because of its adaptability and ability to grow in a wide variety of conditions, combine it with other groundcover plants, like creeping phlox, ivy and thyme.

It's time to rethink typical lawn turf and try an ecofriendly alternative to replace or renovate your lawn. For more information, visit Outsidepride.com.

Boost The Beauty Of Spring Flowering Shrubs

By Melinda Myers

Bring your overgrown lilacs, forsythia, mock orange, pieris and other spring flowering shrubs down to size while maintaining their natural beauty and spring floral display.

Prune spring blooming shrubs right after flowering for maximum flowering. These shrubs set their flower buds in summer so pruning at other times of the year reduces or eliminates the spring floral display. Major pruning on these shrubs can also be done in late winter. It's easier to see what needs cutting and the plants respond well to pruning at this time of the year. You'll just eliminate some of the spring flowers.

Summer blooming shrubs like potentilla, beautyberry, and Annabelle-type hydrangeas flower on new growth. Prune these, when needed, in late winter or early spring before growth begins or anytime during the dormant season.

Make sure you have the proper tools and safety equipment before making the first cut. Protect your eyes and hands with safety glasses and gloves. Then make sure your pruning tools are clean and sharp. Using

the right pruning tool for the job helps ease muscle strain and fatigue while making proper cuts that close quickly. This will reduce the risk of insects and diseases moving into the plant.

Use bypass pruners to cut small stems that are 1/2-inch diameter or less. These have two sharp blades, like scissors, and make clean cuts that close quickly. Employ a bypass lopper like Corona® Tools' ClassicCUT® SL15167 with soft grips that fit well and will cut limbs up to 1 3/4" in diameter. Loppers have long handles that give you greater leverage and extend your reach.

You will need a pruning saw when doing renewal pruning. A short-bladed saw makes it easier to access and cut larger stems to ground level. Look for a saw, like the RazorTOOTH Saw® RS16150, with a pull stroke cutting action and ergonomic handle. It makes fast and easy cuts and minimizes hand fatigue.

Once you have your tools, you are ready to start pruning. Reduce the height and leggy growth on overgrown suckering shrubs over the next three years. This type of renewal pruning is

better for the plant and most gardeners find it less stressful for them as well.

Remove one third of the largest and oldest stems to ground level each year for three years with renewal pruning. If your shrub has twelve stems, you will prune four of these back to the ground this year, four more the following year, and remove the last four older stems the third year. By the end of the three years, you have a smaller shrub with leafy stems from ground to tip and flowers at a level you can enjoy.

Start by removing any crossed or dead branches. Disinfect tools with a 70% alcohol or disinfectant spray between cuts, if you suspect the plant is suffering from disease. This will help reduce the risk of spreading the disease throughout the plant.

You can stop pruning at this point and continue renewal pruning next year in late winter. If you decide to continue, remove a few more of the older stems to ground level. Taking these stems back to the ground encourages new growth at the base of the plant.

Minimize additional pruning at this point.

You can reduce the height on any wayward branches as needed. Make your cut on a slight angle above an outward facing bud or stem. This encourages growth away from the center of the plant, reducing the risk of crossing branches in the future.

Maintain the size and prevent leggy growth with regular pruning in the future. Just remove a few older stems to ground level every year or two. Investing a bit of pruning throughout the life of your plants helps boost their health, beauty, and your enjoyment.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Corona Tools for her expertise to write this article. Myers' web site is www.MelindaMyers.com



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WEEKEND

In The Home

Weekend, June 11 - 12, 2022

A8

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Actionable Environmental Impacts at Home



Swap common household devices to curb your carbon footprint

FAMILY FEATURES

In every room of your home, you'll likely find numerous devices, appliances and fixtures that rely on the electric grid for power. Collectively, they affect your carbon footprint more than you may realize. Converting to lower carbon alternatives can help you be a better steward for the environment while reducing your reliance on electricity.

"As a father, husband, home builder and real estate agent, I think it's important to make smart choices for a cleaner today and greener tomorrow," said Matt Blashaw, residential contractor, licensed real estate agent and host of HGTV's "Build it Forward." "We all want to be good stewards of the Earth. I want people to think beyond planting a tree or recycling. The time is right now to choose a diverse, low-carbon energy mix to power our homes and businesses."

Consider these environmentally friendly upgrades from Blashaw and the experts at the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) to help decarbonize Earth:

Smart Thermostats

Programmable thermostats and smart plugs don't conserve electricity on their own, but they help you become more aware of your energy consumption and adapt your usage to avoid waste. The introduction of programmable thermostats made it possible to adjust the temperature in your home when you're not there or when you are sleeping.

Some smart thermostats take those adjustments even further by learning your household habits and adjusting the temperature to accommodate your usage patterns. You can also make adjustments remotely, and some models allow you to control specific zones or rooms independently so you're only using the energy you really need. When combined with low-carbon, efficient HVAC units, smart thermostats can help lessen the impact on the planet.

Motion Sensors

Like programmable thermostats and smart plugs, motion sensors help manage your energy usage. Motion sensors ensure you're only drawing electricity to illuminate a space when it's in use or when the light quality falls below a certain threshold. You may be in the habit of turning on a switch when you enter a room whether you need the extra light or not. Relying on a sensor reduces the waste associated with that routine and helps ensure lights are turned off when they may otherwise be forgotten in an empty room.

Appliances

You may be surprised to learn the difference it can make to swap appliances for a different energy source. According to PERC, propane appliances are more efficient and produce fewer greenhouse gases than electric appliances. For example, propane-powered clothes dryers generate up to 42% fewer greenhouse gas emissions compared to electric dryers. They also dry clothes faster than electric dryers, and the moist heat is gentler on fabrics and can even help relax wrinkles and static cling.

Similarly, propane-powered cooking ranges generate up to 15% fewer greenhouse gas emissions compared to electric ranges while also allowing for greater control of heat levels. In addition, their instant flame turnoff capabilities help them cool faster than electric stoves, which can remain dangerously hot after they have been

Energy-Efficient Windows

Nearly one-third of energy loss in your home can be attributed to windows, especially if they're older or in poor condition. Even windows in good condition can be a source of energy loss if there's only one pane of glass or you have air leaks around the frame. Upgrading to double- or triple-pane windows can be costly but making more cost-efficient improvements like caulking and weatherstripping can reduce window-related energy loss. You can also rely on window treatments such as drapes or blinds, awnings or plant vegetation that provide shade to help manage how your windows contribute to your energy needs.

Tankless Water Heaters

Traditional water heaters maintain a tank of heated water at all times. Heating and re-heating the same water over and over is inefficient and wasteful. Conversely, tankless water heaters warm water only when you need it, cutting your energy usage and saving you money. Because it heats water whenever you need it, you don't have to worry about running out of hot water. In addition, your water heater's energy source can produce even greater savings. Switching from an electric storage water heater to a propane-fueled tankless water heater can prevent more than 1 ton of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere each year, the same amount produced from driving a car more than 3,000 miles, according to PERC.

Ceiling Fans

You may think of ceiling fans as design elements and comfort features, but they also play a role in your home's energy use. Moving air feels cooler than still air, so not only does the circulation keep the air feeling fresh, but you can also keep your room temperature higher and still feel cool and comfortable. Opting for a smart ceiling fan can help you maximize savings by scheduling the fan to align with your normal routines rather than wasting energy by circulating air when you're not using the room.

Solar Panels

Harnessing the sun's energy is often viewed as the ultimate use of renewable energy, but it can be costly to install enough panels to adequately power an entire home. Many homeowners find success in offsetting their traditional energy consumption rather than replacing it completely. Implementing other measures, such as installing propane appliances or updating windows, can reduce the amount of energy needed from the solar panels, making it a more practical environmental option for your household.

"The more diverse America's energy mix is, the more reliable it is," Blashaw said. "Propane can work alongside renewable energy sources like on-site solar power to create a more efficient, clean and reliable energy mix for homes across the country and help accelerate decarbonization."

Find more low-carbon solutions for your



Put Propane Power into Practice

As an approved clean alternative fuel under the Clean Air Act, propane is a low-carbon energy source that produces significantly fewer greenhouse gas emissions than diesel, gasoline and electricity in a wide range of applications. Because it reduces carbon emissions at home, at work, on the road and on the farm, propane can help Americans meet their environmental goals equitably and affordably. Consider these low-carbon facts from PERC for your family:

- Propane is a versatile alternative fuel being used in nearly 12 million U.S. households for residential uses like home heating, fireplaces, water heaters, cooktops and whole-home backup power.
- America's farmers not only rely on propane to power their homes but trust it to operate their businesses too. Propane is used to irrigate fields, dry crops and heat buildings.
- Every day, 1.3 million children ride to school in 22,000 propane school buses across the country. Propane buses are currently in 1,000 school districts in 48 states.

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WEEKEND *Travel or stay! and Play*

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Indiana State Fair Announces First Wave Of Hoosier Lottery Free Stage Concerts

Last week, the Indiana State Fair unveiled the first wave of its 2022 list of scheduled concerts as a part of the Hoosier Lottery Free Stage schedule, July 29 through August 21 (Fair is closed Mondays and Tuesdays). The Hoosier Lottery Free Stage has become a summertime staple for concert goers and music lovers. The lineup each year consists of some of music's most legendary acts and this year is no exception. All shows at the Hoosier Lottery Free Stage are free with paid fair admission and seating is first-come, first-served. A limited number of premium section access tickets will also be made available at a later time. All shows start at 7:30 p.m., unless noted otherwise.

The first wave announcement for 2022 Hoosier Lottery Free Stage at the Indiana State Fair schedule includes:

KANSAS - Friday, July 29 (opening day)

Chaka Khan - Wednesday, August 3

Zach Williams - Sunday, August 14

Happy Together Tour featuring The Turtles, Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, The Association, The Classics IV, The Vogues, The Cowsills - Wednesday, August 17

Carly Pearce - Friday, August 19

High Resolution Artist Images are Available by Request or By Visiting the State Fair Media Center Photo Gallery at www.IndianaStateFair.com.

Sarah M. Taylor, executive director of the Hoosier Lottery, noted, "The Hoosier Lottery has enjoyed a great relationship with the Indiana State Fair for many years. This year we are proud to sponsor

the popular Free Stage that features a variety of outstanding talent. The Free Stage has become a 'winning ticket' for all fairgoers."

The 2022 Indiana State Fair is scheduled to open on Friday, July 29 and runs through August 21, when you can enjoy The Greatest 18 Days of Summer at this iconic Hoosier tradition. For more information, please visit www.indianastatefair.com or follow the Indiana State Fair on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The 2022 Indiana State Fair will be Fun at the Speed of Summer with the theme of Celebrating Indiana's Automotive Excellence, presented by Tom Wood Automotive Group.

2022 Artist Bios:

KANSAS:
This classic rock band from Topeka, Kan., nearing five decades in the classic rock scene, has become one of the most influential rock bands to date. Kansas, composed of Phil Ehart, Billy Greer, Ronnie Platt, David Ragsdale, Tom Brislin, and Richard Williams, appeared on the Billboard charts for more than 200 weeks throughout the '70's and '80's and played sold-out arenas and stadiums throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan. Their songs have appeared in many shows like "Supernatural," "South Park," "The Office," and "The Simpsons;" and with films including "Old School," "Anchorman," and "Happy Gilmore."

CHAKA KHAN:
Singer, Songwriter, Actor, Activist - Chaka Khan is one of the world's most gifted and celebrated musicians, with a rich musical legacy, the 10-time GRAMMY® Award-winner is

looking forward to a celebration of a lifetime. A songwriter, actor, author, philanthropist, entrepreneur and activist, Chaka Khan has influenced generations of recording artists. She has the rare ability to sing in seven music genres, including R&B, pop, rock, gospel, country, world music and classical. Affectionately known around the world as Chaka, she is revered by millions of fans as well as her peers for her timeless, classic and unmatched signature music style and ability. The late, great Miles Davis often said, "She [Chaka] sings like my horn."

And the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin says, "[Chaka] is a one-of-a-kind, premier vocalist."

ZACH WILLIAMS:
GRAMMY® award winning Contemporary Christian artist Zach Williams aims to share his story of how he found his faith, with honesty and clarity into his troubled past. Zach is a Tennessee-based Christian singer that infuses outlaw country, the dirt-road grit of southern rock, and the contemporary roots music of alt-country into his sound to create a unique and special way to spread his passion for God, and share how he stays on the path of being Christian. He grew to popularity with his debut album "Chain Breaker," winning GRAMMY® award Best Contemporary Christian album, as well as the GMA Dove Awards 2017 New Artist of the Year and 2018 Artist of the Year.

HAPPY TOGETHER TOUR:

The Happy Together Tour consists of six bands: The Turtles, Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, The Association, The Classics IV, The Vogues and The Cow-

sills. These bands that had their biggest hits in the 60's and 70's brought timeless sounds and songs like "Happy Together" by the Turtles, one of the most recognizable songs of that time period. These bands combined have multiple No. 1 hits with this tour starting in 1984. Since then the band has consistently knocked out 50 shows a year, making this tour an iconic homage to an era of music that has influenced many of today's artists. The tour has consisted of several different bands and artists throughout the nearly 40 years it has been running, with the only constant band being The Turtles. This group's members include: Howard Kaylan, Mark Volman, Al Nichol, Chuck Portz, and Don Murray. With the exception of Don, all original members are alive today, making this band's live songs truly original.

CARLY PEARCE:

Carly Pearce is a young country singer on the rise, releasing her first album in 2017. Her Platinum-certified No. 1 song "I Hope You're Happy Now" with artist Lee Brice has earned CMA nominations for New Artist of the Year, Song of the Year and Video of the Year, and won Musical Event of the Year. She has exploded in the country scene touring alongside Blake Shelton, Rascal Flatts and Luke Bryan. The past two years this Kentucky native has won CMA awards for Female Vocalist of the Year in 2021 and Female Artist of the Year in 2022. She is now on her third studio album, "29: Written in Stone," and has been nominated 22 times for numerous awards since these three albums have been released.

Explore Branson Launches "Gems Of The Ozarks" Virtual Pass

Explore Branson has launched "Gems of the Ozarks," a virtual passport that connects users to various points of interest within the Branson region in a new, innovative experience. The program launched on Friday, May 27.

This is a free program that all visitors can participate in, and it is the result of a partnership with Bandwango. There are 25 local businesses included in the passport, which showcases the best of the region in an easy, mobile-friendly way. After a user has checked in to at least 20 of the 25 points included along the trail, they will be eligible to redeem a prize by visiting the Branson Chamber/CVB at 4100 Gretna Road or request-

ing the prize be delivered via mail.

About Explore Branson

Branson is a one-of-a-kind family vacation destination nestled in the lakeside beauty of the Ozark Mountains with dozens of live performance theaters, three pristine lakes, numerous attractions and museums, Historic Downtown district, a full range of dining options, and a host of hotels, motels, resorts, RV parks, campgrounds and meeting and conference facilities and sports venues. Branson is less than a day's drive for one-third of America's populace. Call 1-800-296-0463 for help planning your next vacation, convention, sports event, or reunion.

Is Inflation Putting A Damper On Your Summer Travel? How To Save

(StatePoint) After two years of restrictions, summer road trips are top of mind for those looking to get out of town. With rising inflation showing no signs of braking, soaring automotive costs, including gas prices, repairs, rental cars and auto insurance, are threatening to put a damper on summer fun. This is why many consumers are preparing their budgets now to find ways to save.

In a recent Experian survey, 76% of Americans say they are actively looking for ways to significantly trim expenses from their monthly budget. The same survey found that a third of Americans who have auto insurance feel their recurring bill hurts their wallet the most. And 28% who have auto insurance say it's a recurring bill that they've had to decide between paying or not paying to avoid going without basic necessities such as shelter, food, electricity and utilities.

Reports show that auto insurance rates are expected to continue to rise in 2022, meanwhile gas prices are the most expensive they've ever been. It's no surprise then that 34% of Americans say they're cutting back on driving expenses to save money during the current period of inflation.

Proactively finding ways to reduce costs allows consumers to get ahead of rising prices before they break the budget, and research shows that many consumers are already thinking about reaching out to their insurance provider to see if they can ne-

gotiate a cheaper price on their auto insurance. Seventy-eight percent of Americans who have auto insurance report they are likely to contact their auto insurance provider in order to negotiate a better rate within the next three months. Meanwhile, 24% say they are trying to save money by using online price comparison tools.

"Inflation is hitting many consumer's budgets and we encourage Americans to explore how to find ways to save on recurring bills. Make sure to keep your credit score high to obtain the best rates and terms on credit, and utilize all the resources available. Consumers can access their Experian credit score and report online for free and try our auto insurance shopping service to compare rates," says Rod Griffin, senior director of Public Education and Advocacy at Experian.

Experian's service can take the hassle out of finding better car insurance rates for your same coverage. It delivers multiple, tailored rates from more than 40 leading and well-established auto insurance carriers to consumers, potentially saving them more than \$900 per year. To learn more, visit www.experian.com/save.

As inflation continues to soar, finding ways to save money is becoming even more important. Reducing the cost of monthly expenses like auto insurance can go a long way in helping consumers keep more money in their pockets during their summer road trips and beyond.

Keep Roads Safe: Use These Tips To Stop Driving Distracted

(StatePoint) Driving fatalities in the United States are at the highest point since 2008, yet new research reveals that many are unaware of the enhanced risk and are actively making choices that increase the danger on our roads.

According to a new survey from Travelers, 57% of people think roadway safety is unchanged since before the pandemic. At the same time, over a third of drivers have experienced a near-miss because they were distracted while driving.

Our devices are a large part of the problem. One-third of respondents believe it is acceptable to use technology while driving and even more admit to doing so -- 79% say they have made or received a phone call while driving, 74% have looked at map directions on a cell phone and 56% have read a text message or

email. A growing number of drivers are also taking to social media, with 29% admitting to recording videos or taking photos using their smartphone, a number that's increased since 2019 along with the rise of TikTok and other social media platforms.

"When you're behind the wheel, every second matters, and anything that occupies your mind or vision is a distraction," says Chris Hayes, assistant vice president of Transportation and Risk Control at Travelers. "While it's tempting to use your phone, especially when it's alerting you to texts and calls, doing so is dangerous to you, your passengers and others on the road."

To help put a stop to distracted driving, Travelers is offering the following tips:

- Turn off notifications: Setting your phone to "do not disturb" before you begin driving

is a good idea, as it can help prevent you from being tempted to check your phone for new notifications.

- Prepare beforehand: Check directions or set your GPS before you begin driving. Put your favorite playlist or radio station on before you hit the road.

- Let it wait: Do not make calls, text or otherwise manipulate your phone while driving. Even hands-free calls can pull your focus from the road. If you need to text, email, make a call, or use your phone for any other reason, pull over first.

- Recruit a passenger: Rely on your passengers to handle technology-related tasks, such as checking GPS, changing the music or radio station, and answering calls or texts.

- Speak up: Consider asking a distracted driver to put down their device. Eighty-seven percent of

consumers who use a phone while driving say they would be less likely to do so if a passenger spoke up.

- Beware of other distractions: It's important to make driving your number one priority when you're on the road, and keep in mind that not all distractions are tech-related. For example, don't wait until your commute to eat, brush your hair, or apply make-up. Take care of such tasks before you start the car.

For more tips and resources, including compelling stories about real-world victims of crashes due to distracted driving, visit travelers.com.

"There are more distractions than ever on today's roadways. Ultimately, making a concerted effort to change behaviors will help prevent injuries and save lives," says Hayes.

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