

▶ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 145:21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.



▶ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes James Joseph "J.J." Pompei smile? "My family, my dogs, coming out to this quaint little town and being able to put chalk out here and watch the kids come out and draw on the sidewalk ... Life's too beautiful. It's just something that we really, really enjoy," said the 51-year-old Noblesville resident, the owner of Yankee Trader Fireworks at 407 S. 10th St., in Noblesville. He was originally found in his fireworks shop in 2020 at the northwest corner of Ninth and Logan streets on the Square in downtown Noblesville. However, this year, gearing up for the July 4 holiday, his fireworks location on South 10th Street has plenty of free parking. "Veteran owned and operated," he said. "We do sell fireworks. I have clients in New York, Illinois, Ohio and Virginia. We wanted to bring deals to our hometown here. We wanted to kind of give back to the community by bringing some lower prices in ... Nobody should have to mortgage a house to enjoy a holiday." He served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years, then served in Norfolk Sheriff's Department (Virginia) and then got picked up for a position as a federal officer in the Eastern District of Virginia. Then my wife (Aimée) got relocated to Indiana, and the rest is history." They've lived in Noblesville since 2012, and he has sold fireworks for about seven years. He collects coins and loves to put on fireworks shows. They have two kids, a daughter who graduated high school in 2021 from a math and science academy in Virginia, and a son, who operates a jewelry store in Virginia. They have three dogs, Juliet, and Chance, a Chihuahua-Poodle-Chinese Crested. The latter canine is a rescue. "And he's so cute." He said, "We just added two new puppies to our family, Bailey and Jax. They are Cavalier Spaniel mixed. Not to forget our bunny, Daisy, who is cute but keeps the dogs in line."

And Another Thing...

Now through July 16, the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater is running a special promotion for those who purchase a series pass to the new, ticketed summer concert series at the venue. This week, get a discounted ticket rate by purchasing a pass for all 5 concerts, either in person (\$80) or online (\$95, includes all online processing fees in the total). Chairs can be picked up the day of the concert (Houndmouth on June 18 and Colony House on July 16). This promotion is limited to the first 100 series pass purchasers. In-person, day-of-show purchases and chair pickup will take place at the Pavilion Box Office, located at the south end of the venue (10 Municipal Drive, Fishers).

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Photo courtesy of Noblesville Schools

Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen and outgoing Noblesville Schools Superintendent Beth Niedermeyer are pictured together along with the proclamation of today as Beth Niedermeyer Day. Niedermeyer will finish her tenure as Noblesville Schools superintendent today, with Dr. Daniel Hile set to take over as the new superintendent tomorrow.

Jensen Proclaims Today as 'Beth Niedermeyer Day'

In recognition of the retirement of Noblesville Schools Superintendent Beth Niedermeyer, Mayor Chris Jensen has proclaimed today as "Beth Niedermeyer Day" in Noblesville.

Niedermeyer, who announced her retirement in December of 2021, is set to be replaced by Dr. Daniel Hile, who takes over the position of superintendent on Friday, July 1.

Hile was voted in as the next superintendent in the June 15 Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees meeting. He takes over after leaving his previous post as superintendent of Smith-Green Community Schools in Churubusco.

The full text of the proclamation reads:

WHEREAS, Beth Niedermeyer has dedicated eight years to serving Noblesville students, staff and families as superintendent of Noblesville Schools; and

WHEREAS, her outstanding leadership and commitment to public education over 38 years has had a positive impact on tens of thousands of Hoosiers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Niedermeyer led significant accomplishments for Noblesville Schools, including outstanding academics, school safety leadership, fis-

▶ See PROCLAIMS Page A7

A Letter to Lady Liberty



TIM TIMMONS
Sagamore News Media CEO

A few years ago, I wrote a letter to Lady Liberty. The world was a tad different then. Donald Trump was being his arrogant self in the west wing. Joe Biden was out of office and many of us were hoping retired and the United States was enjoying gas prices well under \$3 – and on their way to under \$2.

To be fair, I didn't expect her to answer, and she did not. Then again, if I was a proud 240+ years old, I wouldn't respond to every Tim, Dick and Harry either.

So with another Independence Day just days away, I'm sending her another letter. If you'd like me to add your name to the bottom, shoot me an e-mail and I'll gladly do it.

Dear Lady Liberty,
Please allow me to wish you another most happy birthday! Long may your flag wave over the land of the free and the

▶ See TIMMONS Page A7

Man Killed in Motorcycle Crash Outside Noblesville

A 22-year-old man from Colfax, Indiana was killed on Wednesday when his motorcycle struck a tow truck at the intersection of U.S. 31 and 226th St, several miles northwest of Noblesville.

Braden Fesler died after striking a tow truck that was

attempting to make a left turn across U.S. 31 onto 226th St. According to law enforcement officials, the crash, which took place at approximately 1 p.m., occurred after Fesler passed another vehicle at a high speed

▶ See CRASH Page A7

Drive your golf cart to Lights Over Morse 4th



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

Do you own a golf cart and want to ride it all over town for the July 4 weekend?

Then bring your golf cart to the Town of Cicero for the 2022 Lights Over Morse Lake Festival.

Golf carts are permitted for

use in the northern Hamilton County town on Morse Lake.

As long as you abide by the rules, you can drive a golf cart in the lakeside community. Just carry proof of insurance, display a slow-moving vehicle sign on the back, have functional headlamps and tail lamps, not operate after 10 p.m., and hold a valid driver's license.

Golf carts are permitted within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Cicero, with the exception of Indiana 19.

During the July 4 holiday weekend, there is always a golf-cart contest, with folks this year invited to decorate their golf carts in a patriotic theme for the 10 a.m. July 4 contest at Hamilton North Library Pavilion, and then ride the golf carts in the 11 a.m. Fourth of July parade

▶ See BETSY Page A7



Photo courtesy of the Sheridan Public Library

Sheridan Public Library Announces Coloring Contest Winners

The Sheridan Public library recently held a coloring contest to kick off Summer Reading. All ages were encouraged to enter and winners were selected from each age group. The staff had such a fun time viewing those colorful skills! Congratulations to Ethan Summers (2 and under), Magnolia Christman (3-5), Olivia Hewitt (6-8), Elizabeth Willhite (9-12), Steele Townsend (13-17) and Becky Christman (Adult). All winners received a new book of their choice. Pictured are (left) Becky Christman and Magnolia Christman, the winner of the 3-5 age group.

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▶ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Cracking your knuckles does not appear to lead to arthritis. 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

"In a gentle way, you can shake the world."
- Mahatma Gandhi

▶ TODAY'S JOKE

Did you hear about the new restaurant called Karma? You get what you deserve.

▶ OBITUARIES

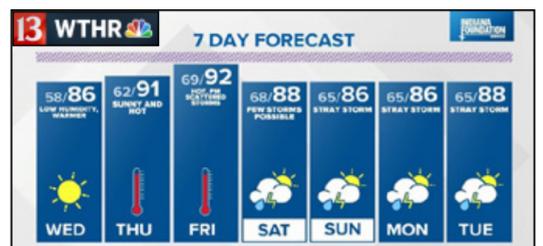
Joseph Lisle 'Joe' Kellam
Martha Jane Kellam
Sergeant Major Gregory Lewis
Angela Marie Rail-Fernandez
Thomas Lee Stelhorn

▶ HONEST HOOSIER

Wouldn't it be nice if patriotism was on display the other 51 weeks of the year?



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



OBITUARIES

Joseph Lisle 'Joe' Kellam

October 31, 1942 - February 21, 2022

Joseph Lisle "Joe" Kellam, age 79, passed away at his home in Sheridan, Indiana on Monday morning, February 21, 2022.

He was born in Hamilton County, Indiana on October 31, 1942, son of the late Carl Myron "Todd" and Thelma Louise (Harrison) Kellam.

Mr. Kellam was a 1961 graduate of Sheridan High School and a lifetime farmer in the Sheridan community.

He was a simple man who loved his family and loved his farm. He raised beef cattle and pigs for many years; however, the part of his farming operation that gave him the most joy was his vegetable garden. There was always enough for eating fresh, and plenty more that was set to be canned. Tomatoes were a staple, and different vegetables would come and go through the years. No matter what was harvested, there was always plenty to share with friends and family.

Mr. Kellam loved being outside and his hobbies reflect his love for the outdoors. When there was a break at the farm, it was a good opportunity to do some fishing. He also enjoyed traveling out West for bird hunting in his younger years. Golf was yet another way for him to spend the day outdoors.

He loved most sports, but when it came to Sheridan Blackhawk Football and IU Basketball, things became a little more serious.

Survivors include his son William Allen "Bill" Kellam of Sheridan; daughter Andrea Ann (Greg) Kellam-Palmer of St. Johns, Florida; grandchildren Madison D. Palmer and Meaghan A. Palmer; twin brother Jerry C. (Jeannie) Kellam of Bloomington; sister Benita J. Watkins of Noblesville; sisters-in-law Pam Kellam of Sheridan and Karen Walden-Pitts (Steve) of Sheridan; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Jim Kellam; brother-in-law, Keith Watkins; sisters in law Elizabeth Anne Shelburne, Marie Gordon, and Sandy K. Childers; and by his loving wife, Jane Childers-Kellam, on December 7, 2016. She and Mr. Kellam were married in March of 1970.

Graveside Services for both Mr. and Mrs. Kellam are scheduled to take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 2, 2022, at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan.

Kercheval Funeral Home in Sheridan has been entrusted with arrangements.

Martha Jane Kellam

June 14, 1942 - December 7, 2016

Martha Jane Kellam, loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend, passed into her eternal rest surrounded by her loving family and friends at her home in Sheridan on Wednesday evening, December 7, 2016, at the age of 74.

Jane was born in Lebanon, Indiana on June 14, 1942 to the late John Manning and Frances Ilene (Mumford) Childers.

After graduating from Sheridan High School with the Class of 1960 Mrs. Kellam continued forward with her education, earning her Associates Degree in Business from Indiana Business College. She and her husband Joe were married in March of 1970. They met in High School and continued their travels through life at each other's side, raising a wonderful legacy on their family farm in Sheridan.

Mrs. Kellam worked as an Administrative Assistant for Starks Law Firm for many years. Her true career and passion, however, was working on the family farm. She was an avid reader and a true farmer's wife, wanting to tackle every project she could get her hands on. If she didn't know how to do something, she was determined to figure it out. Mrs. Kellam loved to be out in the fields driving the tractor and combine. Nurturing the animals that were living on the farm seemed to come to her with ease. She loved taking care of the hogs and cattle. If there was one area on the farm where she truly excelled, it would have to be working with her hands. Building things - Big things, small things, it didn't matter. She was extremely talented when it came to any projects involving construction. From reupholstering to roofing, which was one of her favorites by the way, she seemed to be able to do it all. Much to her husband Joe's dismay, the house always seemed to be in a constant state of remodeling. Mrs. Kellam loved to "tear up" the house. Painting, moving walls, working on the roof, recovering and fixing some furniture, moving more walls, sneaking back up on the roof, she was definitely in her element.

Survivors include her two children William Allen Kellam of Sheridan and Andrea Ann (Greg) Palmer of St. Johns, Florida; two grandchildren Madison and Meaghan Palmer; sister Karen (Steve) Walden-Pitts of Sheridan; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and three sisters Elizabeth Anne Shelburne, Sandra K. Childers and Marie Gordon.

Graveside Services are scheduled to take place for both Mrs. Kellam and her husband at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 2, 2022, at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan, Indiana.

Memorial contributions may be presented to the Make a Wish Foundation, or to the Terhune United Methodist Church.

The Kellam and Palmer families want to thank all of their family and friends for their love and emotional support.

Kercheval Funeral Home in Sheridan has been entrusted with arrangements.

Obituary deadline

The Times publishes obituaries daily at www.thetimes24-7.com, and in its print product every day with the exception of Sundays and Tuesdays.

All obituaries must come from a funeral home. A photo may be included and should be sent as a high-resolution JPEG.

Daily obituary deadline is 4 p.m. for the following day's print publication.

To read more obituaries, visit www.thetimes24-7.com.

Sergeant Major Gregory Lewis

January 23, 1948 - May 31, 2022

Sergeant Major Gregory Lewis, 74, of Noblesville, went to join his Heavenly Father on May 31, 2022.

He was born January 23, 1948, to the late Charles Evan and Betty Sue Lewis in Davenport, Iowa.

After graduation from Central High School in Davenport, IA, Sergeant Major Lewis attended the University of Maryland and transferred to Indiana Wesleyan University earning his bachelor's degree in management and then Anderson University earning his MBA.

Sergeant Major Lewis retired from the U.S. Army in February 1992 after serving 24 years defending this great nation. A few of his military awards and medals are Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (5 awards), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Vietnam Service and Southwest Asia Service Medals.

In March 1992, he embarked on his second career as a Department of Defense civilian employee. He held numerous supervisory and managerial positions within DoD. In 2001, Sergeant Major Lewis was selected for a fellowship facility position at Eaker College for Professional Development, Air University, Montgomery, AL. In 2004, he returned to the DoD until July 2014 when he retired after 22 years as the Deputy Director for Disbursing Operations.

Survivors include his daughter Cynda (Michael) Sims of Chickamauga, GA; granddaughter Jennefer (Bill) Smart of Portland, TN; grandson Cody (Kristin) and great grandson, Lucas of San Antonio, TX; brother-in-law David (Julie) Smith of North Ft. Myers, FL; two stepsons Ryan (Heather) Skaggs of Bloomington, IN and Andrew (Jenny) Skaggs; granddaughter Hallie Skaggs and grandson James Skaggs of Noblesville, IN.

Preceding him in death were his beloved wives Shirley Ann Lewis (2011) and Rebecca Smith-Skaggs-Lewis (2021); and sister Beth Ann Lewis.

A memorial is scheduled to be held on Thursday, July 7, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Rd, Noblesville, IN. Visitation is scheduled to run from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. with the service scheduled to start at 6 p.m. Interment is scheduled to be held Friday morning at Marion National Cemetery with military honors.

Online condolences may be made at www.randallroberts.com.

Angela Marie Rail-Fernandez

July 21, 1971 - June 26, 2022

Angela Marie Rail-Fernandez, 50, of Noblesville, passed away June 26, 2022.

She was born July 21, 1971 in Indianapolis, IN, daughter of Glenn Shepard and Dorothy Bisesi.

As a Hamilton County 911 dispatcher, Mrs. Rail-Fernandez helped many people through difficult times. Before her cancer diagnosis, she ended her work career as an Insurance Claim dispatcher for Elevate Claims Solutions.

She loved to laugh and was one of the funniest people ever. She would cause others to smile and laugh even if they did not feel like it. Mrs. Rail-Fernandez was truly a strong lady and was a fighter especially during her battle with cancer.

She fiercely lived and loved with every fiber of her being. She was a wonderful mother, whose world centered around her children. She will be remembered as an unstoppable force who made miracles happen. In addition to helping her children know they were special, she left behind a powerful impact through her children, teaching them to be nonjudgmental.

Mrs. Rail-Fernandez also loved her husband very much. She loved her animals as well. She was very intelligent and always challenged herself to continue growing, learning, and becoming all she could be. She chose to care about the world and stay educated on current events. Mrs. Rail-Fernandez was open to new ideas and withheld judgement. Her legacy will live on through her children and grandchildren. They will live life to the fullest, stand up for what is right, champion education, and celebrate life's precious moments. Every trip to Disney World and every Christmas morning will be forever filled with her beautiful, fun, and loving spirit for years to come.

"You are deeply loved and greatly missed."

Survivors include daughter Logan Rail; two sons Harry Rail and Alexander Rail; husband Vidal Fernandez; sister Marissa Smith; two brothers Perry Shepard and Glenn Shepard; two granddaughters Nova Rail and Violet Rail; aunt Jean Ann Bisesi.

She was preceded in death by her father Glenn Shepard; brother Glenn Sigler; and uncle Dave Bisesi.

Family and friends are scheduled to gather on Friday, July 1, 2022 at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Church, where the Mass of Christian Burial is scheduled to be conducted at 11 a.m.

Arrangements entrusted to Bussell Family Funerals.



Thomas Lee Stelhorn

August 10, 1941 - June 22, 2022

Thomas Lee Stelhorn, 80 of Westfield, Indiana, peacefully passed away on June 22, 2022, in his daughter's home with his loving family by his side.

He was born on August 10, 1941, in Indianapolis, Indiana to Norville Stelhorn and Mary (Parkis) Hart.

Mr. Stelhorn graduated from North Central High School and was a member of ROTC for 3 years. He worked most of his life as a pressman, then supervisor for The Indianapolis Star News and retired in 2021 from the Westfield Washington Schools Transportation System as a bus driver.

He met his wife, Lynda Lee (Campbell) Stelhorn on a blind date. They were married in North Tacoma Christian Church and were married for 30 years. Throughout his marriage, he was a member of The Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. He was also a member of the American Legion in Sheridan, Indiana.

Mr. Stelhorn enjoyed racing, visiting the casino, loved going out to eat, singing karaoke, traveling but most of all, spending time with his loved ones, especially his grandchildren.

Survivors include his daughter Christina Lynn (Bobby) Smock; five grandchildren Dylan, Michael, Robert (Victoria), Emily and Jeffrey (Morgan) McConnell; two great-grandchildren Hayden and Amira; and four grandchildren through his daughter's marriage, Savannah, Olivia, Isaiah and Noah.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife Lynda; stepfathers Don Norwalt and Paul Hart; father-in-law Frank T. Campbell; and mother-in-law Thelma C. Campbell.

Visitation is scheduled to run from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., with a memorial service scheduled to begin at 2 p.m., on Saturday, July 2, 2022, at Hamilton Memorial Park-Washington Park Cemetery, 4180 Westfield Road, Westfield, Indiana.

The family would appreciate any memorial contributions be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Eric M.D. Bell Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Growing Older Like the Main Character in a Zombie Movie



RIX QUINN
Quinn Summary

I just got back from a family reunion. I enjoyed seeing distant cousins whose names I couldn't remember. I just called them all "cuz."

They called me the same thing, and we had a great time discussing things we'd done together...even though we couldn't quite remember where we'd done them.

See, we're at that awkward age. We're old enough to consider retirement, but not old enough to think about complete face lifts.

I met one cousin who's getting a face lift in sections, so he can afford to pay cash. He'll look much better once they begin work on his left eyebrow.

One topic we discussed was how often younger people in retail situations

refer to over-50-year-olds by folksy names like darling, sweetie, sugar, honey bun, or (my favorite) young man.

The same person who calls me "young man" may also speak to me loudly and slowly, like I have trouble processing words of more than one syllable. I really resent that, because I know several three syllable words, and I can even spell some of them.

I will admit I don't look like I did when I was 30. I blame it on gravity. But in low-level lighting, I still look faintly presentable.

And even if I'm not the athlete I once was, I can still do several modified push-ups. And I can jog in place for up to three minutes without stumbling.

Hey, my hair may be grayer, and the wrinkle under my left eye a little deeper. (That's the eye I use to wink.)

But I can still do simple arithmetic, and I can remember to leave a nice tip for a courteous waitperson who doesn't treat me like the main character of a zombie movie.

- Got a story idea for Rix? E-mail him at rix@rixquinn.com.

Obituary deadline
The Times publishes obituaries daily at www.thetimes24-7.com, and in its print product every day with the exception of Sundays and Tuesdays.
All obituaries must come from a funeral home.
A photo may be included and should be sent as a high-resolution JPEG.
Daily obituary deadline is 4 p.m. for the following day's print publication.
To read more obituaries, visit www.thetimes24-7.com.

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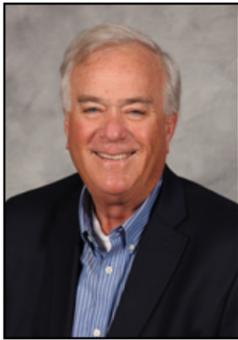
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Westfield Mayor's Council on Disabilities Officially Launches

The Westfield Mayor's Council on Disabilities (WMCD) gave the first update on its mission and priorities before the Westfield City Council this week. The presentation highlighted Mayor Cook's support of the council and its efforts to educate, advocate and create a positive impact in the lives of people with disabilities. The WMCD shared its short and long-term goals, logo, social media platform details and request for community support.



Westfield Mayor Andy Cook

"In March, we experienced firsthand the passion from disability advocates who expressed the need for a disability council in Westfield," said Mayor Andy Cook. "Their shared experiences demonstrated the need for a council that represents all people. It's my pleasure to support the WMCD and I'm confident it will add value to our community."

The WMCD's mission is to make a positive impact in the lives of people with disabilities in Westfield by promoting lifecycle planning along with a culture of inclusion and accessibility. The WMCD will address challenges facing people with disabilities in Westfield and provide solutions to break down barriers. Long-term goals will focus on strengthening housing, transportation and workforce development

opportunities for people with disabilities.

WMCD will host its first event to coincide with the 32nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Westfield's Grand Junction Plaza. All are welcome.

- Other events include:
- **September** – Person-centered planning through Life Course.
 - **October** – National Disability Employment Awareness Month.
 - **February 2023** – Supported decision-making & other alternatives to guardianship
 - **March 2023** – Disability Awareness Month
- For those interested in being part of the WMCD, email your contact information to info@westfieldmcd.com. Visit www.westfieldmcd.com for more information.

News Briefs

IDEM Issues Air Quality Action Day for Hamilton County Today

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has issued an Air Quality Action Day (AQAD) and is forecasting high ozone levels in Hamilton County for today.

IDEM encourages everyone to help reduce ozone by making changes to daily habits. You can:

- Drive less: carpool, use public transportation, walk, bike, or work from home when possible
- Combine errands into one trip
- Avoid refueling your vehicle or using gasoline-powered lawn equipment until after 7 p.m.
- Keep your engine tuned, and don't let your

engine idle (e.g., at a bank or restaurant drive-thru)

• Conserve energy by turning off lights and setting the thermostat to 75 degrees or above

Air Quality Action Days are in effect from midnight to 11:59 p.m. on the specified date. Anyone sensitive to changes in air quality may be affected when ozone levels are high. Children, the elderly, and anyone with heart or lung conditions should reduce or avoid exertion and heavy work outdoors.

Ground-level ozone is formed when sunlight and hot weather combine with vehicle exhaust, factory emissions, and gasoline

vapors. Ozone in the upper atmosphere blocks ultraviolet radiation, but ozone near the ground is a lung irritant that can cause coughing and breathing difficulties for sensitive populations.

IDEM examines weather patterns and current ozone readings to make daily air quality forecasts. Air Quality Action Days generally occur when weather conditions such as light winds, hot and dry air, stagnant conditions, and lower atmospheric inversions trap pollutants close to the ground.

To learn more about ozone or to sign up for air quality alerts, visit SmogWatch.IN.gov.

New Report Shows Rural Voters Rely On Vote By Mail And Early Voting

Voters in rural areas across the country heavily rely on alternative ways to vote, including voting by mail and in-person early voting, and newly proposed state legislation would restrict their ability to cast a ballot, according to a new report by the nonpartisan election policy group Secure Democracy USA. The report, *The Forgotten Voters: How Current Threats to Voting Hurt Rural Americans*, found that nearly half of all rural voters in the United States voted by mail or voted early in-person in the 2020 election.



The key findings of the report include:

- Nearly half of all rural voters voted early in 2020. In the 2020 general election, roughly 47% of voters living in rural areas voted before Election Day, either by in-person early voting (25%) or mail-in voting (22%). Overall, Election Day voting declined by 30% in rural counties from 2016 to 2020.
- Voting rates are higher in rural areas with at-will absentee voting. While rural voters' use of mail-in voting significantly increased in the 2020 election, the availability of mail-in voting also appears to have increased turnout in rural areas. The rate of turnout among voters in rural counties that did not require an excuse to vote by mail in 2020 was nearly 8 percent higher than in rural counties that required a qualifying reason to vote by mail.
- Many rural voters depend on same day voter registration. In the 2020 general election, 9% of all same day registrations came from voters living in rural counties, despite the fact that rural counties accounted for only 6% of registrants.
- When voting in-person, rural voters generally have to travel farther to cast their ballot. 50% of urban polling places serve an area of less than 2 square miles, while 50% of rural county polling places serve an area greater than 62 square miles.
- Voters in states with

higher rural populations are more likely to face barriers to voting by mail. These barriers include needing an excuse to vote by mail; strict witness, notary, or photocopy requirements for ballot verification; limited postal service coverage that makes it hard to meet ballot receipt deadlines; no process to fix (cure) common, minor mistakes such as forgetting a signature; no offerings of drop boxes; and no prepared paid postage for mail ballots.

Many rural voters lack access to online voter registration. Only seven states provide no online voter registration option, instead requiring voters to register by mail or in-person. Those states (Arkansas, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming) have large rural populations. This is burdensome on rural voters who often live far from their municipal or county clerk's office or post office.

Secure Democracy USA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to build confidence in our elections and improve voter access across the United States. We educate policymakers and the public about what it takes to safeguard our voting systems. We use sophisticated survey and messaging research to inform our strategy and we collaborate with state leaders, election administrators, policy experts, and allies to ensure that all eligible citizens have the freedom to vote how they choose.

Sweet, sweet relief! As of yesterday, 256th Street between SR-213 and Lacy Road is open

to all traffic. Some incidental work may still be ongoing; the Hamilton County Highway

Department asks that you use caution while driving through this site. Safe travels!

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2022 Flix and Float Schedule

 June 18th Moana G	 June 24th Finding Nemo G	 July 1st Jumanji PG-13
 July 16th Waterhorse G	 July 22nd Encanto G	 July 30th The Shallows PG-13
 August 13th The Goonies PG	 August 20th Dog PG-13	 September 3rd Top Gun PG

Cost: \$5 per person / Members get in free

Flix & Float Sponsors:

- Ruoff Music Center
- Church, Church, Hittle & Antrim
- Buddenbaum & Moore
- Holt Legal Group
- Sign Craft
- Lew's Plumbing
- Troy & Alicia Tricker

2022 Fall Ball Season

When: August 13th/14th - October 1st/2nd, 2022...7 game season & single-elimination tournament to be played on Weekends.

- Weekday games may be scheduled based on interest or in the event of rainouts
- Single-elimination tournament played October 1st & 2nd

Where: Noblesville Babe Ruth Facility - Logan Field Forest Park, Noblesville

Who: Everyone - 7th-8th Grade and 9th-12th Grade

- 7th - 8th Grade League
- 9th - 12th Grade League
- Due to construction scheduled on Emmerson Field, Fall Ball teams and player registrations will be limited.

**** Please Note:** There will NOT be a Travel division for the 2022 Fall Ball season.

Cost: \$80 per Individual registration - \$900 per full-roster team registration

**** Note:** Credit card and processing does apply and will be added at checkout

How Do I Register? www.noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.com

Questions? Please contact:

Mark Kelly Director of Baseball Operations Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball (317) 201-4751 nbrbdirectorofops@gmail.com	Chris Thomas League President Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball (317) 538-6555 nbrbpresident@gmail.com
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Thanks for reading The Times!

New Abortion Law Goes into Effect

New protections for pregnant women and girls against coerced abortions goes into effect Thursday in Indiana. The new law makes it a level six felony to knowingly or intentionally coerce a woman to have an abortion, and requires abortion providers and other professionals to report coercion to law enforcement.

Violation of the new law is punishable by a prison term ranging from six months to two-and-a-half years and a fine of up to \$10,000. Any medical facility that employs a mandatory reporter who fails to report coercion is subject to a Class C infraction.

"This is a law everyone on either side of the issue should be able to get behind," said Indiana Right to Life Chief Executive Officer Mike Fichter. "Coercion is a real problem, especially for women and girls who are victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking – and women who feel powerless to fight aggressive pressure to have an abortion. And this new law has a lot of safeguards that have never existed before in Indiana statute."

- The full list of safeguards include:
- A woman must be asked at least 18 hours before an abortion, in a private setting, if she is being coerced into having an abortion.
 - If coercion is suspected, she must be informed that coercion is illegal.
 - She must also be informed that a demand by the father to have an abortion does not relieve him of financial responsibilities

if she wants to continue her pregnancy and parent her baby. He would still be responsible for child support.

- Suspected victims of coerced abortion must be provided with information about assistance, counseling, protective services, access to a phone if they need to make a private call, and access to an alternative exit from the facility.

- A mandatory reporter must report every instance of coerced abortion to law enforcement.

- An abortion on a woman who is a suspected victim of coercion cannot be done during the 24-hour period after a report is made to law enforcement.

- Law enforcement is required to immediately initiate an investigation into the reported coercion.

"We know women can face tremendous outside pressure from their partners or family to make the life-changing decision to end their pregnancy," State Representative Joanna King said. "We crafted this law to protect these women from coercion, and give them an opportunity to escape a bad situation and connect to resources that can help."

A study of 1,000 women in the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons, found that 75 percent of survey participants who had an abortion said they experienced "at least subtle forms of pressure to terminate their pregnancies."

Among Indiana's more than 100 pregnancy resource centers, their

directors know that traffickers bring women and girls into their facilities for free pregnancy tests before going the route of an abortion.

And statistics show that more than half of trafficking victims have had at least one abortion.

According to a report from The Charlotte Lozier Institute, 71 percent of women trapped in trafficking got pregnant at least once; 21 percent got pregnant five or more times; 55 percent had at least one abortion; and 30 percent reported multiple abortions.

"Protecting Hoosier women against a coerced abortion is an important step in upholding human dignity," State Senator Liz Brown said. "HEA 1217 implements safeguards to ensure women pressured into ending a pregnancy can protect themselves and their child, and I am pleased to have sponsored a law that will make Indiana a safer place for women."

Annually, more than 8,000 babies are aborted in Indiana each year, with nearly 3,000 of those preborn children being babies of color. Since Roe was decided 50 years ago, medical science has proven that unborn babies have a heartbeat, develop brain-wave activity, can hear, develop noses, mouths, fingernails, organs and nervous system, and can kick, grasp objects and hiccup – all well before 15 weeks of development.

Since 1973, almost 540,000 babies have been aborted in Indiana.

Well-Built Indianapolis Housing Market Able to Absorb Decline in Building Permits Issued

The Builders Association of Greater Indianapolis (BAGI) has announced that in Central Indiana's nine-county area, single-family building permits are down just 8% over May 2021, with 893 permits issued last month compared to 967 the year prior.

However, according to Drake Branda, Director of Government Affairs at BAGI, lower permit numbers are not reflective of the current market. In fact, consumer demand has and continues to keep the inventory of newly built and existing homes in Central Indiana at record lows, pointing to a posi-

tive purchasing market.

"Builders and developers throughout all our municipalities continue to overcome ongoing supply chain issues and a lack of lot development," Branda said. "Interest rates and prices are not decreasing in our area as national media suggests, so now is the time to consider buying."

Steve Lains, CEO of BAGI, has been watching and discussing the current market with local builders and is seeing a number of new projects pending approval or already underway that can provide more opportunities for consumers in the market. Lains wants consumers to know

that builder confidence is high. Current demand combined with other economic factors like low unemployment, increasing wages and job creation will help bring even more balance to the market.

Hamilton County saw a decline in building permits issued, dropping from 1,626 between January and May of 2021 to 1,235 in that same period in 2022.

While overall permit numbers for the Central Indiana area were lower, Marion County saw an increase in permit activity, with 157 permits issued last month compared to 61 issued in May 2021.



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FINANCING AVAILABLE!



Indiana State Fair Unveils Automotive Programming Plans For 2022 Theme

The Indiana State Fair yesterday announced its robust plans that will incorporate their automotive focused theme that will celebrate Fun at the Speed of Summer - Celebrating Indiana's Automotive Excellence, presented by Tom Wood Automotive Group. The 165th Indiana State Fair will take place Friday, July 29 through Sunday, August 21 and will continue its long tradition as Indiana's favorite all-encompassing summer destination event.

Indiana's rich automotive tradition is a signature source of pride for Hoosiers, and the Indiana State Fair looks forward to celebrating Indiana's worldwide recognition for its automotive history and contributions to the industry. Fairgoers can expect to see iconic, celebrity cars from movies and books, in addition to world-class classic car collections showcasing Indiana-made vehicles, and so much more.

In addition to traditional fair favorites, guests can expect to be immersed in auto-themed experiences for the 2022 Indiana State Fair:



World of Speed presented by Subaru of Indiana Automotive, located in the Harvest Pavilion. Visitors will want to make a pit stop at the amazing, new exhibit World of Speed! presented by Subaru of Indiana Automotive. This attraction will be open daily and have multiple features, including:

Celebrity Car Appearances:

- The Batmobile
- The Scooby Doo Mystery Machine
- The Ghostbuster Ectomobile
- And more!

Indiana Automobile Exhibit, in partnership with the Indiana Automotive Collective:

- A stunning curated collection of classic, ear-

ly-20th century cars with roots in the Hoosier State!

SPEED: Science in Motion Exhibit:

- It's fast. It's fun. It's coming to the Indiana State Fair! SPEED: Science in Motion Exhibit arrives with exciting, hands-on exhibits to test attendees potential as a Formula One driver. Fairgoers will be put through their paces to experience what it is like to operate at high speeds through hands-on simulations that test peripheral vision, reaction speed, coordination, concentration and heart rate under stress.

Ford Model T Rapid Assembly, located in front of the Indiana Farmers Coliseum:

- Prepare to be amazed as a drivable 1926 Ford Model T is built in just under 10 minutes right before your eyes.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum Presents Traditions, located inside of the Farm Bureau building:

- This incredible exhibit displays the many iconic traditions of the month of May at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and at the Indianapolis

500. Traditions explores everything from tailgating and concerts to The Command and "Back Home Again in Indiana". Fairgoers can relive their favorite rituals and customs by exploring photography

pieces, video displays, music, and memorabilia on display. Plus a daily car exhibit, located along Main Street. Throughout the summer as we gear up for the

165th Indiana State Fair, weekly NEW experiences will be announced to the public. For complete details and tickets to the 2022 Indiana State Fair, please visit: <https://www.indianastatefair.com>.

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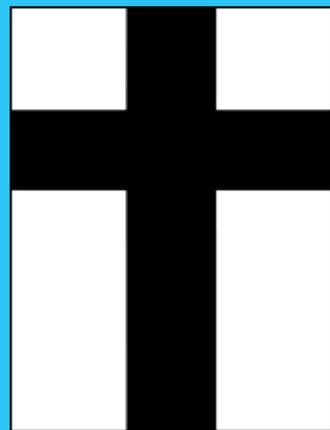
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Facts & Fun

40 Jennings

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1. What percentage of people live in Vernon?
≥
2. How old is Jennings County?
≤
3. How many live in the county, but not in Vernon?
≥
4. What is the population density of the county?
≤

Answers: 1. About 1 percent 2. 202 Years
3. 28207 People 4. 1,298/sq. mi.

Did You Know?

- Jennings County was formed in 1817
- It was named for the first Governor of Indiana and a nine-term congressman, Jonathan Jennings. Jennings was governor when the county was organized
- The Vernon Historic District is on the National Register of Historic Places and is the site of many firsts in the state.
- The population in 2010 was 28,525 with 318 residing in the county seat, Vernon
- According to the 2010 census, the county has a total area of 28,525 square miles (939.9 km²)

Got Words?

There are multiple wildlife refuges, parks and forests in the county. How might those factor into the culture and other elements of the community?

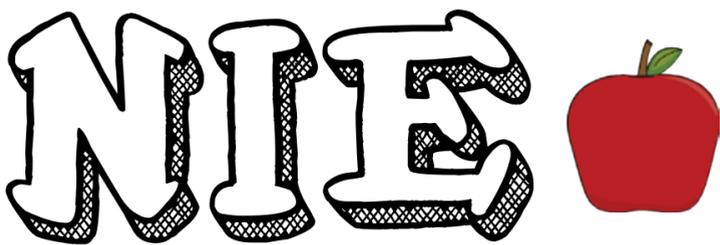
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Unscramble the words below!

1. NNGINJES
2. NONVRE
3. VOGNREOR
4. HSTIORIC
5. FSTIRS

Answers: 1. Jennings 2. Vernon 3. Governor
4. Historic 5. Firsts

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A9

Indiana State Fair Adds Final Headliner To Complete Lineup Schedule

Earlier this week, the Indiana State Fair announced the addition of 2022 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo as the final addition to its exceptional lineup that will take place on the Hoosier Lottery Free Stage. The 2022 Indiana State Fair will take place July 29 through August 21 (Fair is closed Mondays and Tuesdays). 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 2022 Hoosier Lottery Free Stage at the Indiana State Fair schedule includes:

- Kansas - Friday, July 29 (opening day)
- Jesse McCartney - Saturday, July 30
- We The Kingdom - Sunday, July 31
- Chaka Khan - Wednesday, August 3
- GONE 2 PARADISE (Tribute to Jimmy Buffett) - Thursday, August 4
- Travis Tritt - Friday, August 5
- The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band - Saturday, August 6
- Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo - Sunday, August 7

- Trace Adkins - Wednesday, August 10
- Too Fighters (A Tribute to Foo Fighters) - Thursday, August 11
- KC & The Sunshine Band - Friday, August 12
- El Dia de los Latinos en la Feria del Estado de Indiana presented by Radio Latina (Latino-Fest at the Indiana State Fair) - Saturday, August 13
- 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
- Small Town (A Tribute to John Mellencamp) - Thursday, August 18
- Carly Pearce - Friday, August 19
- Vixen & Autograph - Saturday, August 20
- Gospel Music Day featuring Fred Hammond - Sunday, August 21

Sarah M. Taylor, executive director of the Hoosier Lottery, noted, "The Hoosier Lottery Free Stage has become a 'winning ticket' for all fairgoers. This week, the Hoosier Lottery is launching a Premium Concert Ticket Giveaway providing an opportunity for myLOTTERY members and music lovers to win the best seats to a summer concert of their choice."

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."

JESSE McCARTNEY:

Since the start of his career, New York-born and Los Angeles-based singer, songwriter, artist, and actor Jesse McCartney has built a catalog of instantly recognizable anthems and captivated audiences on the road and on-screen. His first three albums -- the Platinum Beautiful Soul [2004], Right Where You Want Me [2006], and Departure [2008] -- consecutively bowed in the Top 15 of the Billboard Top 200 with the singles "Beautiful Soul" minted Gold and "Leavin'" certified Platinum. Plus, he collaborated with T-Pain on the cross-genre banger "Body Language." A sought-after songwriter, he notably wrote the 4x-Platinum GRAMMY Award-nominated "Bleeding Love" for Leona Lewis. In 2018, the one-off single "Better With You" racked up nearly 30 million cumulative streams and paved the way for his fifth offering. Simultaneously, his acting credits grew to include everything from Chernobyl Diaries and Fear The Walking Dead to Alvin and the Chipmunks, and even voicing the character Roxas/Ventus in gamer favorite Kingdom Hearts. In 2020, Jesse was revealed as the runner-up and popular fan favorite Turtle in the third season finale of Fox's The Masked Singer. Now, he opens up more than ever on his fifth full-length album New Stage, due out later this year. His second single "Friends," an homage to the people who became chosen family, followed the release of "Yours" in 2020, an introspective look at the different roles he's played throughout his life. Then there's "Kiss The World Goodbye," the third release from the forthcoming album.

WE THE KINGDOM:

We The Kingdom is a multigenerational family of musicians, including producers and songwriters Ed Cash (Chris Tomlin, NeedToBreathe, Bethel Music, Crowder), Scott Cash, Franni Rae Cash, Martin Cash and Andrew Bergthold. With a combination of four different decades, We The Kingdom's music embraces worship, rock, country, folk and pop, providing a textured sonic background for vulnerable, gritty lyrics. The Georgia based band write songs about the full spectrum of human emotion, including the messy parts, as they aim to embrace brokenness, honesty, and the redemptive power of

God's love in their music.

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."

GONE 2 PARADISE:

Jimmy Buffett is internationally known for his fun & totally outrageous sold-out concerts worldwide. Gone 2 Paradise, featuring Frank Paul, continues the party, bringing the ultimate Jimmy Buffett experience alive throughout the year! Gone 2 Paradise, entertains all age groups including the faithful followers of Jimmy Buffett known as "Parrot Heads". Gone 2 Paradise has been featured on WGN and NBC TV and some of the places they have played include Navy Pier, US Cellular Field, Hawthorne Race Track, Northerly Island, and The Chicago Yacht Club. With Frank Paul's voice and the island dressed band performing hit songs that span Jimmy Buffett's entire career.

TRAVIS TRITT:

Multi-platinum selling and award-winning artist Travis Tritt launched his career three decades ago. Though his career is lengthy, the Southern rock-influenced artist continues to stay true and relevant to country music fans across the globe. Tritt's albums, seven of which are certified platinum or higher, have amassed more than 30 million in career album sales, two GRAMMY Awards, four CMA Awards, an invitation to become a member of the world's famous Grand Ole Opry and a devoted fan base that fills venues coast-to-coast. The Georgia native is dubbed one of "The Class of '89," which included Country music superstars Garth Brooks, Clint Black and Alan Jackson, however, his limited to music as he has also appeared in numerous feature films and TV shows throughout his extraordinary career.

THE REVEREND PEYTON'S BIG DAMN BAND:

Two time BMA nominee's The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band are one of the greatest front-porch blues band in the world. This "Big Damn Band" Led by Reverend Peyton, considered the best finger picker playing today, has earned a reputation as both compelling performers and persuasive evangelists for the rootsy, country blues styles that captured their imaginations early in their lives. Reverend Peyton started this band after moving to Mississippi to study under blues masters such as T-Model Ford, Robert Belfour and David "Honeyboy" Edwards. He has now led his band to a number one song on

the Billboard and iTunes Blues Charts, "Dance Songs For Hard Times", which has been critically acclaimed by Rolling Stone, Relix, Popmatters, Guitar World, American Songwriter, and more.

PAT BENATAR & NEIL GIRALDO:

Pat Benatar's staggering vocals and take-no-prisoners attitude, along with Neil Giraldo's trailblazing artistry as a guitarist, producer and songwriter forged the undeniable chemistry and unique sound that created some of rock's most memorable hits including "We Belong," "Invincible," "Love Is A Battlefield," "Promises In The Dark," "We Live For Love," "Heartbreaker" and "Hell Is For Children." Together they have created two multi-platinum, five platinum and three gold albums, as well as 19 Top 40 hits. They have sold over 30 million records worldwide and have won an unprecedented four consecutive GRAMMY awards. Their rock and roll love affair has endured for more than three and a half decades. Pat and Neil continue to tour, selling out concerts everywhere. Their chemistry will undoubtedly be thrilling music fans forever. In 2022, they were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

TRACE ADKINS:

Trace Adkins is a Grammy award nominated, three-time CMA award winner that has sold more than eleven million albums and has charted more than 20 singles in his 25 year long career. This Nashville artist has worked with other big country artists like Luke Bryan to rap superstar Snoop Dogg in his career. Along with singing Trace has found his way into films and television shows getting roles as a tough-as-nails biker in "The Lincoln Lawyer" (starring Matthew McConaughey), a desperate father in "Deepwater Horizon" (starring Mark Wahlberg), a wise oracle of a tattoo artist in the family friendly film "Moms' Night Out" (starring Patricia Heaton, Sean Astin, Sarah Drew), and as MercyMe's actual manager in the box office hit "I Can Only Imagine."

TOO FIGHTERS:

Too Fighters are a Foo Fighters tribute band, and Chicago's answer to making a true Foo concert experience available to everyone. Their mission is to pack twenty plus years worth of Foo Fighters into one set, the best songs, moments, antics, history, stories and fun. The Too Fighters are committed to making this experience as close to a true Foo Fighters concert as possible, using no samples or past records is just one way they do this. Fan interaction, energy on stage, and true passion shown during the show gives the listener the closest Foo Fighters experience without truly being there.

KC & THE SUNSHINE BAND:

Features in over 200 motion picture films, Grammy awards, People's Choice awards, four number one records in a row, and coined the "Founder of the Dance Revolution" all can be claimed by KC & the Sunshine Band. Hits like, "Give it up", "That's the way (I like it)", and "(Shake Shake Shake) Shake Your Booty" have found their way into nearly every major sporting event, parade, wedding, and bar mitzvah of the last three decades. The fifteen man band took inspiration from the sunny days in

Florida to get the very energetic and fun sound that continually influences artists to this day. KC & the Sunshine Band led by Harry Wayne Casey did not only spark a revolution in the 70s and 80s, but still has people of all ages now getting up out of their seats to boogie.

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 Cowsills. 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.

SMALL TOWN:

Small Town is Chicagoland's premier John Mellencamp Experience. This tribute band, composed 100% of Hoosier natives, has set out to bring the musical catalog of John Mellencamp to life on stage just as Mellencamp has done year after year, decade after decade. Mellencamp is an Indiana native and legendary rock icon with over 25 Top 20 hit songs spanning 40 years. Small Town has recreated his high energy shows and the music that everyone knows and loves. Authenticity is key with Small Town, they do not sample any past records or have any pre-recorded tracks, everything you hear at the show is exactly what you would have heard at a real John Mellencamp show.

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.

VIXEN & AUTOGRAPH:

Vixen is an American rock band formed in Minnesota in 1980. During its most commercially successful period from 1987 to 1992, the band released their eponymous first album in 1988, and it reached No. 41 on the charts. Their second album Rev It Up was released in 1990, and reached No. 52 on the Billboard 200. Their third album Tangerine was released in 1998. Their fourth album Live & Learn was released in 2006. Autograph is an American glam metal band formed in Pasadena, California, in 1984, best known for their hair metal anthem "Turn Up the Radio".

FRED HAMMOND:

Detroit-raised Fred Hammond is one of the most popular worship gospel singers to date. Getting his start in the 80s, Fred performed in gospel bands and groups until going solo in 1991. Since then, he has released a consistent string of gospel albums, "Verity," "Pages of Life: Chapters I & II (1998)," "Free to Worship (2006)," and "God, Love & Romance (2012)," "United Tenors Project" (2013) and "I Will Trust" (2014), all reaching Billboard's No. 1 Gospel Album spot within the first week of releasing. Fred returned to concerts in 2016 after a 17-year hiatus and has been touring ever since. He continues to collaborate and produce with multiple generations of gospel musicians including The Williams Brothers, Yolanda Adams, Israel & New Breed, John Bush & Andy Kellman, and Rovi.

For over 30 years, Hoosier Lottery distributions have benefited every county throughout Indiana. The Hoosier Lottery has contributed more than \$6 billion to good causes, including \$30 million to local police and firefighters' pensions and \$30 million to the Teachers' Retirement Fund annually. The Hoosier Lottery has earned World Lottery Association Level 4 Certification through 2024 for achieving the highest level of responsible gaming. To learn more about the Hoosier Lottery, visit HoosierLottery.com/GivingBack and follow on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The Indiana State Fair is the state's largest multi-day event celebrating the Hoosier spirit and agricultural heritage. These 18 days bring all communities together to celebrate all things Indiana and promote it to hundreds of thousands of people across the state, and beyond. Nationally recognized for offering great entertainment, showcasing youth and interactive agriculture educational programs, premiere facilities and a variety of unique, fun foods, the Indiana State Fair has been an annual attraction for generations of Hoosiers since 1852. This year's Indiana State Fair will take place July 29th - August 21st (closed Mondays & Tuesdays). For information, visit www.indianastatefair.com

THURSDAY

Indiana *the* Strong

Thursday, June 30, 2022

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New Report Outlines Recommendations To Enhance Equity In Dual Credit Availability, Access And Success In Indiana

A new report released today provides state-level policy recommendations to enhance equitable access to and participation in high-quality dual credit programming for all Hoosier students.

Within Reach: A Policy Roadmap for Dual Credit in Indiana combines the insights of secondary and postsecondary dual credit stakeholders on barriers to equitable dual credit access, participation and success in Indiana, as well as recommendations to address identified challenges. The primary author of the report is Jennifer Zinth, a leading national expert on dual credit.

The report utilized findings from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's 2021 Early College Credit Report to identify equity gaps in dual credit participation by race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status and geography. The Commission's report noted low-income students, rural students, and Black and Hispanic and Latino students are less likely than their peers to earn dual credit. Recommendations in the report are based on a framework developed by the College in High School Alliance in its 2019 report, Unlocking Potential: A State Policy Roadmap for Equity and Quality in College in High School Programs.

"We know that when students earn high-value credentials or certifications, made possible by earning dual credit while in high school, they are

more likely to achieve success in their next steps, whether that's enrollment, employment or enlistment," said Indiana Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner. "It is imperative that we expand access and intentional completion of dual credit to ensure doors are open for all students. This will take collaboration on the state and local level, as we work together to scale programs like the successful Rural Early College Network and the newly launched Urban College Acceleration Network."

Three Key Policy Levers Emerged from this Research

Within Reach provides three cross-cutting policy levers to advance state and local dual enrollment policy in equitable ways:

Reconvening the Indiana Dual Credit Advisory Council: A reconvened council could consider funding models to ensure program integrity and assess viable alternatives to the current dual credit funding model.

Developing a statewide equity goal for dual credit participation: A statewide equity goal would be a critical tool in identifying and addressing equity gaps in dual credit access and participation.

Scaling the Indiana College Core in high school: The Indiana College Core establishes 30 college credit hours guaranteed to transfer to public institutions statewide. Awareness of the program is growing with key audiences, but many are still not aware

of the opportunities and advantages of the Indiana College Core.

"Over the last decade, Indiana has seen significant growth in the number and percentage of under-represented students taking dual credit – through AP, dual credit and dual enrollment. However, equity gaps persist in access and completion," said Indiana Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer Ken Sauer. "The recommendations from this report will allow our state to build upon its progress of intentional and high-quality dual credit for all Hoosiers."

Additional recommendations from each Unlocking Potential policy category:

Provide and utilize more detailed student participation and outcomes data

Enhance and broadly communicate the TransferIN website

Enhance communication to legislators on the value and benefit of dual credit courses

Develop and disseminate tools for local secondary and postsecondary partners to identify and address root causes contributing to inequities in course availability, participation and success

Create a menu of additional state and local up-credentialing strategies

Explore efforts to extend counseling capacity beyond high school counselors

"Indiana is a national leader in the number of high school students completing college credits, but

disparities remain when it comes to who earns dual credit," said Jennifer Zinth, a national dual credit policy expert who authored the report. "This report is an important step for secondary and post-secondary stakeholders to better understand these equity gaps and explore policy recommendations to improve equitable dual credit access and participation."

The report was funded by the Joyce Foundation, a nonpartisan, private foundation that invests in evidence-informed public policies and strategies to advance racial equity and economic mobility for the next generation in the Great Lakes region. This includes policies to expand high-quality college in high school options for students, especially students of color and those from marginalized communities.

About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

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

Lt. Gov. Crouch, IHEDA Celebrate National Homeownership Month

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHEDA) celebrate June as National Homeownership Month which highlights the many benefits of homeownership to individuals and communities.

The Orange County Economic Development Partnership (OCEDP) and the French Lick Resort have started a long-term project to create workforce housing in Orange County for Hoosiers to achieve the dream of owning a home. This week, Lt. Governor Crouch and IHEDA toured one of the homes in French Lick which was closed on and the new homeowner moved in this past May. The homeowner never thought the dream of homeownership was possible but thanks to organizations like OCEDP, homeownership is possible for all Hoosiers.

"Owning a home has long been central to achieving the American dream," said Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch. "I am so thankful and appreciative of the work being done to keep homeownership attainable and sustainable for Hoosiers. We are excited to celebrate Homeownership Month with the Orange County Economic Development Partnership and look forward to seeing their community grow."

IHEDA promotes responsible homeownership through programs that assist Hoosiers with obtaining low-interest, fixed-rate loans through the help of down-payment assistance. They offer programs for first-time and repeat homebuyers that can help cover the closing costs and down-payment on the purchase of a home. IHEDA also offers funds to non-profits to develop single family homes for

Hoosier homebuyers. The programs can be utilized in all 92 counties and are administered with the help of their participating lenders. For more information about these homeownership programs offered through IHEDA and how to utilize them, visit www.in.gov/ihcda.

"We celebrate homeownership because it's such an important milestone for an individual or a family to achieve," said Kristal Painter, Executive Director of the Orange County economic Development Partnership. "We're excited that we get to partner with such an amazing organization as French Lick Resort by helping to make the dream of home ownership a reality through the Orange County Workforce Housing Development that is currently under construction in West Baden Springs. The goal is to build 75 homes in West Baden Springs and an additional 25 in French Lick, for a total of 100 homes, which is 100 opportunities for families to continue this celebration for years to come!"

"We are at an unprecedented time and wanted to take a step back and look at our workforce," said Dylan Duncan, Vice President of Cook Group. "What are the biggest obstacles to recruitment? For us, affordable housing kept coming up time and time again. There had not been a new development here since the 1960s, apartments were scarce, and the local housing market was challenging. Then we secured some farmland and started meeting with housing developers. We were unable to secure a developer, so we decided to take on the construction of the houses ourselves. We have four completed and another 90+ planned."

Purdue, Duke Energy Advance Nuclear Power Exploration

Purdue University and Duke Energy announced plans for a lecture series to help the public learn more about advances being made in nuclear energy and small modular reactors.

The lecture series was announced at the first meeting of an executive advisory committee steering the joint exploration between Purdue and Duke Energy into the feasibility of using advanced nuclear energy to meet the long-term energy needs of the West Lafayette campus.

The committee, which gathered for the first time Thursday (June 23), will meet frequently over the course of the study to provide guidance and recommendations to Purdue and Duke Energy on three key fronts: safety, regulatory processes and research.

"I could not be more excited about both the quality of this stellar assemblage of scientific and technical talent and the plan for an open, comprehensive study process that helps further public understanding as it furthers our aim," Purdue President Mitch Daniels said.

The executive advisory

committee consists of the following expert leaders from the public and private sectors:

- Mung Chiang, committee chair, Purdue executive vice president for strategic initiatives and the John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering.
 - Arden Bement, Purdue's David A. Ross Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Nuclear Engineering.
 - William Dudley Jr., Bechtel Group vice chairman and former CEO.
 - Carlos Hernandez, former CEO, Fluor Corp.
 - Maria Korsnick, Nuclear Energy Institute president and CEO.
 - Theresa Mayer, Purdue executive vice president for research and partnerships.
 - Stan Pinegar, Duke Energy state president, Indiana.
 - Luis Reyes, former executive, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- Bement has agreed to be the first speaker in the Purdue-led monthly lecture series, which will focus on nuclear technologies, sustainability, safety, economics, regulation and other topics. Lectures will take place

monthly beginning in the fall semester in a hybrid format for both in-person and virtual participation. More information will be made available soon on dates, speakers and topics.

"We are extremely grateful to Dr. Bement for offering his expertise on our executive advisory committee and his voice as the first distinguished speaker in our Small Modular Reactor study lectures," said Chiang, who is president-elect of Purdue. "As part of our study with Duke Energy, we are eager to provide a platform for education, engagement and dialogue among the public as well as our faculty, staff and students."

Purdue and Duke Energy have spent the past few weeks developing the groundwork and structure of the study and presented information to the executive advisory committee at its first meeting.

"Purdue is home to one of the nation's premier engineering programs, and Duke Energy operates the largest regulated nuclear fleet in the nation. We look forward to pulling together our collective expertise to evaluate

advanced nuclear technology possibilities for both Purdue's campus as well as the state of Indiana," Pinegar said.

Three principals in charge have been appointed to ensure the successful execution of the study: Michael B. Cline, senior vice president of administrative operations at Purdue; Seungjin Kim, the Capt. James F. McCarthy Jr. and Cheryl E. McCarthy Head and Professor of Nuclear Engineering at Purdue; and Chris Nolan, vice president of new nuclear generation at Duke Energy. The principals in charge will be supported by a utility technical group — consisting of operational leaders from Purdue and Duke Energy — and a nuclear technical advisory group — consisting of technical specialists in nuclear energy from Purdue and the private sector. Other subject matter experts in decarbonization and renewable energy will be consulted as needed throughout the course of the study.

"Through this study, we will be considering how nuclear technologies could potentially meet our campus energy needs in the future," Cline said.

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