

➤ TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



➤ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Jeff Monks smile? "It always makes me smile to put on a fireworks show for the family and neighbors on the 4th of July," said the Noblesville resident. "Since I was a very young Boy Scout, I always loved the 4th of July" Monks was born in Hammond and his family moved when he was 2 to Lansing, Ill., where there were "very small (fireworks) displays." He said, "We actually had to purchase our fireworks in Munster because Illinois did not allow them." After graduating from high school in South Holland, Ill., in 1982, he was married in 1987 and moved to Noblesville, which "proved to offer great schools, opportunities, neighbors and friends." He raised four kids here, Porshia Horine, Blaize Monks, Dane Monks, and Jayse Monks, now ages 33-28. He owns The Equipcon Group, which provides customized nondestructive testing systems to auto, rail, aerospace and other industries. He opened Noblesville Radio in downtown Noblesville, above Matteo's Ristorante Italiano on Ninth Street, where he broadcast more than 1,000 live youth and high school sporting events, City Hall radio with the mayors, auto and go-kart racing and Kidz Radio with 52 kids "learning to speak better, plan their own shows and break out of their shells," he said. Monks was a Noblesville Main Street board member and emcee at the street dance, as well. He coached Noblesville Youth Baseball and Babe Ruth for many years and is a member of Noblesville Elks Lodge. Hobbies are his granddaughters, Remi Belle, his kids, and garden, and, of course, his fireworks. Monks has been putting on a growing fireworks show for his family and friends every year, and now the whole neighborhood at Hazel Dell Woods seems to have gotten used to it, with baseball games, barbecues, lawn chairs and friends and neighbors celebrating together. He usually buys his fireworks from DaBomb Fireworks owned by Theresa Dickerson (pictured with Monks), a friend he met through Uber. Being that she couldn't secure her regular location this year, Monks found her a location to sell fireworks at 2340 Conner St., and they went in as business partners "to keep the fireworks store and fireworks display alive." This year, he's helping Theresa design fireworks shows, including the choreography of custom displays, just as he does his own.

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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The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Noblesville's Mark Jones, as Uncle Sam on roller skates, skates along behind Hamilton County Emergency Management vehicle, during a previous Noblesville Fourth of July Parade. This year, the parade, presented by Gaylor Electric, steps off at 4:30 p.m. Monday and travels through downtown Noblesville.

4th of July, Fireworks, Movies, Music & More



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

It's Independence Day weekend and there are lots of things to do.

Cicero's Lights Over Morse Lake Festival kicks off today, Conner Prairie celebrates all

weekend during a Glorious Fourth and Symphony on the Prairie, CarmelFest is Sunday and Monday with fireworks both nights, and Noblesville Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks are Monday.

Also, if you haven't been out to Forest Park Aquatic Center, Friday nights are now more fun thanks to a giant, new video board that shows family movies. The Flix and Float movie nights are each Friday at 8 p.m., featuring "Jumanji," tonight. Toy Factory is the band tonight at Cool Creek Park, "Groundhog Day" is tonight's final flick at Jim Wafford's Hamilton County TV outdoor summer movie series and The Belfry Theatre's "Drinking Habits" play continues through this weekend at Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville. Here, we offer our Times

readers 20 things to do this weekend and beyond:

1. Enjoy a Star-Spangled Symphony at Conner Prairie Friday through Monday featuring the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra conducted by Alfred Savia and vocalist Doug LaBrecque.
2. The 2022 Lights Over Morse Lake Festival kicks off today and continues through Monday in Cicero in celebration of the July 4 holiday weekend. Linda Lee, then The Bishops, will perform beginning at 7 p.m. today, with an outdoor movie at 9 p.m. at Cicero Christian Church. On Saturday, it's Kids Day at the Park, there is a Miss Celebrations USA Lights over Morse Lake Pageant

➤ See BETSY Page A7

Central Indiana Regional Development Authority Officials Meet to Begin Work on Local Projects

Elected officials from several Central Indiana municipalities gathered for the first official meeting of the Central Indiana Regional Development Authority (CIRDA). CIRDA's current members include the City of Beech Grove; City of Carmel; City of Fishers; Consolidated City of Indianapolis; City of

Lawrence; Town of McCordsville; City of Noblesville; Town of Speedway; and the Town of Zionsville. The fiscal body of each participating member has adopted enabling legislation necessary to join CIRDA.

"As we finally codify a true

➤ See PROJECTS Page A7

Cicero McDonald's Delivers to Boaters on Morse Lake

Boaters on Morse Lake in Cicero won't have to leave the water to enjoy a mouthwatering meal thanks to their local McDonald's which is now offering boatside delivery. The Cicero McDonald's restaurant

is believed to be the first in Indiana to offer this digitally streamlined service which means if a boater is craving a Crispy Chicken Sandwich and a Frozen

➤ See DELIVERS Page A7



Photo courtesy of the Sheridan Historical Society

Sheridan Historical Society member Donna Jessup stands next to the historic Sheridan postcard display she put together.

July First Friday at the Museum

Sheridan Main Street First Friday for July is upon us, and the Sheridan Historical Society has unique events ready for those who want to stop by to look. Just inside the door is a post card display put together by Society member Donna Jessup. The display is remarkably interesting if you want to see what our community looked like in years past.

Also available will be a demonstration of loom weaving

by Dort and Pokie Pickett. The Society originally purchased the loom from the Pickett's; they periodically come by and teach us a thing or two about the weaving craft. If you are interested in seeing how a loom works, please stop in during our First Friday open hours.

And while you are here to see what weaving is about, take a few moments to visit the Larry

➤ See MUSEUM Page A7

➤ INSIDE TODAY

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➤ OBITUARIES

Pastor David Allen Layman
Rachel Deanne Schwarz

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



➤ HONEST HOOSIER

Seems to me that a holiday reminding all of us why the U.S. is the greatest country in the world couldn't come at a better time.



➤ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Just like drinking and driving, drinking and boating don't mix. 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

"National pride is to countries what self-respect is to individuals: A necessary condition for self-improvement." - Richard Rorty

➤ TODAY'S JOKE

Some people enjoy a day off on the 4th of July. But not fire. Fire works!

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

90 WETTER WITH LOW HUMIDITY THU	70/91 JULY 4TH WEATHER STORES FRI	69/85 JULY 5TH WEATHER STORES SAT	67/87 ISOLATED STORMS SUN	58/90 HEAVY WINDS, ISOLATED STORMS MON	71/86 HEAVY WINDS, ISOLATED STORMS TUE	70/89 HEAVY WINDS, ISOLATED STORMS WED
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OBITUARIES

Pastor David Allen Layman

June 2, 1948 - June 26, 2022

Pastor David Allen Layman, 74, of Noblesville, passed away on Sunday, June 26, 2022 at IU Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

He was born on June 2, 1948 to Allen and Roslyn (English) Layman in Richmond, Indiana.

The church was the most central part of the Rev. Layman's life as he was raised as the son of a Presbyterian minister, then became one himself. He married his beautiful wife, Pam Hood, on March 24, 1979. He was a history buff who enjoyed reading. He also loved traveling and enjoying the great outdoors. The Rev. Layman enjoyed watching sports, especially his Indiana Hoosiers. He loved his girls and playing with his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife of 43 years Pamela Sue Layman; two daughters Andrea (Joshua) Griswold and Rachel (Brian) Jackson; five grandchildren Addison, Parker, Carson, Dean and Darcy; brother Jim (Kay) Layman; sister Ann Schwister; brother-in-law Gary (Linda) Hood; and many nieces & nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother-in-law Phil Schwister.

Services are scheduled to be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at First Presbyterian Church, 100 North 10th Street, Richmond, IN 47374. Visitation will follow the service. Private family burial will be at Earlham Cemetery in Richmond.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hope House, PO Box 1828, 275 Grove Road, Richmond, IN 47374 (www.richmondhopehouse.org).

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



Rachel Deanne Schwarz

January 14, 1972 - June 28, 2022

Rachel Deanne Schwarz, 50, of Westfield, passed away on Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born on January 14, 1972 to Steven and Brenda (Handlon) Stalker in Rushville, Indiana.

Mrs. Schwarz was a 1990 graduate of Connersville High School and a 1999 IU graduate. She was a member of National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and Phi Beta Kappa. She was a registered nurse at Fayette Memorial, Onslow, and Community North Hospital over the years. Mrs. Schwarz and her husband Jeremy were married on April 24, 2004. She was a member of the Connersville Nazarene Church and attended Noblesville Pilgrim Holiness Church. She enjoyed reading, camping, going to the beach, and decorating her house, especially for Christmas. Mrs. Schwarz played the piano since the age of 5, playing in school concerts and at church.

Survivors include her husband Jeremy Schwarz; parents Steven and Brenda Stalker; son Derick Schwarz; daughter Breanna Schwarz; two sisters Christa (Walter) Seffrin and Merrie Beth (Phillip) Avery; aunt Linda (Bill) Vandivier; aunts and uncles David (Maxine) Stalker, Frances (Howard) Lee and Eileen (Jim) McVey; seven cousins Robin (Bruce) Pletsch, Angie (Will) Stanley, Karen Lee, Kevin Lee, James Stalker, Debbie (John) Fike, and Charles Stalker; and eight nieces and nephews Jason Avery, Steven Avery, Tim Avery, Luke Avery, Aaron Avery, Tommy Seffrin, Conrad Cox and Jolene Cox.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents Floyd and Mary Stalker and Rev. Paul and Bessie Handlon.

Services are scheduled to be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 2, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road in Noblesville, with Pastor John Forsee officiating. Visitation is scheduled to run from 12 p.m. to the time of service at the funeral home. Burial will be at Summit Lawn Cemetery in Westfield, Indiana.

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



Photo courtesy of Riverview Health

Riverview Health Emergency and Urgent Care - Carmel team with Center of Excellence Award.

Riverview Health Earns 2022 Center of Excellence Award from Intuitive Health

Riverview Health Emergency Room & Urgent Care in Carmel has received the 2022 Center of Excellence Award from Intuitive Health, the national leader of the dual emergency room and urgent care model.

"We are thrilled to be honored with this award and proud of our hard-working team that truly set the bar high when it comes to high-quality care and customer service," said Seth Warren, president and CEO of Riverview Health. "When we opened up our free-standing ER and urgent care locations, our vision was not only to provide patients with a single convenient access point close to home but to also introduce a new way of healthcare that evolved with the medical needs of our community."

The Center of Excellence Award recipients exemplify the best-of-the-best in patient care—significantly exceeding globally recognized benchmarks in customer service, clinical excellence and high-quality care and setting new standards of value-based healthcare. Intuitive Health partnered with Riverview Health in 2018 to open three free-standing emergency and urgent locations in Fishers, Carmel and West Carmel/Zionsville.

"Every day, our team members inspire me; they are our most valued resource. Intuitive Health staff and partners work diligently toward our shared goal of improving the way healthcare is delivered and received," said Thom Herrmann, CEO of Intuitive Health. "Intuitive Health provides one of the most progressive healthcare models in the United

States, and these awards recognize our partners' commitment to improvements in healthcare. Our partner facilities continue to exceed industry standards. These inaugural Center of Excellence award winners are among the very best. We thank them and offer our congratulations."

Riverview Health is comprised of a full-service, 156-bed hospital in Noblesville, a 16-bed hospital in Westfield, as well as three freestanding combined ER and urgent care facilities. Also included are more than 25 primary, immediate and specialty-care facilities in Hamilton County. Riverview Health provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services in more than 35 healthcare specialties and has been frequently recognized for its clinical and service excellence. National achievements include Healthgrades 5-star rating (2020) for total knee replacement and spinal fusion and Newsweek magazine annual rankings as a top acute inpatient rehabilitation unit in the state of Indiana (2021). Riverview Health was also recognized by the Indiana Hospital Association for its infant and maternal health with the INspire



Photo provided

Thom Herrmann (right), CEO of Intuitive Health, awards Seth Warren (left), CEO and president of Riverview Health, and Janelle McClure, Clinical Program Manager of Riverview Health Emergency and Urgent Care - Carmel with Center of Excellence Award.

Hospital of Distinction award two years in a row (2020, 2021). For more information on Riverview Health, visit riverview.org.

Founded in 2008, Intuitive Health pioneered the combined emergency room and urgent care model. Intuitive Health partners with established health systems nationwide to build, operate and launch retail health care facilities that provide urgent care and emergency room services under one roof. Intuitive Health operates in partnership

with leading health systems across the country, including in the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Indiana, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and Washington. Intuitive's patient-centric approach to immediate care has saved payors and patients hundreds of millions in unnecessary emergency care spending. In addition, the Intuitive Health model increases market share for partnered health care systems by expanding their footprint with conveniently lo-

News Briefs

266th Street Closure on Tuesday

Our hopes of no more closures have swiftly dashed. Next Tuesday, 266th Street between Mt. Pleasant Road and Startzman Road will be closed to all thru traffic for the rehabilitation of Bridge No. 72. The estimated project completion date is Friday, December 2, 2022.

Originally scheduled to be closed May through September, the project had been delayed due to utility issues.

Local traffic will continue to have access to their homes, while thru traffic should use the detour route of Mt. Pleasant Road, E. 256th Street and Rulon Road.

Meeting Notice

Hamilton County Commission on Public Records

The Hamilton County Commission on Public Records will meet Thursday, August 18, at 10 a.m. to discuss the PR-1 forms

that were submitted by various agencies requesting destruction of specified records. This meeting will be held in the Hamilton County Clerk's Conference Room, Suite 106, in the Hamilton County Judicial Center, Noblesville, Indiana.

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Custom all brick ranch with full finished basement, 4 BR, 2 BA in beautiful Potters Woods. Great room has gas fireplace and is open to dining area and kitchen, 3-car finished garage. Being sold to settle estate. BLC#21844861

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Picking Through the Draft History of Boilermaker Double-Doubles

Jaden Ivey's selection by the Detroit Pistons in last week's NBA Draft completed a rare double-double for Purdue athletics.



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

Thanks to GoldandBlack.com publisher Alan Karpick, whose trivia question started this thought process, only four times since the NBA came into existence in the late 1940s has Purdue had a first-round pick in both the NBA and NFL drafts during the same year.

George Karlaftis went to the Kansas City Chiefs with the 30th overall selection of the 2022 NFL Draft back in April.

The first time this Boilermaker double-double took place was the hardest to answer of the four occasions for even the most die-hard fan.

Dave Schellhase, the All-American who was the first to score 2,000 points at Purdue, went 10th in the 1966 NBA Draft to the Chicago Bulls. Schellhase was the first draft pick in Bulls history.

Schellhase was an easy guess compared to his NFL first-round counterpart that year. As a defensive tackle, Jerry Shay wasn't exactly a household name compared to future College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Bob Griese. But the Minnesota Vikings liked Shay enough to make him the seventh overall pick in the 1966 NFL Draft.

Shay signed with the Vikings over the then-American Football League's Denver Broncos, who took Shay with the fourth overall pick. Incidentally, Shay's Purdue teammate, tackle Karl Singer, was taken with the AFL's third overall pick by the Boston Patriots.

The mid-to-late 1960s were a golden era for Purdue football and basketball and the school's first Rose Bowl berth and a national

Purdue. The Boston Celtics, via a trade with New Jersey, took Johnson 27th overall but unfortunately for the athletic 6-10 forward he went to a veteran team led by Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce, Ray Allen and Rajon Rondo. Veteran coach Doc Rivers had little use for Johnson or fellow Boilermaker E'Twaun Moore, who was the Celtics' second-round pick.

While Moore was able to stay in the NBA for 10 years. Johnson never played in the NBA again following a 2012 trade to Houston. After the Rockets waived him, Johnson played one season in the D-League before heading to Europe. He is currently playing for BCM Gravelines-Dunkerque in France.

Ivey is Purdue's highest draft pick since Glenn Robinson was taken first overall by Milwaukee in 1994. The only other top five NBA Draft pick in Boilermaker history is Joe Barry Carroll in 1980, when he went first overall to Golden State.

"He's put in the work and deserves this," Purdue coach Matt Painter said of Ivey. "He has a lot of potential to be a star in the NBA and we are excited to watch his journey."

Ivey becomes the second NBA Draft pick to have a mother who was a WNBA selection. Notre Dame coach Niele Ivey was taken by the Indiana Fever in 2001. The first mother-son duo was Pamela McGee in 1997 and JaVale McGee in 2008.

"It's actually an amazing story, to have a mother who has been in the league," Jaden Ivey said. "You don't see too many stories like that, and the bond that we have is special. I thank her for all the things that she's done for me. I know I wouldn't be on this stage, I wouldn't be here, without



Photo courtesy of Purdue Athletics Communications

Jaden Ivey dreamed of someday walking across the stage at the NBA Draft, which became reality when commissioner Adam Silver (left) congratulated the Purdue star following his selection by the Detroit Pistons.

her." Detroit has been a home for members of Jaden Ivey's family. Niele Ivey played for the Detroit Shock in 2005. His father, Javin Hunter, was born in Detroit. Grandfather James Hunter was a cornerback for the Detroit Lions from 1975 to 1982.

While expectations are high for Ivey, two of his Purdue teammates will have to prove themselves after going undrafted.

Trevion Williams, who some mock drafts predicted would be drafted somewhere between 50 and 58, instead signed a free-agent deal with the Boston Celtics.

Sasha Stefanovic will get a chance to show off his 3-point shooting in the NBA Summer League as a member of the San Antonio Spurs.

Williams, arguably the best passing big man in this year's rookie crop, closed his Boilermaker career with 1,410 points, 905 rebounds and 238 assists.

Stefanovic finished his career seventh on Purdue's career 3-pointers made list (226), making

38.8 percent of his attempts.

Noteworthy Thanks to a lack of imagination by ESPN and the Big Ten, which agreed to the ACC/Big Ten Challenge draw, Purdue will once again play Florida State in the annual event.

The Seminoles will host the Boilermakers Nov. 30, marking the fourth time in the past five seasons for this matchup. Purdue also played Florida State in 2018 and last season in the Challenge, as well as a game in the 2019 Emerald Coast Classic.

Purdue won last year's meeting in the Big Ten ACC / Challenge 93-65 in Mackey Arena. The Boilermakers are the most successful Big Ten school in the Challenge with a 12-9 record, aided by winning 10 of the last 13 times.

Ohio State and Duke also will repeat its 2021 matchup, this time in Durham on Nov. 30. Indiana hosts North Carolina the same night.

... Purdue transfer Charlie Jones was selected

a preseason second-team All-American kick returner by the Walter Camp Football Foundation.

The reigning Rodgers-Dwight Big Ten Return Specialist of the Year, Jones ranked second in the nation a year ago with 920 return yards (635 kickoff, 285 punt) for Iowa. Jones hopes to also contribute to a wide receiver corps that is looking to replace All-American David Bell, Jackson Anthrop and likely Milton Wright, an academic question mark.

Jones also caught 21 passes for 323 yards, averaging 15.4 yards per catch last season. His three touchdown catches led the Hawkeyes. ...

With recent commitments from Carmel's Will Heidt and Westfield's Dillon Thieneman, Purdue football is up to 15 high school players in its 2023 class.

Heidt, a 6-3 linebacker, is the second Carmel athlete to commit to Purdue. Safety Winston Berglund was the second commitment to Brohm's 2023 class. They will join two other Carmel alumni, running back Dylan Downing and defensive tackle Cole Brevard, in West Lafayette.

Thieneman, a 6-foot safety, will be the third Thieneman brother to play for Jeff Brohm but the first to begin his career as a scholarship player. Jacob Thieneman went from walkon to a two-year starting safety whose interception clinched a 38-35 victory against Arizona State in the 2017 Foster Farms Bowl. Brennan Thieneman, also a safety, made 11 career starts for the Boilermakers.

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

Grilling the Neighbors about Grilling (with Gas or Charcoal)

The July 4th weekend cookout is just around the corner and we are planning a barbecue with some friends at our house. That was not the original plan, but turns out we were not invited to the cookout around the corner.

"Are you cooking with gas or charcoal this weekend?" asked a buddy of mine. Apparently, people have strong preferences in this area, so I did a little checking. Here is a statistic reported by the people who make propane tanks:

69.3 percent of men vs. 67 percent of women prefer gas grills over charcoal grills.

What could possibly account for this vast taste variance of 2.3 percent between men and women? I have always accepted the statistical difference between the sexes when it came to the love of shoes, the comic genius of The Three Stooges, and professional wrestling. Those disparities were understandable, but the gap in the preference of gas vs. charcoal grills is a mystery.

Scientists at one of the many genome labs should take the time to see if there is, indeed, an actual gene to explain this. They have already found one each for selfishness, social skills, and altruism, but not a single study has been dedicated to the charcoal/gas grills



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

discrepancy. You laugh (I hope), but these are your tax dollars squandered by the government—your money up in smoke, especially if you prefer charcoal.

It's times like this that I lament the death of Einstein. Oh, the hours he wasted with electrons and gravity, time and space. That all seems so trivial now, relatively speaking.

I decided to do some research on my own block to see if the results meshed with the typical American neighborhood. I knocked on the first door. "Hi, Mark, I'm just taking a little survey. Do you prefer a charcoal or a gas grill?"

"Well, that's kind of a touchy question in this house. I prefer gas, but Judy likes coals. I'd rather not go on the record with this. Our kids are still in school and we belong to a very conservative church. Instead, it would be safer to tell you about our sex lives or how much debt we are in

I tried one more house.

"Norman, I just dropped over to find out whether it makes any difference to you whether you fire up your grill with gas or charcoal."

"It mattered a lot to the first Mrs. Collingwood; that's why there's a second Mrs. Collingwood. Things were fine for several years, but then my new wife read something in Prevention magazine and started asking me a lot of health and safety questions about my chosen cooking method. I hate being grilled about grilling, so I decided to purchase my wife a brand new Weber that meets her new barbecuing preference. It was cheaper than a third Mrs. Collingwood.

One final thing: According to most propane manufacturers, 36 percent of grillers don't know they're out of propane gas until they actually are.

Sorry, I don't have a clever ending to this column, but it doesn't really matter. Only 26 percent of my readers know that my last line is supposed to be funny. That's because 74 percent don't get that far.

- Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Times of Noblesville. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com



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8 pm

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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

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Nationally Recognized READI Program Delivers New Park in Fishers

As part of a series of new grants from the Indiana Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI), a new park is under development at the intersection of 96th Street and Allisonville Road. The development includes new public park features and redevelopment of the roadway.

Governor Eric J. Holcomb and Indiana Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers announced on Thursday that quality of place projects and programs are beginning to move forward across the state through READI. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) is on track to designate 40 percent – or \$200 million – of the initiative’s grant funds to projects and programs in 10 regions by the end of July and expects to designate the remaining \$300 million in all 17 regions by the end of the year, accelerating shovel-ready projects and programs that are expected to transform Indiana communities, attract talent and improve the quality of life in the short and long term.

“Innovation knows no boundaries and that there’s no limit to what can be accomplished when we work together to better the lives of Hoosiers,” said Holcomb. “This transformative program is funding projects that lean into a region’s strengths while building community gathering places, inclusive parks for kids, performing arts center and trails that will have generational impact across each region and every person who visits our great state. In Indiana, there is no greater priority for us as leaders than to work together closely to improve Indiana’s standing as the best location to live, work and thrive.”

The IEDC announced funding awards in December, allocating READI’s \$500 million to 17 regions across the state that represent all of Indiana’s 92 counties. Collectively, the state’s investment is expected to yield an additional \$9.86 billion public, private and nonprofit dollars invested (19.72:1 investment leverage ratio) in enhancing Indiana’s regions for current and future generations of Hoosiers.

“Congratulations to all regional leaders who have diligently worked through the READI process. You have reached a tremendous milestone today,” said Sec. Chambers. “Here in Indiana, we are leaning into our communities to continue to grow population and build a workforce to power the economy of tomorrow. This unprecedented initiative sets the national standard for grassroots regional collaboration and development.”

Since announcing READI funding allocations in late 2021, the IEDC has worked closely with each region to develop grant agreements, host community meetings, and organize trainings to facilitate the allocation of grants and progress reporting. Additionally, because these 17 regions initially proposed nearly 800 projects and

programs that exceeded available match funding, the organizations have been and will continue to collaborate to prioritize and select projects and programs most ready and most suited to positively impact the area’s quality of place, innovation, entrepreneurship, talent attraction and workforce development.

In Columbus, Indiana, on Thursday, Gov. Holcomb and Sec. Chambers joined regional leaders from across the state to celebrate progress made to date and mark the start of READI’s implementation. Today, 12 of the 17 regions have finalized grant agreements with the IEDC and will begin moving forward with 53 projects and programs included in their regional development plans, including efforts to increase housing, trails, community amenities, childcare, health and wellness, tourism and workforce development.

A full list of projects can be found below.

White River Regional Opportunity Initiative:

1. 96th & Allisonville White River Park: Enhancing connectivity and usability of parks, green spaces and outdoor amenities in state’s major metro area

- (\$114.8M total project investment; \$4.7M READI allocation)

- The development of the 98-acre White River Park in Fishers is a key component of the central Indiana region’s White River Vision Plan to enhance the river’s health and increase land usage along it, spurring outdoor amenities and community development from downtown Indianapolis to Carmel. The park, located at the northwest corner of 96th Street and Allisonville Road, will be free and open to the public and is expected to include numerous features, such as a treehouse, vehicle-rated bridge, pedestrian boardwalk, hammock grove, ropes course and a paved trail along the river that will increase opportunities for users to connect to Indianapolis’s Town Run Trails Park and to the City of Carmel. Additionally, the region will replace the existing intersection at 96th Street and Allisonville Road with a roundabout, improving traffic flow and reducing car emissions, and the park development is expected to spur nearby commercial development, including a planned \$98 million mixed-use development.

Northwest:

1. Chessie Trail Expansion in LaPorte County: Increasing walkability, connectivity, and bolstering quality of place amenities along the South Shore Line

- (\$14.9M total project investment; \$6.58M READI allocation)

- Phase three of the Chessie Trail Corridor will connect the city of La Porte to Michigan City, adding 12.9 miles of 10-foot-wide, non-motorized trail running along the existing South Shore commuter rail line. When complete, the Chessie Trail will connect and serve residents across



LaPorte County and it will increase accessibility to and around the South Shore Station in Michigan City, helping residents, visitors and commuters alike access the South Shore Line and future developments anticipated due to the double track project that will reduce travel time between Michigan City and Chicago’s Loop to just one hour. Development of phase three is expected to begin in 2024.

North Central:

1. Peru Riverfront Developments: Enhancing urban center use and livability in Miami County

- (\$42.23M total project investment; \$2.75M READI allocation)

- Major infrastructure improvements will be made in Peru, Indiana, to accommodate the significant increase of motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic generated by the new \$16 million YMCA, which opened in February 2022, and a 170-unit multi-family residential development. The investment will be used to widen and realign canal and forest streets, improving traffic flow and enhancing safety for both motorists and pedestrians.

2. Kokomo Hotel and Conference Center: Elevating region’s destination appeal and tourism industry

- (\$50M total project investment; \$5M READI allocation)

- In Howard County, a new, hotel and adjoining conference center will be developed in downtown Kokomo in the city’s tourism district. The Hilton Garden Inn will be a six-story, 123-room hotel with a 22,000-square-foot conference center, which will also be the new home of the Kokomo Automotive Museum, located in the basement of the conference center. Construction is slated to begin in early 2023.

South Central Indiana Talent Region:

1. NexusPark in Columbus: Increasing opportunities for community gathering, physical activity and wellness, and tourism and event hosting

- (\$91.98M total project investment; \$6.9M READI allocation)

- In Bartholomew County, the city of Columbus and Columbus Regional Hospital are breathing new life into the midtown area, transforming a declining mall property into a centralized hub for health, wellness and recreation. The NexusPark campus will house an indoor sports complex, outdoor park and trail space, and wellness-related services,

while the state’s READI investment will facilitate the co-location of the city’s park administration offices and a community space boasting conference and multi-purpose rooms, low-cost fitness areas, child play and watch areas, and a teaching kitchen to serve local residents. Construction will begin next month and is expected to be complete by September 2023.

East Central in Regional Partnership:

1. McKinley-Whitely Live Learn Neighborhood: Revitalizing neighborhood, accelerating community development in Muncie

- (\$40.6 million total project investment; \$2.65M READI allocation)

- The McKinley-Whitely Live Learn Neighborhood initiative is a partnership between the city of Muncie and the YMCA of Muncie to rebuild one of the city’s anchor neighborhoods. With financial support from READI, the project will include: developing a new YMCA facility for community use, acquiring blighted properties and providing home improvement assistance, and completing street and intersection enhancements to accommodate increased car and pedestrian traffic. Streetscape improvements around the new YMCA area are expected to begin in July and be complete by the end of 2024.

2. Grant County Performing Arts Center: Fostering art, culture, student programming and community entertainment across East Central Indiana

- (\$19.3 million total project investment; \$2.75M READI allocation)

- Construction of the

Grant County Performing Arts Center in Gas City, Indiana, will create a new programming and events hub for schools in Grant County and, more broadly, will provide a regional entertainment venue for communities in the region and beyond. The center will have a capacity of more than 1,500 seats, accommodating quality entertainment and arts performances. The project, which was initially slated to begin in 2020 but was delayed due to the pandemic and increased construction costs, will now move forward with support from READI funding; construction is expected to begin this year.

Accelerate Rural Indiana:

1. Greensburg/Decatur County Inclusion Park: Providing safe, inclusive spaces for kids, families and visitors

- (\$349,000 total project investment; \$249,999 READI allocation)

- This inclusion-focused park, which will be in developed in Rebekah Park on the east side of Greensburg, will be a universally designed, sensory-rich environment enabling children of all abilities to interact and play. The park will include equipment made for children of all ages and all abilities, supporting physical, social and emotional development, and it will accommodate adult participation as well, making it a fun, welcoming outing for resident and visitor families alike. With construction slated to begin in this fall, a special focus will be placed on physical accommodations, such as meeting ADA accessibility requirements; engagement of the senses so kids can explore the space; and integration with other Rebekah Park features to support inclusion for all kids utilizing its spaces.

2. Indiana Sports Complex: Advancing health, sports, physical fitness and the tourism industry in Shelbyville

- (\$21M total project investment; \$2.5 READI allocation)

- The proposed athletic facility in Shelbyville’s Blue River Memorial Park will provide a safe, indoor, multi-purpose sports venue that can be utilized for a wide variety of sporting

and community events, including hardcourt and turf sports, sports training, cooking demonstrations, tradeshow, concerts and more year round. The facility, which will be owned by the City of Shelbyville Parks and Recreation Department and operated by a private entity, will improve the region’s tourism economy, which was deeply impacted by the global pandemic. According to a 2021 feasibility study, the Indoor Sports Complex is expected to attract roughly 140,000 annual visitors, 26,000 annual hotel room nights, and \$30 million per year to the regional economy once fully operational.

3. Kids Discovery Factory Expansion in Batesville: Accelerating STEAM exploration, cultivating future innovators in Southeast Indiana

- (\$5M total project investment; \$1M READI allocation)

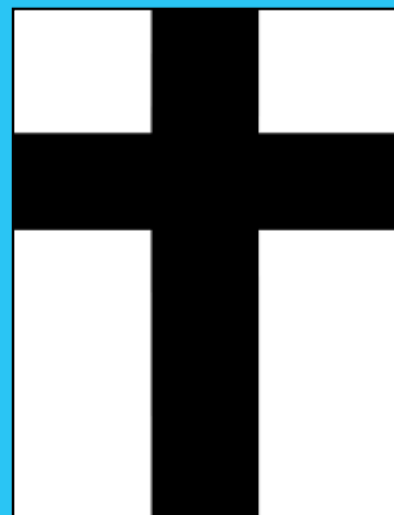
- In Batesville, Kids Discovery Factory (KDF), a non-profit community organization dedicated to advancing science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM), will renovate a 100-year-old, three-story building at 110 Sycamore Street and develop the neighboring vacant lot to create a permanent children’s discovery center and children’s museum. This unique regional tourism and field trip destination will inspire young learners to innovate and create through world-class exhibits, engaging programs, and STEAM learning labs, providing a first-of-its-kind educational opportunity for students in the region. KDF is expected to attract 30,000 visitors annually, supporting students and families in the region and reigniting regional tourism.

Launched by Gov. Holcomb and led by the IEDC, READI builds on the framework and successes of the Indiana Regional Cities Initiative and the 21st Century Talent Initiative, encouraging regional collaboration and data-driven, long-term planning that, when implemented, will attract and retain talent in Indiana. The \$500 million READI fund was passed by legislation during the 2021 session. More information is available at IndianaREADI.com.

Hope everyone has a great and safe summer!

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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

\$4M Available for Recycling and Waste Diversion Projects

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) announced yesterday the availability of \$4 million in funding to implement the Central Indiana Waste Diversion Pilot Project. This funding is available for waste diversion and recycling projects. To be eligible, projects must be located in Marion County.

Pilot project funding is available through IDEM's Recycling Market Development Program. Projects must demonstrate waste diversion from landfills and establish a dedicated Indiana-based market for commercial use of the material. Proposals are accepted through Oct. 1, 2022.

"We are excited to announce the Central Indiana Waste Diversion Pilot Project, which will strengthen the state's recycling infrastructure and help divert waste from ending up in landfills," said IDEM Commissioner Brian Rockensuess. "This funding will also improve supply chains, boost market development, and increase job growth in central Indiana."

Applicants should demonstrate an understanding of the infrastructure, supply chain, and changing economy for recyclers, and seek solutions that most effectively increase waste diversion in central Indiana. Funding considerations include the amount and type of waste diverted from landfills and the potential for productive reuse of the diverted waste, with priority given to pilot projects with the largest amount of waste



diversion potential.

The Recycling Market Development Board will make final funding determinations in spring 2023.

To apply, visit recycle.IN.gov. For additional information about the Recycling Market Development Program, call 800-988-7901.

The Recycling Market Development Program operates under the Recycling Market Development Board as established by IC 4-23-5.5. The funding for the program comes from the Recycling Promotion and Assistance Fund, an account generated by a per-ton fee on solid waste disposed at Indiana landfills. The fund supports source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting to prevent solid waste from permanent disposal.

IDEM (idem.IN.gov) implements federal and state regulations regarding the environment. Through compliance assistance, incentive programs and educational outreach, the agency encourages and aids businesses and citizens in protecting Hoosiers and our environment.

Ruling Allowing Minors to Get Abortions Without Parental Notice Tossed

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday threw out a lower court's judgment against an Indiana law requiring parental notification in instances when a court allows a minor to get an abortion without parental consent.

"Following the landmark *Dobbs* decision, we eagerly anticipate clearer paths for Indiana's commonsense laws protecting unborn children and their mothers," Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita said. "We are grateful for the new day that has dawned, and we will remain steadfast in our fight

for life."

This issue — part of *Kristina Box, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Health, et al., v. Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky Inc.* — now has been remanded back to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for reconsideration following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision last week in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

Rokita and his team already have sought relief from the injunction directly from the U.S. district court, which has expedited briefing at our request.

Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

AG Rokita Invites Hoosiers to Visit IndianaUnclaimed.Gov to See What Sparks Their Wallet on This 4th of July

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita invites Hoosiers to visit IndianaUnclaimed.gov today in honor of Independence Day to discover any unclaimed money that could light up their holiday weekend.

"I'm inviting all Hoosiers to take a moment during this holiday weekend to search for unclaimed property and money. Amidst fireworks and cookouts, it's a great time for Hoosiers to recover what is rightfully theirs," Rokita said.

In 2021, Rokita's office returned over \$48 million in unclaimed property to its rightful owners. This year alone, the Office has returned over \$26 million. Recovering unclaimed

property is safe, secure, and simple. Search for your name at the IndianaUnclaimed.gov database — which, by the way, includes some Hoosiers who have some pretty patriotic names such as Red, White, Blue, Stars and Stripes.

Indiana is the only state where the Attorney General oversees unclaimed property, and Rokita recommends Hoosiers follow these tips to keep track of their assets:

- Keep a record of all bank accounts.
- Indicate your interest in and awareness of all accounts by contacting the holder at least once every three years.
- Record all stock certifi-



Attorney General Todd Rokita

icates and be sure to cash all dividends received.

- Record all utility deposits, including telephone, cable, and electricity deposits.
- Cash all checks promptly no matter how small.
- Update your address with all businesses when

you move.

- Talk to loved ones about any safe deposit boxes you own.

Once unclaimed property is in its custody, the Unclaimed Property Division at Attorney General Rokita's office conducts outreach efforts to locate the rightful owners or heirs.

Individuals and/or businesses have 25 years to claim money once it is reported to the Unclaimed Property Division.

Over \$700 million remains to be claimed, so find what you may be missing at IndianaUnclaimed.gov or text CLAIM to 46220 to search your name, family, or business.

Senators Braun, Young Join Colleagues in Letter Calling for Action From Biden Administration on TikTok Security Concerns

Senator Mike Braun joined Senators Todd Young (R-Indiana), Tom Cotton (R-Arkansas), Ben Sasse (R-Nebraska), Marco Rubio (R-Florida) and Roger Wicker (R-Mississippi) in a letter to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen seeking answers about actions the Biden administration is taking to combat the national security risks associated with TikTok, a social media platform developed and owned by Chinese company ByteDance Ltd.

In part, the senators wrote, "The Biden Administration has seemingly done nothing to enforce the August 14 order nearly



Senator Mike Braun

two years since its promulgation. The results of the security reviews, likewise, have not been publicly released after one year. Instead, news reports indicate TikTok is nearing a deal with a U.S. compa-



Senator Todd Young

ny to 'store its U.S. users' information without its Chinese parent ByteDance having access to it, hoping to address U.S. regulatory concerns."

"The proposed TikTok deal would do little to

address the core security concerns that motivated the August 14 order. That order was not simply concerned about data, but about a Chinese company's ownership of a social media platform in America. If the Biden Administration focuses solely on data storage and integrity to the exclusion of the critical issue of ByteDance's ownership, control, and influence of TikTok, serious security risks will remain and the August 14 order will go unenforced," the senators continued.

Text of the letter may be found online at <https://www.cotton.senate.gov/download/tiktok-letter>.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Noblesville Plan Commission
Noblesville, Indiana

The Noblesville Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Application No. LEGP 0108-2022 and Application No. LEGP 0124-2022 on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Building, 16 South 10th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060. Application No. 0108-2022 submitted by the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville is for an amendment to the adopted "Program of Signs" to permit donor recognition ground signs located at 1700 Conner Street and Application No. 0124-2022 submitted by the Noblesville Schools is for the adoption of a "Program of Signs" for all signage to be located at all schools, administration building, and other school owned/used locations throughout the City of Noblesville, all within the zoning jurisdiction of the City of Noblesville, Hamilton County, Indiana.

Written suggestions or objections relative to the applications above may be filed with the Department of Planning and Development, at or before such meeting and will be heard by the Noblesville Plan Commission. Interested persons desiring to present their views, either in writing or verbally, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place. These hearings may be continued from time to time as found necessary by the Plan Commission.

Copies of the proposals are on file in the Department of Planning and Development located at 16 S. 10th Street for examination before the meeting during business hours between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday - Friday. A copy of the proposal will appear on the web page at www.cityofnoblesville.org, agendas, Plan Commission - July 18, 2022 prior to the meeting date.

NOBLESVILLE PLAN COMMISSION
Caleb P. Gutshall, Secretary

TL19227 7/1 1t hspaxlp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Noblesville Plan Commission
Noblesville, Indiana

The Noblesville Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Applications LEGP No. 0110-2022 and LEGP No. 0111-2022 on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Building, 16 South 10th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060. The application submitted by Secure Holdings, LLC (Owners/Applicants) is for a Change of zoning from "R1" Single-Family Residential to "R5" Multi-Family Residential and "PB" Planned Business and the adoption of a Preliminary Development Plan for the construction of approximately 249 residential units (townhomes and flats) on approximately 21 acres and 12.5 acres of commercial uses including any waivers from the underlying zoning district standards and containing approximately 34 acres in Noblesville Township to be known as "Midland Pointe Planned Development", all within the zoning jurisdiction of the City of Noblesville, Hamilton County, Indiana.

Written suggestions or objections relative to the applications above may be filed with the Department of Planning and Development, at or before such meeting and will be heard by the Noblesville Plan Commission. Interested persons desiring to present their views, either in writing or verbally, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place. These hearings may be continued from time to time as found necessary by the Plan Commission.

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NOBLESVILLE PLAN COMMISSION
Caleb P. Gutshall, Secretary

TL19228 7/1 1t hspaxlp

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners have rescheduled the July 29, 2022 highway meeting. They will meet on Friday, July 8, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the Hamilton County Highway Department 1700 S. 10th Street, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the meeting is for discussion of highway projects and other county business.

/s/ Robin M. Mills
Hamilton County Auditor

TL19229 7/1 1t hspaxlp

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners will meet on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 1A in the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the meeting is to receive and discuss the results of a water study.

/s/ Robin M. Mills
Hamilton County Auditor

TL19230 7/1 1t hspaxlp

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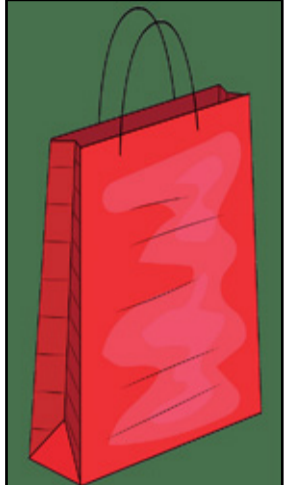
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Ruling Allowing Minors to Get Abortions Without Parental Notice Tossed

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday threw out a lower court's judgment against an Indiana law requiring parental notification in instances when a court allows a minor to get an abortion without parental consent.

"Following the landmark *Dobbs* decision, we eagerly anticipate clearer paths for Indiana's commonsense laws protecting unborn children and their mothers," Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita said. "We are grateful for the new day that has dawned, and we will remain steadfast in our fight

for life."

This issue — part of *Kristina Box, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Health, et al., v. Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky Inc.* — now has been remanded back to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for reconsideration following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision last week in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

Rokita and his team already have sought relief from the injunction directly from the U.S. district court, which has expedited briefing at our request.

PROJECTS From Page A1



Mayor Chris Jensen



Mayor Scott Fadness

regional collaborative spirit, our residents and future generations will benefit from the work we put in today," said Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness. "These efforts will strengthen Central Indiana's position as a leader in business growth and placemaking."

The elected mayor of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis will hold an ex-officio position on the executive board, with Mayor Joe Hogsett receiving the current appointment. Members elected the following officers: Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness as Chairperson; Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen as Vice-Chairperson; and Zionsville Mayor Emily Styron as Secretary-Treasurer.

Addressing the region's award from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's (IEDC) Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) grant was CIRDA's first order of business. The group confirmed the grant's administrator and formally adopted the funding from the State's grant program for the White River Regional Opportunity Initiative. Information on the READI projects can be found here.

"We're ready to roll up our sleeves and work together to bring more funding opportunities, like the IEDC's READI grant, to Central Indiana to continue to drive the momentum we see today," said Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen.

Indiana State Code authorizes eligible political subdivisions located in

the Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson Metropolitan Statistical Area to form a Regional Development Authority (RDA) to better coordinate and participate in the following: Assist in the coordination of local efforts concerning projects that are of regional importance; assist a county, a municipality, a commuter transportation district, an airport authority, and a regional transportation authority in coordinating regional transportation and economic development efforts; and fund projects that are of regional importance.

"We've been fortunate to have strong leadership in our business and nonprofit sectors who have helped shape the region we call home today," said Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett. "As elected leaders, we are coming together to not just deepen our collaboration but leverage our collective assets to create an even better Central Indiana."

Future meetings will begin to address a Comprehensive Strategic Economic Development Plan, a requirement of Regional Development Authorities. CIRDA has committed to adopting a Plan by December 2022.

The Central Indiana Regional Development Authority (CIRDA) represents eligible political subdivisions located in the Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson Metropolitan Statistical Area. CIRDA exists to facilitate and develop a clear vision for the metropolitan area while advocating and pursuing resources to achieve it.

DELIVERS From Page A1

Coca-Cola Classic Slushie, or if the kids need a Happy Meal, their meal is just a few minutes away — and they won't have to leave their boat to get it.

The Cicero McDonald's has partnered with DoorDash to make this process as simple as possible. Drop-offs will be made at the Red Bridge Marina. From the middle of the lake, a customer can place an order via the DoorDash app, set their pickup location to 697 W Jackson St. and select the "hand to me" delivery option. By the time the boat arrives at the marina, the delivery driver will be waiting for them at the end of the pier with their meal.

"This is really about taking customer service to the next level," says Cicero McDonald's owner Blake Kosanovich. "Who wants to end a day on the lake early to run out for lunch? We want to reach our customers anywhere and anyway possible. We couldn't be more excited to offer this service to the residents and visitors of Cicero."

The town of Cicero sur-



rounds the upper portion of Morse Reservoir. The man-made lake covers 1,500 acres with a shoreline of over 32 miles and plays host to water and boat enthusiasts throughout the summer.

"We know that Morse Lake is what brings this town together," added Kosanovich. "We're honored to serve the people who call Cicero home and the thousands of visitors who enjoy Morse Lake every summer."

Customers can download the DoorDash app online or through their App Store on their mobile phone. When they're off the lake, customers can still enjoy all of McDonald's iconic menu items via carry-out, Drive Thru, the McDonald's app or McDelivery.

MUSEUM From Page A1

Hobbs Basketball Era exhibit. John Holmes was one of Coach Hobbs' boys back in the 1950's and he will be the acting docent for the basketball display. John is full of information about the exhibit and will be glad to answer your questions.

So, we are planning a busy, educational, fun filled First Friday evening at the Museum at 315 South Main Street from 5 pm to 9 pm. They

have postcards, weaving and basketball, as well as Bud Wright football stuff, Civil War stuff and loads of pictures. A little of everything. You can join the historical society on Friday evening and enjoy our beautiful exterior Fourth of July decorations. They will be open on Monday, too, from 10 a.m. for the parade so bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the view from beneath their marquee.

BETSY From Page A1



Photo courtesy of Friends of Central Pool

Come out to Forest Park Aquatic Center in Noblesville and enjoy movies this summer on the new video board during the Flix and Float movie nights each Friday at 8 p.m., featuring "Jumanji," tonight, sponsored by Ruoff Music Center.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

A free trolley shuttle will take riders to Noblesville July 4 Fireworks Festival, presented by IDI Composites International, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Forest Park, with entertainment at 7:30 p.m., food trucks, kids activities, fireworks at 10 p.m.

at 9 a.m. at Cicero Christian Church; a youth 3-on-3 basketball tournament at 9 a.m. at the park; Princess/Superheroes and Face Painting, 10 a.m. to noon at the library pavilion; American Legion Military Celebration Lunch 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Red Bridge Park; Music in the Park noon to 6 p.m.; Cruise-In Car Show 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Community Park; Scavenger Hunt, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Cicero Christian Church; Caboose Rides 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; United Family Wesleyan Church Fish Fry 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Wesleyan Church on Washington Street; Cicero Friends of the Park Bingo 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Community Park. On Sunday, Husky Futures' Nelson's BBQ port a pit chicken fundraiser 11 am. to 2 p.m.; Cornhole Tournament, noon at Community Park; Golf Cart Poker Run, 2 p.m. at Cicero Christian Church shelter; Music in the Park noon to 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Community Park; Hamilton County Band, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Community Park; Rain Barrel Silent Auction ends at 4 p.m.; hot air balloon tethered rides, 7:30 p.m. to sunset and The Big 80s Band 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the library pavilion. On Monday, Selah's Grace 5K Run/Walk begins at 7:30 a.m. at the parks office; golf-cart decorating contest at 10 a.m. at the library pavilion; parade at 11 a.m., lineup at 10 a.m. in three different areas; Music in the Park, noon to 6 p.m. in Community Park; United Family Wesleyan Church Fire Fair, 4 to 8 p.m.; with Fireworks at 10 p.m. at the Jackson Street Bridge. A carnival, Prancing Ponies and farm animal petting zoo, Cicero Christian Church hospitality tent, Barnyard Party Pals, Hamster Ball Fun and food and craft vendor booths are offered daily. The carnival is open from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. today, noon to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and noon to 9:30 p.m. Monday at Community Park. Save \$2 on wristband with electronic coupon on website, Friday-Sunday. Visit www.lightsovermorselake.org.

3. Join Hamilton County Parks & Recreation on the lawn at Cool Creek Park for the Cool Creek Concert Series, at 7 p.m. select Fridays, with \$5 admission, free to ages 12 and younger. Concert schedule: tonight, Toy Factory; July 15, The Nauti Yachtys featuring Josh Kaufman; July 22, Stella Luna and The Satellites; Aug. 5, 45RPM

4. Come out to Forest Park Aquatic Center in Noblesville and enjoy movies this summer on the new video board during the Flix and Float movie nights each Friday at 8 p.m., featuring "Jumanji," sponsored by Ruoff Music Center, tonight; "The Water Horse," sponsored by Church, Church Hittle & Antrim, on July 16; "Encanto," sponsored by Buddenbaum & Moore, July 22; "The Shallows," Rated PG-13, sponsored by Holt Legal Group, on July 30; "Goonies," sponsored by Sign Craft, on Aug. 13; "Dog," sponsored by Lew's Plumbing, on Aug. 20; and "Top Gun," sponsored by Troy and Alicia Tricker, on Sept. 30. Admission is \$5 per person but included with pool membership. Visit <https://www.forest-parkpool.org/>

5. Jim Wafford's Hamilton County TV presents the 11th annual free summer movie series at 9:15 p.m. today, the final night for movies in your car at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville. Lawn chairs, blankets and picnicking are invited. Tonight's movie: "Groundhog Day" rated PG.

6. The Belfry Theatre presents "Drinking Habits," a comedy by Tom Smith, through July 3 at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville, with Nancy Lafferty directing, with reservations at thebelfrytheatre.org or at 317-773-1085, or tickets at the door.

7. Noblesville Farmers Market is open for the season 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays at Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville. Parking is offered at nearby parking lots and at the park's Green Room parking lot, which will be restricted to vendor spaces and handicapped parking only during the weekly market.

8. Nickel Plate Express' Little Red Caboose is on the move again, and can be found in Cicero for Lights Over Morse Lake Festival 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, boarding just behind the ballfields, all kids ride free; and Monday rides 6:30-9 p.m. boarding at Hobbs Station in Forest park during Noblesville Fourth of July Fireworks Festival.

9. Carousel Corner is open at Forest Park in Noblesville from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through July 31, then weekends Aug. 6-Oct. 23, with \$2 carousel rides and \$3 mini golf.

10. Central Indiana Vintage Vehicles invites car buffs to show off their vintage vehicles on the Courthouse Square during the weekly Saturday night



Photo courtesy of Andrea Odle

Audiences will enjoy the antics of Father Chenille (Chris Taylor, standing left) and the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing (Cathie Morgan, Jennifer Poynter (sitting left) and Barb Weaver) who invite the community to attend The Belfry Theatre's "Drinking Habits," a comedy by Tom Smith, onstage through July 3 at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville, with Nancy Lafferty directing, with reservations at thebelfrytheatre.org.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Noblesville July 4 Fireworks Festival ends each year with fireworks at 10 p.m. at Forest Park.

Cruise-in. Lawn chairs and old-car conversations invited.

11. Carmelfest is Sunday and Monday at Carter Green near The Center for Performing Arts and Carmel City Hall. On Sunday, Naughty Yachtyss band perform at noon, Phone Club at 2 p.m., The Beatless at 3:45 p.m., Myron Elkin and the Dying Breed at 5:45 p.m., Fat Pockets at 7:30 p.m. at Carter Green; Carmelfest Has Talent at noon, Gordon Bonham & Gene Deer at 2:30 p.m., Tay Bronson & The Tackle Box at 4 p.m., The John Boyle Trio at 5:30 p.m., Indiana Wind Symphony at 8 p.m., with Carmelfest fireworks from Badger Field and West Park at 9:45 p.m. On Monday, the Allied Solutions Carmelfest parade steps off at 10:30 a.m.; My Yellow Rickshaw at noon, Benito DiBartoli & Hired Gun at 2 p.m., The Cosmic Situation at 4:30 p.m., Warrior Kings at 6 p.m. and Audiodacity at 8 p.m. at Carter Green; School of Rock Carmel & Fishers at noon, Carmel Music Academy at 2 p.m., Marriale Sellers Band at 3 p.m., Touch of Grass at 5 p.m., Carmel Symphony Orchestra at 8 p.m. at the Gazebo; and Carmelfest Fireworks at 9:45 p.m., with KidsZone with petting zoo open both days in City Hall parking lot. The Carmelfest Freedom Run is 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday at Carmel High School. Visit www.carmelfest.net

12. Conner Prairie offers a Glorious Fourth Activities Saturday through Monday at the Fishers living history museum, including Lenape Indian Camp social dances and music celebration at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Visit www.connerprairie.org

13. Noblesville Fourth of July Parade, presented by Gaylor Electric, steps off at 4:30 p.m. Monday at Ivy Tech Hamilton County Campus and travels south on 16th Street, west on Logan Street, north on Ninth Street and east on Monument St. Noblesville July 4 Fireworks Festival, presented by IDI Composites International, is 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Forest Park, with Hair-bangers Ball to perform 7:30-9:30 p.m., with kids activities, food trucks, plus fireworks at 10 p.m. Free trolley service. Indiana 19 will be closed from Field Drive to Logan Street after 5:30 p.m.

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

16. Hamilton County Parks offers Wednesday night free Cool Creek Campfires at Cool Creek Park, at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, through July 27. Special programs each week: All-American Animals, July 6; Baby! It's Wild Outside, July 13; Hoosier Owls, July 20; Really Dangerous Animals, July 14. Bring your favorite vinyl to play on a provided turntable at 5:30 p.m. on Turntable Thursdays at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

17. Noblesville Parks' Summer Concert Series continues Thursdays at Dillon Park in Noblesville. Here's the schedule: July 7, Roughhouse Indy; July 14, Toy Factory; and July 21, Dave & Rae.

18. Concerts at the Commons are 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on select Saturdays through September at Federal Hill Commons. Concert schedule: July 9, 16 Candles ('80s variety) and Roughhouse; July 23, Britbeat (Beatles tribute) and Rhino Down; Aug. 13, Motor City Revue (Motown Tribute) and BBI; Aug. 27, Nightrain (Guns & Roses tribute) and The Cosmic Situation; Sept. 9, The Eagles Project (Eagles Tribute) and The Toons; Sept. 24, Trippin Billies (Dave Matthews Tribute) and Sam King.

19. Legacy Keepers Music's free String-Time on the Square series, the third Saturday through September, featuring bluegrass music at 6:30 p.m. on the Hamilton County Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville. Upcoming: July 16, Cornfields & Crossroads Bluegrass Band, opener Jean Roberts & Leslie Selden; Aug. 20, Rock Bottom Boys of Madison County, opener Addie McMillan; and Sept 17, Stones Crossing Family Band, opener Alec Bohuk & Eric Reel.

20. Save the date: Noblesville Main Street's Noblesville Street Dance has changed its date to Aug. 6, from the previously posted July 23 event, on the Courthouse Square.

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

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FRIDAY Business Notes and NEWS DAY

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Hoosier Net Welcomes New Member Accord

Hoosier Net, LLC, a consortium of internet service providers, announces today that it has received investment from Accord Telecommunications Collaborative, LLC, a group composed of 21 Rural Electric Membership Cooperatives (REMCs) and telephone cooperatives. This will make Hoosier Net the first statewide network composed of both telephone companies and electric cooperatives. The investment comes at a critical time for Hoosier Net, as federal and state authorities prepare to distribute billions of dollars in broadband grant funds under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

"Closing the digital divide is vital to the future of rural America. Hundreds of electric cooperatives across the nation are working to bring quality broadband service to their members and the communities they serve. We're glad to see Hoosier Net and Indiana's electric cooperatives collaborate to bring high-speed internet service to unserved and underserved families and businesses in Indiana," said Paul M. Breakman, Vice President, Cooperative Business Solutions, Business & Technology Strategies, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Hoosier Net will be able to leverage integrated and complementary assets due to Accord's investment and partnership to achieve statewide scale and facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. "Accord's investment in Hoosier Net is another step toward accomplishing our shared vision of making Indiana the most connected state. We and our Hoosier Net partners form an unprecedented mix of electric cooperatives and tele-

phone companies. Together we are seeking win-win opportunities that will ultimately benefit all Hoosiers, and that is what makes us excited about this investment," said James Tanneberger, Accord Chairman and President and Chief Executive Officer of South-Central Indiana REMC.

"We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to achieving broadband access for all Americans, regardless of where they live and the leadership and creative partnership led by Hoosier Net and its member companies will be a key part of finding the scope and scale to provide connectivity to communities and businesses in Indiana. I am thrilled to see this crucial investment in Hoosier Net at this moment in time when robust broadband access and middle mile transport has never been more critical to economic prosperity. Hoosier Net's users are already doing great work, and I cannot wait to see how this investment will further connect Hoosiers to high-speed broadband," said Shirley Bloomfield, Chief Executive Officer of NTCA.

With the help of middle-mile networks like Hoosier Net, rural Hoosiers will have the ability to access high-speed Internet. "We are pleased to have Accord be an owner of Hoosier Net on behalf of their Indiana REMC(s) and telephone cooperative owners," said Rob Shema, Chief Executive Officer of Hoosier Net and CNI. "For us, gaining access to fiber resources for our Indiana middle mile network is critical. Accord's investment and partnership will help make that possible."

Hoosier Net provides owners, telecommunications providers, and direct commercial clients such as hospitals, schools, and

government organizations with high-speed fiber-optic backbone capabilities. Miami-Cass REMC is one of Accord's members. They've had the good fortune of receiving significant grant money from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Cass County government, and the City of Delphi as they've built out broadband internet in their Indiana coverage areas. "Accord's investment in Hoosier Net will allow Broadway Broadband to help monetize the commercial side of our network and continue cost-effective network growth," said Rob Schwartz, President of Wabash Valley Power Alliance's Manager's Association and Chief Executive Officer of Miami-Cass REMC and Broadway Broadband.

"As more and more federal and state funds are devoted to expanding broadband access in rural areas, Indiana's Internet service providers are scrambling to keep up," said John Greene, Chairman of Hoosier Net, LLC and CEO of New Lisbon Telephone Company. "Because of the enormity of building a statewide middle mile network, we are happy with Accord's investment and partnering opportunities as we apply for NTIA Middle Mile Grant Funding to help us build out this network."

Accord Telecommunications Collaborative, LLC

Accord is owned by 21 service providers that serve critical and life-enhancing services to their communities. Accord and its owners maintain thousands of miles of fiber ready to provide access to telecom providers and robust services to business customers. Visit www.accordtelcom.com or call 765-343-3910 for additional information.

Amtrak Names Roger Harris As President

Rail Passengers President & CEO Jim Mathews released the following statement after it was announced that Amtrak CCO Roger Harris was being promoted to the role of President by CEO Stephen Gardner:

"Rail Passengers congratulates Roger Harris on assuming the role of Amtrak President at such a crucial time in the railroad's history. In my experience, Roger has proven to be thoughtful, dynamic, and committed to looking for ways to make things better for passengers. The Association has a strong track record of working together with Roger on issues critical to customers, and we look forward to continuing this strong and positive partnership as Amtrak looks to make good on promises to improve the customer experience, add routes across

the country, and expand service in the hundreds of communities where Amtrak today serves as an economic engine."

About Rail Passengers Association

The Rail Passengers Association is the oldest and largest national organization serving as a voice for the more than 40 million rail passengers in the U.S. Our mission is to improve and expand conventional intercity and regional passenger train services, support higher speed rail initiatives, increase connectivity among all forms of transportation and ensure safety for our country's trains and passengers. All of this makes communities safer, more accessible and more productive, improving the lives of everyone who lives, works and plays in towns all across America.

US Department Of Labor Awards \$43.3M In Grants

The U.S. Department of Labor announced the award of \$43,268,819 in grants to organizations in 11 states in the initial round of grant funding to support programs that provide job training and supportive services to justice-involved young people.

Administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration, the Growth Opportunities grant program provides paid work experiences to young people affected by community violence, particularly in areas of concentrated crime and poverty. The funding also supports skills training, and employment and mentorship services.

The department awarded grants to organizations in Alabama, California, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Pennsyl-

vania, Texas and Wisconsin.

As part of the Biden-Harris administration's comprehensive strategy to combat gun violence and crime with preventive measures and ensure solutions advance equity for underrepresented populations, Growth Opportunities grants aim to help young people increase their conflict resolution skills, identify and develop career interests, attain relevant skills and experience, and set them on a path to earn living wages and obtain high quality jobs and careers.

On March 8, 2022, the department announced available funding for this Reentry Employment Opportunities program would be awarded through two competitive rounds. Funds awarded in the second round will go primarily to grantees receiving a Reentry Employment Opportunities grant for the first time.

Spirit Airlines Nonstop Service From Indy To Newark Takes Off

The Spirit Airlines first-ever ultra-low-cost nonstop flight from the Indianapolis International Airport (IND) to the Newark/New York City metro area took off earlier this week.

The new nonstop, year-round flight will depart and operate daily out of Indy.

Newark airport combines with LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy airports in the New York City metropolitan area to make up the largest airport system in the United States.

The New York/Newark area is a major destination, well known for tourist attractions along with art, music, shopping, sports, history, and other sightseeing.

"Our airlines are responding to the community's pent-up demand for leisure travel," said Mario Rodriguez, executive director of the Indianapolis Airport Authority. "We're encouraged by Spirit's entry into the Newark/New York City metro area from Indianapolis, giving Hoosiers more options to get there."

The new Spirit nonstop flight will provide a great opportunity for Hoosiers who have moved to the NYC/Newark area to return home and visit Indy family, enjoy sporting events, and other fun activities at an ultra-low-cost price.

"It's great to provide our Guests with convenient and affordable nonstop flights between Indy and Newark to visit friends and family in Northern New Jersey or use it as a gateway to the New York City metropolitan area," said John Kirby, Vice President of Network Planning at Spirit Airlines. "We're thankful for our long-term partnership with IND and look forward to continuing to provide flights to popular destinations."

Spirit Airlines also offers nonstop flights from Indianapolis into Ft. Lauderdale (FLL), Las Vegas (LAS), Orlando (MCO), Ft. Myers (RSW), and Tampa (TPA).

About the Indianapolis Airport Authority

The Indianapolis Airport Authority owns and operates Indiana's largest airport system in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. In addition to the Indianapolis International Airport (IND), its facilities include the Downtown Heliport, Eagle Creek Airport, Hendricks County Airport-Gordon Graham Field, Indianapolis Regional Airport and Metropolitan Airport. IND generates a \$5.4 billion total annual economic impact for Central Indiana - without relying on state or local taxes to fund operations. More than 10,000 people work at the

airport each day, and 22,600 area jobs have a connection to the airport. In 2021, IND served more than 7.1 million business and leisure travelers. IND is consistently ranked, year after year, as the best airport in North America and the nation, based on ease of use, passenger amenities, customer service, local retail offerings and public art. The airport is home of the world's second largest FedEx operation and the nation's eighth-largest cargo facility. For more information, visit IND.com.

About Spirit Airlines: Spirit Airlines (NYSE: SAVE) is committed to delivering the best value in the sky. We are the leader in providing customizable travel options starting with an unbundled fare. This allows our Guests to pay only for the options they choose - like bags, seat assignments and refreshments - something we call À La Smarte. We make it possible for our Guests to venture further and discover more than ever before. Our Fit Fleet® is one of the youngest and most fuel-efficient in the U.S. We serve destinations throughout the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean, and are dedicated to giving back and improving those communities. Come save with us at spirit.com.

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State Invests In Future, Modernization Of Indiana Manufacturing Operations

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), in partnership with Conexus Indiana, announced the sixth round of awards totaling nearly \$4 million in Manufacturing Readiness Grants to 43 Indiana businesses, supporting a projected \$46.1 million in technology-enabled capital investment across Indiana.

"Manufacturing is in Indiana's DNA—we build things," said Governor Eric J. Holcomb. "The demand for the Manufacturing Readiness Grants program has proven time and time again to us that these investments help Hoosiers build things better."

Launched in 2020, the Manufacturing Readiness Grants program was created to stimulate private sector investments to modernize Indiana's manufacturing industry. Since then, \$17.4 million in grant funding has been awarded to 212 companies in 60 counties, prompting proposed projects with combined budgets of \$138.9 million and \$22 million in estimated new wages.

"Technologies play a critical role in Hoosier manufacturing and are key as we continue to build a tech savvy economy of the future," said Indiana Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers. "Through the Manufacturing Readiness Grants program, we'll ensure new equipment secures Indiana's competitive advantage globally, encouraging further capital investment and positioning us to become an even more dominant player in the advanced manufacturing age."

In recently published case studies, Conexus Indiana provides an in-depth look into various completed projects, highlighting business impact and outcomes. These, along with data analysis from applications and surveys, find:

Rather than displacing workers, investments in technology are freeing workers from tedious tasks to perform higher-value, higher-paying functions.

Awards support modernization at primarily small and midsized firms (average of 165 employees) with long histories of participation in Indiana's manufacturing economy (average of 37 years in operation).

The most adopted technologies include robotics, cobots, 3D printing and next-generation machines with sensor-enable features such as data analysis, machine learning and artificial intelligence.

68% of companies report Manufacturing Readiness Grants have enabled or expanded the scope of technology projects, and an additional 26% say the grant accelerated project timelines.

"The Manufacturing Readiness Grants program is clearly a powerful tool in our work to ensure that Indiana companies, at all levels of the globally competitive supply chain, adopt the new technologies important for the future of Indiana's manufacturing economy," said Mitch Landess, vice president of innovation and digital transformation at Conexus Indiana. "Conexus Indiana's vision is to affirm Indiana as the center of innovation and digital transformation, and it's clear we are squarely on the path of achieving that distinction."

Recipients include: Antique Candle Works Inc. (Tippecanoe County; \$200,000 grant award) is a candle manufacturer that produces soy wax candles and ships to customers across North America. The company is investing in a digital plant initiative that will leverage a combination of Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, centralized data gathering, cloud-based analytics, automation,

and machine learning to self-optimize and dynamically adjust its manufacturing process for increased agility and efficiency.

Batesville Tool & Die Inc. (Ripley County; \$71,912 grant award) is a global supplier of precision metal stamping components for the automotive and appliance industries, among others. The company is investing in smart robotics for an automated bin-picking and assembly process.

Dewig Bros. Packing Co. Inc. (Gibson County; \$50,000 grant award) is a manufacturer of proprietary branded meat products such as cured and smoked bacon, hams and pork loins and sausages such as bratwurst, German bologna and snack sticks. The company is investing in an automated link cutter for its diverse sausage line, which will help the company increase efficiency.

Diamond K Sweets & More LLC (Owen County; \$137,500 grant award) is a confectionary manufacturer of gourmet chocolate and candy products. The company is investing in automated equipment to produce confectionary products on a commercial scale.

Dorel Juvenile Group Inc. (Bartholomew County; \$68,600 grant award) is a manufacturer of child safety products, primarily child restraint systems. The company is investing in various robotics, including cobots, to automate the packaging and handling of its finished goods.

Economy Signs (Lake County; \$21,750 grant award) is a full-service commercial sign shop that fabricates and installs signage for individuals, businesses and churches. The company is investing in equipment to automate the production of channel letters, which is currently performed by hand.

EHOB Inc. (Marion County; \$110,000 grant award) is a manufacturer of pressure injury prevention products for hospitals. The company is automating its wheelchair cushion manufacturing process with custom-built machinery.

Green Sign Company Inc. (Decatur County; \$50,000 grant award) is a custom signage manufacturer specializing in permitting, design, engineering, digital signs, manufacturing, graphics and branding and installation. The company is investing in two ultraviolet, light-emitting diode (UV-LED) flatbed digital printers to automate the cutting process.

Griner Engineering Inc. (Monroe County; \$32,250 grant award) is a machine shop supplying precision machined components and services to various industries. The company is investing in robotics and sensors to automate the loading and unloading of materials and allow its machines to run unattended.

Hoosier Tank and Manufacturing LLC (St. Joseph County; \$40,000 grant award) is a made-to-order manufacturer of steel air reservoirs for the heavy-duty truck and trailer industries. The company is investing in a Markforged 3D printer to produce carbon fiber reinforced components and a 3D laser scanning system to analyze, measure and quality check its finished goods.

Indiana Furniture Industries Inc. (Dubois County; \$109,121 grant award) is a furniture manufacturer of products for various office environments such as private office settings, open office settings and conference rooms. The company is investing in autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) for material handling.

Indiana Mills & Manufacturing Inc. (Hamilton County; \$105,000 grant award) is a company that specializes in the design,

testing and manufacturing of safety equipment such as bus seats, seat belts and air bags for commercial, fire and military vehicles. The company is investing in cybersecurity, robotic welding systems and advanced sensors for environmental monitoring.

Inotiv Inc. (Posey County; \$41,877 grant award) is a contract research organization specializing in nonclinical and analytical drug discovery and development services. The company is investing in digital testing equipment to create a mobile workstation, which will include wireless capabilities, digital radiography, data collection and acquisition, and analytic capabilities.

ITAMCO Co. (Marshall County; \$191,240 grant award) is a gearing and precision machining manufacturer for heavy-duty industries including mining, off-highway vehicles, marine, wastewater, construction and aviation. The company is investing in automation and robotics to augment both the pre- and post-heat treatment steps in its manufacturing process.

Laidig Systems Inc. (St. Joseph County; \$130,000 grant award) is a manufacturer of bulk material storage and reclaim systems for industries such as food processing, meals, pulp and paper, wood pelleting, biomass, biofuels and ethanol. The company is investing in a new 40,000-square-foot manufacturing facility, including automated cranes and a state-of-the-art, computer-controlled lathe.

Lanthier Winery LLC (Jefferson County; \$50,000 grant award) is a wine and spirits manufacturer and distributor of vodka and gin distilled from wine. The company is investing in technology to transition from batch to continuous distillation as part of a larger winery expansion.

LOD LLC (Benton County; \$140,000 grant award) is a metal fabricator producing proprietary after-market parts for automotive and off-road vehicles, specializing in heavy-duty and metal bumper assemblies, and also serves as a contract manufacturer. The company is investing in a robotic welding system, fiber laser cutting and 3D scanning to enable modern design for various vehicle models.

Mack Tool & Engineering (St. Joseph County; \$85,000 grant award) is a precision machine shop that supplies machined parts and assemblies to the aerospace, medical and other industries. The company is investing in new software to enhance the capabilities of its 16 CNC machines as well as a cobot tending system to augment its manufacturing process.

Major Tool & Machine Inc. (Marion County; \$175,000 grant award) is a contract manufacturer specializing in large CNC milling and turning machining, manual and robotic welding, engineering, program management, inspection and assembly services for aerospace and defense, power generation, energy, semiconductor and oil and gas industries. MTM is investing in RFID technology for CNC cutting tools and Machine Learning software to improve efficiencies, reduce costs and provide an avenue to close the existing skills gap for employment opportunities.

Marion Manufacturing (Vigo County; \$115,000 grant award) is a manufacturer of precision machined components supporting U.S. defense and infrastructure systems. Marion is a low-volume, high-mix manufacturer investing in its first collaborative robots (cobots) to automate two machine cells.

Marson International LLC (Elkhart County; \$162,500 grant award) is

a tube fabricator, specializing in large and small diameter tubes for diverse customers in gas and diesel chassis, RV, power generation, mass transit, construction machines and more. The company is investing in robotics and automation for its buffing, bending and cutting processes.

Michiana Global Mold LLC (St. Joseph County; \$145,000 grant award) is a precision mold builder for plastics and rubber injection molding. The company is investing in automated equipment to increase efficiencies and allow for more unmanned production.

Miller's Wood Specialties Inc. (Wayne County; \$155,000 grant award) manufactures and recycles wood packaging products, including pallets, crates and custom boxes. The company is investing in an automated system with machine vision, which can identify recycled lumber, cut the lumber to the optimum length and sort the material into bins of similar sizes.

Ottenweller Company Inc. (Allen County; \$110,000 grant award) is a family-owned producer of quality metal fabricated products serving the construction, forestry, defense, medical and material handling industries. The company is investing in a robotic welding system to secure new business.

Paragon Medical Inc. (Kosciusko County; \$105,000 grant award) is a contract medical device manufacturer that produces a full range of components for the global orthopedic and life sciences market, including bone screws, plates, orthopedic implants, endoscopic devices, sterilization trays and more. The company is investing in additive manufacturing, with a focus on metal 3D printing, enabling rapid iteration on patient-specific devices for the medical device market.

Peak Toolworks (Dubois County; \$60,763 grant award) is a cutting tool manufacturer for tools and blades that cut through steel, chrome, copper and plastic, including its own patented tool designs. The company is investing in automated equipment for its tool manufacturing processes and robotics for auto-loading thousands of tools.

Pivot Manufacturing Inc. (Delaware County; \$58,750 grant award) is a startup manufacturing company that provides design and technical consulting in the medical and automotive sectors. The company is investing in new equipment to offer rapid manufacturing in the form of small-volume prototype orders for its customers.

POLARIS Laboratories LLC (Marion County; \$36,700 grant award) is a laboratory services company that provides the manufacturing industry with testing and analysis of oils, coolants, grease and fuels to improve equipment reliability. The company is investing in autonomous robotics to prepare samples for its ICP (Inductively Coupled Plasma) spectroscopy analysis system, which uses proprietary AI (artificial intelligence) and ML (machine learning) software.

Precise Tooling Solutions (Bartholomew County; \$167,050 grant award) is a specialty tool manufacturer that builds plastic injection molds, services molds and produces ergonomic machine bases and workstations for manufacturing. The company is investing in an automated work cell that pairs cobots with a new CNC graphite mill/pallet changer and an EDM sinker machine for lights-out manufacturing. Prime Cut 41 (Fountain

County; \$10,000 grant award) is a family-owned, farm-to-table business that raises livestock on local farms. The company is building a new processing facility for custom orders with retail space and investing in an automated cutting system to bring meat processing capabilities in-house.

Rathburn Tool & Manufacturing (DeKalb County; \$170,000 grant award) uses extensive experience, technology and creativity to provide precision machining of steel, aluminum, brass, stainless steel and cast-iron components for heavy truck, rail, recreation, firearms, construction and various industrial sectors. The company is investing in smart robotics and automation, including cobots, machine vision systems, automatic feeder systems, laser scanners and smart torque guns to increase output and production cycle time while still delivering exceptional quality for new and existing customers.

Riverside Mfg LLC (Allen County; \$200,000 grant award) is a manufacturer specializing in harsh environment electronics. This includes custom product development, printed circuit board assembly, electronics assembly, industrial labels, metal fabrication, plastic injection molding, over molding, cable and wire harness assembly and instrumentation. The company is investing in an automated, high-capacity production line for next-generation electronics assembly.

Rochester Iron & Metal Inc. (Fulton County; \$37,500 grant award) is a recycler and reseller of scrap metal. The company is investing in an automated conveyor belt, magnets and pre-shredder, which will create production efficiencies such as increased throughput and energy savings while also eliminating heavy, unshreddable metals from the company's existing auto shredder.

Skinny Guy Campers LLC (Elkhart County; \$37,875 grant award) is a manufacturing startup that makes self-contained, truckbed campers with heat, light, water and power that fit most North American pick-up trucks. The company is investing in digitized truck beds measurements with advanced precision to enable custom fitting of camper designs to more truck models.

Stalcorp Metal Forming LLC (Boone County; \$68,039 grant award) produces customer-designed specialty cold formed parts and precision machined components and sub-assemblies. The company is investing in advanced fabrication equipment to perform its manufacturing processes in-house and secure new business.

Steel Warehouse Company LLC (St. Joseph County; \$50,000 grant award) is a family-owned premier steel processor and service center with distribution, shipping and processing capabilities for slit coil, sheet, plate and cold-rolled steel products. The company is investing in a heavy payload robotic system to automate production of its dock ramp leveling line products.

Stoutco Inc. (Elkhart County; \$75,000 grant award) is a steel fabricator that crafts hot and cold rolled steel as well as stainless, aluminized and aluminum and provides an array of blanking capability including lasers, turret punches and shears. The company is investing in an automated fiber laser cutter to augment its current capabilities and secure new business.

Talon LLC (Elkhart County; \$100,000 grant award) is a manufactur-

er of fabricated metal products and is investing in fiber laser cutters to enhance workflow flexibility, eliminate the need for oxygen and cutting gases, and reduce energy consumption.

Uniseal Inc. (Vanderburgh County; \$20,000 grant award) is a manufacturer of sealants and adhesives for the automotive sector. The company is investing in automated equipment to augment its material blending process.

Vista Plastics LLC (Elkhart County; \$60,000 grant award) is a plastics extrusion manufacturer and is investing in smart equipment to automate various steps in its extrusion production line for cutting more precise lengths.

Walerko Tool and Engineering (Elkhart County; \$55,000 grant award) is a manufacturer of precision piece parts, tools, fixtures and special machines for the heavy off-road, military, marine, aerospace and machine tool industries. The company is investing in new technology and enhanced machinery to further automate its machining processes and to increase output for current and new customers.

Wilco Distributing (St. Joseph County; \$50,000 grant award) is a manufacturer of construction products specializing in interior and exterior commercial and residential doors and hardware for the hospitality, multifamily and design and build industries. The company is investing in automated equipment for its manufacturing line for pre-hung door production.

Workhorse Motor Works Inc. (Randolph County; \$130,000 grant award) is an original equipment manufacturer of all-electric, last-mile delivery vehicles. Workhorse will apply the award to invest in robotic automation, machine vision and advanced sensor systems to improve its Union City manufacturing and quality control processes as part of the company's vision to "pioneer the transition to zero emission commercial vehicles."

To apply for a Manufacturing Readiness Grant, Indiana companies are encouraged to review eligibility requirements and submit applications online.

For more than a decade, Conexus Indiana, one of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership (CICP) non-profit initiatives, has been positioning the Hoosier State as the best place for advanced manufacturing and logistics industries to invest, employ and succeed. By collaborating with industry, academic and public sector partners on a shared vision for an innovative, skilled workforce and stronger business climate, Conexus Indiana has helped to create opportunities for advanced manufacturing and logistics companies, prepare Hoosiers to succeed in the state's largest industry sectors and maintain Indiana's competitive advantage. For more information, visit conexusindiana.com.

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) is charged with growing the State economy, driving economic development, helping businesses launch, grow and locate in the state. Led by Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers, @SecChambersIN, and governed by a 15-member board chaired by Governor Eric J. Holcomb, @GovHolcomb, the IEDC manages many initiatives, including performance-based tax credits, workforce training grants, innovation and entrepreneurship resources, public infrastructure assistance, and talent attraction and retention efforts. For more information about the IEDC, visit iedc.in.gov.

FRIDAY

Voice of our PEOPLE

The Times of Noblesville

Friday, July 1, 2022

A10

A Letter to Lady Liberty

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 home of the brave.

Before all the festivities start in earnest this weekend, if I may, I'd like to ask you just one more question. You certainly don't have to answer. I've



TIM TIMMONS
Sagamore News Media CEO

asked before, but haven't really gotten an answer yet.

Why does the mere mention of a word cause the shields and weapons to be raised? What word? Take your pick – socialism, abortion, gays, trans, guns, Trump, borders, walls, right, left . . .

Thing is, we don't just argue any more. We hate. You've seen it all, but my memory only goes back a few decades. I don't recall hate like this since the 1960s when young'uns were told not to trust anyone under 30, burn their draft card and those of the opposite sex (you know, back when we only had two) were told to torch their bras.

None of that generated warm and fuzzys with the age group I'm honored to be part of now. And when Mssrs. Crosby, Stills and Nash sang about four dead in O-Hi-O, things went from bad to worse.

Back then we had a man in the White House we didn't like or trust very much and families found themselves on opposite sides . . . you know, pretty much like now.

We got through it though.

I'll admit I'm not the smartest guy in the room (even when it's a pretty small room), but I surely don't understand why we've become so angry again.

People are fighting about the right to kill an unborn baby while ignoring any rights said baby might have. Democrats are telling us that the economy is great . . . which sort of feels like Ol' Blue peeing down the side of my leg while his owner tells me it's raining. Republicans aren't helping either. Instead of taking the high road and giving the country real reasons to consider

this so-called red wave in the next election, they're rolling around in the mud, ripping the Dems every chance they get. In the process they're showing us that no matter which party is in charge they all have the uncanny knack to make us hate politicians.

Our ability to have meaningful conversations that start and end peacefully is farther gone than the dinosaurs and 99 cent gas.

I don't understand any of it. I don't know how anyone expects a government that can't seem to get anything right to suddenly be competent enough to manage healthcare. I don't know why we trust politicians who get rich off our backs to suddenly look out for the middle class.

It's why the folks clamoring for socialism make me smile. They think the same politicians who got them into this mess can wave a magic wand and get them out. It's hard to believe in much of anything with the government any more.

All I know is that I believe in you.

Please allow me to

repeat what I've said for a while. We're a nation of knuckleheads. We always have been. When Betsy Ross and her pals were busy sewing flags, some yahoos were drinking ale and touting the benefits of staying loyal to King George. We turned brother against brother in a terrible war that got mislabeled civil. Radicalism, just another word for the same sort of thing AOC and the squad are touting now, gave Woody Wilson and his cabinet one headache after another. FDR crafted more social programs than anyone, but had to fight a war. And Kennedy, LBJ and Nixon led our nation when troops, tanks and bigotry rolled through the streets.

We've always been angry, often times paying a heavy price for it. Yet we've managed to survive a lot of different opinions, a bunch of hatred and all sorts of messes. Perhaps that should provide some comfort. After all, we made it this far, right?

You've given us a lot, Ma'am.

OK, that was my ques-

tion – but while I have you I'll share a concern I'm hoping you can help with. It seems to me that this only works so long as the majority of us keep giving you our faith and our allegiance – two things that feel like they're in mighty short supply once again. I'm hoping you can tell us how to maintain those. I hope you can help us remember the lives lost and the sacrifices made to get where we are today. Maybe if you can do that, then perhaps we can get back to honest conversations without all the hate.

That's it ma'am. Thanks for listening and I really do hope you have a great birthday, and many, many more! God bless!

- Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Thursdays in *The Times*. Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns *The Noblesville Times*. He is also a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com.

Ask Rusty – Will Claiming Early Affect My Wife's Survivor Benefit?



ASK RUSTY
Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My wife will be turning 62 and eligible to collect Social Security this year. We realize it will be a reduced amount. I am 52 and have been the sole income earner for most of the last 20 years. We also have an adopted son who will be turning 14 this year. We realize he will receive a dependent benefit until he turns 18 and this may make the case for filing early. I am confused about widow benefits - will my wife's early filing affect her widow's benefit amount?
Signed: Confused Husband

Dear Confused Husband: When your wife claims her own SS retirement benefit (e.g., at 62) will have no effect on the benefit available to her as your widow. The only thing that would affect her survivor benefit as your widow is her age when she claims it. Claimed before her FRA, her survivor benefit would be reduced, but claimed at or after her FRA, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow will be 100% of the amount you were receiving (or, if you are not yet collect-

Social Security Matters by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

ing, the amount you were entitled to receive) at your death. Your wife would get that amount, instead of her smaller personal amount.

However, for your awareness, your wife's spousal benefit while you are both living (which she can claim when you start your own SS benefit) will be less than half of your FRA benefit amount because she claimed her own SS retirement benefit at age 62. The reason is that your wife's benefit as your spouse when you claim will consist of her own reduced SS retirement benefit, plus a spousal boost to bring her payment up to her spousal entitlement. Since her spousal boost will be added to her own reduced early benefit, her total payment as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

If your wife claims her own SS retirement benefit at age 62, she can also apply for your adopted minor son's benefits based on her personal lifetime work record. Although your wife's personal early benefit will be cut (by 30%) for claiming at age 62, your son's benefit as your wife's minor child

will be based on your wife's full retirement age (FRA) benefit amount. Your son's benefit from your wife will be 50% of your wife's FRA amount (not her age 62 amount). As you know, your son will get that amount until he is 18 (or 19 if he is still in high school).

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

My Marriage In Jeopardy



DICK WOLFSIE
Life in a Nutshell

For decades, Mary Ellen and I have been fans of the show Jeopardy. Every night at 7:30 we watch to see how long it takes for us to feel really stupid. I often say, I used to know that but I forgot, which is pretty much the same thing as not knowing the answer...I mean the question.

After Alex Trebek died a couple of years ago, the show's producers ran old episodes featuring the legendary host. I'm not sure why I found that so unsettling. They do the same with all old game shows. Hollywood Squares has had more than 800 different personalities in the boxes. While I watch those re-runs, I have to do google searches to see which of the brilliant comedians are still with us. What about putting some notation under each celebrity's name to save me the time and trouble? For example:

Paul Lynde (died 1982, age 55)

Rose Marie (died 2017, age 94)

Wally Cox (died 1972, age 48)

Joan Rivers (died 2014, age 81)

No, that would depress me even more. Bad idea.

At 7 p.m., during or just after our dinner, and before Jeopardy, we usually watch Wheel of Fortune, despite neither of us being very good at it. Here's one that stumped us a few nights ago:

TOPIC: SONG LYRIC
THIS AND WAS
MADE FOR YOU AND
ME

Mary Ellen guessed "This hand was made for you and me." I said: "This band was made for you and me." The right answer, of course, was "This LAND was made for you and me." I mean, how embarrassing! We decided to stop having wine with dinner.

During COVID, Jeopardy fever spilled over into our daily lives, since we had nothing better to do. Typically, around 6 p.m., Mary Ellen would say something like...

"Sauteed chicken with green beans and sweet potatoes."

Then I'd reply, "What's for dinner?"

How much more fun can a couple have than that? (Now, remember, we are both in our seventies.)

Even when we had little arguments, our obsession with Jeopardy was evident. Mary Ellen would say to me in a broadcaster's

voice: "He leaves all the kitchen cabinet doors open, forgets to close the fridge door and also leaves the garage door up."

"Who is Dick Wolfsie?" Saying it out loud made me feel like I had been tricked into pleading guilty to these crimes. But I'm a very competitive person. I wanted to win.

My wife is a stickler for game rules. For example, while driving, I once said, "I think we're lost." I was quickly corrected by Mary Ellen. "Please put that in the form of a question."

"What does Dick Wolfsie say when the GPS isn't working?"

As we celebrated our 42nd anniversary last week, we reminisced about our decision to get married way back when. Mary Ellen said: "When her husband-to-be had this nutty idea to be a TV personality, she unselfishly quit her good job in Chicago and went with him to Indianapolis."

"Who was Mary Ellen Swegles?" I said without a moment's thought.

"That is correct," said my wife. "That's exactly the question I was looking for."

- Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in *The Paper of Montgomery County*. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.



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FRIDAY

Voice of our PEOPLE

The Noblesville Times

Friday, July 1, 2022

A11

Make Today A Good One



GLENN MOLLETTE
Guest Column

By Dr. Glenn Mollette
Let's all try to spend today and the rest of our lives more wisely. With rising inflation, we are all having to spend our hard-earned paychecks with care. Life is the same. We have less life today than yesterday. We don't have as much life to spend today. We are all clueless how much life we actually have left to spend. Even if we have a lot of life left there is no guarantee of the quality of our remaining lives.
Being able to walk, talk, breathe, see, hear and mentally function are all incredible gifts. Try to take care of what you have and even then, life changes beyond our control. We are all susceptible to injuries or diseases that can diminish the quality and

end our lives.
Spend time with the people you care about. At least call them on the phone and visit as often as you can. We can all think of people who have departed this life who we miss. The only time you have people for sure is today.
Consider what you really need to make you happy. How much stuff does it take? We spend life accumulating and storing up. Eventually we have to figure out what to do with all our stuff. Do we give it away or leave it for someone else to worry about? Leaving our junk for others to throw away or put in a yard sale may not be a very nice way to treat family or loved ones. Friends of mine from Ohio are now about 82 and recently sold their nice large house and moved into a smaller place. They've spent the last year unloading a lifetime of accumulated things. It's not easy to do but what are you going to do with all that stuff you aren't even using now?
What are the simple things of life that you enjoy? There are aspects of life that we have to do and some that we enjoy doing.

If we can squeeze in some of the enjoyable then life is a lot more fun. Often what we enjoy in life is not the exotic or chaotic but often simple routines we do all the time.
Continue to invest in yourself. Take a class, learn a new hobby, and make a new friend. We need the old friends and a few new friends. Old friends often keep us grounded while new friends bring new thoughts and ideas.
Continue to cultivate your faith and the spiritual side of your life. Your life is more than flesh and blood. Being at peace with God and yourself can only make your life feel more meaningful and level.
Life is flying by. Find time to drink a glass of lemonade and sit on the porch. Be sure to savor that morning cup of coffee. Take a walk or ride by your favorite lake or stream. Have a scoop of ice cream. You may or may not have less money but we all have one less day. Make today a good one!
Hear Dr. Glenn Mollette each weekday morning at 8:56 and 10:11:30 AM EST.

The Cat Who Came At Midnight



JOHN O. MARLOWE
With The Grain

Lilian Jackson Braun was an American novelist, who was famous for writing cozy mysteries. Cozy mysteries are a sub-genre. Some readers like them, because all of the sex happens "off stage," leaving a more comfortable reading experience.
All of Ms. Braun's best-selling stories have titles that begin "The Cat Who..." For example, my favorite title is The Cat Who Sniffed Glue (1988).
From 1966 to 1968, she wrote three "Cat" novels to critical acclaim, and then -- much like a mystery in one of her books -- disappeared from the publishing world entirely for over 18 years. Equally as mysteriously, she reappeared in 1986 to release 27 more books before her death at age 97, in 2011.
It is believed that the two main characters in her novels, felines Koko and Yum Yum, were modeled after her own two Siamese cats. Cat lovers everywhere were enraptured and waited impatiently for the release of her latest whodunit.
One of them was NOT my Cousin Jim.
Although Cousin Jim lives only about 40 minutes from Ms. Braun's residence in Tryon, N.C., I would have to say that Jim's love of cats is furd-deep at best. Cats are aloof and stand-offish, withdrawn and reserved, and Jim likes to maintain a reciprocal amount of affection. Jim might throw a box on the back porch for a cat to sleep in, but he's not about to let the critter curl up in bed with him to read one of Ms. Braun's

novels.
Earlier this year, Cousin Jim was reclining on the sun porch after a long day writing software code -- unwinding in the gentle North Carolina night breeze -- when an uninvited visitor showed up. If not for the river of white fur flanking the right side of her face, or the four white boots on her feet, the cat was as dark as the lightless sky.
After a cordial greeting, the two spent the first encounter just staring at each other through the blackness. Then about midnight, the cat slinked again into the darkness.
The next night, the cat showed up again, and again the two shared the general space of his back porch, until the cat sauntered off - again around midnight - into the tall undergrowth of the ravine behind Jim's house.
This routine continued over the course of several weeks, each one gaining confidence in the other, until a rather wobbly bond was formed. Jim ultimately began furnishing cat treats, and an occasional bowl of premium cat food. The cat provided the entertainment and affection, eventually willing to curl up on the wicker recliner at Jim's feet.
It was obvious that Cousin Jim was becoming attached to the cat, and probably the same could be said of Gabby. Jim named the cat Gabby, because "the dumb thing won't shut up while I'm trying to work."
Gabby presented a problem for Jim. The only reason Jim was in North Carolina was to take care of my Aunt Sharon in her enfeebled last few years. Jim's Mother had retired to North Carolina to escape the cold, harsh Chicago winters, and Jim really had no other connection to the place. He had no intentions of remaining there after her passing. In fact, a pending purchase of Jim's new software meant he may have to move to Austin, maybe as soon as summer's end.

"What if she actually belongs to someone?" asked Jim just a week ago. "I can't just take her with me. That's cat-napping!"
"You might just leave her there to wander wild," I suggested.
"No! What if she falls off one of these cliffs around here?" he said, although I thought the likelihood was as remote as the terrain.
"You'll know what to do," I reassured him. "Things nearly always work themselves out."
I heard from Jim, Wednesday. His voice was weak, and carried an undertone of melancholy in each word.
"What's wrong?" I asked.
"It's Gabby," he said.
"Oh, no! Did something happen to her?"
"Well, kind of."
Jim told me the story. Gabby was missing. She didn't show up in the evening. Instead, she wandered in at midnight -- the time she usually departs. She was disheveled and distressed. She wouldn't let Jim touch her. She wouldn't eat. He called his friend, Troy, who has cats. Troy was little help.
Gabby staggered about, wanting to lie down, yet unable to decide where or how. She was belligerent, and caterwauled her anguish nonstop.
"Oh no!" I said.
"Yep," replied Jim.
"The first kitten was born right at midnight. Jet black. One each for the next two hours."
"What are you going to do, now?" I asked.
"I really don't know," said Jim with zero enthusiasm. "I really don't know."
Jim's got a real Lilian Jackson Braun cozy mystery on his hands, I thought. I can't say he's finding it very comfortable, though. Nevertheless, he was right about one thing:
It has a whale of a cliff-hanger.
- John O. Marlowe is an award-winning columnist for Sagamore News Media.

Western Movie Memories



RANDALL FRANKS
Southern Style Columns

When you think of western films even forty plus years after the passing of the legendary John Wayne, who comes to most people's minds?
Who can ever forget his greater than life presence on the screen no matter what film was rolling through the projector like "She Wore A Yellow Ribbon," "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance," "The Sons of Katy Elder," "True Grit," "Rooster Cogburn," and "The Shootist."
Many remember Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Hopalong Cassidy and even Lash La Rue but do you recall the first generation of western heroes that dominated the silver screen: Tim McCoy, Tom Mix, Hoot Gibson, Harry Carey, Buck Jones, William S. Hart and Ken Maynard. Do any of those names ring a bell?
Unless you are a true western devotee it is likely that these legendary actors, some of who demanded huge salaries and drew large crowds at personal appearances, bring with them a question mark. Many do not realize that the film industry actually began with a western.
In that film short, a cowboy points his gun at the camera and fires. That was the extent of the film and as it was shown around the country, audiences actually ducked thinking they might be hit by flying lead.
William S. Hart was the first actor to work to bring realism to western film but authenticity gave way to more entertaining fare in films with Tom Mix, Hoot Gibson and later Buck Jones.
Broncho Billy Anderson and Harry Carey rode the range above them all in the second decade of the twentieth century with scores of silent films. Anderson appeared in the Thomas Edison's "Great Train Robbery" in 1903 that actually is considered the first western feature film.
Of all the western heroes there was none that could out draw Tim McCoy. McCoy could draw and

shoot in 1/4 of a second. He was one of the highest paid and most admired western heroes of that era. While many of the silent stars didn't easily move into talkies when they began in the 1930s several did, and McCoy was among those dominating the 1930s.
Even John Wayne, once a prop guy after three years of extra and bit parts and a couple starring roles played bit parts in Tim McCoy Columbia movies "Texas Cyclone" and a co-starring role in "Two-Fisted Law" in 1932. However, if you catch those on video today you will often find Wayne given top billing while the star is relegated below him.
I never had the pleasure of knowing Tim McCoy but through my association with the late Ramblin' "Doc" Tommy Scott, I feel that I do. McCoy traveled with Scott's road show from 1963 until shortly before his death. I have heard countless stories of his exploits and consider him to be one of the greatest of the western stars.
"Unlike many who played cowboys and were referred to as 'drug store cowboys' Tim McCoy was a real cowboy," Scott shared in an interview.
Although he was born in Saginaw, Michigan, McCoy longed for the west and that is where he went as soon as he was old enough.
"The first town he settled down in was Lander, Wyoming, a real old timey Western town," Scott said. "The sidewalks were boards and the streets were dirt and mud when it rained. He had a room up over a saloon. He went to sleep at night to the sound of cowboys walking on the sidewalks, their boots clicking on the hard wood, and horse's hooves beating on the hard ground, and over it all was the jangle of spurs, the holler of drunken cowboys, laughter of loose women, and high tinkle of a piano. It was like music to his ears."
McCoy went from being a cowhand, to a rancher, to military officer to Adjutant General of Wyoming all before he ever set foot on a movie set.
His Hollywood career began in a way as an Indian liaison while Paramount was making the film "Covered Wagon" in 1923.
When the film toured Tim hosted a prologue with several of his Indian friends that appeared before the film including at

London's Pavilion to rave reviews.
After returning to America MGM signed him to shine on the silver screen.
According to Tim's son, Ronald McCoy, who is retired professor of history, McCoy also longed for authenticity in his films and he also desired to show Indians in a positive light rather than in the conventional form in movies.
He managed to do that long before Kevin Costner's "Dances with Wolves" was hailed for its approach when McCoy lensed "End of the Trail" for Columbia in 1932 near Lander, Wyoming.
"The story was very pro Indian. It was about how they were being cheated by the whites and how the treaties were being broken," Ronald said. "It was very rare for the time. He helped put the movie together in terms of the writing and they filmed it up on the Arapahoe and Shoshone Wind River Reservation."
Ronald, who co-authored "Tim McCoy Remembers the West" with his father, said Tim was most proud of that film from his nearly 100 movies.
"His idea was he had found history so interesting because of the people and the stories. He felt that too often academics squeezed all the life out of it," he said. "Taking a great story and making it dull. His idea was to keep it interesting."
Tim McCoy was not only one of the greatest western stars but he was one of the greatest westerners who tried to preserve and protect what he loved about the American West. You can also read more about him and other western stars in "Doc" Tommy Scott's autobiography "Snake Oil, Superstars and Me" found at www.DocTommyScott.com.
Randall Franks is an award-winning musician, singer and actor. He is best known for his role as "Officer Randy Goode" on TV's "In the Heat of the Night" now on WGN America. His 2019 #1 CD release, "Americana Youth of Southern Appalachia," is by the Share America Foundation. He is a member of the Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame. His latest book is "A Badge or an Old Guitar: A Music City Murder Mystery." He is a syndicated columnist for http://randallfranks.com/ and can be reached at rfrankscatosa@gmail.com.

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