

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Mac Leach smile? "Jokes," said the 8-year-old Noblesville boy, who has a twin sister, Anna, and two brothers, Jake, 14, and Luke, 11. He was found June 25 watching airplanes at the Noblesville Airport during the Noblesville Chapter No. 67 of the Experimental Aircraft Association Fly-in and Pancake Breakfast. Does he like having a twin? "It's OK," he said. Does he look like his twin? "Kind of," he said. He is the son of Kate and Nate Leach and is a third-grader at Stony Creek Elementary School. What does he do for fun? "I play baseball, football and basketball, and I play golf." Just before the pancake breakfast, the left fielder had a baseball game. Favorite school subject? "Math." What's he doing for fun this summer? "Playing baseball and golf, at Sagamore," he said. He's a member of the Hot Potato Club. "It's like a club with my friends." He participated in the Noblesville Schools' summer basketball camp at the high school. The June fly-in attracted 60 plus planes, and more than 750 pancake meals were served. The money from the breakfast goes to the EAA's Young Eagles program for kids to attend a week-long EAA Air Academy in Oshkosh, Wis., during the summers. The next fly-in and breakfast is Aug. 20 at the Noblesville Airport, a grass runway strip on Promise Road. The community is invited.

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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Fireworks Festival Parking Pass Holders Treated as VIPs (Very Ignored Persons)



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

I wonder if people who paid \$160 for VIP tables at the Noblesville July 4 Fireworks Festival at Forest Park had good parking. And I wonder if those VIP guests were let out of the park before the trolleys and buses at the end of the night.

Usually we ride our bicycles

or walk into Forest Park, which is closed to vehicular traffic during the festival.

But this year, we decided to buy and try out the \$25 Fireworks Festival Parking Pass to park in the Forest Park Aquatic Center parking lot at the north end of the park.

It wasn't far to the fireworks viewing area from the parking lot, but it was a little far if you had 80-plus year-olds with you making the trek. Where was the handicap-accessible parking anyway?

After the fireworks, I thought it might be easy to get out of the Aquatic Center parking lot, since the lot was near the Field Drive entrance.

But I was wrong.

All of the trolleys, charter buses and school buses that the city hired to transport festival-goers out of the park after the fireworks were actually blocking the driveway to the

Aquatic Center parking lot.

All of the people who paid for parking passes to the Aquatic Center parking lot were trapped in the lot. Some parking permit holders got out of their vehicles to complain. And some drivers honked horns repeatedly. But there was nothing anyone could do but wait until all of the trolleys, charter buses and school buses filled with passengers, again and again, to leave the park.

As we sat in the fourth car in line to get out of the Aquatic Center parking lot, festival-goers walked past us to their own vehicles in the Aquatic Center parking lot. One chuckled, asking, "How's it feel to be a VIP now?"

At that moment, we realized that there was no "VIP" stamped on our neon pink Fireworks Festival \$25 Parking

➔ See BETSY Page A6

Celebrating Anniversaries is Important For so Many Reasons



STEVE MARTIN
Guest Columnist

I have always been a believer in celebrating notable events in people's lives, although my wife will be the first one to tell you about a birthday or two, I have forgotten about. But it is Important we try not forgetting events worthy of celebrating. That said, let me tell you about a good friend of mine and his family who have recently observed a couple of milestones.

Les and Martha Pence. They just celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary. That is a great accomplishment in and of itself and deserves celebrating. Les tells me he and Martha met when he was a music teacher in the Westview School Corporation in Shipshewana. Martha lived in the area, they fell in love and were married in June of 1958. In 1972, fourteen years later, the Pence family arrived in Sheridan where Les was the new school superintendent. That marks another anniversary this year—they have lived in Sheridan for 50 years now.

Les and Martha, of course, consider Sheridan their home. Their three boys grew up here.



Photo courtesy of Steve Martin

The Pence's. Seated are Les and Martha. Standing are Terry and Randy who are holding a picture of their recently deceased brother Mike.

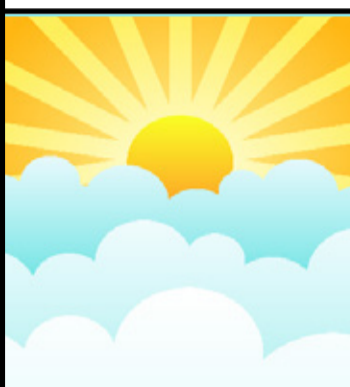
Currently, son Terry and his wife live in California while son Randy and family live in Noblesville. Son Mike also lived here but he passed away recently, but his family remains in the area. As you might expect, Les and Martha have no end of grandchildren and great grandchildren, so holidays and special celebrations are a busy and

enjoyable time for them.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Pence's, Les has a long and distinguished career in education. Originally from Columbia City, Les went to college at Morehead College in Kentucky on scholarship, studying to be a music teacher.

➔ See CELEBRATING Page 6

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:22 a.m.
SET: 9:15 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 90 °F
Low: 72 °F



Today is....

- Chocolate Day
- Global Forgiveness Day
- Tell the Truth Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1947 Roswell UFO sighting
- 1958 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs the Alaska Statehood Act into law
- 1981 Sandra Day O'Connor is appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court



Births On This Day

- 1906 Satchel Paige American baseball player
- 1940 Ringo Starr British singer-songwriter, musician, actor

Deaths On This Day

- 1930 Arthur Conan Doyle Scottish physician, author
- 2006 Syd Barrett English singer-songwriter, guitarist

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➔ OBITUARIES

Ernesto Alvarenga
Rex D. Brock
Marilynn Alice Denny
Sharon Kay Wiles



➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Remove ticks by grasping them with tweezers as close to the skin surface as possible.

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.



➔ HONEST HOOSIER

If I was a policeman in Indianapolis, I think I'd be pretty frustrated with a prosecutor who announces they won't prosecute the people I'm supposed to be arresting. What's the commercial say - that's not how it works... that's not how any of this works?



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



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"I can't change the direction of the wind. But I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."

- Jimmy Dean

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What's red and beats?
A heart!

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

93 PARTLY SUNNY AFTER SHOWER	67/86 SUNNY, WIDE AFTER SHOWER	63/86 SUNNY	66/92 HEAVY, HOT, WINDY THUNDER	70/86 DRIFTY STORMS POSSIBLE	60/80 PLEASANT	55/80 PLEASANT
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE

OBITUARIES

Ernesto Alvarenga

September 18, 1994 - July 6, 2022

Ernesto Alvarenga, 27, of Noblesville, passed away on Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at his home.

He was born on September 18, 1994 in El Salvador.

Mr. Alvarenga came to the United States when he was 4 years old, and he graduated from Noblesville High School. He worked at White Castle, and previously enjoyed working as a landscaper. He enjoyed fishing, golfing, playing the guitar and playing the piano. Mr. Alvarenga's friends were very important to him, and he would do anything for them.

Survivors include his parents Brian and Mariana De Jesus Swaney; maternal grandparents Teodoro and Maria Reyes Lazo; paternal grandparents Douglas & Elizabeth Swaney; and sister Chelsea Swaney.

He was preceded in death by his brother Frank Jose Alvarenga.

Services are scheduled to be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, July 11, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan Street in Noblesville. Visitation is scheduled to be from 12 p.m. to the time of service at the funeral home. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to help assist the family with funeral expenses: www.givesendgo.com/G3F8C

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

Rex D. Brock

November 29, 1931 - July 1, 2022

Rex D. Brock, 90, Anderson, peacefully went to be with the Lord on July 1, 2022, at Primrose Memory Care.

He was born November 29, 1931, in Stafford, KS, the son of Bryan and Hazel (Sims) Brock.

Mr. Brock grew up on the family farm with his siblings and graduated from Stafford High School in 1949. He went two years to a junior college and then earned a college scholarship to Purdue University, where he was an excellent football player. He often played as a running back, but also as a wide receiver and punter. In his senior year, Mr. Brock was selected to play in the North-South College All-Star Game. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue.

After graduation, he served in the U.S. Army as a 2nd Lieutenant.

On November 16, 1979, he married Joy Diane Blair Brock.

Mr. Brock was the owner of Acme Paving in Anderson and after many years retired, selling the business to E & B Paving of Anderson.

He loved playing golf and was a very successful scratch golfer. He once won the City of Noblesville tournament. He also enjoyed hunting and loved to fish and was especially good at catching sheepshead in Florida.

Mr. Brock was a past member of the Anderson Country Club and the John Purdue Club. He also attended East Side Church of God.

Survivors include his four children, Lance (Vickie) Brock of Noblesville, Tim Brock (Janet) of Wichita, KS, Kathy Stevens of Maryville, TN and Carolyn Hazelwood of Maryville, TN; three step-children Mick (Linda) Gilliam of Anderson, Scott (Laura) Gilliam of Ada, MI and Diana (Kyle) Gray of Austin, TX; 12 grandchildren Julie Brock, Heather (William) Anderson, Chris (Kara) Stevens, James (Shannon) Brock, Jenna (Stephen) Finley, Matthew (Rebekah) Kellams, Julia (Troy) Piowowaraki, Emily (Jeff) Gartner, Kirby (Steven) Gilliam, Brady Gilliam, Micah (Lauren) Gilliam, and Amanda Cath (Jim); 14 great-grandchildren Kailey, Addison, Ariel, Keagen, Mikayla, Daniel, Abby, Taylor, Willow, William, Lyra, Hayden, Eliza, and Arlo; and great-great-grandchild Peyton.

He was preceded in death by his wife Joy on January 27, 2009; parents; and siblings.

Funeral services are scheduled to be held on Thursday, July 7, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory, 200 W. 53rd Street, Anderson, with the Rev. Dr. Mick Gilliam officiating. Visitation is scheduled to be from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The funeral will also be live-streamed on the Loose Funeral Homes YouTube Channel at 1 p.m.

Burial will be in East Maplewood Cemetery.

The family would like to thank all of Rex's caregivers over the last few years and recently including Primrose Memory Care, Community Hospital, Care Hospice, Plainsong Music Services, and Mary Melton.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the ALS Association, or the Alzheimer's Association.

Condolences may be shared with the Brock Family at www.LooseCares.com.

Marilynn Alice Denny

February 16, 1936 - June 24, 2022

Marilynn Alice Denny, age 86, of Carmel, passed away on Friday afternoon, June 24, 2022, at Green House Cottages of Carmel.

She was born on February 16, 1936, in Shelbyville, Indiana, the daughter of the late Glenn and Lora (Maloy) Mohler.

Mrs. Denny was a 1954 graduate of Shelbyville High School. A very good student in school, her love of learning served her well throughout her working career, holding front office positions at various companies including GTE and Bristol Myers. She and Charles Denny were married on June 12, 1977.

She had a deep love for music. Starting in high school as a tenor sax player, Mrs. Denny would perform as a student in the Farm Bureau Band with her sister Kay, making memories that would last a lifetime. Music continued to play an integral role in her life for many years to come. She was a talented piano player, sharing her gift with her church family, as well as providing special music for many gatherings throughout the years.

A member of the Baptist faith, Mrs. Denny was very active within her church, using her musical talents as her ministry. She was also a firm believer in fervent and intercessory prayer, always carrying her prayer box filled with names and concerns. She loved the Lord and her family is thankful knowing that she will be with Him for eternity.

Mrs. Denny was an active member of Job's Daughters, where she proudly served as Past Honored Queen.

Somewhere along the road of life, she caught the travel bug. She and her husband Charles traveled the world together, trying their best to cross off everywhere they ever wanted to see from their bucket list, long before that was even a thing. Of all the places they were fortunate enough to visit, the rural areas of the Midwest were her favorites. Mrs. Denny was a great conversationalist. Good or bad, she was guaranteed to speak her mind, no matter who she was talking with. She also loved sending cards, faithfully, to anyone and everyone, for just about any occasion.

Survivors include her son Greg Rice of Indiana; two daughters Joy Tromblee of Florida and Paula (John Edward) Carithers of Sheridan; 13 grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Glenn and Lora (Maloy) Mohler; daughter Kay Hodge; sister Kay Jackson; brother Steve Mohler; and by her loving husband Charles Denny in September of 2005.

A Celebration of Marilyn's Life is scheduled to take place at 12 p.m. (noon) on Saturday, July 9, 2022. At Heartpointe Church, 445 E. 206th Street, Sheridan, Indiana, with Visitation scheduled to run from 11 a.m. until the time of service. Pastor Steve Carlock will be officiating.

Lunch will be served after the service, giving everyone the opportunity to fellowship and share their stories of a life well lived.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kercheval Funeral in Sheridan.

Sharon Kay Wiles

June 20, 1943 - July 5, 2022

Sharon Kay Wiles, 79, passed away on July 5, 2022, at Community Hospital Anderson.

She was born June 20, 1943, in Anderson to Frank and Patricia "Zell" (Tooley) Lindsay.

Mrs. Wiles was a retired hairdresser. She was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church in Noblesville. She loved her children and grandchildren.

Survivors include her four children Anna (Patrick) Bailey, Mike (Sherri) Edison, Ken (Cynthia Fowler) Harris and Brian (Angel Crouch) Wiles; brother Ralph "Corky" Tooley; aunt Ayko Lindsay; niece Sandy Lindsey; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Terry "Gene" Wiles in 1989; parents; and son Frank Edison. Cremation will take place.

Memorial contributions may be made to the funeral home to assist with Sharon's final expenses.

Online condolences may be made at www.hersberger-bozell.com.

Spartz: Biden and Zelensky Need to Stop Playing Politics; Congress has to Implement Proper Oversight in Ukraine

On July 2, 22 years ago, I immigrated to the United States after spending almost 22 years in Ukraine (13 of them under control of the Soviet Union). I was young, idealistic and inspired by the ideas of freedom. These ideas of freedom or more like erosion of freedoms has led me to become involved with politics.

When I become a Congresswoman, I intentionally decided not to get involved with any international issues, including Ukraine, since I believed we had too many domestic issues shaking up our country from within. We still do, but when a major war in Ukraine broke out, I understood that I could be of significant value to my colleagues and our country.

As someone who learns everything from the ground, I spent some time around Europe including a number of visits to Ukraine. Therefore, my understanding of the situation in Ukraine is not from books and theories or surveillance reports and analytics, but from seeing and hearing what's actually happening with my own eyes. I will not go into many problems at this time and there are a plenty



REP. VICTORIA SPARTZ
Guest Column

of them, but will just list three urgent action items needed to get the situation under control:

1) President Biden has to stop playing politics, have a clear strategy and align security assistance with our strategy;

2) President Zelensky has to stop playing politics and theater, and start governing to better support his military and local governments; and

3) Congress has to establish proper oversight of critical infrastructure and delivery of weapons and aid.

- Rep. Victoria Spartz represents the Indiana 5th District, comprised of the north side of Indianapolis, Marion, Carmel, Anderson, Noblesville, Fishers and parts of Kokomo. She is the first Ukrainian-born person ever elected to Congress.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**CITY OF FISHERS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**
Owner: City of Fishers, Indiana
Director, Parks & Recreation
8100 E 106th Street, Suite 150
Fishers, IN 46038

Project: ROY G. HOLLAND MEMORIAL PARK - PICKLE BALL COURTS
Notice is hereby given that the City of Fishers, Hamilton County, Indiana ("Fishers") will receive sealed bids for the above-referenced Project addressed to the Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Fishers, 8100 E 106th Street, Suite 150, Fishers, Indiana 46038 until 12:00PM on or before the Bidder unopened. The Bids will be publicly opened and read by the City of Fishers at 12:00 pm on July 22, 2022 at 8100 E 106th Street, Suite 150. The Bid should be clearly marked "BID ENCLOSED Holland Park - Pickle Ball Courts" on the outside of the envelope, and as otherwise set forth in the Bid Documents.

In general, the Work shall be completed by State of Indiana certified/qualified Contractors and Subcontractors for the Project all as required by the Bid Documents which have been assembled into a bound Project Manual and generally consists of the construction of six (6) pickle ball courts and associated site work, all as further specified by the Bid Documents.

Any Bid may be withdrawn prior to the deadline for receipt of Bids, but no Bidder shall withdraw its Bid within sixty (60) days after the opening of the Bids. If a contract is awarded, it will be to the "lowest responsible and responsive bidder" in accordance with Ind. Code §36-1-12-1 et seq. The Owner, however, reserves the right to reject and/or cancel any and all Bids, solicitations and/or offers in whole or in part as specified in the solicitation when it is not in the best interests of the Owner, and waive any informalities, discrepancies, omissions, variances, or irregularities in bids received in its sole discretion. The Bid Bonds and certified checks of unsuccessful bidders will be returned upon selection of the successful Bidder, execution of the Agreement, and provision of the required Performance and Payment Bonds and Certificate of Insurance.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by bid security in the form of a Bid Bond as provided in the Project Manual in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total Bid amount, including alternates with a satisfactory corporate surety qualified to do business in the State of Indiana or by a certified check made payable to Fishers, on a solvent bank in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the total Bid including alternates. The Bid Bond or certified check shall be security that the successful Bidder will, within ten (10) calendar days or such other time specified by Owner from the acceptance of the Bid, execute the Agreement and provide the required Payment and Performance Bonds, included in the Project Manual and Certificate of Insurance.

A Performance Bond with good and sufficient surety as required by the Owner on the Form provided in the Project Manual, shall be required of the successful Bidder in an amount equal to at least one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Sum, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the Agreement. The surety of the Performance Bond may not be released until one (1) year after the Owner's final settlement with the Contractor.

The Contractor shall provide a Payment Bond with a good and sufficient surety as required by the Owner on Form provided in the Project Manual, in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Sum. The Payment Bond is binding on the Contractor, its subcontractors, and their successors and assigns for the payment of all indebtedness to a person for labor and services performed, material furnished, or services rendered. The Payment Bond must state that it is for the benefit of the subcontractors, laborers, material suppliers, and those performing services. The surety of the Payment Bond may not be released until one (1) year after the Owner's final settlement with the Contractor.

All out-of-state bidder corporations must have a Certificate of Authority to do business in the State. Application forms may be obtained by contacting the Secretary of State, State of Indiana, Statehouse, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.
TL19254 7/7 7/14 21 hspaxlp

PUBLIC NOTICES

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners will meet on Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. with the Hamilton County Insurance Committee to receive information regarding the county health insurance program. This meeting will be held in Conference Room 1A, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana.
/s/ Robin M. Mills
Hamilton County Auditor
TL19252 7/7 1t hspaxlp

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT

Indiana Department of Transportation (32 S. Broadway Street, Greenfield, IN 46104) is submitting a Notice of Intent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management of our intent to comply with the requirements of 327 IAC 15-5 to discharge storm water from construction activities associated with the State Route 37 Intersection Improvements Project. This project is located at the intersection of State Route 37 and 186th Street in Noblesville, Indiana. Run-off from the project site will discharge to the roadside ditches that lead to the William Lehr Ditch - Stony Creek. Questions or comments regarding this project should be directed to Kim Filson at the above address.
TL19253 7/7 1t hspaxlp

Never miss a public notice on legal proceedings!
After it prints in your local newspaper, it goes online:

IndianaPublicNotices.com
TheTimes24-7.com

Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

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 nrbdirectorofops@gmail.com	Chris Thomas League President Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball (317) 538-6555 nrbpresident@gmail.com
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Forest Park Aquatic Center

Enjoy Forest Park Aquatic Center's Many Amenities:

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Or Call: 317-773-4649

Are Democrats Gaining Ground in Indiana?



TIM TIMMONS
Sagamore News Media CEO

The older I get the more stock I put into the law of unintended consequences. Look at energy. The U.S. has cut back on energy production. Not sure why, but that forced us to buy energy from foreign powers. Probably not what was intended. But it goes further. The idea was to battle global warming. Instead we may have made it worse because many of the other countries who produce energy are harder on the environment than we were.

Unintended consequences.

Take the red wave being predicted in the mid-term elections. The thinking is that President Biden's growing unpopularity, the continued movement toward socialism, the increased prices for everything from a loaf of bread to aluminum siding and now this skyrocketing cost of a gallon of gas all combine to doom the Democrats. After all, the party in power tends to pay the price when voters are unhappy.

And boy are they unhappy. Thus, the predicted red wave.

But in the immortal words of Lee Corso, not so fast my friend.

Let's leave the nation out of it and focus on Indiana – a red state that has shown a few hints of blue here and there. The increase in the gas tax last week, coupled with the explosive abortion issue, could well end up costing the Grand Old Party at the polls.

The Democrats may be in control nationally, but the GOP is solely in charge with a super majority here. Under their watch, we are having a special session that was first designed to figure out what economic relief might be offered

Hoosiers. Now, after the Supreme Court opened the door on states setting their own abortion laws, legislators will address that issue as well.

Those are two mighty big subjects to tackle – and the GOP might find itself wading through a mine field.

Those exploding gas prices have caused questions for the governor and legislators on gas taxes. In addition, some Hoosiers looked down their noses when Gov. Eric Holcomb said each taxpayer was going to get \$225. One snarky reply said a couple hundred bucks might take care of two trips to the gas station – not exactly the kind of gratitude Holcomb was probably hoping for. Add to that the free-for-all over abortion and well . . . unintended consequences.

Let's get a couple of things straight.

First, the 5 cent increase you are hearing so much about didn't come from a recent vote to raise the gasoline use tax 5 cents. The nickel is simply a monthly adjustable number based on the current retail price of gas. As one lawmaker explained it to me, if you bought a refrigerator two years ago and it cost \$1,000 you paid \$70 in state sales tax. If you bought one today for \$3,000, you are paying \$210. But if that refrigerator cost \$800 today then you paid \$56 in taxes. The rate is 7 percent on all purchases. So as the retail prices go up and down, so does the tax. Ditto on gas.

But reality sometimes has little to do with perception and it's long been contended in this space that Democrats are much better at spinning public relations than their red counterparts. As usual, the blues are hammering all the above for everything they can. Democrats are good at that, and too many times we media types pick up on it without figuring out what Paul Harvey called the rest of the story.

How does the GOP do better? Well, an argument could be made that since Indiana Republicans have led the state to the

third-highest tax rate in the U.S. it might not hurt to suspend the gas tax temporarily – especially since the state has a few billion in savings. After all, the tax has been suspended before.

Republican lawmakers haven't agreed. They say that a suspension does not necessarily mean that gas stations will follow suit and lower prices. They also say that the tax goes to fix roads. Those supply chain woes we've been hearing so much about have not only resulted in shortages, prices are up. That means those tax dollars don't buy as much tar and gravel.

Fair points all. But a point to consider are the optics. By not suspending the gas tax and by offering Hoosiers a couple hundred bucks, the GOP is leaving the door wide open for the Democrats to keep touting a message that just might resonate with voters.

Unintended consequences.

Perhaps this special session will yield better answers? Perhaps the Republicans will find a new PR firm? Perhaps they will do a little thinking outside the box and impress voters?

There are a lot of questions and not many answers right now.

The only thing crystal clear is that the Republicans have been large and in charge for a while, and Hoosiers are growing more unhappy. So, good, bad or indifferent – abortion and pain at the pump are giving the Democrats something to hang their hat on when a month or two ago they had very little. It may be unintended, but the consequences at the ballot box could be very real.

- 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 timmons@thetimes24-7.com.

Business News

Two Local Restaurants Cook Up Results in Wine Spectator's 2022 Restaurant Awards



Two Local restaurants have been recognized by Wine Spectator, the world's leading authority on wine, as part of their 2022 Restaurant Awards, which honor the world's best restaurants for wine. This year's awards program recognizes 3,169 dining destinations from all 50 states in the U.S. and more than 70 countries internationally.

The two restaurants are Peterson's Restaurant in Fishers and Convivo Italian Artisan Cuisine in Carmel. Peterson's is a steakhouse which was recognized for its California wines. Convivo, on the other hand, is a high-end Italian restaurant

which was noted by Wine Spectator for the strength of its Tuscan and Italian wines.

"I want to congratulate all 3,169 restaurants that earned one of Wine Spectator's three awards for their devotion to all things wine," said Marvin R. Shanken, Editor and Publisher, Wine Spectator. "These awards not only guide our readers to dining establishments with impressive wine lists and outstanding service, but also serve

to honor restaurants for their achievements and commitment to maintaining pristine cellars. We are thrilled to reveal our 2022 Dining Guide, which points to places where wine drinkers are warmly welcomed."

Launched in 1981, the Restaurant Awards are assigned on three levels: the Award of Excellence, the Best of Award of Excellence and the Grand Award, with 1,782; 1,290; and 97 winners this year in each respective category.

Business News

OneZone Chamber Announces Eggs & Issues Monthly Advocacy Event



OneZone Chamber of Commerce announced Eggs & Issues as their new monthly advocacy event. Starting in December, OneZone member attendees will hear about a variety of topics. From January to April attendees will hear from state legislators, what they are working on at the Statehouse, and how to get involved. Additional topics include The State of Tourism, Agriculture in Indiana, schools, county, and city

officials, and hear from our nonprofit community.

David Day, a senior partner of Church Church Hittle + Antrim, noted, "As one of the oldest businesses in the county, CCHA has long supported efforts to inform local business leaders about issues important to the community and to advocate for positive changes that will keep our communities vibrant places to work and live. We are excited to partner with OneZone on this

initiative."

"We want to thank Church Church Hittle + Antrim for being our presenting sponsor for this new program. We believe that this event gives our businesses the opportunity to get connected with their community. Our goal at OneZone is to continue to be a voice for our business community in our cities, county, and region." Stated Jack Russell, President and CEO at OneZone Chamber of Commerce.

Registration for the first Eggs & Issues will open August. The first event will include state legislators.

Ideal Jobs



RIX QUINN
Quinn Summary

My co-worker Tom said he's thinking about trying a new career. He should make that move soon, because he's 63 years old.

I share his concern, for I too have often wondered if I should stay in a job, switch professions, or just go back to sleep at my

desk. The first thing I asked myself was "What do I like to do?"

Next, I asked, "What am I good at?" I am very proficient at eating and sleeping, but almost nobody will pay me to do this.

What do others do well? For instance, if you're skilled with your hands, you might become a carpenter, a portrait painter, or a surgeon.

If you're good with your feet? Well, maybe you could be a place-kicker.

Next, I asked Tom, "What do you think about most of the time?" He told me he thought about very little, which was not encouraging.

Do you like to work with people? Perhaps you could be a tour guide, or a coach. Or, maybe a tour guide who travels by coach.

Do you like to work with imaginary people? Then I cannot help you. I already work with several of them.

Finding the perfect job is like finding a great date. If you can go back the third day without vomiting, perhaps you've found a match.

Remember...a career is a marathon, not a sprint. So, wear comfortable shoes, and don't worry if you get off to a slow start.

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

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2022 Flix and Float Schedule

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 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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Letters

Former HSPA Director Offers Appreciation for Efforts to Support News

EDITOR'S NOTE: Steve Key is the retired executive director and general counsel for the Hoosier State Press Association. Each year, Mr. Key writes legislators and thanks them for the work they did this year on behalf of both the general public and the newspaper industry. This is one of the letters that went to a Hamilton County lawmaker.

Dear Rep. Jeter:

On behalf of the Hoosier State Press Association, I'd like to thank you for your support of H.B. 1130 during the 2022 Indiana General Assembly. This is the legislation that gives the public the right to comment at public school board meetings.

It was introduced by Rep. Tim O'Brien, R-Evansville. The House initially had two other bills introduced on the right to speak at public meetings - H.B. 1080, authored by Rep. David Abbott, R-Rome City, or H.B. 1290, authored by Rep. Ryan Lauer, R-Columbus. Rep. O'Brien said there was a decision among House Republicans to move his bill, rather than the other two options.

O'Brien's bill was approved by the House Government and Regulatory Reform Committee, chaired by Rep. Doug Miller, R-Elkhart, with an 11-0 vote. The House then passed H.B. 1130 with a 93-0, including your "aye" vote. Co-authors for H.B. 1130 were Reps. Jake Teschka, R-South Bend; Steve Bartels, R-Eckerty; and Michelle Davis, R-Whiteland.

HSPA testified on the bill during its Senate Education and Career Development Committee hearing, chaired by Sen. Jeff Raatz, R-Richmond. HSPA pointed out the bill did not include charter schools. HSPA also pointed out that the language didn't tie the right to comment to specific agenda items, which would open the door for a school board to hold comments until the end of a meeting after final action had been taken.

The Senate Committee did approve the bill, but it added a three-minute limit per person on public comment. The committee vote

was 10-1. Sen. Jim Buck, R-Kokomo, was the bill's sponsor. The co-sponsors were Sens. Vaneta Becker, R-Evansville; Mark Messmer, R-Jasper; Erin Houchin, R-Salem; and John Crane, R-Avon.

A second reading amendment by Sen. Buck was approved that eliminated the three-minute limit. The Senate then passed the bill, 34-11.

O'Brien concurred and the House approved that motion, 91-1.

HSPA also appreciates your support of S.B. 83, which was passed after H.B. 1130 and added a couple of legislative improvements in our view. The final version added charter and virtual school boards to the provision allowing public comment. It also added language to provide that the public had the right to speak on an agenda item prior to any final action taken on that item. Both changes reflected testimony by HSPA when the Senate Education and Career Development Committee held its hearing on H.B. 1130.

S.B. 83 was authored by Sen. Jean Leising, R-Oldenburg. The bill was filed with a drafting error, making code citation references to the Access to Public Records Act, rather than the Open Door Law. HSPA brought the error to Sen. Leising's attention and she fixed the error with an amendment during the bill's hearing before the Senate Education and Career Development Committee hearing, chaired by Sen. Jeff Raatz, R-Richmond.

Rather than testify on the technical correction, HSPA's testimony turned into an explanation of an amendment offered by Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, that involved three separate sections of the Open Door Law. While Sen. Rogers' amendment died with a tie vote, the bill was passed, 8-4. The committee discussion led to a 2nd reading amendment that HSPA supported clarifying that executive sessions would not be subject to public comment. S.B. 83 was passed by the Senate, 45-4. The co-authors were Sens. Vaneta Becker, R-Evansville; and Kyle Walker, R-Indianapolis.

HSPA testified for the

bill during its hearing before the House Education Committee, chaired by Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, who also was the bill's sponsor. HSPA did suggest a change to allow public comments be tied to specific agenda items to avoid a school board putting public comments at the end of a meeting after final actions had been taken. The bill was held a week for an amendment to be prepared to improve the bill.

Rep. Behning said he was working with Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, on the amendment. Rep. Smith gave Legislative Services Agency permission to share the draft with HSPA. HSPA suggested a change so that citizens would not be limited to only three minutes to speak during a school board meeting. The committee pared the bill down to allowing public comment in public school board meetings with no time limits. This version passed 10-0.

On the House floor, Rep. Ed Delaney, D-Indianapolis, successfully amended the bill to add charter and virtual school board to the public comment right. The bill was then passed by the House, 94-0 with your "aye" vote. The House co-sponsors were Rep. Tim O'Brien, R-Evansville; and J.D. Prescott, R-Union City.

Sen. Leising did file a dissent, but the conference committee report primarily aligned the bill with previously passed H.B. 1130. The conference committee report was approved by the Senate, 39-11, and the House, 93-0 with your positive vote.

On a personal note, the 2022 Indiana General Assembly marked the 30th session that I worked for HSPA and my last as executive director and general counsel. It's been a privilege for me to work with the state's legislators and I fully appreciate the hard work that the legislature performs.

As my role and life changes, I want to wish you all the best in your future.

Respectfully,
Stephen Key
HSPA Executive Director and General Counsel

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Begins MFRF's Operation Back to School Program

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) announced yesterday the Military Family Relief Fund Operation Back to School program is now open for applicants. Indiana veteran families experiencing financial hardship may be eligible for up to \$500 for each dependent for back-to-school supplies and other school-related expenses and needs.

"We want to provide our veteran families with some relief for the upcoming school year," said Dennis Wimer, director of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. "Indiana's MFRF was designed to



provide financial assistance to veterans, and Operation Back to School allows us to serve more veterans and their families."

Indiana veteran families may apply for eligible dependents attending kindergarten to 12th grade (up to 18 years of age) and full-time college students (up to 23 years of age) that

live in the veteran's home.

Applicants must provide the following documentation:

- DD-214
- W-9
- Direct Deposit form
- Proof of income
- Bank Statement
- Proof of child's residency

MFRF's Operation Back to School may only be used to provide services to veteran families experiencing financial hardship who reside in the state of Indiana, have served in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and hold a discharge in the form of a DD-214 or National Guard Bureau (NGB) Form 22.

Meeting Notes

Hamilton County Board of Commissioners

Meeting Agenda
July 11, 2022 at 1 p.m.
Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center - Commissioner's Courtroom

One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana 46060

- I. Executive Session
 1. Discussion of Security IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(7)
 2. Purchase of Real Estate IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(D)
 3. Discussion of Pending Litigation IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(B)
 4. Discussion of Personnel IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(7)
- II. Call to Order
- III. Declare Quorum
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance
- V. Approval of Executive Session Memoranda
 1. 7/11/22
- VI. Approval of Minutes
 1. 6/23/22 - 9:00 a.m. Meeting
 2. 6/23/22 BOC & ARPA Committee Meeting
- VII. Plat Approval
 1. Ward's Estates
 2. Eleanor Estates
 3. Replat of James

Road Estates

VIII. Highway Business

1. Road Cut Permits

2. Private Traffic Control Permits

3. Vehicle Exemption Permits

4. Acceptance of Bonds and Letters of Credit

5. Release of Bonds and Letters of Credit

6. Agreement/Supplements

a. Bridge No. 154 Rehabilitation - 126th Street over Cool Creek - Engineering Supplemental No. 2 with SCJA

7. Acceptance of Streets

8. Concurrence with Traffic Study Correspondence

9. Public Works Quotation Results

10. Official Actions

11. Correspondence

12. Announcements

IX. Probation - Madonna Wagoner

1. Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Grant Agreement

2. Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative 2022-2023 Coordinator's Assistant Contract

3. Authorization for Meal Expense

X. ISSD - Chris Mertens

1. UKG Telestaff Sup-

port Services Quote

XI. Community Development Block Grant - Mary Shaw

1. City of Noblesville Division Street Sidewalks Funding Agreement

XII. Commissioner Committee Reports

XIII. Attorney

1. Third Addendum to Build Operate Transfer Agreement and Bill of Sale (Parking Garage)

2. 4H Storage Building Rental Bid Award and Contract

XIV. Director of Administration

XV. Sheriff

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

XVI. Auditor

1. Acceptance of Bonds/Letters of Credit - Drainage Board

2. Release of Bonds/Letters of Credit - Drainage Board

3. Vendor Claims

4. Liability Trust Monthly Expenditure Report

5. Payroll Claims

XVII. Work Session - Conference Room 1A

1. 4H Master Plan - Susan Peterson

2. Safety Risk Management - Steven Rushforth

a. Title 6 Compliance Requirements for IndyGO

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BBB Scam Alert: Crafty New Scam Targeting Facebook Marketplace Sellers

Watch out when selling big-ticket items on Facebook Marketplace. Scammers have a new trick up their sleeves! According to BBB Scam Tracker reports, be wary of phony buyers who “need” you to upgrade your Zelle or another digital wallet app to accept money from them.



How the scam works
You list a big-ticket item worth several hundred dollars on Facebook Marketplace. You are quickly contacted by a buyer who wants to pay using a peer-to-peer payment app. Recent BBB Scam Tracker reports reference Zelle, but this scam could also work with CashApp, Venmo (a BBB Accredited Business), or another similar service.

Shortly after receiving the payment, you get an email, supposedly from Zelle. Allegedly, the buyer paid via a Zelle “business account.” Now, you also need to upgrade your account to business status to accept the transfer. To do so, the buyer will need to send you another \$300. They are happy to do you

a favor - if you promise to refund them.

One scam victim reported this experience: “I received an email from zelle@bankconfirmed-payment.com explaining that the funds were waiting, but the buyer had to send an additional \$300 in order to upgrade my account because the transaction was over \$600, and I would need a business account.” The scammer then “sent” the extra funds and included screenshots of his Zelle app with the money deducted from his account. Then, he started pressuring the victim into repaying him: “He was very upset and persistent that I needed to pay him back for the fees that he incurred on my behalf.” If you refund the scam-

mer, you’ll quickly realize that they never sent you any money in the first place. You’ll be out a few hundred dollars, and the scammer will disappear.

How to avoid scams when selling online:

- **Don’t trust anyone willing to overpay you.** Unless your item is rare and you receive multiple offers, be wary of buyers offering you more than your asking price. Consider it a red flag if someone is quick to send you more money than you are asking.
- **Check email addresses carefully.** If you seem to have received an email from Zelle or another payment app, double-check the email address. Scammers use fake email addresses that are similar to official

ones.

- **Get to know payment app policies before you use them.** If someone claims you need a business account to accept payments, check the app’s official website or contact customer service to find out if the claim is true. Scammers often make up fake policies to trick their victims.
- **Report scams to Facebook Marketplace.** If you spot a seller trying to pull off a scam, report them. Your report can help protect other unsuspecting sellers.

For more information
Read the BBB Tip: Selling used items online and the BBB Scam Alert on overpayment scams for more ways to stay safe when selling items online. Report suspicious activ-

ity to Facebook and BBB.org/ScamTracker, even if you didn’t fall for the scam.

Stay one step ahead of scammers by subscribing to BBB’s weekly Scam Alert emails.

The Better Business Bureau has empowered people to find businesses, brands and charities they can trust for over 110 years. In 2021, people turned to BBB more than 200 million times for BBB Business Profiles on 6.3 million businesses and Charity Reports on 25,000 charities, free at BBB.org. Local, independent BBBs can be found across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, including BBB Serving Central Indiana, which was founded in 1916 and serves 46 counties.

Indiana Department of Education Now Accepting Applications for Grant to Support Educator Pipeline



The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) announced yesterday that applications are now open for the Attract, Prepare, Retain (APR) Grant. This grant is available for Indiana’s schools and community partners to support local initiatives to attract and retain educators in school buildings across the state.

“Like most employers, Indiana’s schools are not immune from the challenges of today’s labor market,” said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. “As schools work to recruit and retain top talent, we must work with urgency to not just admire the problem, but to support schools with the resources they need to best support our students. This grant, alongside other new tools, is focused on empowering our local schools and communities as we work together to spark creative solutions to recruit and retain our very best educators to serve Indiana’s students.”

The grant makes a total of \$5 million from the state’s Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund available to support local plans. Plans may center on increasing leadership and career advancement within the educator profession, as well

as increasing opportunities for high school students and underrepresented populations to pursue careers as educators. This could include increasing:

- The number of opportunities for high school students to enter educator preparation programs with transferable postsecondary credits,
- Underrepresented populations among candidates enrolling in educator preparation programs,
- Opportunities for leadership and career advancement within the profession, and
- Opportunities for sharing information, practices and ideas among other educators.

The launch of this grant is the latest initiative led by IDOE to support educator talent, quality and value, which is one of the department’s three strategic pillars. These efforts include launching a comprehensive educator supply and demand marketplace, which provides real-time data and a simplified process for posting openings to a statewide audience. IDOE

also expanded the Indiana Learning Lab, which serves as a one-stop-shop for instructional resources, professional development and other best practices for educators – and now has nearly 24,000 members.

The grant opportunity also comes on the heels of IDOE’s Attract, Prepare and Retain Connection Point Summits, which brought together K-12, higher education leaders and other stakeholders for interactive events designed to foster comprehensive conversations on best practices and replicable models across the state.

Applications are due on Friday, August 5. Interested applicants can submit their online application at <https://www.jotform.com/220936591035961?>. Questions about the grant can be directed to eel@doe.in.gov. Additional information is available online at <https://media.doe.in.gov/news/attract-prepare-retain-apr-grant-expanding-and-diversifying-indianas-educator-pipeline-et.pdf>.

Rokita Asks SCOTUS to Rule on Communists

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to protect the constitutional liberties of Americans who have suffered persecution by the Chinese Communist Party.

“To safeguard religious liberty for all Americans, we must stand up to defend it anytime it comes under threat,” Rokita said. “The Constitution protects not just the rights of the majority. Rather, it applies to all citizens equally.”

At issue before the court is whether sidewalk booths used by certain religious groups to proselytize their beliefs fall within the definition of places of worship under a federal statute.

Even in America, CCP-connected groups work to disrupt and hinder religious gatherings and outreach activities — such as committing and/or threatening acts of violence against individuals praying and proselytizing on

American sidewalks.

“Recognizing the booths as places of worship,” Rokita said, “is consistent with America’s history of protecting all manner of religious beliefs and practice.”

Rokita has long said he would hold China accountable for its many abuses, including stealing U.S. intellectual property, committing human rights violations, and unleashing a deadly virus on the world. He has steadfastly kept that promise.

The Chinese Communist Party enforces state atheism in its own nation — punishing Christians, Uyghur Muslims and other individuals who engage in religious practices through “reeducation” camps, involuntary servitude and physical torture.

“The Chinese Communist Party remains a force for evil in the world,” Rokita added, “and it brings its insidious



Attorney General Todd Rokita

ideologies and tactics right here to our own shores. As Indiana’s attorney general, I’ll keep doing everything in my power to protect Hoosiers from the CCP’s schemes.”

In August 2021, Rokita launched an investigation into Valparaiso University’s affiliation with the CCP through its Confucius Institute, a CCP propaganda operation. Weeks later, the university announced it was terminating its relationship with the institute.

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BETSY From Page A1



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

A neon pink Fireworks Festival Parking Pass, bought for \$25, hangs in a car window at Forest Park Aquatic Center.

Pass hanging in our car's front window. (Usually VIP stands for Very Important Person.)

But in this instance, we discovered those who bought the \$25 parking pass were actually indeed treated as VIPs (Very Ignored Persons).

What was the city thinking when organizers made the plan to have trolley and bus departure blocking the parking lot that folks paid \$25 each to have a reserved place to park?

Maybe the city had a reason for all of the buses and trolleys to board at the north end of the park. But common sense to me would have been to use the south end like we've seen buses departing the festival in the past.

The Fireworks Festival Parking Pass was a great idea and I would probably buy one again. But next year, let's get better organized with the departure.

As always, I encourage anyone with opinions,

complaints, kudos or suggestions to contact our mayor's office at 317-776-6324. Mayor Chris Jensen loves to hear from the community.

- Contact Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com. By the way, the \$160 VIP tables of eight (\$20 per person) did look like a great way to enjoy the festival and watch the spectacular fireworks, with reserved seating close to the band's stage and separate VIP restroom options.

CELEBRATING From Page A1

He graduated in 1955 and got his first job at South Whitley Schools up near Fort Wayne. As was done in those days, in 1956 he was drafted into the Army and sent to Fort Smith in Arkansas. After discharge from the Army in 1957, he returned to Indiana as the band director at Shipshewana. That is where he met and married Martha.

Les taught in multiple school systems through the years, and eventually moved out of the classroom and into administration first as a principal and eventually becoming a superintendent. He came to Sheridan in 1972 and during his tenure helped to build a new football stadium and build the middle school for the corporation.

In 1981, he left Sheridan and went to work at Carmel schools as the Transportation Director. He retired from Carmel in 1994.

After his retirement, Les served on the Sheridan School Board, served on the Sheridan Town Council, became a Riverview Hospital volunteer, and served as the statewide director of the AARP Safe Driver program. During his last year with AARP, he was the Indiana AARP Volunteer of the year. Using his musical background, Les has been an active member of the choir at Sheridan's First United Methodist Church singing in, and occasionally directing, the choir.

To say the Pence's have

been a busy family for the past seven or so decades is an understatement. Les and Martha have successfully raised an ever-expanding family and he has left his mark on education systems across Indiana. Sixty-four years of marriage is, in and of itself, an accomplishment to be proud of, and fifty years as a Sheridan resident earns him bragging rights. This is a family that came here fifty years ago and decided to stay instead of moving on.

If you know the Pence's, offer them your congratulations. If you do not know them, rest assured Sheridan has nice, friendly accomplished people living here and enriching the community through their presence.

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Facts & Fun

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Did You Know?

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

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

Answers: 1. About 1 percent 2. 202 Years
3. 28207 People 4. 1.298/sq. mi. ÷

Got Words?

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

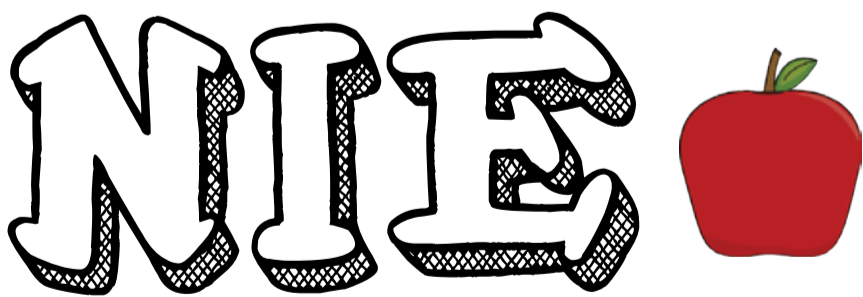
Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

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

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

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Thursday, July 7, 2022

A8

Fossils In The 'Cradle Of Humankind' May Be More Than A Million Years Older Than Previously Thought

The earth doesn't give up its secrets easily – not even in the "Cradle of Humankind" in South Africa, where a wealth of fossils relating to human evolution have been found.

For decades, scientists have studied these fossils of early human ancestors and their long-lost relatives. Now, a dating method developed by a Purdue University geologist just pushed the age of some of these fossils found at the site of Sterkfontein Caves back more than a million years. This would make them older than Dinkinesh, also called Lucy, the world's most famous Australopithecus fossil.

The "Cradle of Humankind" is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in South Africa that comprises a variety of fossil-bearing cave deposits, including at Sterkfontein Caves. Sterkfontein was made famous by the discovery of the first adult Australopithecus, an ancient hominin, in 1936. Hominins includes humans and our ancestral relatives, but not the other great apes. Since then, hundreds of Australopithecus fossils have been found there, including the well-known Mrs. Ples, and the nearly complete skeleton known as Little Foot. Paleoanthropologists and other scientists have studied Sterkfontein and other cave sites in the Cradle of Humankind for decades to shed light on human and environmental evolution over the past 4 million years.

Darryl Granger, a professor of earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences in Purdue University's College of Science, is one of those scientists, working as part of an international team. Granger specializes in dating geologic deposits,

including those in caves. As a doctoral student, he devised a method for dating buried cave sediments that is now used by researchers all over the world. His previous work at Sterkfontein dated the Little Foot skeleton to about 3.7 million years old, but scientists are still debating the age of other fossils at the site.

In a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Granger and a team of scientists including researchers from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa and the University Toulouse Jean Jaurès in France, have discovered that not only Little Foot, but all of the Australopithecus-bearing cave sediments date from about 3.4 to 3.7 million years old, rather than 2-2.5 million years old as scientists previously theorized. That age places these fossils toward the beginning of the Australopithecus era, rather than near the end. Dinkinesh, who hails from Ethiopia, is 3.2 million years old, and her species, Australopithecus africanus, hails back to about 3.9 million years old.

Sterkfontein is a deep and complex cave system that preserves a long history of hominin occupation of the area. Understanding the dates of the fossils here can be tricky, as rocks and bones tumbled to the bottom of a deep hole in the ground, and there are few ways to date cave sediments.

In East Africa, where many hominin fossils have been found, the Great Rift Valley volcanoes lay down layers of ash that can be dated. Researchers use those layers to estimate how old a fossil is. In South Africa – especially

in a cave – the scientists don't have that luxury. They typically use other animal fossils found around the bones to estimate their age or calcite flowstone deposited in the cave. But bones can shift in the cave, and young flowstone can be deposited in old sediment, making those methods potentially incorrect. A more accurate method is to date the actual rocks in which the fossils were found. The concrete-like matrix that embeds the fossil, called breccia, is the material Granger and his team analyze.

"Sterkfontein has more Australopithecus fossils than anywhere else in the world," Granger said. "But it's hard to get a good date on them. People have looked at the animal fossils found near them and compared the ages of cave features like flowstones and gotten a range of different dates. What our data does is resolve these controversies. It shows that these fossils are old – much older than we originally thought."

Granger and the team used accelerator mass spectrometry to measure radioactive nuclides in the rocks, as well as geologic mapping and an intimate understanding of how cave sediments accumulate to determine the age of the Australopithecus-bearing sediments at Sterkfontein.

Granger and the research group at the Purdue Rare Isotope Measurement Laboratory (PRIME Lab) study so-called cosmogenic nuclides and what they can reveal about the history of fossils, geological features and rock. Cosmogenic nuclides are extremely rare isotopes produced by cosmic rays – high-energy particles that constantly bombard the earth. These incoming

cosmic rays have enough energy to cause nuclear reactions inside rocks at the ground surface, creating new, radioactive isotopes within the mineral crystals. An example is aluminum-26: aluminum that is missing a neutron and slowly decays to turn into magnesium over a period of millions of years. Since aluminum-26 is formed when a rock is exposed at the surface, but not after it has been deeply buried in a cave, PRIME lab researchers can date cave sediments (and the fossils within them) by measuring levels of aluminum-26 in tandem with another cosmogenic nuclide, beryllium-10.

In addition to the new dates at Sterkfontein based on cosmogenic nuclides, the research team made careful maps of the cave deposits and showed how animal fossils of different ages would have been mixed together during excavations in the 1930s and 1940s, leading to decades of confusion with the previous ages. "What I hope is that this convinces people that this dating method gives reliable results," Granger said. "Using this method, we can more accurately place ancient humans and their relatives in the correct time periods, in Africa, and elsewhere across the world."

The age of the fossils matters because it influences scientists' understanding of the living landscape of the time. How and where humans evolved, how they fit into the ecosystem, and who their closest relatives are and were, are pressing and complex questions. Putting the fossils at Sterkfontein into their proper context is one step towards solving the entire puzzle.

Lt. Gov. Crouch, OCRA Announce Availability Of Historic Renovation Grant Program Funding

The Historic Renovation Grant Program will open for applications on July 6, according to Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The program is designed to preserve and rehabilitate historic properties to further incentivize downtown economic development across Indiana.

"Indiana is home to many beautiful, historic buildings, however maintaining these structures can often be costly," Crouch said. "This grant provides financial support to communities to carry out necessary projects for their historic buildings, helping keep Indiana's rich history alive."

Applicants with an eligible historic commercial structure can apply for project funding between \$5,000 and \$100,000. The request must be no more than 50% of eligible project costs, with the local match being greater than or equal to 50% of the total eligible project costs.

"The Historic Renovation Grant Program has already helped many communities around the state preserve and restore important structures," said OCRA Executive Director Denny Spinner. "The program will have a lasting impact and help keep



Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch

history alive within the communities awarded."

Since the creation of HRGP in 2016, OCRA has funded 71 projects for over \$4 million in state funds and leveraged more than \$25 million in private investment.

To be considered for funding, applicants must receive an approved Certificate of Approval from the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology by Aug. 28, 2022. Completed grant applications must be received by OCRA before 4 p.m. ET on Oct. 5, 2022. Eligible applicants include non-profits, individuals, partnerships, firms, associations, joint ventures, limited liability companies, corporation or non-profit affordable housing organization.

For more information, visit in.gov/ocra/hrgp.

Researching Your Irish Ancestors Online – Searching And Browsing For Success

By Debra M. Dudek

You will learn online tools and resources to help solve the puzzle of your Irish heritage. This lecture will introduce you to a variety of online sites, new search strategies and what steps to take to further your research objectives online and abroad.

Debra M. Dudek is Head of Adult and Teen Services at the Fountaindale Public Library District in Bolingbrook, IL. She holds a post graduate certificate in Genealogical, Palaeographic & Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. Ms. Dudek is the Book Review Editor of the Illinois State genealogical Society, a board member of the Illinois State Historical Society, Chapter Librarian of the Chicago Chapter NSDAR, and is the author of the World War 1 Research Guide: Tracing American Military and Non-Combatant Ancestors.

This program is FREE

to WVGS members, and will be held via Zoom on July 11 2022 at 6:30 p.m. If you are not a member, you may join this meeting and all of the following meetings in 2022 by sending \$15 per individual, or \$20 per family to Wabash Valley Genealogy Society, P O Box 7012, Terre Haute, IN 47802-7012. If you wish to pay using Paypal, add \$2 to each choice. You can obtain the application by going to www.inwvgs.org. Click on membership. Watch this site to see more upcoming events or check WVGS Facebook page. Send application at least one week before the meeting date.

For this fee, you will be able to obtain assistance from other members when you reach a "brick wall" in your research. You will also receive a bi-monthly newsletter. Handouts and recorded videos will be available for periods of time for members only . . . so join to take advantage of the WVGS offerings.

Walleye And Saugeye Stocked This Spring Await Anglers

The outlook for walleye and saugeye fishing looks good for upcoming years after a total of 28.3 million walleye fry, 529,404 walleye fingerlings, and 101,800 saugeye were at various locations around Indiana this spring.

Stocking for these species is scheduled annually because they don't reproduce naturally in most locations.

Fry were stocked at the end of April, while walleye and hybrid walleye fingerlings were stocked at the end of May and early this month. Typically, walleye and hybrid walleye will reach 14 inches two years after being stocked and 16 inches after three years.

Because this year was successful for egg collection, hatching rates for fry, and fingerling production, hatchery staff and biologists were able to fully stock all requested locations, including a few that were on the



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

surplus list.

"Expect good walleye fishing to continue in future years," said Tom Bacula, DNR fisheries biologist.

These lakes, with their counties in parentheses, were stocked as follows:

Walleye fry were stocked at Bass (Starke), Brookville (Franklin and Union), Eagle Creek (Marion), Mississinewa (Wabash), Monroe (Brown and Monroe), and Patoka (Orange, Dubois, and Crawford).

Walleye fingerlings were stocked at Cagles Mill (Owen and Putnam), Freeman (Carroll), Koko-

mo Reservoir (Howard), Lake of the Woods (Marshall), Pike (Kosciusko), Prairie Creek Reservoir (Delaware), Shafer (White), Summit (Henry), and Oakdale Dam on Tippecanoe River (Carroll).

Saugeye fingerlings were stocked at Glenn Flint (Putnam), Huntingburg (Dubois), Koteewi Park (Hamilton), and Sullivan (Sullivan).

The statewide bag limit for walleye, sauger, and saugeye is six fish per day in combination. For walleye, the minimum size limit is 14 inches for waters south of State

Road 26 and 16 inches for waters north of State Road 26. Lakes with walleye exceptions are Bass (Starke) and Wolf (Lake) where the minimum is 14 inches, Lake George (Steuben) where the minimum is 15 inches, and Wall (LaGrange) where the minimum is 16 inches with a two fish daily bag limit.

There is no size limit on saugeye (or on sauger) except on Huntingburg Lake (Dubois), Glenn Flint Lake (Putnam), and Sullivan Lake (Sullivan) where the minimum size limit is 14 inches. Ohio River has a minimum size limit of 14 inches and a six fish combination limit per day for walleye, sauger, and saugeye.

Learn more about fishing for walleye: wildlife.IN.gov/fishing/walleye-fishing. Read about fish stocking in Indiana: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/fishing/indiana-fish-stocking/>

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A9

Military Tribute Banner Program Honors Those Who Served

The Dorothy Q Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) has a long history of honoring those who serve in the military. They are now offering Montgomery County residents an opportunity to recognize and honor veterans and active military in a very special manner. To date, the towns of Lebanon, Brownsburg, Danville and Plainfield, Pittsboro, Clayton have approved the program to display military banners on their street light poles.

Chapter Member, Michele Borden, is excited about the banner project. "This is a wonderful way to honor and recognize those who served or are still serving our country in the military. The public is very excited about the program. Although, we are just now publicly

announcing the endeavor, we have several requests from those who have heard of the project, with some families purchasing multiple banners." Borden added, "The chapter has never undertaken a project of this type so in addition to the public's enthusiasm, the officials of Crawfordsville have been very supportive and accommodating as we begin this new venture."

To be eligible, an individual must have served, be honorably discharged or currently serving in the United States Armed Forces and have a valid connection to Montgomery County, past or present. The individual may be living, deceased, POW or MIA. Each banner will include the name, branch of service and conflict, if any. This program honors all veterans, whether in

time of conflict or peace.

The vinyl banners, measuring approximately 30" x 65", will depict the individual on both sides and will be displayed for 1 year, from November 2022 to November 2023. Once the banners are removed, they will be returned to the purchaser.

Applicants purchasing banners must complete and sign an application attesting information submitted is true and correct (the chapter does reserve the right to request verification of military service), and will agree to not hold Dorothy Q Chapter or the individual town responsible for damage, theft, or acts of violence to banners, nor should they expect replacement should these instances occur.

Applications are being taken on a first come, first serve basis and will

continue through September 1, 2022. Applications must be fully completed and submitted with payment of \$125 and a high-quality photo in uniform. An 8x10 photo is desired. Photos may be black and white or color. Low quality photos and photos less than 5x7 will not be accepted. Photos will be returned.

Borden urges anyone wishing to participate in the program to apply early to ensure securing space on one of the allotted poles.

If you would like to honor a family member who served or is currently serving in the United States military, contact Michele Borden at 765-366-7708 mlborden@mymetronet.net or contact Judy Fifer at 765-362-5641 judithfifer56@gmail.com

New Abortion Law Goes Into Effect

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

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

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

The full list of safeguards include:

- A woman must be asked at least 18 hours before an abortion, in a private setting, if she is being coerced into having an abortion.
- If coercion is suspected, she must be informed that coercion is illegal.
- She must also be informed that a demand by the father to have an abortion does not relieve him of financial responsibilities if she wants to continue her pregnancy and parent her baby. He would still be responsible for child support.
- Suspected victims of coerced abortion must be provided with information about assistance, counseling, protective services, access to a phone if they need to make a private call, and access to an alternative exit from the facility.
- A mandatory reporter must report every instance of coerced abortion to law enforcement.
- An abortion on a woman who is a suspected victim of coercion cannot be done during the 24-hour period after a report is made to law enforcement.
- Law enforcement is required to immediately

initiate an investigation into the reported coercion.

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

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

Among Indiana's more than 100 pregnancy resource centers, their directors know that traffickers bring women and girls into their facilities for free pregnancy tests before going the route of an abortion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Nothing should restrict an American's ability to make their voice heard and vote, regardless of where you live or what method you use to cast your ballot," said Daniel Griffith, Senior Policy Director at Secure Democracy USA who helped author the report. "Rural voters are often forgotten in policy debates around election changes, but this report shows that voters in rural areas are often most at risk when our freedom to vote is restricted."

As we approach the 2022 general election and see the impact of the new wave of voting restrictions passed at the state level over the last two years, this report previews the barriers rural



voters will face when casting their ballot. The report provides a glimpse into the demographics and voting preferences of voters living in rural counties across the country and makes policy recommendations to increase voting access and improve election administration.

The key findings of the report include:

- Nearly half of all rural voters voted early in 2020. In the 2020 general election, roughly 47% of voters living in rural areas voted before Election Day, either by in-person early voting (25%) or mail-in voting (22%). Overall, Election Day voting declined by 30% in rural counties from 2016 to 2020.
- Voting rates are higher in rural areas with at-will absentee voting. While rural voters' use of mail-in voting significantly increased in the 2020 election, the availability of mail-in voting also appears to have increased turnout in rural areas. The rate of turnout among voters

in rural counties that did not require an excuse to vote by mail in 2020 was nearly 8 percent higher than in rural counties that required a qualifying reason to vote by mail.

· Many rural voters depend on same day voter registration. In the 2020 general election, 9% of all same day registrations came from voters living in rural counties, despite the fact that rural counties accounted for only 6% of registrants.

· When voting in-person, rural voters generally have to travel farther to cast their ballot. 50% of urban polling places serve an area of less than 2 square miles, while 50% of rural county polling places serve an area greater than 62 square miles.

· Voters in states with higher rural populations are more likely to face barriers to voting by mail. These barriers include needing an excuse to vote by mail; strict witness, notary, or photocopy requirements for ballot verification; limited postal service coverage

that makes it hard to meet ballot receipt deadlines; no process to fix (cure) common, minor mistakes such as forgetting a signature; no offerings of drop boxes; and no prepared paid postage for mail ballots.

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

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



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