

TODAY'S VERSE

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes McKinley Stalbaum smile? "Seeing my dog," said the fifth-grader at Westfield Intermediate School, who previously attended Shamrock Springs Elementary School. Her dog is named Mini, a miniature Aussie-doodle. She's a member of Shamrock Shakers and is the daughter of Darrell and Melissa Stalbaum. She has two brothers, Braxton, 12, and Levi, 8, who are both in 4-H programs, including Levi, in Mini 4-H. She's taking nine projects at the 4-H Fair. She was found Sunday turning in her 4-H Shooting Sports poster project and featured the parts of the muzzle loader. Favorite project? "Dogs." She competed in Dog Agility on Saturday and then competed in Showmanship, and she's also taking Arts and Crafts, Sewing, Consumer Clothing, Lawn and Garden, Dog, Swine, Goats and Poultry. She lives in the countryside. Favorite fair food? "Grilled cheese." Favorite activity at the fair? "I like to show my pig and also Mini (the dog)." During the 4-H Fair, she sees a lot of friends. She plans to sell her pig this year at the 4-H Fair's live auction (on Tuesday) just as she did last year. Last year's pig sold for about \$300, which she saved for this year's animal care. She said the meat from her pig will be donated to Hamilton County Food Bank. The Hamilton County 4-H Fair started Thursday and continues through Monday at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville. Fair food favorites will range from elephant ears and corn dogs to tenderloin, fruit slushies, corn on the cob, and producers tents featuring dairy, rabbit, poultry, pork, sheep and beef, plus milkshakes, Extension Homemaker Kitchen specials and Junior Leaders Snack Shack with pizza and hot dogs.

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).

Hamilton County 4-H Fair Schedule

Here's what's happening at the Hamilton County 4-H Fair:

Today, the food fare will offer a Rabbit and Poultry Barbecue, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Joint Producers' Barbecue, 5-9 p.m.; Extension Homemakers' special chicken and noodles. The day's activities include: 4-H Rabbit Show, 8:30 a.m.; 4-H Beef Grooming Contest, 8:30 a.m.; 4-H Chicken Barbecue, 9 a.m.; 4-H Intermediate Llama Showmanship, 9:30 a.m.; 4-H Horse & Pony Western Show, 10 a.m.; Sheep Fitting Contest, 11:30 a.m.; Silly Safari Animal Show, 1 p.m.; 4-H Llama PR Obstacle Class, 1:30 p.m.; Indiana Blood Center Blood Drive, 3-7 p.m.; 4-H Dairy Goat Show, 3 p.m.; Llama Costume Contest, 5 p.m.; 4-H Meat Goat Show, 6 p.m.; 4-H Beef Barbecue Contest, 6 p.m.; Leaping Llama Exhibition, 6 p.m.; 4-H Sewing & Consumer Clothing Revue, 7 p.m.; Walk-A-Llama (open to public), 7:30 p.m.; Blue River Band, 8 p.m. The 4-H Fair sponsor for the day is The Farmers Bank.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Hamilton County 4-H'ers (right) wait on customers in the Farm Bureau Milkshake Tent - where vanilla, chocolate and Cookies & Cream flavors are available during the Hamilton County 4-H Fair, which opened Thursday and continues through Monday at the Hamilton County 4H Fairgrounds in Noblesville.

Sights, Sounds and Smells of 4-H Fair



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

If you've driven by the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville this week, you've probably noticed that the big

tents are set up, barns are open and the parking lot is bustling with 4-H'ers checking in their 4-H Fair projects.

We love the Fair and look forward to it every year. Maybe it's the smell of the horses and cows and pigs that fill the barns. Or the thousands of 4-H'ers projects that are judged and on display to the public. Or maybe the delicious food that's being served by 4-H'ers, Extension Homemakers and other groups.

There is just something magical about the 4-H Fair. And with the pandemic behind us, the fair is closer to being back to normal.

On Sunday afternoon, we went to the Fairgrounds and

➔ See BETSY Page A7

Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville to Host Cornhole Tournament



Tony Eslamirad

The Tom & Soni Sheehan Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville will host their seventh annual Cornhole Tournament on Friday, August 5th, presented by the McGowan Insurance Group and West Bend Mutual Insurance. Check-in will begin at 11:30am with the first round of play starting at 12:30 PM at Forest Park, Shelter #1.

The afternoon will consist of a three-game guarantee to include a double-elimination tournament and a "toilet bowl" bracket. Competitive play will culminate in a championship game paying out cash prizes to first and second place. Each participant will receive a commemorative t-shirt, sponsored by HMC Screen Printing, and an entry into a door prize drawing. All players are invited to bring their own adult beverages, and multiple silent auction packages will

➔ See CORNHOLE Page A7

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:27 a.m.
SET: 9:11 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures
High: 86 °F
Low: 63 °F

Today is...

- Gummy Worm Day
- National Be a Dork Day
- National Respect Canada Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1799 The Rosetta Stone is found
- 1994 Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 collides with Jupiter
- 1996 MSNBC is launched

Births On This Day

- 1606 Rembrandt Dutch painter
- 1950 Arianna Huffington Greek/American author, columnist, founded The Huffington Post

Deaths On This Day

- 1521 Juan Ponce de León Spanish explorer, 1st Governor of Puerto Rico
- 1948 John J. Pershing American general

Stars of 4-H Lydia Finkbeiner 10-Year Member

A ten year member of Carmel Collectors and Crafts, Lydia Finkbeiner is the daughter of Bob Finkbeiner and Kristi Graham. Her 4-H highlights include Grand Champion Sewing in 3rd grade, attending 4-H Round Up, and participating in Junior Leaders. Lydia has made so many friends through 4-H. She earned a varsity letter for swimming at Carmel High School. She will attend the University of Prince Edward Island.

Stars of 4-H Kaden Friend 10-Year Member

Kaden Friend is the son of Brian and Nadia Friend and a ten year member of Clover Kids. Kaden exhibited ten years of Foods and Entomology. He had multiple state fair entries for Entomology and was in the honor group several times for Foods. Kaden appreciated the friendly Junior Leaders in his club when he was a young member. Kaden is one of the Top Five students in his class at North Central High School. Named an Indiana Rising Star, he is earning an IB Diploma. A member of National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, Kaden is involved in student council, intermural basketball and was on the 2019 state champion track team. He led "Partner Quest" (freshman orientation program) and is a multiple winner of "Student of the Month" for leadership and academic achievement. Kaden will attend Purdue University or Indiana University to study business and accounting.

Stars of 4-H Madison Cook 10-Year Member

Madison Cook is the daughter of Bradley and Natasha Cook and a ten year member of Harey Hoppers. She loved every aspect of the 4-H Fair from showing rabbits and horses to cheering on her friends. Madison is a graduate of Noblesville High School. She plans to study history at Purdue University.

Stars of 4-H Olivia Corrao 10-Year Member

A ten year member of Forest Hill, Olivia Corrao is the daughter of Chris and Michelle Corrao. Olivia exhibited projects in Arts & Crafts, Collections, and Gift Wrap, and her favorite project: Dog Obedience. Olivia and Prancer earned a champion in 2019 and 2021 and reserve champion in 2020. Outside of 4-H, Olivia is a full international baccalaureate student at Gaerlin Catholic High School. She is a captain of the lacrosse team and a choir president. Olivia loves volunteering for the middle school youth group at Our Lady of Grace. She plans to study biomedical science and Spanish.

Stars of 4-H Jon Dorsch 10-Year Member

A ten year member of Forest Hill, Jon Dorsch is the son of Jim and Debbie Dorsch. Jon has tried a variety of projects including Electric, Foods, Junior Leaders, Rabbits, Shooting Sports, and Woodworking. He served as refreshments officer for Junior Leaders. Jon played four years of basketball and three years of baseball at Heritage Christian High School. He was chosen to play basketball for Lady Elite three times and served as baseball team captain. Jon also played trumpet in the jazz and concert bands and maintained a 3.8 GPA. Jon will study accounting at Indiana Wesleyan University. He will also play baseball for the Wildcats.

Stars of 4-H Jennavee Houser 10-Year Member

Jennavee Houser is the daughter of Jason and Laura Houser. She was a member of Hasty 4-H'ers and Heartland 4-H'ers. Jennavee has enjoyed learning about Electric, Foods, Photography, and Sewing. One of her 4-H highlights was seeing her Photography project displayed at the state fair. Jennavee was an active student at Hamilton Heights High School. A few of her activities included National Honor Society, soccer team captain, Academic Society of High School Scholars, Robotics Team officer, BPA, academic team member, BOBY ambassador and Purdue Extension ACS graduate. A few of her awards included soccer All-C conference team and DNR medals. Jennavee will study biotechnology and kinesiology at Hanover College.

Stars of 4-H Julia Fisher 10-Year Member

Daughter of Tom Fisher and Shelly Fisher, Julia Fisher is a ten year member of Carmel 4-H'ers. She has truly enjoyed her 4-H experience, all the way back to Mini 4-H. She exhibited Beef Cattle, Cake Decorating, Pymy Goats, Swine, and Woodworking. She excelled at Pymy Goat Showmanship. Julia was a member of National Honor Society at Carmel High School. Her 4-H experiences have led her to major in animal science with plans to become a veterinarian.

Stars of 4-H Grant Cavanaugh 10-Year Member

Grant Cavanaugh is the son of Kevin and Carey Cavanaugh and a ten year member of Jackson Hotsots. Grant has tried many projects including Crops, Garden, Photography, and Rabbits, which he truly enjoyed. Grant learned great leadership skills through his club, serving as treasurer, vice president, and president. Grant was a member of National Honor Society and in the top ten percent of his class at Hamilton Heights High School. He was MVP of the varsity tennis team, vice president of BPA, and earned an Academic All-Star tennis award. Grant will study integrated business and engineering at Purdue University.

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HONEST HOOSIER
So Indiana lawmakers are gathering in Indianapolis for a special session. Can't wait to see what comes of this.



TODAY'S QUOTE
"We must dare to be great; and we must realize that greatness is the fruit of toil and sacrifice and high courage."
- Theodore Roosevelt

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP
Regular physical activity keeps the mind sharper. 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 JOKE
What's a math teacher's favorite season?
SUMmer!

OBITUARIES
None

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



13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

85 SUNNY AND PLEASANT THU	63/86 PM SHOWER OF THUNDER & STORMS FRI	66/89 MOSTLY SUNNY AND WARM SAT	69/83 SCATTERED STORMS SUN	69/84 SCATTERED STORMS MON	69/90 HEATING BACK UP TUE	72/91 HOT AND WET WED
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Run Until Your Face Turns Green at the 4-H 'Color Me Green' Fun Run on Monday

Hamilton County residents can join the Hamilton County 4-H Program in their seventh annual one-mile "Color Me Green" Fun Run on Monday, July 18, 2022. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. and the one-mile run will start at 11:30 a.m. Participants should meet south of the commercial tent on the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. This event is sponsored by Breathe Easy Hamilton County and the Hamilton County 4-H Council, Inc.

This event takes place in conjunction with the Hamilton County 4-H Fair July 14-18, 2022. The cost is \$10.00 per person with a maximum of \$25.00 per family. Volunteers will also be collecting canned goods during registration. All goods collected will be donated to Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank. Registration forms and waivers can be found in the Purdue Extension Hamilton County Office or by clicking here. The Color Me Green Mile Fun Run is non-competitive. Run or walk with friends, get messy, and support a



healthy lifestyle!

Breathe Easy Hamilton County is an alliance supporting smoke-free air at work and in public places and promoting tobacco-free living in order to reduce mortality and morbidity rates.

The Hamilton County 4-H Fair is organized and sponsored by the Hamilton County 4-H Council, Inc., and Purdue Extension Hamilton County. For more information on the 4-H Fair or the Purdue Extension Service, contact Purdue Extension Hamilton County at 317-776-0854 or visit www.extension.purdue.edu/county/hamilton. More information can be found on their social media channels:

- Facebook - @HamiltonCountyIN4H
- Instagram - @hamiltonco4h
- Twitter - @Purdue-ExtHamCo.

Hamilton County Realtors Give Back Today as Part of Volunteering Drive

Hamilton County realtors will spend today helping out around the community and giving back to those they serve as part of REALTOR Action Day (RAD). They will be at Coxhall Gardens from 9 a.m. to noon to help make improvements.

The realtors will be gardening, weeding, mulching and planting. This particular volunteer activity is part of a series of 15 different events around central Indiana.

REALTORS know that by investing time, talent, and treasure into their communities, the more vibrant public places and open spaces become in a community, the more desirable a community becomes. Great places draw an ethnically, culturally, and socially diverse population. A great place creates a sense



of pride among residents and inspires them to do more. REALTORS play a critical role in the process of buying and selling homes, and many help make their communities become better places to live, work, play and invest by undertaking various impactful volunteer projects. RAD was created as an opportunity for REALTORS to come together and plug in on several volunteer projects happening in the region. MIBOR REALTORS also give back through economic and community development grants, awarded to organizations each quarter. REALTORS have awarded \$84,000 in grants so far this year. Learn more at www.mibor.com/ecdc

Letters

Former HSPA Director Thanks Carmel Legislator for Supporting News, Public

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. Torr:
On behalf of the Hoosier State Press Association, I'd like to thank you for blocking H.B. 1207. This bill authored by Rep. John Young, R-Franklin, would have replaced the state's anti-SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) with the Uniform Public Expression Protection Act. HSPA was concerned that this would erase valuable precedents set by Indiana courts that help newspapers and Hoosiers to quickly dispose of meritless lawsuits. HSPA also was unsure whether journalists would be better or less protected by the uniform law. HSPA's unease was shared by Dan Byron, counsel for the Indiana Broadcasters Association.

Rep. Young did not accept HSPA's concerns, but you told us that you were uncomfortable with the bill and as chair of the House Judiciary Committee, you decided to not give it a hearing, which killed the bill.

I'd also 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 Teshka, 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, again with your "aye" vote.

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. Veneta 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

PUBLIC NOTICES

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
IN THE MATTER OF
Mud Creek/Sand Creek Drainage Area, T. J. Patterson Arm
Hyde Park Phase 3 Reconstruction
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board concerning the reconstruction of the Mud Creek/Sand Creek Drainage Area, T. J. Patterson Arm, Hyde Park Phase 3 Reconstruction on July 25, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court at the Historic Courthouse, 2nd Floor Historic Courthouse at 33 North 9th Street, Noblesville, Indiana. Construction and maintenance reports of the Surveyor and the Schedule of Assessments proposed by the Drainage Board have been filed and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.

HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST: Lynette Mosbaugh

TL19281 7/15 1t hspaxip



Congratulations & Best Wishes to all of the 4-H'ers

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PENDING



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4-H Fair, String-Time bluegrass, Cool Creek Campfires, Concerts



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

The Hamilton County 4-H Fair is happening all weekend in Noblesville, with Conner Prairie's Symphony on the Prairie continuing, live band at Cook Creek Park tonight, with Kids Day at the Noblesville Farmers Market and String-Time on the Square bluegrass on Saturday night.

Here, we offer our Times readers 20 things to do this weekend and beyond:

1. Head out to the Hamilton County 4-H Fair, today through Monday, at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville, for all kinds of fair foods, animals, competitions and more. See a full schedule in today's edition of The Times.

2. Relax with Symphony on the Prairie concerts at Conner Prairie in Fishers, featuring "Broadway Under the Stars with the ISO," Friday and Saturday; John Williams Blockbusters with the ISO, July 22-23; "Hollywood Nights: A Bob Seger Experience," July 29; "Arrival from Sweden: The Music of ABBA," July 30, with tickets at <https://www.connerprairie.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, 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 select Fridays and Saturdays at



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Parks

Hamilton County Parks offers Wednesday night free Cool Creek Campfires at Cool Creek Park, at 7 p.m. through July 27. Special programs each week: Hoosier Owls (with Mark Booth of Take Flight Wildlife Education, pictured at a previous campfire), July 20; and Really Dangerous Animals, July 27.

8 p.m., featuring "The Water Horse," sponsored by Church, Church Hittle & Antrim, tonight; "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.forestparkpool.org/>

5. It's Kids Day at the Noblesville Farmers Market this Saturday, open 8 a.m. to noon, at Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville. Market continues every Saturday this summer. 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.

6. 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

7. Central Indiana Vintage Vehicles invites car buffs to show off their vintage vehicles on the Courthouse Square during the weekly Saturday night Cruise-in. Lawn chairs and old-car conversations invited.

8. Legacy Keepers Music's free String-Time

on the Square series, the third Saturday of each month through September, featuring bluegrass music at 6:30 p.m. on the Hamilton County Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville. Upcoming: Saturday, Cornfields & Crossroads Bluegrass Band, opener Jean Roberts & Leslie Selden, National Anthem, Ali Boice; Aug. 20, Rock Bottom Boys of Madison County, opener Addie McMillan; and Sept. 17, Stones Crossing Family Band, opener Alec Bohuk & Eric Reel. rides and \$3 mini golf.

9. 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.

10. 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: Hoosier Owls, July 20; Really Dangerous Animals, July 14.

11. Noblesville Parks' Summer Concert Series continues Thursdays at Dillon Park in Noblesville. Final show of the season: July 21, Dave & Rae.

12. Enjoy Stone Soup Theater's summer youth production of "Willy Wonka Jr." at 7 p.m. July 22 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. July 23 at Noblesville High School Auditorium



Photo by Sally Wolfe, courtesy of Legacy Keepers Music

Legacy Keepers Music's free String-Time on the Square series continues this Saturday with bluegrass music at 6:30 p.m. on the Hamilton County Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville. Saturday night's entertainment: Cornfields & Crossroads Bluegrass Band, opener Jean Roberts & Leslie Selden, National Anthem, Ali Boice. Lawn chairs invited.

with director Joey Murello and assistant directors Abby Pittman and Daniel Huber. Tickets available on eventbrite.com.

13. Enjoy Concerts at the Commons 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on select Saturdays through September at Federal Hill Commons. Concert schedule: 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.

14. Ride the Nickel Plate Express little red Caboose on July 23, 24, 30 and Aug. 6 and 20, with tickets at <https://nickelplateexpress.com/>

15. Grab a lawn chair and blanket and head out to Noblesville Cultural Arts Commission's 30th annual free Shakespeare in the Park production, July 27-30 at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville, with Noblesville director Jen Otterman.

16. Main Street Productions presents "30 Reasons Not To Be in a Play," by Alan Haehnel," July 28-Aug. 7, at Westfield Playhouse, directed by Tanya Haas, with tickets at <https://www.westfieldplayhouse.org/>

17. The Belfry Theatre Apprentice Players summer youth musical, Disney's "Frozen Jr.," will offer five performances July 28-31 at Ivy Tech Hamilton County Campus in Noblesville, directed by

James H. Williams, and featuring about 40 kids ages 5-18. Tickets at www.belfrytheatre.com.

18. Come out to Throwback Night -- vintage car show, free concert featuring The Neighbors band, 50-cent hot dogs and Wheelers open late -- from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. July 30 at Mercantile 37 in Noblesville.

19. 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.

20. Save the date: The sixth annual Noblesville BrewBQ is 4 p.m. Aug. 20 at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville.

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

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the times

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THE TIMES

Waitt Grain Company Inc.
Congratulations & Best Wishes to all of the Hamilton County 4-H Members!
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➔ Letters

Steve Key Thanks Rep. Schaibley for Legislative Record on 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. Schaibley: On behalf of the Hoosier State Press Association, I'd like to thank you for authoring H.B. 1270. This bill would have required a nonprofit hospital with more than 100 beds to report specified financial information to the state Department of Health. It would also require a nonprofit hospital and health carrier to post certain information at least 45 days before a public forum.

HSPA would have supported this bill, but it died without a hearing in the House Public Health Committee, chaired by Rep. Brad Barrett, R-Richmond.

I'd also 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 Teshka, 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, again with your "aye" vote.

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. Veneta 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 legislative 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

➔ Letters

An Unfortunate Misunderstanding, Plus Suggestions for Fun Father-Son Activities



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

Did you read the story about the father and son who attended a professional baseball game together and in the fifth inning rushed the field and beat the pulp out of the first-base coach?

One of the excuses offered by the father was that the first-base coach was making obscene gestures. Had these guys never been to a ball game? That's what a first-base coach is paid to do.

Finger in the air, hand on your butt: Lay down a punt.

Finger toward your nose, hand between your legs: Take the next pitch.

Wave your hand toward your crotch, put your finger in your ear: Go to second.

I'm a family man myself, and back in the '90s I was always looking for something to do with my son, so the idea of getting together on a beautiful Sunday afternoon and attacking a coach is the kind of creative activity that can make the father/son bond

even stronger.

It's tough to find cool things to do with kids nowadays and no dad wants to be called a square, so we shouldn't come down too hard on this guy in the news—although he had no problem coming down really hard on the first-base coach.

Maybe this parent had been unsuccessful at getting his son to the ballet or symphony. I'm sure the suggestion to beat up a coach was a last-ditch effort to find something the two could enjoy together. Let's cut the man some slack here.

I think we should offer similar activities that will let fathers and sons become even closer. Let's get them away from those video games that instill anti-social behavior. Here are some suggestions:

FATHER AND SON CARJACKING

A car, a dad and his son. What could be more American, more apple pie? And Dad should let Junior drive during the heist, assuming it's legal for him to be behind the wheel. Letting a boy steal a car without a valid license would be setting a bad example.

FATHER AND SON LIGHT-BULB SNATCHING

What better way to get acquainted on a Saturday afternoon (that teaches life skills like sleight of hand, misdirection and concealment)? Don't underesti-

mate the value of petty crimes when it comes to your kids. There's a lesson around every corner. And on every ceiling.

FATHER AND SON SHOPLIFTING

A wonderful way to spend a day. Just the guys out at the local Walmart stuffing their pockets and backpacks with loot from the sporting goods department. You can teach your son the value of being a smart consumer and show him how even a run-of-the-mill shoplifter has more take home pay than the store manager.

FATHER AND SON PUBLIC INDECENCY

There is no better way to bond with your son than being caught in a public area without your shirt and pants. A boy may forget the time his family took him to Disney, but spending a night buck-naked in the slammer with your father is a memory that never fades.

We are all busy, but it is important we give our kids the time they deserve. Fathers deserve time, as well. According to the judge, the coach-hating dad is going to be looking at three years.

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.

NOBLESVILLE BABE RUTH BASEBALL

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 nrbddirectorofops@gmail.com	Chris Thomas League President Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball (317) 538-6555 nrbpresident@gmail.com
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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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- Church, Church, Hittle & Antrim
- Buddenbaum & Moore
- Holt Legal Group
- Sign Craft
- Lew's Plumbing
- Troy & Alicia Tricker



Photo courtesy of the Noblesville Lions

Noblesville Lions Induct Scott Baldwin, Newest Member

On Wednesday, July 13th, the Noblesville Lions inducted Scott Baldwin (center) as their newest member. Baldwin was inducted by Lion Julia Kozicki (right), 1st Vice District Governor and was joined by Lion George Long, his Sponsor.



Photo courtesy of the Noblesville Lions

Noblesville Lions Award Two More Scholarships

On Wednesday evening, July 13th, the Noblesville Lions awarded two more scholarships to local seniors. Tanner Maynard (center), a senior at NHS, was awarded the \$500 Scarlett Minton/Jack Funcannon Memorial Scholarship. He will attend Purdue. Cole Melton (right), a senior at HHS, was awarded the \$1000 Academic Merit Scholarship. He will attend Depauw in Pre Med. Pictured with the two recipients is Lion Julia Kozicki, 1st Vice District Governor.

Meeting Notes

Board of Noblesville Schools

Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, July 19, 2022
at 7 p.m.

Educational Services
Center Board Room
18025 River Road,
Noblesville, Indiana

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Moment of Silence
4. Minutes

Approval of the minutes of two June 8, 2022 special sessions, the minutes of the June 15, 2022 special session, and the minutes of the June 21, 2022 regular school board meeting.

5. Recognitions
 - A. Innovate WithIN State High School Pitch Competition / NHS
6. Reports
 - A. Community Survey Report - Marnie Cooke, Dir. Of Marketing & Communications
7. Public Comment

The board provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the board pursuant to Policy 0167.3 Public Participation at Board Meeting

8. Consent

By single motion, the board approves/adopts the following items or actions which reflect application of Board Policy and Indiana Code. Any items marked "Consent" may be moved from the list at the option of a board member

or the superintendent and acted on separately.

- A. Donations
- B. Overnight Trips
- C. Personnel / Personnel Addendum

9. Action

By individual motions, the board approves/adopts the following items or actions which reflect application of Board Policy and Indiana Code.

- A. Advertise Budgets
- B. Approve Preliminary Plans, Form of Lease, Authorize Publication Notice of Hearing on Lease

- C. Alternative Services and Private Residential School Placements
- D. Items Deemed Surplus, Obsolete, or Worthless / Technology

- E. Policy Adoption / Policy 3220.01, Teacher Appreciation Grants

10. Policy Consideration
 - A. Policy 5540, The School and Governmental Agencies
 - B. Policy 6800, System of Accounting (reviewed and no changes)
 - C. Policy 7450, Property Inventory (for deletion)
 - D. Policy 7455, Accounting and Inventory of Fixed Assets (new)

11. Committee Reports
12. Claims
13. Adjournment

The school board president asks for a motion to adjourn.

Ranking the Best Purdue Football Players for the Upcoming Season

Where has the summer gone? By the time some of you read this column, Big Ten football media days will be less than 10 days away.

Before Jeff Brohm steps to the podium inside Lucas Oil Stadium, here's one man's ranking of Purdue's top 10 players for the 2022 season.

10. Gus Hartwig
The third-year starting center from Zionsville was an honorable mention All-Big Ten selection as a sophomore. He will anchor an offensive line that will probably make the difference between one of Brohm's best offenses and just an ordinary attack.

9. T.J. Sheffield
With the departure of David Bell to the Cleveland Browns, Sheffield will be counted upon to help fill the void. His spectacular touchdown grab against Tennessee in the Music City Bowl capped a breakout 2021 season that saw him make 36 catches for 325 yards and five touchdowns.

8. Cam Allen
The hard-hitting safety enjoyed a career season in 2021 with four interceptions and 65 tackles.

7. Charlie Jones
Bringing in the reigning Big Ten Rodgers-Dwight Return Specialist of the Year from Iowa will be a big boost to an area that has been unspectacular since Raheem Mostert's final game in 2014. Jones ranked second nationally for Iowa in 2021 with 920 return yards. That total included a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. If Jones can provide some contributions to a mostly unproven Purdue receiving corps, all the better.

6. Branson Deen
The defensive tackle will be a third-year starter coming off his best season as a Boilermaker. Deen recorded three sacks among his 26 tackles, keeping opposing linemen busy while George Karlaftis and Kydran Jenkins pressured the quarterback.

5. Broc Thompson
The Music City Bowl most valuable player stepped up big for Purdue, which played Tennessee without David Bell and No. 2 wide receiver Milton Wright. On two bad knees, which were



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

urgically repaired during the offseason, Thompson caught seven pass for 217 yards and a pair of touchdowns. He will be Purdue's No. 1 receiver this fall.

4. Kydran Jenkins
Maybe the biggest surprise from an improved defense a year ago, Jenkins recorded five sacks among his 35 tackles. Not bad for a freshman. The Boilermakers will need his pass rushing skills in the wake of Karlaftis' departure to the Kansas City Chiefs.

3. Jalen Graham
The senior linebacker/safety is entering his fourth year as a starter and is probably Purdue's top NFL prospect. Graham recorded 64 tackles and an interception a year ago.

2. Payne Durham
A possible candidate for the John Mackey Award as the nation's best tight end, Durham put on a show for NFL scouts in the Music City Bowl with his refusal to go down during what turned out to be a 62-yard touchdown reception late in the fourth quarter. He caught 45 balls for 467 yards and six touchdowns. Look for that production to go up in 2022.

1. Aidan O'Connell
Once upon a time, the former walk-on from Waukegan, Ill., was ninth on Purdue's quarterback depth chart. The sixth-year senior now is regarded as the Big Ten's second-best QB behind Ohio State's C.J. Stroud. O'Connell outdueled the more heralded Hendon Hooker of Tennessee with 534 yards passing and five touchdowns.

O'Connell has come up big in important games for the Boilermakers. In a 24-7 victory at No. 2 Iowa, O'Connell threw for 375 yards and two touchdowns. Against No. 3 Michigan State, a 40-29



Photo courtesy of Purdue Athletic Communications

Aiden O'Connell in action for Purdue.

victory in Ross-Ade Stadium, O'Connell tossed for 536 yards and three touchdowns. Even in defeat at Ohio State, O'Connell threw for five touchdowns and 390 yards.

If he can remain healthy and approach last season's numbers of 3,712 yards and 28 touchdowns, O'Connell will enter a lofty place in Purdue's passing record book. Only Drew Brees (11,792 passing yards), Curtis Painter (11,163) and Mark Herrmann (9,946) seem out of reach for O'Connell. As for touchdown passes, only Brees' career total of 90 seems safe. Another 28 TD passes from O'Connell would match Herrmann for second at Purdue with 71.

Noteworthy Stephanie White and Brittany (Rayburn) Bertsch, Indiana Miss Basketball winners who also starred at Purdue, are among the inaugural class of the Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame. The pair of Boilermakers join the newly created honor which will be housed in the David Palmer Arena in Danville, Ill.

The Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame was created to honor the outstanding athletic achievement by athletes, coaches, teams and others from 50 high schools and Danville Area Community College in eastern Illinois and western Indiana.

Other notables inducted include Butler basketball coach Thad Matta and the late Jim Hellwig, a Fountain Central graduate better known as pro wrestling star "The Ultimate Warrior."

White, the 1995 Miss Basketball from Seeger, was instrumental in guiding Purdue to the 1999

NCAA National Championship, the only one ever won by a team from the Big Ten. She also joins the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame this year.

Rayburn attended Attica prior to her time in West Lafayette. A lethal sharpshooter, Rayburn was named the 2008 Indiana Miss Basketball. She guided the Boilermakers to a 2012 Big Ten Tournament title and garnered a trio of All-Big Ten honors. She is fourth in Purdue history with 201 career 3-pointers. ...

In addition to once again playing at Florida State (Nov. 30) in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge and against Marquette (Nov. 15) in the Gavitt Games, the Purdue men's basketball team will face another NCAA tournament team in Davidson on Dec. 17 in Indianapolis. That game is part of the new Indy Classic, which replaces the Crossroads Classic that ended after the 2021 edition.

Purdue is still awaiting its draw in the Phil Knight Legacy (Nov. 24-27) but it seems likely that the Boilermakers will have to face two of the combination Duke/Gonzaga/Florida/West Virginia on its side of the bracket.

The season opener will be Milwaukee on Nov. 8 in Mackey Arena. Three days later, Austin Peay pays a visit. New Orleans (Dec. 21) and Florida A&M (Dec. 29) close out the non-conference slate.

Purdue has sold out season tickets for the 2022-23 season.

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.

Laura Demeter Promoted as Centier Bank VP, Deposit Product Manager

Michael E. Schrage, Chairman and CEO of Centier Bank, announced earlier this week the recent promotion of Laura Demeter to VP, Deposit Product Manager, at the bank's Carmel branch.

Since 2014, Demeter has served as Centier's Regional Sales Manager, overseeing the bank's initial retail expansion into the Indianapolis and Lafayette communities. Before coming to Centier, she served as a Senior Vice President of retail banking and marketing, public funds manager,

regional manager, credit card service manager, and branch manager at other financial institutions.

"The products and services we offer are key to achieving Centier's purpose of enriching lives through financial guidance for an even better tomorrow," Demeter explained. "My experience in retail banking and marketing have provided valuable insight, preparing me to advance strategic retail initiatives for Centier."

Randy Shephard, Senior Vice President of



Laura Demeter

Retail Sales at Centier Bank, said he is excited to see Demeter in a strategic role that will enrich clients' lives and

help provide them paths toward financial success.

"Laura's passion for banking is evident to anyone who meets her," Shephard said. "I want to congratulate her on her new role, and I know she will execute her vision for future Centier products and services."

Demeter is a graduate of Indiana University in Bloomington and resides in Westfield with her husband. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Westfield and the Junior Achievement Program Committee.

Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

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Spartz: Congress Must Be Proactive and Implement Proper Oversight, Create Joint Task Force for Ukraine



REP. VICTORIA SPARTZ
Guest Column

It is appalling to me that some are now suggesting that support for oversight of over \$50 billion in aid to Europe – not all which is committed directly to Ukraine – is somehow “pro-Kremlin.” On the contrary, lack of oversight only creates unnecessary risks that can be taken advantage of by our adversaries.

I would go so far as to say that anyone saying accountability is not necessary is “pro-Kremlin” because the only side that benefits from weapons not ending up in the right hands is the Russian side. Whether it’s Ukrainians dying on the battlefield because they run out of ammunition, or false flag attacks using U.S. weap-

ons, only Russia wins when America doesn’t know where its taxpayer-funded support goes.

Proper oversight and streamlined logistic processes will have the following key benefits to Ukraine and the United States:

1. Provide assurances for American taxpayers, so our electorate will continue to support aid to Ukraine.
2. Improve efficiency and speed of delivery of aid to the frontline.
3. Mitigate risks of sabotage by countries like Russia, China, Iran, or others.

These benefits are clear. I am not sure why any of my colleagues would think that Congress being proactive – so we do not have to go searching for our weapons in Syria or Mexico – is somehow a bad idea, considering our increased level of delivery of advanced systems overseas.

Ukraine aid appropriated to date:

March 2022 \$13.6 billion package

Earmarked directly for Ukraine:

- \$2.9B in direct mili-

tary aid

- \$100M in food assistance
- \$30M to integrate Ukraine’s electricity grid with Europe’s

Other:

- \$4.2B – Food, healthcare, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, surrounding countries, and displaced Ukrainian refugees
- \$3B – U.S. military operations in Europe
- \$1.2M – State Department “Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia”

• \$650M – Foreign Military Financing for Ukraine and surrounding countries

• \$647M – Economic Support Fund for Ukraine and surrounding countries

• \$550M – Replenish depleted U.S. arms stocks

• \$175M – Sanctions and law enforcement

• \$125M – U.S. diplomatic activity in Ukraine

May 2022 \$40 billion package

Earmarked directly for Ukraine:

• \$8.75B – Economic support for the Ukrainian government

• \$6B – Arms, supplies, training, and

logistics support for the Ukrainian military

Other:

• \$10B – Replenish and boost depleted U.S. arms stocks

• \$4B – U.S. military operations in Europe

• \$5B – Humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and other countries affected by Russia’s invasion (food, shelter, other forms of assistance) via NGOs, administered by USAID

• \$4B – Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for the Ukraine and surrounding countries

• \$1B – Refugee support for Ukrainians in the United States

• \$650M – European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program

• \$120M – Law and sanctions enforcement

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.

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Local Disaster Response, Restoration Business Recognized for Performance

SERVPRO held its 53rd annual convention from July 5-9 at the Hilton Anatole Dallas in Dallas, TX. SERVPRO of Hamilton County received the Chairman's Silver Award at a gala award ceremony that was a highlight of the gathering. Andrew & Kimberly Johnson of SERVPRO of Hamilton County joined a group of more than 1,050 franchise owners in attendance. The event also recognized 58 SERVPRO entrepreneurs who surpassed a million dollars in revenue for the first time



in the past business year. "It's exciting and satisfying to receive this award," said Andrew Johnson, Owner of SERVPRO of Hamilton County, "particularly in this difficult business environment. At a time when there seemed to be more challenges than solutions, SERVPRO continued to provide expert guidance and service.

This allowed our team of dedicated remediation specialists to continue to provide reliable, prompt, professional fire and water cleanup and restoration, mold mitigation, and remediation services to home and business owners in our community when they needed our help. My sincere thanks to SERVPRO and to the

entire team at SERVPRO of Hamilton County for a great year." This year's convention, themed "Building Teams, Achieving Dreams," was the first time since 2019 that the entire SERVPRO franchise system gathered in person for a week of seminars, training sessions, and a franchise-to-franchise exchange of ideas, inspiration, experience, networking, and team building. This year's keynote speaker was Troy Hazard, a seasoned business leader, author, television

host, and franchise expert. Convention attendees could select from 47 workshops and breakout sessions covering all aspects of franchise ownership and management, the latest innovations from SERVPRO, and the latest developments in disaster recovery and restoration. "We were excited to be able to host a system-wide, in-person gathering again this year," said Rick Isaacson, CEO of Servpro Industries, LLC. "More than 90 percent of our franchise system registered for this

event, and it was a great week of networking and re-energizing for both our corporate team and our franchise owners and their key team members. As always, I am proud to recognize our high-achieving franchisees and excited to share the latest SERVPRO innovations and business support tools with our franchise family. Congratulations to our award winners, and thanks to every member of the SERVPRO team for another great year of service to their communities."

FSSA Announces Funding for Mental Health Services, Launch of Indiana 988 for Crisis Response

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Mental Health and Addiction announced earlier this week that it is providing new funding to help build and support projects in Indiana to improve mental health services for Hoosiers. This includes funding appropriated by the Indiana General Assembly in House Enrolled Act 1001, and additional funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act and other sources.

DMHA is working with partners in the private sector, the health care system and community and philanthropic organizations to provide grassroots support and funding alongside DMHA's statewide mental health programming, through grant funding for community programs, the launch of Indiana 988, and a partnership to integrate mental health care into pediatric care across the

state. "One serious, lingering result of the COVID-19 pandemic that has been widely-recognized by experts all over the country is a worsening of our mental health crisis," said Dan Rusyniak, M.D., FSSA secretary. "This major infusion of funds, spread throughout Indiana, will provide more access to mental health care, expand the mental health workforce, and invest in our state's mental health infrastructure."

The largest investment is in **Community Catalyst Grants** provided to 37 recipients. The \$54.8 million provided in these grants includes \$22.3 million of local and grantee match dollars as well as \$32.5 million in federal funds. The goal of these grants is to enhance the quality, integration and access of mental health prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery

services across the state. These funding infusions are intended to build out the care continuum and improve mental health and substance use disorder outcomes for many local and diverse organizations. Grant recipients include:

- Dove House, to expand its inpatient and outpatient substance-use disorder treatment for women in Marion and Dubois counties
- La Porte Community Resource Intervention's substance use, instability and suicidal support outreach program, for the formation and development of outreach teams

as well as a crisis intervention team and cultural competency training for law enforcement officers

- The Marion County Reentry Coalition for a holistic model using public defenders and the criminal justice system to help Hoosiers with mental health challenges as they reenter society
- Courageous Healing in Allen County for a program to provide mental health treatment to uninsured and underinsured people

Details on all 37 projects funded by the Catalyst grants can be found online at <https://www.in.gov/fssa/dmha/files/Community-Catalyst-RFF-Award-Overview.pdf>.

On Saturday, 988 will go live in Indiana and around the United States as a new national three-digit dialing code to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. In Indiana, Hoosiers experi-

encing mental health-related distress may call 988 to connect to a trained crisis specialist. In the coming years, that service will be expanded to include a response team and locations where people can go for help. The work to develop this complete system is well underway and will continue over the next seven to 10 years. More information about Indiana's work to implement 988 can be viewed at <https://www.in.gov/fssa/dmha/update-on-988-in-indiana/>.

Additionally, Indiana is entering into an \$8 million partnership with **Riley Children's Health** to provide mental health services at pediatric primary care offices across the state, removing barriers to access. This includes \$4 million in matching funds from Riley Children's Health

Through this partnership, mental health

services will be embedded within primary pediatric care settings around the state of Indiana, directly addressing the growing child mental health crisis.

Other funding includes:

- \$27.6 million in workforce stabilization grants to community mental health centers around the state
- \$4.4 million provided to the Indiana University School of Medicine to fund psychiatrist residency (training) slots, and fellowships for psychiatrists and internships for psychology students.
- \$15 million in grants to help Indiana's community mental health centers transition to the new Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model.

More detail about all funding is available online at <https://www.in.gov/fssa/dmha/files/Mental-health-programs-hand-out.pdf>.

BETSY From Page A1

checked in one of my daughter's 4-H projects at the Exhibition Center. She's an eighth-year 4-H'er who will hopefully someday celebrate 10 years in 4-H, like the 77 4-H'ers who were recognized Friday night at the 2022 Hamilton County 4-H Fair Queen Pageant during which 2022 Hamilton Heights High School graduate Faith Hittle was crowned queen.

Now, I want to share more about the 4-H Fair, which opened on Thursday and runs through Monday.

While things are mostly back to normal, some of the food vendors have opted out again this year, including my daughter's 4-H club, the Mudsockers, which traditionally serve lemon shake-ups, brats, sausage and Muddy Chicken (a chocolate pudding cup with a peep on top and a dance to serve it). However, there will still be plenty of food choices for fairgoers' tastes from returning food vendors.

Hamilton County Producer groups will serve Dairy on Thursday, Rabbit and Poultry on Friday, Pork on Saturday, Sheep on Sunday and Beef on Monday, although Joint Producers Barbecue is served daily, including during Tuesday night's Livestock Auction. Among the usual fare are beef ribeyes and hamburgers; rabbit brats, BBQ and burgers; turkey burger; pork loin, brats, BBQ and burgers; lamb burgers, brats, kabobs and BBQ; and corn on the cob.

Sheridan First Christian Church will serve corn dogs, sloppy Joes, shrimp, chicken nuggets and breadsticks.

Fishers United Methodist Church will serve pork tenderloin, fruit cobbler and ice cream.

Hamilton County Silvernotes will serve handmade elephant ears.

Noblesville H&H Club will sell novelty candy, but no chocolate.

Westfield Cloverleaves 4-H Club will offer their fruit slush, fruit and sparkling water.

North Circle Church will serve funnel cakes and dill pickles.

Hamilton County Junior Leaders Stand will offer pizza, hot dogs, Coke products and chips.

Hamilton County Farm Bureau will have milkshakes and milk. Ice Guys will have Snowcones.

Fishers Baptist Church will offer gyros and fruit shakeups and more.

Inside the Exhibition Center, Hamilton County Extension Homemakers in their dining room will



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Husky 4-H'ers 4-H Club member Andyn Emery, 11, a second-year Hamilton County 4-H'er, volunteers wrapping grilled cheese sandwiches with club members and his mom, Vanessa Emery (left) and parent Brittny Miller at the 4-H Fair, which runs through Monday at the Fairgrounds in Noblesville.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Jane Weaver (left) and Sharon Piper of Hamilton County Extension Homemakers Choral Group, the Silver Notes, sell elephant ears Thursday during the Hamilton County 4-H Fair, which continues through Monday at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville. In 2021, the Silver Notes sold a record 3,500 elephant ears.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Pork tenderloin sandwiches, ice cream and lemonade are served up by the Fishers United Methodist Church and are among dozens of food choices at the Hamilton County 4-H Fair, which continues through Monday in Noblesville.

offer daily specials: Friday, chicken and noodles; Saturday, meatloaf; Sunday, beef and noodles; with other food available daily through Monday.

While my daughter enjoys earning ribbons at the Fair, she knows 4-H isn't about all of the ribbons you put on your bulletin board. It's about

learning by doing and making the best better.

Contact Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com

CORNHOLE From Page A1



Photo courtesy of the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville

Participants take part in a prior edition of the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville cornhole tournament

be offered.

"Each year, our event has become a bigger and bigger success to benefit our youth programs," said Tony Eslamirad, BGCN Community Center Director. "Those who attend not only have the opportunity to network and relax on a Friday afternoon under the shade of Forest Park, but they are making a difference in the lives of thousands of local kids that utilize the Club's services. In the past six years, the event has raised over \$50,000 to support affordable after school programs for our local Club Kids."

The registration fee per team of two will be \$60 with all proceeds benefiting the Tom & Soni Sheehan Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville. Teams may register online at www.bgcni.org.

For more information, contact the Tom & Soni Sheehan Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville at (317) 773-4372 or email teslamirad@bgcni.org.

The Tom & Soni Sheehan Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville provides high-quality, low-cost programs for youth members with the help of donors and sponsors. Between the Club, the Community Center and Camp Crosser, we provide opportunities for members to enjoy activities and experiences that help shape character and offer new perspectives. We are dedicated to inspiring and enabling all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens by promoting leadership, character, health and physical development.

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FRIDAY Business

Notes and NEWS

Friday, July 15, 2022

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Grasons Expands To Indianapolis With Experienced Multi-Unit Franchisee

Grasons Estate Sales & Business Liquidations announced last week that it has awarded the northern Indianapolis territory to Wesley (Wes) Hunter, Jr., a multi-unit College Hunks Hauling Junk franchisee with four locations in metropolitan Indianapolis.

"I'm excited to bring Grasons to Indianapolis," said Hunter. "After seeing the success of other franchise owners in the system and hearing how much they love being a part of the brand, I knew it was something I didn't want to miss out on. I have a real passion for helping people in stressful situations, which is one of the reasons why I got into my current business. Now I can help people in my community during one of the most difficult times of their lives."

Grasons organizes and conducts estate sales for those experiencing the loss of a loved one, going through divorce, or downsizing. The company also provides business liquidation services and other services such as home staging, moving sales, assistance in hiring a realtor and more.

"It's so validating to see someone with Wes' experience embrace what we're doing," said Grasons' CEO Simone Kelly. "Wes has built a big business before and we're excited to help him do it again, serving an entirely new community."

Kelly, who founded the company in 2010, said that, even in new markets like Indianapolis, people trust Grasons because the company has a

corporate team with decades of experience in the estate sale industry and has proven itself time and again with thousands of families to operate with the highest degrees of honesty, integrity, professionalism and care.

"We're often supporting people who are going through an incredibly difficult time," she said, "and it's important that we act compassionately, professionally and diligently to relieve the burden of their situation. We've always done that in our community, and we train and support our franchisees to do the same."

Hunter plans to expand throughout Indianapolis to help all families and communities benefit from Grasons.

"Especially with the aging of America, and with the pandemic having inspired many to rethink their current living situations, more and more families are dealing with downsizing, relocating and liquidating years of acquired belongings," he said. "I'm very optimistic that the market for our services will be indefinitely strong, and even more optimistic that Grasons has developed all the necessary tools to take advantage of that demand. I'm excited to open my first location and look forward to adding more as soon as I can."

Grasons is currently seeking qualified candidates to open additional locations throughout the country. The minimum investment to own a Grasons franchise is \$38,900. Item 19 in Grasons' current Franchise

Disclosure Document reports that the top 50 percent of its franchise units achieved average gross sales of \$549,125 in 2021. Forty-three percent (6) of the 14 franchises included in that top 50 percent calculation met or exceeded this average. A new franchisee's individual financial results may differ. Please review Item 19 of Grasons' Franchise Disclosure Document dated April 12, 2022, for additional information. For information on qualifications and available territories, visit www.grasons.com or contact Joe Sexton at joseph@oakscale.com.

About Grasons

Grasons is the #1 rated and referred company by its affiliate service providers for local estate sales and business liquidation services. For more than 10 years, the company's professionally trained and well-equipped representatives have offered a reliable resource for families during a complex, often incredibly difficult time as they transition out of a longstanding residence or liquidate a loved one's belongings. With more than 30 locations throughout the United States and others scheduled to open soon, Grasons is growing fast and has established a solid reputation for performing professional estate sales & business liquidation services with the most care, professionalism, compassion and selling items at the prices our clients expect. Further information can be found at <https://www.grasons.com>.

Consumer Alert: Products Recalled In June

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita reminds Hoosiers to be aware of products that were recalled in June. Consumers should take full advantage of the solutions available for those who purchased the recalled items.

"Hoosiers have the right to know if items bought have the potential for danger and should be able to find a solution to replace the recalled product," Rokita said. "This month, there are several over the counter medications you will want to check your medicine cabinet for. Consumer protection is one of my office's top priorities. If you have difficulty finding a solution, call my office for help."

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the following consumer products were recalled in June:

- Lidocaine Topical Anesthetic Cream from Mohnark Pharmaceuticals
- Walgreens Brand Acetaminophen from Aurohealth
- Kroger Brand Aspirin and Ibuprofen from Time-Cap Labs
- Kroger Brand Acetaminophen from Aurohealth
- Kroger Brand Acetaminophen from Sun Pharma
- Microwavable Bowl Holders from DEMDACO
- Refrigerators from Frigidaire and Electrolux
- Pajama Sets from Target
- Aflac Plush Promotional Ducks from Communicorp

- Children's Toys from Jungle Jumperoo
 - Activity Loops Toys from The Manhattan Toy Company
 - Electric Bicycles from Brompton Bicycle
 - Black Light Fixtures from Spirit Halloween
 - Treadmills from Nautilus
 - Intimidator and Mahindra Utility Vehicles from Intimidator
 - Bottom Freezer, French Door Refrigerators from Hisense USA
 - Backcountry Access Avalanche Transceivers from Elevate Outdoor Collective
 - Wood Baby Activity Push Walkers from Asweets
 - Children's Robes from Joey
 - Egg Chairs from TJX
 - Children's Sleepwear from Loulou Lollipop
 - Electrical Panels from Schneider ElectricTM
 - Children's Desks and Chairs from Times Tienda
 - Wooden Xylophone Toys from Primark
 - WarmWave and Hunter Ceramic Tower Heaters from Sienhua Group
- If you believe you purchased a recalled product, stop using it and check its recall notice. Follow the notice's instructions, including where to return the product, how to get the product fixed, how to dispose of the product, how to receive a refund for the product, or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.

Tips For Small Businesses To Not Only Survive, But Thrive

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

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

To further power economic growth, strengthen your business, and deliver on the products and services the nation depends on every day, Wells Fargo offers the following four tips to move from surviving to thriving:

1. Be flexible. If there was one glaring lesson business owners learned from COVID-19, it was to be flexi-

ble. Businesses had to revamp their online offerings and create a digital, ecommerce presence. Most had to change relationships with supply chains and vendors or reduce hiring. When it comes to business planning for the next six, 12 or even 18 months, one thing is certain: flexibility will be key. Between staffing demands, supply chain delays and rising interest rates and inflation, write your plans in pencil. Most importantly, be nimble enough to pivot, using your experiences over the past two years as a guide.

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

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

- Know your customers, and find and solve their pain points

- Ensure you have competitive pricing
- Change your business model and services to stay ahead
- Provide exceptional customer service to existing and new customers
- Target new markets

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

For more small business tips and resources, visit wellsfargo.com/biz.

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

Closing The Wealth Gap, One Woman Entrepreneur At A Time

(StatePoint) Women represent the majority of all entrepreneurs today. In 2020 alone, women started 2,000 small businesses nationwide and of those, 64% were founded by women from diverse backgrounds, according to Fundera statistics.

While this trend is encouraging, a recent study conducted by the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center, Penn State University and Fair Pay Workplace shows that pay, ownership and valuation disparities are compounding the already large gender wealth gap.

Barriers to profitability and pay equity. According to the study, access to capital is the number one barrier impacting the profitability of women entrepreneurs. The top three reasons women entrepreneurs don't seek additional funding are:

- They don't want to accrue debt.
- They don't think they'd be approved by a lender.
- They decided to wait until their company hit a milestone to be in a stronger position to raise funds.

The second barrier identified by the study is declining sales, followed by the unpredictability of business conditions. Fifty-nine percent of women entrepreneur respondents said their income varies from month to month, and 53% said they're spending equal to or more than their income. Additionally, more than half of early-stage women entrepreneurs (55%) do not pay themselves for the work they do for their company.

On average, women pay themselves \$53,000 less than men. Men who are entrepreneurs earn an average salary of \$232,659 versus women entrepreneurs, who earn an average of \$179,444. According to the 2018 Inc Women Entrepreneurship Report, the broader workforce pay gap shows that among entrepreneurs, women earn 77% of what men earn.

Investment disparity. Additionally, data reveals a significant gender gap in the venture capital (VC) system. According to the Angel Resource Institute, nearly 75% of investments in 2019 and 2020 went to white men, and less than 2% went to women of color. Additionally, the Center for Venture Research finds that:

- Only 5% of accredited women investors have access to invest in VC funds, even though women

control 50% of wealth today.

- Only 1.8% of VC investments go to solely women-led startups. There are no large funds focused solely on women founders.
- Only 5% of general partners in VC firms are women.

The total impact of these pay and investment disparities added up to a \$140 billion gap in 2020, according to Crunchbase. If the current growth trajectory of women entrepreneurs continues, the Global Gender Gap Report 2021 calculates that it will take 135.6 years to close the gender gap worldwide.

Closing the gap and empowering women entrepreneurs. Closing the gender wealth gap starts with education and awareness, empowering women to break the cycle of debt, and equipping them with the tools and financial knowledge to start their own businesses and be successful entrepreneurs, say experts.

"Acknowledging the gender gaps that exist today is one of the first steps toward eradicating inequalities," said Jenny Flores, head of Wells Fargo Small Business Growth Philanthropy. "By bringing more awareness, additional resources, and key connections and conversations to the table, we can create more avenues to capital, more equality, and help more women reach their full potential."

According to Flores, these are actions women entrepreneurs can take to support the growth of their businesses:

- Start with a strong foundation to support business decisions and strategic planning, and to help build wealth that can be reinvested into scaling the business over time.
 - Connect with mentors and experts to exchange knowledge, share best practices and learn from each other.
 - Utilize resources that guide business owners to getting to a place where they're paying themselves a fair wage.
 - Gain knowledge and support critical business decisions by turning to trustworthy resources.
- While women are founding new enterprises every day, data reveals there's still a long way to go toward ensuring they have equal opportunities to be successful. Fortunately, there are resources to help.

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FRIDAY

Voice of our PEOPLE

Are Democrats Gaining Ground In Indiana?

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.



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

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 ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com.

These Colors Do Not Run For Long

My fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Collins, mistakenly thought that anyone who hammed it up as much as I did must also be a good actor. I was cast all too frequently to suit me in the lead roles of our fourth-grade pageants.

I don't know why we had so many pageants in the fourth grade. A lot of them were patriotic. Maybe it had something to do with studying American History in fourth grade. Maybe that was the year that educators thought we should work on our memorization – memory skills that might benefit us later in life, like: "Yes, honey, I remembered the peas."

My leading lady in all these fourth-grade plays was Sheila Coleman. Sheila was Martha Washington to my George, Mary to my Joseph, Maid Marian to Robin and Mrs. Claus to my St. Nicholas – except for the time I caught dysentery right before showtime and my stand-in, thin-as-a-rake Alan Bolander, assumed the role opposite Sheila.



JOHN MARLOWE
With the Grain

Watching Alan try to keep his borrowed Santa pants up was worth the price of admission.

I'm not sure why Sheila got all these roles, because looking back on it now, I remember her to be extremely soft-spoken. I'm not sure people in the front row could even hear her lines. Although she was smart, I'm quite certain she inherited the

leads mostly because she was tall. Pageant directors in those days coveted vertical continuity. You might have to answer questions in a school board meeting, if Martha uttered "I love you, George." into the actor's waistline.

Although an accomplished rote actor, shy Sheila became the center of attention of the entire school and community, through no fault of her own.

It happened during our fourth grade Fourth of July pageant – held, of course, in early May.

Following a stirring soliloquy from Betsy Ross, played by Becky Koper – who ironically is actually descended from the real Betsy Ross – Sheila was supposed to stride defiantly across the stage, and deliver a gripping rebuff of tyranny, energizing the audience at the end of Act I.

Unfortunately, in her enthusiasm, Sheila strode a bit too far. She missed her stage mark by a good two feet, coming to rest underneath the giant gymnasium air exchanger, which had been

leaking condensate since the William Howard Taft administration – the year the school was built.

For two solid minutes, the dormant heater dripped consistently on the red-white-and blue crepe paper sash angled across Sheila's pristine white blouse. I could hear the crescendo of titters from the audience as I stood backstage, but I had no idea what was happening to Sheila.

By the time Kenny Adams, who had just finished smoking a cigarette outside the gym door, yelled the line, "And here comes George Washington!" – my cue to enter the stage – the audience was in full uproar.

I was just about to cave to the infectiousness of all that laughter, when I caught my first sight of Sheila. She looked like one of those three-colored popsicles under a summer sun, all the colors mingling together in shallow patches on the sidewalk. And when I reached for her hands (in the script), and saw the tears pooling in the corners of her

eyes, I instinctively knew that not everyone thought this was funny.

I was fully two paragraphs into my opening lines before the audience came to a complete rest, and somehow my fellow fourth graders and I pushed through to the end. Sheila Coleman put in one of the bravest performances in American theater history that day, and a grateful audience acknowledged such during her bows with a standing ovation and multiple curtain calls.

Every year around the Fourth of July, I see one of those T-shirts. On it is an American flag, and underneath is written, "These Colors Never Run!". In these tumultuous times, my first thoughts always turn to Sheila. When they do, I think to myself: Sometimes maybe they do run. But they don't run for long, and you'd be wise to stick around for the encore.

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

Trash Talking Trash

When I was a kid, after dinner we cleared the table and scraped whatever was left on our plates into a kitchen garbage bag. That bag was then dumped in one of two huge metal drums on the side of our house that were below ground. Not buried treasure: buried trash. On Mondays some guy yanked the drums out of the ground and hauled them to the street where he threw the contents in the back of a garbage truck. That's when every dog in the neighborhood started barking.

I wish it were still that simple. Waste has become so complicated now I'm afraid to make



DICK WOLFSIE
Life in a Nutshell

a removal decision for fear my wife will chastise me. She has become very environmentally conscious and watches my every discardance (OK, I am sure that's not a word, but I really needed it here.)

For example, let's say

I have a used Styrofoam cup. Should I throw it in the garbage can under the sink? Heaven forbid! Can it be recycled? There are guidelines on recycling bins and lists of accepted contents online. Every item requires careful scrutiny. Ink cartridges? Cooking grease? Aerosol cans? Glass thermometers containing mercury? There is no easy way to remember everything. There is even a picture on our bin's lid of soda bottles that are okay to recycle: one bottle is clear, one is brown and one is green. What about yellow? What do I do with my Dew?

Recycling bins have

warnings to not dump "unknown materials." But that's why I want to get rid of the thing in the first place. It's been an unknown in my basement for 30 years.

How about the garbage disposal? What can go in there? I need special permission from Mary Ellen to use that device because the goop fills up the septic tank under the back yard. I miss that familiar grumbling sound. Oh, not from Mary Ellen: from the disposal.

My wife is also composting now. I fought this. If I wanted a woman who composted I would have left her years ago and married someone

who wears white socks with sandals and listens to Joni Mitchell while she puffs the magic dragon.

We compost all leftover fruits and vegetables, and once a month a small company called Earth Mama picks up our container and for a small fee turns the waste into fertilizer for us. Some of the items we compost could just as easily be thrown in the woods for the birds and squirrels. Mary Ellen is now preparing a page of instructions for me so I don't raise the birds' cholesterol or the squirrels' blood sugar.

About a month ago, I finished eating a delicious peach and placed the pit

on the kitchen counter.

"What do we do with this?" I asked Mary Ellen.

"Oh dear, I have no idea. Let me do a little research."

The pit is still sitting there. We can't recycle it or put it in the disposal or feed it to the animals in the forest. Earth Mama comes tomorrow. Now it's her problem.

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

Ask Rusty – About Working While Collecting Early Benefits

Dear Rusty: How much would be withheld from my social security benefits? I am 62 and can claim about \$1,900 a month now. I'm still working, making about \$75K per year. How much of my benefits would I get? What would be withheld from me and when would I get it back? And would there be any penalty? **Signed: Eligible but Working**



ASK RUSTY
Social Security Advisor

Dear Eligible: In the scenario you describe, you will not be eligible to collect Social Security retirement benefits at this time because your earnings are too high. Here's how that is determined:

- At age 62, you are subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit applies until you reach your full retirement age (FRA), which for you is 67.
- Your penalty for

exceeding the earnings limit now would be \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. At your current salary of \$75K per year, you will be over the 2022 annual earnings limit of \$19,560 by \$55,440, which means you would owe Social Security \$27,720. Since your age 62 benefit amount is about \$1900 per month (\$22,800/year), your annual SS benefit would be insufficient to offset the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit, thus you would not be entitled to a Social Security benefit

Social Security Matters by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

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because of your current earnings. You will again be eligible to collect SS when your earnings are substantially less, or when you reach your full retirement age, whichever occurs first.

Social Security's earnings test affects everyone who works and earns when collecting benefits before reaching full retirement age. Each year, Social Security sets a limit for how much can be earned before benefits are affected (the 2022 limit is \$19,560; it increases slightly each year). Those

who exceed the limit pay a "penalty" of \$1 for every \$2 they are over the limit, which must be paid to SS either in a lump sum, or by having benefits withheld for enough months for SS to recover what is owed. If your Social Security benefit isn't enough to offset the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit, no benefits will be paid.

Those collecting early benefits who earn only slightly more than the annual earnings limit can collect some benefits each year because their penalty is small enough.

For example, someone earning \$25,000 per year would exceed the 2022 earnings limit by \$5440 and, thus, incur a penalty of \$2720. That would probably mean about 2 months of withheld benefits, enabling them to get benefits for the remaining 10 months of the year. Social Security will withhold benefits for enough months to recover whatever the beneficiary owes for exceeding the limit.

The rules surrounding Social Security's earning test are somewhat complex. For example, there is a "first year rule" which exempts salary earned prior to claiming SS from counting toward the earnings limit. When someone first claims Social Security mid-year they are, instead, subject to a monthly limit (\$1630 for 2022) for the remaining months of the calendar year. If the monthly limit is exceeded, no benefits are payable for that month. The earnings

limit no longer applies when full retirement age is reached but is still in effect in the months of that year prior to attaining FRA. The earnings limit during those months is much higher and the "penalty" for exceeding it is less.

Social Security prefers that those working and collecting early benefits contact them in advance to withhold benefits for as long as needed to offset the expected penalty. Doing so will avoid an Overpayment Notice being issued in the following year when your earnings amount is received from the IRS.

After full retirement age, Social Security will adjust the beneficiary's payment to account for months benefits were withheld and increase the monthly amount accordingly. That will result in some, or perhaps all, of the withheld benefits being recovered over time (depending on longevity).

Allen Kentucky, Mental Illness Erupts Into Pure Hell

Allen, Kentucky is a place that holds fond memories for me. When I was only sixteen years old, Allen Baptist Church invited me to speak for a weekend youth event. I had the opportunity to meet and work with over a hundred people from the Allen community. Lasting friendships were made with some of the finest people on earth. To this day, the kindness and fellowship bestowed on me by that group of people were instrumental in my life's direction.

Sadly, even the finest communities and dearest people on earth can experience pure hell. Mental illness erupted as Floyd County police officers



GLENN MOLLETTE
Guest Column

were shot dead in Allen last week. According to news reports they were trying to serve a warrant to a man accused of domestic violence.

Floyd County Sheriff John Hunt said the officers faced "pure hell" when they arrived at the man's

home.

Four other people were injured at the scene in Allen, a small town of 166 people located just outside of Prestonsburg.

The officers who died in the shooting late on Thursday have been named as Capt. Ralph Frasure, Deputy William Petry and dog handler Jacob Chaffins. K9 Drago, one of the dogs that Mr Chaffins handled, also died.

Capt. Frasure had been with the Prestonsburg, Kentucky, Police Department for 39 years. The department said he had served "with honor and glory up until the last second".

The men ran into a

barrage of gunfire from a rifle when they went to the house on Main Street shortly before 6:00 EST.

The shooting continued for nearly three hours before suspect Lance Storz was taken into custody, having surrendered after negotiations involving members of his family.

He has been charged with two counts of murdering a police officer, five counts of attempted murder of a police officer, one count of attempted murder and one count of first-degree assault on a service animal.

The families and friends of the slain police officers and the wounded officers have been forever changed.

The community of Allen will forever be scarred by one of the worst events to ever occur in the state of Kentucky.

Gun violence is not limited to age. An assault rifle in the hands of any mentally deranged person results in tragedy.

Police officers have a scary job. It's no wonder they are nervous and seem sometimes quick to pull their weapons. Floyd county officers walked into a situation and were totally caught off guard. Looking back, they would approach Storz differently. A miscalculation too often is fatal. In the moments of what appears to be just another day of work or life, the worst

tragedies can happen.

Allen is a wonderful Eastern, Kentucky town. The town is filled with beautiful, loving people. Evil at the highest level can exist and erupt in any place. It's not limited to a big city hundreds of miles away. This is why all communities, sheriff departments, schools and churches must be vigilant in being aware of the ongoing dangers of America's growing mental illness epidemic. Ignoring our cultural mental illness dilemma will only perpetuate ongoing fatalities.

Hear Dr. Glenn Mollette each weekday morning at 8:56 and 10:11:30 AM EST.

Washington's Corn-Based Ethanol Mandates Are Poorly Timed

By Dr. Mark W. Hendrickson

Recently, President Joe Biden flew into Iowa—our country's leading corn-producing state—to announce to appreciative farmers that the Environmental Protection Agency will require American motor-fuel refiners to increase the amount of corn-based ethanol (CBE) that must be blended into motor fuels this year.

The new regulations include authorization for the production and consumption of more E15 (fuel that is 15 percent, rather than the usual 10 percent ethanol content). At first glance, we can say that we have seen this move before this presidential trip to Iowa. Former President Donald Trump, in a transparent political move, did so in October 2018—the month before crucial mid-term elections were to take place. (The Trump plan, incidentally, was blocked in 2019 by

the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals as an impermissible circumvention of the Clean Air Act.) Upon reflection, though, there is a huge—and hugely significant—difference this time.

Before commenting on the difference, let us state for the record that the practice of using corn-based ethanol as part of our nation's motor-fuel supply will have the same negative environmental and economic effects that it always has. Environmentally, using millions of acres of land to grow corn for fuel reduces wildlife habitat, accelerates the depletion of water tables, and increases pollution due to extra use of fertilizers (resulting in such side effects as the grim "red tide" that plagued Florida a few years ago).

Actually, there is one noticeable addition to the list of negative environmental impacts this year:

Normally, the EPA bans the refining and distribution of E15 in the summer months because burning that much ethanol in the summer heat causes smog. The Biden administration has pointedly shelved that restriction. Why? What is so urgent about adding more ethanol to the national fuel supply now that it justifies a policy known to increase visible air pollution? The logical explanation is that the Biden administration is so obsessively anti-fossil fuels that the ethanol mandate is just one more step in forcing American motorists to use less petroleum.

There is another difference in Biden's call for increased production of E15 from Trump's similar call four years ago: President Trump exempted approximately 70 smaller refineries from having to produce E15 because of the potentially crushing costs involved in changing

fuel blends at refineries. President Biden has granted no such exemptions. Chet Thompson, CEO of the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, says that not exempting small refineries threatens their viability. Indeed, there are reports that some smaller refineries are shutting down already, and that others will go out of business as a result of the new E15 regulations. The last thing American motorists need at a time of soaring gas prices is for the supply of gas to decline. Nobody I know wants \$8.00 per gallon gasoline.

The negative economic impacts of using federal mandates to increase the amount of ethanol being blended into motor fuels are already known. The National Academy of Sciences has found that such increases typically raise corn prices by approximately 30 percent and the

prices of other crops (the supply of which contracts to the extent that farmers switch to growing corn) almost as much. But that implies "normal times." Today, we have anything but normal times.

The Russian rape of Ukraine (exacerbated by unusual heat waves in India and droughts in other parts of the world) is threatening to drastically reduce the amount of grain available for human consumption this year. Tens of millions of millions of Americans are hurting from soaring inflation every time they shop for groceries. Diverting massive amounts of food from stomachs to gas tanks will jack up food inflation ever more.

In even more dire straits are the hundreds of millions of human beings in poorer countries who are at risk of starvation or severe undernourishment. A global humanitarian

crisis is unfolding before our eyes. And what is the official response of the United States of America—historically, the country with the big heart, always ready to lead the world in sending food aid to those in need (including to communist Russia in the 1920s)? Alas, with the world's people in desperate need of more food, this presidential administration is ordering even more of our country's abundant corn crop to be burned up on American highways. What's wrong with this picture?

Speaking as a human being here, and not as an economist, the EPA's ethanol policy is a moral obscenity.

Dr. Mark W. Hendrickson is a retired adjunct faculty member, economist, and fellow for economic and social policy with the Institute for Faith and Freedom at Grove City College.

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