⇒ TODAY'S VERSE

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



TACES OF **HAMILTON COUNTY**

What makes Maddy Higgins (right) smile? "Cows and pigs." What makes Lilly Higgins (left) smile? "My cows." The 11-year-old twin sisters from Arcadia are third-year Hamilton County 4-H'ers and were found Thursday volunteering at the Farm Bureau Milkshake Tent at the 4-H Fair in Noblesville. "My mom's friend invited us to come help." Maddy said. Her job at the Milkshake Tent? "I make them, and I give the people straws sometimes." Both were doing similar jobs. They are both members of Heartland 4-H Club and each take the same 12 projects, including, Garden, Sewing, Electric, Cake Decorating, Foods, Floriculture, Woodworking, Photography and "cows and pigs." They live on a farm and are the daughters of Bryan and Nikki Higgins and also have a brother, Jack, 9, and a sister, Olivia, 12. Favorite food at the Fair? "Slushies," Maddy said. "I like the corn-on-the-cob," Lilly said. Favorite activity at the Fair? "Showing cows," Maddy said. "Showing my cow," Lilly said. Biggest thing they've learned in 4-H? "Sportsmanship," Lilly said. "Everything," Maddy said. Favorite milkshake flavor at their tent? "Cookies and Cream," Lilly said, but Maddy said, "I like the vanilla." The Hamilton County 4-H Fair continues through Monday, with a livestock auction on Tuesday night. Come out to the Fair to see the exhibits, the animals and enjoy the

Hamilton County 4-H Fair Schedule

Fair food.

On Saturday, food will be Pork Producers' Barbecue, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Joint Producers' Barbecue, 5-9 p.m.; and **Extension Homemakers'** special is meatloaf. The day's activities include: 4-H Swine Show, 8 a.m.; 4-H Horse & Pony Dressage, 8 a.m.; 4-H Public Speaking Contest, 8:30 a.m.: Master Gardener Fair Fun, 9 a.m.; 4-H Llama Junior Showmanship, 9:30 a.m.; 4-H Demonstration Contest, 11 a.m.; Birds of Prey Animal Show, 12:30 p.m.; Antique Tractor Pull, 1 p.m.; 4-H Llama Field Obstacle, 1:30 p.m.; **Extension Homemakers' Food** & Craft Show, 3 p.m.; 4-H Cat Show, 5 p.m.; 4-H Dog Drill Team Demonstration, 5 p.m.; 4-H Horse & Pony Contesting Show, 6 p.m.; Homemade Ice Cream Contest, 6:30 p.m.; Youth Swine Exhibition, 7 p.m.; and DJ Charlie Van Wieringen, 7 p.m. The 4-H Fair sponsor for the day is Good Samaritan Network of

See the rest of the 4-H Fair schedule inside on page A5

Hamilton County.

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM



Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty - What Do My Wife, and My Ex-Wife, Get If I Die?

Dear Rusty: I am a 77 year old married male. I am retired and started drawing Social Security at age 66, and my monthly amount is a little over \$3,000. My present wife is 52 and employed, and we have been married for 22 years. I also have an ex-wife who is 85, not married, and drawing Social Security. My ex-wife and I were married 13 years.

When I am deceased, what happens to my Social Security benefits? When my present wife decides to receive SS benefits, would she draw the higher benefit of our monthly

(StatePoint) Whether you're

camping, boating or doing yard

work, these are all summertime

activities that need fuel. During

the month of July, which is Fuel

reminding everyone to stay safe

"Gas prices are high and you

while pumping and using fuel.

may be cutting back, but you'll

kerosene, and accidents can still happen," said Dan Marshall, vice president of marketing

and business development for

Scepter, the leader in fuel con-

tainers. "It's important to follow

basic fuel safety practices, at the

pump, at home, and on weekend

Stars of 4-H

still be using gas, diesel and

Safety Month, advocates are



Keep Your Tank Full with These

adventures."

cleaning agent.

to ignite.

Tips for Fuel Safety Month

Social Security Matters

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

amounts? Would my ex-wife be able to increase her benefit? Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning Ahead: In the event of your death, here is how Social Security eligibility would

To help people stay safe

around fuel, Scepter offers some

• Never use gas to start grills

or a bonfire, kill pests, or as a

• Never smoke near a fuel

open flame, even if it's empty.

Gas fumes are invisible and are

still potentially dangerous. One

spark can cause gasoline vapors

• Keep children and pets away

from fuel pumps, fuel containers

See TANK Page A5

and running equipment.

Selia Crouch

10-Year Member

Selia Crouch is the daughter of Matt and Michelle Crouch and a ten year member of Westfield Cloverleaves. Selia

especially enjoyed Home Environment, Foods, and Photography. Selia served as vice president for one year. Her

favorite 4-H memory was participating in the 4-H Champion Foods Auction. A few of Selia's achievements include

Purdue Extension ACTS delegate, and Gold Ratings at ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble for vocal solos. Selia is a

Distinguished Young Woman of Hamilton County, American Legion Auxillary Hoosier Girls State delegate,

graduate of Westfield High School. She plans to study music therapy or music education degree.

container or place it near an

work for your current wife and for your ex-wife:

For your current wife, unless she is disabled, she cannot collect a survivor benefit as

See RUSTY Page A5

Giving Support to Caregivers **Helps Support**

(Family Features) Chances are you know someone who takes care of a sick parent or spouse. You may even know someone who cares for a person with COPD, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. COPD is a lung disease that makes it hard to breathe and gets worse over time. Like other diseases, it often affects more than the person living with it. COPD can affect the whole family.

See SUPPORT Page A5

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset RISE: 6:28 a.m. SET: 9:11 p.m.

High/Low **Temperatures** High: 88 °F Low: 68 °F

Today is...

- National Atomic Veterans Day
- National Corn Fritter
- Rural Transit Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1951 The Catcher in the Rye is published
- 1994 Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 collides with **Jupiter**
- 1995 Amazon.com Sells its First Book

Births On This Day • 1862 Ida B. Wells

American civil rights activist

• 1907 Orville Redenbacher

American farmer, businessman

Deaths On This Day • 1882 Mary Todd Lin-

coln American wife of Abraham Lincoln, 17th First Lady of the US

• 1960 Albert Kesselring German field marshal

Loved Ones Too

Stars of 4-H Tyler Graham 10-Year Member



Stars of 4-H

A ten year member of Southeastern 4-H'ers, Tyler Graham is the son of Jacob and Jamie Follmar and Ryan and Rachelle Graham. Tyler has enjoyed showing Swine and showcasing his Wheat in the Crops project, earning many honors and champions. He is a graduate of Lapel High School, Tyler will join the union and specialize in welding.

Grace Miller

10-Year Member

A ten year member of Carmel 4 C's, Grace Miller is the daughter of Andy and Tracy Miller. Grace has earned state fair entries in Arts &

Crafts, Rabbits, and Sewing. She especially enjoyed Fashion Revue, qualifying for state fair competition twice and earning a finalist spot

in 2021. Grace was a four-time varsity letter winner and two-time state champion lacrosse player at Carmel High School. She competed

nationally with Circle City Lacrosse travel team. Grace was a scholar athlete and executive team leader for Carmel Dance Marathon,

helping raise more than \$500,000 for Riley Hospital for Children. She has been the top student fundraiser twice. Grace enjoys dog-sitting

and spending time with friends. She will study management and pre-law at Indiana University.

Stars of 4-H Allydia Anne Norris 10-Year Member



Daughter of Jeff Norris and Lisa Horton, Alydia Anne Norris is a ten year member of Husky 4-H'ers. Alydia's projects include Aquatic Science, Arts & Crafts, Entomology, Floriculture, Foods, Garden, Llamas, and Pocket Pets. A favorite memory is bringing her 6-year-old goldfish to the 4-H Fair and winning Grand Champion Aquatic Science. Other memorable experiences include showing her sweet llama, Abstract, and bringing her hedgehog, Spike, to make a few appearances at the fair over the years. Alydia was on the honor roll at Guerin Catholic High School while working 15 hours per week. Alydia plans to study pharmacy at Butler University.

Stars of 4-H Caleb Hurley 10-Year Member





A ten year member of Jackson Hot Shots, Caleb Hurley is the son of Craig and Nikki Hurley. Caleb participated in the Aquatic Science project, earning many champions and Grand Champion for his guppies breeding project. He has exhibited Dog Obedience, Electric, Pygmy Goats, and Woodworking projects. Caleb was a member of the Hamilton Heights High School FFA and is active at Arcadia Christian Church. He started his own lawn mowing and car detailing business in addition to holding an internship in the research greenhouses at Beck's Hybrids. Caleb will study agricultural systems management at Purdue University.

Stars of 4-H Ella Maiden 10-Year Member





A ten year member of Heartland 4-H'ers, Ella Maiden is the daughter of Greg and Jennifer Maiden. Ella participated in Arts & Crafts, Cake Decorating, Electric, Foods, Photography, and Sewing. She won Reserve Grand Champion for Fine Arts in 6th grade and in 2020 she won Grand Champion Food Preservation with her grandmother's strawberry jam recipe. 4-H has been a wonderful experience. Ella was a cheerleader at Hamilton Heights High School, earning the awards of "Most Spirited" and "Most Valuable Cheerleader." She was a member of the varsity tennis team and served as captain during her junior and

Stars of 4-H Reagan Hart 10-Year Member





A ten year member of Forest Hill, Reagan Hart is the daughter of Erich and Jennifer Hart. Reagan participated in Aquatic Science, Beef and Chicken Barbetue, Foods, Microwave, Pockets Pets, Shooting Sports, Soil & Water Conservation, Strawberries, and Pocket Pets. Reagan earned state fair entries in Food Preparation and Soil & Water Conservation and participated in the Hamilton County Championship Foods Auction. Reagan also participated in the Hamilton County 4-H Queen Pageant. A favorite 4-H memory of Reagan's was earning Reserve Grand Champion in Aquatic Science for her Zebra Danios. She will study health and disease at Purdue University.

Sam Bixler

10-Year Member

Stars of 4-H



A ten year member of Jolly Rogers, Sam Bixler is the son of Pete and Nancy Bixler. Sam has participated in Electric, Foods, Home Environment, Junior Leaders, Llamas and Photography; earning a state fair entry in Home Environment. Sam earned the FFA "Building a Legacy" freshman award at Fishers High School.

⇒ HONEST HOOSIER

Happy birthday to a great Hoosier and a man who popped his way into my heart - Orville Redenbacher. This Brazil and Clay County native was born in 1907.



INSIDE TODAY Betsy Reason.....A2 Help Wanted......A3 Letter to the Editor......A3 Glenn Mollette......A3 Classifieds.....A4

In The Home.....A6, A7

Travel......A8

TODAY'S QUOTE

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them."

- John F. Kennedy

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Water exercises are very helpful for people with back and joint pain. 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.



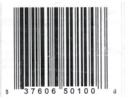
OBITUARIES None



□ TODAY'S JOKE

If you go at red and stop at green, what are you doing? Eating a watermelon!





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



PAGE TWO WEEKEND, JULY 16-17, 2022

Extension Homemakers Showing Well at the Fair Sarah Zack Named



BETSY REASON The Times Editor

Look around at activities that Hamilton County Extension Homemakers are doing and you find them helping others, striving onward and upward and making home life lovely.

Every year at the Hamilton County 4-H Fair -- which this year runs through Monday -- the **Extension Homemakers** have their own Extension Homemakers' Flower Show exhibit.

I stopped in at the Homemakers' Flower Show just after judging on Thursday.

I must admit I wouldn't want to be a judge, because I always think all of the flowers on exhibit are all beautiful.

This year, the overall theme was "Garden Pollinators," with three divisions, Horticulture, Artistic and Houseplants, but not an overall grand champion of all entries and divisions. Flower show entries are by club, not by individuals.

At this year's 4-H Fair, the North Adams Extension Homemakers Club based in Sheridan -- one of 10 Extension Homemaker clubs in Hamilton County -- won Grand Champion in the Horticulture division, shown in the "variety"

Judy Langdon, 70, Sheridan -- a member of the North Adams Extension Homemakers and 10-year 4-H'er from Allen County -- held up her club's winning entry which featured three very different flowers, an "excellent use of natives and bright colors,' according to the judge's written comments.

"This is hard because, it's three varieties of bloom, your choice, and what goes together to make that a pleasing arrangement," she said. "We have a spike flower here, we have a round thick flower here and a sparkly flower here. It was pleasing to the judge's eye.'

The judge's feedback on the scorecard read, "I gave this one a grand champion because it not only is excellent in color use, healthy ... and also because it is a wonderful example of our pollinators.

Great job," she said. In 2021 and 2022, for the first time, Hamilton County Master Gardeners judged the entries, looking at presentation as well as



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Hamilton County Extension Homemakers' North Adams Extension Homemaker Club based in Sheridan -- members Judy Ottinger (from left) and Anita Billingsley, both of Sheridan; Leah Raines of Westfield; Sandy Parks of Cicero: and Judy Langdon of Sheridan -- show off the club's Grand Champion winning entry in the Extension Homemakers' Flower Show, on exhibit through Monday at the Hamilton County 4-H Fair, in the county exhibition center in Noblesville.

Want MORE?

Hamilton County Extension Homemakers' Flower Show Exhibit is open for viewing through 6 p.m. Monday at the Hamilton County 4-H Fair at Hamilton County Exhibition Center at the 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 E. Pleasant St., Noblesville.

Extension Homemaker Used Book Sale is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and Sunday, and 10 a.m. to noon Monday in the.

Public viewing of Extension Homemakers' Foods & Crafts (open to public) is noon to 9 p.m. today, continuing through 6 p.m. Monday.

Hamilton County Extension Homemakers in their dining room at the 4-H Fair will offer daily specials: today, meatloaf; Sunday, beef and noodles; with other food available daily through Monday.

Extension Homemakers offer educational opportunities. Membership is \$13 yearly. To join Extension Homemakers or to learn about local clubs in your area, email Bernie Huber at bchuber@purdue.edu

"standard" for the Horticulture division. (In years past, Extension Homemakers had used out-of-county judges. "We didn't have any money to pay judges last year for the flower show, so that's when we asked our Master Gardeners, to help us out, because they don't get paid, they earn hours," Langdon said. How did it work?

"Wonderful," she said. So what is it that the judges are looking for that makes these flower displays over-the-top champions?

The Horticulture category judging, for instance, was based on whether the shape and size of flowers are typical for the variety; flowers are clean and fresh and free of pollen; stems are straight, clean and undamaged; leaves are clean, healthy and undamaged, according to a judges' scorecard attached to the entry.

In the Artistic category, it was about "how do they interpret the category and how do they arrange flowers to interpret the category," Langdon said.

Using the theme of "Garden Pollinators," there are bats, birds, butterflies and small bugs categories.

North Adams Extension Homemakers Club actually chaired, or organized, this year's flower show. "We're just a group of willing ladies who can

chair it," Langdon said.

"I love it," she said.
"Getting together, we have two committee meetings and that report has to be turned in by Dec. 31 ... Just the collaboration and teamwork to come up with a new theme each year and the new subthemes."

Other ladies from other **Extension Homemakers** also help.

One word that describes why the flower show is a perfect activity for Extension Homemakers?

"Opportunity," Langdon said. "It gives them a chance to take their hobby or their passion and put it on display and see how they did.'

She said, "Flowers make people happy.'

"Last year we had 77 entries and this year, we had 91. That is awesome." she said.

The Extension Homemakers' Flower Show Exhibit is open for viewing through 6 p.m. Monday at the Hamilton County 4-H Fair at the Hamilton County Exhibition Center at the 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 E.

Pleasant St., Noblesville. Also, Extension Homemakers Used Book Sale is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and Sunday, and 10 a.m. to noon Monday in the Exhibition Center.

Public viewing of Extension Homemakers' Foods & Crafts (open to public) is noon to 9 p.m. today, continuing through 6 p.m.

Monday.

Hamilton County Extension Homemakers in their dining room at the 4-H Fair will offer daily hot specials: today, meatloaf; Sunday, beef and noodles; with other food available daily through Monday, including breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Seeing all of the activities of the Extension Homemakers, Langdon said, "We hope that it encourages other people to come and see what we have and then encourages them to plant ... That's the real reason we chose the theme that we did this year."

(Indiana Extension Homemakers Association was founded 109 years ago, in 1913, and Extension Homemakers are all about strengthening homes and families.)

As the county Extension Homemaker membership grows older, there is a need for younger mem-

Langdon said she hopes **Extension Homemakers** being visible at the 4-H Fair will attract new members. Their door is always open.

Membership is \$13 yearly. To join Extension Homemakers or to learn about local clubs in your area, email Bernie Huber at bchuber@purdue.edu

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

as New Principal of **Washington Woods Elementary School**

Westfield Washington Schools announced yesterday that Sarah Zack will assume the role of principal of Washington Woods Elementary School. The position opened up when the former principal, Tom Hakim, accepted a middle school principal position in Washington Township.

Most recently, Zack served as assistant principal at Washington Woods since July 2021. Before that, she was a principal at Eleanor Skillen School 34 in the Indianapolis Public School district. Other experiences include being an assistant principal, an instructional coach at the college level, and a special education teacher.

With a year under her belt at Washington Woods, Zack says she is prepared for the task of taking the helm of the building with approximately 650 students and nearly 80 staff members.

"I have loved serving as the assistant principal at Washington Woods, and I'm ecstatic that I'll be able to take an even bigger role here," Zack said. "I've had the opportunity to learn about the incredible community of Westfield, gain the trust of families, lead the school team, and have an impact on the great students and staff in our building.'

Dr. Paul A. Kaiser, superintendent of Westfield Washington Schools, has full faith and confidence in Zack.

"From the first time that I met Sarah, I knew that she was an exceptional educator with the potential to make a huge impact on the students of our district," Kaiser said. "I'm excited for our Washington Woods fam-



Sarah Zack

ilies, and other families in our district, to build a stronger relationship with her."

Zack received her master's degree in science in education from Butler University and her bachelor's degree in science in education from Indiana University of Education. Sarah resides in Zionsville with her husband, Marc, and their two children John (16) and Emily (14). She and her family enjoy basketball, hockey, hiking and running.

Westfield Washington Schools is one of the fastest growing school districts in the state of Indiana. With an "A" rating from the Indiana Department of Education, WWS enrolled nearly 8,800 students, in 2021-22, across six elementary, one intermediate middle and high school. The district employs more than 600 teachers and nearly 250 support staff. Westfield High School is ranked in the top 3 percent nationally by U.S. News and World Report, and has a graduation rate of 98.3 percent with 86 percent of its graduates continuing onto higher education.

For more information on Westfield Washington Schools visit www.wws. k12.in.us.







Dozens of advertisers have found exactly how effective advertising with The Times can be!

The Times is a tremendous asset to our community!

With their support we have been able to communicate all the wonderful improvements that we have been able to make at the Forest Park Aquatic Center. The advertising they have helped us with has led to the largest single year increase in family memberships and daily visitors in the history of our organization. The reach of the Times within the greater Hamilton County area is immense and we can't say enough great things about its powerful impact upon our organization."



Greg Conner President Friends of Central Pool, Inc.

Interested in advertisting with The Times? Contact joe@thetimes24-7.com or ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com to learn more!



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

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

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

** Note: Credit card and processing does apply and will be added at checkout **How Do I Register?** www.noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.com

Questions? Please contact:

> Mark Kelly Director of Baseball Operations Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball (317) 201-4751 nbrbdirectorofops@gmail.com

Chris Thomas League President Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball (317) 538-6555 nbrbpresident@gmail.com

Letters -

Former HSPA Director Shows Appreciation for State Senator Ford's Support for Local 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 Sen. Ford: I'd like to thank you for supporting the Hoosier State Press Association's position opposing S.B. 283, authored by Sen. Jim Buck, R-Kokomo. This bill would have allowed government units to forego the publication of public notices - replacing that requirement with the posting of the notices on the units' "official websites," which could include Facebook pages.

HSPA opposed this concept as failing to preserve the four elements necessary for effective public notices particularly the issues of verification, archivable preservation, and an independent distribution to prevent the foxes from guarding the hen houses.

You were one of five of the 10 members of the Senate Local Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Buck, that made it known to him that they would not support his bill, so he amended it to request an interim committee look at the issue this summer. That version was passed by Buck's committee, 8-0, and by the Senate, 48-1. It was assigned to the House Rules and Legislative Procedures Committee, chaired by Rep. Dan Leonard, R-Huntington, where it was not acted

The other four senators who supported HSPA in the committee were Sens. Veneta Becker, R-Evansville, Greg

Taylor, D-Indianapolis; Rodney Pol, D-Chesterton; and Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn.

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. 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

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 threeminute limit. The Senate then passed the bill, 34-11, with your "aye" vote.

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

S.B. 83 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 coauthors were Sens. Veneta Becker, R-Evansville; and Kyle Walker, R-Indianapolis.

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



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Schools

Ribbon Cut on Duke Energy Community Room

Noblesville Schools officially cut the ribbon on Friday on the new Duke Energy Community Room, located in the Noblesville Schools Community Center. Duke Energy supported this multi-purpose room through a \$22,500 investment over the next three years. The space is designed for community meetings, practices and receptions, and opens directly into the new Beaver Stadium. (Left to right) Adriann Young, Noblesville Schools Education Foundation Director; Dr. Joe Forgey, Noblesville Schools Board President; Dagny Zupin, Community Relations Liaison for Duke Energy; and Mark LaBarr, Community Relations Manager for Duke Energy, take part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Airline Travel Woes, Flying is Frustrating



DR. GLENN MOLLETTE Columnist

Airline travelers have experienced frustration since the 2021 holidays as covered by national news. Travel delays and even trip cancellations have been aggravating experiences for travelers. If you only have a weekend and your trip includes a flight on Friday and a return flight on Sunday you are chancing a lost weekend. Being delayed from Friday to Saturday is surely to sour your trip.

My wife and I have flown a few times and it seems as if there is a new devil at every level. Last Spring, we hoped for a few days in Florida. We booked our flight from Indiana to change planes in Atlanta before going on to Florida. We checked our luggage and had minimum provisions in our backpacks. We arrived in Atlanta on a Saturday afternoon only to learn that our plane on to Florida was cancelled because of weather. We also heard from fellow disgruntled travelers and a TSA agent that the cancellation was really due to problems with air traffic controllers. We

also heard that Delta was very short-staffed. After standing in line at a ticket counter for two hours I was told the next available flight was two nights later at 7PM. We were advised that our luggage was already on another plane to our destination.

We had no choice but to find a hotel room. Thousands of other flights were delayed or had been cancelled that day. Hotel rooms were not easy to find. We finally found one. We were forced to get a taxi and stay two nights in Atlanta with minimal provisions. Needless to say, it was an extra unplanned expense.

When we finally arrived in Florida, I knew we were good on transportation. I had paid in advance for a rental car. We got the car pretty fast. However, I wasn't told that our upfront payment was forfeited because we didn't pick up the car within a 24-hour time frame of the reservation date. I didn't realize I was paying a second time until I reviewed my bank statement later. Since I had paid for the car up front, I did not think that Budget would care if we were delayed. I thought wrong. According to Budget you have to let them know within 24 hours if your plans change. I learned something new. Education is always expensive. I disputed the charge but my bank stood with Budget.

All in all, my wife and I had a good time in Ft. Myer's Beach, Florida. Except, flying was miserable that time around. Delta Airlines made no offers to compensate us with any new or free tickets. They felt no obligation to cover any of the additional expenses we incurred in Atlanta. Budget Rent A Car made double money for an old Camry they rented me. The car was a take it or leave it. They said it was all they had available when I

Are there any answers? Sure. Stay home. Or, try to find flights that are direct if possible. This seems harder and harder. Buy a small suitcase that fits the legal carry-on dimensions. Then you will have your bag with you. If you can handle your trip without a rental car, you might be happier. Sometimes this is impossible but not always. We recently traveled to Baltimore and stuck with Taxis. We saved quite a bit because we didn't pay for a rental car and we didn't have to pay parking fees at the hotel.

I don't like to fly in storms. I do want the airlines to make my safety a priority. I would rather arrive late than never. Just be aware that in the age we currently live in flying can

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

Crouch Applauds FSSA Announcement Regarding Increased Funding for Mental Health Services

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch reacted to the recent announcement that nearly \$110 million in public and private funding will be issued soon to bolster the campaign to reduce mental health and addiction issues in Indiana. The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Mental Health and Addiction is administering the release of both state and federal funds.

"Today's announcement that \$109.8 million is being allocated in the near future to fight the mental health and addiction crisis in Indiana is great news," said Crouch. "In our post-pandemic world, mental health issues have exploded around the country, and Indiana is no exception. This money is desperately needed.

"I'm also happy to see that some of the public and private funds are being

dedicated to attracting more professionals to the mental health field. Throughout the industry, there are staffing shortages at facilities and a lack of qualified doctors. For us to truly make an impact, we need to get more people involved in this battle.

In the press conference today announcing the funding and grants, FSSA Secretary Dan Rusyniak, M.D., thanked Governor Eric Holcomb and Lt. Governor Crouch for their support in the fight against mental health and addiction issues. In 2021, Lt. Governor Crouch launched the Indiana Roundtable on Mental Health, which she co-chairs with former Eli Lilly CEO John Lechleiter. She formed the Roundtable to address what she considers one of Indiana's biggest challenges - mental health

and addiction. "One in five Hoosiers



Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch

struggle with mental health and addiction issues, yet many aren't sure where to turn for help," Crouch said. "We all know someone impacted by mental health issues and addiction. So, I'm also excited to see the launch of 988 will take place this weekend. Now, Hoosiers experiencing mental health-related distress may call 988 to connect to a trained specialist. This is a much-needed service.'

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Indiana Gives Power to Plans for Electric Vehicle Charging Network

By Whitney Downard State officials and private partners laid out first steps Wednesday evening for creating a statewide network of reliable electric vehicle chargers using federal funding.

It is part of a nationwide push to add at least 50,000 chargers for electric vehicles. Indiana will receive almost \$100 million in federal funding with an explicit push to prioritize disadvantaged communities and rural areas.

State officials expect the monies over a period of five years through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in 2021.

"Funding is directed toward the alternative fuel corridors and within those corridors (electric vehicle) charging stations must be located every 50 miles and stations must be within one mile of the interstate," said Scott Manning, the deputy chief of staff for the Indiana Department of Transportation, in a Wednesday presentation. "Each station itself must have a minimum of four plugs or ports, each providing 150 kilowatts of power through a (direct current) source."

Alternative fuel corridors, or designated roadways in the national network of electric vehicle chargers, in Indiana include all of the major interstates, U.S. 31 and several beltways. Indiana's distribution of interstates means much of Indiana, except the most rural portions, will be within 50 miles of the preliminary round of chargers.

Also in Indiana's favor: the relatively mild climate and limited elevation changes, though research finds that the majority of electric vehicle owners reside in Hamilton and Marion

"While EV adoption is currently relatively low, it is projected to steadily increase over the next 15 years," said Diane Newton, the senior project engineer of infrastructure design firm HNTB.

Because of the slow growth, the state's electric grid capacity seeing an immediate impact isn't likely. Newton said. But she said stakeholders recognize that electric utilities could play a key collaborative role in expanding charging infrastructure.

A survey of 2,200

Hoosiers, 78% of whom identified as members of the general public, cited the availability of chargers, the purchase price of electric vehicles and the range as obstacles for EV ownership.

"A quick glimpse of survey results tells us the availability of charging stations is the biggest barrier to EV adoption in their community,' Kerri Garvin, the executive director of Greater Indiana Clean Cities, Inc., said. "Respondents overwhelmingly stated that building more public accessible charging stations is needed to address the barrier."

The plan moving forward

The state must submit its implementation plan to the federal government by August 1, anticipating review and approval by September 30. Public comment on the unreleased draft plan will open on July 20 at in.gov/indot.

Manning said after approval, the state will continue to develop the contract plan and find potential site owners. He predicted the earliest Hoosiers could see the construction of new charging stations would be in late 2024 or early 2025.

"(The funding) doesn't expire, so to speak, so we'll continue to add additional phases and build out the plan as long as the federal funding allows us to do so," Manning said.

Newton showed a map of the 241 EV charging locations throughout Indiana, just four of which are NEVI compliant. The four chargers appeared to be in Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Jeffersonville and West Lafayette.

"There's still a lot of the state that does not have charging infrastructure located within a reasonable distance," Newton said.

While the state has 30 Tesla superchargers, their closed proprietary system means they aren't compatible with other car models. NEVI compliant chargers will need to be available for a variety of vehicles, including possibilities for long-haul trucking or public trans-

portation. "The sheer volume of freight movement in the state means that this will be an emerging priority in the coming years," Newton said.

With competitive grants available for both public transportation and freight, Indiana joined a coalition of states in the Midwest, known as the Regional Electric Midwest Coalition, to gain a competitive edge.

Goals for Indiana's EV charging network

The state articulated four draft priorities to submit as part of their application: closing 50-mile gaps along the alternative fuel corridors, providing service in high-demand areas, providing service in disadvantaged/ rural communities and leveraging existing access to utility service.

"One hundred percent of the preliminary sites identified are within at least 15 miles of a disadvantaged community and 62% are within five miles," Manning said.

Disadvantaged communities, where 59% of Hoosiers live, include both urban and rural areas. Being close to these chargers allows for potential benefits such as job creation and training opportunities.

To fully implement the plan, interested parties must work with the state to be identified as an EV charger station. Station owners and operators are required to match 20% of funding and some stations funded by the \$2 billion Volkswagen emissions settlement could be upgraded to become NEVI compliant.

"We will potentially be partnering with some vendors that haven't worked with INDOT before or maybe have worked with INDOT just in a limited capacity, Manning said. "In anticipation of that we anticipate doing a significant amount of outreach and education on the business requirements."

The first phase will include approximately 40 more stations along Indiana's busiest interstates, with priority sites already identified by the state.

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Today's Issues are Women's Issues too By John Grimaldi

Title 9 was established half a century ago. It prohibits discrimination based on sex in our schools. That's a good thing. However, the Biden administration is seeking to change the definition of sex to include "gender identity." When biological male students are allowed to identify as female, this puts biological females at a huge disadvantage when it comes to sports.

More than a dozen states have passed laws to prevent male athletes from competing in women's sports. It's an issue high on the agenda of organizations such as the Independent Women's Forum [IWF]. And it is a topic discussed by Carrie Sheffield, the IWF's senior policy analyst in an interview with AMAC CEO Rebecca Weber on her Better for America podcast.

Polling shows that a majority of Americans, by a two-to-one margin, dismiss the gender identity issue when it comes to women's sports, according to Sheffield. "On June 23rd, we held a big rally in Washington, D.C. called 'Our Bodies Our Sports'. It was all about preserving Title 9, a bipartisan effort that has benefited and protected women for half a century. We held it on the 50th anniversary of Title 9."

Sheffield told Weber that the controversy over Title 9 is a pure and simple ideological issue "because biology tells

us that even if you have testosterone blockers or hormone suppression therapy, there are immutable characteristics that cannot be changed. Things like your heart chamber, your lung capacity, your bone structure, your bone length ... you have immutable

advantages if you're a biological male that can't be changed by these types of treatments. And so that advantage puts women's sports at a risk.'

The veteran international journalist also had a lot to say about the failure of the Biden administration to deal with the unprecedented crisis on our Mexican border. Sheffield noted that at the height of the covid crisis, the president demanded that we all wear masks and issued mandates for testing, vaccinations, and passports. Meanwhile, the surge of illegal immigrants at the border was gaining momentum but Mr. Biden was giving them a pass. He was "not requiring the screening of these illegal immigrants to see if they had covid. And in some cases, they were reportedly putting [illegal immigrants] on buses and airplanes and spreading them throughout the country, but without any sort of

screening." She also shared her thoughts about the growing lack of patriotism and respect for American traditions. Sheffield pointed out that "NPR, for example ... broke its very long-standing tradition on July 4th of reading aloud the Decla-

ration of Independence. They said we're not going to do that this time because we disagree with these Supreme Court rulings.'

And she went on to express her dismay at the progressive left's unabashed promotion of the communist creed via the introduction of the Critical Race Theory in our K-12 schools.

"We have to push back," Sheffield said, telling us that we need to teach our children what America stands for. "We don't lie about our past ... We had slavery in this country, and that's evil. But the fact of the matter is that we had a civil war where hundreds of thousands of predominantly white men gave their lives to end slavery. And there's no other country in the world where that happened, where hundreds of thousands of white men gave their lives to free black people. That has not happened anywhere else in the world, and that is exceptional."

As for her organization, Sheffield explained it's the voice of independence. "We welcome men as well, but our mission is that we believe all issues are women's issues. We don't believe that women should be pigeonholed, that there are only a couple of issues that define women. Women are multifaceted, we're renaissance women. And so, we advocate for issues that range from foreign policy to education, freedom to economic freedom, the whole gamut."

Affordability Subcommittee Releases List of Solutions to Improve Health Care Value

On Thursday, the Affordability Subcommittee of the Healthy Future Task Force – consisting of Rep. Victoria Spartz (IN-05), Rep. Kevin Hern (OK-01), and Rep. Rick Allen (GA-12) - announced the Task Force's solutions to make health care more accessible and affordable.

In an op-ed for the Daily Signal, the Affordability Subcommittee members released proposals to lower the costs of health insurance and medical care by increasing competition, transparency and choices. The Affordability Subcommittee also hosted a roundtable with small business owners to discuss how the policy solutions would improve small business owners' ability to offer high-quality health benefits at lower costs for employees.

"Improving health care value is a national security issue" said Congresswoman Spartz. "I appreciate the work of my colleagues



Rep. Victoria Spartz

to develop real policy solutions and deliver results on this important issue for all

Americans." "Our subcommittee is proud to present this plan to make health care more affordable by improving health care options for workers and small business owners, improving innovation and transparency, and lowering costs by increasing competition,' said Rep. Kevin Hern, Chairman of the Afford-

"When health care decisions are made by bureaucrats in Washington,

ability Subcommittee.

the result is a top-down, one-size-fits-all system that never works" said Congressman Rick Allen. "We want all Americans to have a high-quality, affordable, and personalized approach to their health. To do that, we must remove the barriers that prevent employers from banding together to help their workers get the most

out of their benefits." Overview of solutions:

- Improve workers ability to control and afford their health care, and improve small business owners' ability to provide health insurance at a low cost and high value for employees
- Promote innovation and transparency to empower patients and to provide more affordable options
- Lower costs and increase choices by fostering competition and targeting incentives that drive consolidation and limit competition

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O RUSTY

From Page A1

your widow until she is at least 60 years old. However, if she claims her survivor benefit before reaching her full retirement age (FRA), it will be reduced. Claimed at age 60, her benefit as your widow would be 71.5% of the amount you were receiving at your death. If she waited beyond age 60 to claim, her survivor benefit would continue to grow until it reached maximum at her FRA of age 67 (100% of the benefit you were receiving when you died). She would also have the option to wait until age 62 and claim her own reduced personally-earned SS benefit first while allowing her survivor benefit to grow to maximum at age 67; or she could take her reduced survivor benefit only first

Joel Africk found this

"I watched my mother

serve as the main care-

COPD," said Africk,

president of Respirato-

ry Health Association

(RHA). "The follow-up

appointments, the coordi-

nation of his care with his

care team, the supervised

juggled it all. She was the

driving force in my dad's

Luckily, because of

said, "I was able to put

the work he does, Africk

our kitchen table conver-

sations in front of a ded-

caregivers and providers,

and The COPD Caregiv-

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on a variety of topics for

patients and caregivers,

for doctors' appoint-

including how to prepare

ments, navigate changes in home life, provide

help after a COPD flare-

up or hospital stay and

stay mentally and physically healthy through it

The National Heart,

Lung, and Blood Insti-

tute's (NHLBI) Learn

COPD caregiver and pro-

icated team of patients,

exercise - my mother

giver for my father with

out firsthand.

USUPPORT From Page A1

and allow her personally-earned SS benefit to grow to maximum at age 70. She should choose whichever strategy would give her the highest benefit for the rest of her life.

Note, too, that if your current wife were to collect any benefit before reaching her full retirement age (67) and she works, she would be subject to Social Security's earnings test. The earnings test limits how much can be earned before some of her benefits are taken away by Social Security. For reference, the 2022 earnings limit is \$19,560, but it changes annually. If the annual earnings limit in force when your wife claims is exceeded, and she hasn't yet reached age 67, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for

nered with RHA to up-

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Kiley, M.D., director

of NHLBI's Division of

Lung Diseases, "COPD

over time can become

debilitating. That's why

early diagnosis, treatment

and disease management

are so important. It can

many patients and their

To help with disease

management challenges,

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tion tracking sheets and

a list of questions to ask

doctors. It also features

information caregivers

can use to support their

own health and well-be-

find support groups and

The right tools can

make all the difference

resource that will help

clarify what caregivers need to know to help

loved ones," Kiley said. Find and share this free

themselves and their

resource at nhlbi.nih.

"'The COPD Caregiv-

er's Toolkit' is a valuable

ing, such as how to

backup care.

Toolkit" comes with

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be overwhelming for

families.

is a complex disease that

online. Learn More

date and make the toolkit

every \$2 over the limit. The limit is higher, and the penalty is less in the year FRA is reached, and the earnings test goes away when your current wife is 67.

Regarding your exwife, if you die first, and because you were married for more than 10 years, your ex-wife will be entitled to collect a survivor benefit from you, if that amount (what you were receiving at your death) is more than she is currently receiving based on her own lifetime work record (she would get the higher of the two amounts). Your ex-wife would need to contact Social Security to claim her survivor benefit from you, and your exwife collecting a survivor benefit from you will not affect your current wife's

benefit in any way - both can get their full survivor benefit from you independent of each other and neither will be reduced because more than one wife is collecting.

For clarity, since you and your ex-wife are both already collecting Social Security, your ex-wife may be entitled to a spousal boost from you while you are both living, if her own personally-earned FRA benefit amount is less than 50% of your SS benefit, and that would have no effect on either your own current benefit or your current wife's survivor entitlement. Your ex-wife would need to contact Social Security directly to apply for her ex-spouse benefit from you while you are both living.

UTANK From Page A1

- Use the right container: red for gasoline, blue for kerosene, yellow for
- Do not remove or alter the Flame Mitigation Device (FMD) inside the opening of the fuel container in any way.
- Inspect fuel containers for leaks and cracks before each fill-up. If there are any signs of aging, carefully dispose of the container and purchase a new one with essential safety features. For example, the rugged Scepter SmartControl fuel containers for gasoline, kerosene and diesel fuels feature controllable flow, child safety features, and are designed to substantially exceed ASTM and CPSC minimum standards. Additionally, all Scepter portable fuel containers in the United States already include FMDs certified to the ASTM F3326 stan-
- dard. • Place fuel containers on the ground during filling to avoid sparks from static electricity and spills inside the vehicle.
- Only fill containers to the "fill line" to allow for expansion with changing

temperatures.

- Before pouring from a fuel can that has expanded in the summer heat, point the can away and vent by activating the release button while upright. Modern containers are designed to remain sealed to protect the environment from emissions and keep fuel fresh longer.
- Wipe up any spills immediately.
- When filling up equipment, do it outside to avoid breathing in fumes.
- Never fill an engine that is running or still hot
- from recent use. • Store fuel containers in a dry, well-ventilated place, outside the living space of your home and away from furnaces, water heaters, direct sunlight, and other sources of heat.

For additional fuel safety tips and information, visit scepter.com/safety.

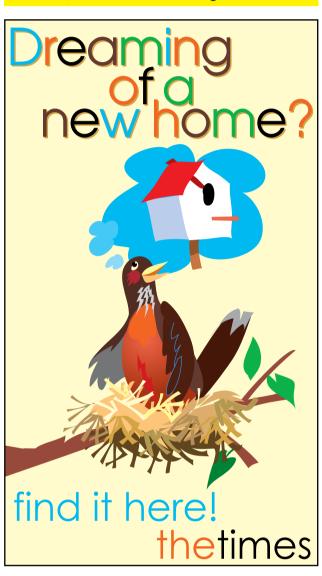
"We want everyone to have a safe summer, and that starts with raising awareness of best safety practices around fuel,' says Marshall. "Taking the time to brush up on these precautions can help keep people, pets and property

From A1 **Hamilton County 4-H Fair Schedule**

On Sunday, food featured will be Sheep Producers' Barbecue, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Joint Producers' Barbecue, 5-9 p.m.; Extension Homemakers' special, beef and noodles. The day's activities include: 4-H Sheep Wool Judging, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service at 10 a.m.; 4-H Horse & Pony Hunter Show, 10 a.m.; 4-H Sheep Show, 10 a.m.; 4-H Pocket Pet Show, noon; Caravan Classes Kids' Crafts, noon to 4 p.m.; 4-H Lawn & Garden Tractor Contest, 1 p.m.; Walk-A-Llama (open to public), 1 p.m.; Stones Crossing Live Music, 2 p.m.; Youth Pedal Tractor Pull, 2 p.m.; 4-H Parents' Llama Show, 2:30 p.m.; Youth Sheep Exhibition, 4:30 p.m.; Antique Tractor Parade, 5 p.m.; Food & Microwave Auction, 5 p.m.; Pet Parade, 6 p.m.; Farmer Olympics, 7:30 p.m. The 4-H Fair sponsor for the day is Dani Robinson Homes.

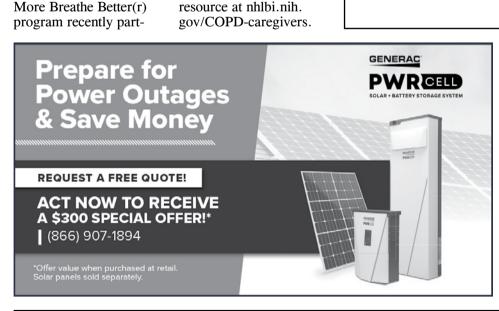
On Monday, there will be a Beef Producers' Barbecue, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Joint Producers' Barbecue, 5 to 9 p.m.; Extension Homemakers' Kitchen, 8 to 11 a.m. The day's activities include: 4-H Beef Show, 9 a.m.; 4-H 1/16th Tractor Pull, 9:30 a.m.; 4-H Horse & Pony Versatility Show, 10 a.m.; 4-H Llama Youth Judging, 10 a.m.; Color Me Green Fun Run, 11:30 a.m.; 4-H Rocket Launch, 1 p.m.; Youth Talent Contest, 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; Royal Showmanship, 3 p.m.; and Supreme Showmanship 7 p.m. The 4-H Fair sponsor for the day is Peterman Brothers.

Exhibits and displays are open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday-Monday. The Fairgrounds, 2003 E. Pleasant St., Noblesville, hours are 5 a.m. to midnight.



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Want to Attract More Hummingbirds to Your Yard? Here's Some Tips

(Family Features)
Throughout the warmer months, many backyards play host to a variety of birds, including hummingbirds. When you see flowers and trees begin to bud and bloom and other migrating birds, like warblers, that's nature's way of letting you know it's time to ready your yard for hummingbirds.

It's enchanting watching hummingbirds named for the humming sound of their fast-flapping wings - as their tiny size and speed make them natural wonders. Hummingbirds can fly 25-30 miles per hour, flapping their wings an estimated 70 times per second. They fly in every direction, even backwards, which only hummers can do, and float majestically in midair.

The birds get their brilliant color from the iridescence in the arrangement of their feathers, not color pigment. Plus, they have the fastest metabolism of any animal on Earth, burning 1-2 times their body weight in food daily. Hummingbirds draw nectar from its source into their mouths, lapping it up almost 12 times per second.

To increase your chances of observing these petite powerhouses at home, consider these tips from the experts at Cole's Wild Bird Products:

Be conscious of beneficial insects. Hummingbirds rely on insects, which provide essential protein, to complement the nectar they crave. To attract insects, try placing rotting fruit near feeders and leave it until insects arrive for hummers' easy

eats.
Leave spiderwebs
alone: Hummingbirds use
spiderwebs as construction material to hold their
nests together and pluck
insects caught in the
webbing.

Offer a water mister: Hummingbirds adore bathing; a mister gives them the fine spray they prefer. Once soaked, they're off to find a preening perch.

Provide tiny perches.
Leave small, sturdy,
bare branches for hummingbirds, to perch on
for rest, preening and
hunting. Perches provide
vantage points to see danger and launching pads to
swiftly pounce on insects.
Once hummingbirds find
a favorite perch, they'll
use it repeatedly.

Hang hummingbird feeders first. Feeders are one of the most effective ways to consistently entice and encourage hummingbirds to come visit. However, not all feeders are created equal. For example, Cole's Hummer High Rise Feeder is scientifically designed with elevated perches to make hummingbirds feel safe and comfortable, which encourages their consistent return.

Although hummingbird feeders can attract bees and ants, this feeder is uniquely designed to keep pests at bay. It doesn't drip, so large bees can't get to the nectar, plus it has a built-in ant moat to keep ants away from nectar when filled with plain water. Since birds drink from the moat, never use any repellents or additives.

Hummingbirds are territorial and not likely to share feeders, so hang multiple feeders far enough apart to attract more birds. To ensure a steady stream of birds, hang feeders in the shade to avoid fermentation of sugar-based liquids, check feeders bi-weekly to keep food fresh and clean feeders as needed with one part white vinegar to four parts water.

Plant flowers. Trumpet honeysuckle, bee balm and sage plants are particularly attractive to hummingbirds and provide rich nectar. Hummingbirds consume 1 1/2 times their body weight daily, eating every 10-15 minutes and visiting 1,000-2,000 flowers per day.

Choose the right nectar.
Not all nectar is alike,
and hummingbirds can
taste the difference.
Almost all commercial
nectars contain one sugar
source - sucrose - because
it's cheaper to make.
However, real flower
nectar contains three
sugar sources - sucrose,
fructose and glucose - in
varying amounts depend-

ing on the flower. Researched and designed to attract the greatest variety of hummingbirds, Cole's Nature's Garden is a high energy, nutrient-rich nectar that combines all three types of organically sourced sugars North American hummingbirds love, with a spring water base. It closely mimics the sugar ratios they favor and provides a healthier, nutritious, all-natural

alternative to table sugar.
Don't forget, hummingbirds have memories like elephants;
once they discover your hummer-friendly habitat, they'll come back every year if there's a reliable food source. Learn more at coleswildbird.com.

Increase Flowers With A Bit of Deadheading

By Melinda Myers

Keep your garden looking its best with a bit of deadheading. Removing faded flowers can promote repeat bloom on some plants, encourage fuller, more compact growth, and tidy up the garden.

Use a bypass pruner or deadheading snips to remove faded flowers. These tools have two sharp blades like scissors. This results in a clean cut that closes quickly, leaving your plant looking its best.

The type of flower will influence how and where to make the cut. In general, remove the stem of faded blooms back to the first set of healthy leaves or nearby flower buds.

Deadhead flowers like salvia, veronica, and snapdragons by removing faded flowers to encourage more blooms. Make cuts below the faded flower and above a set of healthy leaves or new flower stems.

Encourage additional blossoms and improve Shasta daisy's appearance by removing faded flowers. Prune back just above a set of healthy leaves.

Cut the flowers of Armeria, coral bells and other flowers back to the base of the flower stems that arise from the foliage. This improves the appearance and encourages more blooms on some of this type of flowering perennial.

Plants like daylilies and



Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

Removing the individual blooms of balloon flower as they fade will keep this plant looking its best.

balloon flowers require a bit different care for a tidier look. Remove the individual blooms as they fade. Once bloomed out, you can cut the flower stem back at the base. Allowing the faded flowers to hang on the stem until it is all bloomed out won't hurt the plant, it just detracts from the plant's overall beauty.

Removing fading flowers of fuchsia and lantana will prevent the plants from going to seed and encourage more blooms. Remove any berries that do form to keep these plants flowering.

Some plants like impatiens, cuphea and calibrachoas are self-cleaning. Old blossoms fall off the plants as new flowers form, eliminating the need for deadheading.

Deadhead heavy seeders like columbine to reduce the number of seedlings and contain the spread. Or allow some seeds to develop if you have space to fill or want lots of seedlings to transplant to new garden beds.

Allow seedheads to develop on coneflowers, rudbeckias, and other plants that provide winter interest and food for the birds.

Remove flowers as they appear on coleus to promote more compact growth. Late blooming, flowerless varieties and self-branching coleus hybrids reduce or eliminate time spent on this task.

Consider skipping the deadheading of late blooming perennials. This allows them to prepare for winter and form seedpods for a bit of winter interest.

Improve the appearance of leggy plants with long stems and few leaves with a bit of pruning. Cut back further into the leafy stem when deadheading to encourage fuller growth as well as more flowers.

Make deadheading part of your regular garden maintenance. Investing time throughout the season will help keep your garden looking its best.

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

Get Growing With An Urban Garden

(Family Features)
Urban living and lush gardens aren't as mutually exclusive as one might assume. In fact, it's possible to cultivate thriving gardens in even

the smallest spaces.

The first step toward creating a successful small garden space is planning. Sketching out your garden area with a clear understanding of the actual dimensions is important. This allows you to allocate adequate growing space for the vegetation you choose and prevent overcrowding.

Part of your planning should also take climate into account. If the sun reaches your garden area, knowing what time the sun typically hits matters. Some plants are poorly equipped to handle the strength of direct afternoon rays.

Other matters to consider are the soil quality and whether it is adequate to nourish vegetation. If not, you may need to excavate and refill your planting areas with nutrient-rich gardening soil. Access to water is also a concern; if you'll be forced to water by can, avoid choosing plants that would better benefit from a thorough hose soaking.

As you begin planning the actual contents of your garden, don't hesitate to blend edibles with beauty. Many herbs offer attractive textures and colors that can add variety to a colorful selection of flowering plants. Edible plants such as strawberries offer color from blooms (and later brightly hued fruit), as well as trailing greenery that looks pretty along the edges of potted contain-

If your goal is color, give consideration to the blooming season for your selected plants. Unless you plan to enjoy your garden for just a short season, choose a variety of plants and flowers that bloom throughout your region's entire growing season.

Especially in the smallest garden spaces, it's smart to make the most of vertical space. Use a trellis or other structure to encourage vining vegetation to grow upward rather than outward. Hanging baskets or buckets are ideal for inverted growth of plants such as tomatoes or peppers, and shelving or tiered plant stands are handy for creating more plant real estate in smaller

garden spaces.

Beautiful gardens
need not be limited to
those with expansive
lawns in rural communities. Though smaller in
scale, urban gardens can
deliver equal beauty and
a surprising volume of
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preparation and design.
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Upgrade Your Home, Downgrade Energy Usage

7 efficient home improvement projects

FAMILY FEATURES

he best home upgrades not only make spaces more livable and energy-efficient but are also cost-effective. Making energy-efficient improvements is a savvy way to save money on utility bills, curb energy usage and add to the

Consider a variety of home improvement projects, both big and small, that can reduce the financial burden of maintaining your home throughout the year and improve energy efficiency.

Add Insulation

A cost-effective way to save on heating and cooling bills is adding a layer of insulation in the attic where heat loss is typically greatest due to hot air rising. While many newer homes are adequately insulated, those that are several decades old (or older) may benefit from an upgrade in not only the attic but other common problem areas where air can escape such as basements, crawl spaces, fireplaces and ductwork.

Seal Doors and Windows

Windows and doors are common culprits for energy loss. While a complete replacement of doors and windows can be pricey, adding exterior caulk and weather stripping to fill in gaps where air can escape around these openings can make a noticeable difference for a fraction of the cost and make it cheaper to heat and cool your home.

Install Skylights

Skylights are a cost-effective option for transforming any room in the home with natural light while also delivering energy-saving benefits. For example, Sun Tunnel Skylights from Velux can be installed in as little as 90 minutes and funnel natural light from the roof through the attic and into the room below with an aesthetic that resembles recessed lighting. Customizable with six diffuser film styles to complement interior design, the skylights can make a home more energy-efficient by reducing reliance on artificial lighting. An optional daylight controller makes it easy for homeowners to adjust natural light entering a room, and a solar nightlight provides a moon-like guiding light at night. Installed with the solar nightlight, the skylights qualify for a 26% federal tax credit on solar property.

Add Reflective Window Film

When the sun shines through windows, it can heat up the home's interior quickly and trigger the air conditioner to turn on. Window coverings, such as blackout curtains, can help, but adding low-e reflective window film to your windowpanes, particularly southern-facing ones, can provide an additional shield from the sun's hot rays and reduce energy costs.

Install a Programmable Thermostat

A programmable thermostat is an efficient way to control the climate inside your home, and those with smart technology take programming to a whole new level. Today's smart thermostats not only let homeowners control temperatures from their smart devices while on-the-go but can also learn daily habits and adjust the temperature accordingly with no other manual adjustments necessary. In addition, some utility companies offer incentives like money back at the end of the year for installing a smart thermostat because the energy savings are so substantial.



Replace Appliances

Because appliances like refrigerators and ovens, among others, are major energy users, investing in more efficient models provides both cost and energy savings. Additionally, homes more than 15 years old could benefit from updates to the air conditioner or heater as systems 15-20 years old or older may be candidates for replacement as they're inefficient by today's standards.

Add Ceiling Fans

In comparison to running your air conditioner consistently, the cost of running a ceiling fan (or several) is significantly less. Particularly on days that may not require cooling the entire house completely, fans can provide a gentle breeze and circulate air in the spaces you use most often. Simply adjust the switch to the counterclockwise position to ensure it's pushing air downward during warmer months.

downward during warmer months.

For more information and home improvement ideas, visit whyskylights.com/livelighter.

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Historic Paramount Theatre Announces Addition of Four New Live Shows Living and Travel Insurer Cites Rising Costs of Living and Travel as Largest Travel Concerns The rising cost of living is causing some Americans to change their daily spending habits, and that includes how they go

Paramount

The historic Paramount Theatre is pleased to announce the addition of four unique performances to its 2022-2023 live entertainment lineup – A Very Electric Christmas, Dean Z – The Ultimate Elvis!, Rhythm of the Dance, and Fairy Tales on Ice. Tickets go on sale this Friday, July 8 at 10 a.m. via AndersonParamount.org.

About these four new shows:

A Very Electric Christmas – Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022 at 7 p.m.

7, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Tickets are \$15, \$25 & \$35.

Toy soldiers, classic carols and a universe of beautiful lights come together in this charming new yuletide story! Lightwire Theater sets your holidays aglow with the tale of a lost bird spending Christmas at the North Pole.

Dean Z – The Ultimate Elvis! – Friday, Jan. 20, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Most seats are \$25 & \$35. Limited premium seating - \$55.

If you love the king of rock and roll, you'll be blown away by Dean Z! He's performed around the world for nearly two decades, and even received the honor of being named World's Greatest Elvis Tribute by Elvis Presley Enterprises. Join us for an evening of music from all eras of Elvis' legendary career.

Rhythm of the Dance – Friday, March 17, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Most seats are \$15 & \$35. Limited premium

seating - \$65.

Combining traditional dance and music with the advanced stage technology, this two-hour dance and music extravaganza takes audiences on an exhilarating and exciting, energy-packed time trip through the ages. This new era in Irish entertainment is internationally rated as one of the most popular Irish step dance

shows in the world.
Fairytales on Ice –
Wednesday, March 29,
2023 at 7 p.m.

Most seats are \$15 & \$25. Limited premium seating - \$35.

Fairytales On Ice takes classic fairytales and spins them with upbeat modern music, theatrical storylines, special effects, and the live sport of figure skating. You'll see champion ice skaters, cirque performers, and live singers, as they bring the "tale as old as time" to life

Current Paramount Theatre Lineup:

- Killer Queen Saturday, July 16, 2022
- Girl Named Tom
 Wednesday, July 27, 2022
- Jim Breuer: Freedom of Laughter Tour Friday, Aug. 5, 2022
- Little River Band Friday, Aug. 12, 2022
- Tusk: The World's #1 Fleetwood Mac Tribute Friday, Sept. 30, 2022
- Jim Brickman Friday, Oct. 7, 2022
- A Very Electric Christmas – Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022
- Deck the Halls with Disney featuring DCappella – Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022
- Dean Z The Ultimate Elvis! Friday, Jan. 20, 2023
- Dragons & Mythical Beasts – Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023
- Rhythm of the Dance Friday, March 17, 2023
- Fairy Tales on Ice Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Tickets can be purchased via AndersonParamount.org or by calling the Paramount Box Office at 765.642.1234.

Live shows at the Paramount Theatre are offerings of Honeywell Arts & Entertainment.

The Paramount Theatre Centre & Ballroom has been in operation since Aug. 20, 1929. The Paramount has inspired many spectators with its architecture, entertainment, and history. On behalf of generous local benefactors with an appreciation of history, the theatre continues to shine as brightly on the outside as the stars do inside. The Paramount offers residents and visitors unique entertainment options year-round in partnership with Honeywell Arts & Entertainment. For more information about the Anderson Paramount Theatre, visit AndersonParamount.org.

The rising cost of living is causing some Americans to change their daily spending habits, and that includes how they go about trip planning. Seven Corners, a leading insurance and specialty benefits company, has released data on how inflation is affecting decision-making among those planning to travel during the remainder of 2022. The company shared relevant data highlighting how likely inflation is to cause travelers to cancel their trips, how travelers might alter their plans and daily spending habits rather than cancel their trips, and how concern about the cost of travel is remaining steady throughout the first

half of the year.

Inflation will likely impact Americans' ability to travel, but they still might not cancel their trips

not cancel their trips.

The rising cost of living is impacting travel plans. When Seven Corners asked if inflation would affect respondents' ability and/or desire to travel this year, only 15% said no. Conversely, nearly 48% said yes, inflation would affect their ability to travel.

But what would those effects be, and could that mean more cancellations initiated by the traveler? Whereas 41% of respondents indicated they would be either very likely or somewhat likely to cancel their trip due to inflation, 55% leaned the other way. Of that majority, 40% reported being very or somewhat unlikely to cancel their trip, and 15% said inflation would not impact their decisions regarding cancellation.

Travelers expect to alter their travel plans and daily budgets because of inflation.

Although most travelers don't expect to cancel their trips, they are more likely to at least alter their travel plans to reduce expenses. More than half (57%) reported being likely to change their plans. By comparison, those who are unlikely to alter their plans or who do not plan to change their plans for any reason comprised almost 40% of responses.

The most common



SEVENCORNERS

adjustment to plans was staying with friends or family instead of renting or booking a hotel (36%) and choosing a less expensive option for transportation (31%). Some who wrote in a response specifically mentioned driving instead of flying.

Just over 25% said they were going to take at least one micro-cation — a trip of fewer than five nights — instead of a longer trip. This may be a sign of another surge in the short-trip trend. Based on policies sold by Seven Corners, micro-cations grew in popularity in 2021, with a 74% increase compared to 2019 and a 66% increase compared to 2020

Respondents were also asked what non-travel expenses they were planning to sacrifice to still take their planned trips this year. The majority (58%) said they would make small, daily adjustments such as not eating out at restaurants as often. Of those who wrote in a response, buying generic grocery brands was also mentioned as well as reducing services like cell phone and internet to basic plans. Additionally, more than 36% said they would postpone or not make another major purchase such as buying a

Cost of travel remains the biggest concern for those traveling in 2022.

In surveys conducted in both the second and third quarters, Seven Corners asked respondents who planned to travel in the U.S. what their biggest concern about traveling was. The most frequently given response in both quarters was cost of travel — 49% in the second quarter and nearly 46% in

the third quarter.

The percentage of people who expressed fear of getting sick with COVID-19 while traveling in the U.S. remained nearly identical at 20% and 19% in the second and third quarters, respectively. However, a larger change was seen regarding concerns around flight delays and cancellations. In the second quarter, flight delays were the third most frequently selected response at only 12%. That percentage nearly doubled to a little more than 22% in the third quarter, moving it into the No. 2 position.

Sentiment towards traveling outside the U.S. improved from the second quarter to the third with almost half (49%) of second quarter respondents not planning to travel abroad, while only 37% of third quarter respondents are avoiding international travel. Along with that, both quarterly surveys confirm cost of travel remains top of mind, with 14% of respondents choosing it in the second quarter and 19% selecting it in the third quarter as their main worry. Unease regarding international hostilities and concerns about flight delays both moved up the list, with each garnering 4% of responses in the second quarter and 8% in the third.

Various issues regarding COVID-19 saw more modest change. Only concerns about keeping up with and following COVID-19 requirements saw a decrease, dropping from 9% in the second quarter to 4% in the third. This is likely related to many countries relaxing entry requirements in recent months.

Travel insurance can help protect the money spent for trips.

spent for trips. Travel insurance can provide protection for a wide range of situations, including needing to cancel a trip if you are terminated or laid off from your job (some restrictions apply). Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) benefits provide additional coverage if travelers need to cancel their trip for any reason they wish, not just the covered reasons in their trip protection plan. For example, fear of travel or simply changing your mind about taking a trip would not be covered reasons. However, by adding the optional CFAR benefit, you could be reimbursed a portion of your prepaid, nonrefundable trip costs if you are worried about the financial or political climate, for example.

For the more than 40% of respondents who said they would be likely to cancel their trips this year because of inflation, the right travel insurance can help to protect their investment and put some of that money back in their pockets.

Founded in 1993, Seven Corners, Inc. is an innovative and service-focused travel insurance and specialty benefit management company that serves a global market. Based in Carmel, Ind., the company offers a variety of customized travel insurance solutions to domestic and international travelers with award-winning customer service and leading-edge technology. Seven Corners also administers benefits for U.S. government programs. To learn more, visit www.sevencorners.





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