

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Joanna Cassell smile? "Comic books, coloring, and Molly makes me smile," said the then 5-year-old Fishers girl, who was found in 2020 with her 1-year-old Goldendoodle, Molly. She was attending Dog Day at Noblesville Farmers Market at Federal Hill Commons. She was with her mom and dad, Cameron and Christina Cassell, and brother, Riggins, 2. At the time, Joanna was in a virtual kindergarten class at New Britton Elementary in Fishers. "We're doing a small classroom in my living room ... four kids from New Britton," her mom said. "She loves the pool ... We love splash pads and parks and Conner Prairie, and have gone camping three times." The Cassells and their dogs were among many market-goers with dogs at the market, which runs 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday at Federal Hill through Oct. 15. Dogs are welcome on leashes. Also, dog owners and their canines are invited to get moving at the Survivor 5K and Dog Walk at 8 a.m. this Saturday at Four Day Ray Brewing in Fishers, to benefit Humane Society for Hamilton County's Survivor Program. Leashed and in-stroller pups are invited, with \$55 registration and check-in 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., with a post-race party ending at noon.

And Another Thing...

Hamilton Co. HHW Center is hosting a Paper Shred Day on Aug. 20 from 8-11 a.m. (or until trucks are full) at the County Fairgrounds. Please enter off Clover Road. EMA/CERT volunteers will be managing traffic, please follow their instruction. This event is for Hamilton County Residents and Employees. You may be asked for proof of residency or for an employee ID badge. The shred limit is four bankers boxes or equivalent per vehicle. A few staples and paper clips are okay, but avoid bringing electronics or rigid plastics. For more information, visit the HHW Center's website at <https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/1316/Paper-Shred-Days>

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Glow Night, Movies, Dog Walk, Motown, Cruise-in and More



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

It's another busy weekend. So here's a list of 20 things to do to keep your calendar up to date.

1. Carmel Community Players presents "Shipwrecked: An Entertainment!" directed by Lori Raffle, opening tonight at The Cat in Carmel, with performances through Aug. 21.
2. Noblesville Parks' 15th annual Movies in the Park series, presented by Logan Street Signs and banners, tonight at dusk, "Onward," (Rated PG) at Dillon Park; Aug. 19, "Cruella," (Rated PG-13) at Federal Hill Commons; Aug. 26, "Raya and the Last Dragon," (Rated PG) at Federal Hill; Sept. 2, "Sing 2," (Rated PG) at Federal Hill; and Sept. 9, "Ghostbusters After-

life," (Rated PG-13) at Federal Hill.

3. Come out to Forest Park Aquatic Center in Noblesville and enjoy a special Glow Party swim from 9-11 p.m. today with deejay and concession stand open, free to members and \$5 for nonmembers. Also, enjoy movies on the new video board during the Flix and Float movie nights select Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., featuring "Goonies," sponsored by Sign Craft, on Saturday; "Dog," sponsored by Lew's Plumbing, on Aug. 20; and "Top Gun," sponsored by Troy and Alicia Tricker, on Sept. 30, also \$5 per person but included with pool membership. Friends of Central Pool and Forest Park Aquatic Center's 25th Anniversary Celebration is 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Sept. 11, with registration encouraged, festive luau party with beer and wine cash bar and charcuterie provided by the Wine Trough. Admission is free but a tax deductible donation of \$25 or more per person is greatly appreciated. Visit <https://www.forestparkpool.org/>
4. Get moving at the Survivor 5K and Dog Walk at 8 a.m. Saturday at Four Day Ray Brewing in Fishers, to benefit Humane Society for Hamilton County's Survivor Program. Leashed and in-stroller pups invited, with \$55

➔ See BETSY Page A6

Police Begin Cracking Down on School Bus Stop-Arm Violations

As students head back to the classroom, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office reminds motorists to stop for school buses or face the consequences. Over the next couple of weeks, officers will be increasing patrols to prevent stop-arm violations, speeding and other forms of reckless driving around school buses and in school zones.

The department joins more than 200 police agencies across the state for the back-to-school Stop Arm Violation Enforcement campaign - better known as SAVE. The overtime patrols are funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration through grants administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI).

"Our two biggest concerns this time of year are drivers not paying attention to the road and speeding," said Hamilton County Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush. "Most of the stop-arm violations we encounter stem from those actions. Help us keep kids safe by slowing down, putting away the distractions and stopping for buses."

Despite thousands of motorists being cited under the SAVE program, unsafe driving around school buses continues to be a concern, according to state officials.

In April, thousands of bus drivers who participated in a one-day observational survey

counted 2,041 stop-arm violations in Indiana. That one-day total, when multiplied by the number of school days, adds up to a potential 367,380 violations throughout the school year.

The newly released data comes from the National School Bus Illegal Passing Driver Survey, which is managed by the Indiana Department of Education in the state. The survey has been conducted annually since

➔ See POLICE Page A6



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:52 a.m.
SET: 8:44 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures
High: 80 °F
Low: 57 °F

Today is...

- National Middle Child Day
- Baseball Fans Day
- World Elephant Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1877 Mars' moon Deimos is discovered by American astronomer Asaph Hall
- 1981 The IBM Personal Computer is stocked in stores for the first time
- 1990 The largest dinosaur fossil is found

Births On This Day

- 1990 Mario Balotelli Italian footballer
- 1983 Klaas-Jan Huntelaar Dutch footballer

Deaths On This Day

- 1992 John Cage American composer
- 1982 Henry Fonda American actor, singer, producer

Heights' Cooper Named to ISBA Exemplary Honor Roll

Arnett Cooper, Vice President of Hamilton Heights School Board of Trustees, was among the active school board members recently named to the Indiana State Board Association's (ISBA) Exemplary Honor Roll. Cooper earned the Level 4 Exemplary distinction by accumulating at least 225 points in the ISBA's Governance Awards (EGA's) program.

The awards are based on the numerous professional development opportunities provided by ISBA each year to help keep members informed and educated on best board practices, legislative changes, legal updates, and policies that need to be consid-



Arnett Cooper

ered. "His unwavering commitment, knowledge, and outstanding leadership has brought great

benefit to Hamilton Heights," said Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood. "He is a deeply dedicated role model serving in a diverse and complex job of board service. We are fortunate to have Arnie working to shape a better tomorrow at Heights every day. Congratulations on a job well done!"

Cooper earned this notable recognition by demonstrating outstanding commitment to student success, educational leadership, and good governance by engaging in regular and ongoing professional learning and continuous development, ultimately

➔ See COOPER Page A6



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Lions

Noblesville Lions a Truly Family Affair

On Wednesday evening's Lions meeting and membership drive, the Noblesville Lions inducted a new member. Josh Kozicki (center, button-up shirt) was inducted into the club by his Mother, Lion Julia Kozicki (right), current club Secretary and District First VP. Josh was sponsored by his Dad, Lion Jeff Kozicki, current club Treasurer. Josh is a current senior at IU, majoring in Media. He is a NHS graduate and Eagle Scout.

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➔ OBITUARIES
Kaleb Ray McElroy

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

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Friday Night Lights are coming back soon. Can't wait!



➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Limit TV and computer time for kids - let them discover their imaginations.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"Be happy - it drives people crazy!" - Unknown

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

Simply going to church doesn't make you good and holy any more than standing in a kitchen makes you a gourmet chef.

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

57/80 BUNNY AND PLEASANT	55/82 MUCH WARMER	65/84 A.M. STORMS POSSIBLE	64/82 SUNNY	61/80 SUNNY	60/80 SUNNY	58/80 MOSTLY SUNNY
FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU



OBITUARIES

Kaleb Ray McElroy

September 18, 1991 - August 8, 2022

Kaleb Ray McElroy, 30, of Noblesville, passed away on Monday, August 8, 2022.

He was born on September 18, 1991 in Noblesville, Indiana.

Mr. McElroy worked at Anthony's Chop House. He attended Itown and Grace Church. Kaleb liked working out and riding motorcycles. He loved spending time with family, friends, and his beloved dog, Elmo.

Survivors include his parents Sandra Baker and Steven McElroy; three sisters Amy Smith-McElroy, Lisa (Travis) May and Kacy (David) Coonce; brother Steven McElroy; 11 nieces and nephews Gage, Gavin, Noah, Ethan, Lily, Jack, Morgan, Neavaeh, Sebastian, Azalea, and Bentley; many aunts and uncles; and girlfriend Kaleigh Mills.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents Bennie & Kathern Baker and Orville & Betty Jean Quakenbush.

Services are scheduled to be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, August 12, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan Street in Noblesville. Visitation is scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to the time of service at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Radiant Bible Church, 420 Gable Crossing, Avon, Ind.

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



FSSA Announces Pilot Program to Integrate Mental Health, Addiction Peer Recovery Professionals in Indiana County Jails

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Mental Health and Addiction yesterday announced the launch of a pilot program designed to engage incarcerated individuals with mental health and substance use disorders with certified peer professionals and wraparound services.

The Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support program (IRACS) provides peer-driven, Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) support for inmates with mental health and substance use disorders upon arrival at one of the five Indiana county jail pilot sites. SIM provides a comprehensive picture of how individuals with mental health and substance use disorders encounter and move through the criminal justice system, aiming to divert them away from the justice system into treatment.

"The first three steps an individual takes upon exiting the justice system are often the most important steps they will take in their recovery journey," said Douglas Huntsinger, executive director for drug prevention, treatment and enforcement for the state of Indiana. "Regardless of how an individual ended up in the justice system, how they move forward matters. By providing access to peers and



wraparound services while individuals are incarcerated, we intend to reduce recidivism and future involvement in the justice system."

The IRACS program is a collaboration between DMHA, Indiana Forensic Services and the Indiana Recovery Network, programs of Mental Health America of Indiana, and is being launched at Blackford, Daviess, Dearborn, Delaware, and Scott County jails. Inmates booked at each of the five jails will be evaluated as potential IRACS support clients, resulting in treatment and formal support for identified clients.

Forensic peer teams are stationed at each jail and consist of a certified program supervisor, certified peer support, resource peer navigator, reentry peer, and peer engagement coordinator, all employed by the Indiana Recovery Network's regional recovery hubs. These teams work within the jail settings and collaborate with correctional, pre-tri-

al and nursing staff and all community providers to support incarcerated individuals during their time in the program. Jail staff will receive special training to support IRACS personnel and incarcerated clients.

Using the IRACS Recovery Engagement Pathways, peers will walk alongside each identified client and provide responsive support and resources relevant to their needs. These pathways are reentry-focused and can change as their legal process develops and sentencing is established.

"The engagement pathways allow forensic peer teams to meet individuals as soon as they enter through the door of the jail and provide one-on-one support at a critical moment when meeting someone, where they're at, can make all the difference," said Jayme Whitaker, vice president of forensic services at Mental Health America of Indiana. "With the vision and funding provided by state leadership and the strong local collaborations in all five pilot counties, the IRACS forensic peer teams are meeting people at some of their hardest moments and ensuring they have someone to walk alongside them, every step of the way."

The IRACS program

is funded through June 2023 by Recovery Works, Indiana's voucher-based system to support partnerships between the justice system and mental health and addiction treatment providers. Each of the five pilot sites has received a grant of up to \$500,000 to build their teams and the infrastructure necessary to support a full-spectrum reentry process that collaborates with community partners outside the jail to ensure continuity in care upon release.

At the conclusion of the pilot program, data gathered will be reported by the participating sheriffs to FSSA for evaluation. If proven successful, the State of Indiana is committed to expanding the IRACS program to more Indiana county jails within the next three years.

"I want to thank the state of Indiana, local government and health officials, and all the volunteers who have made the IRACS program possible in Delaware County," Delaware County Sheriff Tony Skinner said. "We have been hit especially hard with substance use and untreated mental illness for the past several years and this program is exactly what our community needs to help us stem the tide and begin recovering."

Have You Herd of G.O.A.T.s?



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

Want to know who the G.O.A.T. is (The Greatest of All Time) for any particular endeavor? If you google G.O.A.T. for baseball announcers, there is little disagreement. Number one is Vin Scully.

Scully passed away recently at the age of 94. He called Dodgers games for 67 years, both in Brooklyn and L.A. He wasn't just an announcer and play-by-play man (he did both): he was also a poet and a painter. On the radio, he created vivid pictures of what was happening on the field, but in the TV booth, he helped the viewer understand the game, and when great moments happened in baseball as they so often do—like Henry Aaron's homerun to break Babe Ruth's 40-year record in 1974—he knew when to let the cheers of the crowd tell the story. Rumor has it when Aaron hit that historic blast, Scully retreated to the restroom to heed nature's call because he decided the next two minutes of the game did not require "his" call. When he returned to the mic, that's when you heard his poetry. It's worth listening to the YouTube.

Carl Erskine, Hoosier native and former Major League pitcher, is now the only living Dodgers link to the Jackie Robinson age of baseball, covering the late '40s and '50s. (With one exception: Robinson's widow, Rachel, just celebrated her 100th birthday.) I spoke to Carl at a retirement village in Anderson, Indiana, where he and his wife Betty are about to celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary in October.

I threw him a few softball questions, because I knew he was a fan of the off-speed pitch. He explained to me what made Scully great. Just as im-

portant as his passion for the game, said Carl, "You always felt he was talking directly to you. You don't get that feeling today with many broadcasters. The voice of the announcer is part of people's lives. Sometimes they get bigger rounds of applause than the players."

Former Colts sportscaster Bob Lamey revered his peer, and he agreed with Carl's sentiment that you always felt you knew Scully, that he was part of your family...even more so than the players were. According to Lamey, one of Scully's greatest skills was to adjust his style to the broadcasting situation. Obviously, being on the radio required more visual description of the plays than announcing on TV, and Lamey described how Scully had a different presentation for day vs. night games. During summer afternoon contests, where there were many families in attendance, he might give a little extra explanation for something like a squeeze bunt or the infield fly rule. But at night, well, those were the true fans, not just folks looking for pleasant afternoon entertainment. "They knew what a squeeze bunt was," Lamey mused. "No explanation needed."

"Most importantly," said Lamey, "I never once heard Vince Scully talk about himself. It was always about the game... and the fans and the players. Even if you were not a Dodger fan, he made the game fun. There will never be another one like him."

As a kid, I used to hide a transistor radio under my pillow and listen to night games, falling asleep to Vin's voice while he described a Jackie Robinson steal or a Carl Erskine overhand curve ball crossing the plate for the final out. Now, you may not agree that Vin Scully was the G.O.A.T., but this week it has been my honor to go to bat for him.

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.

Duke Energy Reminds Residents Safe Digging Starts with Calling 811



Aug. 11 was officially named "811 Day," and as residents continue summer yard projects, Duke Energy wants to remind everyone to call 811 before digging to prevent potential personal injury and avoid electric outages.

"Keeping our customers safe and protecting our underground utility infrastructure are top priorities," said Stan Pinegar, president of Duke Energy Indiana. "Even simple digging jobs can cause serious injuries and disrupt vital utility services to communities, so it is important to call 811 to prevent unnecessary and potentially dangerous situations and outages in our communities."

The national "811 Call Before You Dig" system was created so anyone who plans to dig can make a free call to have under-

ground utility lines clearly marked. Contractors, homeowners, business owners and anyone preparing for a digging project should call 811 at least three business days before digging begins. The local utilities will then send a crew to mark underground lines in the area (electric, natural gas, water, sewer, phone, cable TV and others) with stakes, flags or paint.

From Jan. to June 2022, Duke Energy reported nearly 260 cuts to its underground electric lines in Indiana.

"Our best defense is awareness and ongoing education to call 811 before you dig," added Pinegar. "We are committed to sharing this message with our customers and communities to avoid these accidents."

For a video that shows

how to use 811, click here. For additional information about 811, visit Call 811 Before You Dig. To get in touch with the 811 center in your state, dial 811 or visit Call811.com.

Duke Energy Indiana, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, provides about 6,300 megawatts of owned electric capacity to approximately 870,000 customers in a 23,000-square-mile service area, making it Indiana's largest electric supplier.

Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK), a Fortune 150 company headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., is one of America's largest energy holding companies. Its electric utilities serve 8.2 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, and collectively own 50,000 megawatts of energy capacity. Its natural gas unit serves 1.6 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky. The company employs 28,000 people.

Duke Energy is executing an aggressive clean en-

ergy transition to achieve its goals of net-zero methane emissions from its natural gas business and at least a 50% carbon reduction from electric generation by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The 2050 net-zero goals also include Scope 2 and certain Scope 3 emissions. In addition, the company is investing in major electric grid enhancements and energy storage, and exploring zero-emission power generation technologies such as hydrogen and advanced nuclear.

Duke Energy was named to Fortune's 2022 "World's Most Admired Companies" list and Forbes' "America's Best Employers" list. More information is available at duke-energy.com. The Duke Energy News Center contains news releases, fact sheets, photos and videos. Duke Energy's illumination features stories about people, innovations, community topics and environmental issues. Follow Duke Energy on Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

Buy. Sell. Rent. Lease.

THE TIMES classifieds.

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Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

The market is still hot! Time for a new home!

18473 Jaden Drive Westfield • \$424,900
PENDING

Meticulously maintained 3 BR, 2.5 BA, only 4 years old. Stunning entry, spacious great room, gourmet kitchen, 2 office spaces. Gorgeous landscaping surrounds the exterior w/privacy fence. Finished garage w/workbench. BLC#21867439

9740 William Drive Noblesville • \$389,900
PENDING

This charming 3 BR, 2.5 BA home on almost half acre w/mature trees, formal living & dining, den w/fireplace, beautiful kitchen, huge sunroom, finished basement w/full kitchen and fireplace. A perfect "10." BLC#21871421

1480 Maple Avenue Noblesville • \$315,000
NEW LISTING!

This 2-story gem is located in historic old Noblesville, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, upper level has kitchenette, home is on a large lot and has a 3-car garage w/extra storage. Close to shops and restaurants. BLC#21874285

8710 Walma Drive Warren Twp. • \$189,900
PENDING

Check out this 4 BR, 2 BA brick ranch with oversized two-car garage. Circular floor plan, large living room and family room. Covered front porch and patio, privacy fence, and storage building. BLC#21872947

6889 Trophy Lane Noblesville • \$334,900
NEW LISTING!

Beautiful home in popular Willow Lake, 2 BR, 2 BA home overlooks pond, huge great room/dining room combo, double sided fireplace, loft, sunroom, laundry w/sink and cabinets, tiled screened porch, patio, oversized garage. BLC#21874578

501 Gettysburg Coatesville • \$319,900
NEW LISTING!

This lovely 3 BR, 2.5 BA home with loft is move-in-ready, main level has new luxury vinyl throughout, eat-in kitchen w/pantry, fireplace, all appliances stay, there is an attached 2-car garage & 2-car detached garage. BLC#21874929

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Biden Signs Landmark Bill Aiding Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits Overseas

By Jennifer Shutt
President Joe Biden signed legislation into law Wednesday that will provide health care and benefits to veterans exposed to burn pits in Afghanistan and Iraq, achieving a long-term, personal goal.

"I was in and out of Iraq over 20 times," Biden said of prior trips to the war zone he took as both a U.S. senator and as vice president. "And you could actually see some of it in the air — burn pits the size of football fields, and incinerated waste of war such as tires, poisonous chemicals, jet fuel, and so much more I won't even mention."

"When they came home, many of the fittest and best warriors that we sent to war were not the same," Biden added. "Headaches, numbness, dizziness, cancer. My son Beau was one of them."

Biden has long questioned whether his son Beau's 2015 death from brain cancer was a direct result of his exposure to burn pits during his time in Iraq as part of the Delaware National Guard.

During his State of the Union address in March, Biden called on Congress to address the legacy of burn pits by passing legislation "to make sure veterans devastated by toxic exposures in Iraq and Afghanistan finally get the benefits and

comprehensive health care they deserve."

Danielle Robinson, the widow of Ohio National Guard Sgt. First Class Heath Robinson, for whom the bill was named, attended Biden's State of the Union Speech and was on hand Wednesday to watch him sign the bill. Her daughter, Brielle, was also at the signing ceremony.

Danielle Robinson, while introducing Biden on Wednesday, said that "as a military spouse, when your loved one returns home safely from a deployment, you count your blessings."

"You're filled with gratitude. Fear turns to relief as you begin living as a family again," she said. "But 10 years post deployment from Iraq, my husband Heath began the biggest battle of his life. A terminal stage four lung cancer diagnosis due to toxic exposure from a burn pit in Baghdad."

Burn pits, she said, "became the biggest nightmare of our lives."

Living alongside burn pits

The open-air burn pits used frequently during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were used to dispose of common items as well as medical waste, batteries and even jet fuel.

U.S. military members often lived and worked alongside the pits, breathing in the toxic

fumes almost constantly.

But after returning from deployment, soldiers experiencing illnesses they believe were a direct result of that toxic exposure had to try to prove to the Department of Veterans Affairs that their illnesses were linked to their deployments in order to qualify for health care and benefits.


Veterans, family members and veterans service organizations began calling on Congress to change the system, a years-long effort that eventually resulted in the legislation known as the PACT Act that Biden signed into law Wednesday.

The \$278.5 billion package would add 23 illnesses to the list of toxic-exposure-related conditions presumed to be connected to military service.

Veterans with those diagnoses will no longer need to try to prove to the VA their conditions are linked to their military service in order to qualify for health care and benefits.

The measure would direct more resources to VA health care centers, employees and claims processing, as well as federal research on toxic exposure.

And the bill would expand presumptions for veterans exposed to Agent Orange, a chemical



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the U.S. military used during the Vietnam War. American Samoa, Cambodia, Guam, Johnston Atoll, Laos and Thailand would all be added to the list of locations where veterans are presumed to have been exposed to the chemical.

Bipartisan support

The bill, which was co-sponsored by Montana Democratic Sen. Jon Tester and Kansas Republican Sen. Jerry Moran, had broad bipartisan support in Congress. However, once the House and Senate reached agreement on the final version earlier this year, it took weeks to move the legislation through the Senate, the House and then the Senate again.

The U.S. Senate 84-14 vote in mid-June sent the bill to the U.S. House, where it was supposed to quickly go to Biden for his signature.

But a provision that was intended to bolster the number of health care providers in rural or very rural areas by buying them out of their contracts if they agreed to work

for at least four years at those facilities ran into a problem.

The House Ways and Means Committee cited a so-called "blue slip" issue with making those buyout payments exempt from taxes, noting that tax provisions must begin in the House.

After stripping out that one provision, the House voted 342-88 in mid-July to send the legislation back to the U.S. Senate for final approval.

The bill was on track to pass in late July until a group of Senate Republicans blocked a procedural vote, citing concerns with language that had been in the bill all along.

The move infuriated veterans, their families and advocacy organizations, who began camping out on the steps of the U.S. Capitol and remained nearby until the Senate voted 86-11 earlier this month to send the bill to Biden.

Celebrity comedian Jon Stewart, who was at the bill signing, took up their cause.

After signing the

measure Wednesday, Biden handed the pen to Brielle Robinson, who had been seated next to Biden's grandson during the event.

"You see the little guy who's sitting right next to you? That's my grandson," Biden said. "His daddy was lost to the same burn pits, and he knows what you're going through."

Sign up for benefits

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs said in a statement Wednesday that any veteran or surviving family members who believe they are eligible for benefits can visit www.VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MY-VA-411.

Veterans can also visit their local VA to file a claim or learn more about the new law.

Biden said during his speech Wednesday that he wanted to urge "the veterans of those decades of war to promptly file for your claims."

"The VA will move as quickly as possible to resolve your claim and get you the benefits and the care you've earned," Biden said.

\$4M Available for Recycling, Waste Diversion Projects in Marion County

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

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

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

To help potential applicants better understand this funding opportunity, IDEM is hosting an information session on Sept. 1 at 11



a.m. This virtual webinar will give a summary of the pilot project, timeline, requirements, and provide application guidance. Organizations and entities with waste diversion and recycling projects located in Marion County are invited to attend. Register today to attend the virtual information session.

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

to pilot projects with the largest amount of waste diversion potential.

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

To apply for funding, visit the CIWDPP webpage. For additional information about the Recycling Market Development Program, visit IDEM's website or call 800-988-7901.

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

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



Forest Park
AQUATIC CENTER

Join us!
8 pm

forestparkpool.org • 1077 Cicero Road • Noblesville

2022 Flix and Float Schedule

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

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

Flix & Float Sponsors:

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

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Big Ten-ESPN Divorce Gives Kenny Opportunity to Talk Purdue Football

The Big Ten Conference's television divorce from ESPN after nearly 40 years together was big news this week in college football.

It's a risky move by commissioner Kevin Warren and the league. ESPN is famous for freezing out sports it no longer has rights to televise. For example, the NHL went into hibernation on the so-called worldwide leader in sports from 2005 to 2021.

The NHL was rarely on SportsCenter and certainly no discussion of the sport from Stephan A. Smith and the blowhards who get paid a lot of money to talk about the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox and LeBron James.

If the Big Ten is given similar treatment, it's unlikely Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud or any other Heisman Trophy candidate in the league will get a promotional push from ESPN. The same goes for Ohio State or Michigan getting a fair mention when the network's college football analysts discuss worthy candidates for the College Football Playoff.

There's been no love lost between ESPN and the Big Ten for nearly 20 years. The network's arrogance and perceived take it or leave it rights offer to then-commissioner Jim Delany angered him so much that it led to the creation of the Big Ten Network.

As we all know now, Delany had the last laugh. The Big Ten Network's success led ESPN into a business romance with



COLUMNIST NAME
Column Name

the SEC. That resulted in the creation of the SEC network and not so subtle promotion of its teams come playoff selection time by ESPN.

Which leads to a story Aug. 5 on ESPN.com by Bill Connelly. The concept was a good one, pick out college football's 50 greatest true freshman seasons of all time. The number 50 was chosen to celebrate the anniversary of freshman eligibility being permanently granted by the NCAA in 1972.

Since that time, only three football true freshmen have been consensus All-Americans: Georgia running back Herschel Walker in 1980, Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson in 2004 and Purdue wide receiver Rondale Moore in 2018.

Walker ended up No. 2 on Connelly's list, behind Pittsburgh defensive end Hugh Green. Peterson was ninth. Care to guess where Moore ended up on Connelly's list?

I could give readers three guesses times 10 and it's likely none of them would pick 31st.

Moore finished the regular season as the nation's leader in receptions (103) and was the Big Ten's

regular season leader in receiving yards (1164) and touchdowns (12). Moore was named the conference's Freshman of the Year recipient and the Richter-Howard Big Ten Receiver of the Year. Moore also made room in his trophy case for the Paul Hornung Award, given to the nation's most versatile football player.

Connelly wrote this about Moore in his rankings:

"Plenty of great freshmen have had great games, but almost none have so thoroughly embarrassed a national power.

"Moore's 12-catch, 170-yard performance drove a resounding 49-20 blowout of No. 2 Ohio State midway through his first season. He finished it with 114 catches, 1,258 yards and 12 touchdowns (including Moore's totals against Auburn in the Music City Bowl) – ridiculous numbers – but he might have made this list even if he'd just retired after the Ohio State game."

Connelly didn't mention it but Moore had arguably the most impressive debut in Purdue football history. In a 31-27 loss to Northwestern, Moore broke Otis Armstrong's single-game total offense record with 313 yards. That total included a 76-yard touchdown run.

Somehow, 31st just doesn't seem right for a history-making athlete.

Moore was one of 12 Big Ten players to make Connelly's top 50, one fewer than the SEC total. Boilermakers comprised one-fourth of the Big Ten total. All three were

recruited by Jeff Brohm and his staff.

David Bell came in 48th, and Connelly admits having a position bias against wide receivers in his countdown.

"You won't see many receivers on this list ... Players at this position rarely made any sort of measurable first-year impact until the 2010s, while running backs were leaned on heavily from the moment the rule changed."

Connelly picked 10 running backs for his list and wrote that he could have chosen "about 25 more." "That said, Bell was a no-brainer. Filling in for an injured Rondale Moore, he gained at least 100 yards in six of his last nine games and finished with 86 catches, 1,035 yards and seven touchdowns."

Iowa fans probably feel like that was Bell's career totals against their Hawkeyes.

One spot behind Bell was the other top prize of Purdue's 2019 recruiting class, defensive end George Karlaftis.

"Purdue's 2019 signing class featured six four-star prospects, two became all-timers," Connelly writes. "While Bell was finding his way in the Boilermakers' offense, Karlaftis was erupting in 17 tackles for loss, 7.5 sacks and an interception. "He wasn't just a playmaker, though. His elite motor and pursuit abilities helped him finish the year third on the team in overall tackles as a 265-pound defensive end."

Just for the record, the other four ESPN four-

star recruits in the 2019 class were wide receivers Milton Wright and T.J. Sheffield, defensive tackle Steven Fauchaux and safety Marvin Grant.

Wide receiver Mer-shawn Rice also was a four-star recruit according to Rivals.com.

Wright's Purdue career came to a premature halt in December 2021 when he was ruled academically ineligible for the Music City Bowl. Wright did not regain academic eligibility for 2022, a potentially big loss for the Boilermakers. A two-year starter, Wright caught 57 passes for 732 yards and seven touchdowns.

Sheffield is projected to start in 2022. The redshirt junior started three games in 2021, catching 36 passes for 325 yards and five touchdowns. Sheffield led Purdue in punt and kickoff return yards.

Grant started every game in 2021 and made 76 tackles. Strangely, he transferred during the offseason to Kansas.

Fauchaux transferred to Marshall after two seasons at Purdue. The Thundering Herd converted him to offensive tackle.

Rice has showed promise when not injured. He caught six passes for 69 yards and a touchdown in three games before being lost for the 2021 season with a foot injury suffered at Notre Dame.

One more thing Sports business reporter Darren Rovell, reacting to the report that ESPN had dropped out of the bidding for Big Ten rights, noted on Twitter that ES-

PN's first regular season Big Ten football telecast was Purdue's Sept. 8, 1984 upset of Notre Dame in the Hoosier Dome dedication game.

Rovell added that ESPN's schedule leading up to Purdue-Notre Dame included a Canadian Football League rerun, wrestling and pistol shooting.

In a 2000 interview, quarterback Jim Everett recalled that the Notre Dame game established him as next in line for Purdue's Cradle of Quarterbacks. Everett beat out Parade All-American Doug Downing of Lafayette Jeff and Jeff Huber to start against the Fighting Irish.

Everett completed 20 of 28 passes for 255 yards and two touchdowns in the 23-21 victory. His 14-yard touchdown pass to Jeff Price with 13:57 remaining capped Purdue's comeback from a 14-3 deficit.

"I was ready to come out swinging," Everett said. "It just solidified where I'd come from, all the experiences I'd gone through and finally realizing, 'yeah! I can play. I can do it. There's no more wishing I could get it done.'"

Everett was selected Sports Illustrated and Associated Press Offensive Player of the Week. Never again was Everett challenged for his job.

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.

Rokita Consultant Hired, but Facing \$18,000 in Lobbyist Registration Fines

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

A conservative policy activist and consultant working on contract for Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita's office was hired as a lobby-exempt, full-time employee after she mistakenly registered as a lobbyist for the wrong entity — but faces \$18,000 in related fines.

Erin Tuttle was nearly a year into her two-year, \$200,000-maximum contract, which includes "Contractor shall interact and communicate with legislators" as a duty, when the Capital Chronicle asked Rokita's office



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why she was not in the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission's list of registered lobbyists.

Chief Administrative Officer Larry Hopkins said the office had asked her to register with the state of Indiana, but found after the Capital Chronicle's inquiry that she had mistakenly registered with

the city of Indianapolis.

Contractors aren't exempt from the registration requirement, but employees are.

"Erin continues to serve as a valued member of the [Office of the Attorney General] staff in the same capacity as before but is doing so as an employee," Hopkins said in a

statement Wednesday to the Capital Chronicle.

"We will work with the commission to finalize any necessary procedures required to close out her obligations to that body."

Filing requirements Indiana law requires lobbyists to not only file registration statements (within 15 days

of becoming a lobbyist, plus annually), but also file semi-annual activity reports. Lobbyists must also complete separate filings for gifts, purchases, amendments and activity terminations.

Miss a deadline, and a lobbyist is fined \$100 a day — up to \$4,500 — until the filing is in.

Four of Tuttle's five filings in the commission's public dashboard were marked as being 45 or more days after the deadline, totaling \$18,000. A notice within each filing says the fee will be charged to her account, but also describes

an appeals process.

Tuttle is appealing the four fines. Her reason in the four filings reads, "I inadvertently registered with the wrong entity."

One filing was early: an activity report indicating Tuttle no longer meets the definition of a lobbyist.

The report, submitted Aug. 8, covers May 1 to Oct. 31. It contains a checked box captioned, "Please check box if you would like to terminate the registered lobbyist status for the registrant."

Office spokeswoman Kelly Stevenson said Tuttle became a full-time employee on Aug. 8.

New Test Scores Show Hoosier Third Graders Slightly Improved, Reading Skills Still Lacking

By Casey Smith

Nearly one in five Hoosier third graders this past spring did not master foundational reading skills, according to new standardized test results released Wednesday.

While Indiana's younger students have improved, the test results still lag behind pre-pandemic reading fluency.

New data reveals 81.6% out of the 65,000 third graders at public and private schools in Indiana passed the 2022 Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination, also called the IREAD-3 test.

That's less than a 0.5% increase from the last academic year, and 5.7% behind the results from the 2018-2019 school year, which is the last data set available prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Indiana schools did not give standardized tests

in 2019-2020 due to the pandemic.

The literacy rate is a significant drop from Indiana's high of 91.4% in 2012-13.

"We know that students first learn to read, and then they read to learn," Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner said in a statement. "Data shows a direct link between reading by the end of third grade and future learning."

In total, more than 14,000 Hoosier third grade students — more than 18% of those in the state — will need additional support to build their reading skills to meet grade-level reading standards, according to state officials. A student who does not pass the IREAD-3 test typically must receive remediation, or risk being retained in third grade.



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Jenner emphasized that includes low income, Black, Hispanic, special education and English learner students — who had "persistent learning gaps" even prior to the pandemic.

Black and Hispanic students increased pass rates by 2.1% and 1%, respectively, but their overall proficiency rates remain significantly below their grade level peers.

Roughly 64% of Black students and English language learners passed the multiple-choice IREAD exam in 2022 — 10% fewer than in 2019.

White students achieved above-average pass rates at about 87%, according to test scores.

Reading proficiency additionally declined overall for third grade students receiving free or reduced-price meals, as well as those receiving special education.

Schools were also allowed to test second grade students with the IREAD-3 assessment for the first this spring. State-wide, nearly 400 elementary schools across the state opted in, with more than 20,000 second grade students participating. Of

those students who were tested, 62% either passed the assessment or are on track to pass next year.

Lynn Schemel, director of assessment at the Indiana Department of Education, said students who lack foundational reading skills — including a strong vocabulary and basic phonetics — are "even less likely to graduate on time" or may never receive their high school diploma.

"Students who are poor readers at the end of third grade are likely to remain poor readers throughout their life," she said.

State education officials said new education initiatives are coming together to help schools across the state make sure that students become strong readers. They pointed to the launch of a new instructional coaching program for kindergarten through second grade teachers that already has 54 schools participating in the program.

The state education department is also sending more than \$150 million to schools through a state-funded grant program that intends to help bolster student learning outside of the regular classroom. Separate microgrants to help parents access tutoring for their students will become available this fall.

Jenner said the department will announce another major literacy initiative next week.

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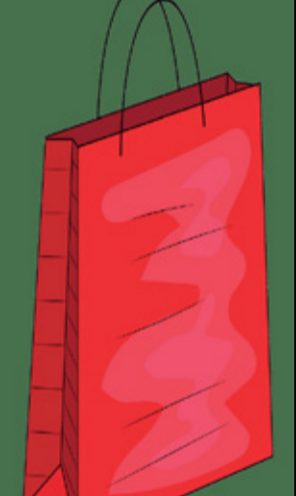
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COOPER From Page A1

reaching the highest level within this program.

Cooper, a veteran of the United States Air Force, has served as a Hamilton Heights School Board member in various leadership roles, representing White River and Jackson Townships, since July 2010. He is a retired toolmaker after working for Chrysler Corporation

in Kokomo, for over 40 years. He also earned an associate degree from Highland Park Community College in Industrial Technology.

He is a lifelong resident of Northern Hamilton County. Cooper and his wife Vicki, both graduated from Jackson Central High School in 1963 and are active in the community.

POLICE From Page A1

2011 but was put on hold for the past two years due to the pandemic.

This year, collection took place on April 26, with 6,665 bus drivers participating from 195 school districts.

"The fact that we still have people willing to put students and bus drivers at risk is the reason this campaign is necessary," said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. "Still, law enforcement can't be everywhere, so drivers need to do the right thing and exercise caution around buses. Students' lives depend on it."

To prevent unsafe driving, officers will be conducting high-visibility patrols in the morning and afternoon hours, as well as working to raise awareness about the importance of school bus safety and following the law.

Drivers should slow down and prepare to

stop when the overhead lights on a school bus are flashing yellow. Once the lights turn red and the stop arm extends, drivers are required to stop on all roads with one exception. On highways divided by a physical barrier, such as a concrete wall or grassy median, only vehicles traveling in the same direction as the school bus are required to stop.

Motorists should also be mindful of posted speed limits, avoid distractions and watch for children in or near school and residential areas. Planning ahead and allowing for extra time during each commute will help keep all road users safe.

Disregarding a school bus stop arm is a Class A Infraction. Violators could pay a fine of up to \$10,000, have their license suspended for up to 90 days for the first offense or up to 1 year for the second.

BETSY From Page A1

registration and check-in 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., with a post-race party ending at noon.

5. Noblesville Farmers Market is 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 is restricted to vendor spaces and handicapped parking only during the weekly market.

6. Enjoy Concerts at the Commons, 7-10 p.m. on select Saturdays through Sept. at Federal Hill Commons. Concert schedule: this Saturday, 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.

7. Hamilton County Parks' Koteewi Aerial Adventure (Edge Adventures), K-Trails Equestrian Adventures, Koteewi Range Sport & Target Ar-

chery Center and Koteewi Lake are all open for the season.

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

9. 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.

10. Shred Day at Hamilton County Household Hazardous Waste Center is 8-11 a.m. Aug. 20, or when the trucks are full.

11. The sixth annual Noblesville BrewBQ is 4 p.m. on Aug. 20 at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville.

12. The First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville's seventh annual Red Geranium Artisan Market is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Aug. 20 and features a variety of local, tri-state and international artisans, food, live music in a festive open-air environment.

13. Ride the Nickel Plate Express little red

Caboose on Aug. 20, with tickets at <https://nickelplateexpress.com/>

14. String-Time on the Square series, the third Saturday of each month through September, features bluegrass music at 6:30 p.m. on the Hamilton County Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville, with upcoming bands, Aug. 20, Rock Bottom Boys of Madison County, opener Addie McMillan; and Sept. 17, Stones Crossing Family Band, opener Alec Bohuk & Eric Reel.

15. Tipton Fall Truck and Tractor Pull is 7 p.m. on Aug. 20 at the Tipton County 4-H Fairgrounds.

16. Greekfest 2022 marks the 49th year for what is one of central Indiana's oldest and largest ethnic festivals, hosted by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Carmel from 4-10 p.m. on Aug. 26 and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Aug. 27.

17. Wayne-Fall Lions Club will be frying up all-you-can eat fish for a community Fish Fry from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Aug. 27 at Clarksville Christian Church on Lehr

Street off of Indiana 38 in Clarksville, just east of Noblesville. Meal includes fish and two sides, dessert and drink for \$12 for adults, \$6 for under age 10, with carryout available.

18. Kiln Creations in downtown Noblesville is having a Couples' Wheel Lessons night at 6 p.m. on Aug. 27, a Taylor Swift Night at 6 p.m. on Sept. 3 and is filling a request for "It's 420 Somewhere," an adults-only painting party at 6 p.m. on Sept. 9 with a choice of tobacco pipes, trays, decorative houseware, jars and more. Check out new 420 designs available just for this event!

19. Noblesville Main Street's Music & All That Jazz, sponsored by Gordon Insurance partners, will run from 6-8 p.m. on Sept. 2 and 5-7 p.m. on Oct. 17 on the west side of the Courthouse Square.

20. The Atlanta Fall Market is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 10 on Main Street in downtown Atlanta, Ind.

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

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FRIDAY Business Notes and NEWS DAY

Friday, Aug. 12, 2022

A7

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Discovery Park District at Purdue Wins Award for its Private Wireless Project

Purdue Research Foundation, a nonprofit organization created to advance the mission of Purdue University, received an award for the private wireless project it manages in Discovery Park District at Purdue.

PRF's "Private Cellular Network as a Service" was named the overall winner on July 25 for International Data Corp.'s inaugural IDC Future Enterprise Best in Future Connectedness North America Awards program.

PRF's project uses a private mobile network from Celona

to blanket the 400-acre, \$1 billion Discovery Park District, a mixed-use development with residential, industrial and commercial buildings adjacent to Purdue University's West Lafayette campus. The network provides connectivity to enable commercial and smart city uses throughout the work-play-live district.

David Broecker, chief innovation and collaboration officer for PRF, said in another release, "With the rise of unlicensed cellular spectrum and private mobile networks, com-

munities like Discovery Park District now have the power to chart their own course in terms of what advanced services and applications they can deliver to their members.

"From students getting home broadband for the first time to the Industrial IoT, the sheer diversity of customers and application requirements demonstrates how CBRS-based technologies, or technologies based on Citizens Broadband Radio Service, serve businesses, schools, industrial organizations and municipalities alike."

Biden Administration Announces \$725M in Funding from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Clean Up Pollution, Create Union Jobs

The Department of the Interior last week announced that nearly \$725 million from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is available to 22 states and the Navajo Nation, including over \$24.5 million for the state of Indiana. These funds are aimed at creating good-paying union jobs and catalyze economic opportunity in coal communities by reclaiming abandoned mine lands (AML). The Notice of Funding Opportunity opened yesterday and follows the release of final guidance for how eligible states and Tribes can apply for the historic funding.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allocates nearly a total of \$11.3 billion in AML funding over 15 years, which will help communities eliminate dangerous environmental conditions and pollution caused by past coal mining. This funding is expected to address the vast majority of inventoried abandoned mine lands in this country and prioritize jobs for current and former coal industry workers.

"President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law delivers the largest investment in cleaning up abandoned mine lands in history. Through this program, we are investing in coal commu-

nities through job creation -- including for current and former coal workers -- and economic revitalization, all while addressing harmful environmental impacts from these legacy developments," said Secretary Deb Haaland. "We encourage all eligible states and Tribes to apply for this funding so we can reduce hazardous pollution and toxic water levels that continue to impact our communities."

The funding opportunity advances the Biden-Harris administration's unprecedented investments in coal, oil and gas, and power plant communities and workers, including through the Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization. This effort also advances the President's Justice40 Initiative, which commits to delivering 40 percent of the benefits of certain climate and clean energy investments to disadvantaged communities.

AML reclamation projects support vitally needed jobs by investing in projects that close dangerous mine shafts, reclaim unstable slopes, prevent releases of harmful gases, including methane, improve water quality by treating acid mine drainage, and restore water supplies damaged by

mining. AML reclamation projects also enable economic revitalization by rehabilitating hazardous land so that it can be used for recreational facilities or other economic redevelopment uses like advanced manufacturing and renewable energy development.

States and Tribes that apply for the funding should:

- Prioritize projects that invest in disadvantaged communities consistent with the President's Justice40 Initiative;
- Incorporate public review and comment into the selection of projects to be funded;
- Consider prioritizing projects in a manner that maximizes the amount of methane emissions that can be reduced; and
- Prioritize the employment of current and former coal industry workers, among other provisions.

Applications for the fiscal year 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law AML funds must be submitted by eligible states and Tribal AML programs on Grant Solution's website no later than March 31, 2023. States and Tribes are not required to complete the AML Reclamation Plan update, review and approval process as a prerequisite to receiving these funds.

Only a Few Days Left for DEI Champion Award Nominations

Equality is now a priority in the workplace -- and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce is eager to celebrate those leading the charge in this area.

The Jackson Lewis Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Champion Award recognizes an organization making ardent strides to become a more equitable workplace.

Judges will evaluate how nominees developed, promoted and executed DEI -- and how it has made a difference for their organizations and beyond.

"It can be daunting to feel like we're constantly surrounded by division in today's culture, but one real positive is seeing Indiana companies accomplish much in bringing equality to the workplace and helping underrepresented groups thrive in the modern economy," explains Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar.

Nominations are due by Wednesday and can be submitted at www.indianachamber.com/DEIaward.

Nationwide law firm Jackson

Lewis P.C. is sponsoring the award.

"It's so important to shine a light on the companies and professionals who understand the value of creating an environment where all people can flourish, regardless of background, identity or experience," says Brian McDermott, managing principal of Jackson Lewis' Indianapolis office.

"Jackson Lewis is committed to expanding mindsets and integrating DEI firmwide, and we are thrilled to be part of such a powerful program that recognizes like-minded organizations and people."

The winner will be recognized at the Indiana Chamber's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit on October 4. In addition to Jackson Lewis P.C., Summit sponsors include gold sponsors Horizon Bank and Teachers Credit Union, as well as silver sponsor Lumina Foundation for Education.

Find more information at www.indianachamber.com/conferences.

BBB Scam Alert: 'Brushing' Scam Indicates a Serious Problem for Victims

Free box loads of merchandise from Amazon or other companies, right on your doorstep! What could possibly be bad about that? Plenty! Better Business Bureau (BBB) warns consumers that there is a scary downside to this recent scam. You are not the one who hit the jackpot; a scammer is the real winner.

This scam is called brushing, and it has been popping up all over the country. Suddenly, boxes of unordered merchandise from Amazon begin arriving. There is no return address, or sometimes it just appears to come from Amazon or another retailer, and the receiver has no idea who ordered the items. The items are varied. For example, in one case a humidifier, a hand warmer, a flashlight, a Bluetooth speaker and a computer vacuum cleaner arrived unordered. Often, the items received are lightweight and inexpensive to ship, such as ping pong balls, face masks or seeds from China.

Why would such merchandise be sent to you if you didn't request it? The companies, usually foreign, third-party sellers sending the items are simply using your address which they discovered online. Their intention is to make it appear as though you wrote a glowing online review of their merchandise, and that you are a verified buyer of the merchandise. They then post a fake, positive review to improve their products' ratings, which means more sales for them. The payoff is highly profitable from their perspective.

Why it's bad news for you The fact that someone was able to have the items sent to you as if you purchased them indicates that they probably have some of your personal information such as your name, address, and possibly, your phone number. Once the information is out there on the internet, it could be used for numerous crooked enterprises. The fake online review angle is only one way they benefit. By using the brushing scam,

they also are increasing their sales numbers. Increased sales numbers, even though padded with fake purchases, look good for the company and help lead to more sales.

What can you do? Notify the retailer. Brushing and fake reviews are against Amazon's policies, so contact Amazon Customer Service if this happens to you and the product appears to come from Amazon. They will investigate and take action against the bad actor. Go directly to Amazon's website to get their contact information. The company also takes security seriously and encourages customers to report fraudulent purchases or other security issues. If the preference is to contact them by phone; be cautious of searching for support phone numbers.

Change your account passwords. This may be a sign that personal information has been compromised and to improve account security, keep a close eye on credit reports and credit card bills.

You are allowed to keep the merchandise. The Federal Trade Commission says you have a legal right to keep unordered merchandise.

Other questions regarding shipments of unordered merchandise may be directed to your local BBB, or visit BBB.org.

Report suspicious activities to BBB Scam Tracker.

Read more about BBB Accreditation Standards and BBB Standards for Trust.

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



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FRIDAY

Voice of our **PEOPLE**

Timmons is Sick of Hearing about Donald Trump

Let me be upfront here. I voted for the guy that seems to be the most loved / most hated man in America. If he and Joe Biden are the only two choices on the ballot, I'll vote for him again (and I am desperately hoping for better choices by then) But this aforementioned idolization and intense hatred of the guy is getting ridiculous.



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

Is he the greatest president we've ever had? Sorry, Trumppers, but you can't say that. The measure of a president can't completely be made until they've been out of office a while - longer than this. It takes time to see what impacts different programs they spear-headed had. From the initial looks of it, Trump did a lot of things good for this country. How good,

and how does that rank historically? We'll know in a few more years. In the meantime, the Democrats and others keep fanning the flame of hatred. We're at a point where Trump could find a cure for cancer and there'd be something wrong with it. Think not? Remember it was Trump who fast-forwarded the vaccine while leading Democrats screamed from

the rooftops that they would not take a vaccine under Trump or his FDA. Meanwhile, say anything that even remotely questions the ex-president and his supporters come out of the woodwork after you. Believe me on that one, I've got the e-mails to prove it.

Has there been a president in our lifetimes who inspired such loyalty, such hate? Not that I can think of. Frankly, I have advocated for a pro-business president for a long time - dating back to Ross (I'm Ross, you're the boss) Perot. This country has had too many politicians for far too long. We're so far off course it's no longer funny, it's tragic. From the insane debt we are handing future generations to the purposeful

dividing of the country to the term after term after term incumbents who have never held a real job (and gotten rich off our backs) . . . OK, let's stop there. We all know this list could go on and on. So how about if we just say that our country is on a bad path that will not end well unless something dramatic changes.

And a presidential election that further rips this country apart isn't it. Thing is, it's not up to the Dems and the GOP. It's up to us.

It's. Up. To. Us. It's! Up! To! Us! I think if the idiot leaders of both parties continue like this, and if a really viable alternative throws their hat in the ring, we might see the first non-Democrat or non-Republican president

since the 1800s.

But more importantly than what happens in 2024 is what is happening now. We need, very much NEED with all capital letters, Americans to remember that the office is the bigger deal, not the man or woman. The country is the bigger deal, not the party. There is no party without the country and unless both the left and right stop trying to divide us further for their own gain, there may well not be a country.

We, as in we the people, need to be the adults in the room. If we haven't learned by now that the hired hands in Washington aren't going to be, then stick the proverbial dunce cap on our heads and sit us in the corner. We need to remember a lesson many of us learned a long time

ago - life ain't always fair and sometimes we just have to deal with it.

It doesn't matter what Trump said or did. It doesn't matter what Biden says or does. We're stuck with both whether we like it or not. But going forward? Going forward we have a choice.

Here's hoping we make that choice with clear heads and open hearts, not political bias and hatred.

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

Waiting in the Shadows I Have Got a Running Total Going at Walmart

I know that I tend to be hard on myself. Too hard, really. But honestly, there are times when I feel like on the road of life, I can't find my way out of the rest park.



JOHN MARLOWE
With the Grain

There was a time when I thought I had it all figured out. Just do nice things for people, and the rewards will follow, even if they consist only of the personal satisfaction of a job well done.

The problem is that I never feel like I have done the job well . . . at least not well enough.

I believe part of the reason for my insecurity is that I've lived my entire life in the shadow of my father. Dad was a regular Joe in so many ways, but in others he was quite eminent. As a Central Indiana sportscaster, spanning a 40-plus year career, he mingled regularly with the top civic and sports personalities of his day.

If you don't know, Chuck Marlowe was the sports director at WTTV, the host of the Bob Knight Show, a 51-year veteran of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Radio Network and so much more.

When the spotlight shone on the stardom around him, naturally a lot of the gleam landed on him as well. Dad deserved his celebrity. He worked hard to get and share the stories with his viewers. When Dad passed away in 2016, an entire community paused just a little bit to reflect on the joys he brought into their lives.

What an awesome predecessor I'm following! Nevertheless, when it came time for me to step into the sun, I found the glare to be quite intimidating. I do my best, but often it doesn't feel like I've done near enough.

Dad was always coming through for people. To say that he was "connected" was quite an understatement. Many times I watched him take a phone call from someone needing something: needing a favor, needing support for a

worthy cause. Always the response was the same.

"Sure!" Dad said. "Let me make some phone calls."

I can't remember a time when Dad didn't come through. The box in the closet that I inherited from my father includes a plaque from a grateful Little League, a little trophy for being a judge at a school spelling contest, a signed thank-you card from nursing home residents for emceeding their wheelchair race, a tear-stained note from the father of a gravely ill son for making the child's dream of meeting his sports idol come true.

All are mementos of times when Dad never hesitated to take a stand for something he believed was important.

I, too, serve. However, I am a reluctant servant. I hate disappointing people. So when people ask me for a favor, or when I see a problem and step in, it is always with reservations. "I'm not sure what I can do," I'll hedge, "but I'll try."

Consequently, my efforts also tend to lack enthusiasm, and the outcomes are never as successful as I wish. I seem to be afraid to let people's expectations of me ever rise too high.

So I surprised myself, last month, when my friend Scooter called.

Scooter was shaken and upset. He knows a young man whose home life is disturbing. He's going to college, but he's not sure he can take it anymore at

home. Scooter wants to find a way for this young man -- a young man, who is exemplary by every account -- to begin the next chapter in his life safely and without the drama of his current condition.

"Can you help, John?" Scooter pleaded. "You know so many people who might be able to help."

Boy, I thought. If Dad were here, he could take care of this right away. He'd call his friend Jim at the bank, and the young man would have a loan for college. He'd call his buddies at his service club, and the young man would have a job. His friend Nico would have a room.

"Sure!" I said. "Let me make some phone calls."

Immediately upon ending the call with Scooter, I felt disinclination set in. Why did I get myself into what is obviously a messy situation? Yeah, I know people . . . but do I know the RIGHT people?

Nevertheless, I dove in, spurred on by the young man's heartbreaking story. I made call after call. I showed up in people's offices unannounced. And when I encountered a roadblock, with the help of my network, I found a way to roll it aside.

The result is that I believe we have successfully discovered a path for this young man to follow, if he so chooses.

For the first time in a long while, I feel satisfied with the effort I put in, and similarly satisfied with the outcome. It wasn't the perfect answer, but it was the best I could do. I finally feel a little warmth from the light that comes from doing a job, not without hesitancy, but with dogged determination.

I've learned something, too, as a result:

A man never knows how big of a shadow he throws until he stands up.

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

"Where are you?" asked my wife when she called me on my cell phone one afternoon.

"I'm in Walmart," I answered.

"Oh. Are you running errands?"

"No, just running... or jogging, to be more precise. Running in the aisles is not permitted. I just heard a mother say that to her kid."

"Why are you doing that in Walmart?"

At the time, I was not in the mood for a lengthy explanation, but here's the gist of it. It was 92 degrees outside--far too hot to exercise. I had considered going to Costco, but I forgot to bring my membership card and there are too many stations along the aisles to sample food, which kind of defeats the point of exercising.

"Are you doing any shopping at all?" Mary Ellen asked.

"Oh, yes, over my right arm I have three T-shirts and I bought some hangers for my closet, which are in my left hand. I hadn't planned on buying anything, which is why I didn't take a cart. And this way I can go faster, although increasing my speed makes me look like a shoplifter."

I figured out that going a full lap around the store's perimeter is close to 1,000 steps, or about a half mile, but going up and down each aisle, I could easily log a full



DICK WOLFSIE
Life in a Nutshell

mile. After a while, I stopped to rest, because I was breathing heavily. I realized I shouldn't have taken my break in the lingerie department when I saw moms whisking their kids as far away from me as possible.

My jog was enjoyable. I began in produce and trotted through the meat department where they had a good deal on ground turkey. I took a trip through the pharmacy. Then I zoomed through electronics, sped past Tire and Auto and toddled by the toy department. I picked up speed in the candy section to avoid temptation. I muscled my way through sporting goods and when I got to the cat food shelves, people were in the aisle sharing Instagram photos of their kitties. I slinked my way around them.

After circling the store three times, a security guard came up to me. "What are you up to, Sir?"

"About four miles an hour," I bragged. Didn't

even get a smile from him.

This reminded me of a time at the old L.S. Ayres when I bought a dinner jacket for a cruise my wife and I were planning. The clerk forgot to remove the security lock from the garment. When I left the store, the alarms went crazy.

"Where do you think you are going with that coat?" asked a security guard.

"Alaska," I told him. Apparently, my comeback wasn't funny then, either. Maybe it was the same guard.

Toward the end of my workout, I overheard several of the employees on the sales floor talking about me. I considered hiding in a dressing room, but I wanted to reach my 15,000 steps and I am not good at running in place.

When I got to the check-out counter, the cashier said I owed \$26.50, but my T-shirts and hangers should have only amounted to \$22.00. "What's the additional charge?" I asked the cashier.

"Mileage," she told me.

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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Voice of our PEOPLE

Ask Rusty – Do My Canadian Earnings Count Toward U.S. Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I am a 62 year old Canadian holding a green card and I have lived in the US for nearly twenty-three years. For 19 years prior I contributed to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) which is the equivalent of US Social Security. I am contemplating retirement in the US and have been told that I can draw my old age pension from either the US, or from Canada, but I cannot draw from both.

My 19 years of contributions to the Canadian Pension Plan are not accounted for in the calculation of my U.S. SS benefits. Conversations with the U.S. Social Security office suggested that my contributions to the CPP would “probably” be applied to my U.S. pension upon application for benefits. However, the individual I spoke with was not sure how that would work. Do you know



ASK RUSTY
Social Security Advisor

the process for having my Canadian earnings transferred to my U.S. SS account and how I might find out what my combined benefits will be? Signed: Retiring Canadian

Dear Retiring Canadian: Allow me to clarify how things work under the bi-lateral agreement between the U.S. and Canada. Although you worked and contributed to CPP while living in Canada, your earnings in Canada do not count when computing your

Social Security Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Russell Gloor

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

U.S. Social Security benefits (nor do your U.S. earnings contribute to your CPP benefit entitlement). Although the bi-lateral US/Canada agreement permits earnings credits from both countries to be combined to gain eligibility for benefits, computation of benefit amounts in each country uses only dollars earned in-country. Thus, your U.S. entitlement is based only on your U.S. earnings.

Because of your years contributing to the Canadian program, you are

also eligible to separately collect a CPP pension, and you can apply for your CPP pension through your local U.S. Social Security office by submitting SSA form CDN-USA1. Your local SS office can provide the correct form and needed guidance to apply for your CPP benefits. You should be aware, however, that collecting your CPP pension will impact the amount of your U.S. benefit because of a U.S. regulation known as the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). WEP

reduces the U.S. Social Security benefit for anyone who has a pension earned separately without contributing to Social Security (that includes some U.S. state & local government employees, as well as those who have a pension from another country).

Your U.S. benefit will be computed using a special WEP formula which considers the number of years you contributed to the U.S. program from “substantial earnings.” Assuming you have 23 years of substantial U.S. earnings from which you contributed to the U.S. SS program, your U.S. benefit will be reduced by approximately 35%. Your CPP pension will cause WEP to apply, which will reduce your U.S. pension, but it cannot reduce it by more than 50% of your CPP benefit amount.

FYI, WEP and international benefits are complex topics, and it's

not especially unusual that SS representatives you first encounter (e.g., on the phone) aren't fully versed in how those benefits work. You may wish to make an appointment to apply for your CPP benefits in person at your local Social Security office and at the same time obtain more specific information on how WEP will affect your U.S. Social Security benefits. That may require speaking with a senior person who is well versed in WEP and international pensions.

Finally, be aware that at age 62 your U.S. benefit will be further reduced because you haven't yet reached your full retirement age (which is 66 years and 10 months). Be aware, too, that until you reach your full retirement age, you'll be subject to Social Security's earnings test, which limits how much you can earn before some benefits are taken away.

Losing Everything, What or Who is Important?

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

What or who is important to you? The recent devastating flood in eastern Kentucky reminds us all that life can be swept away in a moment. Hundreds of families lost everything. One family lost their house and everything in it but lost their family – four children ages less than two up through eight were swept away by the raging flood. One woman who had also lost her house and everything in the house stated she and her family were alive and that's all that mattered.

None of us want to lose our houses and everything we've worked for most of our lives.



GLENN MOLLETTE
Guest Column

However, it's all junk in comparison to our children and loved ones.

From the fires of California to the floods of eastern Kentucky to the devastation of Ukraine by Russia, Loss and devastation can come to us all. We don't want loss. We recoil from natural

disasters, invaders or diminishing health.

It takes a lifetime to pay for a house. Today, cars are often financed five years and more. People work hard to accumulate a few things. Little children, spouses and aging parents are not easy to come by. Most of the time we take everything we have for granted. When the floods of life literally wash away all that we have and love, the loss is horrific.

We really don't know the full extent of how painful loss is until we have lost it all. Recent flood victims in eastern Kentucky essentially lost it all. Many literally

escaped with only the shirts on their backs.

Cancer can eat away at our lives. Other forms of diminishing health can take us down to nothing. Financial losses can make us miserable. A fire can destroy everything. Life can change and in a moment.

Sometimes we have warnings that life is on the way to changing. When it rains, we don't automatically think the water will become so deep that we will all drown. Some people in eastern Kentucky will never be able to enjoy a long night of rain because of what it may bring.

Overall, people would

like to live out their lives quietly and safely. Avoiding floods, fires and other life-threatening crises. Food to eat, something to wear and the enjoyment of people we love are most meaningful to us.

In the middle of life's devastations, we often look to God and ask why? If he is really so great, so good, and so loving then why would he send or allow eight or nine inches of rain to fall on the hollers of eastern Kentucky and sweep away little children? Did he go to sleep? Does he not care? Is he detached from what happens in the world? Is he really out there? Yet, as many

grieve, they will fall upon God as he is all they have left to get them through. An old saint of God who suffered through the storms of life once said, “I didn't realize God was all I needed until God was all I had.”

Whatever or whoever you have today, don't take it or them for granted. Be grateful, give thanks. Love on your loved ones and be kind to all. Consider taking some of your stuff and giving it to someone who may have nothing. It will be good for you both.

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

A Shell, the Porch Swing and a Screen Door

I reached down and pulled out a fresh water oyster shell from the branch next to Washington Road and ran up to my grandma who was leaning on a fence post nearby. “Is there a chance I can find a pearl?” She looked at it and said, “You already got one, and she's your mother.”

As I occupied my time exploring what types of rocks I could find, she was getting the mail from the box. After she closed the gate behind us, we walked back up the gravel drive to the worn white washed four-room farmhouse to which Grandma Kitty Bruce retired after selling the farm at the head of Sequatchie Valley. The little 18-acre place was near Dayton, Tennessee, and my grandma's siblings and their farms. The area was where her Mama Rachel and Daddy Phil moved when they migrated from Tellico Plains, Tennessee, in the 1800s.

She stepped up onto the front porch that ran the length of the front of the house. She leaned against the second porch post and looked back down towards Washington Road,



RANDALL FRANKS
Southern Style Columns

almost retracing the steps that she had made in her mind.

My Aunt “Duck” (Norma Jean) came through the screen door. It banged loudly in her wake. She was fanning herself with a folded Dayton Herald saying, “It sure is hot today ... it sure is hot... What did we get in the mail? Is there anything in the mail for me?”

She sat down on the porch swing. I crawled up next to her, and grandma continued staring off into the distance. It wasn't long before my mother Pearl came through the house wiping her hands with a dish rag saying, “Well, I've got the dishes washed. Now we got to see about getting this boy of mine a bath.”

“Aw, Mom, I took one before we left home,” I said.

“Yeah, and you are going to take one before we go to town too,” she said.

The plan was already in the works and I didn't even know they were a-plottin' agin me... I had been running, jumping, and enjoying the morning. It wasn't even dinnertime, and I had already covered every inch of the place from post to post. While Mama was washing the dishes, she had been heating extra water to fill the wash barrel on the back porch.

She had pulled out a bar of grandma's lye soap and a bristle brush, and before I could say, “scat” I was belly deep in water feeling like that brush or the soap was ripping the skin right off with every stroke.

I can still hear her a saying, “This ought to run off any chiggers you might have picked up.” “Course, I had chiggers too a few times, and I believe the bath was worse.

That is one thing about bath day and clothes washing day. They were sights to behold. When you got several folks in

one house all needing a good washing and only one bath barrel on the back porch and you had to heat the water to fill her up, it took a lot of effort to keep the water replenished. Course, on real busy days that water didn't get much changin'.

When the clothes washing was being done, it was soap, rub boards and worshutubs. “Course, I do remember when Grandma got her an agitating worsher with a wringer on the top of it that you turned with a crank, and then you'd hang the clothes out to dry.

Eventually, everybody was ready and we'd all climb into the blue and white pickup truck — mother, grandma and my aunt in the front and me in the back if I promised to be good and head to town, sometimes to the grocery, sometimes to the dime store.

I'd usually talk my grandma into gettin' a strawberry or grape Crush at the fillin' station. They sure did taste good on a hot July afternoon.

Occasionally, we'd just take off an go a-visitin'. Folks don't do that much

these days. That's going to some kin's house without being invited, sitting and gabbin' for hours. Maybe helping them pick apples or tomatoes, cut okra. Sometimes the women folks would turn in and help with the cannin' while the kids found adventures of their own or were put to work breakin' beans.

I remember what seemed like long walks to the outhouse, especially at night when you'd drather not make that journey unless you just had no other choice.

I can see my breath rising above the hand-made quilts as I lay in the old metal post bed on cold mornings. I dreaded putting my bare feet on the cold wood floor. The only advantage to getting up was in knowing when I passed through the bedroom doorway, the kitchen would be warm. I could already smell the bacon fryin', the cat-head biscuits in the stove and know that breakfast would soon warm my insides even though the outside was chilly.

This walk up that old gravel drive for me is a fond reminder of some childhood visits to

Grandma Kitty's farm in Rhea County. The time there was sometimes slow, sometimes sad, sometimes filled with joy or pain, and other times filled with angst; but no matter what the experience, it was a place that evokes a feeling of a rural South that used to be — when you wore your best to town, when you helped your neighbor, when though you may have disagreements among your kin, you came together in one accord when facing the outside world and you took care of your own.

Randall Franks is an award-winning musician, singer and actor. He is best known for his role as “Officer Randy Goode” on TV's “In the Heat of the Night” now on WGN America. His latest 2019 #1 CD release, “Americana Youth of Southern Appalachia,” is by the Share America Foundation. He is a member of the Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame. His latest book is “A Badge or an Old Guitar: A Music City Murder Mystery.” He is a syndicated columnist for <http://randallfranks.com/> and can be reached at rfrankscatoosa@gmail.com.