

TODAY'S VERSE

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.



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 Few Things...

1. Lucas Visits Museum

Yesterday, CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center had the opportunity to host Indiana State Representative Jim Lucas after condemning a recent social media post he made this week. Rep. Lucas came to visit CANDLES on his own accord, eager to learn more about the museum, Eva Kor, and the lessons of the Holocaust. It was a positive visit, and they shared a great conversation about the importance of Holocaust education in Indiana. Both now better understand the events that unfolded earlier this week and appreciate opportunities to build stronger communities through conversations like they had today. "I am very appreciative of Rep. Lucas for visiting CANDLES," Troy Fears, Executive Director, said. "And for his efforts to find out why we found his recent social media post problematic. We are always happy to engage in conversations that lead to a greater understanding of the Holocaust."

2. Star Party

Patoka Lake's 31st annual star party has been rescheduled for Saturday, Aug. 27, from 8:30-10 p.m. at its beach. Telescopes will be set up for night sky viewing, and members of the Evansville and Louisville astronomical societies will help participants identify celestial objects, including planets, stars, constellations, nebulas, and distant galaxies. The entrance fee of \$7 per vehicle for Indiana residents and \$9 for out-of-state vehicles is required for the Newton-Stewart State Recreation Area, located north of Wickliffe on State Road 164. For more information regarding this program or other interpretive events at Patoka Lake, call the Nature Center at 812-685-2447.

3. Retirement Party

A retirement celebration for Justice Steven H. David will take place on Tuesday, August 30 in the Indiana Supreme Court Courtroom at 2:00 p.m. Eastern. The celebration will be live webcast at courts.in.gov. Justice David is Indiana's 106th Supreme Court justice. He will step down from the bench on August 31, 2022, after nearly 30 years as a judicial branch leader. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2010 and was previously elected trial court judge in Boone County. During his career, he authored more than 200 opinions and served with 8 justices. A more complete biography and high-resolution photograph can be found online. On June 10, Governor Eric Holcomb selected Court of Appeals Judge Derek Molter to fill the vacancy from the nominees submitted by the Judicial Nominating Commission. Details on his investiture will be released at a later date.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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The Times photo courtesy of Betsy Reason

Aviation enthusiasts can see home-built, restored and military aircraft during the Noblesville chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association's pancake breakfast and fly-in at 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday at Noblesville Airport on Promise Road just north of 146th Street.

Airport Fly-in, 'Cruella' Movie Night, 'Shipwrecked' at The Cat, Shred Day, and Red Geranium Artisan Market



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

Savor all-you-can-eat pancakes at the Noblesville Airport's fly-in on Saturday morning. Also, enjoy the music and shopping on Saturday at the Red Geranium Artisan Market at the First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville. And watch a

movie in the park Saturday night at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville.

It's a busy weekend. So here's a list of 25 things to do to keep your calendar up to date.

1. Carmel Community Players presents "Shipwrecked: An Entertainment!" directed by Lori Raffel, at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at The Cat in Carmel.
2. Noblesville Parks' 15th annual Movies in the Park series, presented by Logan Street Signs and banners, tonight at dusk, "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 Afterlife," (Rated PG-13) at Federal Hill.

➔ See BETSY Page A6

NHS Band Boosters Announce Printing Error, Recall on Pot of Gold Raffle Tickets

The Noblesville High School (NHS) Band Boosters announced today a printing error with their 2022 Pot of Gold raffle tickets. The Boosters are a non-profit group of NHS volunteer parents who raise funds exclusively in support of the high school's band programs. The raffle is a major fundraiser organized each year by the Boosters.

While only a small number of tickets were misprinted, the error impacts the overall integrity of the raffle. To ensure every supporter has a fair chance of winning, the Boosters have implemented the following protocols to address this issue:

- Original tickets will no longer be used at the drawing
- Newly designed and renumbered tickets have been printed with a new company
- The new vendor has internal controls to ensure each ticket holder has a chance to win a

prize through a random drawing

- In-person and online options will be offered to exchange or refund sales for tickets purchased previously.

Supporters who purchased a 2022 Pot of Black and Gold Raffle ticket between July 1st, 2022 and August 18th, 2022, should NOT THROW AWAY TICKETS and should follow this process, choosing the best option for them:

- Bring ticket(s) in person to a Booster booth location for new tickets or a refund. (Locations can be found by visiting NoblesvilleBand.org/Raffle)
 - Complete and submit an online form to claim new tickets or a refund by visiting NoblesvilleBand.org/Raffle
- "We regret the inconvenience this printing error caused," said Amanda Sheets, Noblesville

➔ See RECALL Page A6

Steve Wariner Named as Member of NaSHOF 2022 Hall Of Fame Class



Noblesville native and country music legend Steve Wariner was announced as one of this year's editions to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. The other four are Shania Twain, Hillary Lindsey, Gary Nicholson and David Malloy – the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame (NaSHOF) Class of 2022 – will join the legendary body in October, according to an announcement made yesterday by Sarah Cates, chair of the organization's board of directors, and Mark Ford, its executive director.

The songwriting giants behind the hits "You're Still The One," "Holes In The Floor Of Heaven," "Girl Crush," "One More Last Chance" and "Drivin' My Life Away" will soon become the newest members of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame (NaSHOF).

"This is always one of my favorite days of the year – when we announce our incoming class and begin their journey

to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala in October," said Cates at the 2022 Inductee Announcement - Made Possible by FICO. "I'm especially gratified to note that – for the first time since 2009 – two of our inductees-elect are women," she added.

Ford introduced each member of the new class: Lindsey and Nicholson in the contemporary songwriter category; Malloy in the veteran songwriter category; Twain as the contemporary songwriter/artist and Wariner as the veteran songwriter/artist.

The five inductees-elect will join the 223 previously inducted members of the elite organization when they are officially inducted during the 52nd Anniversary Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala on Sunday, October 30, at the Music City Center.

- Hillary Lindsey's songwriter credits include "Jesus Take The Wheel" (Carrie Underwood), "Girl Crush" (Little Big Town) and "Blue Ain't Your Color" (Keith Urban).
- Gary Nicholson's resume is known for "The Trouble With The Truth" (Patty Love-

➔ See WARINER Page A6

Dr. Arrowood on the Start of Yet Another School Year



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
HHSC Superintendent



Our 2022-23 school year is off to a great start! I am truly inspired by the excitement, enthusiasm, and energy throughout our campus as we settle in for another incredible year of learning and growing together.

We had a variety of activities ahead of our first day to rally the troops for the new year including one of my favorites, the annual Prayer Breakfast hosted by the Heights Area Pastors in conjunction with

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The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:59 a.m.
SET: 8:35 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures
High: 86 °F
Low: 61 °F

Today is...

- National Aviation Day
- International Bow Day
- National Potato Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1991 Race riots break out in the Crown Heights area of New York city
- 1964 World's First Geostationary Satellite is Launched
- 1960 Sputnik 5 is launched by USSR

Births On This Day

- 1871 Orville Wright American aviation pioneer
- 1919 Malcolm Forbes American publisher

Deaths On This Day

- 14 Augustus Roman Emperor
- 1977 Groucho Marx American comedian, actor

INSIDE TODAY

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OBITUARIES

Inah Marie Porter
Anne Farrar Yarnell

HONEST HOOSIER

I can smell the hot dogs and popcorn under the lights! See you at the football game!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Consider sitting on an exercise ball instead of a chair – it helps your balance and keeps you more alert. 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

"Most people are about as happy as they make their mind up to be."
- Abraham Lincoln

TODAY'S JOKE

Weddings are so emotional that even the cakes are in tiers.

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



13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

61/86 WARMER	65/85 HEAVY CLOUDS CHANCE	66/80 HEAVY CLOUDS CHANCE	65/79 PARTLY CLOUDY BREEZY	62/82 SUNNY AND WARMER	62/82 MORE CLOUDS	64/82 PARTLY CLOUDY BREEZY
FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU

OBITUARIES

Inah Marie Porter

November 21, 1924 - August 15, 2022

Inah Marie Porter, 97, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, August 15, 2022.

She was born on November 21, 1924 to Fred Arel and Ada Ethel (Nichols) Robinson near Fillmore, Indiana, and grew up on the family farm.

Mrs. Porter was a 1943 graduate of Fillmore High School.

During World War II, she worked at Allison Plants 1 and 3, inspecting parts for aircraft engines. She later attended John Herron Art Institute for three years.

On June 22, 1947, she married Franklin Arthur Porter at Fillmore Christian Church. Mr. Porter passed away April 26, 1999.

Mrs. Porter was a gracious homemaker who loved her family. She enjoyed sewing, gardening, decorating, reading her Bible, and was an extraordinary cook.

Baptized at a young age, she lived with a confident faith in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Mrs. Porter was a charter member of Lawrence Christian Church, where she taught Sunday School, and a charter (and current) member of Agape Christian Church.

Greatly loved, she will be greatly missed.

Survivors include her three daughters Karen (Richard) Fink, Claudette (Jim) Lane and Michelle Porter; four grandchildren Julie (Mike) Inman, Kristen Hodge, Jonathan (Chrissy) Lane and Jordan Fink; nine great-grandchildren Brandon (Hillary) Inman, Madison Inman, Malory Inman, Shelby Hodge, Rachel Hodge, Ella Hodge, Brayden Lane, Hudson Lane and Kennedy Lane; three great-great-grandchildren Cooper, Parker and Rawlings Inman; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Franklin Porter; three sisters Dorothy Goodwin, Catherine Mourer and Frances Major; two brothers Henry and Donald Robinson; and infant brother Julian Wayne Robinson.

Special thanks to Dr. Paul Hamori for over 30 years of exceptional care, and to the staff at Independence Village of South Fishers, who have cared for Mrs. Porter since 2002.

Services are scheduled to be held at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road in Fishers, with Pastor John Carlson officiating. Visitation is scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to the time of service at the funeral home. Burial will be at Lincoln Memory Gardens in Whitestown.

Memorial contributions may be made to www.cmfi.org/kristen-hodge to benefit Missions of Hope.

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

Anne Farrar Yarnell

November 5, 1940 - August 14, 2022

Anne Farrar Yarnell, 81, of Lapel, previously of Indianapolis, passed away knowing Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior on Sunday, August 14, 2022 after a brave battle with lung cancer.

She was born on November 5, 1940 in Indianapolis to James Hillard and Mary Louise (Irwin) Farrar.

Mrs. Yarnell was a graduate of Broad Ripple High School and graduated from Indiana Central University with a nursing degree. She worked many years in healthcare as a nurse serving numerous families.

She was a current member of Life Church in Pendleton. Previously, Mrs. Yarnell volunteered with His Healing Hands in Anderson. She loved her family and enjoyed spending time with them and her friends.

Survivors include her four children Rob (Linda) Steele of Lapel, Dianne Steele of Cape Coral, Florida, Cindy (Dave) McCormick of Westfield and Debi (Matt) Belvo of Lapel; sister Carolyn Roseberry of Alaska; 14 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Frank C. Yarnell; and three brothers John, Rick and Stephen Farrar.

Visitation for family and friends are scheduled to take place on Wednesday, August 24, 2022, from 4-6 p.m. at Hershberger-Bozell Funeral Home, 1010 North Main Street, Lapel, Indiana 46051.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the Lapel Community Food Pantry or your local church/ministry that serves your community.

Online condolences may be shared at www.hershbergerbozell.com.



DICK WOLFSIE

Funny Bone

I lost my best friend this week. And my business partner. Barney was 12 (or 13 or 14). I never knew his exact age. He was a street kid who wandered onto my doorstep looking for a better life. He found it. And I found the world's greatest dog. But he was never a good dog—not ever.

When I walked down the street with him, four out of five people would say hello to the beagle by name. Many teased that they didn't know my name. Maybe they weren't kidding.

There was never another dog like him. Strangers would joke that he looked like he hadn't missed many meals. He was endlessly hungry, relentlessly in search of food he could steal. He ate everything: pickles, carrots, hot dog buns, tomatoes. And sometimes, when extremely desperate, he would eat his dog food.

When he saw anyone approach, he rolled over on his back for a belly rub. If you stopped rubbing him, he glared at you. "You've got some nerve," he seemed to be saying. Everyone rubbed his belly: little old ladies, toddlers, Harley riders, even cat lovers.

As much as he loved me, he'd run away any time he had the chance. Not run away from me, of course, but on to a new adventure. He knew I'd find him. One Thanksgiving, he got through the invisible fence and found

his way to a holiday dinner several miles away. He barked at the unfamiliar door. He knew strangers were a softer touch at the dinner table.

He also knew television. Everything he did was either funny or heartwarming.

When a second-rate musician was playing his electric guitar on my show, Barney pulled the plug out of the wall with his teeth.

When Ruth's Chris opened downtown, Barney went into the kitchen during the show and stole a T-bone from the counter.

When an animal training expert claimed he had taught him some manners, Barney dug up the rose bush at my front step in front of him. On live TV, of course.

When I did a show with kids with Down Syndrome, Barney jumped on the bed with all 15 toddlers and snuggled with them.

When the camera focused on Barney, I swear the little guy looked right at the viewing audience.

Barney loved everyone. I don't think he had an unhappy moment in his life. His final day was at the State Fair. It was filled with good food and adoring fans. That evening, he passed peacefully in his sleep.

Over the years, I have given out over 5,000 photos of Barney, each inscribed by me with a silly facsimile of a paw print. If you have a picture of Barney with that paw print, please keep it in his memory. That would mean a lot to me.

And, I am sure, it would mean a lot to Barney.

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.

Goodbye, Barney



Photo courtesy of HCEM

Mark LaBarr, Duke Energy (second from left) presents (from left to right) Pam Eldridge, Finance/Admin Section Chief, , Shane Booker, Executive Director and Monica Peterson, Community Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator with a check worth \$10,000.

Hamilton County Emergency Management Receives Duke Energy Foundation Grant



\$10,000 grant to purchase nearly 400 weather radios. The radios are a long-term investment in community preparedness that will last for decades. Emergency Management recommends every home and business have a weather radio to receive timely alerts.

"We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the Duke Energy Foundation, and my goal is to provide them to those who may not be able to afford them," said Monica Peterson, Community Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator. She also said, "We will distribute radios through our outreach events and work with local services such as the Township Trustee Offices to maximize the long-term investment in our community that will last for many years to come."

The ability to receive emergency information is critical to keeping Hamilton County safe. "A weather radio is like a smoke alarm for emergencies," said Shane Booker, Executive Director of Emergency Management.

The National Weather Service sends alerts like severe weather watches and warnings to radios, but Emergency Management can send other alerts such as shelter-in-place, law enforcement warnings, evacuations, civil emergency messages, and more.

Alerts are sent via the Emergency Alert System, alerting broadcast and satellite television and radio, mobile phones, and weather radios.

The Duke Energy Foundation recently awarded Hamilton County Emergency Management a

more information about the National Weather Service radio system, visit https://www.weather.gov/nwr&ln_desc=-NOAA+Weather+Radio/. To learn more about the Duke Energy Foundation, visit <https://www.duke-energy.com/Community/Duke-Energy-Foundation>.

Rep. Tony Cook Responds to \$111M Investment in Support of Early Literacy for Hoosier Students

State Rep. Tony Cook (R-Cicero) issued the following statement in response to the Indiana Department of Education and Lilly Endowment Inc. announcing up to a \$111 million investment to support early literacy development across the state. Cook said this investment will go toward the state's goal of having 95% of Indiana's students achieve a passage rate on IREAD-3 by 2027. To view the full announcement, click here.

"I am sure the school corporations are excited, and I am especially pleased with this new investment, which will help with the goal to have 95% of Hoosier students achieve a passing score on the IREAD-3 by 2027. I think the guidelines established for the grant, which expect

the use of proven strategies aligned with the Science of Reading, are definitely needed. The funding will support instructional coaches in schools, offer stipends to teachers to participate in workshops enhancing their teaching of reading based on successful science, and provide targeted support for students who need help improving their reading skills. I'm thankful to Gov. Holcomb, the Indiana Department of Education and the Lilly Endowment for providing these needed resources for launching an all-out attack on illiteracy."

State Rep. Tony Cook (R-Cicero) represents House District 32, which includes all of Tipton County and portions of Hamilton, Madison, Delaware, Howard and Grant counties.

Indiana Chamber Offers Statement on Major Investment to Support Early Literacy

Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar offers remarks on today's announcement and partnership between the state of Indiana and Lilly Endowment to invest \$111 million to support early literacy for Indiana students.

"This landmark investment to bolster the reading skills of young Hoosiers is right on target and what the state needs given the number of young Hoosiers who cannot read at a proficient grade level," Brinegar says. "Our current outcomes in reading and other education metrics are completely unacceptable; bold action like this is needed to repair our leaking talent pipeline and enhance Indiana's

workforce and economic fortunes.

"Indiana lacks the skilled talent to fill the current job openings employers have," he adds. "There's no better place to start in order to have a lasting impact than at the beginning. Getting our young students off on the right foot with the proper foundation of how to read and learn is vital for both their sakes - in ensuring economic and employment opportunities down the road - and for the state to better grow its own talent."

Promoting early literacy is a longstanding priority for the Indiana Chamber and efforts are ongoing to support legislation to boost such measures.

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

IndianaPublicNotices.com
TheTimes24-7.com

TheTimes24-7.com

<p>18473 Jaden Drive Westfield • \$424,900 PENDING</p> <p>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</p>	<p>9740 William Drive Noblesville • \$389,900 PENDING</p> <p>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</p>	<p>1480 Maple Avenue Noblesville • \$315,000 NEW LISTING!</p> <p>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</p>	<p>6939 Trophy Lane Noblesville • \$334,900 LISTED - SOLD!</p> <p>Carefree living in popular Willow Lake - 2 BR, 2.5 BA, huge great room w/fireplace, updated kitchen all appliances stay, sunroom overlooks deck & lake/pond, upper level is quite large & has 1/2 bath. BLC#21866367</p>
<p>8710 Walma Drive Warren Twp. • \$189,900 PENDING</p> <p>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</p>	<p>6889 Trophy Lane Noblesville • \$334,900 PENDING</p> <p>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</p>	<p>501 Gettysburg Coatesville • \$309,900 NEW PRICE!</p> <p>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</p>	<p>THE Deakins Team REALTORS Jennifer Peggy Speak to Deak.com 317.439.3258 Peggy or 317.695.6032 Jennifer</p> <p>Talk to TUCKER REALTORS F.C. TUCKER COMPANY</p>

State of Indiana and Lilly Endowment Announce \$111M Investment to Support Early Literacy for Hoosier Students

Yesterday, Governor Eric J. Holcomb and Indiana Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner joined Lilly Endowment Inc. to announce the state's largest-ever financial investment in literacy, expanding Indiana's commitment to support literacy development for Hoosier students. This combined investment from the state and Lilly Endowment of up to \$111 million will support early literacy development using proven teaching strategies aligned with the Science of Reading.

- The state will:
- Support the deployment of instructional coaches to schools throughout Indiana;
 - Offer stipends to teachers who participate in professional development focused on the Science of Reading;
 - Provide targeted support for students who need the most help in improving their reading skills; and
 - Create a literacy center focused on Science of Reading strategies.

Lilly Endowment has approved a grant of up to \$60 million for this effort. These efforts will support the state's goal of having 95 percent of Indiana's students pass IREAD-3 by 2027.

"Lilly Endowment's incredible investment today represents a long-term commitment to Indiana's long-term success," said Governor Holcomb. "Reading is fundamental to each student's lifelong opportunities, and it's foundational to the core of our state's future. This immense investment will make an enduring impact on our youngest generation of Hoosiers, empowering them with fundamental skills that they will carry with them throughout their lives."

The stakes are high because more Indiana students must read well in order to support their long-term academic success and the success of the state's future. Results from Indiana's statewide third grade reading assessment, IREAD-3, indicate that nearly one in five Hoosier students (18.4 percent) have not yet mastered foundational reading skills by the end of grade three. These foundational skills set the groundwork for more robust reading comprehension, which

is essential for future learning in later grades and throughout life.

More concerning is the fact that the most recent scores from the state's summative assessment for grades three through eight (ILEARN) and NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) – tools which measure deeper reading proficiency – indicate that even more Indiana students will need additional support in order to read and comprehend increasingly complex materials, conduct research and write effectively.

In 2022, only 40.7 percent of Indiana third graders and 41.1 percent of Indiana fourth graders passed the English/Language Arts portion of ILEARN. Learning gaps in reading proficiency persist as demonstrated by 2019 NAEP results: only 17 percent of Black students, 24 percent of Hispanic students and 24 percent of students from low-income households scored proficient or better.

"Far too few Indiana third graders have the necessary reading skills that they will need for future academic and life success," said N. Clay Robbins, chairman and CEO. "Although we understand that many factors affect reading achievement, we are compelled by the research showing that Science of Reading strategies can help all students learn to read better and address equity gaps in reading. Knowing the important contributions teachers make every day in their classrooms, we want to make sure they are fully supported in this important work to help students learn to read well."

Lilly Endowment's grant, in addition to the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) investment of approximately \$26 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds, aims to provide Science of Reading focused instructional support for educators in partnership with the University of Indianapolis' Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) and the Hunt Institute.

The Science of Reading is a research-based strategy that integrates instructional practices with efforts focused around phonics,



Governor Eric Holcomb

phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Decades of child development and brain research emphasize the need for all of these components to be taught to students to ensure they have the reading skills necessary for future academic and life success.

These funds will:

- **Provide support to educators through instructional coaching in the Science of Reading** – Through funding from IDOE, 54 schools across the state are piloting the Science of Reading instructional coaching this fall, with recruitment, oversight and training provided by CELL. With the additional financial support from Lilly Endowment, IDOE expects to expand the reach of this effort to about 60 percent of elementary schools by the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Schools can opt-in to instructional coaching based on student need and school interest.

- **Provide targeted support for Indiana students experiencing the greatest reading challenges** – Many students experience reading challenges, including students in special education, students of color, students whose primary language is not English and students from low-income households.

- **Establish a literacy center at IDOE focused on the Science of Reading** – IDOE will recruit additional staff to provide Science of Reading technical assistance to schools, including resources through the Indiana Learning Lab. The literacy center will serve as a one-stop-shop to oversee literacy efforts, manage research and evaluation efforts and maintain quality technical assistance for educators.

- **Provide stipends for teachers who participate in professional**

development regarding the Science of Reading – As Indiana's early elementary school educators work to implement the Science of Reading in classrooms across the state, IDOE will provide financial incentives of up to \$1,200 per teacher to allow them to opt in to additional training.

The state's team will work with the Hunt Institute, which has nationally recognized expertise in the Science of Reading, to provide training and content for teachers. In addition, an advisory panel of national experts in the Science of Reading will regularly advise IDOE on all of these efforts.

Future teachers entering the state's elementary school system should be prepared to use Science of Reading instruction in their classrooms as well. To that end, in addition to the \$60 million grant to IDOE, Lilly Endowment will make available up to \$25 million to support Indiana's colleges and universities to incorporate or enhance Science of Reading methods into their undergraduate elementary teacher preparation programs. Lilly Endowment will provide further information about this initiative to Indiana colleges and universities in the coming weeks.

"We know that students first learn to read, and then they read to learn," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. "This shift typically occurs after a student's third grade year. However, in Indiana, too many of our students are concluding third grade without foundational reading skills. Fewer still have the reading skills necessary for long-term academic success. As a state, including our schools and community partners, we must lean-in to urgently and intentionally address this challenge. In partnership with Lilly Endowment, we have an unprecedented opportunity to provide Indiana's educators with the support and tools they need to truly move the needle for Indiana students, ensuring all students receive the foundational reading skills that make all other learning possible, both in the classroom and beyond."

Indiana Law Enforcement Teams Up for Labor Day to Reduce Impaired Driving

Drive sober or get pulled over. That's the warning state and local police agencies are issuing to drivers as Indiana gears up for its annual end-of-summer impaired driving enforcement campaign. Starting this weekend through Labor Day, officers across the state will be increasing patrols and sobriety checkpoints to crack down on those driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The extra high-visibility enforcement is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) through grants administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI).

"People who drive drunk or high aren't thinking about the repercussions," said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. "It's not just their life they're risking, but the life of the person in the car next to them and the pedestrian crossing the street. No one 'accidentally' drives impaired. It's always a choice."

Alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities have increased over the past few years, as have other dangerous driving behaviors, fueling a nationwide surge in roadway deaths. It's an unfortunate trend that doesn't appear to be slowing.

Newly released data from NHTSA shows that an estimated 9,560 people died in motor vehicle crashes in the first quarter of 2022. That's up 7% from the previous year and the highest number of deaths in 20 years for that period.

In Indiana, traffic fatalities increased by more than 20% during that time compared to 2021. If the pace continues, 2022 could be the third straight year with more fatalities, following 897 in 2020 and 931 in 2021.

Drunk driving continues to be a major factor making up roughly 25% of the state's fatal collisions, but alcohol isn't the only concern.

Research indicates drug prevalence has been on the rise among drivers during the pandemic. Last year, the number of blood samples submitted to the Indiana Department of Toxicology for drug

analysis after a crash increased by 7%.

"Since the start of the pandemic, more drivers are testing positive for THC and poly-drug use, a combination of drugs," said Robert Duckworth, ICJI Traffic Safety Director. "We're working to address that by training more officers in advanced detection techniques and providing new tools to law enforcement, but the best and easiest solution is for people to not drive high in the first place."

Driving under the influence, whether it's drugs or alcohol, is illegal in Indiana. Those who choose to drive impaired are, not only risking their life and the lives of others, but also could face an arrest, jail time, and substantial fines and attorney fees. The average drunk driving arrest costs up to \$10,000.

With officers showing zero tolerance throughout the campaign, ICJI recommends celebrating the end of summer responsibly by having a safety plan in place. Even if it's only one drink, designate a sober driver or use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely. Never drive impaired or let friends get behind the wheel if they've been drinking.

It's also important to wear a seat belt at all times. It's the best form of protection against drunk drivers. Motorists are encouraged to report suspected impaired drivers by calling 911 or contacting their local police department.

For more information on impaired driving visit www.nhtsa.gov.

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) is the state planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety and victim services. ICJI is designated as the state administering agency for distribution of federal funds and as the state Statistical Analysis Center for research. ICJI is responsible for coordinating and collaborating with local, state and federal entities to identify, assess, plan, resource and evaluate new and emerging issues facing the criminal justice and public safety spectrum. Visit www.cji.in.gov to learn more about the agency.

Thanks for reading The Times!



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Centier Bank Welcomes Andy Steffel to Carmel Business Banking Team



Michael E. Schrage, President and CEO of Centier Bank, earlier this week welcomed Andy Steffel as Vice President, Business Banker, based in the bank's Carmel office, located at 568 E. Carmel Dr.

Steffel joins Centier after spending 14 years working in roles like portfolio manager as well as a relationship manager on the commercial lending team at a regional financial institution. He looks forward to using his experience to better serve clients with commercial loans and new construction financing.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate said he was drawn to Centier because of its commitment to Indiana to remain independent and family owned for generations to come.

BANK

"I'm looking forward to growing the Centier brand and business banking portfolio in Central Indiana by providing excellent service and building and maintaining strong, lasting relationships with clients," he explained.

Ben Jefferis, Commercial Real Estate Group Manager at Centier Bank, knows Steffel will work hard to enrich clients' lives through financial guidance.

"Andy fits right into Centier's relationship-style banking philosophy," Jefferis said. "He's knowledgeable and experienced and is able to work with clients on the best programs to fit their needs."

Steffel serves as treasurer on the Board of Directors for FACE Low-Cost Animal Clinic, a non-profit that provides affordable spay/neuter and other veterinary services



Andy Steffel

in the Indianapolis area with a mission to reduce euthanasia rates and overpopulation of dogs and cats in city shelters. He resides in Carmel with his wife, Katie.

Centier Bank is Indiana's largest private, family-owned bank, having served hometown banking across communities since 1895. With a purpose of enriching lives through financial guidance for an even better tomorrow, Centier Bank currently has 58 retail locations, serving in 35 communities across 11 counties with 947 associates.

Centier Bank has ranked on Forbes' list of Best-in-State-Banks annually from 2019-2022. Additionally, Centier Bank has been among the top "Best Places to Work in Indiana" by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and received national attention by American Banker magazine as the Top Best Bank to Work For in Indiana and #2 in the U.S.A. For more information on Centier products and services, visit centier.com.

Gov. Holcomb Defends Abortion Ban Signing, Rebuffs Talent Attraction Fears



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By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz
Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb on Wednesday defended his signing of a near-total abortion ban this month and brushed off fears of business and talent attraction consequences in the wake of ominous statements from major hometown employers.

"I have yet to hear — and maybe we never will — some [companies] might just fly over the state of Indiana because of this issue [of abortion]," Holcomb told reporters. "I don't mean to act like it'll never happen — it might. But so are a lot of other issues that factor into where someone invests."

Holcomb spoke after a Q&A session hosted by the OneZone Chamber of Commerce, which serves Carmel and Fishers.

Asked if he believed Senate Enrolled Act 1 matched up with what the majority of Hoosiers want, Holcomb acknowledged deep divisions within the state.

"I believe it was progress. Some people believe it was the opposite of progress. Some people believe that it was not

enough progress," Holcomb said. "And I respect that honestly. But I would just encourage folks to be very respectful."

Progress toward what? Holcomb said that "progress" didn't mean he'd wanted to ditch the ban's narrow exceptions for rape and incest, like some fellow Republicans.

"No, it means that we made progress. And it met my threshold of progress," he said. "We'll take the next hypothetical in the months and years ahead ... This will far outlive my tenure."

Holcomb was optimistic about the state's competitiveness, despite warnings from pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Co. and engine manufacturer Cummins Inc. released after the bill's passage into law.

In a statement Aug. 6, Lilly indicated the ban would affect its talent-seeking and -keeping efforts, adding, "Given this new law, we will be forced to plan for more employment growth outside our home state."

The company has said it will honor its \$2.1 billion Boone County commit-

ment. CEO Dave Ricks made waves in April when he told a lunch crowd at the Indiana Convention Center that Indiana's low taxes and regulatory burden aren't enough to be competitive.

"We are deeply concerned about how this law impacts our people and impedes our ability to attract and retain a diverse workforce in Indiana," said Cummins spokesman Jon Mills in an August 6 statement bluntly opposing the ban.

Holcomb didn't share those reservations.

"It is full steam ahead in every business ranking," he told reporters. "It's because of site selection superiority. It's because of [the] low cost of doing business. It's because of access to talent. And we have that access to talent — we had it yesterday, we have it today and we'll have it tomorrow."

Later, he said, "I'll continue to work very closely with Lilly and love the position that Dave Ricks has got that company in — and that it's headquartered here. It's a source of pride."

Higher Education Commissioner Calls \$111M Investment 'Bold Strategy' for Early Literacy Development in Indiana

Indiana Higher Education Commissioner Chris Lowery extends his congratulations and support to Dr. Katie Jenner and the Indiana Department of Education upon the announcement of the largest-ever investment into early literacy development for Hoosier students.

"This bold strategy reflects the depth of the literacy challenge we face in Indiana, and Dr. Jenner and her team are approaching these issues in a way that is focused on the long-term, while providing an immersive and fundamental experience for our young Hoosiers today. I am confident this investment will be a



INDIANA COMMISSION for HIGHER EDUCATION

key to Indiana's success in ensuring students are better prepared for life after high school and in addressing our college-going rate and talent needs so every Hoosier has the opportunity for economic mobility throughout their lives. The Lilly Endowment, state of Indiana and the partners named within this extraordinary action plan deserve significant praise for the innovative

solutions they're putting forth to benefit Indiana's students, their families and our society," said Lowery.

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates and defines Indiana's postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana's financial aid programs, including the 21st Century Scholars early college promise scholarship, which celebrated 30 years in 2020. Learn more about the Commission's Reaching Higher in a State of Change strategic plan at www.in.gov/che.

Duke Energy Indiana Adds \$100,000 to Energy Bill Assistance Funds for Summer

Duke Energy is dedicating an additional \$100,000 in financial assistance to Indiana customers who may be struggling to pay their energy bills. Qualifying Duke Energy customers can receive up to a \$300 credit annually on their account.

The funding is made possible through Duke Energy's Share the Light Fund, which brings together customers and communities to help individuals and families in need.

"We understand the hardship some of our customers are experiencing in the current state of rising prices in all aspects of their daily lives," said Stan Pinegar, president of Duke Energy Indiana. "If a customer is struggling to pay their Duke Energy bill, the most important thing they can do is con-



tact us to discuss what options might be available to them. There are resources to help."

So far this year, Duke Energy has supported more than 1,100 Indiana households with nearly \$260,000 in energy bill assistance. Duke Energy works in partnership with the Indiana Community Action Association to distribute assistance funds. Customers should contact their local community action agency to see if they are eligible. Click here to find a listing of service providers by county.

The company recently extended interest-free

payment plans for eligible customers from three months to six months.

Duke Energy offers a number of tools and resources to help customers take control of their energy use and save money. To learn more about these programs, visit duke-energy.com/HereToHelp.

Duke Energy Indiana
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Curing Coronavirus-Ruined Seasons: Kenny Talks Purdue Players with Extra Eligibility

Matt Painter likes to talk about wanting his Purdue basketball teams to get old and stay old.

That's been easier said than done for his football counterpart. In fact, Jeff Brohm's 2019 Boilermakers had nine scholarship seniors on the roster. Five of them (future Cincinnati Bengals linebacker Markus Bailey, starting quarterback Elijah Sindelar, defensive tackle Lorenzo Neal, and running backs Tario Fuller and Richie Worship) would miss most or all of the season with injuries.

Three years later, things have changed thanks in part to COVID-19 and a top 25 recruiting class in 2019 that has mostly lived up to its ranking.

Purdue will start the 2022 season with a seventh-year starting linebacker and a sixth-year starting quarterback. Semisi Fakasiieki and Aidan O'Connell are two of 25 listed seniors on the Boilermaker football roster heading into the Sept. 1 opener against Penn State.

O'Connell isn't even the only sixth-year quarterback on the roster. Austin Burton, the former UCLA transfer, also decided to return for his free COVID



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

year.

When the NCAA ruled that the 2020 college football season would not count toward a player's year of eligibility, that opened the door for not only O'Connell, Fakasiieki and Burton but also six others who could play key roles for the 2022 Boilermakers.

Charlie Jones, the reigning Big Ten Specialist of the Year, is spending his sixth year of eligibility at Purdue after transferring from Iowa. In addition to giving a mediocre special teams unit a lift, Jones could also step into the wide receiver void left by David Bell, now with the Cleveland Browns, and Milton Wright, who could not regain academic eligibility after having to sit out the Music City Bowl.

One of the heroes of that bowl victory over

Tennessee, safety Chris Jefferson, is back thanks to the COVID bonus year. Jefferson, who recorded 15 tackles and contributed to the fourth down stop of the Vols' Jaylen Wright in overtime, is the favorite to replace Marvin Grant. Grant surprisingly transferred to Kansas during the offseason.

Purdue's kicking game would be a big question mark if not for the bonus eligibility year for Mitchell Fineran. The Samford transfer kicked 24 field goals last season, coming within one of tying Purdue's single-season record.

Linebacker Kieran Douglas, who made a career-high 14 tackles against Tennessee, is another Boilermaker using a sixth year of eligibility. So is offensive/defensive lineman D.J. Washington.

Jack Sullivan, who stepped in for All-American defensive end George Karlaftis in the Music City Bowl, would not be the bridge between Karlaftis and highly regarded freshmen Joe Strickland and Nic Caraway if not for the COVID year.

Among the other 16 listed seniors, 11 are likely starters. Five are on offense: Tight end Payne

Durham, running back King Doerue, offensive tackle Eric Miller, and wide receivers Broc Thompson and Tyrone Tracy. Probably Purdue's best NFL prospect, linebacker Jalen Graham, will be joined by tackles Branson Deen and Lawrence Johnson, safety Cam Allen, and cornerbacks Cory Trice and Jamari Brown.

If Trice isn't ready to go after missing most of 2021 with a knee injury, Indiana transfer Reese Taylor could step in. All 12 have up to two years of eligibility remaining.

So do transfers Scotty Humpich (Murray State defensive end), Sione Finau (Florida International guard) and Daniel Johnson (Kent State offensive tackle). The other listed senior, Adams State transfer cornerback Bryce Hampton, according to media reports could petition the NCAA for a sixth season as well.

With all that experience, it's no wonder that Purdue fans and Sports Illustrated expect another nine-win season, or better, in 2022. Pat Forde of Sports Illustrated ranked the Boilermakers 25th in his preseason rankings. "We found a way to not

only win football games, but we had some big wins," Brohm said at Big Ten Media Day, referring to victories at No. 2 Iowa and at home against third-ranked Michigan State. "It showed our team, recruits, our fans, that we had the ability to play at a really good level if we do things correctly."

The Boilermakers will support those seniors with talent from that Top 25 class in 2019. In addition to Graham, Allen and Doerue, redshirt juniors Cam Craig and Spencer Holstege are part of a suddenly veteran offensive line. Holstege was an honorable All-Big Ten selection in 2021.

Wide receiver T.J. Sheffield caught 36 passes for 325 yards and five touchdowns a year ago while stepping into the role formerly held by All-American Rondale Moore.

A potential breakout star, redshirt junior tight end Garrett Miller, was lost for the season with a torn ACL during practice. That opens the door for classmate Paul Piferi, a converted quarterback, to play a bigger role.

Former four-star wide receiver Mershawn Rice has been slowed by inju-

ries throughout his Purdue career. When healthy, the 6-2 Rice has looked capable of living up to his high recruiting reputation.

Two returning starters don't fall into either the expanded senior class or the 2019 recruits. Redshirt sophomore defensive end Kydran Jenkins matched Karlaftis with a team-high five sacks last season. Junior center Gus Hartwig, a two-time honorable mention All-Big Ten selection, enters his third year as a starter.

Redshirt freshman guard Marcus Mbow (pronounced BOW) is projected to start. Mbow is not a stranger to Big Ten football, though, having played the maximum four games to retain freshman eligibility in 2021.

"I think we have a great group of young men who are hungry," Brohm said. "They play with a chip on their shoulder, they work extremely hard, they're out to prove themselves."

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.

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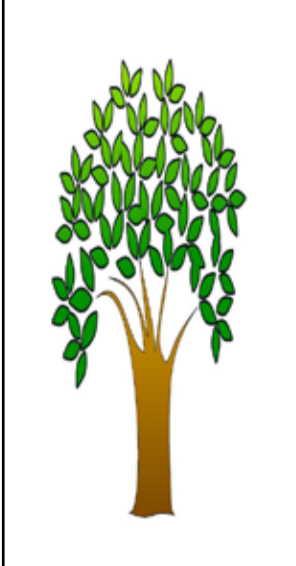
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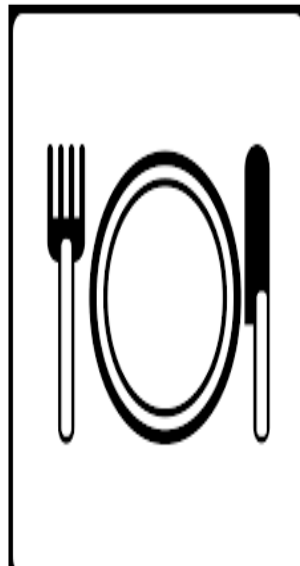
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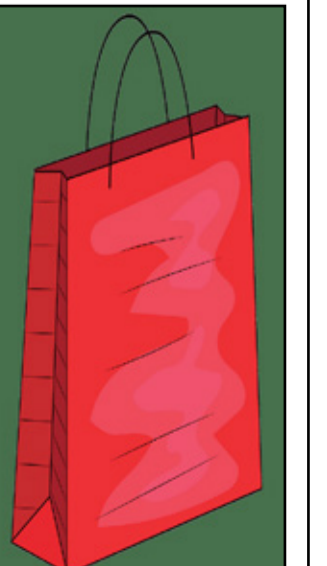
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BETSY From Page A1



Photo courtesy of Legacy Keepers Music

The String-Time on the Square series features the bluegrass band, Rock Bottom Boys of Madison County (above), at 6:30 p.m. Saturday on the Hamilton County Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville, with opener and intermission act being Noblesville High School junior Addie McMillan.

younger, with proceeds to benefit Young Eagles going to EAA Academy in Oshkosh, Wis. Also, coming up, kids can enjoy free 20-minute airplane rides at 10 a.m. Sunday during a Young Eagles Rally, with registration online at yeday.org.

4. Shred Day at Hamilton County Household Hazardous Waste Center is 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday or when the trucks are full.

5. Noblesville Farmers Market is open 8 a.m. to noon, at Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville. Market continues every Saturday this summer through Oct. 15. 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. The First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville's seventh annual Red Geranium Artisan Market is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and features a variety of local, tri-state and international artisans, food, live music in a festive open-air environment.

7. 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.

8. Ride the Nickel Plate Express little red Caboose on Saturday, with tickets at <https://nickelplateexpress.com/>

9. Hamilton County

the weekly Saturday night Cruise-in. Lawn chairs and old-car conversations invited.

11. Come out to Forest Park Aquatic Center in Noblesville and enjoy movies on the video board during the Flix and Float movie nights select Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., "Dog," sponsored by Lew's Plumbing, on Saturday; 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 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. 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/>

12. The sixth annual Noblesville BrewBQ is 4 p.m. Saturday at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville.

13. 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 next show at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Rock Bottom Boys of Madison County, opener and intermission act is Noblesville High School



Photo courtesy of Charlie Hanover of Carmel Community Players

Carmel Community Players presents "Shipwrecked: An Entertainment!" directed by Lori Raffel, at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at The Cat in Carmel.

mel Gazebo.

16. Join Noblesville Main Street's Main Street Pop-Up Mixer from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 25 at Primeval Brewing Co. in downtown Noblesville.

17. 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 p.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 26 and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 27.

18. 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.

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

20. Enjoy Concerts at the Commons 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on select Saturdays through September at Federal Hill Commons. Concert schedule: Aug. 27, Nightrain (Guns & Roses tribute) and The Cosmic Situation; Sept.

"Somebody's Daughter."

22. Noblesville Main Street's Music & All That Jazz, sponsored by Gordon Insurance partners, will feature the Juan Douglas Trio from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sept. 2 on the Courthouse Square, with the Chocolate Trail 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the shops and restaurants in downtown Noblesville; and the musical lineup is still being finalized for 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 7, with Fall Fest and Soup Cookoff from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., on the Courthouse Square.

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

24. Save the date: Noblesville Preservation Alliance's 35th annual Historic Home Tour is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 17 in Old Town Noblesville, with advance tickets available online only, and tickets available day of tour at the Hamilton County Historical Society in front of the Old Jail and at a ticket table at Preservation Hall on Logan Street.

25. Save the date: Feeding Families Hamilton County will play host for the second year to an all-day Music Festival, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 1 at Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville, with food vendors, live music featuring Fast Cadillac, bounce house, silent auction. Bring nonperishable food items to donate to the Feeding Families local pantries

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

ARROWOOD From Page A1

Hamilton Heights. Scott Swan, an award-winning news anchor at WTHR-13 was our guest speaker and he won the hearts of Husky nation. His powerful, personal, and heartfelt message resonated with the audience. Swan, a consummate professional with an irresistible smile, was polished, humble, and inspiring. For most, it may have been the first time to meet Swan in person, but his impact will be long lasting.

We are pleased to share that Hamilton Heights Elementary School earned the second highest IREAD-3 scores among schools in Hamilton County which just happens to be the county with the highest IREAD scores in the state. While the progress is a testament to a focused, dedicated effort for increased proficiency and student achievement, we know that our work is not done. We are fired up and plan to keep this positive momentum of student-focused growth, success, and greater overall outcomes going strong.

Speaking of good news, in a time of record teacher shortages in schools throughout our nation, Heights remains a destination of choice for educators. It is my pleasure to welcome the newest additions to our team. We are grateful for the educators who have chosen Heights to begin or continue their career in public education. I can't wait to see their impact inside and outside the classroom.

HHES:

- Bruce Bubenzer (Kindergarten)
- Amanda Davis (Special Education Resource)
- Caitlin Kinkead (1st Grade)
- Megan Kinney (1st Grade)
- Christi McDonald Oliver (1st Grade)
- Lisa McDonald (Special Education Resource)
- Brittney Pearson (1st Grade)
- Cara Woodruff (Speech Language Pathologist)

HHMS:

- Erin Allen (8th Science)
- Elizabeth 'Libby' Perry (6th Grade English

- & Social Studies)
- Samantha Rash (7th PE/Health)
- Bonny Stites (7th/8th Grade Math)
- Marcy Williams (6th Grade Science)
- HHHS:**
- Emma Burgan (Special Education)
- Kaitlyn Perry (Social Studies)
- Kevin Sheets (Construction)
- Krista Shields (Special Education)
- Audrey Summers (Social Studies)
- Corporation:**
- Rebecca Nickless (Special Education Director)

I would like to give a shout out to Arnett Cooper, Vice President of Hamilton Heights School Corporation's Board of Education, who was recently named to the Indiana State Board Association's (ISBA) Exemplary Honor Roll. Arnie, a 12-year member of the Board, earned the Level 4 Exemplary distinction in the ISBA's Governance Awards (EGA's) program. His commitment to student success, educational leadership, and outstanding governance at Heights is beyond compare. Congratulations!

Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation's (HHEF) latest newsletter is hot off the virtual press. Read about the impactful difference this organization is making for students and in our classrooms across our campus online at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GBI-lhRh1oOpg-57IO7IFO-HacxZuN3fNs/view> and consider supporting HHEF by linking your Kroger card, or through your Amazon purchases.

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for a successful start to the new school year. The passion, energy, involvement, and support of our staff and community is what makes Heights a celebrated and successful district. It remains my honor and privilege to serve as your Superintendent. I look forward to a successful year ahead! #WeAreHuskies

Dr. Derek Arrowood is the Superintendent of the Hamilton Heights School Corporation.

RECALL From Page A1

High School Band Booster president. "The new printer has worked with us to make sure tickets are printed and distributed correctly and the integrity of our raffle remains intact. We want to thank the community for their understanding, patience and continued support of NHS Band as we work to correct this unfortunate situation."

The winning 2022 Pot of

Black and Gold 50/50 Raffle ticket will be drawn & announced on October 5th, 2022 live on Facebook/NoblesvilleBandRaffle. The winning ticket number will be posted on our website (NoblesvilleBand.org/Raffle) for 30 days after the drawing.

For additional questions please contact the Noblesville Band Booster raffle committee Raffle@noblesvilleband.org

WARINER From Page A1

less), "One More Last Chance" (Vince Gill) and "She Couldn't Change Me" (Montgomery-Gentry).

- David Malloy's hits include "Drivin' My Life Away" (Eddie Rabbitt), "Suspicious" (Eddie Rabbitt; also Tim McGraw) and "Love Will Turn You Around" (Kenny Rogers)
- Shania Twain recorded

many of her self-penned hits, including "You're Still The One," "Come On Over" and "Forever And For Always."

- Steve Wariner popularized many of his own compositions, including "You Can Dream Of Me," "Where Did I Go Wrong" and "Holes In The Floor Of Heaven."

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FRIDAY

Business

Notes and

NEWS

Friday, Aug. 19, 2022

A7

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Indiana Farmland Prices Soar to Record Highs in 2022

The Purdue Farmland Value and Cash Rents Survey suggests Indiana farmland prices grew at a record pace between June 2021 and June 2022, exceeding previous highs set in 2021. Statewide, top-quality farmland averaged \$12,808 per acre, up 30.9% from the same time last year. The average per acre price of average-quality farmland similarly increased by 30.1% to \$10,598. Poor quality farmland prices exhibited the largest increase of 34.0% to \$8,631.

“Multiple factors are influencing the increase in farmland prices, including positive net farm incomes, relatively strong commodity prices, inflation, and high farmer liquidity,” said Todd H. Kuethe, Purdue associate professor and the Schrad-

er Endowed Chair in Farmland Economics and survey author. “However, rising interest rates are associated with increased costs of borrowing, which put downward pressure on purchases financed through mortgages.”

Statewide cash rental rates also increased across all land quality classes in 2022. Average cash rents increased by 11.5% for top-quality land, 10.8% for average-quality land, and 13.2% for poor-quality land. The increases in cash rents were the highest observed since the 2011–2012 period. Across the three quality grades, cash rents also reached a record high in 2022 at \$300 per acre for high-quality farmland, \$252 for average-quality, and \$207 for poor-quality land. At the

regional level, the largest cash rental rate increases for top- and average-quality land were in the Northeast (21.3% and 13.2%, respectively), and the largest increase for poor-quality land was in the Southwest region (18.6%). Across all three quality grades, the highest per acre average cash rent was observed in the West Central region.

While rental rates across all three quality grades increased in almost all regions, the cash rental rates grew at a slower rate than market prices. As a result, rent as a share of land value declined relative to 2021.

The price appreciation rates for farmland transitioning out of agricultural production or sold for recreational purposes surpassed the previous record

growth rates observed in 2011. Statewide, the average price of transitional land was up 36.5% from June 2021, with an average price per acre of \$24,240. Recreational land prices grew by 21.8% to an average per acre price of \$9,121. For the remainder of 2022, respondents expect transitional land to increase modestly by 2.3%, while the value of recreational land is expected to hold relatively stable.

For more in-depth analysis on the survey, the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture will host a free webinar 1-2 p.m. ET Aug. 24. Join Purdue agricultural economists Todd Kuethe, James Mintert and Michael Langemeier as they break down the Purdue Farmland Values Survey and USDA

Land Values report, discuss marketing strategies for 2022 corn and soybean crops, and make projections for 2023 corn and soybean returns. Register for the free webinar at <https://purdue.ag/landvalues2022>.

Purdue’s Department of Agricultural Economics conducts the Purdue Farmland Value and Cash Rent Survey each June and publishes it in the Purdue Agricultural Economics Report. The survey is produced through the cooperation of numerous professionals knowledgeable of Indiana’s farmland market. These professionals provided an estimate of the market value for bare poor, average, and top-quality farmland in December 2021, June 2022, and a forecast value for December 2022.

Inflation Remains Number One Challenge Facing Small Business

NFIB’s Small Business Optimism Index rose 0.4 points in July to 89.9, however, it is the sixth consecutive month below the 48-year average of 98.

Thirty-seven percent of small business owners reported that inflation was their single most important problem in operating their business, an increase of three points from June and the highest level since the fourth quarter of 1979.

“The uncertainty in the small business sector is climbing again as owners continue to manage historic inflation, labor shortages, and supply chain disruptions,” said Bill Dunkelberg, NFIB Chief Economist. “As we move into the second half of 2022, owners will continue to manage their businesses into a very uncertain future.”

State-specific data isn’t available, but State Director Natalie Robinson said, “Indiana’s small businesses are determined to get through this, but they’re cautious. They’re not going to make any unnecessary investments until they’re confident the economy is once again moving in the right direction.”

Key findings of the national survey include:

- Owners expecting better business conditions over the next six months increased nine points from June’s record low level to a net-negative 52%. Expectations for better business

conditions have deteriorated every month from January to June of this year.

- Forty-nine percent of owners reported job openings they could not fill in the current period, down one point from June but historically very high.

- Seasonally adjusted, a net 37% plan price hikes, down 12 points.

- The net percent of owners raising average selling prices decreased seven points to a net 56% (seasonally adjusted). The decline is significant but the net percent still raising prices is inflationary.

- The net percent of owners who expect real sales to be higher decreased one point from June to a net negative 29%.

- The Uncertainty Index increased 12 points from last month to 67.

As reported in NFIB’s monthly jobs, a net 48% reported raising compensation and a net 25% plan to raise compensation in the next three months. Nine percent of owners cited labor costs as their top business problem and 21% said that labor quality was their top business problem, remaining in second place behind inflation.

Fifty-one percent of owners reported capital outlays in the last six months. Of those making expenditures, 36% reported spending on new equipment, 21% acquired vehicles, and

14% improved or expanded facilities. Nine percent spent money for new fixtures and furniture and 5% acquired new buildings or land for expansion. Twenty-two percent of owners plan capital outlays in the next few months.

A net negative 5% of all owners (seasonally adjusted) reported higher nominal sales in the past three months. The net percent of owners expecting higher real sales volumes decreased one point to a net negative 29%, the second weakest quarterly measure ever.

The net percent of owners reporting inventory increases rose five points to 1%. Not seasonally adjusted, 18% reported increases in stocks and 15% reported reductions as solid sales reduced inventories at many firms.

Thirty-two percent of owners reported that supply chain disruptions have had a significant impact on their business. Another 36% report a moderate impact and 23% report a mild impact. Only 9% report no impact from recent supply chain disruptions.

A net 2% of owners viewed current inventory stocks as “too low” in July, down three points from June. By industry, shortages are reported most frequently in manufacturing (20%), wholesale (20%), retail (19%), non-professional ser-

vices (14%), and transportation (14%). A net 1% of owners plan inventory investment in the coming months down three points from June.

The net percent of owners raising average selling prices decreased seven points from June to a net 56% (seasonally adjusted). Unadjusted, 8% reported lower average selling prices and 65% reported higher average prices. Price hikes were the most frequent in wholesale (80% higher, 8% lower), manufacturing (73% higher, 7% lower), construction (73% higher, 4% lower), and retail (72% higher, 6% lower). Seasonally adjusted, a net 37% plan price hikes, down 12 points. The seasonal adjustments for price plans and actual prices were revised. The data in this report reflect those changes.

The frequency of positive profit trends was a net negative 26%, down one point from June. Among owners reporting lower profits, 40% blamed the rise in the cost of materials, 17% blamed weaker sales, 10% cited labor costs, 10% cited lower prices, 4% cited the usual seasonal change, and 2% cited higher taxes or regulatory costs. For owners reporting higher profits, 42% credited sales volumes, 26% cited usual seasonal change, and 16% cited higher prices.

Three percent of owners reported that all their borrowing needs were not satisfied.

Twenty-five percent reported all credit needs met and 62% said they were not interested in a loan. A net 5% reported their last loan was harder to get than in previous attempts. One percent reported that financing was their top business problem. A net 19% of owners reported paying a higher rate on their most recent loan.

The NFIB Research Center has collected Small Business Economic Trends data with quarterly surveys since the 4th quarter of 1973 and monthly surveys since 1986. Survey respondents are randomly drawn from NFIB’s membership. The report is released on the second Tuesday of each month. This survey was conducted in July 2022.

About NFIB
For almost 80 years, NFIB has been the voice of small business, advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven. Since our founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, please visit www.NFIB.com

USDA Invests \$14.5M in Taxpayer Education, Program Outreach Efforts for Farmers



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing in two outreach and education efforts for farmers, including those who are new to farming or who have been historically underserved by USDA programs. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is investing \$10 million for agriculture-oriented taxpayer education as well as \$4.5 million in outreach for the Conservation Reserve Program’s Transition Incentives Program (CRP TIP), which helps with access to land for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. Both efforts help advance equity and access to USDA programs and agriculture.

“Running a farm operation is tough, and we are working to help meet gaps where farmers need assistance,” said Julia A. Wickard, FSA Executive Director in Indiana. “First, filing taxes for an agricultural operation can be challenging and many agricultural producers may not have the funds to hire accountants or tax professionals to assist, especially for new and historically underserved produc-

ers. This new initiative offers support to producers in navigating tax season. Second, we want to make sure producers are aware of our many program options, and Conservation Reserve Program Transition Incentives Program (CRP TIP) provides a unique opportunity for producers with expiring CRP land to help bring new farmers into the fold.”

Taxpayer Education
FSA’s \$10 million investment funds the new Taxpayer Education and Asset Protection Initiative. As part of the first phase of this work, FSA has established a partnership with the University of Arkansas and the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee. This partnership is establishing hubs for taxpayer education while developing and delivering tax education resources to farmers, ranchers, agricultural educators and tax professionals through partnerships with stakeholders and minority-serving institutions across the country.

Many producers are not aware that receiving USDA program funds for activities, such as conservation contracts, disaster assistance payments, and pandemic relief are taxable income, and need support to assist with short- and long-term business planning associated with their program payments. To address these issues, FSA is investing in partnerships with the University

of Arkansas, the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee and other partners to develop and deliver taxpayer education to producers to help them better understand the important relationships between federal income taxes and USDA farm programs. The next phases of this work will include a suite of online resources for producers, continuing education opportunities for tax attorneys and CPAs, as well as cooperative agreement funding and training opportunities for stakeholder organizations.

“Many rural areas lack legal and certified accounting services, and agricultural producers need additional knowledge and/or resources to integrate tax planning into their financial planning,” said Ronald L. Rainey, Assistant Vice President of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. “This partnership will help the University of Arkansas and USDA work together to overcome inequalities in tax services to serve agriculture communities.”

These tax education partnerships focus on addressing the immediate needs of producers by delivering agricultural tax and asset protection training and information to farmers as well as developing infrastructure to support rural taxpayer education and tax preparation for limited resource, beginning, and historically underserved farmers for the

long term.

Tax Estimator Tool
Additionally, USDA is updating and expanding online tax resources for producers, including the new Tax Estimator Tool, an interactive spreadsheet that producers can download to estimate tax liability. It is for informational and educational purposes only and should not be considered tax or legal advice. Producers may need to work with a tax professional to determine the correct information to be entered in the Tax Estimator Tool. The tool is available at ruraltax.org.

Registration is also open for a webinar on Using the Tax Calculator to estimate your tax burden. The webinar will be held on Aug. 15 at 2 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Previous webinars, fact sheets and other resources are available on farmers.gov/taxes.

Available Funding for CRP TIP Outreach

TIP provides financial incentives to CRP participants with expiring contracts, if they sell or rent the land to a beginning producer, veteran farmer, or a producer from a socially disadvantaged group.

FSA is making available up to \$4.5 million in funding and expects to award 15 to 20 partner and stakeholder organizations to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to promote

awareness and understanding of CRP TIP among agricultural communities, in particular those who are military veterans, new to farming, or historically underserved.

Eligible stakeholders include Federally-recognized Indian tribal organizations, State governments, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and higher education institutions. Interested stakeholders may submit one-to-two-year proposals and must submit their applications via Grants.gov by October 14, 2022.

Deputy Under Secretary Montaña added: “This technical assistance funding will be critical in helping our external stakeholders connect contract holders to beginning producers, and make sure landowners understand TIP.”

CRP TIP Training for Staff
FSA will also train field employees on CRP TIP to improve and increase staff and producer awareness and support participation. Training will help staff understand the larger issues that can affect landowners’ considerations around CRP TIP and allow them to further help producers.

More Information
Producers interested in CRP TIP and other USDA programs should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for programs.

Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

FRIDAY

Voice of our PEOPLE

The Times of Noblesville

Friday, Aug. 19, 2022

A8

Timmons is Sick of Hearing about Donald Trump

It seems a lot of my scribbles lately have been heavy on the heavy stuff. I don't know what it is. The more I look around at the world, the more I worry for my grandpups. Still, there's a limit as to how much I can rant and rave, and most certainly on how much you are willing to read.

So let's lighten up a bit this week, shall we?

One of our readers was kind enough to send me an e-mail with a bunch of thought-provoking and smile-inducing images and words. I take no credit for any of these, but they are certainly worth sharing. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.

I'm old enough to remember when paper bags were being blamed for the destruction of the trees – and plastic bags were the solution.



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

Kind of makes you wonder what "common wisdom" will tell us in 40 or so years, doesn't it?

I'm so old I remember when multiplication was called "Times Tables."

Oh, me too! And I remember even more a few nuns at Our Lady of Grace losing patience with one young moron, uh, me, who couldn't seem to grasp the table involving sevens!

I'm so old that when I was a kid we actually had

to win to get a trophy.

Sadly, that no longer means you're THAT old!

When I was a kid I didn't need an Elf on the Shelf to motivate me during Christmas time. I had a belt on the shelf that motivated me to behave the whole year through.

Didn't we all!

Some of y'all never held a flashlight for your dad when he was working on the car . . . and had him yell at you for not shining it in the right place. And it shows.

What I wouldn't give to have another day of working on the car in the garage with my dad, or my grandpa.

This one just has a picture of an old man and a young kid walking arm in arm and says: Spend time with your elders. Not everything can be

found on Google.

Amen!

Y'all enjoy those 20s, 30s and 40s, because in your 50s that check engine light is gonna come on.

Amen, again!

If Jesus tried to feed the 5,000 today, he'd hear: I can't eat fish. I'm vegan. Is that bread gluten free? Has the fish been tested for mercury?

It'd be funny if it weren't the truth.

One minute you're 21, staying up all night drinking beer, eating pizza and doing sketchy stuff just for fun. Then in the blink of an eye, you're 50, drinking water, eating kale and you can't do any sketchy stuff because you pulled a muscle putting on your socks.

Those pulled muscles hurt!

I survived playing in the mud, getting spanked, rusty play-grounds, second-hand smoke, toy guns, lead paint, no seatbelts, no helmets and drinking from the hose?

And most of those things were pretty darn fun!

One of my favorites is a photo of a toy cap gun. You remember the cowboy six shooters that had the roll of caps inside? The caption simply says: I can smell this photo.

So can I!

And my favorite one: Kids today will never know the joy of laying around and reading the Sunday funnies.

I'm sure every generation looks back and feels similar. I have no idea where things are going and what kind of world those aforementioned grandpups will grow up in. But one

thing I do know, I don't think we're in a better world than the one our grandparents grew up in. And unless we made some course corrections pretty quick, I'm pretty sure it ain't getting any better.

So I hope you'll bear with me when I harp on some of the silliness that goes on today. If we all say enough is enough, then maybe your grandpups and mine have a shot.

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.

Brian was Employee of the Nanosecond



JOHN MARLOWE
With the Grain

Brian called the other day. My friend wanted to let me know that, after two years of retirement, he was going back into the workforce. It didn't surprise me completely, because I was just as shocked two years ago when Brian decided to retire early.

At 57, I thought he had several more years of productive work life ahead of him. But his job had become boring, and his boss was a jerk, and -- well, you know. There just comes a time. Brian didn't need to work, and he sure didn't need the stress.

What really surprised me the most about his recent announcement is where Brian decided to return to work. Brian is working retail. To top it off, he's working for one of those "everything for a dollar and a quarter" discount stores near his home.

"You've got to be nuts!" I said to the man whose most recent employment brought him a six-figure engineer's salary, and who once owned an eight-figure construction business in the early 2000s. "Those are some of the most put-upon, least respected, most under-appreciated employees on the planet. What makes you want to join them?"

"It's fun," he said. "Fun?" I said. "What makes long hours on your feet, surly customers and low pay fun?"

"I just make it fun," he said. Now, don't get me

wrong. Retail jobs are as noble as any other, as long as you love what you are doing. I just get the feeling that most people in retail don't. I'm certain Brian doesn't. That's because I know the secret that obviously his new employer failed to pick up on:

Brian hates people. I know what you're thinking. You think I'm exaggerating. Probably I mean Brian doesn't like crowds. Maybe he despises folks who don't agree with him. Perhaps he's just perturbed by annoying people.

Nope. I mean he hates people. Period.

Give Brian a set of blueprints, a scale, maybe a calculator and a pen he'll grow your business five-fold. However, I wouldn't dare let him near the "trust fall" game on an employee bonding retreat.

"Oh. You mean I'm supposed to catch her?" I can hear him say.

Young people, old people, shy people, bold people, they all rate the same with Brian. If it were up to him, people would have the life expectancy of mayflies. Once we concluded the birthing process, we'd all die off.

"So, how do you make your job fun," I asked, noting to myself that it had been a long time since I'd had a good cringe.

"Well," he said, "the store's owner is so desperate for employees, I get away with murder."

Oh, dear heavens! Even I didn't think he'd go that far.

"If my boss wants me to do something that I don't want to do," Brian said. "I just tell him 'no'."

I'm beginning to understand why the shelves are never stocked in those discount stores. "OK, I can see some enjoyment in bossing around your boss, but that still means you've got to deal with the general public at the counter," I said.

"Sure! But that's where

the most fun is," he said. "I guess I just don't see it."

"Well, like the other day," Brian began. "A man came in to buy some antacids. I could tell he was drunk, so I thought I'd have some fun. I picked up the large package, and ran it across the scanner. But instead of putting it in the bag, I set it down on the same side of the counter he set it on. I picked it up the second time, and scanned it again. I did this over and over. You should have seen the man's eyes when I told him he owed \$217.43!"

"Sheesh, Brian! And he went for that?"

"I threw in some sample-sized men's deodorant for free, and he left the store thanking me."

"Okay, but you can't get away with that every day, right?" I hoped.

"Naw, you have to be creative. Our scanners are old and unsophisticated. If there is a multiple item purchase, we can't just scan one item, and then type the quantity on the keypad. We have to scan every item individually."

"Now, that would bore me," I said.

"Not if you make a game out of it," Brian said. "Just Tuesday, a lady brought 75 pencil erasers to the counter, on sale for Back-to-School. I proceeded to scan them one at a time. Several minutes into the scan -- with concern on my face -- I stopped. I looked the lady in the eyes, and said 'I count 37 so far. How many do you have?'"

"I can't believe you didn't get in trouble," I said.

"Well, the boss did call me into his office that day," Brian admitted.

"I'm not surprised," I said.

"They want to make me Manager. Profits are up 18 percent this month."

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

Wolfsie Wants to Know if Have You Herd of G.O.A.T.s?



DICK WOLFSIE
Life in a Nutshell

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 the 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 important 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.

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FRIDAY

Voice of our PEOPLE

Ask Rusty – What are My Wife's Benefits While I'm Living and as My Widow?

Dear Rusty: I will be 70 in January and my wife will be 65 in February, at which time we will both go on Medicare. I am currently working, and my approximate Social Security benefit will be around \$2,900. My wife was a stay-at-home mom and, therefore, has minimal Social Security benefits on her own. At 65 she is eligible for \$870 and at full retirement age will qualify for \$990. A few questions: if she starts to draw benefits at 65, what would be her total spousal benefit? If she waited until her full retirement age, what would the amount be? Of greater concern, what would be her survivor benefit given the same criteria as mentioned above. Signed: *Planning Ahead*



ASK RUSTY
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

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Dear Planning Ahead: Based on the Social Security amounts in your email, your wife is eligible for a spousal benefit while you are both living. Her spouse benefit when she claims will consist of her own Social Security retirement benefit plus a spousal boost to bring her payment to her spousal entitlement. Spouse benefits are computed using full retire-

ment age (FRA) benefit amounts, so if your age 70 benefit is "around \$2900" then your FRA (age 66) benefit amount (known as your "primary insurance amount") should be around \$2,225. Your wife's base spousal boost would be the difference between her FRA amount and 50% of your FRA amount, so her total benefit, if taken at her full retirement age, would be about \$1,112

(her \$990 plus a \$122 spousal boost). But taken at age 65, both her own benefit and her spousal boost would be reduced. At age 65 your wife's total benefit would be around \$963 (her own \$870 plus a reduced spousal boost of about \$93).

Regarding your wife's survivor benefit as your widow, if she has reached her full retirement age (66 years and

8 months), at your death she would get the same amount you were getting when you died – the \$2,900 you will get by claiming at age 70. Your wife's survivor benefit as your widow will replace the smaller spousal amount she was receiving while you were both living. Since your wife will be already collecting a spousal benefit from you, if she has reached her FRA when you pass your wife will be automatically awarded her survivor benefit at that time. If she hasn't yet reached her FRA when you pass, the spousal portion of her benefit will stop but she can request a reduced survivor benefit early. In that case her early survivor benefit will be actuarially reduced by .396% for each month before her FRA it is claimed. If you were

to die in the month your wife turns 65, her early survivor benefit would be about \$2668. One final thought about Medicare: if you continue to work and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services), thus avoiding the Part B premium until you stop working. If your wife is covered under your "creditable" employer healthcare plan, she can also defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until that coverage ends ("creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants). However, enrolling in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services), for which there is no premium, is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65.

Friendship, Not War, is the Antidote to Niceness

By Lewis Waha
Christians are known for being nice, or at least trying to be. But some reject niceness, saying it's outmoded. They see a fool's errand in trying to persuade a culture that has turned decisively hostile against Christians. The case has been well articulated by pastor and professor James Wood. Through essays and other media, he's advocated against "winsomeness" and in favor of alternative values: courage, clarity, and resilience. But Wood's campaign sparked an ugly debate at its outset. Journalist David French criticized Wood's essay "How I Evolved on Tim Keller" as justifying "cruelty and malice." Podcaster Skye Jethani decried critics of winsomeness as fearful of the broader culture. In return, blogger Rod Dreher identified contemporary Christian niceness as a form of denial

and "cowardice." Such dissension among serious Christians is disappointing but unsurprising. Whatever its merits, Wood's essay came with tribal baggage. First, its given title implicitly disses widely respected evangelist Tim Keller as an old dinosaur to evolve beyond. Second, the essay functions as a deconversion story. It rallies members of one tribe based on their shared negative experiences with another. As Wood tells it, he left a tribe of resentful "Kellerites," who swear by Keller's "winsome approach" to engaging the culture. By being pleasant and avoiding offending others, they hope to "gain a hearing" for the gospel. But wrongfully, they have extended the imperative to not offend to politics. As a result, they bind the consciences of American Christians who voted for the offensive Donald

Trump in 2016. Perhaps Kellerites' false judgments against their fellow Christians are real and well documented. But charity requires setting aside these "atrocious stories," as James Davison Hunter might call them. Only then can we grasp a finer point in Wood's follow up essay, which gestures toward politics as the "prudential pursuit of justice." He thinks Christians on the center-right could learn from the Christian left because they get "the nature of politics." As he puts it: "Most Christians on the left are passionate about the pursuit of justice (as they perceive it), and they are not overwrought in concern about how their political actions will help or hinder the reception of the gospel message." It's sensible enough that for Wood, passion and the willingness to offend for justice's sake are essential

to politics. What's questionable though is whether the Christian left's passion and forthrightness are good examples of this. After all, they aren't major players in American politics. Playing second fiddle to their allies the secular left, they are sheltered from the costs of being offensive or decrying their perceived enemies. By contrast, Christians at the center-right pull much more of their own coalition's weight; emulating the left's "passion" would turn off moderate allies who make the difference between electoral victory and defeat. Political prudence then, cuts both ways. One must believe enough in one's own cause to advocate with verve. But one must also persuade allies who don't share the same viewpoint or even speak the same political language. This latter part of political prudence belongs to

the ideal of civic friendship. Persuasion is key here. Through it, citizens arrive together at truth and a shared vision of the common good. That vision includes perpetuating "the city" as a unified polity, not splintering it by civil war or civil divorce. And since the bloody wars of religion of the 16th and 17th centuries, civic friends have rejected totalizing victories that would exile the vanquished. Christians and others have taken this modern ideal of tolerance for granted over the course of American history. But we've wavered in recent years, as some are tempted to return the old vision of politics as enmity and total war. To be sure, there really is such a thing as being too nice. But niceness is a strawman, not a serious position. Populists cast their bromides against it, urging people to grow a

spine and shake off their denial that the other side is pure evil. Ultimately, rhetoric against niceness diverts us from discussing the common ground we share on kindness. Kindness always admits of speaking hard truths in love. At the same time, not every effort to avoid offending others is cowardice. As the proverb goes, discretion is the better part of valor. Courage and passion to confront enemies fall short if they are only in service of waging politics as war. The pluralistic reality we find ourselves in requires that we practice the discipline of civic friendship as well. Then we might not just pursue justice but achieve an actual measure of it. *Lewis Waha holds an M.A. in Christian Apologetics from Biola University and is a freelance writer focusing on faith in the public square.*

Don't Look to California for Ideas on Addressing Homelessness

By Wayne Winegarden and Kerry Jackson
No matter how bad the homelessness problem looks in other metropolitan areas, they pale compared to California's. While the state accounts for not quite 12% of the U.S. population, roughly 28% of the nation's homeless are in California. The lesson: Don't copy the Golden State's policies for mitigating homelessness – they simply don't work. California's homeless population was not quite 139,000 in 2007. Within seven years, it had fallen to about 114,000. From there, it grew sharply to more than 161,000 in 2020. Over the same period, the total homeless in the rest of the states fell

from a little more than 508,000 to 419,000. This happened even though California's economy expanded about 50% faster than the rest of the country from 2014 to 2020. Clearly California does not have the answers. In April 2020, as the coronavirus pandemic struck, Project Roomkey was introduced in California. The program's mission was to house the homeless in hotel and motel rooms, as well as trailers, to help flatten the curve of viral infections and "preserve hospital capacity," said the governor's office. From Project Roomkey grew Project Homekey, which directed state and

federal funds for the purchase and renovation of hotels and motels, which would then become permanent housing for the homeless. While well-intentioned, both programs have a structural flaw: they follow the failed "housing first" approach. Yes, the homeless need homes. But housing first, which has been the official state policy since 2016, is better described as housing-and-nothing-else. According to a Cicero Institute study, attempts to alleviate homelessness based on housing first appear "to attract more people from outside the homeless system, or keep them in the homelessness system, because they are

drawn to the promise of a permanent and usually rent-free room." Housing first is nothing more than a husk of a program because it doesn't treat the root causes of homelessness, which for many are addiction or mental illness, and often both. Despite the shortcomings of housing first, California's commitment to Project Homekey has racked up billions in expenditures of federal and state dollars without having much if anything to show for all the spending. In Los Angeles, where a third of the state's 161,548 homeless are located, Project Homekey has not met expectations. The 15,000 rooms that were set as the goal were never provided,

while the excessive costs of Homekey have made it unsustainable. A different set of problems has beset homeless housing in San Francisco. An investigation by the Chronicle found that the city's effort to shelter the homeless operate "with little oversight or support," which has led to "disastrous" results. Rodents infest rooms, crime and violence is common, and death, often from overdoses, a frequent visitor. Nevertheless, the city, as well as other Bay Area communities where Project Homekey has shown itself to be insufficient, remain dedicated to the program and its poorly aimed spending. Here's some advice

for lawmakers across the country looking to beat homelessness: don't ignore effective innovations from the private sector that are changing people's lives. Treating the addictions and mental health struggles that are at the core of the problem must be a priority. California continues to insist its way is the only way. Until that changes, the state has nothing to offer other states in their struggle to reduce homelessness. *Dr. Wayne Winegarden and Kerry Jackson are co-authors of the new Pacific Research Institute brief "Project Homekey Provides No Way Home for California's Homeless." Download a copy at www.pacificresearch.org.*

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