

**▶ TODAY'S VERSE**

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.



**▶ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY**

People who call our community their own.

**What makes Mya Ponto smile?** "Being around my friends and hanging out with people from school," said the then 14-year-old Noblesville resident. Today's feature is a look back at one of The Times' previous Faces of Hamilton County. She was found in summer 2021 working a summer job at the concession stand at Forest Park Aquatic Center, which celebrated its 90th anniversary in June 2021. Favorite food to make and eat? "Pretzels." She is the daughter of Matt Ponto and Amy Ponto and has a then 10-year-old brother, Camren. Forest Park Aquatic Center will close to the public for the season after this Labor Day weekend. The aquatic center, which has new a video board, thanks to private donations, will have a 25th Anniversary Celebration 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 11 at the pool, with registration encouraged, and public invited.

**And Another Few Things...**

**1. Judge to Visit Kids**

Magistrate Melanie Kendrick will visit Noblesville High School in September as part of Indiana's Constitution Day celebration. A total of 44 judicial officers from across the state will meet with over 3,000 students and civic group members to celebrate Constitution Day in September. Indiana courts commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787, with a program that brings judges into schools and out into their communities.

**2. Food Security 5K**

The Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank will host a 5K run on Oct. 8. The event will begin at 9 a.m. at Dr. James A Dillon Park, located at 6001 Edenshall Ln., Noblesville. The cost to enter is \$35, and the entry fee can be directed to the benefit of the entrant's choice.

The event aims to help raise funds to provide food for those in Hamilton County who need help. Those interested in taking part as an individual or as a fundraising team. 75% of all funds received will be distributed to Hamilton County food providers that serve the following areas: Carmel, Hamilton Heights, Hamilton Southeastern, Noblesville, Sheridan, Westfield or where needed for Hamilton County food providers. The remaining 25% of funds will go towards addressing global hunger via Church World Services.

The 5K for Food Security is a Collaboration between representatives from these organizations who want to end food insecurity in Hamilton County: Carmel Christian Church; Carpenter Realtors; Good Samaritan Network; Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank; Noblesville First United Methodist Church; Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church; St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry; Teter Organic Farm; and Victory Chapel Community Church.

Register online at [runsignup.com/Race/IN/Noblesville/HamiltonCounty5kforFoodSecurity](https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/Noblesville/HamiltonCounty5kforFoodSecurity). Learn more about becoming a sponsor by visiting <https://runsignup.com/Race/HamiltonCounty5kforFoodSecurity/Page-1>

**3. Ribbon Cutting**

Next Tuesday, from 6-7 p.m., the Westfield Washington School district will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Virginia F. Wood Early Learning Center and Administrative Building. Scheduled remarks include Superintendent Dr. Paul Kaiser, Director of Student Support Programs Marci Derado - who runs the Early Learning Center - and Westfield Mayor Andy Cook.

Special invited guests include the Wood family, Westfield Chamber of Commerce board members, Former Superintendent Dr. Sherry Grate, current and former school board members and more. After the ribbon cutting, they will hold self-guided tours and hold media availabilities upon request.

**4. Road Closure**

The construction hasn't gone away just yet. The Times has learned that next Tuesday, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Overdorf Road between 226th Street and 234th Street will be closed to thru traffic while a pipe is installed for the Steve Nation Trail project.

The hard closure is just south of 234th Street.

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## Boomer Bits



### Ask Rusty - Younger Widow Asks About Collecting Survivor Benefits

**Dear Rusty:** My husband died several years ago in 2019. It is my understanding that I should be receiving some portion of his Social Security payments. However, when I called to notify Social Security that he passed, they told me not to touch his last check because it would be taken back. I was 8 years younger than my husband, so I am still only 58. I also have always made more income than he did. How do I find out if there is some sort of residual that I should still be receiving? **Signed: Widowed Wife**

**Dear Widowed Wife:** The reason you were told "not to



ASK Rusty  
Social Security Advisor

**Social Security Matters**

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

touch" your husband's last check is because benefits are not payable for the month a person dies. Social Security pays benefits in the month following the month they are earned, so someone who dies before month ends isn't entitled to benefits for that month. Social Security

will, indeed, take that payment back. As a survivor, you aren't entitled to those benefits because they were awarded to your deceased husband and will be taken back because he didn't live the full month.

As for any benefits you are

▶ See RUSTY Page A7

### Family Traditions Can Help Us Stay Healthy and Happy

**(StatePoint)** Health experts say that establishing and maintaining family traditions can boost overall well-being and vitality, especially as we age.

"As children become adults and move out of the house or away, the family traditions that bind us can sometimes get lost in the process," says Aparna Abburi, president of Medicare and CareAllies with Cigna, which provides insurance to hundreds of thousands of older adults through its Medicare plans. "Forming new traditions or reigniting old ones can keep us connected to loved ones, ultimately helping us feel more fulfilled, happier and healthier."

Here are some insights into the importance of traditions to

▶ See FAMILY Page A7

### Know Your Healthcare Options and Be Better Prepared with These Tips

**(Family Features)** As intently as ever, Americans may choose to weigh their options, read online reviews and shop around to ensure they are choosing the best product or service at the best price. Health care should not be any different. People want options for their health care, receiving personalized care at a reasonable price and at a location that is convenient and comfortable.

**1. Shop around for health care**

When people are not in an emergency situation, it is beneficial to shop around for the best price for health care services. Americans have a right to price transparency in health care, meaning they know the cost of services before receiving them. Hospitals operating in the United States are required to provide

clear, accessible pricing information online about the items and services they provide, so do not be afraid to ask for pricing information upfront.

According to a survey from LUGPA, the largest urology trade association in the United States, nearly one-third of older Americans worry they won't get the care they need at a location they choose for a price they can afford. Their concern comes as no surprise since hospitals are usually more expensive than independent practices. Hospitals are increasingly combining into large hospital systems, which creates fewer choices where patients in a community can seek health care. This decrease in competition can often drive up the cost of care.

▶ See OPTIONS Page A7

### Bookstore Still Relevant, Reopening in Community



**BETSY REASON**  
The Times Editor

Just walk into the new Noblesville Barnes & Noble bookstore.

It's cozy. The lighting is low. There are wall-to-wall books.

The nation's largest bookstore chain, previously known for its large retail stores that offer a Starbucks coffee cafe, has downsized into a small-format store, noticeably visible at Wednesday morning's ribbon cutting and reopening of the new Noblesville Barnes & Noble.

It's a brand-new store that resides right next door to the previous Noblesville location, which closed in January for the building to be redeveloped, all within Stony Creek Marketplace.

The new store has a completely new layout at 17070 Mercantile Blvd., and will live in the former Pier 1 space.

Originally, I was sad to learn that the original Noblesville Barnes & Noble bookstore



The Times photo courtesy of Betsy Reason

**Marissa Grenat, Noblesville (from left), Alicia Gebert, Fishers, and Sarah Coombs, Noblesville, greet guests on Wednesday to the new Barnes & Noble bookstore in Noblesville.**

would close, but then I learned it would re-open in Noblesville. It wasn't until recently that I learned the store would re-open right next door, in a smaller space.

A ribbon-cutting celebration on Wednesday featured New

York Times bestselling author of "Somebody's Daughter," Ashley C. Ford, cutting the ribbon, welcoming customers to the store as well as signing copies of her memoir.

▶ See BETSY Page A7

**▶ HONEST HOOSIER**

So streaming TV has surpassed cable TV for the first time. I'm not sure if that proves that things are changing or that I miss the days when we had three stations to choose from.



**▶ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

The Institute of Medicine recommends 600 IU of vitamin D daily to age 70 and 800 IU after that.

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](http://www.thetimes24-7.com).



**▶ INSIDE TODAY**

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**▶ TODAY'S QUOTE**

"But now in September the garden has cooled, and with it my possessiveness. The sun warms my back instead of beating on my head. The harvest has dwindled, and I have grown apart from the intense midsummer relationship that brought it on."

- Robert Finch

**▶ TODAY'S JOKE**

Did you hear about the parents who had a baby girl and named her September/October/November? Yup, they call her Autumn for short.

**▶ OBITUARIES**

**Martha B. Gascho**  
**William 'Gene' Eugene Jones**

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



**13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST**

85 WARM AND SUNNY	68/88 PARTLY CLOUDY	68/83 PM ISOLATED SHOWERS	68/84 PM ISOLATED SHOWERS	66/83 SPRITZ WITH SHOWERS	66/84 MISTY DRIZZLE	65/85 PLEASANT
FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU

## ⇒ OBITUARIES

### Martha B. Gascho

July 12, 1936 - August 29, 2022

Martha B. Gascho, 86, of Noblesville passed away on Monday, August 29, 2022.

She was born on July 12, 1936 to Clarence and Eunice (Whitmore) Gascho in Noblesville, Indiana.

Ms. Gascho graduated as valedictorian of the Noblesville high school class of 1954. She received a master's degree in English at Butler University, where she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega. She taught high school English for twelve years while pursuing a law degree at Indiana University. After graduating, she worked as an attorney for Webb Law Firm, and then started her own practice.

Ms. Gascho was a long-term member of the Noblesville First United Methodist Church, where she sang in the choir. She was also a member of the Hamilton County Historical Society and at one time served as its president. Other organizations she was involved with include the DAR, AAUW, literary club and the Noblesville cemetery commission.

Survivors include her two sisters Linda Ham and Susan Martin; their children Mo (Jenni) Frencham, Christopher Martin and Jennifer (Christopher) Deer; and the Deer children James and Jacob.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers-in-law Norman Ham and John Martin.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., with services scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan Street in Noblesville. Burial will follow at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hamilton County Historical Society, 810 Conner Street, Noblesville, Ind., 46060.

Online condolences may be shared at [www.randallroberts.com](http://www.randallroberts.com).

### William 'Gene' Eugene Jones

July 1, 1938 - August 31, 2022

William 'Gene' Eugene Jones, 84 of Celina, Tenn., formerly of Sheridan, passed away on Wednesday August 31, 2022, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on July 1, 1938, to the late William Thomas and Flossie (Williams) Jones in Geneva, Kentucky.

Mr. Jones met the love of his life Karen Sue (Rice) Jones. They two wanted to get married, so they decided to elope and were married on July 5, 1958, in Shawneetown, Illinois; the two of them have been at each other's sides for 64 years.

Mr. Jones drove a truck for Wallace Grain, and he would look forward to his stops during the day so he could visit with his friends. He worked for the Wallace family for 36 years when he retired.

After retiring he and Karen decided to move on the river in Celina, Tennessee. Mr. Jones loved to garden and every year he looked forward to canning his tomatoes. He also enjoyed fishing and he could be found on any given day with a line in the river. He took a lot of pride in taking care of his yard and he became quite skilled at catching moles. After a while he decided he wanted to go to work so he started working two days a week at the recycling and trash facility, where he made a lot of friends. Mr. Jones would always tell people he worked for the Mayor of Clay County, Tenn.

His favorite thing he looked forward too was when his family would come and visit especially his grandchildren, he would spend hours doing stuff with them.

Survivors include his loving wife of 64 years Karen; two children Gayla (Terry) Hart and Bryan (Erin) Jones; grandchildren Joshua, Taylor, Jacob, Craig (Cortney), Brooke, Laura, Danielle and Dawn; 18 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; siblings Elsie Clark, Geraldine (Richard) Tyler, Wanda (Charlie) Shelton, Joyce Deno and Janice Hill; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding Mr. Jones in death are his two sons Michael (1989) and Rick (2016); daughter Rebecca (2022), two grandsons Matthew Jacob and Casey; and six siblings Charlie Jones, Tommy Jones, Mamie Cavanaugh, Patsy LaRue, Mary Ardel Parker and Margie Floyd.

Services are scheduled to be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Fisher Family Funeral Services located at 508 E. 6th St. in Sheridan, where family and friends are invited to gather from 11 a.m. until the time of service. Burial will follow at Crown View Cemetery. Mr. Jones' nephew Bill Floyd will be officiating his service.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society <https://donate3.cancer.org/>.

Everyone is invited to sign the online guest book, leave a condolence, or share a memory at [fisherfunerals.com](http://fisherfunerals.com). For those who will not be able to attend Gene's services can go onto Fisher Family Funeral Services Facebook Page where it will be broadcast live.

Fisher Family Funeral Services have been entrusted with the care of the Jones Family.



## Goodrich Invites Local College Students to Apply for Paid Statehouse Internship

State Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville) invites local college students and recent graduates of all majors to apply for a paid internship with Indiana House Republicans.

Goodrich said House interns will be paid \$800 bi-weekly as they work at the Indiana Statehouse in downtown Indianapolis during the 2023 legislative session, which kicks off in January and concludes at the end of April. He said internships are available in several departments and are open to college sophomores, juniors and seniors, graduate students and recent graduates.

"This program not only offers a chance to get hands-on experience in a professional work setting, but also earn a paycheck," Goodrich said. "Many of our former staffers have moved into full-time positions within our offices or made personal connections that helped them launch



Rep. Chuck Goodrich

their careers." Paid, spring-semester intern positions are full time, Monday through Friday, and include free parking, career and professional development assistance, enrollment access to an Indiana government class, and opportunities to earn academic credits through the student's college or university. Interns are also eligible to apply for a competitive \$3,000 scholarship to use toward undergraduate and graduate expenses.

According to Goodrich, students can apply for



Photo courtesy of Chuck Goodrich's Office

Hamilton County natives and former interns Scott Berghoff (far left), Becca Foerder (second from right) and Tedra Spuller (second from left) join State Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville) during the 2022 legislative session at the Statehouse in Indianapolis. Goodrich encourages local college students, recent graduates, and law school and graduate students to apply for the 2023 House Republican Internship Program by visiting [indianahouserpublicans.com/internship](http://indianahouserpublicans.com/internship).

internships in a variety of departments related to their field of study, including legislative operations, policy, and communications and media

relations.

Goodrich said to learn more and apply online before the Oct. 31 deadline, visit [indianahouserpublicans.com/internship](http://indianahouserpublicans.com/internship).



Photo courtesy of Carmel Clay Parks & Rec

A rendering of the current proposal for Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park, located on 63 acres near 146th Street and River Road. CCPR is currently gathering community feedback on the proposal for the park to help shape what the completed park will look like.

## Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation Seeks Public Input on Future Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) invites the public to participate in an online survey to determine the community's vision for Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park located near 146th Street and River Road. The survey is open now and will remain open through Sunday, Sept. 11.

Those interested in giving feedback can do so by completing the survey at [https://ccpr.formstack.com/forms/nature\\_park\\_survey?mc\\_cid=f5530f7315&mc\\_eid=7292975ef2](https://ccpr.formstack.com/forms/nature_park_survey?mc_cid=f5530f7315&mc_eid=7292975ef2).

CCPR and consultants from landscape architecture firm MKSK hosted the second round of public meetings in August 2022. The online survey is the next phase of CCPR's efforts to gather public



input for the development of the Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park Master Plan.

Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park was donated in 2021. The 63-acre park is in a unique, natural setting in northeast Carmel. Additional public workshops and online options will be offered throughout the master plan process.

Stay tuned to CCPR's social media and [carmelclayparks.com](http://carmelclayparks.com) for more information.

Learn more about the new Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park by visiting <https://www.carmelclayparks.com/parks/thomas-marcuccilli-na->

ture-park/.

About Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation:

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) holds the Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) for parks serving populations of 75,001 to 150,000.

As an accredited agency, the department serves the recreation, fitness and nature needs of the community, manages and develops existing spaces

and resources and creates a sustainable future for parks and recreation programs through a financially viable and environmentally conscious parks system.

CCPR manages and maintains more than 700 park acres and numerous recreation facilities, including the Monon Community Center and The Waterpark. In addition, CCPR has partnered with Carmel Clay Schools to establish Extended School Enrichment (ESE), a before and after-school care program for K-6 students located at all eleven Carmel elementary schools. The Summer Camp Series is a component of ESE that offers 12 different summer camps accommodating children ages 5-15.

For more information, visit [carmelclayparks.com](http://carmelclayparks.com).

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# Consumer Alert: Products Recalled in August

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers of important consumer protection concerns for products recalled in August. Consumers are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities available for those who purchased the recalled items.

“Even though fall is around the corner, there is plenty of warm weather left and that means lots of time spent outdoors,” Rokita said. “Whether it’s for yard work or to keep kids busy outdoors, Hoosiers need to know if the products they are using are flawed. Protecting consumers is a priority of my office. If you have difficulty finding a solution for your recalled product,

please contact my office immediately.”

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

- Cordless Hedge Trimmers from Makita U.S.A.
- Children’s Outdoor Kitchens from Big Game Hunters
- Road Bikes and Bicycle Handlebar/Stems from Trek Bicycle Corporation
- Ride-On Toys from Huffy Corporation
- Steel Rolling Chassis for Utility Vehicles from Navitas Vehicle Systems
- Footpads for Onewheel GT Electric Skateboards from Future Motion
- Paddles Sold with



Attorney General Todd Rokita

Stand-up Paddleboards from Agit Global

- Miter Saws from DeWALT
- Home Elevators from Residential Elevators
- MamaRoo and RockaRoo Infant Swings and Rockers from 4moms
- ASUS ROG Maximus Z690 Hero Motherboards from ASUS Computer International
- Children’s Hooded

Sweatshirts with Drawstrings from Hard Rock

- Patriot Boost Snowmobiles from Polaris Industries
- Kidoozie Activity Desk Toys from Epoch Everlasting Play
- METALLISK Espresso Makers from IKEA

If you believe you purchased a recalled product, stop using it and check its recall notice (linked above for all products). Follow the notice’s instructions, including where to return the product, how to get the product fixed, how to dispose of the product, how to receive a refund for the product, or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.

# Wellness Summit to Tackle Mental Health, Lessons Learned from the COVID Pandemic

Well-being extends far beyond just how people feel and impacts every workplace. According to Gallup, “it affects the number of sick days employees take, their job performance, burnout and likelihood of leaving (their) organization.”

The 2022 Indiana Wellness Summit, held Sept. 21-22 at the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis, will offer ways to prioritize employee well-being. The program features how to implement effective wellness programs, how to collect and analyze data to find out what’s working, how to measure your return on investment and much more.

The two-day summit is a partnership between the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and Wellness Council of Indiana (WCI).

“Mental health will be at the forefront of the discussion this year,” says Jennifer Pferrer, WCI executive director. “The pandemic took a toll on not only finances and families, but substance abuse issues have increased and employers are seeing the impacts of that.”

“No matter an organization’s size, industry or level of existing wellness programming, summit attendees can benefit and hear best practices, connect to Indiana wellness resources and access critical data.”

Some of the pressing topics to be discussed include tackling burnout with remote employees; mental health and



substance use struggles; diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and well-being; working mothers 101; financial wellness; obesity bias; data and technology; leveraging lifestyle medicine in the workplace; and understanding adverse childhood experiences.

Keynote presentations are:

Three Ways to Redesign Wellness: Leveraging Lessons from the Pandemic (Jen Arnold)

Reset & Recharge: Experience a Fresher & More Positive Approach to Eliminate Stress, Negativity & Burnout (Betsy Allen-Manning)

The goal of the summit, notes Pferrer, is to bring together Hoosier human resource staffers and health and wellness professionals “to connect and collaborate to improve the well-being of Indiana’s workplaces and communities. Exploring employee health clinics will also be a focus.”

The cost is \$449 for Indiana Chamber or WCI members or \$549 for non-members. Single day registrations are \$349 or \$449, respectively. Registration links and the full agenda are available at [www.indianawellnesssummit.com](http://www.indianawellnesssummit.com).

# Indiana Department of Education Announces Finalists for 2023 Indiana Teacher of the Year

The Indiana Department of Education yesterday announced the top 10 finalists for the 2023 Indiana Teacher of the Year.

“Nearly everyone can remember their favorite teacher – the person who taught them, encouraged them and inspired them to achieve their dreams,” said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. “Indiana is home to exceptional teachers across the state, and this year’s top 10 Teacher of the Year finalists are especially impressive. Our teachers’ work matters today and will continue to impact students throughout their entire lives.”

The 2023 Indiana Teacher of the Year

finalists are:

- Kathleen Avery, South Bend Community School Corporation
- Amanda Beck, Tippecanoe School Corporation
- Jason Beer, Southwest Allen County Schools
- Tara Cocanower, Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District
- Joshua DeBard, Lebanon Community School Corporation
- Amanda Fox, Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation
- Helen Hearon, Mill Creek Community Schools
- Kelly Hine, Zionsville Community Schools
- Courtney Ramos, MSD of Wayne Township
- Karissa Schwaneckamp, Plainfield Community



School Corporation

For over 60 years, the Indiana Teacher of the Year program has recognized outstanding teachers across the state who are making a difference for Hoosier students. With the mission of inspiring, rejuvenating, and celebrating the teaching profession, the program encourages schools to nominate their local Teachers of the Year for this statewide honor.

Finalists are selected from these applicants by a committee made up of former Teachers of

the Year, IDOE staff, educational organization leaders, business and community leaders and representatives from higher education.

The Indiana Teacher of the Year, who will be announced later this fall, will work to help elevate the teaching profession in Indiana, as well as represent Hoosier teachers at the national level. More information about the Indiana Teacher of the Year program is available online at [www.in.gov/doe/educators/teacher-of-the-year/](http://www.in.gov/doe/educators/teacher-of-the-year/).

# Indiana Secures \$15M Settlement with Frontier Communications

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita announced a \$15 million settlement with Frontier Communications this week that will ensure that Hoosiers receive the services for which they have paid. The settlement especially benefits residents living in rural communities.

“Hoosiers shouldn’t be forced to pay for high-speed internet in exchange for slow service,” Rokita said. “Particularly with many individuals working remotely from their homes, consistent and reliable telecommunications are vital to Indiana’s economy.”

In May 2021, Rokita sued Frontier Communications alleging they violated the Indiana Deceptive Consumer Sales Act. The Federal Trade Commission and several other states also sued the company. Specifically, the lawsuit argued the company misrepresented internet speeds and reliability to consumers.

Although the court declined to hear Indiana’s claims, Attorney General Rokita pushed ahead with his work on behalf of Hoosiers — pressing Frontier to address his concerns about their services.

“Many Hoosiers living in rural areas have no other options but to access internet services through Frontier,” Rokita said. “In the 21st century, residents of our rural communities should expect the same quality of service and same availability of technology as their peers in larger cities and towns.”

As a result of Rokita’s persistence, Frontier Communications entered into an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance agreeing to pay \$15 million over a period of four years to improve internet infrastructure in

Indiana.

The agreement also requires Frontier to review service speeds and provide options to consumers to reduce service plans (and costs) if their current plans promise higher speeds than those provided.

Frontier also must change their advertising efforts to accurately represent to Indiana consumers both the availability and reliability of their internet service.

Frontier will be given a period to correct various discrepancies between the advertised internet speed and the actual internet speeds provided to Hoosiers. Following this period, Frontier must credit billing charges to consumers who do not receive at least 90 percent of the maximum advertised speed (unless the consumer has been informed of such and elects not to subscribe to the lower speed tier). Frontier also must credit billing charges to customers if it fails to provide consumers at least 100% of the speed they were promised.

In addition, Frontier must provide training programs for their consumer service representatives, field technicians and sales agents that accurately and comprehensively cover the requirements of the agreement, the effect on the consumer’s internet service, the rights of consumers to discontinue, etc. For four years following the agreement, Frontier must provide the Office of the Attorney General a semi-annual report detailing compliance with the agreement.

Hoosiers are encouraged to contact Rokita’s office about any business practices they believe are unfair, abusive or deceptive. Consumers may file complaints by visiting [indianaconsumer.com](http://indianaconsumer.com) or calling 1-800-382-5516.

# Indiana Supreme Court to Host Informational Event on Sept. 14

The Indiana Supreme Court is hosting an event to discuss the benefits of the Indiana Commercial Courts. General counsel from Indiana businesses, lawyers, lawyer-legislators, and other business leaders are invited to the learning opportunity and reception. The event will take place on Sept. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Columbia Club, located at 121 Monument Cir, Indianapolis. The reception follows at 5 p.m.

About 1,500 cases have been or are currently being resolved through commercial courts. The specialized docket is designed to handle challenging business-to-business disputes in a timely, cost effective, predictable, and fair manner.

The learning event will feature a welcome from

Chief Justice Loretta Rush as well as remarks from the Commercial Court judges and practitioners. Currently, ten commercial courts are permanently established in Allen, Elkhart, Floyd, Hamilton, Lake, Madison, Marion, St. Joseph, Vanderburgh, and Vigo counties.

Space is limited for in-person attendance at the September event. Virtual attendance is also available. Those interested in attending should register online by next Wednesday at 12 p.m., noon. Registration is available online at <https://mycourts.wufoo.com/forms/s1t6n6pw1t1b5xq/>.

More information about commercial courts is also available online at <http://www.in.gov/courts/iocs/committees/commercial-courts/>.

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# IU Health Reveals Post-Abortion Ban Healthcare Plan

**By Whitney Downard**  
Indiana University Health said Thursday it was prepared for the state's near-total abortion ban to take effect on Sept. 15, and its physicians across the state are ready to follow the law.

"We're going to continue to provide abortion care – legal abortion care – in our state through our health system for our patients who need it. We know that abortion is safe, it is evidence-based and we will continue to provide that care within the parameters of the new law," said Dr. Caroline Rouse, the medical director of maternity services at Riley Maternity Tower.

As the Indiana General Assembly passed the state's near-total abortion ban on Aug. 5, leaders at Indiana University Health, or IU Health, met to create a game plan for the system, which has 689 locations in 43 cities around the state.

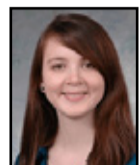
Under the law, physicians may only perform abortions if the patient's life or health is at risk or if there is a fatal fetal anomaly. There is confusion in the law on whether those exceptions are limited to 20 weeks. The law provides rape and incest victims ten weeks to obtain an abortion.

Using the same sort of incident command structure initiated during the emergency outbreaks of infectious diseases like Ebola and COVID-19, a group of 60 senior leaders at the healthcare entity

identified 80 issues in need of answers.

Five weeks later, the health system announced its plans to adapt to the state's new abortion needs, anticipating a surge in demand for maternal-fetal services.

Dr. David Ingram, the executive vice president of IU Health who served as incident commander over the planning effort, said he felt the state's largest health system needed to quickly formulate a plan following the ban's passage.



Dr. Caroline Rouse

In particular, a requirement that all abortions occur within a hospital or ambulatory surgery center means IU Health will need to expand its abortion capacity, since most abortions previously occurred in outpatient clinics. Most of Indiana's abortions — about 55% — are now done with medication, with the rest using suction to dispel the fetus.

Ingram, also the system's chief medical executive and neonatologist who specializes in newborn healthcare, said IU Health expected to see an increased demand for its neonatal services.

"We anticipate increased pregnancies in the state and with that we also know that about 10% of pregnancies lead to an admission to either a special nursery unit or to

a neonatal intensive care unit," Ingram said.

But now, even before the ban, those intensive care units already ran at about 90-95% capacity, Ingram said.



Dr. David Ingram

"So that's something we need to think deeply about," he said.

### Providing guidelines to physicians

Ingram said the abortion ban was "new territory" for many providers, who may feel increased anxiety and second-guess their medical decisions in fear of legal repercussions.

In response, he said IU Health would launch a 24/7 Rapid Response Team composed of clinicians, ethicists and attorneys to provide clarification to any doctor needing a second opinion, something other states have implemented following their abortion bans.

Rouse, also an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, said she hoped the response team would decrease potential delays in care brought on by the law — though she acknowledged that other states had reported difficulties.

"With new legislation like this, it can be really difficult to implement that into individual patient situations. The law is broad and patient situations are very specific and unique," Rouse said. "I worry that, potentially,

the steps that (physicians) may take may be a little different than what they would have done prior to the law."

Additional IU Health guidance to physicians included providing a medical screening exam for patients seeking an abortion due to rape or incest, two exceptions under the law, and referrals to appropriate social services agencies, such as the Department of Child Services.

Treating an ectopic pregnancy, which can be fatal to the parent, is not considered an abortion if performed before cardiac activity is detected, typically around six weeks. Otherwise treating an ectopic pregnancy is considered an abortion, and must be documented as such, after that benchmark, Rouse said, "The additional documentation and reporting requirements are a time burden for providers and so that is certainly something that we have thought about as we're developing our processes and workflows," she said.

The doctors said they didn't anticipate patients seeking abortion care from outside of Indiana but that the law didn't prohibit them from advising patients to seek a legal abortion in another state.

### Hampering efforts to teach, retain the next generation of doctors

Additionally, IU Health runs the only medical school in the state and one of the largest in the

country with just over 1,400 students.

But the majority of those residents, 85%, indicated that passage of the abortion ban negatively factored into their consideration for post-residency employment, Ingram said.

The law also hinders the education available to those in the OB-GYN residency program.

"We do have a large OB-GYN residency program and given that the program needs to provide all access to the full spectrum of reproductive services, we've needed to make arrangements for out-of-state training for those who need it," Ingram said.

Additionally, IU Health's recruitment efforts have been hampered, with out-of-state candidates dropping out of the process following the law's passage.

"(The law) has certainly increased our workload but we know how important this is to preserving our promise to provide the best care for patients," Ingram said.

However, that care will be much more expensive — both for parents seeking abortion healthcare and patients giving birth.

"Services that are provided in hospital settings are definitely more expensive than outpatient settings so we do anticipate a rising cost from that perspective," Ingram said. "The second piece of increased costs will certainly be the anticipated

volume of patients that will be admitted to our neonatal intensive care units.

Often, those are prolonged stays within those units and some of the most expensive care that we provide."

Ingram didn't have an estimated cost increase for the health system.

In a state with the third-highest maternal mortality rate, Ingram said he worried about the impact of the abortion ban, saying IU Health would be studying the public health impact. The system has not specifically addressed concerns about Hoosiers who may attempt to self-induce an abortion or seek emergency care after a botched illegal abortion.

"After five weeks of intense work with 60 senior leaders and hundreds of patient hours, we're prepared and we feel that this process has served us well," Ingram said. "The highest priority for us is to provide services to our patients to preserve the patient-physician relationship within the boundaries of the newly established law."

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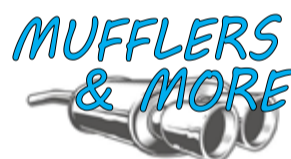
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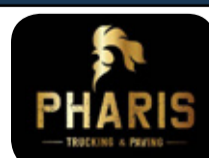
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## RUSTY From Page A1

entitled to as your husband's survivor, you cannot collect a monthly survivor benefit until you are at least 60 years old (unless you are disabled, in which case you can collect as early as age 50). Sixty is the earliest age to collect survivor benefits, but claimed at age 60 the survivor benefit will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be at your full retirement age (FRA) of 67. Survivor benefits reach maximum at your FRA, but taken any earlier will be reduced by .396% per month early, to a maximum reduction of 28.5%. You are, however, entitled to a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255, for which you can contact Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 (or at your local SS office).

You should also be aware that taking any monthly SS benefit before reaching your full retirement age of 67 will subject you to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn before they take back some (or all) of your benefits. The earnings limit changes annually but for 2022 the limit is \$19,560 and, if that is exceeded, SS will

take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the limit (they "take back" by withholding future benefit payments or requiring you to repay in a lump sum). If you're working full time and earning substantially more than the annual earnings limit, it's usually not prudent (and may not even be possible) to claim your monthly survivor benefit before your full retirement age.

From what you've shared, it doesn't appear that you are currently entitled to any Social Security survivor benefit, other than the one-time death benefit of \$255. You may consider claiming a survivor benefit when you are sixty, but your work status and earnings level may restrict or eliminate your ability to collect a monthly survivor benefit at that time. Once you reach your FRA, however, the earnings test no longer applies, and you can apply for any benefit available to you. When the earnings test goes away at your FRA, you can also choose to take your smaller survivor benefit first and let your personal SS retirement benefit grow, to maximum at age 70 if you wish.

## FAMILY From Page A1

well-being and vitality as we age, along with tips for keeping those connections going in your own circle of family and friends:

**Traditions help combat loneliness:** According to a 2020 survey by Cigna, 61% of adults reported being lonely – a 7 percent-age-point increase from 2018. That feeling was likely exacerbated by the pandemic that followed. Traditions can help to combat feelings of isolation. Consider setting up weekly video calls or trading letters and notes with relatives who live far away. Regular trips to a favorite destination, such as a lake or beach, or celebrating important holidays together every year, can provide meaningful time together.

**Traditions pass on family values:** Having shared values can help us feel connected to one another. Telling stories from the past or practicing cultural, spiritual and religious traditions are great ways to pass these values down from one generation to the next.

**Traditions can make us feel young again:** From cooking and gardening to sports and games, family traditions often evoke old memories and make us feel young again. Sensory memories can be particularly powerful. Whether

it's a cookie bakeoff, ball-park peanuts and hot dogs, or a singalong around the piano, family rituals that include special sights, sounds and aromas are often the ones we think of most fondly.

**Traditions strengthen communities:** Traditions are not just for families; they can also strengthen ties among friends and communities. Consider getting a group of neighbors together for morning walks or meeting friends for shopping excursions. Make visiting the farmers market, attending free concerts in the park, playing community center bingo and gathering for other recurring local events part of your routine.

For more information about how to stay healthy while aging, visit [www.cignamedicare.com](http://www.cignamedicare.com).

As you embrace the rituals that matter most to you, remember that traditions don't need to be rigid or set in stone.

"Just as you might modify a family recipe to suit your dietary needs or switch from weekly phone calls to weekly video calls, don't be afraid to tweak and expand on older traditions so they're relevant and interesting today – and for years to come," says Abburi.

## BETSY From Page A1

The store has many of the same offerings as the former, larger store, all tailored by booksellers for the Noblesville customers.

This store will not have a cafe or Starbucks, which is the biggest difference for customers.

"They might miss Starbucks, but I think we make up for it with our book products here, and they're welcome to bring their own drinks in," said Sarah Coombs, of Noblesville, Barnes & Noble's area manager for Indiana and southern Illinois.

Coombs was among the staff greeting customers at Wednesday's grand-opening celebration.

"I'm just so excited to be a part of this new store-opening process. I came here knowing that the store had closed but that we were going to be able to reopen it. So to be able to be a part of this process from the ground-up has just been amazing." She said there's been "an outpouring of support from the community."

Inside the store, there is still seating for readers, and the store carries a curated selection of music and vinyl records.

The "light, bright and cheerful" Noblesville bookstore, with new bookcases and furniture, offers cozy book rooms and is among many new Barnes & Noble stores, all varying in size based on location and available space, I'm told.

The move into the new location, next door, allows Barnes & Noble to redevelop the store and create a brand-new store in the style and fashion that is being executed throughout the nation.



The Times photo courtesy of Betsy Reason

**New York Times bestselling author of "Somebody's Daughter," Ashley C. Ford, signs books and talks to customers of the new Barnes & Noble bookstore which opened Wednesday.**

Moving into the smaller space, she said, "was such a great opportunity" when "we had to leave that location to architect a brand-new, beautifully presented and curated bookstore for this customer," she said.

The smaller bookstore is definitely "cozier," but "the breadth of titles is very similar" to the larger, more traditional store, she said. "Pretty much anything anybody would be looking for you, you can still find here, in addition to a lot of newly curated gift items." She said a lot of the related product is going to be really great for the book lovers in everybody's life, especially come holiday season.

Small rooms, which have a cozy feel, offer all of the same product together to make it easy for people to shop, she said.

There are "super cozy chairs," and tables. "We've got some cute places in the kids department with kids-size chairs so they can sit and play..." She said, "Anything

that anybody wants, all they would have to do is tell the staff, and we can also get it in. We really are looking to curate for this customer."

Combs, an English literature college major who started at Barnes & Noble as a barista, has worked at a lot of Barnes & Noble bookstores, starting on the west coast, and working in Arizona, Colorado, Montana and Illinois, for the past 15 years. She has been in Noblesville since May and her job is to run 16 bookstores in Indiana and southern Illinois.

Alicia Gebert, Fishers, originally from Goshen in northern Indiana and who attended Ball State University, with a journalism and graphics major, is the store manager for nearby River Crossing and the cluster leader for the group of stores, including the Noblesville store, in southern Indiana.

Marissa Grenat, Noblesville, a Lafayette native, helped open the River Crossing store about 10 years ago, and decided to move to Noblesville, which gave

her "a small-hometown feeling." She said, "I've always jokingly said that Noblesville is like Stars Hollow of Indiana. (Stars Hollow is a fictional town in Connecticut featured on the television show, "Gilmore Girls.") She said, "There never goes a moment without a festival. That was the appeal to me. We have everything that a big city has."

Grenat said the community supported the Noblesville Barnes & Noble for almost 20 years. "For them, it's going to be really exciting to have something fresh and new and kind of feel like that they helped us get to that peace. We wouldn't be here without their support. And we're awfully grateful for it. So we want to share a beautiful space with them and give 'em the best bookstore experience we can."

There were several local authors at the bookstore on the grand-opening day, including author Janet Hart Leonard, who was greeting guests just inside the front door promoting her book, "Where the Hart Speaks."

Gebert said, "We have a ton of author events through the month of September."

The list of guest authors are on the website and Facebook page. Plus, kids' storytime returns on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m., with special guests.

What's telling us that bookstores are still relevant? "Look around. People want that tactile book in hand. There's something about being able to open it up and smell the pages."

Contact Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes24-7.com).

## OPTIONS From Page A1

### 2. Consider independent practices

An independent medical practice is owned by health care providers who enjoy a greater level of control than physicians working for large health care systems. Physician-owned practices allow patients more choices for where they seek care, including specialty care. Independent practices are worth considering when shopping for care because these practices typically have a lower average cost per patient.

"Independent physicians work for patients," said Jonathan Henderson, MD, president of LUGPA. "We often have patients we've

known for decades, which establishes a relationship of trust. We discuss health decisions with patients based on what is in their best interests. We have no obligations to a hospital system. When needed, we can freely refer patients to other physicians who we expect to take the best care of our patients based on their individual needs."

According to the survey, 65% of Americans trust independent physicians and associate them with more individualized and patient-focused care compared to physicians employed by hospitals. Physician-owned practices also provide a greater level of personalization

and responsiveness, have fewer preventable hospital admissions and have lower readmission rates than larger, hospital-owned practices.

### 3. Ask if telehealth options are available

Patients should ensure they receive the highest quality care possible and at the location of their choice. Telehealth or telemedicine is typically done online through a computer or cell phone, allowing patients to receive care from a health care provider without an in-person office visit. Telehealth options can help increase access to care by enabling patients to choose where they receive it.

During the COVID-19

pandemic, many physicians began to expand access to care using telehealth. Congress made this increased use of telehealth possible and now has the opportunity to make permanent telehealth reforms, so every health care provider in America is permitted to deliver safe, high-quality care using telehealth technology.

Americans can let their elected representatives know they back policies that give them the tools they need to choose the best health care for them. To learn more about policies that increase options and price transparency for health care, visit [lugpa.org/BetterCareNow](http://lugpa.org/BetterCareNow).



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# WEEKEND

## In The Home

AS

Weekend, Sept. 3-4, 2022

TIM TIMMONS, Publisher @ JOE LARUE, Vice-President of Readership @ MELISSA MEME, Account Executive @ BETH HEDGE, Business Manager

### Creative Ways to Enjoy Pansies This Fall Family Yard Fall To-Dos

By Melinda Myers

Pansies have long been a fall and winter garden favorite. These cheery flowers are sure to brighten landscapes and containers and add a smile to any occasion. Look for fun and new ways to add them to your garden and fall celebrations.

You will find these cool weather favorites at your local garden center. Pansies thrive in the cooler temperatures of fall and during mild winters when your summer annuals fade or succumb to frost. They make great fillers in garden beds and containers or displayed in their own planter.

Cool Wave, WonderFall and other trailing pansies are perfect for hanging baskets, as trailers in container gardens, or as edging plants in garden beds. You will need half as many of these pansy varieties to cover the same garden space.

Plant a basket of white trailing pansies, add some sunglasses and you have a ghost for Halloween. Scoop out the inside of a pumpkin, add some drainage holes and use it for a planter. Fill it with potting mix and you'll have a biodegradable pot for the compost pile when finished. Or simply set a container of pansies inside your pumpkin pot.

Be sure to include a few favorite colors, fragrant varieties, and some All-America Selections winners. Ultima Morpho was the 2002 winner that was selected for its distinct blue and yellow flower design. Padparadja is a true orange pansy that is perfect for fall and Majes-



Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

**Scoop out the inside of a pumpkin, add some drainage holes, and plant some pansies for a festive fall planter**

tic Giants pansy, selected in 1966, can still be found for sale. Generations of gardeners have planted this large-flowered, traditional-faced pansy.

Include pansies in your fall meals and gatherings. Only use pansies and other edible flowers that have not been treated with pesticides. Be sure to let your guests know that the pansies are safe to eat, so they can enjoy this unique dining experience. Otherwise, you will find blossoms at the bottom of glasses or left on plates.

Pick a few flowers, remove the reproductive parts, and freeze them in ice cube trays to serve in your favorite beverage. Float a few of the flower ice cubes in your favorite punch.

Add a gourmet touch, some unique flavor, and color to your salads by topping a bed of greens

with a few flowers. Continue the theme by decorating cookies or cakes with a few of your favorite pansies. The cheerful flowers will generate happy thoughts and for some, a way to enjoy the last of this season's garden.

Brighten the start of school and your classroom while showing your favorite teacher a bit of appreciation. A do-it-yourself planter filled with cheery pansies is sure to elevate the mood of both students and teachers alike.

All you need are two yardsticks, a 4" x 4" wooden planter box, and a potted pansy and saucer that fit inside the planter box. Gather your glue gun and glue sticks, sandpaper, and a hobby knife to create your gift.

Cut the yardsticks into four-inch pieces and sand the cut edges smooth. Glue the yardstick pieces

vertically and next to each other onto all four sides of the planter. Set the saucer in the bottom of the planter box and place the potted pansy on top of it.

Purchase plenty of pansies. You are sure to find other creative ways to utilize them this fall or simply use them as colorful fillers for voids in gardens and containers.

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

with thatch - a thick layer of roots, stems and debris that blocks water, oxygen and nutrients from reaching the soil.

**Mow at the Right Height:** Keep cutting your grass until the first hard frost. Find the just-right length for your species, typically between 2-3 inches, to keep your grass healthy when it turns cold.

**Water Wisely:** If you're not getting at least an inch of water a week from Mother Nature, you'll want to keep watering through the fall. Install watering solutions, such as smart controllers on irrigation systems, to help conserve water.

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# WEEKEND

## In The Home

Weekend, Sept. 3-4, 2022

A9

TIM TIMMONS, Publisher @ JOE LARUE, Vice-President of Readership @ MELISSA MEME, Account Executive @ BETH HEDGE, Business Manager

## Building Your Dream Home Anytime, Anywhere



Photo courtesy of Laury Glenn and Paragon Building Group

## 5 TIPS TO CREATE A COMFORTABLE FOREVER HOME

### FAMILY FEATURES

For most homebuyers, their dream homes are not something they're likely to find already on the market. With a unique vision of your dream home's look, location and features, building a custom home is generally the easiest way to make that dream a reality.

To keep things moving as smoothly as possible amid what can be a complicated process, consider these tips as you embark on the journey.

### Set a Realistic Budget

You'll need to start by determining how much you can spend on your house. Typically, the cost of building a home is around \$100-\$200 per square foot, according to research from HomeAdvisor. You'll also need to account for the lot price as well as design fees, taxes, permits, materials and labor. Materials and labor should make up about 75% of the total amount spent, but it's wise to build in a buffer for price changes and overages. While building your budget, consider what items and features are "must-haves" and things that should only be included if your budget allows.



Matt Blashaw

### Identify the Perfect Location

Think about where you'd like to live and research comparable lots and properties in those areas, which can give you a better idea of costs. Because the features of many dream homes require a wider footprint, you may need to build outside of city limits, which can make natural gas more difficult to access. Consider propane instead, which can do everything natural gas can and go where natural gas cannot or where it is cost prohibitive to run a natural gas line. Propane also reduces dependence on the electrical grid, and a propane standby generator can safeguard your family if there is a power outage.

"As a real estate agent and builder, I have the pleasure of helping families select their dream homes," said Matt Blashaw, residential contractor, licensed real estate agent and host of HGTV's "Build it Forward." "The homes we design and build are frequently in propane country, or off the natural gas grid. Propane makes it possible to build an affordable and comfortable, high-performing indoor living spaces and dynamic outdoor entertaining areas."

### Keep Universal Design Principles in Mind

Many homebuyers want to ensure their space is accessible to family members and guests both now and for decades to come. As the housing market slows and mortgage rates rise, buyers may look to incorporate features that allow them to age in place. Incorporating principles of universal design – the ability of a space to be understood, accessed and used by people regardless of their age or ability – can make it possible to still enjoy your home even if mobility, vision or other challenges arise as you age.

For example, the entryway could have a ramp or sloped concrete walkway leading to a front door wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair with a barrier-free threshold. Inside, wider hallways and doorways, strategic lighting and appliances installed at lower heights are mainstays of universal design. Counters of varying heights, drop-down cabinet racks and roll-under sinks in kitchens and zero-entry showers, slip-resistant flooring and grab bars in bathrooms offer enhanced accessibility.

### Consider Alternative Energy Sources

With today's electric grid, more than two-thirds of the energy is wasted; it never reaches homes. Unlike electricity, propane is stored in a large tank either above or below ground on the property. A 500-gallon tank can hold enough propane to meet the annual energy needs of an average single-family home – enough to power major systems in a home.

Propane pairs well with other energy sources, including grid electricity and on-site solar, which makes it a viable option for dual-energy homes. Like natural gas, propane can power major appliances such as your furnace, water heater, clothes dryer, fireplace, range and standby generator. Often, propane works more efficiently with fewer greenhouse gas emissions than electricity, meaning your home is cleaner for the environment.

Propane can even power a whole-home standby generator, which is often a big selling point. When a homeowner purchases a standby generator, a licensed electrician installs the unit outside the home and wires it to the home's circuit breaker. When a power outage occurs, the generator automatically senses the disruption of service and starts the generator's engine, which then delivers power to the home. From the warm, comfortable heat of a propane furnace to the peace of mind offered by a propane standby generator, many homeowners trust propane to provide a safe, efficient, whole-home energy solution.

### Build a Team of Experts

Hiring the right people can make the process of turning your dream into reality go much smoother. Start by researching reputable builders, paying special attention to the types of homes they build to find a style that matches what you're looking for as well as price ranges for past homes they've built. Consider how long the builders have been in business and if they're licensed and insured.

Depending on your builder's capabilities, you may also need to hire an architect or designer. In addition to your real estate agent to assist with purchasing the lot and selling your previous home, you may need assistance from other professionals, such as a real estate attorney, landscape architect and propane supplier. A local propane supplier can work with the builder to install a properly sized propane storage tank either above or below ground and connect appliances.

Find more ideas for building your dream home at Propane.com.



Photo courtesy of Laury Glenn and Paragon Building Group

## Propane-Powered Appliances

You may be surprised to learn propane can power major appliances, which can increase the value of a home because of their high performance, efficiency and reduced dependence on the electrical grid.

### Furnace

A propane-powered furnace has a 50% longer lifespan than an electric heat pump, reducing its overall lifetime costs. Propane-powered residential furnaces also emit up to 50% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than electric furnaces and 12% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than furnaces running on oil-based fuels.

### Boiler

Propane boilers have an expected lifespan of up to 30 years, but many can last longer if serviced and maintained properly. High-efficiency propane boilers offer performance, space savings and versatility as well as a significant reduction in carbon dioxide emissions compared to those fueled by heating oil.

### Standby Generator

Propane standby generators supply supplemental electricity in as little as 10 seconds after an outage. Plus, propane doesn't degrade over time, unlike diesel or gasoline, making it an ideal standby power fuel.

### Clothes Dryer

Propane-powered clothes dryers generate up to 42% fewer greenhouse gas emissions compared to electric dryers. They also dry clothes faster, which can reduce energy use and cost.

### Range

With up to 15% fewer greenhouse gas emissions compared to electric ranges, propane-powered ranges also allow for greater control of heat levels. Plus, their instant flame turnoff capabilities help them cool faster.

### Tankless Water Heater

Propane tankless water heaters have the lowest annual cost of ownership in mixed and cold United States climates when compared with electric water heaters, heat pump water heaters and oil-fueled water heaters. They also only heat water when it is needed, reducing standby losses that come with storage tank water heaters.

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# WEEKEND *Travel or stay! and Play*

TIM TIMMONS, Publisher    JOE LARUE, Vice-President of Readership    MELISSA MEME, Account Executive    BETH HEDGE, Business Manager

## Indiana Law Enforcement Teaming Up Ahead of 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 colli-

sions, 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, click here or visit [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

## Sisters To Host 'Art Journaling'

Let your inner creativity and inner wisdom emerge by learning how art and journaling can enhance your spiritual journey during the upcoming retreat "Art Journaling," with the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana.

The retreat, which will be facilitated by Sister Rosemary Schmalz, SP, will take place from 6:30-9 p.m., on Friday, Sept. 30, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 1 in the Foley Room at Providence Spirituality & Conference Center.

"Journaling has long been accepted as a sound spiritual practice," Sister Rosemary said. "In this workshop, you will be introduced to journaling practices that integrate simple images, images generated by easy, fun art exercises. Adding images to journaling enhances the potential to access your

inner wisdom and expand your spiritual insights. The workshop is unique in that it leads participants in serious spiritual work combined with wonderfully childlike art experiences."

No art or writing skills are necessary. Those attending only need to bring a childlike willingness to set aside inhibitions and be delighted with the magic of color and the wonder of words.

Cost to attend is \$150 per person with housing and two meals included or \$80 without housing and only one meal included. The registration fee also includes all materials and refreshments.

The registration deadline is Sept. 23, and space is limited.

Register online at [Events.SistersofProvidence.org](http://Events.SistersofProvidence.org) or by calling (812) 535-2952 or emailing [provctr@spsmw.org](mailto:provctr@spsmw.org).

## Kroger Symphony on the Prairie Presents Super Diamond, The Springsteen Experience and Here Come The Mummies

It's the final weekend of Kroger Symphony on the Prairie 2022! On Friday, Kroger Symphony on the Prairie presents Super Diamond: The Neil Diamond Tribute, a glittering, smoke-filled show performing Neil's power ballads and up-tempo hits with unrestrained enthusiasm. The show is pure entertainment—classic music combined with fun, energy, and passion—creating nostalgia for the good old days and excitement for today's generation. This tribute to the much loved, international pop icon Neil Diamond features the timeless classics including "Sweet Caroline," "America," "Cracklin' Rosie," "Cherry Cherry;" "Song Sung Blue," "Forever in Blue Jeans" and many more.

On Saturday, Kroger Symphony on the Prairie presents The Springsteen Experience: A Tribute to the Boss. There has never been an artist who personified the essence and soul of working-class America like Bruce Springsteen. Josh Tanner is a Jersey-grown reincarnation of "The Boss" himself. The cast has the look and sound of the Jersey Shore. A Springsteen show is a near-religious ritual, a marathon affair that leaves both audience and performers exhausted and elated. The same powerful, exuberant spirit that Bruce exudes is portrayed to perfection in fellow Freehold native son, Josh Tanner, and he's keeping that fire burning.

On Sunday, Sept. 4 Kroger Symphony on the Prairie presents Here Come The Mummies. Here Come The Mum-

mies (HCTM) have been delivering their brand of Terrifying Funk from Beyond the Grave since the year 2000 AD. Some say they are reincarnated Grammy-winning studio musicians, some say their internal organs lie in clay pots back in Egypt. Regardless, HCTM's mysterious personas, cunning song-craft, and unrelenting live show will bend your brain and melt your face. Warning: Contains adult content. May not be suitable for young children.

Just added! Rock E Bassoon, a rock ensemble featuring Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra musicians, will open the Mummies concert! Founded in 2016, Rock E Bassoon has evolved into a tight, cohesive ensemble of top-notch professional musicians performing great music from the 1930s through the present. REB has been featured on WFYI, the Indianapolis Star, WTHR-TV, and The Bob and Tom Show. All your rock favorites - on bassoon! Trust us, Rock E Bassoon rocks!

General admission lawn seats, reserved seating, tables, and seats in the Huntington Bank Sunset Lounge are available for purchase.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. EDT, each evening at Conner Prairie. Gates open at 6 p.m. EDT. Proof of negative COVID-19 test or COVID-19 vaccine will not be required to attend. Masks are optional at Conner Prairie. For more information regarding the policies of Conner Prairie and to review the FAQ, please visit the ISO website.

## Facing The Uncertainty: How Technology Can Help You Travel With Confidence

By **Ryan Brubaker, Chief Information Officer/Executive Vice President of Operations**

There is one major constant within the travel industry. No matter the generation, destination or span of a trip, the consumer wants to be able to travel with confidence. This has never been more relevant than in the present day. As many of us approach planning and taking part in travel, we can't help but feel the weight of uncertainty. There is a fluctuating list of reasons for why consumers face these uncomfortable feelings - i.e., the potential of contracting an illness/disease, other health issues, travel costs, international tension, regional conflicts, extreme weather, risk of natural disasters, etc. Along with the fears that are often shared by a number of travelers, there are also a wide range of factors that could be causing individuals to experience their own unique form of travel anxiety. Perhaps you've previously had a negative experience while traveling or this is the first time that you've traveled alone. In any case, it is widely common for travelers in 2022 to crave a sense of safety and protection.

With all this being said, I argue that in many ways, we are more prepared than ever before to travel safely. From a technological standpoint, this is 100% the case. While our par-

ents and grandparents were tasked with traveling with the guidance from a travel agent and guidebooks, we have the ability to use resources such as Google Maps, Airbnb, blogs from other travelers, and so much more to get the most out of our trip.

As a leader with Seven Corners, I am in a position to advocate for consumers to use insurance to protect their investment they have put into travel. I also have a platform to show consumers how technology can be a guide. Whether you're traveling across the state, country or world, here are my top three tips that can help you travel with greater confidence.

1. Certainty is created through research

Just as you wouldn't attend a job interview without properly researching the company and opportunity, you also wouldn't want to find yourself in a new destination without any prior knowledge of its top attractions, dining options and available transportation. Two great resources that are sometimes overlooked include the city's tourism website and its Chamber of Commerce site. Both typically outline information on local establishments, upcoming events, places to stay and parking availability. These platforms can also help you determine what activities are available and age appropriate

for those traveling with you. Another way to learn more about your potential destination is through YouTube videos and TikTok as these showcase other individuals' previous travel experiences in a given area and usually highlight their biggest takeaways from their trip.

2. Your mobile device should be a close companion

We often see consumers looking for travel opportunities when they need to unplug from the technology they use in their everyday lives. This is completely understandable; however, it is not the most realistic choice, particularly when traveling long distances or to new destinations. With a few clicks on our phone, we can share our new arrival time with loved ones, present our tickets for a flight, and take part in contactless check-in at a hotel. The industry itself has started to rely on technology more than ever before, partially due to the pandemic. In fact, data.ai reports from summer 2021 showed a 20% surge in travel/navigation app usage compared to previous months and times of year. Travel apps are available, and it is wise to take advantage of them. If you're not sure where to begin, Apple's App Store and the Google Play Store have excellent lists of the top free and paid travel apps being used today.

3. Use technologies that

promote your safety

Right now, there are a number of technologies that you can be using to help ensure your own or your group's safety while traveling. Companies like Seven Corners offer 24/7 communication through multiple channels such as a mobile app, text message, WhatsApp and much more. This is a growing trend across the industry with numerous insurance, airline, residential booking and rideshare companies prioritizing round the clock communication with their customers. Apps like "Find My" allow you to share your location for a range of times with select individuals, helping you to monitor the whereabouts and stay connected with every member of your party. Resources like Sherpa are available to help you navigate the changing travel requirements and restrictions across the world. Finally, monitoring local news coming out of your destination's area is a tried and true way to stay in the loop and safe while on vacation.

A trip with your family to Disney World is filled with a completely different energy than a ski trip with your friends, a conference with colleagues or your student's study abroad semester in Europe. In all of these scenarios, safety should be your top priority, and technology is here to support you every step of the way.

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