

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"



➔ 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. this Sunday at the pool, with registration encouraged, and the public invited.

And Another Thing...

1. Senior Seminars

Life's Copilot, a Carmel-based resource connecting the community with certified professionals offering a wide variety of products and services to the growing senior sector, is offering webinars for seniors in the upcoming weeks.

Today, from 12 p.m., noon to 1 p.m., they are offering "Solutions for Boomers Downsizing in Tight Inventory Market" as part of their Senior Services Webinars series. The webinar will feature an expert panel with speakers from Hallmark Mortgage, Sycamore Reserve, eXp and more. Those interested in watching can register at <https://www.lifescopilot.com/events/y4dijbygzhnrwl2wywg8ata2dbgm-ccs3b-8n6cs>.

On Sept. 27, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Life's Copilot will host the next edition of their Senior Services Webinar, titled "Solutions For Off Times With Parkinson's." The webinar will feature Brandon Tillberry, a Senior Sales Representative for Supernus Pharmaceuticals. Those wishing to view the webinar can register online at <https://www.lifescopilot.com/events/199td8pk3fgr6p6btby44k9thgz4-ahlls-4gtdf-9yfxd>.

2. Back-to-School Aid

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) announced earlier this year that the Military Family Relief Fund Operation Back to School program was opening for applicants. Indiana veteran families experiencing financial hardship may be eligible for up to \$500 for each dependent for back-to-school supplies and other school-related expenses and needs. Applications for assistance are due by 4 p.m., Sept. 15.

The Military Family Relief Fund Back to School Program is designed to assist veterans and their families that are experiencing financial hardship. This special program can assist qualified veterans with essential school expenses for the children that reside in their homes.

An eligible child shall be under 18 years of age at the time of the application, or the child is 18 years of age and still enrolled in high school or a high school equivalency program.

Information and applications are available online at <https://www.in.gov/dva/about-idva/links/military-family-relief-fund/>.

3. Helping Survivors

More Than a Phone, a nonprofit that partners with domestic violence shelters across the U.S. to provide free smartphones and data service plans to survivors, is holding its fifth annual More Than a Tailgate fundraising event on Oct. 2, at Crane Bay Event Center in downtown Indianapolis. From 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., attendees can enjoy tailgate-inspired food and drinks, outdoor games, live and silent auctions, and live music during a family-friendly tailgate - preparing them for the Colts' home matchup against the Tennessee Titans at Lucas Oil Stadium, which is just steps away from Crane Bay Event Center. All event proceeds will benefit More Than a Phone.

Since its founding in 2017, More Than a Phone has provided over 5,800 smartphones and 23,000 months of service to survivors of its participant shelters. The organization currently partners with 73 domestic violence shelters nationwide, including 17 here in Indiana.

Event tickets can be purchased by visiting [www.morethanaphone.org/more-than-a-tailgate](http://www.morethanaphone.org/more-than-a-tailgate). For those unable to attend the tailgate in person, virtual ticket options are also available that include access to a live stream of the event and the silent auction.

# The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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## Elks Upcoming Rummage Sales Among Charity Events



**BETSY REASON**  
The Times Editor

A new fundraising event will see Noblesville Elks Lodge members cleaning their closets, garages and basements in search of items to sell to raise money for charity.

The Elks Lodge No. 576 is calling this event the "Elks

Purge Rummage Sale" and will be the first-time sale for charity the next two Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 10 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 17. The sale is open to the public and will take place at the Elks Lodge, 35 S. Ninth St., next to The Levinson in downtown Noblesville.

All proceeds will go to Elks' annual charity awards.

There will be no clothing. But there will be household items, tools, kitchen items and much more, said sale organizer Treva Vallier, a Lodge member, said. "We will have a variety of items from purses, tools, books, yard tools, kitchen items and more."

Vallier is the chair for the Lodge's activities committee that plans events for the club throughout the year. She's been chairing the committee for the Elks the past two years. "I really enjoy being a member,"



The Times photo courtesy of Betsy Reason

**The Noblesville Elks Lodge No. 576 will have a first-time Elks Purge Rummage Sale the next two Saturday at the Lodge at 35 S. Ninth St., Noblesville.**

she said.

All proceeds will go to the Lodge's charity fund to be distributed at the end of the year. In 2021, the Noblesville Elks made a donation to Prevail victims-assistance group in Noblesville.

The upcoming rummage sale is among several charity Elks Lodge fundraisers and activities.

The Lodge's 36th annual Steve Renner Charity Golf Outing for Cancer Research

➔ See BETSY Page A6

## See Inventors Make Their Mark in Fishers at This Weekend's Make48 Competition



The Fishers Maker Playground will host the national Make48 competition this weekend.

Make48 is a 48-hour competition where teams are presented with a challenge and tasked

to build a physical prototype, create a sales sheet, produce a 1-minute marketing video, and pitch their big idea to a panel of judges. The Indianapolis competition at Maker Playground is one of several regional events

leading up to the national competition in March 2023.

During this weekend's competition, competitors will be faced with a real-world problem presented by Corvea AgriScience to solve this year's theme, "Food Preservation & the Supply Chain: Food at the Right Place, at the Right Time." The first-place team will win \$2,000 and advance to the national competition next spring.

The Fishers Maker Playground is a 15,000-square-foot,

➔ See MAKE 48 Page A6



Photo courtesy of HHSC

### HHMS CC Team Sprints to Success at Season Opener

Members of Hamilton Heights Middle School's Cross-Country team came out of the gate strong at its season opener last Wednesday. Heights proved to be among the best of the 8 schools that participated at the Eastern Conditioner hosted by Eastern. Both the boys and girls B team brought home first place wins in the B race. Highlights included the Levi Newman and Jonah Wolfgang duo placing first in their race. The top pair in the girls' race was Lydia Heuer and Fiona McDonald placing second. The competition was tough in the boys' A race with Tommy Girolamo and Will Monnin running their way to a respectable third place finish and second place overall team finish only behind the tough Northfield team. In the girls' A race, four Husky pairs finished in the top 10 bringing home the first-place trophy. It was a GREAT night to be a Husky CC runner. Expect more good things out of this talented group of runners in future meets!

➔ INSIDE TODAY

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➔ OBITUARIES

**Michael Troy Kirby**



➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Having hip, knee, ankle or foot pain? Losing just 10 pounds can improve the pain.

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



➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Why is it September and we still have pothole problems?



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"A vacation is having nothing to do and all day to do it in."  
- Robert Orben

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What was the Christmas tree's favorite thing about Star Trek?  
The captain's log.

**13 WTHR** 7 DAY FORECAST

|                               |                            |                          |                              |                                   |                                  |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 82<br>MORE SUN<br>LESS CLOUDS | 58/83<br>DRY &<br>PLEASANT | 59/85<br>SUNNY &<br>WARM | 68/79<br>RAIN CHANCE<br>LATE | 64/78<br>MIXED CLOUDS<br>& STORMS | 61/75<br>BREEZY, RAIN<br>EVENING | 57/74<br>PARTLY CLOUDY<br>COOLER |
| WED                           | THU                        | FRI                      | SAT                          | SUN                               | MON                              | TUE                              |

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



## ⇒ OBITUARIES

### Michael Troy Kirby

February 10, 1970 - September 4, 2022

Michael Troy Kirby, 52, of Noblesville, passed away on Sunday, September 4, 2022.

He was born on February 10, 1970 to Mike J. and Cyndi K. (Marcum) Kirby in Noblesville, Indiana.

Mr. Kirby was a 1988 graduate of Noblesville High School and worked as a chef for Meijer Corporation.

Survivors include his parents Mike and Cyndi Kirby; companion of 21 years Paulette Lochar; four children Cameron Michael Kirby, Tiffany Nicole (Caleb) Cook, Randy Taylor and Brandon Cory Lochar; brother Christopher L. (Kathy) Kirby; and three grandchildren Emelia Grace Cook, Bensyn Able Cook and Linkon Wayne Cook.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., noon, on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan Street, in Noblesville. A private family burial will be held.

Memorial contributions may be made to Humane Society for Hamilton County, 10501 Hague Road, Fishers, Ind. 46038 (www.hamiltonhumane.com).

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



Photo courtesy of HHSC

**HHMS Middle School students Cyrus Mason and Addie Doak are ready for one of the athletic department's most popular fundraisers which is underway now through Friday, September 19. Proceeds from the trash bag sales help support the Hamilton Heights Middle School athletics department.**

## Bag Your Garbage, Give Back to Students with the 2022 HHMS Trash Bag Fundraiser

It's that time of the year to stock up on your favorite trash bag while supporting Hamilton Heights Middle School athletics!! Hamilton Heights Middle School's Annual Fall Trash Bag fundraiser is underway now through Sept. 19.

These popular, heavy-duty trash bags come in five sizes:

- 13 gallon (red, 45/roll);
- 18 gallon (white, 60/roll);
- 30 gallon (black, 40/roll);
- 39 gallon (yellow, 20 per roll); and
- 55 gallon (green, 15/roll)

roll);

- 39 gallon (yellow, 20 per roll); and
- 55 gallon (green, 15/roll)

The cost per roll is \$14. Please make checks payable to Hamilton Heights Middle School.

Proceeds benefit the school's athletics department. Pick up is set for Tuesday, October 4 from 2:30 to 6:00 p.m. at Hamilton Heights Middle School, 25150 SR 19, Arcadia.

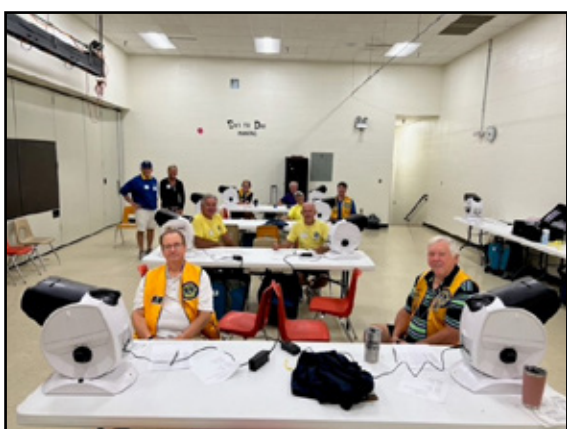


Photo courtesy of the Noblesville Lions

### Noblesville and Zionsville Lions Performing Eye Testing at Hinkle Creek School

On Aug. 22, the Noblesville and Zionsville Lions did eye testing at Hinkle Creek Elementary School. Next week the Lions will be testing at Noblesville East and West Middle Schools. School eye testing is one of the major goals of Lions Clubs. Photographed helping with eye testing are (seated, from left to right) Lions Walt Scheid, Steve Shaw, Brett Burrows, Ron Williamson, Sid Thomas, Julia Kozicki, Gary Smith, Jeff Kozicki, and standing are Dan Dumbauld and Martha Pappas.

## Timmons Asks: Who's The One Dividing Who?



**TIM TIMMONS**  
Two Cents

should agree with.

But then he said that if you stand behind Donald Trump you are a semi-fascist.

Wait, what?

Forget the politics for a second. Forget the eerie resemblance to failed candidate Hillary Clinton calling Trump backers deplorable. Even forget the fact that he said – and I quote here – “I give you my word as a Biden.” (Listen, you can't make this stuff up.)

But before we go any further, let me hit a couple of points about the guy Biden seems to be so scared of, Trump. I wouldn't pretend to speak for anyone else, but I am desperately hoping for a better candidate than Donald Trump in 2024. I want a president who can accomplish many of the same things Trump did . . . without the name-calling, ridiculous tweeting and arrogance we saw daily for four years. That said, let me also repeat something I've said over and over – if Joe Biden and Donald Trump are on the ballot, I won't hesitate to vote for Trump. I'm just hoping he's not.

And can we leave it there please? Can I make that decision without attack? Maybe you are going to cast your ballot for Joe Biden. Good for you. I do not say that with sarcasm. I truly mean it. For unlike the idiots who will berate and even threaten us for whoever our choice is,

most reasonable people respect our right to vote whatever way we want.

And that's where Biden is off base – badly, badly off base.

He is using scare tactics – something he has done in the past. Anyone remember when then presidential candidate Biden told a black radio host that if African-Americans couldn't decide on him over Trump “then you ain't black.”

It seems that Biden likes to use strong words to suppress opposition. Hmmm. When I looked up the definition of fascism, part of it reads the “forcible suppression of opposition.”

Hmmm, again.

Look, we could make a lot of points here. Biden often comes across as an elderly person who forgets what he is saying . . . He says one thing today and the opposite tomorrow . . . his voting record in the Senate isn't exactly stellar when it comes to race and money . . . And we could go on about the validity of each point.

We could even talk about the idea that Biden and his entire party keep Donald Trump's name in the news. If that isn't giving the former president free publicity and even creating more support, I don't know what you would call it.

That's not the issue.

The issue is simple. Joe Biden, the man who is our president, is telling me and millions of Americans that we are a threat to this country. He is saying that just because we believe Donald Trump was a better president than he is we are wrong. He is drawing a line in the sand with him on one side and six out of 10 Americans on the other.

Am I a threat to this country? Are you? I'm pretty sure we didn't leave thousands of Americans in

Afghanistan in the worst withdrawal since Saigon. I'm positive that we didn't screw up any sort of smart transition to clean energy by overnight eliminating thousands and thousands of jobs in the oil and gas industry (and overturning American lives in the process). We're not to blame for the debacle with \$5 a gallon gas prices and a return to reliance on foreign energy. We didn't discard any semblance of border security to our south.

We live in a world today where fiction tends to fester into fact, where opinions – especially hateful ones – get more attention than the truth. But we have two years of facts to go by. So, if you actually want to talk about the real threat to this country Mr. President, perhaps you ought to start by looking in the mirror.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: If you want to see for yourself the text of the two speeches, the White House has them on its web site. The links are here:*

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/08/26/remarks-by-president-biden-at-a-reception-for-the-democratic-national-committee-3/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/09/01/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-continued-battle-for-the-soul-of-the-nation/>

*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*

## ⇒ Meeting Notes

### Hamilton County Board of Commissioners

Meeting Agenda – Executive Session and General Meeting Monday, Sept. 12 at 1 p.m.

Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, Commissioner's Courtroom

One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville

1. Executive Session - Conference Room 1A
  - A. Discussion of Security IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(7)
  - B. Purchase of Real Estate IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(D)
  - C. Discussion of Pending Litigation IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(B)
  - D. Discussion of Personnel IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(7)
2. Call to Order - Commissioners Courtroom
3. Declare Quorum
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Approval of Executive Session Memoranda
  - A. 8/23/22 - Joint Meeting
  - B. 9/12/22
6. Approval of Minutes
  - A. 8/12/22 Highway Meeting
  - B. 8/22/22
  - C. 8/23/22 Joint

## ⇒ Meeting Notice

### Noblesville Wastewater Council Committee

The Noblesville Wastewater Council Committee Meeting scheduled for Sept. 12, 2022 at 1 p.m. has been canceled.

## ⇒ Meeting Notice

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The Noblesville Wastewater Council Committee Meeting scheduled for Sept. 12, 2022 at 1 p.m. has been canceled.

Thanks for reading The Times!

- Meeting
7. Highway Business
    - A. Road Cut Permits
    - B. Private Traffic Control Permits
    - C. Vehicle Exemption Permits
    - D. Acceptance of Bonds and Letters of Credit
    - E. Release of Bonds and Letters of Credit
    - F. Agreement/Supplements
      - a. Inspection Agreement for River West (Milhaus/First Group)
      - G. Acceptance of Streets
      - H. Request Permission to Advertise Resurface Contract 22-03
      - I. Concurrence with Traffic Study Correspondence
      - J. Public Works Quotation Results
      - K. Official Actions
  - L. Correspondence
  - M. Announcements
  8. Plan Commission - CJ Taylor
    - A. Ordinance No. 09-09-2022-A, an ordinance establishing a schedule of fees, charges and expenses for the jurisdictional area of the Hamilton County Plan Commission
    9. Emergency Management Agency - Shane Booker
      - A. Emergency Operations Plan
    10. Community Development Block Grant - Mary Shaw
      - A. Request to Release Lien
    11. Commissioner Committee Reports
    12. Attorney
    13. Director of Administration
    14. Sheriff

- A. Request from Mark Barker to Keep Cell Phone Number
15. Auditor
  - A. Capital Asset Notification Final Disposal
  - B. Treasurer's Monthly Report
  - C. Acceptance of Bonds/Letters of Credit - Drainage Board
  - D. Release of Bonds/Letters of Credit - Drainage Board
  - E. Vendor Claims
  - F. Health Trust Monthly Expenditure Report
  - G. Liability Trust Monthly Expenditure Report
  - H. Payroll Claims
  16. Work Session - Conference Room 1A
    - A. Water and Sewer Utility Wholesale Water Purchase Agreements - Marty Wessler

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# Indiana Colleges Ramp-Up Monkeypox Awareness, But Vaccines Still Limited

By Casey Smith

Schools across Indiana walked back COVID-19 restrictions at the start of the new fall term, but colleges and universities are now focusing on keeping the monkeypox virus at bay.

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) has confirmed 172 monkeypox cases in Indiana since June 17, according to the department's new statewide dashboard. Nearly 20,000 cases have been confirmed in the U.S.

The virus primarily spreads through intimate sexual contact, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). It can also spread by infected rashes or sores, exchanging of body fluids, and through respiratory droplets during prolonged exposure with someone who has monkeypox.

## What colleges are doing

So far, no cases of monkeypox at any Indiana colleges or universities have been publicly confirmed.

Preparing for the possibility of future cases, public health experts on college campuses say they're emphasizing efforts to educate students on the signs, symptoms and methods of transmitting the virus. They also caution students to take notice of any new rashes.

People with monkeypox develop a rash that may be located on or near the genitals or anus, as well as other areas like the hands, feet, chest, face, or mouth, according to the CDC.

The rash will go through several stages, including scabs, before healing.

The rash can initially look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy.

Sometimes, people have flu-like symptoms before the rash. Some people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms. Others only experience a rash.

Other symptoms of monkeypox can include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Exhaustion
- Muscle aches and backache
- Headache
- Respiratory symptoms (e.g. sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)

The illness typically lasts two to four weeks. A person is considered infectious with monkeypox from the onset of symptoms, until the rash has fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed.

Graham McKeen, Indiana University's assistant university director of public and

environmental, said part of the school's response includes working alongside leaders and members of LGBTQ+ communities on the college's two main campuses to make available information about prevention.

Monkeypox isn't considered a sexually transmitted disease, but men who have sex with men are the group at the highest risk of infection from monkeypox, according to the World Health Organization.

McKeen said efforts to share information additionally extend to other high-risk groups on the campuses, including custodians and housekeepers.

Maxie Gardner, Butler University's director of health services, said school administrators prepared for weeks to ensure students could return safely to the Indianapolis campus.

That includes free monkeypox testing, which remains available to students.

The university will also help coordinate isolation housing for any students who test positive. The isolation period for monkeypox is required for the duration of the illness, which can last up to four weeks, according to public health experts.

Virus testing and isolation housing is available to IU Bloomington and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) students, as well.

The Jynneos vaccine is FDA-approved for the prevention of monkeypox in anyone who is 18 years or older and at high risk for infection.

IDOH officials said they are working with colleges across the state to help with testing and to make vaccines available, but supply is limited.

Indiana has only been allocated a "small amount" of vaccines, according to IDOH. Those are primarily meant to be used to prevent severe disease in people who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for monkeypox. The vaccination must be given within 14 days of exposure.

The state health department has additionally started vaccinating people who are at high risk for severe illness and high risk for exposure with the limited remaining vaccine, but those patients are being contacted directly by healthcare providers.

Anyone else who wishes to be vaccinated must pre-register and await availability at a clinic.

## IU Health opens new testing lab

To help ramp-up testing, IU Health last

week opened a biosecure lab in Indianapolis that is dedicated to testing monkeypox samples. The lab — which was previously at the forefront of COVID-19 testing — is now the primary testing site for suspected monkeypox samples in Indiana.

The testing space was put together in less than two months, according to IU Health officials.

With on-site testing, the pathology lab can now turnaround results from monkey pox tests within 24 to 48 hours, rather than the previous range of eight to 14 days.

"To launch our test locally means patients throughout Indiana do not have to wait an extended time for their important test results," said Clark Day, vice president of the IU Health Laboratory System.

The faster turnaround also means a person who tests negative for monkeypox can be released from quarantine faster.

## New virus requires different response than COVID-19

As students returned en masse to college campuses last month, most were able to do so without masks or a negative COVID-19 test.

Dr. Aaron Carroll, a distinguished professor of pediatrics and chief health officer at the IU School of Medicine in Indianapolis, said concerns surrounding the spread of monkeypox are different, however.

Students infected with monkeypox are less likely to spread the virus to large groups, meaning large outbreaks and quarantines aren't expected.

Still, the risk of transmission is higher for any college-aged students who are sexually active, he said. Concerns are also heightened in residence halls and other congregate settings where close contact between students could happen — even if it's not sexually-oriented.

Unlike COVID testing — which is widely accessible and can be done at home — monkeypox testing is more limited to medical offices and other clinical settings. That could mean doctors and nurses are tasked most with diagnosing monkeypox cases and carrying out contact-tracing.

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# Chuck Pagano Rides Back into Town as New Colts Analyst for WISH-TV

DuJuan McCoy, Owner, President, and CEO of Circle City Broadcasting (parent company of WISH-TV and MyINDY-TV 23), yesterday announced that former Indianapolis Colts Head Coach Chuck Pagano will join WISH-TV Sports Director Anthony Calhoun and the Emmy award-winning Sports 8 team as a Colts Analyst for the 2022 NFL season.

"We are excited to have Coach Pagano join us every Sunday during the Colts season. The insight he will provide Colts fans weekly will be unmatched," said Calhoun. "In addition to his expert analysis, we will also talk beyond the football field with Pagano."

Starting this coming Sunday, Pagano will go one-on-one with Calhoun in a special segment titled "Chuck Checks IN." The weekly feature will air LIVE Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. on Countdown to Kickoff on WISH-TV.

"I have a strong connection with the Indianapolis community and have the utmost respect for AC," said Pagano. "I can't wait to join him and his team on Sundays talking Colts football and giving my analysis on game day."

Pagano coached the Colts from 2012-2017 where he led the organization to two AFC South titles and a trip to the AFC Championship Game.

Pagano, who spent over three decades on the college and NFL sidelines, guided the Colts to a 53-43 record during his tenure in Indianapolis.

"No other station in Indiana provides more Colts coverage than WISH-TV, and with Chuck Pagano on our team, Colts fans will get in-depth insight every week," said McCoy.

"As Indiana's Statewide News Network, we are committed to creating unique experiences through our Focus on Family and Community. This addition expands our sports lineup on MyINDY-TV 23 and WISH-TV, solidifying our presence as Indiana's local sports stations."



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### 2022 Flix and Float Schedule

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

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

**Flix & Float Sponsors:**

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



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# Student Loan Forgiveness Counts As Income for Hoosiers

By Whitney Downard

Thousands of Hoosier borrowers with student loan debt discharged under a presidential proposal could see their taxable income increase under Indiana law.

The loan forgiveness, announced in late August by President Joe Biden, waives up to \$10,000 for borrowers earning less than \$125,000 or couples earning less than \$250,000. Borrowers who qualified for Pell Grants while in school are eligible for another \$10,000 discharge.

But Indiana tax law requires Hoosiers to report that discharge of debt as income, meaning some could pay over \$1,000 in taxes.

Rep. Greg Porter, the ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, decried the law, vowing he would file legislation to mitigate the impact and retroactively waive the tax.

“Many student borrowers have paid back their original loan amount and then some, but interest rates have kept them from paying off their debt and allocating that money toward buying a house, saving for retirement or starting a family,” Porter, D-Indianapolis, said in a statement. “... taxing student debt relief when we have a \$6.1 billion and growing surplus is unfair and needlessly counterproductive.”

The Education Data Initiative reports that

906,500 student borrowers live in Indiana, with a combined \$29.8 billion in debt – around \$32,874 per borrower. An estimated 294,000 of those borrowers saw their debt completely wiped out by the executive order.

The Department of Revenue confirmed that the student debt forgiven would be taxable and included in Hoosiers’ adjusted gross income. A statement from the agency said that only the General Assembly could change the law.

According to the department, Hoosiers will pay up to \$323 for \$10,000 forgiven or up to \$646 for \$20,000 at Indiana’s 3.23% tax rate. However, some counties charge an additional tax

rate, including Marion County, which has a 2.02% tax rate, charging \$202 for \$10,000 in forgiveness or \$404 for \$20,000. To see the tax rates of other counties, visit the agency site or at <https://www.in.gov/dor/files/dn01.pdf>.

The nonprofit Tax Foundation lists at least five other states that will tax the discharged debt for their residents, including Arkansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina and Wisconsin. Some other states have already moved to waive taxes for student loan borrowers who qualified for forgiveness and federal taxes will not apply at all.

“The federal government and the vast major-

ity of other states have correctly chosen not to tax student debt forgiveness. I can’t say I’m surprised Indiana has chosen to take a punitive stance on a policy meant to give working-class Americans relief, but there’s still time to change this,” Porter said in a statement. “In the meantime, however, I urge all Hoosiers with federal student loans to stay vigilant and not forget that this debt relief will currently be considered income and thus tax-liable in our state.”

House Speaker Todd Huston, R-Fishers, did not give a specific answer when asked by the Indiana Capital Chronicle whether the GOP caucus would act in the 2023 session. If the loans are

forgiven in 2022, they would need to be reported with their 2022 tax filings, meaning legislators would need to act quickly when they convene in January.

“We’re aware of the issue and I expect for conversations to continue as we head into the next legislative session,” Huston said in a statement.

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## BBB Tip: Student Loan Forgiveness is Here. Here’s How to Avoid Scams

The Biden Administration recently announced that the federal government will cancel up to \$20,000 of federal student loans per person. Millions of Americans will be recipients of the student loan debt relief; unfortunately, this creates an excellent opportunity for scammers. See our recent warning about student loan forgiveness scams.

As student loan holders navigate the new forgiveness program, con artists will undoubtedly be there to take advantage of any confusion. It happens with any big government initiative, including the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, eviction moratorium and pandemic relief programs. Always be sure to do your research before sharing any personal



information.

**Tips to avoid student loan forgiveness scams:**

- **Get to know the terms of your student loan and the relief program before acting.** Always do your research before sharing personal information. Be sure to understand the ins and outs of your specific loan, as well as how student

loan relief impacts you. Go straight to official government websites, such as ED.gov and studentaid.gov, for information.

- **Never pay money for a free government program.** Scammers often trick victims into paying for free government programs – or they claim you can get additional benefits, faster benefits, etc., for a fee. A real government agency will not ask for an advanced processing fee. These are all red flags of a scam.

- **Be wary of out-of-the-blue calls, emails or text messages claiming to be from the government.** In general, the government will not contact you using these methods unless you grant permission.

- **Watch out for phony government agencies or programs.** If you speak to someone claiming to be a government representative who is offering you student loan relief, do some research before you agree to anything. Scammers often make up look-alike government websites that sound similar to legitimate agencies or programs.

- **Think something seems suspicious? Reach out to the agency directly.** If you have any concerns about an alleged government representative’s legitimacy, hang up the phone or stop emailing/texting. Then, find the official contact information (look on ED.gov and studentaid.gov or other official sites) and call to verify. Then,

report the suspicious calls or messages.

- **Be careful, even if the information comes from a friend.** Even if a close friend or family member you trust sent you the information regarding student loan relief, make sure the claims are real first. During the COVID-19 pandemic, BBB received many reports of hacked social media accounts being used to spread government impostor scams.

**For more information:** Read more on BBB.org about scams targeting recent college graduates and government impostors. Get further insight by reading BBB’s tips on loans and credit repair services.

If you’ve spotted a student loan forgiveness

scam (whether or not you’ve lost money), report it to [BBB.org/ScamTracker](https://BBB.org/ScamTracker). Your report can help others avoid falling victim to scams.

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

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# USDA to Offer Farm Loans for Underserved and Beginning Farmers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is reminding producers that FSA offers farm ownership and farm operating loans to underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers. Underserved or beginning farmers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for FSA direct or guaranteed loans.

“Farming is a capital-intensive business and FSA is committed to helping producers start and maintain their agricultural operations,” said Julia A. Wickard, FSA State Executive Director in Indiana.

“FSA loans are designed to make sure that everyone has access to credit including underserved and beginning farmers.”

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender

prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities.

For farm loan program purposes, underserved groups are American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.

In order to qualify as a beginning farmer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For farm ownership purposes, the applicant must not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county at the time of application. All direct farm ownership applicants

must have participated in the business operations of a farm for at least three years out of the last 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted to FSA. Substitutions for as much as the full three years of experience may be made depending on education, military experience, participation with a SCORE mentor, and farm management experience as a hired hand.

If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage and all entity members must be eligible beginning farmers. At least one of the members must have three years or more experience in the business operations of a farm prior to the date the application is submitted.

Your local FSA office will be able to provide more details on acceptable substitutions.

Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by



lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan.

FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program offers two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans.

### Farm Ownership

### Loans:

Farm ownership loan funds may be used to purchase or enlarge a farm; purchase easements or rights of way needed in the farm's operation; build or improve buildings such as a dwelling or barn; promote soil and water conservation and development; and pay closing costs.

Financing for direct farm ownership loans cannot exceed 40 years.

### Farm Operating Loans:

Farm operating loan

funds may be used to purchase livestock, poultry, farm equipment, fertilizer, and other materials necessary to operate a farm. Operating loan funds can also be used for family living expenses; refinancing debts under certain conditions; paying salaries for hired farm laborers; installing or improving water systems for home, livestock or irrigation use; and other similar improvements.

Repayment terms for direct operating loans are scheduled from one to seven years.

Interest rates for direct loans are set periodically according to the government's cost of borrowing. Guaranteed loan terms and interest rates are set by the lender.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, please contact your local FSA office or visit farmers.gov.

# Students Have Additional Options to Earn Indiana College Core in High School

More Indiana high schoolers than ever before can earn up to a year of general education, college-level courses in high school, as 57 additional high schools and eight postsecondary providers are now able to offer the Indiana College Core (the Core).

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education confirmed more high schools and postsecondary providers – including the first four-year providers of the Core, which is a 30-credit-hour block of general education courses that transfer among all public institutions and some private colleges. The Indiana College Core is based on competencies and can be earned through a combination of dual credit, Advanced Placement courses, dual enrollment, etc.

Prior to the announcement of 57 high schools (representing a 68 percent increase in the number of schools), only about one in five high schools offered the Indiana College Core; that number is now more than one in four high schools which can provide the Core. Find the list of high schools on TransferIN.net. A new user-friendly tool for students and families to explore options to earn the Core in high school will be available in early 2023.

Indiana College Core LogoIndiana University



## INDIANA COMMISSION for HIGHER EDUCATION

Bloomington, all five IU regional campuses, Purdue University Northwest and Purdue University Fort Wayne are the first four-year institutions to serve as primary postsecondary partners of the Indiana College Core. The eight four-year campuses join Ivy Tech Community College and Vincennes University as providers of the Core. As primary postsecondary partners, higher education institutions have a formal agreement with partner Indiana high schools to deliver the Core to students through early college credit opportunities such as dual credit, dual enrollment and Advanced Placement.

Since 2012, 10,223 students earned essentially a full year of college for little to no cost by completing the Indiana College Core while in high school. The average full “sticker” price for a year at a public institu-

tion is \$22,000, equating to a savings of nearly \$225 million for Hoosier students.

“The Indiana College Core is one of our state's best tools for making the cost of education beyond high school manageable while preparing high school students for the rigors of college,” said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. “I am encouraged to see a growing number of students earning the Core in high school, but we know there is more work to be done to improve availability. Working in partnership with the Indiana Department of Education, we seek to ensure the Core is offered in all Indiana high schools and dramatically increase the number of students completing the Core by 2028.”

Students who earn the Indiana College Core are more likely to enroll in

college. Recent data show that 90 percent of Indiana College Core earners from the class of 2020 went on to attend college. Once at college, those students can focus on major-specific courses earlier than their peers and pursue additional opportunities such as adding a minor and studying abroad. Additionally, they're more likely to graduate on time or early and could pursue graduate school ahead of their peers who didn't earn the Core while in high school.

While more students are earning the Indiana College Core and more high schools are becoming delivery sites, gaps remain by student race and ethnicity, household income and geographic location. Far too few Indiana high schools offer a full range of early college credit opportunities. Increasing the availability of dual credit, and careful use of it can help more high schoolers earn the Indiana College Core. Educators can utilize free credentialing opportunities through Teach Dual Credit Indiana and STEM Teach Indiana to teach dual credit courses.

“When students complete the Indiana College Core, they open additional doors of opportunity – including saving valuable time and thousands of dollars in their next steps after high school,” said Indiana Secretary of Ed-

ucation Dr. Katie Jenner. “As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Core, high schools and higher education providers have now come together like never before to expand access to this incredible opportunity for our students. Looking ahead, we must continue to expand this access so that all students can jumpstart their futures through the Indiana College Core.”

In 2021, the state of Indiana launched the Crossing the Finish Line initiative to assist Indiana high school students who are just a few credits from earning a high-quality credential such as the Indiana College Core. Through the initiative, nearly 800 students completed the Core for free over the past two summers through Ivy Tech Community College or Vincennes University.

Earlier this year, the Commission and the Indiana Department of Education released a comprehensive digital guide and toolkit to continue building awareness around the benefits of the Indiana College Core with high school students. The materials are designed to equip educators, especially school counselors, with the information and tools needed to help students make knowledgeable decisions about earning the Indiana College Core.

A downloadable social media kit is available for

school counselors, school corporations, colleges and universities and graduates who earned the Core to build awareness of the Indiana College Core and celebrate its 10th anniversary. The kit contains sample posts and graphics.

For more information about dual credit and credit transfer, visit TransferIN.net.

### About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education:

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](http://www.in.gov/che).

### About the Indiana Department of Education:

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) oversees Indiana primary and secondary schools across Indiana. IDOE is dedicated to providing quality, purposeful educational opportunities for all students to prepare them for lifelong success. For more information, visit [doe.in.gov](http://doe.in.gov).

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**BETSY** From Page A1

Golf Outing, which is every year in August, took place Aug. 22. The benefit is every year in August.

There are lots of activities going on at the Elks for folks who are interested in getting involved there.

Euchre starts this Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at the Lodge with a tournament monthly until February, scheduled for the second Saturday of each month for \$6 per person per month, with \$5 going toward the monthly prizes and \$1 each month goes to a Grand Prize in February. Also, bar bingo happens on the last Saturday night of each month.

The Lodge recently awarded a \$2,500 grant

to Feedingteam.org to partner to make a positive difference in the lives of Hamilton County neighbors. The grant will be used to get food that will be distributed in local pantries to the 48 pantries in service. The pantries exist, to meet the food insecurity needs of gap families, neighbors that may not qualify for public assistance and could use a few meals before payday, according to Feedingteam.org founders and Elks members Mark and Lisa Hall of Noblesville, who are organizing a free Feedingteam.org Music Festival 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 1 at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville, with attendees invited to donate nonperishables.

Next up, the Lodge's

NFL Auction just started on Wednesday night which also was the date for the Queen of Hearts drawing that will continue on Wednesday nights. Also, upcoming is the Elks NFL Pick'em pool. Members test their skills and football knowledge by picking NFL games weekly with weekly payouts, with 10 percent going to Elks charities.

Noblesville Elks Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest for kids also takes place each December at the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville.

Every lodge observes June 14 as Flag Day, a tradition which the Elks began in 1907 and was later adopted.

The Elks, which is the largest and most active

fraternal organization in the United States, is the second largest organization to give money to cancer research, which is the Elks' biggest mission, as well as youth activities.

The Lodge is always about helping the community, without wanting to be recognized. This year, Noblesville Elks Lodge recently had its Elks Challenge fundraiser at Topgolf in Fishers and presented a check for \$15,897 to the Noblesville Fueled for School organization. The Fueled for School program is for local students needing meals on weekends (www.fueledforschool.org) and has grown to serve middle-school students.

The Elks is always

**Want TO GO?**

**What:** Elks Purge Rummage Sale.  
**When:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 10 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 17.  
**Where:** Noblesville Elks Lodge No. 576, 35 S. Ninth St., Noblesville.  
**Info:** 317-773-4182.

seeking new members. The next meeting is at 7:20 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Lodge. Guests are invited.

Contact Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes24-7.com). She is a member of the Noblesville Elks Lodge of about 18 years.

**MAKE48**

From Page A1



state-of-the-art, public makerspace at the Hub and Spoke building located in west Fishers, just off Fishers' Nickel Plate Trail. Managed Fishers Parks, the Maker Playground was recently awarded 'Best Innovation in Design' by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Featuring a wood shop, metal shop, CNC machine, 3D Printer, computers, tools, and supplies to cut, form, and create, the Maker Playground provides the ideal setting for creators to innovate during the Make48 competition.

Learn more about Make48 at [Make48.com](http://Make48.com).

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In 2009, Forbes ranked the Fort Wayne metropolitan area 67th on its list of 200 metropolitan areas in the "Best Places For Business And Careers" report. Not too shabby!



# Indiana Facts & Fun



## Number $\%$ Stumpers

- Allen County had an estimated population of 372,877 in 2017.
- At 660 square miles, it is the state's largest county
- Fort Wayne, the county seat, was founded in 1824
- Three rivers, the Maumee, St. Joseph and St. Marys, come together at Fort Wayne
- Fort Wayne is cited as having the highest Burmese refugee population in the United States, with between 3,000–3,500

1. How old is Fort Wayne?  
 $\geq$
2. What percent of the population do the roughly 3,500 Burmese refugees make up?  
 $\leq$
3. What is the population per square mile?  
 $\geq$
4. The population in 2010 was 355,329. What percent of growth did the county's population see between 2010 and 2017?  
 $\leq$

Answers: 1. 194 Years Old 2. Around 1 percent 3. About 564. 4. 4.9 percent

## Got Words?

The area was occupied by indigenous people for thousands of years prior to settlement. What about the landscape do you think made the area and Fort Wayne so attractive to indigenous people and settlers?

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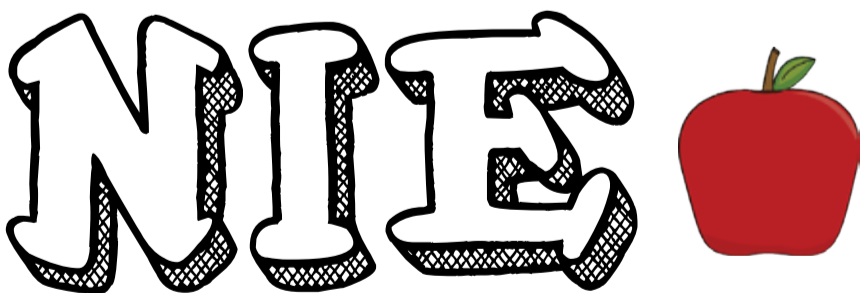
## Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. ROFT WYEAN
2. LLNEA
3. MMEEAU
4. ESEMBUR
5. VERRSI

Answers: 1. Fort Wayne 2. Allen 3. Maumee. 4. Burmese. 5 Rivers.

Indiana Facts & Fun Is Presented This Week By:



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# THURSDAY

## Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2022

A8

## Indiana Allocates \$22.9M for School Safety Projects

The Indiana Secured School Safety Board has approved more than \$22.9 million in matching state grants, marking the fourth consecutive year of record-breaking school safety investments. The grants will be allocated to 425 schools, which is the largest number of schools to ever apply.

“We continue to prioritize investments in school safety to help students and staff succeed without the worry of violence in Hoosier schools,” Gov. Eric J. Holcomb said. “This funding allow schools to address their specific safety needs through additional personnel and programs designed to prepare for and prevent school violence.”

The General Assembly allocated \$19 million the past two years for the Secured School Safety Grant (SSSG). Legislators will set future allocations during this year’s budget session. With the addition of \$3.9 million in funds unspent from previous grant cycles, Indiana was able to fully fund all top priority, eligible requests from all schools that applied. Additionally, the funding will cover all eligible requests for additional training for School Resource Officers and staff.

With this funding, Indiana now has invested more than \$132.9 million in school safety since 2013, when the SSSG program was initiated.

For FY23, the Board approved \$22,911,714.45 in school safety funding. The performance period for the grant begins Sept. 1.

The allocation of funds include:

- \$15,567,558.92 to 272 projects for SRO and LEO personnel costs;
- \$1,500 to one threat assessment project;
- \$6,468,821.16 to 133 projects for equipment and technology;
- \$1,800 to one active event warning system project;
- \$37,161.37 to 12 projects for training and;
- \$834,873 to 18 projects for student/parent support services programs.

“These grants allow Indiana to make a real and tangible impact on

students, staff and administrators at schools across the state,” said Rusty Goodpaster, director of the Secured School Safety Board. “We’re proud to be able to help make these schools safer while Hoosier kids receive a world-class education.”

The Secured School Fund is administered by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Visit the IDHS website for a full breakdown of SSSG awards (schools and total award received).

The SSSG issues matching grants for eligible items and then schools match those funds at a certain level, either 25 percent, 50 percent or 100 percent. The match requirement is based on

average daily membership of the school district, the total amount of the project or what the request covers.

Eligible items in the grant include funding for school resource officers (SROs) and law enforcement officers in schools; equipment and technology; active event warning systems (no matching requirement); firearms training for teachers and staff that choose to allow guns on school property; threat assessments and to implement a student and parent support services program. Common ineligible requests include vehicles, clothing/uniforms or vape detectors for schools.

The Indiana School Safety Hub also provides schools with a wealth

of resources, training opportunities and other information designed to give schools the tools they need to keep students and staff safe.

About the Indiana Department of Homeland Security:

Established in 2005, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) leads the way to a safer and more secure Indiana. With jurisdictions involving emergency management, building code enforcement, as well as training and certification for first responders around the state, IDHS works to provide a safe, secure and resilient Indiana.

For more information about IDHS, visit dhs.in.gov.

## Eighteen Faculty at Purdue University Recognized for Early Career Success

Eighteen Purdue University assistant and associate professors received National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Awards in fiscal year 2022 to fund research from sensorized farms to quantum networks at the world-renowned, public research university.

CAREER awards recognize faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization. The five-year grants are NSF’s most prestigious award in support of early career faculty.

“These awards reflect the caliber and industry of our younger faculty and the steady growth of our research portfolio as a result of consistent, targeted investments,” said Theresa Mayer, executive vice president for research and partnerships. “We congratulate our recent NSF CAREER award winners, and we are proud to have them as colleagues.”

Faculty receiving a CAREER award ranging from \$330,000 to \$730,000 in fiscal year 2022 are:

Xiaoping Bao, assistant professor of chemical engineering, for Engineering ex vivo Human Cardiogenesis with Optogenetics. Bao (College of Engineering) will use the award to seek control over the formation of organized cardiac organoids from hiPSCs using optogenetics, a biological technique to control the activity of cells or tissues with light, and then to use these to study cardiac maturation and heart diseases.

Christopher Greg Brinton, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, for From Federated to Fog Learning: Expanding the Frontier of Model Training in Heterogeneous Networks. Brinton (College of Engineering) will use the award to establish a new paradigm that will enable efficient



sophisticated computer simulations of severe storms with the behavior of real-world storms, investigating how severe storm “modes” depend on the details of early storm development across a range of different environments.

Letian Dou, assistant professor of chemical engineering, for Understanding and Quantifying Ion Migration and Diffusion in Two-Dimensional Halide Perovskite Heterostructures. Gao (College of Engineering) will use the award to understand stability problems in these promising semiconducting materials, developing novel structures from two-dimensional perovskites and quantifying how ions diffuse and migrate under heat, light and electrical bias.

James M. Gibert, associate professor of mechanical engineering, for Exploiting Time Dependent Behavior and Structure in Developing Programmable Materials. Gibert (College of Engineering) will use the award to introduce new mechanisms to program the stiffness and time-dependent mechanical and inertial behavior of materials, supporting the development of a new generation of programmable materials that can control and monitor vibrations and shock events in real time.

Harsha Honnappa, assistant professor of industrial engineering, for Methods for Data-Driven Service Engineering. Honnappa (College of Engineering) will use the award to study the fundamentals of data-driven engineering of service systems, which will ultimately increase operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness, a task with significant socioeconomic implications for the United States. With a fundamental understanding of large operational data sets and emerging machine learning technologies, his work will help to identify an appropriate mathe-

matical model for design and operation of such systems.

Mahdi Hosseini, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, for Active Nonlinear Photonics with Applications in Quantum Networks. Hosseini (College of Engineering) will use the award to address outstanding challenges to large-scale quantum networks by investigating nonlinear interaction of electromagnetic fields with engineered materials for quantum network applications.

Ruichao Ma, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, for Synthetic Quantum Materials in Superconducting Circuits. Ma (College of Science) will use the award to develop efficient protocols for creating and controlling synthetic quantum materials and their properties and to investigate the microscopic dynamics of quantum materials in open driven-dissipative settings. The findings will provide insights on material discovery and design for applications in quantum information science and engineering.

Aaron B. Morris, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, for Using Stochastic Techniques to Understand and Predict the Flow of Non-spherical Particles. Morris (College of Engineering) will use the award to develop a physics-based stochastic model that accounts for irregular particle shapes to predict particle dynamics more accurately in large-scale systems, helping to extend granular flow theory for idealized spherical particles to more realistic granular media and providing new solutions to technical challenges that occur in particle technology.

Paul Parsons, assistant professor of computer graphics technology, for Supporting Data Visualizing Design Practice. Parsons (Purdue Polytechnic Institute) will use the award to advance the practice of data visualiza-

tion design and strengthen relationships between the research and practitioner communities.

Elsje Pienaar, assistant professor of biomedical engineering (College of Engineering), for Complexity From Simplicity: Multi-scale Computational Deciphering of the Viral Life Cycle. The award, granted as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, will use a combination of experimental data and computer simulations to understand and predict the complex interactions that drive Ebola virus infection. Such an understanding will allow the identification of any weak points in this protein network that can be targeted with new drugs.

Alex Psomas, assistant professor of computer science, for Incentives, Fairness, and Efficiency without Monetary Transfers. Psomas (College of Science) will use the award to address theoretical questions in aspects of algorithm design for internet transactions that allocate scarce resources – such as food donations, vaccines, kidneys for transplant – where the input must be solicited from strategic agents with their own private preferences over the algorithm’s output.

Pedro Fonseca, assistant professor of computer science, for Towards Reliable Operating Systems through Scalable Control- and Data-Flow Analysis. Fonseca (College of Science) will use the award to develop testing techniques that are especially suited to find software bugs in modern operating system kernels, an essential – but particularly large and complex – software component of servers, desktops, mobile devices and embedded devices.

Neera Jain, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, for Enabling Human-Aware and Responsive Automation through Cognitive State Modeling and Estimation. Jain (College of Engineering) will use the

award for research that enables autonomous systems such as machines, robots and vehicles to respond safely and collaboratively to human interactions, thereby promoting the progress of science and advancing the national prosperity and welfare. Her work will build a new modeling framework that accounts for human cognitive constructs established within the social sciences, such as trust, workload, perceived risk and self-confidence, while being amenable to rigorous mathematical analysis.

Jing Tian, assistant professor in computer science, for A Model-Guided and Holistic Approach for Peripheral Security. Tian (College of Science) will use the award to systematically improve the security of peripheral devices (such as USB keyboards, drives, Bluetooth speakers and headsets) by discovering and reducing vulnerabilities that could enable peripheral attacks ahead of time, detecting malicious tampering within peripheral devices once connected, and responding to peripheral attacks.

David Yu, assistant professor of civil engineering and political science, for Evolution of Collective Disaster Memory: A Dynamic Behavioral and Systems Analysis toward Community Resilience. Yu (colleges of Engineering and Liberal Arts) will use the award to study collective disaster memory, a cultural trait whereby information on disastrous events is widely shared among contemporaries or passed down to subsequent generations through conversations, historical texts or built environment features. His work will test a hypothesis related to explaining variation in the durability of collective disaster memory in the context of flood hazards, flood memory and the built environment for flood protection.



# THURSDAY

## Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2022

A9

### Indiana Coal Company Violated Safety Standards After Risk of Catastrophic Explosion

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission has ruled unanimously that the operator of a Francisco, Indiana coal mine violated mandatory safety standards when it continued to operate an energized drill during a methane inundation, creating the risk of a catastrophic explosion.

On Aug. 24, 2022, the commission determined that allowing the drill to remain energized, and continuing to work, were unwarrantable failures.

The commission also determined that the mine manager who oversaw the dangerous work was personally liable for the violations.

"The Mine Act is clear that operators have the ultimate responsibility to prevent mining hazards and dangerous working conditions," said Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health Chris Williamson. "The U.S. Department of Labor will continue to enforce the law and hold mine operators accountable when

they put lives at risk and fail to protect miners' safety and health."

The Mine Safety and Health Administration issued two citations: one for failure to deenergize the drill, and the other for performing work. MSHA designated both as "unwarrantable failures" to comply with mandatory standards, a designation that establishes more severe consequences for violations caused by aggravated conduct. The commission assessed a penalty of \$96,000 on Peabody Midwest and a \$6,000 penalty on the manager.

MSHA also proposed a penalty against the manager who supervised the work, because he knew or should have known that he was required to shut down the drill and stop work.

Peabody Midwest was conducting exploratory drilling in an underground coal mine when the drill punched through the coal bed and into an old mine. Methane gas began blasting

through the drill hole. Methane-measuring devices indicated that the methane was over five percent by volume, into the range where it is explosive if an ignition source is introduced to the atmosphere. A rotating drill or any energized electrical equipment can be an ignition source.

MSHA mandatory standards require operators to take certain action when the concentration of methane rises above 1.5 percent by volume. Operators must evacuate the area, deenergize equipment and disconnect it at the power source, and perform "no other work" until methane levels fall below one percent. Instead of doing so, Peabody Midwest continued to run the drill, pulling out drill bits in attempt to clear the hole so that it could be plugged.

Susannah Maltz of the Office of the Solicitor handled the case before the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

### HHS Announces \$1 Million to Implement Biden-Harris Administration Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration, announced this week an investment of \$1 million to improve maternal health and implement the White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis in Indiana. Funding aims to help reduce disparities in maternal outcomes and support the state in tackling inequities in maternal health.

"Today, black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause in this country than white women. That has to change," said HRSA Administrator Carole Johnson. "To make meaningful change, we need to center our work on the individuals and families we are serving, and that is what today's investments aim to do. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to prioritizing equity and reducing the

unacceptable disparities in maternal and infant health. Through these awards, we are taking additional action to implement the Blueprint that the president and vice president have laid out for driving impactful solutions and providing our nation's families with the support and resources they need to lead healthy lives."

About 700 people die each year during pregnancy or in the year after. Thousands of women each year have unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery with serious short- or long-term health consequences. Rural populations tend to have worse maternal health outcomes than individuals living in urban areas, and there are disparities experienced by racial and ethnic groups.

#### HRSA award:

Supporting State-led Maternal Health Innovation: HRSA is awarding \$1 million to the Indiana State Department of Health through its State

Maternal Health Innovation Program to create a state-led maternal health task force bringing the voices of key leaders and pregnant and postpartum individuals together and using state-specific maternal health data to develop and use innovative approaches to address the most pressing maternal health needs and address disparities in health outcomes. Innovations can cover four categories: provision of direct clinical care, workforce training, maternal health data enhancements, and community engagement.

HHS is committed to supporting safe pregnancies and childbirth, eliminating pregnancy-related health disparities, and improving health outcomes for parents and infants across our country. As part of this work, HRSA also continues to conduct analysis of the workforce needs to address these critical issues.

### Indiana Awards More Than \$138,000 to 14 Institutions to Promote College Readiness

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education, in partnership with Indiana Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) awarded \$138,574 to 14 organizations to expose high school juniors and seniors to postsecondary opportunities and assist them in completing the necessary steps for applications, financial aid and college success during 'Bridge to College Days.'

The Indiana GEAR UP Bridge to College Day is designed to support collaborative efforts focused on the following college and career readiness priorities:

- 21st Century Scholar Success Program (SSP) completion and maintaining academic eligibility
- Parent and family engagement programming
- Financial aid and literacy information
- Understanding Indiana's colleges and universities
- Career exploration and preparation activities



#### INDIANA COMMISSION for HIGHER EDUCATION

"Education beyond high school provides an opportunity for personal prosperity, and we know there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach to deciding what post-graduation pathway is best," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "The Bridge to College Day grant recipients play a critical role in exposing students to a variety of postsecondary options and career paths while making sure students are aware of available financial aid and on-campus resources so they feel empowered to apply."

Funding for the grants is made possible through Indiana GEAR UP. Indiana GEAR UP is led by a collaborative team of staff from Purdue University and the Indiana

Commission for Higher Education. Indiana GEAR UP will follow and provide support to a targeted cohort of students over the course of seven years (2016-23). One of the primary goals of Indiana GEAR UP is to increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

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](http://www.in.gov/che).

### State Eyes Retirement Funds and Woke Causes

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita issued an advisory opinion earlier this week affirming that Indiana law requires Indiana Public Retirement System investments to be based solely on the financial interests of Hoosier public employees and retirees.

Such investments may not, under state law, be based upon any so-called environmental, social and governance considerations. These are activist-driven agendas intended to achieve radical environmental and social policies. Examples of ESG goals include eradicating fossil-fuel industries and implementing critical race theory in schools and corporate-training programs.

"Hoosiers deserve assurance that these retirement funds are being invested solely for financial interests," Rokita said. "Any other commitment or stated purpose is unlawful."

INPRS board members here in Indiana have steadily worked hard to serve the best interests of Hoosiers. But increasingly, actions by outside investment firms hired to manage Indiana's investments threaten to erode



Attorney General Todd Rokita

this financial stability. ESG investment strategies represent a threat not only to the savings of individual retirees, Rokita said, but also to the larger national economy and democratic policymaking processes.

"We must root out investment-management companies that scheme to leverage Hoosiers' retirement funds to advance leftist social and economic agendas that otherwise cannot be implemented through the ballot box," Rokita said. "The proliferation of ESG investing has begun to affect state pension funds across the nation. We're going to make sure that Indiana is not among the states being duped by this kind of mismanagement."

To that end, Rokita is

demanding answers from BlackRock, an investment management company that has been sole manager of Indiana's large cap equity index fund — and one of several managers of the state's international equity fund, real estate assets and public equity fund. BlackRock has publicized that it has made a "firm-wide commitment to integrate ESG information" into its investment processes.

BlackRock's activities include involvement with a program that may represent an illegal agreement to restrict the production of fossil fuels, which may run afoul of federal and state antitrust laws.

"These woke Big Businesses are collaborating with their leftist allies to subvert the will of the people, including by investing Hoosiers' hard-earned money in ways that work against the best interests of Indiana families," Rokita added. "Our advisory opinion makes clear that oftentimes this collusion is not only unconscionable and unethical, but it's also illegal. And we're going to hold these firms accountable and give INPRS the tools to do so as well."

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# THURSDAY

## Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2022

A10

### Purdue Provides Insights Into Food And Economic Security Crises

With the war in Ukraine entering its seventh month and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic still being experienced, growing challenges threaten the world's economic and food security.

Purdue University College of Agriculture experts in the areas of food and economic security and energy share their perspectives on these critical issues.

Gebisa Ejeta, World Food Prize laureate and professor of agronomy, is an expert in the areas of food security, international agriculture and global development. He has served at the highest levels of science and policy advisory, including as special adviser to the USAID administrator, science envoy of the U.S. State Department and as a member of the Nation-

al Academy of Sciences Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources, the U.S. Board for International Agricultural Development and the UN Secretary's Scientific Advisory Board.

Ejeta emphasizes that combining the work of universities as generators of knowledge and discovery with that of private-sector producers and processors, through the power of markets and trade, is where a win-win can occur in addressing the inequities around the world, both within and between nations.

"The gap is growing. It is a gap in resources and in the knowledge base. For the betterment of humanity, we need to narrow these gaps," he says. "There are still abundant natural resources and a sufficient knowledge base to support more equitable

economic opportunities to feed, nourish and shelter humanity. That is essential if we are to be able to feed humanity and keep our planet in perpetuity."

Michael Langemeier, professor of agricultural economics and associate director of Purdue's Center for Commercial Agriculture, specializes in agricultural finance and farm management. He underscores concern for farmers when the margins by which they earn a living have been consistently shrinking.

"Agriculture can't be rushed and is a relatively slow process," he says. "The industry can't respond immediately to changing needs and demand. Farmer sentiment has been volatile since COVID. Supply chain issues from COVID have also not yet been resolved,

which puts pressure on all businesses."

Jayson Lusk, distinguished professor and head of agricultural economics, is also the director of the Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability. As he considers the past several years and looks ahead, he speculates about how the United States and the world will respond.

"Economic conditions and food supply disruptions are occurring that could lead to political instability in more countries across the globe. We aren't there yet, but there is reason to be concerned," Lusk says. "The agricultural system can't immediately increase supply. The hamburger you are eating today is the result of decisions made three years ago."

An agronomy associate

professor who specializes in wheat breeding and genetics, Mohsen Mohammadi highlights the gap in productivity between research and growers' farms.

"International partnership is critical to bridge the gap from here to our full potential. We must open the doors and share our knowledge and innovations," he says.

Specifically addressing the potential losses with Ukrainian wheat exports, Mohammadi explains the possible impact.

"There is no other supply to substitute for the Ukrainian wheat. This season, the best thing everyone can do for global food security is to collect and facilitate the trade of wheat to get it where it needs to go," he says.

Research professor Farzad Taheripour's research

bridging energy and agriculture has become increasingly relevant with volatile gas prices and increasing environmental concerns.

"Right now, we have a contradiction of goals," Taheripour says. "We want to secure a supply of crude oil to maintain consumption of gasoline at lower prices, but for environmental concerns we also want to move away from petroleum products and increase use of cleaner sources of energy."

Taheripour also emphasizes that these issues are defined by policies across the globe.

"The recent increases in gas and crop prices suggest that we need to implement a set of well-defined policies to manage both the agricultural and energy market as these markets interact in various ways."

### Three Universities Join CDC Midwest Center's Effort Against Ticks and Mosquitoes

Purdue University, Indiana University and the University of Notre Dame have joined the Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases. The \$10 million Midwest center, led by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is funded for five years by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The new Indiana partners are fortifying the center's capacity to advance innovative vector-control approaches for mosquito and tick threats that are unique to the Midwestern environment," said Lyric Bartholomay, professor of pathobiological sciences at University of Wisconsin-Madison and co-director of the Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases. "Connections to these three outstanding universities provide the exciting potential to train Hoosiers to join the battle against vector-borne diseases."

The first round of funding for the center in 2017 established a collaboration between universities and public health agencies in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota. Together they work to better control mosquitoes and ticks — vectors that spread pathogens.

The academic partners, which will work closely



with the Indiana Department of Health, all have industry connections and expertise in vector-control product development. This includes designing, testing and evaluating new insecticides, sprays and devices to control mosquitoes and ticks.

"We're grateful and excited to be included in this second round," said Catherine Hill, professor and interim head of Purdue's Department of Entomology in the College of Agriculture. "Unfortunately, mosquitoes and ticks don't pay any attention to state borders."

All three universities will conduct a series of user-acceptance studies for products designed to control ticks and mosquitoes.

"Having buy-in from the stakeholders, particularly for vector control, is critical," said Molly Duman Scheel, the Navari Family Professor of Medical and Molecular Genetics at

the IU School of Medicine-South Bend. "When they feel like they're part of the technology development process, people embrace it. And if they embrace it, they have more tendency to use it."

The project also will provide opportunities for early career scientists. A key goal is to produce the next generation of vector biologists by training students and giving early career scientists new professional opportunities.

"Because Indiana is now part of the center, the educational piece is going to be big," said John Grieco, research professor of biological sciences at Notre Dame. "We're now included in all discussions around the various vector-related issues in our state. It pulls everybody together as a cohesive unit."

Hill's Purdue team is pursuing minimum-risk plant-derived products for controlling Lyme disease and tick pests.

other animals.

In her Purdue Extension role, Hill receives many queries about how people can control ticks on their properties without using highly toxic, synthetic insecticides. Purdue's goal of a plant-based product would help. There are permethrin-based or pyrethroid-based neurotoxins available that are reasonably safe for humans, Hill said, "but I don't like the thought of putting that in the environment."

Scheel's lab will target Culex mosquitoes, carriers of the West Nile virus.

"West Nile virus is one of the big impacts on Hoosiers in terms of mosquito-borne illnesses in the United States," said Scheel, who is also an adjunct associate professor of biological sciences at Notre Dame. The virus affects Chicago, too,

where her lab will join the center's ongoing field tests for Culex larvae control.

Scheel's lab is modifying yeast to include an environmentally safe, RNA-based pesticide that can be fed to mosquitoes. The yeast is dead when fed to the larvae, which prevents releasing the live microorganisms into the environment. Researchers widely use RNA technology to study gene function. Scheel aims to move the technology from the lab to

the field.

"The RNA is directed specifically against mosquito genes and not humans or other insects," she explained. "Some pesticides used broadly across the world are not environmentally friendly or specific to mosquitoes."

In recent years, Scheel's team has conducted extensive public engagement studies on Trinidad in the Caribbean with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Department of Defense. Her team will begin doing public outreach in the United States, too, with the CDC grant support.

"When we do this stakeholder engagement, we also teach a lot of people about mosquitoes. That'll be an immediate impact," Scheel said.

The lab that Grieco runs with Nicole Achee, research professor of biological sciences at Notre Dame, is developing spatial repellents. Unlike topical repellents for the skin, spatial repellents include hanging strips or tabletop devices that create a mosquito-free environment within a certain area.

"We're trying to focus more on the natural products — botanicals, geranium oils and other extracts — because those are going to be much more accept-



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