

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

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



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Greg Conner smile? "My kids and a packed Forest Park Aquatic Center on a hot sunny summer day," said the 39-year-old Noblesville resident, who was found at the Aquatic Center. Conner is president of the board of directors for Friends of Central Pool, a nonprofit that operates the pool and consists of dedicated volunteers like Conner. "Growing up in Noblesville, my summers were spent at the Forest Park Aquatic Center, training and competing as a member of the Noblesville Swim Club." He invites the community to Friends of Central Pool and Forest Park Aquatic Center's 25th Anniversary Celebration is 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday at the pool, with a family friendly evening with a fun anniversary program and festive luau party with beer and wine cash bar and charcuterie provided by the Wine Trough. Admission is free but a tax deductible donation of \$25 or more per person is greatly appreciated. Visit https://www.forestparkpool.org/

And Another Few Things...

1. Queen Elizabeth

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb is directing flags in the state to be flown at half-staff in honor and remembrance of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II. Flags should be flown at half-staff immediately until sunset on the day of interment. Holcomb is also asking businesses and residents in Indiana to lower their flags.

2. Forest Park Party

Join Forest Park Aquatic Center this Sunday at 4:30 for their 25th Anniversary Celebration, luau style. There are still a few spots open, so feel free to invite your friends and family. There will be charcuterie, a cash bar for beer and wine from the Wine Trough and complementary Paradise Ice. In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the Forest Park Inn by the carousel. Check your email on Sunday at 12 p.m., noon for more details.

3. Support Food Banks

Join the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank on Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. at Late Harvest Kitchen, 8605 River Crossing Blvd., Indianapolis for their Late Summer Harvest Dinner. Funds raised from the event will go towards helping Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank.

Tickets are \$75 per person. You can purchase them online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/late-summer-harvest-dinner-tickets-397196644857?aff=ebdssdbestsearch&fbclid=IwAR1d1jS5leYoPMtEtKbKCC8d1QMjvu1eMkzXL0q7VmpD8sYirRhuXfY0cw&mc\_cid=282a8e83fe&mc\_eid=8c9b760e70

Tickets will include dinner, dessert, drinks and fellowship. Late Harvest Kitchen and Chef Ryan Nelson recognized as one of Top25 Restaurants in Indianapolis by Indianapolis Monthly.

4. Westfield Luncheon

The Westfield Chamber of Commerce will host Casey Keller of Sigma Kappa a guest speaker at their September Luncheon next Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Prairie Water Event Center. Her talk is on "Lessons Learned When Life Doesn't Go As Planned."

Keller is the Executive Director of the Sigma Kappa National Housing Corporation and the President of the BeGood2DoGood Corporation. She will discuss how life has not turned out as we planned, hoped, or expected it to, but it's turned out exactly as it's supposed to. In the face of adversity, choosing happiness is not only an option; it can lead you to where you are meant to be. But, you have to make the choice.

# The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

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## Boomer Bits



### Ask Rusty - About the 'Restricted Application for Spousal Benefits Only'

Dear Rusty: You wrote an article about a man who was collecting spouse benefits but was applying for his own benefit at age 70, under an old law. What are the circumstances surrounding that gentleman's ability to collect spousal benefits? Why was he eligible? And was he working clear up into the age of 70 before applying for his own Social Security? Signed: An Inquiring Mind

Dear Inquiring Mind: The "old law," under which the gentleman in the article was collecting only a spousal benefit from



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) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

his wife, is no longer available to anyone born after January 1, 1954, which means it is largely unavailable to those applying for Social Security today. Here's how the "old law" worked: It was once possible for

someone who reached their full retirement age (FRA) of 66, who had not yet applied for their own Social Security, and whose spouse was already collecting

➔ See RUSTY Page A5

### Dan Marino's Tips to Keep Driving Towards Your Health Goals During Football Season

(StatePoint) The kickoff to football season is here again, and with it comes pizza, beer, wings and more.

In a poll of 2,000 American men conducted by OnePoll and commissioned by Nutrisystem, 37% said they usually gain weight during football season from September to January, with 53% claiming they gain 10 pounds or more.

But football season doesn't need to wreak havoc on your overall health, wellness and weight loss goals. Just ask pro football Hall-of-Fame quarterback, Dan Marino.

"After playing pro football for 17 years, my knees took a

beating and I had to have both of them replaced. Couple that with the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I couldn't exercise or do the things I wanted to stay active, so I put on some weight," says Marino. "I knew I needed to make a change, turned to Nutrisystem and lost 26 pounds."

To help football fans stay on track this season, Marino is sharing his best tips to lose weight and get healthier.

1. Make a Commitment: It all starts with a commitment. You make a commitment to yourself to get healthier and

➔ See MARINO Page A5

### Comedian Tim Young Helps People Laugh, Think, Make Choices

by John Grimaldi

Political commentators, for the most part, are born without a funny bone. Comedian Tim Young is a different story - he has the ability to make people laugh, think and make choices. As he put it some time ago, when discussing politics, "rather than explain it at the complex level many of these ideas are at, I can break it down with a couple of jokes. I think people are more likely not only to listen but to actually remember it."

When introducing Tim on her Better For America podcast, Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American

➔ See GRIMALDI Page A5



Photos courtesy of the City of Fishers

Above are maps for Fishers Safety Day in downtown Fishers. Be sure to get around and see everything they have to offer! The event begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 12 p.m., noon.

### Enjoy Fishers Safety Day This Morning in Downtown Fishers



Today, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m., noon, at 2 Municipal Drive is Fishers Annual Safety Day.

➔ See SAFETY Page A5

### ➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Hard to believe that high school football is almost at the halfway point. Shouldn't school just be starting?



### ➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

People over 40 as well as those with serious illnesses should have a living will and appoint a health care representative. 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.



### ➔ INSIDE TODAY

- Obituaries.....A2
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- In The Home.....A6, A7
- Travel.....A8

### ➔ OBITUARIES

Jessica Sue Campbell  
Ralph Cross

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank WILLIAM SANDERS for subscribing!

### ➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"Writing is a job like any other. If there is magic - even romance, and hopefully success, it comes about because you've not only got something to say but can say it with a depth of imaginative enthusiasm - and yes, passion for your subject matter."

- David Adams Cleveland

### ➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What sound does a negative chicken make?  
Cock-a-doodle-don't.

### The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset:  
RISE: 7:20 a.m.  
SET: 8:00 p.m.

High/Low  
Temperatures:  
High: 82 °F  
Low: 66 °F

#### Today is...

- World Suicide Prevention Day
- Drive Your Studebaker Day
- National TV Dinner Day

#### What Happened On This Day:

- 1608 John Smith is elected council president of Jamestown, Virginia
- 1960 Abebe Bikila becomes the first sub-Saharan African to win a gold medal, winning the 1960 Olympic marathon in bare feet
- 2002 Switzerland, traditionally a neutral country, becomes a full member of the United Nations

#### Births On This Day:

- 1941 Stephen Jay Gould American paleontologist
- 1960 Colin Firth English actor

#### Deaths On This Day:

- 1797 Mary Wollstonecraft English author, philosopher
- 1935 Huey Long American politician

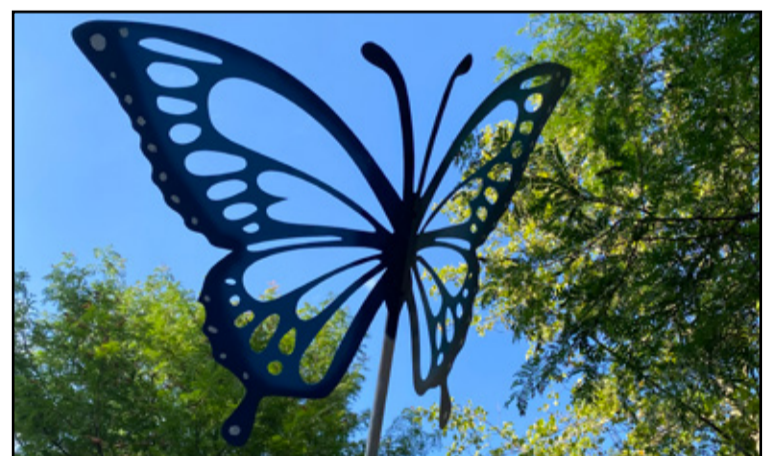


Photo courtesy of Dagny Zupin

A prototype of the statue that will go in at the intersection of 191st Street and Little Chicago Road this fall.

### Keep Noblesville Beautiful Awarded Grant from Duke Energy for Pollinator Garden and Sculpture

Keep Noblesville Beautiful (KNB) was one of 20 organizations in Indiana awarded a grant by the Duke Energy Foundation during their nature grant cycle.

The Noblesville nonprofit was awarded \$10,000 toward a revitalization project at 191st and Little Chicago Road that

will bring a kinetic butterfly sculpture and corresponding pollinator garden to the currently underutilized round about center.

The kinetic sculpture, to be completed by artist Scott Stot-

➔ See GARDEN Page A5



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13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

84 WARMER SUNNY	66/82 COOL SHOWERS	65/77 WARMER PARTLY CLOUDY	58/72 COOL PARTLY CLOUDY	55/73 WARMER PARTLY CLOUDY	56/80 WARMER PARTLY CLOUDY	57/82 WARMER PARTLY CLOUDY
FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU

## ➔ OBITUARIES

### Jessica Sue Campbell

July 22, 1996 - September 8, 2022

Jessica Sue Campbell, 26, of Noblesville passed away early Thursday morning, September 8, 2022, after a hard fought battle against ovarian cancer. Ms. Campbell passed away peacefully in her sleep while in her childhood home.

She was born on July 22, 1996 to John and Traci (Cline) Campbell in Noblesville, IN.

After graduating from Noblesville High School in 2015, Ms. Campbell went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Biological and Physical Science from Indiana University Kokomo. She had plans to attend Butler University for Pharmacy School shortly after.

She enjoyed spending time with family and friends whenever given the chance. She enjoyed camping trips with her family and the annual corn hole tournaments they hosted. Ms. Campbell loved spending time at amusement parks with her sister and close friends. She found great joy in kayaking down the White River with those she loved most.

Survivors include her parents John and Traci (Cline) Campbell; sister Jennifer Campbell; grandmother Susan (Kelly) Cline; grandparents Charles (Buddy) and Mary Jo Campbell; grandfather Arvin Bennett; and blessed with way too many aunts, uncles, and cousins to list.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather Erwin Cline; and grandmother Marilyn (Woodrum) Bennett.

A funeral service is scheduled for Saturday, September 17. Visitation is scheduled to run from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m., followed by services at Randall and Roberts, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Pastor Ryan Christopher will officiate.

Flowers and condolences may be offered at [www.randallroberts.com](http://www.randallroberts.com)

### Ralph Cross

September 16, 1921 - August 18, 2022

Ralph Cross, 100, of Indianapolis, passed away peacefully on August 18, 2022 in his eldest daughter's home.

He was born on September 16, 1921 in Russellville, Arkansas, the eldest son of Bill and Bertha Cross.

Mr. Cross was raised in Lonoke, Arkansas and graduated from Lonoke High School in 1941. He took pride in having been the captain of the Lonoke High School football team, and in having won first place in the Arkansas State High School broad jump in 1941.

He attended the University of Arkansas briefly before entering the United States Marine Corps on October 19, 1942. He served 40 months and was honorably discharged February 15, 1946. Mr. Cross' area of service was in the South Pacific: Guam and Okinawa, as well as occupation duty in Japan.

He was discharged in the California Bay Area where he met his future wife, Amy (Vicki) Ida Erickson. Together they had three daughters.

Mr. Cross worked for 38 years in the engineering department of Gerber Products Company. He was instrumental in the set-up, maintenance and operation of the Rochester, New York and Ft. Smith, Arkansas plants.

Survivors include his three daughters Mary Ann, Nancy Louise and Elizabeth Jean; sons-in-law Doug Kline and Jon Jaffe; eight grandchildren Jon, Sarah, Megan, Andrea, Erin, Alex, Nick and Robert; and five great-grandchildren. They remember his life-long interest in hunting, fishing, camping and all outdoors, and appreciate his efforts to instill in them that same love of nature.

The family gathered in Indianapolis on September 4 to partake of a bottle of "Old Grand Dad" that Mr. Cross had been saving for more than 40 years. After noting that a significant "angel's share" had mysteriously disappeared from the bottle, a toast was made, and the whiskey was drunk. Still hot on the tongue, but with sweet caramel overtones, the liquor was declared to have held up well. Not unlike Mr. Cross himself.

Per Mr. Cross' wishes, a portion of his ashes will be interred with his late wife Vicki in Fremont, Michigan. The remainder will be scattered at his favorite fishing spot, Sydenham Lake in Ontario, Canada. See you at the lake, Grandpa!

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

## ➔ Meeting Notice

### Noblesville Wastewater Council Committee

The Noblesville Waste-

water Council Committee will meet on Monday, September 19 at 2:30 p.m. in the Utility Administration Conference Room at the Wastewater Utility, 197 Washington Street.

**TheTimes24-7.com**



**THE TIMES**

# Indiana American Water Schedules Main Flushing in Noblesville, Sept. 12 to Nov. 18



## INDIANA AMERICAN WATER

Indiana American Water will conduct water main flushing in the Noblesville service area beginning overnight this Sunday and continuing through Monday in the downtown area from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Flushing of the remaining areas of Noblesville and northern parts of Fishers, will start next Tuesday and run through Nov. 18 on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The company conducts the annual maintenance program to assure high-quality water service and to ensure fire hydrants are operational.

According to Northeast Operations Manager Josh Cox, "Water main and fire hydrant flushing is an important part of a regular maintenance program for water distribution systems. Indiana American Water consistently meets or exceeds all drinking water standards."

No interruptions in water service are anticipated as a result of the work. Customers may experience a slight drop in water pressure or temporary water discoloration or air in customer plumbing lines while this program is underway. Customers should refrain from doing laundry during the time of day the flushing program is taking place in or near their neighborhood.

If tap water is discolored, Indiana American Water recommends allowing several cold-water faucets to run for a short time until the water runs clear. Using more than one faucet allows the water to clear more quickly.

Customers who have questions regarding hydrant flushing may call our Customer Service Center at 1-800-492-8373.

The water main flushing will be performed by Indiana American

Water crews. They will be working out of trucks identified with the company logo. All employees will also have photo ID badges.

### About Indiana American Water:

Indiana American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and wastewater services to approximately 1.3 million people. With a history dating back to 1886, American Water (NYSE: AWK) is the

largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly traded water and wastewater utility company.

The company employs approximately 6,400 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and regulated-like drinking water and wastewater services to an estimated 14 million people in 24 states. American Water provides safe, clean, affordable, and reliable water services to our customers to help keep their lives flowing.

For more information, visit [amwater.com](http://amwater.com) and [diversityataw.com](http://diversityataw.com).

## ➔ Meeting Notes

### Noblesville Common Council

Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.

City Hall, Council Chamber

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Minutes: August 23, 2022 Budget Meeting
5. Approval of Minutes: August 23, 2022
6. Approval of Minutes: August 30, 2022 Budget Meeting
7. Approval of Agenda
8. Petitions or Comments by Citizens Who Are Present

9. Council Committee Reports

10. Approval of Claims

11. Miscellaneous

A. Council to hear a report from Noblesville Main Street (Kate Baker)

B. Council to consider

**Resolution RC-41-22**, a resolution concerning the transfer of real estate to the Noblesville Redevelopment Commission (Jonathan Hughes)

12. Previously Discussed Ordinances

A. **#53-08-22** Council to consider **Ordinance #53-08-22**, an ordinance approving additional appropriations in the general fund for outside legal services (Jeffrey Spalding)

B. **#54-08-22** Council to consider **Ordinance #54-08-22**, an ordinance annexing approximately 18.4 Acres north of East 191st Street and west of Little Chicago Road, known as "Red Fox Pointe Planned Development" in Noblesville Township, and **Resolution RC-40-22**, adopting the fiscal plan (Joyceann Yelton)

a. Public Hearing for **Ordinance #54-08-22**

13. New Ordinance for Discussion

A. **#55-09-22** Council to consider **Ordinance #55-09-22**, an ordinance approving additional

appropriations in the debt service/long term debt 15 percent reserve capital fund, and establishing a public hearing (Jeffrey Spalding)

B. **#56-09-22** Council to consider **Ordinance #56-09-22**, an ordinance amending Section 32.28 of the City's Code of Ordinances, concerning the Downtown Development Fund (Jeffrey Spalding)

14. Transfer

a. Council to consider **Transfer TA-12-22**, an appropriation transfer in the general fund to allocate funding for outside legal services (Ian Zelgowski)

15. Council Comments

16. Adjournment

17. Council Comments

18. Council Comments

19. Council Comments

20. Council Comments

21. Council Comments

22. Council Comments

## ➔ Meeting Notes

### Noblesville Board of Public Works and Safety

Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 9 a.m.

City Hall, Council Chamber

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Petitions or Comments by Citizens Who Are Present
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Bid Opening: 2022 Pavement Markings Project
6. Bid Opening: Pleasant Street Phase 1 Reconstruction from River Road to 11th Street
7. Consent Agenda
8. For Approval
  - A. Approval of Executive Session Memorandum: August 23, 2022
  - B. Approval of Minutes: August 23, 2022
  - C. Board to consider temporary street closures for Noblesville High School Homecoming Parade (René Gulley)

D. Board to consider approval to attach scarecrows to Downtown streetlight poles (René Gulley)

E. Board to consider acceptance of sanitary sewer easement for Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion (Jim Hellmann)

F. Board to consider acceptance of performance bond for erosion control and right-of-way improvements for Hyde Park, Phase 3 (Sacha Lingerfeldt)

G. Board to consider release of performance bonds for storm sewer, subsurface drains, common area sidewalk, curbs, stone base, HMA base, HMA intermediate, and HMA surface; and acceptance of maintenance bonds for storm sewer, common area sidewalks, curbs, stone base, HMA base, HMA intermediate, and HMA surface for Westmore, Section 5 (Sacha Lingerfeldt)

9. Contracts/Purchases Under \$50,000

A. Agreement with Giant Renovations to install drywall at a fire training house (Captain Josh Small)

B. Services agreement with Coffman & Sons to install concrete footers in the East Alley for gateway entrance (Aaron Head)

C. Contract with Prater and Sons to install a concrete floor in a storage building at Forest Park (Brandon Bennett)

D. Agreement with Phoebe Davis-Dearth for art design within the Pleasant Street Phase 1 Project (EN-231-20) (Jayme Thompson)

10. New Items for Discussion

A. Board to consider a declaration of surplus property for the Fire Department (Deputy Chief Chris Gellinger)

B. Board to consider a permanent encroachment for BJ's Wholesale Club (Joyceann Yelton)

C. Board to consider residential façade improvement grant for 297 South 9th St. (Aaron Head)

D. Board to consider temporary closure of Logan Street between 12th and 14th Streets for a block party (René Gulley)

E. Board to consider permission to advertise for bids for Lift Station 9 Replacement (Kirk Staley)

F. Board to consider change Order #1 for the Indiana Transportation Museum Remediation Project (Brandon Bennett, Tim Stottlmyer)

G. Board to consider a permanent encroachment agreement with Marathon Pipeline for the Levee Trail, Phase 2 (Andrew Rodewald)

H. Board to consider temporary closure of Maple Avenue to install a water main for the East Bank Project (Odise Adams)

I. Board to consider an update to the temporary closure of Nixon Street for the Village at Federal Hill Project (Odise Adams)

11. Adjournment

## ➔ Meeting Notes

### Westfield Washington School Board

Regular Board Meeting & Budget Hearing Agenda  
Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.

Westfield Washington Schools Administration Center

Community Room, 19500 Tomlinson Road, Suite B, Westfield

1. Call Regular Meeting to Order

A. Determine if Quorum is Present

B. Welcome Public to Meeting

C. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Building Reports & Student of the Month

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

4. Budget Hearing

5. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Board Minutes

B. Approve Accounts Payable Vouchers (8/17/22 - 9/13/22)

C. Approve Payroll Vouchers

D. Personnel Report

E. Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented

6. Business Update

A. Permission to Advertise Sale of Vehicles

B. Approve Revised WWS One-Way Mileage Between Buildings

7. Human Resources & Safety Update

A. Policy 8000-19 - Second Reading

8. Operations Update

A. Amend Contract with SFE (Addition of Cafeteria Workers for Virginia F. Wood Early Learning Center)

B. Monon Trail Sports Complex Construction Update

9. Curriculum Update

10. Communications Update

11. Board Members and Superintendent Success Stories

12. Next Meeting

A. October 11, 2022

13. Adjourn

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# USDA Now Accepting Applications for \$1B Rural High-Speed Internet Program

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack yesterday announced that USDA is now accepting applications for ReConnect Program loans and grants to expand access to high-speed internet for millions of people in rural America nationwide. The Department is making more than \$1 billion available, thanks to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The program is a critical piece of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to connect every American to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet.

"Ensuring that the people of rural America are connected with reliable, high-speed internet brings new and innovative ideas to the rest of our country, and it remains a core priority for President Biden," Vilsack said.

"That's why high-speed internet is an important part of USDA Rural Development's work with rural communities. Reliable high-speed internet opens the world's marketplace to rural business owners. It enables them to expand their businesses and give more jobs and opportunities to people in their own community."

On Sept. 6, USDA began accepting applications for loans, with available funds of \$150 million, grants with available funds of \$700 million, and combination loan/grant awards using \$300 million under the ReConnect Program. These funds were appropriated under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment

and Jobs Act. Government wide, the law provides an historic \$65 billion investment to expand affordable, high-speed internet to all communities across the U.S.

The application deadline is Nov. 2. For additional information, see page 47690 of the Aug. 4 Federal Register.

USDA has made several improvements to the ReConnect Program for the current round of applications. Collectively, these improvements increase the availability of funding in rural areas where residents and businesses lack access to affordable, high-speed internet. They include:

- Allowing applicants to serve areas where at least 50% of households lack sufficient access to high-speed internet.
- Adding a funding category for projects where 90% of households lack sufficient access to high-speed internet. For applications submitted under this category, no matching funds will be required.
- Waiving the matching funds requirement for: (a) Alaska Native Corporations, (b) Tribal Governments, (c) projects proposing to provide service in colonias, (d) projects proposing to serve persistent poverty counties and (e) projects proposing to provide service in socially vulnerable communities.

Additionally, to ensure that rural households in need of internet service can afford it, all awardees under this funding round will be required to apply to participate in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP offers a

discount of up to \$30 per month towards internet service to qualifying low-income households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal Lands. As a result, ACP-eligible households can receive internet at no cost and can sign up and check their eligibility at GetInternet.gov.

The Department's actions to expand high-speed internet access in rural areas are key components of the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to help America build back better in its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the first round of the ReConnect Program, USDA invested \$656 million to create or improve high-speed internet access for rural customers across 33 states and territories. In the second round of the ReConnect Program, USDA invested \$850 million to create or improve high-speed internet access for rural customers across 37 states and territories.

To date, USDA has announced \$356 million in critical investments through the third round of ReConnect funding, for a total of \$1.8 billion invested through the ReConnect Program since the program's inception. More investments will be



announced in the coming weeks.

**Background on ReConnect Program:** To be eligible for ReConnect Program funding, an applicant must serve an area where high-speed internet service is not available at speeds of 100 megabits per second (Mbps) (download) and 20 Mbps (upload). The applicant must also commit to building facilities capable of providing high-speed internet service at speeds of 100 Mbps (download and upload) to every location in its proposed service area.

To learn more about investment resources for rural areas, visit [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov) or contact the nearest USDA Rural Development state office.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas.

For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov).

# State Digs In On Girls' Sports

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita this week continued his vigorous defense of a new law requiring participants in girls' sports to be, in fact, biological girls.

Rokita filed an appeal Tuesday of a district court's preliminary injunction against enforcing the law in the case of a 10-year-old biological male wanting to play on a girls' softball team in the Indianapolis Public Schools district.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the student's mother challenged the law earlier this summer under Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause.

"Forcing female student-athletes to compete against males in women's sports is an absolute assault on girls' equality of opportunity and even their physical safety," Rokita said.

"Males possess certain physiological advantages that make them faster and stronger, and it's unconscionable to ignore these scientific realities. The left must stop sacrificing women's well-being on the altar of transgender woke-ism."

By its terms, Title IX does not protect "gender



Attorney General Todd Rokita

identity," Rokita notes in his appellant's brief. It instead prohibits both discrimination and denial of equal opportunities "on the basis of sex," a biological characteristic determined by reproductive function.

"Self-identifying as a girl . . . does not negate the advantages that come from being born male," the brief states. "That means transgender athletes born male will outperform athletes born female who have equivalent levels of dedication, training, and skill, displacing those female athletes from rosters and podiums. It would turn Title IX on its head to construe the statute to privilege gender identity, an unprotected characteristic, at the expense of sex, the protected characteristic."

**The Times**  
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**2 Business Days Prior to Publication**  
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# ACLU Files Second Lawsuit Challenging Indiana's Near-Total Abortion Ban

By Casey Smith

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana on Thursday filed a second lawsuit challenging Indiana's near-total abortion ban that is set to take effect in one week.

The class action lawsuit was filed in Marion County Superior Court on behalf of Hoosier Jews for Choice, as well as five anonymous women who represent a variety of faiths including, Judaism, Islam, and independent spiritual belief systems.

They argue that they have "sincere religious beliefs that direct them to obtain an abortion" that would be banned "and who are at risk of needing an abortion in the future consistent with these beliefs."

The lawsuit seeks an injunction on the Indiana abortion law.

Indiana was the first state in the nation to approve such legislation since the high court ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade. The ban is still set to take effect on Thursday.

The ban outlaws all abortions except in the case of a fatal fetal anomaly and cases of

serious health risk to the mother. One part of the law says these exceptions are up to 20 weeks but another part says they can be used anytime. Rape survivors can get an abortion up to 10 weeks post-fertilization. It also strips abortion clinics of their state medical licenses, and provides that only hospitals and hospital-owned ambulatory surgical centers can provide abortions.

**Lawsuit argues religious freedom violations**

Specifically, the lawsuit claims the new abortion ban violates Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA).

The controversial RFRA measure — lauded by religious conservatives — passed the Indiana legislature in 2015, prohibiting government action that interferes with a person's religious exercise. It stipulates that the government must show a compelling reason to enact a law that forces someone to do something against their religious beliefs.

Former Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, who signed the law, drew major criticism from opponents

who argued that RFRA makes discrimination legal. The law allows religious business owners to refuse service to gay and lesbian couples because of their sexual orientation, for example.

The ACLU lawsuit attempts to turn RFRA's language back on Indiana's Republican lawmakers who supported both the religious freedom bill and the abortion ban.

According to the plaintiffs, although some religions — and adherents of those religions — believe that human life begins at conception, "this is not a theological opinion shared by all religions or all religious persons."

"Indiana's RFRA law protects religious freedom for all Hoosiers, not just those who practice Christianity," ACLU of Indiana legal director Ken Falk said in a statement. "The ban on abortion will substantially burden the exercise of religion by many Hoosiers who, under the new law, would be prevented from obtaining abortions, in conflict with their sincere religious beliefs."

The lawsuit points to Jewish principles, which

maintain that "a fetus attains the status of a living person only at birth." The embryo or fetus is considered "a physical part of the woman's body, not having a life of its own or independent rights," according to the complaint. Jewish law further recognizes that "abortions may occur, and should occur as a religious matter."

Islamic beliefs referenced in the lawsuit also permit abortions in certain circumstances, including when the physical or mental health of the mother is in "pressing need." The plaintiffs also argue that a fetus is not "ensouled at the moment of conception," noting that some Muslim scholars posit that the fetus does not possess a soul until 120 days after conception.

Similar arguments are made in the lawsuit for other abortion-affirming religious beliefs held by Unitarian Universalists, Episcopalian Christians and Pagans.

"Because of S.E.A. 1 and the penalties that will be imposed on physicians who violate the law, the individual plaintiffs

and the members of the putative class will not be able to obtain abortions, despite the fact that they have sincere religious beliefs that direct them to obtain abortions," the ACLU of Indiana wrote in the filing.

**Other legal action is still pending**

Last week, the ACLU of Indiana filed a separate lawsuit on behalf of health care providers and a pregnancy resource center. The suit argues that the abortion ban "will infringe on Hoosiers' right to privacy, violate Indiana's guarantee of equal privileges and immunities, and violate the Constitution's due course of law clause through its unconstitutionally vague language."

The court challenge is based on the Indiana Constitution. The Supreme Court of the United States in June ruled that the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee abortion rights.

That lawsuit is still pending, awaiting the assignment of a special judge to preside over the case.

The Republican-dominated Indiana General Assembly advanced

the abortion-restricting measure during a heated, two-week special session that concluded earlier this month.

Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray told the Indiana Capital Chronicle last week that he was confident the legislative body's work could hold up to a lawsuit and reiterated his comments on Thursday.

"We feel like we drafted a bill that will hopefully withstand a constitutional challenge and I hope that's the case," Bray said last week about the first lawsuit.

Republican House Speaker Todd Huston and anti-abortion group Indiana Right to Life did not reply to requests for comment.

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## Dollar General Literacy Foundation Awards More Than \$75,000 To Indiana

Thursday, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation (DGLF) announced the award of more than \$75,000 in youth literacy grants to Indiana nonprofit organizations, libraries and schools. The funds are part of more than \$3 million recently awarded across the country and aim to narrow the gap between learners' needs and programs' financial resources by providing books, technology, equipment or materials to youth education programs.

Indiana recipients are below, and a comprehensive list of grant recipients may be found online at [www.dgliteracy.org](http://www.dgliteracy.org). The Indiana grants are expected to positively impact the lives of approximately 6,500 individuals in the state.

"The Dollar General Literacy Foundation's work to help individuals pursue their dreams and educational goals stands at the forefront of the Foundation's philanthropic passions, and we are proud to extend our ongoing commitment to support youth education through today's grant announcement," said Todd Vasos, Dollar General's chief executive officer and Dollar General Literacy Foundation chairman. "We understand the challenges educators and literacy programs may face and are proud to invest in local literacy and education initiatives to further demonstrate our mission of Serving Others."

Applications for the 2023 Dollar General Literacy Foundation grant cycle supporting youth, family, summer and adult literacy programs will be available at [www.dgliteracy.org](http://www.dgliteracy.org) in January 2023. These grants aim to support schools, public libraries, and nonprofit organizations within a 15-mile radius of a Dollar General store or distribution center in implementing new literacy initiatives or expanding existing ones. Grant applications may be found online at <http://www.dgliteracy.org>.

"During this back-to-school season, we are grateful for all of the educators, school officials, librarians, non-profit partners and volunteers who are working hard to help students excel and creating brighter futures

for this generation of learners," said Denine Torr, Dollar General Literacy Foundation's executive director. "We hope these funds will help provide needed resources, enhance educational programming and position teachers and students for success."

Indiana recipients include:

Organization Name; City; County; Grant Amount

- Euell A. Wilson Center ; Fort Wayne; ALLEN; \$3,000
- Su Casa Columbus; Columbus; BARTHOLOMEW; \$1,250
- Walton Public Library Walton; CASS; \$3,000
- Northaven Elementary School; Jeffersonville; CLARK; \$3,000
- Motivate Our Minds; Muncie; DELAWARE; \$4,000
- YMCA Of Muncie; Muncie; DELAWARE; \$4,000
- Attica Community School Corporation; Attica; FOUNTAIN; \$4,000
- Boys & Girls Club Of Grant County; Marion; GRANT; \$4,000
- Bloomfield Elementary School; Bloomfield; GREENE; \$4,000
- Noblesville High School; Noblesville; HAMILTON; \$250
- Boys & Girls Club Of Seymour; Seymour; JACKSON; \$4,000
- South Grove Intermediate School; Beech Grove; MARION; \$3,000
- Martin Luther King Multi-Service Center, Inc.; Indianapolis; MARION; \$3,000
- Rosa Parks Kindergarten Academy; Indianapolis; MARION; \$3,000
- School On Wheels Corp.; Indianapolis; MARION; \$3,000
- The Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools; Bloomington; MONROE; \$3,000
- Eastern Pulaski County School

Corporation; Winamac; PULASKI; \$2,000

• Big Brothers Big Sisters Southern Lake Michigan Region; South Bend; ST JOSEPH; \$4,000

• Trine University - Education One; Angola; STEUBEN; \$4,000

• A.I.S. Middle School; Evansville; VANDERBURGH; \$1,500

• Boys & Girls Club of Evansville, Inc.; Evansville; VANDERBURGH; \$4,000

• West Vigo Middle School; West Terre Haute; VIGO; \$3,000

• Amigos The Richmond Latino Center; Richmond; WAYNE; \$4,000

• Boys & Girls Clubs of Wayne County; Richmond; WAYNE; \$ 3,600

For additional information, photographs or items to supplement a story, please visit the DG Newsroom by clicking here or contact the Media Relations Department at 1-877-944-DGPR (3477) or via email at [dgpr@dg.com](mailto:dgpr@dg.com).

**About the Dollar General Literacy Foundation:**

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation is proud to support initiatives that help others improve their lives through literacy and education. Since 1993, the Foundation has awarded more than \$219 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, helping more than 16.1 million individuals take their first steps toward literacy, a general education diploma or English proficiency. Each year, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation provides financial support to schools, nonprofit organizations and libraries within a 15-mile radius of Dollar General stores and distribution centers. To learn more about the Dollar General Literacy Foundation or apply for a literacy grant, visit [www.dgliteracy.org](http://www.dgliteracy.org).

## Indiana's Casinos Brought in \$700M in Taxes Last Fiscal Year



**Indiana Capital Chronicle**

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By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

Indiana's 12 casinos raked in \$2.5 billion from July 2021 through June 2022 and sent \$700 million of that haul to the state in taxes, according to an Indiana Gaming Commission annual report released this month. Higher-than-expected gambling collections previously bolstered the state's rosy July revenue report.

"It was ... a privilege to lead an agency that supports significant contributions to the state's economy," Executive Director Greg Small wrote in the report. "After experiencing negative pandemic related impacts in [fiscal year] '21, the gaming industry rebounded in FY '22." Casino wagering and

supplemental taxes totaled \$660 million, while sports wagering taxes added an additional \$31 million.

Indiana saw year-over-year increases in the three taxes each month until summer.

Casino wagering and supplemental taxes dipped in May. All three fell in June — with sports wagering taxes crashing nearly 40% from the same month in 2021.

Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana — which only opened in May 2021 — earned a staggering \$395.4 million in fiscal year 2022. The Seminole Hard Rock Digital-operated facility delivered \$109 million in taxes to the state. Small wrote that the casino "primarily" fueled a \$236 million expansion in the northern market between

fiscal years 2021 and 2022.

Churchill Downs-operated Rising Star Casino Resort, near Cincinnati, was the lowest-earning facility, bringing in \$45.7 million and paying \$4.3 million in taxes.

Small also highlighted a \$73.7 million Caesars Sportsbook investment in racinos in Shelbyville and Anderson. One wrapped up in early 2022, and the other is scheduled to finish in July 2023.

The industry is scheduled to get another boost in the next two years with the addition of the \$245 million Queen of Terre Haute gaming venue, Small wrote. Churchill Downs was tapped as the licensee for the Vigo County casino in December.

## Indiana Receives Federal Approval to Continue Extending Postpartum Medicaid Coverage to One Year

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration today received approval from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to continue its practice of extending postpartum coverage for Hoosiers receiving Medicaid during pregnancy from 60 days to one year. Indiana has been providing this extended coverage since April; today's federal announcement will allow it to continue.

"We are delighted that Hoosiers, regardless of their income, will now have access to quality healthcare for a full year following the birth of a child," said Dan Rusyniak, M.D., FSSA secretary. "This is significant as more than 40 percent of individuals who give birth each year receive Medicaid. And, since more than half of postpartum complications

occur after six weeks, extending coverage to a full year will help meet Gov. Holcomb's goal of reducing Indiana's maternal mortality rate."

Previously, postpartum Medicaid coverage ended after 60 days. In May, Indiana's Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning asked CMS for approval to extend the postpartum coverage period for traditional Medicaid, Healthy Indiana Plan Maternity and Hoosier Healthwise members. This will apply to all who received maternity care from Medicaid since April 1.

The postpartum coverage period is available to any individual who meets one of the following criteria:

Becomes pregnant while already enrolled in traditional Medicaid, HIP or Hoosier Healthwise Applies and is eligible for Medicaid while

pregnant

Applies for Medicaid after the child is born and was both pregnant and eligible in the month of application or one of the three months prior to the application month.

Today's CMS approval authorizes the extended coverage for Medicaid-eligible individuals for a five-year period, through March 31, 2027.

This policy was included in HEA 1140-2022, the bill passed by the Indiana General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Eric J. Holcomb on March 14, 2022.



Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

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## RUSTY From Page A1

SS retirement benefits, to file a “restricted application” to collect only spousal benefits. This enabled a higher earning spouse to claim a spouse benefit (only) without claiming their own SS retirement benefit, thus allowing the latter to continue to grow in value. That resulted in the higher earning spouse collecting half of their spouse’s FRA benefit, at the same time maximizing their personal benefit to be claimed at a later age (usually at age 70).

Such was the case for the gentleman in the article you refer to – his wife had claimed her own SS retirement benefit earlier, and the husband had filed a restricted application for spouse benefits only. The husband collected a spouse benefit from his wife while his own SS retirement benefit continued to grow. Now, as he was turning 70, he was ready to switch to his maximized personal SS retirement benefit. His work status was insignificant because he had already reached his full retirement age when he filed the restricted application, but by delaying the claim for his own SS benefit he earned Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs). The DRCs made his personal age 70 benefit 32% higher than his benefit would have been had he claimed it at age 66.

This strategy wasn’t documented as a specific option under old Social Security law; rather it was a “loophole” which many took advantage of because Social Security law at the time didn’t prevent it. In other words, Social Security law, as written years ago, allowed anyone who had reached their full retirement age to file a restricted application for spouse benefits without filing for their own benefit. That (along with another option known as “file and suspend”) was considered a loophole and was eliminated by the “deemed filing” provision of the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2015. The BBA stipulated that those who turned 62 after 2015 (those born after January 1, 1954) would, whenever they filed for benefits, be automatically deemed to be filing for all Social Security retirement and spousal benefits available to them at the time. And that essentially eliminated the “restricted application for spouse benefits only” option for anyone born after January 1, 1954. The gentleman in the article was born in 1952, thus eligible to take advantage of the loophole. Today, only those born before January 2, 1954, who are not yet collecting Social Security but have a spouse who is, are eligible.

## GARDEN From Page A1

tlemyer, serves as a very visual reminder to pedestrians and drivers alike of the importance of nature and green spaces in our community.

“Through this sculpture and pollinator garden, KNB seeks to not only beautify Noblesville, but to promote pollination of our native plants and the important role it plays in climate resiliency,” says KNB president and Noblesville city councilman Darren Peterson. “Duke Energy is a key corporate partner to the Noblesville community. We appreciate their support of this revitalization project.”

KNB currently plans to install the sculpture and native vegetation this fall. The organization will work with Noblesville

Parks Department and the City of Noblesville to select vegetation and upkeep the pollinator garden.

“This revitalization of otherwise underutilized greenspace directly aligns with Duke Energy’s commitment to enhance and support our natural resources,” said Duke Energy Community Relations Liaison Dagny Zupin. “KNB has a rich history of encouraging the use of native vegetation in Noblesville beautification efforts and the Duke Energy Foundation is proud to support them on this newest endeavor.”

To learn more about native Indiana plants and the important role pollinators play, visit [IndianaWildlifeFederation.org](http://IndianaWildlifeFederation.org).

## MARINO From Page A1

then you find a game plan to do it. When you see results, you’re motivated to keep going to reach your goal.

**2. Keep it Simple:** Men, especially, need things to be simple. If your goal is to lose weight, look for programs like Nutrisystem that are easy, take the guesswork out of dieting and deliver your favorite foods made healthier right to your door. Plus, they have great game day foods

like popcorn, pizza and burgers to ensure you’re making good choices.

**3. Seek Support:** Studies show that individuals lose up to 20% more weight when dieting with a partner. Find that teammate who will help motivate you to stick with your wellness goals.

**4. Focus on Protein:** Protein keeps your hunger in check and will keep you from grabbing those not-so-good for you game day foods. Aim to get your

protein from foods like meat and fish, eggs, dairy products, nuts and nut butters. For an afternoon snack, I always grab a Nutrisystem shake, which is packed with protein to keep me full until dinner.

**5. Get Moving:** Get up and off the couch! Call up your friends and organize a game of football or shoot some hoops. I love to hit the golf course and I often walk instead of grabbing a cart. This way, I’m getting in extra

exercise.

For more great tips to feel your best this football season and beyond, visit [Nutrisystem’s blog](http://Nutrisystem.com) at [leaf.nutrisystem.com](http://leaf.nutrisystem.com).

The most important thing to remember is keeping up with your health and wellness doesn’t need to be hard. It’s all about balance. If you find yourself over-indulging as you’re watching the game, that’s okay. Commit to getting back on track the next day.

## GRIMALDI From Page A1

Citizens, described him as “a voice of reason and persuasion, a columnist, and a thought leader.” Young is regularly read on the pages of the Washington Times and hosts his own high-profile show [called Let’s Drink Bourbon]. You may have also read one of his books that are laced with much-needed humor.

Commenting on the audacity of Congresswoman Liz Cheney [R-WY], who recently compared herself to Abraham Lincoln, Young said, “I know your members are old, but they are not old enough to necessarily have lived through Abraham Lincoln. They are old enough to have had actual history classes and actually studied what happened in American history. And for someone at this point in our history to declare themselves similar to someone like Abraham Lincoln or even like George Washington is so insulting, honestly, to any-

one with any bit of intelligence or knowledge about history.” Young also pointed out how Cheney had made this comparison after losing by 37 points, calling it “such an out-of-touch thing... I mean, how you can lose by 37 points and then come out and give a speech that you’re going to run for president [and] compare yourself to Abraham Lincoln. It is just insane, right?”

Young touched on the popular subject of President Trump declassifying and taking documents with him when he left office and the subsequent FBI raid on his Mar a Lago home. He stated that a president has the authority to declassify documents and “If he wants to go on TV and put the nuclear codes out there, he can.” Young learned this from policy and legal experts recently and although he knows Trump did not do this, he made note that he could simply take a box of

classified documents out of the White House. “By implication, it’s declassified because he did it. He did not do it that way, though, and everything was under basically lock and key. I mean, he is secure there in Mar a Lago [where] he is protected by Secret Service. So, when you look at this, I’m not sure what is going on here other than, again, not to use Trump’s own words, but it really seems like just another witch hunt. There’s no justification for it.”

Young also expressed his own take on the controversial Critical Race Theory [CRT] and its dishonest progressive influence on the recall of American history. “When you talk about CRT, everyone, is a victim,” he said. He recalled a conversation with a friend about comics in the eighties and nineties. “Right off the bat, we were talking about prominent

African American comics. The top three were Eddie Murphy, Bill Cosby, and then Arsenio Hall...They were in every movie, they starred on television. If you listen to the progressives, it never happened, we never had prominent African Americans in our society. That’s how the left [promotes] CRT among dumb people who don’t ask questions, dumb people who don’t move forward.”

In conclusion, take a peek at Tim’s most recent Twitter posts - an example of his humor and how he makes one think - both on the Left and on the Right:

· “There are more people in line for the bathroom at Trump’s rally tonight than the total of who attended Biden’s Hitler impersonation the other night.”

· “Leftist cities brag about being sanctuaries for illegal immigrants until the illegal immigrants show up.”

## SAFETY From Page A1

rodeo opens at 8 a.m.

The expected schedule (subject to weather) includes:

8 a.m. - Opening Ceremonies, featuring Fall Creek JR High and Hamilton Southeastern Intermediate/Junior High Choirs  
8:30 a.m. - Fishers Junior High Strings  
9:30 a.m. - MC Axe and the Fire Crew with Kasey the Fire Dog to perform

9-11 a.m. - Scout Pack 190 and Hamilton County Sheriff’s Department Bike Rodeo

11 a.m. - Fishers Fire Department Extrication Demo

12 p.m., noon - End of Event

Other Events from 8 a.m.-12 p.m., noon include:  
• Versiti Blood Donations

• 45 Vender Booths  
• Face Painting  
• Touch a Truck  
• Spray water from a fire truck  
• Military on site  
• Hamilton County Emergency Management  
• Live music  
• Food Trucks at the Market  
• Fishers Farmers Market  
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# WEEKEND

## In The Home

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Photos courtesy of Purdue University

The new website builds on a wealth of Purdue Extension knowledge, using high-quality images to quickly sort through the thousands of problems gardeners can encounter on landscape plants and flowers.

## Gardening Solutions at Users' Fingertips, Regardless of Thumb Color

Purdue Extension's latest mobile website, can help gardeners make sure they're never again caught with their plants down.

The Purdue Plant Doctor website is a mobile-friendly one-stop shop where gardeners can navigate the bewildering maze of insect, disease and abiotic problems that affect the hundreds of landscape trees, shrubs and flowers used in Midwestern landscapes.



"Every year, homeowners invest millions of dollars in their landscaping materials, and due to insect diseases and sometimes a lack of ex-

perience, problems come up. This is a free, easily accessible way to identify and fix those problems," said Janna Beckerman, a Purdue Extension plant disease specialist and content specialist for the website.

The website builds on a wealth of Purdue Extension knowledge, using high-quality images to quickly sort through the thousands of problems gardeners can encounter on landscape plants and flowers. Problems found

on each kind of plant are ordered based on how common they are in Midwest gardens and yards. Once problems are diagnosed, the website guides users through methods to treat their plants.

Today, many websites available to assist growers in plant health management are sponsored or developed by companies that produce gardening chemicals or products. Cliff Sadof, a Purdue Extension entomologist and content specialist for

the website, said those apps tend to suggest particular products, whereas Purdue's websites are focused on research-based treatment methods.

"We start with the least toxic approaches before we suggest using insecticides or fungicides," Sadof said. "We want to teach people how to treat the underlying problems before turning to chemical solutions. We also have a section devoted to commonly found beneficials, so someone doesn't

mistakenly harm pollinators and other beneficial insects."

Beckerman said the website was designed to appeal to the new growers that discovered their green thumb during the pandemic.

"We hope this website helps growers regardless of level improve their gardening experience," she said. "For this reason, photos of each plant are included to guide growers through the diagnostic process."

## Winning Perennials for Your Garden

By Melinda Myers

After a busy summer of vacations, BBQ's, and garden care, it is fun to turn our attention to planting. Fall is a great time to plant perennials and many garden centers are busy refreshing their supply of perennial plants. Consider including one or more of these winners when making your perennial plant selections this fall.

Hostas are an excellent choice for those shady spots in the landscape but with so many cultivars to choose from the selection process can be overwhelming. The America Hosta Growers Association (AHGA) decided to help growers and gardeners with the selection process by introducing the AHGA Hosta of the Year. Each year since 1996, members of the AHGA select and feature a Hosta of the Year. The winning hosta must grow well in all regions of the country, be widely available, and have a retail price of about \$15 the year it was selected.

Island Breeze is this year's winner. Hardy in zones three to nine, its strong growth rate, thicker leaves and wide green leaf margins with bright yellow centers made it a winner. The leaf centers emerge a brilliant yellow then turn chartreuse in the summer when grown in heavy shade and a lighter yellow in more sun. The leaf stems, petioles, have red speckles that bleed into the base of the leaves, adding to their ornamental appeal. Dark lavender flowers appear on red stems in mid-summer, attracting hummingbirds to the garden.

You may also want to consider this year's Pe-



Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

**Blue Heaven was discovered and introduced for its taller, more upright habit that does not tend to flop like many others**

ennial Plant of the Year little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and its cultivars for those sunny spots in the landscape. Each year, Perennial Plant Association (PPA) members select a winner based on the plant's suitability to thrive in a wide range of growing conditions, its ability to provide multiple seasons of interest, have good insect and disease resistance, and be low maintenance. This year's selection of the native little bluestem and its cultivars allowed perennial experts the opportunity to promote the species or the cultivars that will do the best in their region.

The native little bluestem is hardy in zones three to ten and grows two- to four-foot tall. The blue-green leaves turn

reddish bronze in fall and are complemented by fluffy white seeds that persist into winter. This grass prefers full sun with loam or sandy soil and tends to flop or decline in heavy clay soil and damp sites.

PPA Board members helped gardeners across the country and in Canada by sharing the top performing little bluestem cultivars in their regions.

A relatively new introduction, Jazz, was a favorite in both the Central and Mid Atlantic regions. This shorter cultivar is 24 to 30 inches tall and 18 inches wide, with sturdy stems and silvery blue leaves.

Carousel is another dwarf cultivar, growing 30 inches tall and wide and was recommended

by the Great Lakes PPA Board member. Its bowl-shaped growth habit, upright flower stems and kaleidoscope of copper, pink, tan, and dark orange-red fall color make it a nice addition to the garden.

Standing Ovation is a favorite of the Canadian, Western and Mid-Atlantic PPA Regional Board members. The spiky bluish-green stems in a tight upright growth habit provide a vertical accent in perennial borders. The brilliant orange, red and yellow fall color ends the season with a blaze of color.

Western and Mid-Atlantic PPA Board members both added The Blues to their list of preferred little bluestem cultivars. It has deep blue leaves that transform to a rich purple and burgundy in the fall. This cultivar is usually a foot taller than Jazz, growing up to four feet tall and two feet wide.

These are just a few of the many beautiful perennials suitable for home gardens. Check out past winners and of course leave room for a few new plants you just cannot resist.

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).

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# WEEKEND

## In The Home

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# COMFORTING COLOR

## Fill your home with balance and hope

### FAMILY FEATURES

In the world of design, what's old inevitably becomes new again, and a similar pattern is inspiring today's on-trend color palettes for home decor. The latest styles reflect reviving and comforting colors influenced by heritage and romance, leading to a look that is familiar in an individualistic way.

With more people living their everyday, working lives at home, many homeowners are discovering the contentment that comes with slowing down. Often that means looking to the past to find comfort for moving forward.

Nostalgia serves as an emotional tool that delivers deep-rooted serenity and powerful healing properties. Looking to the past is often beneficial during times of uncertainty and can be an opportunity to bring styles and practices back to the present to create an appreciation of the past.

Whether living through the romance of rural lifestyles, the comfort of home or the nostalgia from far-off times, some of today's most beloved design aesthetics celebrate the past, present and future while bringing balance, hope and comfort for you and your family to embrace.

### Timeless Color

Using color to evoke feelings and emotions is hardly new but combining a carefully curated color palette with other design elements can allow you to create a look that pays homage to the past while breathing new life into your living space.

Reimagining classic, familiar tones allows you to achieve a design motif that is equal parts reminiscent and refreshing.

"The Vintage Homestead Color Collection offers an effortless look that reveals the importance of being hopeful to find stability and balance," said Ashley Banbury, HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams senior color designer. "Our 2023 Color Collection of the Year revives elements from the past that are perfectly paired with vintage, comfortable and classic colors."

### Blending Past and Present

Striking a balance between old and new can take many forms, as these styles show:

- **Heritage Revival:** An interest in reviving the past is evident in design trends like a reemerging appreciation of antiques and vintage elements, such as oversized furniture and traditional shapes. To capture this style, your design should focus on contrasting old and new for a mix-and-match look. Ultimately, the aesthetic is a look that feels simultaneously individualistic and curated.

A cohesive color scheme can allow the various elements to stand on their own while working in harmony for an intentional design. For example, the HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams 2023 Color Collection of the Year includes a combination of

familiar tones that have been thoughtfully curated by design experts who borrow color and design concepts from the past for a hopeful future and a sense of belonging. Hues like Poetry Plum and Hot Cocoa evoke warmth and depth, while moderate shades like Restrained Gold and Glamour offer fresh ways to incorporate mid-range neutrals. Meanwhile, soft tones like Natural Linen and Cool Beige offer subtle color for lighter, brighter spaces.

- **Mixing and Matching of Eras:** A new take on retro design is emerging in which eras are blended and new and old furnishing work side by side. To get this look, you'll craft a space that marries historical and contemporary design, celebrating both the old and new. To design for longevity, incorporate pieces that are ambiguous in era and stand the test of time.

- **Vintage Homestead:** Reviving design elements from the past with mixed patterns, classic shapes and vintage decor adds up to comfortable and comforting design. With this trend, prints and patterns encompass a range of styles, reinforcing how interiors connect to fashion. Mixing classic elegance with sleek vintage shapes is refining the concept of polished comfort. To achieve the look, curate pieces in heritage shapes and patterns, along with retro accents. Be sure to incorporate vintage lighting and glass, as well.

A versatile color choice like Darkroom, the 2023 Color of the Year from HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams, is an alluring shade that is classic enough for heritage interiors but also modernly retro for a throwback-inspired aesthetic. It's a neutral perfect for creating an eclectic yet modern look inside and out. Indoors, use it on the walls to offset more earthy brown and taupe tones in your furnishings and textiles.

Get inspired to combine the past with the present for a comforting design that's all your own at [hgtvhomebysherwinwilliams.com](http://hgtvhomebysherwinwilliams.com).



### CRAFTING A CONSERVATORY

Today's homeowners are also increasingly interested in biophilic design and bringing the outdoors in, which prompts a conservatory aesthetic in home design. To achieve the look, design your space to make maximum use of natural light in creative ways. Incorporate large potted trees and statement plants that blur the lines between indoors and outdoors.



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# WEEKEND *Travel or stay! and Play*

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

## Third Annual Glass Pumpkin Festival Returns to Hocking Hills

What started as a way for families and individual arts fans to get out of the house and experience beauty is back again by popular demand in 2022. Launching Friday, Sept. 23 and running through Sunday, Sept. 25, the Third Annual Glass Pumpkin Festival is open from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday. Parking is limited and festival-goers are encouraged car pool and reserve their spot for \$5 at GlassPumpkinFestival.com, with each reservation receiving a \$5 coupon towards their Jack Pine pumpkin purchase.

A highlight is the unveiling of Jack Pine's annual Pumpkin of the Year, with the festival marking the first opportunity for fans of the legendary glass blower to snag the highly collectible, limited-edition glass pumpkin. The Glass Pumpkin Festival was launched by Jack Pine in 2020 during COVID to offer families a safe and beautiful escape centered around a stunning outdoor arts experience set in the magnificence of Ohio's most visited location for fall foliage.

Attendees will again be amazed by thousands of spectacular hand-blown glass pumpkins -- in a rainbow of colors and finishes -- that will fill the five-acre grounds of Jack Pine Studio in Laurelville. Each pumpkin features Pine's signature strong saturation of colors and unique finishing technique, which result in stunning lustrous works of art.

An outdoor artist's mar-

ket will feature fine artists from around the region, showing and selling their work. Pumpkin ice cream, donuts and rolls will complete the sensory experience, along with food trucks serving an array of offerings. The festival is an unmatched opportunity to find gorgeous fall décor and the perfect handcrafted holiday gifts for even the most difficult-to-buy-for recipient.

Jack Pine's talented team of glassblowing artists will be at work throughout the festival, allowing attendees to watch firsthand as they blow, turn and stretch pure molten glass into exquisite works of art. World-famous pumpkin carver Gus Smithister will be live-carving a monstrous 600-pound pumpkin into an eyepopping real pumpkin sculpture, with plenty of more manageably sized pumpkins available for purchase. Kids activities will keep budding junior artists entertained while inspiring their creative side.

Jack Pine Studio is a hand-blown glass studio and gallery located in the heart of Hocking Hills that's open to the public daily throughout the year. Pine has been blowing glass for over 20 years and his work has been featured in galleries and museums around the world. In addition to his own work, Jack Pine Studio's onsite gallery features the work of a number of other fine artists, from heavy metal sculpture to delicate glass jewelry. Studio history and details are found at [www.jackpinestudio.com](http://www.jackpinestudio.com).

## Come Out to See Lloyd Wood

Lloyd Wood and his band return for their second performance of the 2022 Opry season on Saturday at 7 p.m. A veteran performer, Wood's delivers an energetic show that includes Country music, comedy, and impersonations. In addition to his own stellar performance, Wood surrounds himself with his long-time professional band of musicians. Wood has a following

of great musicians from throughout Indiana and Nashville, Tenn.

Call Melissa or Stacey at the office (812) 299-8521. Reserved tickets are \$22 and available only at the Boot City Opry office, (M-F 8 - 5 p.m.).

General admission tickets are \$17 and available at the office, Boot City main register area, and at the door the night of the show.

## 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 the financial 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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