

TODAY'S VERSE

Ecclesiastes 3:14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Mark Hall smile? "Lisa's smile, grandkids' laughs and watching someone achieve," said Noblesville's Mark Hall, who celebrated his birthday on Thursday. He and his wife, Lisa (who celebrates her birthday on Monday) are getting ready for the FeedingTeam.org's third annual Music Festival from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville. They started Feeding Families Hamilton County in April 2020 and have created little yellow outdoor food pantries all over the county since then and are getting ready to open their 49th pantry today at Legacy Christian School in Noblesville. Saturday's music festival will have live bands, food trucks, silent auction, bounce house and more, with admission a donation of nonperishable food item or a monetary donation. Mark and Lisa Hall have three daughters, Amber, Ashley and Alyssa and seven grandkids and three Australian shepherds and two cats. He owns three companies and employs more than 3,000 people and is a current unopposed Republican candidate for Hamilton County Council District 3 seat for the November general election.

And Another Few Things...

1. Spartz Statement

Rep. Victoria Spartz released a statement urging her House colleagues to support a bipartisan, bicameral antitrust reform package, which includes the Merger Filing Fee Modernization, Foreign Merger Subsidy Disclosure and State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Acts, which passed the House Rules Committee this week and Judiciary Committees earlier this year.

This legislation is also led by Sens. Tom Cotton (R-AR), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Mike Lee (R-UT) on the Senate side and is a first step to reform antitrust enforcement. These changes will expand state enforcement, rebalance merger filing fees to user fees from larger stakeholders and increase transparency for certain foreign subsidies.

"Competition and proper antitrust enforcement are essential for free enterprise," Rep. Spartz said. "Our antitrust laws haven't been modernized for over a century and need to be aligned with the demands of the 21st century economy in a thoughtful and deliberative way. I am glad to co-lead this bicameral antitrust reform effort to deal with abusive monopoly powers, including infringements on our Constitutional rights by Big Tech."

2. FAFSA Opens

Hoosier students and families are encouraged to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), for the 2023-2024 school year. The FAFSA opens Saturday.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education reminds Hoosiers that filing the FAFSA by the April 15, 2023, priority deadline is imperative for securing money for college and accessing some of the \$390 million in state financial aid and billions of dollars in federal aid available for learners. Once the priority deadline passes, financial aid funding will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

How to file the FAFSA:

Students can file the FAFSA online at FAFSA.gov. The first step for students who have not previously filed the FAFSA is to create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID. Then, each student will need:

- Social Security number
- Alien Registration number (for non-U.S. citizens)
- Federal income tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned from 2021
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

The U.S. Department of Education provides email and live chat assistance for FAFSA filers as well as a helpline at 1-800-4-FED-AID. ¿Necesitas ayuda en español? Llame al 317-617-0358.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

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Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Thom Johnson of Westfield plays the role of Hannibal in Main Street Productions' first show of the season, "The Curious Savage," a comedy on stage through Oct. 9 at Basile Westfield Playhouse.

Potter's Bridge Fest, Comedy, Murder-Mystery, Alley Play, FeedingTeam Musical Fest



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

The drama, "Our Town," will be played out in the South Alley and Seminary Park in downtown Noblesville over the next few days. The Belfry Theatre's "Rehearsal for Murder" play continues through Sunday, and Basile Westfield Playhouse's comedy, "The Curious Savage," opens this weekend and continues through Oct. 9. Plus, the Potter's Bridge Festival and the Feeding Team Music Festival at Federal Hill Commons both take place on Saturday. What else?

Here's our list of 15 things to do this weekend and beyond:

1. Poet-Ape Productions of

Chicago, founded by Noblesville native James Holbrook, in conjunction with Nickel Plate Arts, presents "Our Town" tonight and Saturday and Oct. 6 and 8 in the South Alley near NobleMade and the Levinson Building, and Oct. 7 at Seminary Park (bring lawn chairs) with general admission tickets at <https://nickelplatearts.org/>.

2. Main Street Productions presents the comedy, "The Curious Savage," tonight and Saturday and Sunday and next Thursday through Oct. 9, with

➔ See BETSY Page A6

NHS to Host Indiana's First Educator-Focused Apprenticeship Program

The state of Indiana yesterday joined local leaders to celebrate the federal approval of Indiana's first educator-focused federal registered apprenticeship at Noblesville High School. The registered apprenticeship will help more Hoosier students pursue a pathway to teaching and is the first-of-its-kind program in the nation concentrated on special education.

"As the global economy continues to evolve, it is essential that we begin to re-envision the high school experience for our students by blurring the lines between K-12, higher education, and the workforce so students have opportunities to engage in careers during their 11th and 12th grade years," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary

of Education. "Through this innovative partnership, Indiana students will participate in high-quality, work-based learning opportunities starting in high school that will help them earn credentials, save money and jumpstart their careers as difference-making educators. I applaud the strategic work of the partners who came together to find a solution which ensures students can explore the educator profession during high school and seamlessly transition into classrooms of their own."

This program, which uses the popular Grow Your Own model, recently received approval from the U.S. Department of Labor (U.S. DOL). Students partici-

➔ See PROGRAM Page A6

Arrowood Shows Appreciation for Heights' Community, Celebrates Great Start to School Year



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
HHSC Columnist



Last week, 180 sixth-grade students spent 3 days and 2 nights at Indiana University's Bradford Woods for their Environmental Education Program. This interactive experience gives students the opportunity to learn about how humans and their environment interact and help each other. This science/social studies area of learning, based off Indiana State Standards, has been a highly popular part of the sixth-grade curriculum for more than three decades.

This week is the official kick off to College GO!, the initiative that provides information and

resources designed to help Hoosier K-12 students explore and plan for education beyond high school. The annual event, which has been energizing our seniors, focuses on helping students learn the value of continuing education and training, explore career pathways, and discover the variety of postsecondary options to pursue their passion.

On Friday, I get the distinct pleasure of driving art teachers Taylor Myers (HHHS), Erin Goodman (HHMS), and a select group of their art students to downtown Arcadia to participate in a special community project. This group will join a few employees from Duke Energy to bring to life a set of crosswalk murals on West Street facing the new Splash Pad. The murals were designed by local artist

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OBITUARIES

James Lee Bays
Olivia Ann Price
Joseph W. Rauch
Virginia Shaw

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

HONEST HOOSIER

So long, September! Have a good time but remember, there is danger in the cold months waiting for us all . . . and a heartfelt apology to The Happenings!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Water exercises are very helpful for people with back and joint 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.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."
- L.M. Montgomery

TODAY'S JOKE

Why'd the bread break up with the margarine?
Because it found a butter lover!



OBITUARIES

James Lee Bays

November 23, 1943 - September 28, 2022

James Lee Bays, 78, of Bloomington, passed away on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at IU Health Bloomington Hospital.

He was born on November 23, 1943 to Colly and Lillian (Stafford) Bays in Noblesville, Indiana.

Mr. Bays was a 1963 graduate of Noblesville High School and proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War as an artillery engineer. He worked as a millwright, retiring from International Harvester and National Starch & Chemical. He enjoyed welding and working in shops. Most of all, Mr. Bays loved his family.

Survivors include his wife Betty Louise Bays; son James C. (Jill) Bays; daughter Olivia L. Bays; sister Marjorie (Clayton) Briggs; four grandchildren Orin C. Bays, Amos H. Bays, Gwyneth Harp and Logan Harp; several nieces & nephews; and cat Polly.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his four siblings JC Bays, Judith B. Branham, Virginia L. Bays and Joe Tom Bays; and daughter Andrea Don Bays.

Visitation and services are scheduled to be held on Monday, October 3, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan Street, in Noblesville. Visitation is scheduled to run from 1-3 p.m., Masonic Services scheduled to start at 3 p.m., and Funeral Services with military honors to follow.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758516, Topeka, Kan. 66675 (www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

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

Olivia Ann Price

November 28, 1975 - September 28, 2022

Olivia Ann Price, 46, of Noblesville, passed away on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 in Noblesville.

She was born on November 28, 1975 to Eugene Price and Caroline Warren in Marion County, Indiana.

Mrs. Price was a graduate of Noblesville High School. She enjoyed planting flowers, shopping and hanging out with friends. Her greatest joy was taking care of Maddy.

Survivors include her husband Nick Partain; daughter Maddy Price; brother Mike Warren; sister Michelle (Jason) Corbett; aunt Sherree Gipson; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

A memorial service is scheduled to be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road in Noblesville, with the Rev. Stanley R. Sutton officiating. Visitation is scheduled to be held from 2 p.m. to the time of service at the funeral home.

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

Joseph W. Rauch

August 5, 1957 - September 28, 2022

Joseph W. Rauch, 65, of Fishers, passed away on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at his home.

He was born on August 5, 1957 to William and Barbara (McNeal) Rauch in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Mr. Rauch was the owner of "Joe Handyman" in Fishers for 15 years, prior to that he worked in the restaurant industry.

He was a member of Christ the Savior Lutheran Church, and was a Stephen Minister. Mr. Rauch enjoyed fishing, spending time with family, and traveling.

Survivors include his wife of 46 years Kim Rauch; mother Barbara Rauch Cabral; two children Lisa (Mike Pajor) Stranko and Chris (Bess Payne) Rauch; grandson Ben Stranko; four siblings David (Lorna) Rauch, Kenneth (Janet) Rauch, Angela (Mark) Thompson and Richard (Kathy) Rauch; in-laws Jim and June Hatfield, Jr. and Steven and Debi Hatfield; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, as well as his father & mother-in-law, James, Sr. and Sharon Hatfield.

Services are scheduled to be held at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 3, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road in Fishers. Visitation is scheduled to run from 1 p.m. to the time of service at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ the Savior Lutheran Church, 10500 E 126th St, Fishers, Ind. 46038.

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

Virginia Shaw

October 29, 1921 - September 27, 2022

Virginia Shaw peacefully passed from this life at the age of 100 years on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at her home.

She was born on October 29, 1921 to Stencil and Pansy Taylor in Terre Haute, Indiana.

During her lifetime, Mrs. Shaw also lived in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Connecticut and Florida. She moved to Fishers in 2013 to share the remainder of her life with her family.

She was a member of Christ the Savior Lutheran Church in Fishers. Mrs. Shaw worked at various jobs throughout her life and really enjoyed the years she served as President of the tenants group for the condo where she lived in Florida. She was admired for her organizational skills and determination to get the job done, whatever it took. She was a take charge lady.

Mrs. Shaw loved doing all kinds of crafts and acrylic paintings, and was great at table games and cards. She enjoyed activities with her friends at the Hamilton County Senior Center and the Together Today activities with the Shepherd Center of Hamilton County.

Survivors include her daughter Judy Kepler; two grandchildren Ron and Dan Kepler; great-grandchild Olivia Kepler; sister Carolyn Kay Horner; as well as several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Kenneth Shaw; son Richard Shaw; and sister Irene Holman.

A memorial service is scheduled to be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 7, 2022 at Christ the Savior Lutheran Church, 10500 East 126th Street in Fishers. Inurnment will be at Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka, Florida. Memorial Contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, PO Box 7023, Merrifield, Va. 22116 (www.diabetes.org/donate).

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



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

Hi! This is Dick Wolfsie's newest cell phone. The old phone talked to you many years ago, but since I have taken over the job, I wanted to update everyone on how things are going. Now that Dick is retired, I figured things would be easy compared to previous years when he was running around the city, interviewing people and making follow-up calls about his TV segments. Boy, was I wrong.

He has misplaced me 43 times in the past 18 months. Of course, I was never really lost. I knew exactly where I was (I have GPS).

This past week has been something. On Sunday, I was at a movie with Dick and his lovely wife. First, I was in his back pocket, then he placed me in the little cupholder next to his seat. Then he walked out of the movie without me, but he came back into the empty theater and called me from Mary Ellen's phone. Success! By the way, I loved the movie.

So, we all headed home. He tossed me into the car and I fell between the seats. He started looking for me while driving. This is more dangerous than texting. He found me. He also found his lost AARP card and a \$100.00 Blockbuster gift card.

Monday morning, he took a shower and as he was drying off he put me in the pocket of his bathrobe, since he was waiting for a call. There was no way he was going to remember where I was once he hung up the robe. I knew where I was going to spend the entire night. Tuesday, 8 a.m., he

started looking for me. He checked every dresser drawer, under the bed, and even the freezer (where he once left me for three days). He called me from his landline but my battery was dead from having spent the night in the bathroom. I tried to muster every ounce of energy. I even tried to vibrate a little. No luck.

Wednesday, Dick finally found me in his robe pocket when he showered again, but later he threw me in his briefcase on the way to a speech he was giving. I landed in one of those divider compartments. When he got home later, he looked for me, but I was well hidden and he couldn't find me.

By Saturday, he was desperate. Dick headed to the cell phone store to buy a replacement. His contract was almost expired, so they made him a deal on a sexy new model with a lot of extra bells and whistles. It looked like the end of me. I was going to be cellular non grata. Dick got back in the car

and headed home. Suddenly, he had a flash of insight. He pulled over, grabbed the briefcase, turned it upside down and shook it. I managed to fall onto the driver's seat. I was okay, but I had been without a charge for what seemed like an eternity. I was spent.

Sunday, we headed back to the phone store. He told the clerk he didn't want the new phone. He had found me and wanted me back. I was touched. My circuits welled up.

Last night, Dick stuck me in his sweatpants pocket while he was exercising in the basement. I'm now in the bottom of the laundry basket. Don't expect to reach Dick any time soon. He only does the laundry once a week.

Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Paper of Montgomery County. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

The Sage of Being Wolfsie's Phone

League of Women Voters Schedules Hamilton County Candidate Forums

The League of Women Voters of Hamilton County will host two nonpartisan candidate forums this fall to give voters a chance to hear from candidates in time for the Nov. 8 general election. Forums will start at 7 p.m. end by 8:30 p.m. Here's the schedule:

- Next Tuesday, Oct. 4, Carmel City Hall, candidates for Senate Districts 21 and 29 and House Districts 24, 32 and 39.
- Next Thursday, Oct. 6, Noblesville City Hall, candidates for Senate Districts 25 and 31, House District 88 and Hamilton County Prosecutor.

Citizens can attend in person or register in advance on the event calendar at LWVHCIN.org to receive the Zoom link.

"It's important for voters to interact with candidates before they cast a ballot," said Lisa Dick, LWVHC presi-



dent. "I used to be one of those people who walked into the voting booth and sometimes felt like I was guessing after I got past the federal and state races. I started attending the forums when I joined the league, which gave me a better sense of who the candidates are beyond their name and party."

She said all candidates in contested races for Indiana Senate and House seats and Hamilton County offices have been invited to participate. Candidates who are unable to attend have been offered the opportunity to respond to the questions that will be asked at the live event. Written and/or video responses will be

required to meet the same time limits as the live forum events.

The league also traditionally hosts a forum for the 5th Congressional District candidates, but due to Federal Election Commission regulations, it cannot hold a federal election forum if only one candidate agrees to attend. Dick said the League has been unable to find a date when 5th District Rep. Victoria Spartz could commit to participating.

For residents who cannot attend the forums or those who want to rewatch, recordings will be available afterward on the LWVHCIN.org website and Vote411.org, the league's online voter guide.

Vote411.org also provides additional information for voters. All candidates on the November ballot have been invited to submit biographical

information and answers to race specific survey questions. Voters may enter their street address to receive personalized ballot information.

"When I talk to people about the league's role in voting, I always tell them that it's none of my business who you vote for," Dick said. "But I want every voter to have the resources he or she needs to make an informed decision."

About the League of Women Voters:

The League of Women Voters, formed in 1920, is a nonpartisan organization that encourages participation in government and works to increase understanding of public policy issues. If you have questions, contact the League of Women Voters of Hamilton County at lwvhcin@gmail.com or learn more at lwvhcin.org.



Photo courtesy of the Noblesville Lions

Noblesville Lions Host Beth Gehlhausen

Last evening, the Noblesville Lions hosted Executive Director of Hamilton County Meals on Wheels Beth Gehlhausen (pictured above left, with Lions Club VP Wait Scheid). She outlined the goal of MoW to feed people who can't help themselves. She has been with MoW for 11 years, and MoW has been active in Hamilton County for 47 years. They deliver 4200 to 4400 meals per month, with over 500 delivery volunteers. Their office is supported by Riverview Hospital. To volunteer or request assistance, MoW can be contacted at (317) 776-7159 or at their website: www.mealsonwheelshc.org.

Meeting Notice

Westfield Finance Committee
The Finance Committee

meeting for the City of Westfield that was scheduled for Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, has been canceled.

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Ivy Tech Hamilton County to Launch School of Nursing in January 2023

Ivy Tech Community College yesterday announced it will launch its School of Nursing on the Hamilton County campus in January 2023. The program was approved by the Indiana State Board of Nursing last week. This will be the College's 19th nursing location.

In Fall 2021, following approval of Ivy Tech Hamilton County's campus board and Ivy Tech's State Board of Trustees, the College committed \$1.75 million to the Hamilton County campus to begin construction on a state-of-the-art healthcare lab space that now will also permanently house its CNA and Medical Assisting programs.

"We heard from our community that credentialed nurses were a tremendous need in our area," said Dr. Stacy Atkinson, Chancellor of Ivy Tech Hamilton County. "We are extremely proud to help address the public health crisis by adding more credentialed nurses into the pipeline."

The School will admit 20 students for the upcoming spring semester and 20 students for the following fall semester with increases in seats to come. Additionally, the College's recent



partnership with Community Health Network will provide fully paid scholarships for fifteen Ivy Tech Hamilton County students to assist with tuition, course materials, and clinical resources as part of its Scholars Program. Other healthcare partners, including Indiana University Health, have also supported the School with donations to increase nursing enrollment.

"Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Atkinson and her team, we will educate even more highly-skilled nurses that will meet the workforce demand in the Hamilton County region and the State of Indiana," said Dr. Sue Ellspermann, President of Ivy Tech.

Earlier this year, the Indiana General Assembly passed HEA 1003 - Nursing Indiana Back to Health, which included provisions that give the College greater ability to expand its nursing programs. By 2025, the College will increase the number of nursing students enrolled by 600.

Ivy Tech is the largest Associate Degree in Nursing Program in the nation, annually graduating more than 1,300 nurses (32 percent of all new Registered Nurses in Indiana). Ninety percent of those Ivy Tech graduates work in Indiana.

Individuals who are interested in learning more about Ivy Tech's School of Nursing can visit the Ivy Tech website at www.ivytech.edu/nursing/index.html

About Ivy Tech Community College: Ivy Tech Community College is Indiana's largest public postsecondary institution and the nation's largest singly accredited statewide community college system, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana and also serves thousands of students annually online.

It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering associate degrees, short-term certificate programs, industry certifications, and training that aligns to the needs of the community. The College provides seamless transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana, as well as out of state, for a more affordable route to a Bachelor's degree.

Barktoberfest to Offer Fun Day for Furry Friends

Westfield Welcome has announced that Barktoberfest, presented by Community First Bank, will return to Asa Bales Park on Oct. 8 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

This dog themed event is the perfect activity for you and your furry friend. With costume contests on the hour beginning at noon, an agility course and pet related vendors, there's something for everyone. Activities also include professional pet portraits, paw painting and adorable pets for adoption at the Humane Society booth.

"This is one of my favorite events we put

on," said Community Events Coordinator Kristen Mix. "It's so nice to see everyone out with their dogs having fun."

Tickets are \$5 per person, and ages four and under will need to reserve a free ticket. Dogs will not require a separate ticket. Tickets for Barktoberfest are available online at westfieldwelcome.ticketleap.com/barktoberfest-2022/dates/Oct-08-2022 at 1100AM.

Free public parking will be available at Westfield High School. More information can be found at www.westfieldwelcome.com/



barktoberfest.

About Westfield Welcome: Westfield Welcome focuses on community engagement and hospitality for residents, businesses, and visitors. As a department of the City of Westfield, Westfield Welcome hosts more than 30 annual events and provides hundreds of volunteer opportunities.

City of Fishers Kicks Off Keep Fishers Beautiful Celebration on Saturday

The fall edition of Keep Fishers Beautiful kicks off this Saturday with a weeklong celebration of volunteerism and sustainability. From volunteer opportunities at Fishers' parks, to practicing sustainability at home with the free rain barrel and compost programs, to the City Recycling Day event, the celebration offers a variety of opportunities for residents to beautify and give back to their community this fall.

For the full lineup of offerings, visit ThisIsFishers.com/KFB.

Saturday's kickoff will feature several special events around the city:



City Recycling Day

- Saturday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Billericay Park
- Residents can recycle electronics, household items, hazardous wastes, and more at this free recycling event at Billericay Park. Paper recycling and off-site confidential document shredding will also be available. Learn more and find a list of accepted items online at www.fishers.in.us/1047/City-

Recycling-Day.

Holland Park Helpers

- Saturday from 9-11 a.m. from Holland Park
- Volunteers will help to spruce up Fishers' oldest park, Holland Park, for the new season by planting perennials, painting the shed, raking the sand at the volleyball court, and more.

Geist Waterfront Park Weed Wrangler

- Saturday from 9-11 a.m. from Geist Waterfront Park
- Volunteers will join Fishers Parks in pulling weeds and tidying up the beach at the new Geist Waterfront Park before it opens to the public next spring.



The Times SERVICE DIRECTORY

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Contact our advertising department at 765-361-0100 ext. 1 to be included in our next Service Directory.

Kenny Looks Forward to Boilermaker Basketball

With just a third of the college football season completed, the official start of the 2022-23 basketball season took place Tuesday inside Purdue's Mackey Arena and Indiana's Assembly Hall.

The 125th college basketball season in West Lafayette is loaded with question marks, just like their 13 Big Ten Conference rivals. Thanks to a mass exodus in talent throughout the league, the media's guess is as good as yours when it comes to picking Big Ten championship contenders.

Since Purdue (Zach Edey), Indiana (Trayce Jackson-Davis) and Michigan (Hunter Dickinson) have the only All-Big Ten selections returning this season, these three schools should be included in the discussion.

Between now and Nov. 2, when Purdue hosts Truman State for an exhibition game, coach Matt Painter will be looking to surround the 7-4 Edey with the best combination of defense, shooting and passing.

Forward Mason Gillis is also a returning starter but he'll have to fend off challenges from not only 2021 Indiana Mr. Basketball Caleb Furst but redshirt freshman Trey Kaugman-Renn.

"I really feel we have one of the best front courts in the country," Painter said Tuesday.

There will be many occasions this season when the Boilermakers will have two Indiana Mr. Basketball winners on the floor at the same time. Braden Smith of Westfield could be the starter at point guard after the University of Miami and booster John Ruiz purchased Purdue's top offseason target, Kansas State transfer Nijel Pack, for \$800,000 and a car.

Smith and Kaufman-



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

Renn are among seven new faces suiting up for Purdue. Graduate transfer David Jenkins Jr. is not a natural point guard but has demonstrated his shooting abilities at his previous stops (South Dakota State, UNLV, Utah). Jenkins' 323 career 3-pointers are third among active players and his 1,857 career points rank eighth.

Jenkins' experience is welcome among a young group of guards. "I really like our young guards but he's played a lot of games," Painter said. "I'm glad we have him. He's going to give us that scoring punch."

Fletcher Loyer, runner-up to Smith for Mr. Basketball honors, was a prolific shooter for Homestead High School the past two seasons.

Carmel's Brian Waddell comes off his redshirt season that was spent recovering from knee surgery. His 6-7 height and shooting ability could prove valuable for a Purdue team that needs to replace much of its 3-point firepower lost with Jaden Ivey and Sasha Stefanovic.

True freshmen Camden Heide, a 6-7 forward, and 7-2 center Will Berg may be candidates for a redshirt season. Berg and Edey extend Purdue's streak to 11 consecutive seasons with a 7-footer on the roster. This also marks nine straight seasons with a 7-2 or taller player wearing gold and black, the longest streak in the nation.

Painter is on track to



Boilermaker's Head Basketball Coach Matt Painter

become the fifth coach in Big Ten history to reach 400 victories, needing 16. Michigan State's Tom Izzo will pass Bob Knight as the conference's winning coach with No. 663, likely on Nov. 7 against Northern Arizona at East Lansing. Gene Keady is third at 512 and Lou Henson at 421 is fourth.

With only one scholarship senior on the roster (Jenkins), it will likely be a season of growing pains at Purdue. Fans are hoping that this young team will surprise like the E'Twaun Moore-Robbie Hummel-JaJuan Johnson group did in 2007-08.

"We've got a very high skill level," Painter said. "We have a lot of people who can shoot the basketball."

Indiana During media day on Monday, Indiana coach Mike Woodson didn't dodge the big question mark surrounding the Hoosiers: Can someone shoot beyond the 3-point line consistently?

"Well, that was a big problem last year," said Woodson, whose team made just one-third of its

3-point tries. "We were in the top ... being in the top 5 in college basketball in terms of open threes that we just didn't knock down. It's not like we're not working on threes. We shoot them every day. We shoot free throws every day."

"It's just when you get to a game situation, you've got to feel comfortable and ready to knock them down."

Preseason chatter has indicated Jackson-Davis is preparing to shoot more often from outside. That could be a good news-bad news scenario since taking Jackson-Davis away from his strengths (offensive rebounding, 59 percent shooting inside) could leave the Hoosiers vulnerable inside.

"I'm not going to stop him from doing that," Woodson said. "He'll be in a position where he catches it out there and have an opportunity to shoot it. If he shoots it, fine."

"The work that he's put in, he's shown he can make that shot, and he has made them in our little pickup games. He's just got to carry it over to the

real game when it counts."

Race Thompson, Miller Kopp and Xavier Johnson are also returning starters. A freshman class headed by Top 25 players Jalen Hood-Schifino and Malik Reneau will be interesting to watch develop.

We'll learn a lot about the Hoosiers during an 18-day stretch before Christmas that includes North Carolina coming to Assembly Hall, the Big Ten opener at Rutgers, playing Arizona in Las Vegas and traveling to Kansas.

Ranking the coaches Opening itself to near unanimous criticism from fans ("You guys are going to get blistered," as one coaches' agent said), The Athletic on Wednesday attempted to rate active college basketball coaches by tiers.

In Tier 1, cheaters do prosper as Kentucky's John Calipari, Baylor's Scott Drew, Iona's Rick Pitino, Kansas' Bill Self and former Indiana coach Kelvin Sampson (Houston) are slotted alongside Tony Bennett of Virginia, Mark Few of Gonzaga and Tom Izzo.

Matt Painter is among an intriguing collection of Tier 2 coaches, a list that features coaches fired for cheating (Sean Miller, formerly of Arizona and now back at Xavier, and Bruce Pearl (who recovered from his Tennessee departure to thrive at Auburn.) and coaches who you wouldn't want to face on the opposite side of the scoring table (Chris Beard of Texas, Dana Altman of Oregon and Leonard Hamilton of Florida State).

"Purdue's Matt Painter might have one of the best basketball minds in the country, and his program wins almost metronomically at this point. How does falling short in March affect the calculation?" The

Athletic's Dana O'Neil and Brian Hamilton ask.

"What he has had to do is evolve, and he has evolved so many times," an industry source says. "He's evolved with his offense. He's evolved with his players. He's been able to have tough years and turn back around and win again. He's done it consistently. He hasn't had a lot of issues in his program He's built that fan base and took it to another level. If Kelvin Sampson is on that list, and Few is on that list, then I almost think Matt Painter (has to be)."

Tier 3 has a heavy Big Ten presence with Greg Gard of Wisconsin, Chris Holtmann of Ohio State, Juwan Howard of Michigan, Fran McCaffery of Iowa, Kevin Willard of Maryland and Brad Underwood of Illinois. Former Ohio State coach Thad Matta, back at Butler, also is on the lengthy Tier 3 list.

O'Neil and Hamilton describe Tier 3 coaches as "solid, reliable and consistent, or entirely unproven; very good, if not great or potentially great but not yet."

Mike Woodson and Steve Pikiell of Rutgers fell into the Tier 4 category described as "winners with nevertheless mixed reviews."

Minnesota's Ben Johnson is in Tier 5. Tier 6 coaches, which includes Chris Collins of Northwestern, Fred Hoiberg of Nebraska and Micah

Shrewsbury of Penn State, are guys who have done good jobs at difficult places to win but could just as easily be fired at the end of the season.

Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.



Photo courtesy of Nickel Plate Arts

Frederick Durham's photograph "I" in Indy.

Breaking Point Exhibit to Highlight Emerging Artist Frederick Durham

Frederick Durham, Nickel Plate Arts' 2021 Emerging Artist of the Year, will be featured as the showcase artist at Four Day Ray starting today.

Durham's showcase, aptly named "Breaking Point," features his signature style. Fans and photographers (ages 21+) can meet Durham at his free public reception next Monday from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Four Day Ray Brewing. Additional items may be available during the reception, beyond what is currently on display.

"The pieces in the show, I feel like those are my main staple pieces that really showcase my style. All of the pieces show some sort of landscape or beautiful city," Durham said.

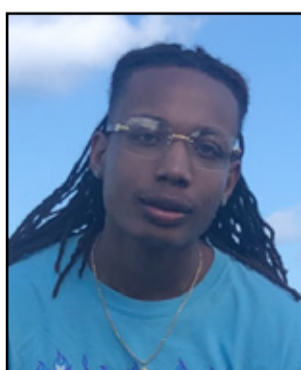
Durham is always ready to capture a moment in time. He does his best to not have a specific agenda when he goes out to shoot. Keeping himself in the moment, he fully takes in his surroundings, waiting for a special something to catch his eye.

"It's mostly color and lines that draw me in," he says.

Once he finds that moment, Durham says he may find himself "laying on the ground in the middle of downtown" just to make sure he considers all the available angels when capturing his subject.

Durham hopes his versatility and skills will inspire others to be free in their work and hone their craft.

"As a professional photographer, there comes



Frederick Durham

a time when your style of work becomes inspiring and influential to young, aspiring photographers. I'm now at a breaking point in my career to inspire a different style of photography, getting outside my comfort zone and discovering what else I have to offer as a photographer," Durham says.

Photography can be purchased by scanning the

QR code under each piece or by contacting Nickel Plate Arts directly.

The exhibit will be on display until Dec. 29 at Four Day Ray Brewing, 11671 Lantern Road in Fishers. Four Day Ray is open daily from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., with later hours on the weekend.

About Nickel Plate Arts:

Nickel Plate Arts is an umbrella nonprofit organization that creates and coordinates arts and cultural experiences across communities in eastern Hamilton County and the surrounding areas to improve the quality of life for residents, strengthen local economies and enrich experiences for visitors. Nickel Plate Arts is a project of Hamilton County Tourism, Inc.

Individual Income Tax Rates to Rise in Five Indiana Counties

Effective Oct. 1, 2022, five Indiana county income tax rates will increase, according to the Indiana Department of Revenue (DOR).

Local income tax rates are determined by county officials and provided to DOR for review regarding compliance with Indiana law.

Below are the five counties impacted along with their new tax rates:

- Boone County: 0.017 (increased from 0.015)
- Johnson County: 0.014 (increased from 0.012)
- Knox County: 0.017 (increased from 0.012)
- LaPorte County: 0.0145 (increased from 0.0095)
- Monroe County: 0.02035 (increased from 0.01345)

These tax rates affect businesses with employees who live or work in any

of these counties and have income tax withholdings.

For Indiana residents on Jan. 1, 2022, county tax rates for individuals are based on the employee's Indiana county of residence on that date.

For individuals who are not Indiana residents on Jan. 1, 2022, county tax rates are based on the individual's county of principal business or employment on Jan. 1.

In addition to the rate changes, Departmental Notice #1 has been updated to provide withholding instructions for the new adopted child exemption.

Current rates for all Indiana counties are available on DOR's website at dor.in.gov in Departmental Notice #1. To view the complete list, click on "Legal Resources", then "Tax Library", followed by "Departmental Notices".

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Governor Holcomb Declares Disaster Emergency for 3 Indiana Counties

Governor Eric Holcomb yesterday issued an executive order declaring a disaster emergency for Jefferson, Ohio and Switzerland counties due to the Sept. 3 flooding event.



Gov. Eric Holcomb

"Hoosiers in southern Indiana are rebuilding their lives after significant damage occurred from flash floods," said Gov. Holcomb. "By declaring a disaster emergency, the communities can receive additional state resources to support recovery efforts and offer a helping hand to those in need."

The three counties experienced near-record rainfall on Sept. 3 and into the next day, with some areas of southern Indiana experiencing up to a foot of rain. The rain caused catastrophic flooding and severe damage to infrastructure, including roads, homes, buildings and bridges. Switzerland County experienced significant widespread damage and at least one death was attributed to the flooding.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security staff have been working with local officials since the incident to properly assess the damage and determine what resources the state can provide to help the counties. The declaration impacts public assistance

for infrastructure and not individual homes.

The disaster emergency declaration follows similar declarations at the county level. IDHS will work with officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to determine if the damages meet the threshold for federal assistance.

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.

U.S. Department of Education Awards Over \$14M to Indiana to Help Provide Students with Safer, Healthier Learning Environments

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded the state of Indiana more than \$14 million in funding as part of the Strong Connections grant program. This grant comes as part of a series of investments in 56 states and territories totaling nearly \$1 billion through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA). The Stronger Connections grants helps schools provide all students with safe and supportive learning opportunities and environments that are critical for their success.

Through the BSCA, Congress provided \$1 billion in Title IV, Part A formula funding to state educational agencies (SEAs) to develop state grant programs to provide students with safer and healthier learning environments. Yesterday, Secretary Cardona informed chief state school officers of their allocations under the BSCA Stronger Connections grant program.

SEAs must award these funds competitively to high-need local educational agencies (LEAs), as determined by the state, to fund activities allowable under section 4108 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

"We have years of evidence that demonstrate the value of building safe and supportive schools. These efforts improve academic



achievement, promote emotional well-being, reduce disciplinary actions, and increase positive behaviors," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona.

"Safe and supportive schools help our children and youth overcome trauma and provide a strong foundation of emotional and physical safety. These grants will provide real benefits to real students in real schools."

Safe and supportive schools are proven by decades of rigorous research to be most effective in supporting academic success as well as meeting the social, emotional, physical and mental health needs of students. These funds can also be used to support school and community partnerships that pursue multifaceted solutions to more effectively prevent and respond to acts of bullying, violence and hate that impact members of school communities at both individual and systemic levels.

As part of the Department's announcement,

Secretary Cardona sent chief state school officers a Dear Colleague Letter outlining three principles that SEAs are strongly encouraged to consider when designing a competitive grant competition and providing LEAs with direction for how they use these funds:

1. Create positive, inclusive and supportive school environments and increase access to place-based interventions and services;

2. Engaging students, families, educators, staff and community organizations in the selection and implementation of strategies and interventions to create safe, inclusive and supportive learning environments; and

3. Designing and implementing policies and practices that are responsive to underserved students, protect student rights, and demonstrate respect for student dignity and potential.

These policies are consistent with the Administration's previous position on these issues. Funds can be used

to provide all students with safe and supportive learning opportunities and environments that are critical for their success. For example, funds could support the kind of work underway in Saint Paul Public Schools in Minnesota where they are spending almost \$13 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to support the mental health and wellness of students and staff.

This approach includes:

- Hiring 32 additional counselors, social workers, and psychologists;
- Partnering with community organizations to offer mental health support for students;
- Training staff on how to handle trauma; and
- Creating calming spaces for staff and students.

More information about the BSCA Stronger Connections grant program can be found online at oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/safe-supportive-schools/student-support-and-academic-enrichment-program/.

Spartz, Colleagues Urge Biden Administration to Safeguard National Security, Supply Chain

On Wednesday, Congresswoman Victoria Spartz sent a bipartisan, bicameral letter with Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), and Sens. Bob Casey (D-PA), John Cornyn (R-TX) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY), urging the Biden Administration to take immediate action to safeguard national security and supply chain resiliency on outbound investments in adversarial states.

"When we cede our manufacturing power and technological know-how to foreign adversaries, we

are hurting our economy, our global competitiveness, American workers, industry and national security. Government action on this front is long overdue to address the scope and magnitude of these serious risks we face as a country," the members of Congress wrote.

This bipartisan group of lawmakers previously worked together to introduce the National Critical Capabilities Defense Act based on the recommendations of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission created by Congress in

2000, which was stripped from the CHIPS Act of 2022 by the Administration. The legislation would have established an interagency outbound investment review committee in order to better understand the vulnerabilities created in U.S. supply chain as private industries continue to offshore critical capabilities to China and other foreign adversaries.

The full letter is available online at www.casey.senate.gov/download/letter-to-president-biden-on-outbound-investment-executive-action.

Spartz Introduces Legislation to Increase Transparency of Non-Profit Hospitals

Yesterday, U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz (IN-05) introduced the Non-Profit Hospital Tax Exemption Transparency Act as part of her package to increase competition in health care.

Non-profit hospitals have accumulated large monopoly powers in many health care markets, although, according to the 2021 Health Affairs study, they spend considerably less on charity care than for-profit hospitals. The current guidelines for community benefit qualifying



Rep. Victoria Spartz

hospitals for tax-exempt status are vague and could be abused by stakeholders.

Based on multiple studies, including RAND

studies performed by the Employers' Forum of Indiana, Indiana has some of the highest hospital prices and health care monopoly issues in the nation.

This legislation clarifies the standards by which non-profit hospitals can qualify for tax exemption.

The full legislative text can be viewed online at spartz.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/spartz.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/FINAL%20CBS%20Bill%20FINAL%20FI-NAL%5B93%5D.pdf.

Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

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BETSY From Page A1

tickets at www.westfield-playhouse.org.

3. Hamilton County Theatre Guild presents the first show of the 58th season of The Belfry Theatre, "Rehearsal for Murder," a murder-mystery who-dunnit play continuing through Sunday at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville, with tickets at www.thebelfrytheatre.com and 317-773-1085.

4. Noblesville Farmers Market is open 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville. Market continues every Saturday this summer through Oct. 15.

5. Visit the Potter's Bridge Fall Festival 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Potter's Bridge Noblesville featuring 90 arts, crafts and food booths, free KidZone and live entertainment.

6. Feeding Families Hamilton County's Music Festival, in its third year, will be 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday at Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville, with food vendors, beer garden, live music featuring Fast Cadillac (with Barry Dixon) and Mike & The Boys band and the Tyler Robling Band, plus bounce house, silent auction, merchandise, more. Bring nonperishable food items to donate to the Feeding Families local pantries. Visit <https://feedingteam.org/>

7. Central Indiana Vintage Vehicles invites car buffs to show off their vintage vehicles on the Courthouse Square during the weekly Saturday night Cruise-in.



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Eric Bowman and Kelly Keller rehearse for Hamilton County Theatre Guild's first show of the 58th season of The Belfry Theatre, "Rehearsal for Murder," continuing through Sunday at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville.

Lawn chairs and old-car conversations invited.

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

9. Hamilton County Parks' Koteewi Aerial Adventure (Edge Adventures), K-Trails Equestrian Adventures, Koteewi Range Sport & Target Archery Center and Koteewi Lake are all open for the season.

10. Hamilton County 4-H Junior Leaders' annual Community Halloween Party is 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville, for ages 10

and younger with their families, with games, haunted house, hayride and refreshments.

11. The Hyperion Players present "Barefoot in the Park," Oct. 6-8, at The Switch Theatre in Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy in Fishers with tickets available at www.hyperionplayers.com

12. Noblesville Main Street's Music & All That Jazz, sponsored by Duke Energy, will be 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 7 on the Courthouse Square, with Fall Fest and Soup Cookoff from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., on the Square.

13. Carmel Community Players presents "Tick, Tick ... BOOM!" musical Oct. 14-23 at

The Switch Theatre in Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy in Fishers with tickets available at <https://carmelplayers.org/>

14. Take a ride on Nickel Plate Express' Wizard Express or any different train rides. Pumpkin Spice Express rides in October. Trick-or-Treat on the Rails, Oct. 29-30. Check availability at <https://nickelplateexpress.com/>

15. Visit Little Haunt on the Prairie at Ghoul Creek Park, title sponsored by Hallmark Orthodontics, at 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Oct. 20 at Cool Creek Park in Westfield. Spooky, yet age-appropriate Halloween activities will

Cast of 11, 13 in A Crew of 'The Curious Savage'

Main Street Productions presents the comedy, "The Curious Savage," now through Oct. 9 at Westfield Playhouse.

The storyline? Mrs. Savage has been left \$10 million by her husband and wants to make the best use of it, despite the efforts of her grown-up stepchildren to get their hands on it. It's a warm comedy that compares the kindness and loyalty of psychiatric patients with the greed and hostility of so-called "normal" people.

Meet THE CAST

Mrs. Savage – Tanya Haas
Lily Belle – Jan Borcharding
Dr. Emmett – Tom Riddle
Miss Willie – Rachel Pope
Titus – Steven Marsh
Samuel – Ian A. Montgomery
Fairy – Phoebe Aldridge
Florence – Jennifer Poynter
Hannibal – Thom Johnson
Jeff – Josh Rooks
Mrs. Paddy – Lisa Warner

Meet THE PRODUCTION CREW

Director: Nancy Lafferty
Assistant Director/Stage Manager: Tonya Rave
Producer: Tom Smith
Costumer: Addie Taylor
Lighting Designer: Eric Matters
Lighting Operator: Andrew Young
Sound Designer: Geoff Lynch
Sound Operator: James Williams
Props Designer: Amber Roth
Set Design: Adam Davis
Set Construction: Adam Davis
Photographers: Erin Keller and Rob Slaven & Indy Ghost Light Photography
 For tickets, visit www.westfieldplayhouse.org

be offered for children ranging from preschool to school ages and their families. You are welcome to come in your costumes and enjoy nature interpretation, entertainment, a hayride,

food for purchase, and activities for the little ones as they trick-or-treat their way through this spooky event

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

ARROWOOD From Page A1

Darren Peterson from Peterson Architecture. The project is sponsored by Duke Energy.

Sunday is National Custodial Workers Recognition Day. I would like to give a shout out of appreciation to our facilities/custodial team who help keep our schools clean, well-maintained, and are ever present in making sure our staff and students have a safe space to teach, learn and grow. They often go above and beyond in their service inside and outside our buildings. These employees are among our unsung heroes in public education. Thank you! We appreciate you!

I would also like to give a shout out to our eighth-grade Lady Huskies Volleyball team for bringing home this year's MIC championship title. Congratulations!!

Our latest HHSC Monthly Update has been posted at our website (www.hhschuskies.org/) and on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3fyPyJ8fGw) for your viewing enjoyment. Learn about our FFA students giving back, the latest HHHS Athletic Hall of Fame inductees, our Homecoming King and Queen, an incredible student that has been published in USA Today, and our partnership with Indiana University Kokomo to grow new teachers.

As a reminder, help keep your child safe and the morning car rider drop off process flowing smoothly by having children in their seats (arms, hands, and heads inside windows and sunroofs) as you enter school grounds ready to exit the vehicle as soon as you stop.

Please refrain from cell phone use while in line and remind your rider never to go back to the car if he or she forgot or dropped something. Other drivers may be unable to see children who run back toward cars. A staff member can pick up a dropped item. Items left in the car can be taken to the front office to be delivered to your child. Thank you for working with us to help get your child off to a safe and enjoyable start to the school day.

In other reminders, the high school honor society's annual non-perishable food drive is underway now through Wednesday, October 5. Items collected will help support the community through our onsite, student-run food pantry. Plan to attend our Fall Choir concert on Tuesday, October 4 beginning at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Enjoy special performances by our award-winning middle school and high school choirs led by director Jennifer Kitzmiller. Our first quarter draws to a close on Friday, October 7 followed by our Fall Break from October 10-14.

As our first quarter draws to a close, I would like to thank you for a successful start of the school year. Our teachers and staff have enjoyed getting to know your children and developing positive relationships to set the stage for greater student engagement and achievement in the weeks and months ahead. #WeAreHuskies

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

PROGRAM From Page A1

pating in the program – which is first launching at Noblesville and will be available to scale at other Indiana schools – will graduate from college a year early with a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a concentration in special education from Ball State University.

"This tremendous and first-ever education apprenticeship initiative for Indiana will develop an educator pipeline for today and tomorrow," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "It's a clear win for future educators to begin their apprenticeship in high school, gain hands-on experience in the classroom and earn a bachelor's degree at the conclusion of the five-year apprenticeship."

To participate, students can enroll in the five-year apprenticeship program beginning their junior year of high school. Participating apprentices will receive instruction from Ball State University during their time in high school through dual enrollment courses, which are easily transferable and align with the Next Level Programs

of Study.

At the same time, the student will work at the Boys and Girls Club of Noblesville, earning tangible, hands-on experience. Students participating in Indiana's first registered educator-focused apprenticeship program will also earn multiple education-related certifications.

Through this new educator-focused registered apprenticeship program, Indiana's high school students will have the opportunity to connect with industry partners and meet workforce demands while growing and sustaining the state's current and future educator pipeline.

"I am grateful our University will provide this unique opportunity for high school students in our state," Ball State President Geoffrey S. Mearns said. "Educating the next generation of teachers is the foundation upon which Ball State University was built, and it is an ongoing priority for our University. This pathway extends our reach while preparing high school students with a tangible, high-quality experience."

Registered apprentice-

ship programs in Indiana are overseen by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) through the Office of Work Based Learning and Apprenticeships (OW-BLA), which has been a key partner in shaping not only Indiana's, but the country's first registered apprenticeship supporting the educator pipeline.

"Increased participation in registered apprenticeship programs is not only important to the future of our students, but also the future of our businesses, communities and the state of Indiana," said David Adams, Commissioner of DWD. "By continuing to work together – between Department of Workforce Development, Commission for Higher Education, Indiana Department of Education and local schools and employers – we can help more students find their calling and prepare them to meet the ever-changing needs of Indiana's employers. We are all in this together."

Nationally, apprenticeships have grown by 64% since 2012, with two million more apprentices participating over that

same time.

This first-of-its-kind registered apprenticeship for future educators is powered through a partnership with Ball State University, Noblesville Community Schools, the Boys and Girls Club of Noblesville, the Pursuit Institute of Hamilton County (formerly known as the Hamilton County Center for Career Achievement) and the Region 5 Workforce Board.

"This program is a true representation of innovation and collaboration across multiple partnerships," said Carrie Lively, executive director of The Pursuit Institute. "The opportunities afforded to students and families through this registered apprenticeship program are unlike any other across the country. I am proud that The Pursuit Institute was the visionary leader in the development of this transformative program, and we anticipate enrollment in the apprenticeship program to scale rapidly."

More information about this program is available online at investhamiltoncounty.com/work-center-for-career-achievement/



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FRIDAY Business Notes and NEWS DAY

Friday, Sept. 30, 2022

A7

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Indiana Secures Funding to Help Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses Sell Products Globally

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation will receive \$300,000 in competitive grant funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to support export opportunities through the Indiana State Trade and Export Promotion (IN-STEP) program, which helps Indiana small businesses identify, market and sell Hoosier-made goods in international markets.

"Indiana's entrepreneurial ecosystem is robust and growing, ranking among the world's top emerging markets," said Ann Lathrop, executive vice president of global investment at the IEDC. "As a state, we pride ourselves on supporting and cultivating the entrepreneurs of today and tomorrow, and the IN-STEP program is yet another tool available to help these leaders and their businesses grow and succeed."

IN-STEP, which supports company growth and job creation by expanding and diversifying small businesses' customer bases, offers eligible companies reimbursements of costs associated with export-related activities, such as participating in international trade missions, trade shows, export educational programs, and export services provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The program first launched in January 2020, and with this new grant, it

will make funding for Indiana available through September 2024 or until all funds are distributed.

Since launching less than three years ago, IN-STEP has helped more than 45 Indiana entrepreneurs and small businesses engage with international markets across six continents, reporting export sales of \$11.7 million. For every federal dollar invested through the program, \$23.7 has been returned to Indiana small businesses through export sales.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Indiana ranks in the top 15 for exporting, with businesses shipping products and goods such as automotive parts, pharmaceuticals and agricultural commodities to global customers. The IN-STEP program aims to build on this momentum by helping more Indiana small businesses develop and expand export-related activities, ensuring more Indiana businesses are able to participate in the global economy while opening up new markets for Hoosier-made goods around the world.

Indiana entrepreneurs and small businesses are encouraged to apply for export assistance through IN-STEP. To be eligible:

- The business must be in operation for at least one year;
- The business must be new to exporting or market expansion;

sion;

- The business must be an Indiana Small Business Development Center (Indiana SBDC) client;

- The business must be in accordance with SBA size standards, which categorizes small businesses based on measures like industry, number of employees and annual receipts. Use the SBA's Size Standards Tool to see if your company qualifies; and

- The business' goods must be made in the U.S. or composed of at least 51% U.S. material.

Learn more and apply for export assistance online.

About IEDC

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) is charged with growing the State economy, driving economic development, helping businesses launch, grow and locate in the state. Led by Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers, @SecChambersIN, and governed by a 15-member board chaired by Governor Eric J. Holcomb, @GovHolcomb, the IEDC manages many initiatives, including performance-based tax credits, workforce training grants, innovation and entrepreneurship resources, public infrastructure assistance, and talent attraction and retention efforts. For more information about the IEDC, visit iedc.in.gov.

Holcomb Announces Partnership with Midwest Governors

Governor Eric J. Holcomb joined his fellow governors in Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin earlier this week to collaborate on developing a robust hydrogen market, supply chain and workforce across the Midwest by signing the Midwest Hydrogen Coalition Memorandum of Understanding (M-H2 Coalition MOU).

"Strong partnerships and collaborations with our neighbors will foster a robust hydrogen ecosystem that will spur future growth in Indiana," said Gov. Holcomb. "The Regional Hydrogen Coalition represents an opportunity for Hoosiers to benefit from this growing industry here in the Midwest."

The M-H2 Coalition MOU will support advancing hydrogen production in the region, with little to no greenhouse gas emissions, while leveraging each participating states' unique assets.

Developing a strong Midwest hydrogen market ecosystem that reduces pollution, enhances energy security and improves public health outcomes will enable existing industries to remain globally competitive and encourage new industries to build and grow in the Midwest.

The coalition will conduct its work by employing a coordinated multi-state, multi-sector approach to developing a robust and sustainable hydrogen economy across the Midwest, informed by industry, academic and community engagement. Indiana will utilize its advanced manufacturing, engineering and research and development expertise to help promote diverse hydrogen production pathways throughout the Midwest region. These innovations and opportunities will be crucial to safeguard the region's manufacturing economy in the long term.

U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$34.4M to Appalachian Region, Lower Mississippi Delta

The U.S. Department of Labor announced this week – in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Delta Regional Authority – awards totaling \$34,375,000, to provide education, training and supportive services in regions that have suffered significant job losses in the energy extraction industry.

"The Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities Initiative provides grants to engage local communities and help build pathways for workers to good-paying jobs," explained Acting Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Brent Parton. "The awards we're announcing today reflect the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to ensure the benefits of its investments in climate, clean energy, training and workforce development reach and serve disadvantaged communities."

"When we prioritize education, training and career support for rural Appalachians, we help our people and our entire region thrive, and eventually compete, with the rest of the nation," said Appalachian Regional Commission Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin. "The latest round of Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities grants will continue giving workers in distressed communities the resources they need to enhance their career opportunities. In doing so, this will reignite Appalachian economies and create results that will reverberate throughout the whole region for years to come."

"Investments in workforce development is a key tool for economic growth in rural communities," added Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman Dr. Corey Wiggins. "Our continued partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor allows us to meet local industry demands head-on by developing a skilled workforce while also establish a talent pool that will attract new businesses to the region."

In keeping with Executive Order 14008, signed by President Biden, the WORC Initiative aligns with the Justice40 initiative, a whole-of-government approach to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments to communities historically marginalized, underserved and overburdened by pollution.

The WORC Initiative helps rural communities address historic

inequities and to produce good, quality jobs for dislocated and other workers in rural communities in the Appalachian and Delta regions. The grants also help communities diversify their local economies by developing a skilled workforce and providing equitable access to underserved and under-represented communities.

Grants are being awarded to recipients in the Appalachian Regional Commission area as follows:

- Recipient; State; Amount
- Hazard Community and Technical College; KY; \$1,441,292
- Kentucky DataSeam Initiative Inc.; KY; \$1,441,292
- University of Maryland, College Park; MD; \$985,419
- Land of Sky Regional Council; NC; \$1,441,125
- Rural Action Inc.; OH; \$1,421,763
- University of Pittsburgh; PA; \$1,119,908
- Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Development Board; PA; \$938,962
- Northeast State Community College; TN; \$1,258,623
- New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area Consortium; VA; \$1,441,292
- Southwest Virginia Community College; VA; \$1,378,568
- BridgeValley Community and Technical College; WV; \$1,441,280
- Randolph County Housing Authority; WV; \$1,440,438

Grants are being awarded to recipients in the Delta Regional Authority area as follows:

- Alabama Department of Commerce; AL; \$1,384,792
- Arkansas Center for Data Sciences; AR; \$1,390,214
- South Arkansas Community College; AR; \$835,499
- Strada Collaborative Inc.; IN; \$1,394,534
- Workforce Development Board SDA-83 Inc.; LA; \$1,394,535
- New Orleans Career Center; LA; \$1,283,998
- NextOp Inc.; LA; \$1,143,215
- Dream Innovations Inc.; MS; \$1,394,535
- Mississippi Community College Board; MS; \$1,394,535
- Delta Health Alliance Inc.; MS; \$1,394,196
- Ozark Action Inc.; MO; \$1,394,535
- Southeast Missouri Hospital College of Nursing and Health Sciences; MO; \$1,394,535

Agtech Startup Chooses Indiana for First US Large-Scale Sustainable Shrimp Farm

Atarraya Inc., creator of Shrimpbbox, the first sustainable 'plug-and-play' shrimp farming technology, announced plans today to establish its first U.S. sustainable shrimp production operation in central Indiana, creating up to 65 new jobs by the end of 2025.

"We're inspired by the cutting-edge technology Atarraya has created to advance shrimp cultivation, and I am ecstatic to see these entrepreneurs and innovators choose Indiana to locate and scale their business," said Indiana Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers. "Indiana is the ideal location for agtech companies like Atarraya to continue developing innovative solutions while providing consumers with a sustainable food source."

Headquartered in Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, Mexico, Atarraya plans to invest up to \$4.8 million to locate the company's first U.S. container-based shrimp farming operation at 2075 S. Belmont Ave. in Indianapolis. The first farm will include approximately 20 Shrimpbboxes and will advance the company's goal of making shrimp the most sustainable and accessible source of animal protein globally. The central Indiana operation will enable Atarraya to expand into the U.S. market and advance the company's goal of making shrimp the most sustainable, accessible and nutritious source of animal protein in the world.

"We've spent the past decade developing the technology that will empower the future of aquaculture and realized that in order to unleash its true potential to feed the world, aquaculture must be lo-

cal," said Daniel Russek, CEO and founder of Atarraya. "We are excited to start in the U.S. agriculture capital of Indiana, which we believe will rapidly become the nation's agtech capital."

The company, which currently employs 87 team members across Oaxaca, Campeche, Mexico City and Indiana, is currently hiring in Indianapolis for engineers, operators and biologists. Interested applicants may apply via email.

Housed in traditional cargo containers, Atarraya's AI-powered Shrimpbbox shrimp farming technology provides a sustainable, globally scalable protein source that creates new opportunities for farmers – even in landlocked, urban locations. Shrimp is expected to be a nearly \$23 billion global market by 2026. Atarraya's Shrimpbbox uses biotechnology, artificial intelligence and automation, and allows shrimp to be farmed locally, anywhere in the world.

The Shrimpbbox automatic feeding system reduces labor hours and improves the growth scheme by dispensing the precise amount of feed needed at optimal times to avoid waste. Unlike traditional shrimp farming, Shrimpbbox operates with zero water pollution, eliminates the need for antibiotics or chemicals and produces fresh, healthy shrimp anywhere.

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) partners with industry organizations like AgriNovus Indiana, an initiative dedicated to promoting and accelerating the growth of the agbioscience economy, to target business recruitment in high-skilled,

high-growth sectors. AgriNovus works to cultivate business within the agbioscience industry, helping recruit organizations like Atarraya to expand or locate in Indiana.

"Atarraya's Shrimpbbox unites the power of technology, science and sustainable food production to bring new choices to the U.S. market," said Mitch Frazier, CEO of AgriNovus Indiana. "Indiana's \$52 billion agbioscience economy, coupled with our strength in technology, make Indiana a destination of choice for global innovators like Atarraya as we build the economy of the future."

Atarraya presented Shrimpbbox at the 2022 Seafood Expo North America/Seafood Processing North America in Boston earlier this year – the only company of 800 to exhibit an actual production facility inside the exhibition.

Based on the company's job creation plans, the IEDC committed an investment of up to \$1 million in Atarraya through incentive-based tax credits and up to \$50,000 in training grants. The tax credits are performance-based, meaning Atarraya is eligible to claim incentives once Indiana residents are hired and trained. The city of Indianapolis supports the project.

"Indianapolis is the perfect location for a global firm looking to set up their headquarters at the crossroads of advanced tech and agriculture," said Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett. "In addition, Atarraya's emphasis on a more sustainable approach to farming—reducing water and potentially harmful chemicals—aligns with our vision for a greener, cleaner future."

Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

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FRIDAY

Voice of our PEOPLE

Hate, Vitriol Climb Higher and Higher

What a great country we live in! You get to think and believe whatever you want and so do I. For the most part, we get to act how we want, too.

But zealots are trying really hard to change that.

Recently, I wrote a piece on why I think Joe Biden is failing. I also wrote that if the choice boils down to Donald Trump or Joe Biden, I would not hesitate to vote for Trump. My reasoning is simple. I don't like Trump. I detest his arrogance and the seventh-grade name calling he often resorts to . . . which, when you think about it might be an insult to seventh-graders.

My apologies, young gentlemen and ladies!

Trump doesn't act presidential in any way, shape or form.

But I sure enjoyed the economy when he was in office. I enjoyed him saying that under his watch we would always be



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

American first – especially coming off the Barack Obama World Apology Tour. I enjoyed \$2 a gallon gas. I enjoyed that we still welcomed immigrants, but said they had to live within the rules of the country. I enjoyed that our military was once again celebrated.

Under President Biden, I don't enjoy any of those things.

If it were left up to me, and let's all be thankful it's not, I think those are some of the things by which we should take measure when

judging a president's performance. I never believe we should vote for the party. We should make our decisions based on the man or woman running for office, and that decision should be performance based, not sound bites, video snippets and elaborate Madison Avenue advertising campaigns or, God forbid, signs!

Unfortunately, that is not where a lot of folks are in our country.

There are zealots – some on the left and some on the right – who are dominating the moment. After I wrote that I would vote for Trump, albeit grudgingly, multiple readers first came out of the woodwork, and then unglued. Some went beyond nasty. To be fair, several are regular readers who often take a different point of view than this old reporter. They have taken me to task on occasion – almost always in a way where we could still smile and be friends after the discussion.

Not this time. Some wrote things that simply were not true and one even took a threatening tone.

Conversely, a couple of others – from the conservative side – wanted to know when I became a member of the liberal media and why was I bashing Trump?

Yup, same column – polar opposite reactions.

The overriding point is that things are changing today. Some folks simply don't want to allow you a differing point of view. They are certainly entitled to theirs, but apparently feel they need to attack anyone who disagrees. Zealots seem to forget that we all get to have our own opinion.

Let me repeat that.

We. All. Get. To. Have. Our. Own. Opinion.

It's been said in this space before that gone are the days where fierce political rivals in the halls of Congress could go at each other tooth and nail

in debate and yet end up sharing a nice dinner together at a D.C. restaurant that evening. Social media has driven a wood stake so far into the heart of that practice it would take more than a magic spell to bring it back to life.

Today, hatefulness and spite are quick responses should someone take a disagreeable point of view.

Thing is, I don't mind the vitriol directed my way. As a newspaper vagabond with more years and miles on my Weejuns that I can remember, my skin's pretty thick. Where I hate to see the attacks are against the average Joe on social media. It's why I can't like Trump. Say something that doesn't line up with the former president and he's on the attack, mocking, name calling and ready for a fight. He may not have been the first person to be that way, but he has turned it into a political art form.

Even Biden is getting in the act. We'll have to wait

and see if calling Trump voters fascists impacts him like the "deplorables" comment did to Hillary.

It's been said many times in this space, and I'll probably keep hammering away at it, we desperately need to be able to have civil discourse in this country. If we have opposing points of views, we need to respect each other's position and either agree to disagree, or heavens to mergatroid, possibly find some common ground.

If we don't, expect a lot more politicians who look and sound like Trump on both sides of the aisle.

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.

Marlowe Swears He's Not A Robot



JOHN O. MARLOWE
With The Grain

One of my enduring pleasures is sports. Perhaps that's because I had the privilege of playing football when I was in college. Who can't look back on the first time that a 300-pound man jumped on his back while questioning his parentage, and remember so without affection?

I especially enjoy reading about my favorite teams. Even if I go to the game, I still want to grab a newspaper the next day, online or in paper form, and see what great sportswriters think about the contest.

Luckily, I grew up reading some of the best. Mine was not the Golden Age of sportswriting -- television tarnished that. It certainly was gilded, however. Scattered among the dross of boiler room journalists, a few sportswriters glistened.

I marveled at the eloquence of Frank DeFord (Sports Illustrated), the passion of Bob Ryan (Boston Globe), and the blunt opinions of Bernie Lincicome (Chicago Tribune), who once described Arizona in a story as "the place where America sweeps its dust."

My all-time favorite was Jim Murray (Los Angeles Times). Murray's mordant humor and laser-like irradiance of sports opened our eyes, even as he was losing his. He spent the last years of a Hall of Fame career covering and commenting on sports while going blind.

I marveled at how great

sportswriters were -- above all -- great writers. Not so, today. We have only a few talented people.

Oh, I'm not saying that today's sportswriters aren't talented. They are. My complaint is that they aren't people!

In this age of self-driving and self-parking vehicles, where robots have human jobs, where you can ask Siri to turn down the thermostat, and man's best friend might be an avatar -- Artificial Intelligence is now writing sports stories, too.

That's right. Please check only the squares that have lampposts in them, AI is in the pressbox!

After attending a football game at my alma mater, Saturday, I made it a point on Monday to check in on the school's web page to read the recap of the game. Immediately I was struck that the article was not up to normal standards.

The sentences were choppy and burdened by trite expressions, like "made his presence felt" and "got on the board". It was loaded with predictable truisms: "After the loss, the team is 0-1."

The story was as sterile as Dr. Oz's Senate campaign.

I finished reading the 300 words feeling disappointed and hollow. It was like reading a story about poi, or watching the Daytona 500 with all the cars stripped down to their primer coat. The color was gone. The story was lifeless, odorless, motionless and had less flavor than tofu hotdogs at the concession stand.

Frank DeFord would be vortulating in his grave. (Frank liked to introduce us to big words.)

Sure enough, at the bottom of the story was a sentence -- "This story created through content automation technology." (Even the disclaimer feels stilted.)

I followed the link to the website, and in among jar-

gon that only a 7-year-old Minecraft player understands, I discovered that the company boasts of creating millions of automatically written articles every year. Their clients include ESPN, Sports Illustrated and USA Today.

Their secret algorithm scans the statistical data, and weaves the numbers into a sports story by adding common phrases. Wanna try yourself? Take a statistic, and insert the phrase "answered the bell." It works every time.

It's cool technology, and I'm glad the founders are eating caviar on a beach somewhere. I can see AI being very helpful in manufacturing and with technical information. But using AI in sportswriting is shortsighted.

Sports -- even the hi-tech sports -- are human. We need to know that the quarterback has an ice pack on his shoulder between drives. It's important to understand the sun was in the outfielder's eyes, or the bowler's grandmother passed away recently.

The pomp, the smells, the noise aren't an "extra" part of the story to be weeded out of the spreadsheet. They ARE sport. How else can you explain why we don't cram 80,000 people in to watch an algebra class every weekend?

Unlike pure data, sportswriting illuminates human failings. If both teams on the football played perfectly every down, the ball would never leave the 50-yard line. As humans, we need to know that we screw up.

AI proponents likely will claim that their technology will get better. I'm sure it will. However, some of us can't wait. Who wants to watch Rembrandt paint by numbers? The folks hoping Artificial Intelligence will replace great writing just need to get real.

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

Ask Rusty - About Applying for Social Security Benefits



ASK RUSTY
Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I will be turning 65 this December and will most likely continue working until July of 2024 at my current job. It is possible I could leave a year earlier. With that being said, when should I submit paperwork to start collecting Social Security benefits? Is there anything I should know previous to applying that will make sure the process is relatively seamless? Signed: Ready to Retire

Dear Ready to Retire: Social Security recommends you apply for benefits 2 to 3 months before you wish your benefit payments to begin, but you can apply up to 4 months prior. When you apply, you will specify your desired benefit-start-month on the application, and that is when your benefits will start. Be aware that Social Security pays benefits "in arrears," meaning your benefit is paid in the month following the month earned. So, for example, if you apply for your benefits to start in January your January benefit will be paid in February.

The exact date of your payment depends on the day of the month you were born -- born between the 1st and 10th of the month, you get your payment on the 2nd Wednesday; born between the 11th and 20th of the

Social Security Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

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

month, payment is made on the 3rd Wednesday; born after the 20th of the month your payment will be received in your bank account on the 4th Wednesday of every month.

You can apply in person, either over the phone or by visiting your local Social Security office, or you can apply for your benefits online at www.ssa.gov/retire. Applying online is, by far, the most efficient method. To apply online, you will first need to set up your personal "my Social Security" online account which is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. I suggest you create your online account now, even if you don't plan to claim your SS for a while yet. Once you have your online account set up, you can see your estimated benefit amounts at different ages, which can help you decide when to claim.

Since you are still working, you should be aware that if you claim at any time prior to reaching your full retirement age (FRA) you will be subject to Social Security's earnings test. If you will be 65 in December 2022 your FRA is 67, and that is the point at which you will get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. If you claim any earlier, your benefit will be permanently reduced, and the Social Security "earnings test"

will apply. The earnings limit for 2023 will be a bit more than the 2022 limit of \$19,560. If you are collecting SS and exceed the earnings limit, they will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. In the year you reach your FRA (2024) your earnings limit will be about 2 1/2 times more than the normal annual limit and the penalty is less, and once you have reached your FRA there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn. For clarity, you can also wait and claim after your FRA and gain a higher benefit (your benefit will grow up to age 70).

So, how can you make the process "relatively seamless?" Create your online "my Social Security" account in advance and verify that your lifetime earnings as recorded by Social Security are accurate. Then, when you're ready to claim, simply go to www.ssa.gov/retire and follow the instructions. The online application process is quite intuitive, and you should have no trouble even if you have limited computer skills. Social Security will contact you if they need more information after you apply online. Of course, you can also apply whenever you're ready by calling Social Security to make an appointment to apply over the phone but applying online is much more efficient.

FRIDAY Voice of our PEOPLE

The Noblesville Times

Friday, Sept. 30, 2022

A9

America's Foreigner Flood, Spread the Love Around

By Dr. Glenn Mollette



GLENN MOLLETTE
Guest Column

Nearly five million foreign nationals have entered the United States since Biden became President. Some people call them undocumented immigrants, some call them unauthorized immigrants, many call them illegal immigrants. If they were entering the country legally with proper documentation then we would call them documented immigrants or legal immigrants.

Wyoming has 581,075 people. Have you ever been to Yellowstone National Park? Vermont has a population of 623,251 people. The District of Columbia has a population of 714,143 people. Alaska's population is 724,357. North Dako-

ta has 770, 026. South Dakota's population is 896,581. The population of Delaware is 990,334. (Stats from populationreview.com). These seven states combined have a population of under 5.5 million people. To get a more accurate count I suppose we could drop off Wyoming and that would put us closer to the total number of foreign

nationals who have illegally without documentation entered crossed our borders. In other words, our country has grown the population of at least six of our smallest populated states in six years.

However, there are no worries because densely populated states won't remain that forever. We cannot add 4-5 million illegal immigrants every two years without having serious population issues in our nation.

What would a half million of these new unauthorized immigrants do to the state of Wyoming? What about Vermont? Would Vermont like to have a generous helping of a few hundred thousand people begging for housing and food?

The population of Ken-

tucky is about 4.5 million people which is somewhere very close to the number of illegal immigrants. Where can Kentucky add a half million people? There are no jobs in East, Kentucky but a lot of devastation from the recent flooding. West Kentucky is still trying to rebuild from the worst tornadoes in history. What about Lexington or Woodford County? They still have a nice ten mile stretch of horse farms that could easily accommodate one-half million foreigners. Put these people to work giving bourbon tours.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Florida Governor Ron Desantis have the right idea, share the love. Open borders should never mean that

Texas and other border states get all the love and joy of these millions of people coming illegally into America. Texas already has 30 million people. Florida has 22 million people. Plus, Texas and Florida get hot. Hot weather and crowds are not a good combination. Martha's Vineyard has less than 20,000 people. The climate is cooler. The water is pretty and there is some good fishing in the area as well. I can see where immigrants would be content in this part of America. Rehoboth in Delaware would also be a nice spot for the undocumented foreigners. Rehoboth is where Joe Biden likes to stroll along the Boardwalk in this quaint coastal Atlantic community of fine restau-

rants, shops and summer vacationers. The illegals could certainly transform this little community.

California has a population of 40 million people. New York has almost 20 million and Illinois has almost 13 million with Chicago exploding with its own problems. Do any of them really have the financial ability to care for another million people?

If we do not get control of our border and regulate the flood of people who are coming into this country illegally, soon we will not have a country.

Here Dr. Mollette each weekday at 8:56, 11:30 and 4:26 EST on XM radio 131. Contact him at GMollette@aol.com. Learn more at www.glenmollette.com

With Continued Support, Processors Look to New Opportunities

By Johnathan Hladik, policy director, Center for Rural Affairs

As the demand for local foods grows, small- and mid-sized meat and poultry processors are looking to make investments to expand their capacity, create new markets for their product, and train the next generation of workers. These efforts, which

come as many in the industry work to regain their footing after a tumultuous two years, are not going unnoticed and continue to receive support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

Through its Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant Program, AMS has awarded \$54.6 million

in grants to processing facilities across the country. The latest round of funding—\$21.9 million—will assist 111 processors in 37 states in updating and purchasing new equipment, expanding their facilities, obtaining a Federal Grant of Inspection, or qualifying for a state's Cooperative Interstate Shipment program to ship products across state lines and devel-

op new markets. Additionally the grant recipients will have access to resources through the Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity Technical Assistance Program. Established in March 2022, the program connects participants to a nationwide network of resources to support their project development. The technical assistance program also includes

resources on workforce development. While the pandemic exposed the vulnerability of our food system, the lack of competition in the marketplace has long been an issue. By providing grants, loans, and technical assistance to smaller facilities, the USDA can address concentration within the industry and create competitive options so farmers,

ranchers, and consumers have access to better choices and fairer prices.

We applaud the administration's continued commitment to build capacity and increasing economic opportunity for our nation's small- and mid-sized meat and poultry producers. Their support is valuable in keeping this important piece of our rural economy going.

Just Birds in the Wind . . .

I am walking down a dark lane lined with trees which have shed their leaves. I see in the trees one bird it seems to cower and shiver in the wind. Its feathers seem to be worn with time. It moves closer to the trunk of the tree as the wind blows harder.

As I watched I wondered why the bird didn't simply spread its wings and soar along with the wind. Then as I looked more closely I noticed the bird had four legs. Beneath its wing was another little bird that it was protecting.

I don't know the reason for the protection but I found it comforting to see the caring of one of God's creatures for another.

Any of us can find ourselves out on a limb feeling beaten down by the winds of life.

Our choices sometimes lead us there seemingly placing us in peril. Even when we are in those places, there are those like the larger bird who are brave enough to come out there with us on the limb and inch us back close to the tree helping make our environs safer.

We can allow the help and find a better path or remain out there as the storm weathers against us sometimes to our own detriment.

Stepping closer to the tree, to the strength of its roots, we can hold on, rely on its strength, sup-



RANDALL FRANKS
Southern Style Columns

ported by those who reach out to help, and once the storm is passed, we can stop shivering beneath others wings and stand up on our own.

Each day is a new opportunity to move closer to the path that God has in store for our lives. We might even be able to spread our wings and fly on our own. Anything is possible when we rely upon God's mercy, strength and grace.

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

Increase in Producers Altering Fall Schedules to Implement Cover Crops

By Kayla Bergman, policy manager, policy director, Center for Rural Affairs

As producers work to harvest their cash crops this fall, some will also be turning their attention to another.

Cover crops, which can be a grass, legume, or brassica, are seeded for both on-farm and natural resources benefits. Those benefits include reduced soil erosion, improved soil health, improved weed control and nutrient availability for the next cash crop, water quality protection, and improved bottom line for the operation.

Seeding of cover crops is done in multiple ways, depending on the producer's equipment availability and harvest schedule.

For the past several weeks, people may have noticed either planes or helicopters over fields seeding cover crops. Another option for establishing the conservation practice is a high-clearance tractor driving through the field in the weeks leading up to corn, soybean, or

other crop harvest. Many producers also drill in their cover crop after harvesting the cash crop.

More producers are implementing cover crops every year. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service, 10.3 million acres of cover crops were seeded in 2012 and 20 million acres were seeded in 2020. That is a 100% increase over eight years.

Technical and financial assistance from federal and state programs are leading to an increase of producers altering their fall schedules to incorporate this valuable conservation practice. Programs like the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, both administered by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the crop insurance premium discount, through USDA's Risk Management Agency, incentivize this conservation mindset in producers' busy fall schedules.

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