

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:6,7 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: For we walk by faith, not by sight



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY
People who call our community their own.

What makes Tynleigh Wattenbarger smile? "School," said the then 8-year-old, a then third-grader at Stonycreek Elementary School in Noblesville. She is the daughter of Kyle and Sarah Wattenbarger and has a brother, Westyn, then 7. Favorite subject at school? "Reading." Favorite school lunch item? "I eat lunch at school, and I like peanut butter and jelly." She was born in Tennessee and has lived in Noblesville since January 2019. Favorite pastime when not in school? "Playing with my friends." Today's feature is a look back at one of The Times' previous Faces of Hamilton County. She was found in October 2019 spraying water from a Noblesville Fire Department water hose at NFD Auxiliary's Pancake Breakfast, kicking off National Fire Prevention Week. This year, the NFD Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast for the community is 7:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday at Station 71, 135 S. Ninth St., with inflatable slides, plastic fire helmets, and fire hoses for future NFD firefighters. All-you-can-eat pancakes are \$5. This week, Oct. 9-15, is the 100th anniversary of National Fire Prevention Week.

And Another Few Things...

1. Noblesville Chamber

Do you enjoy trivia? Big fan of Jeopardy? Do you hear a question and immediate look for a buzzer to hit or a white board and felt pen? Well, then you belong at the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce's Trivia Night. Trivia not your thing? Well, do you enjoy networking, great food and drinks? Guess what, you still belong at Trivia Night!

Bring the whole team! Don't forget the history buff, the sports stats brainiac, the pop culture guru, and of course your office know-it-all. They all come in handy! Don't have a team to bring? Don't worry, there will be teams assembled on site as well

Trivia Night will be held on Oct. 19. Networking and drinks will begin at 5 p.m.; trivia begins at 5:45 p.m.; networking resumes at 7 p.m. The event will be held at Big Woods Restaurant, 14741 Hazel Dell Crossing Suite 1000, Noblesville. The cost of admission is \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members.

2. Indy Owl Fest

One of Eagle Creek Park's most popular events wings its way to the park's Ornithology Center on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 22-23.

The 7th annual Owl Festival is free with regular park admission, and features a fun and fabulous line-up of events and activities designed for all ages: games, nature-themed crafts, guided hikes, scavenger hunts, live animal programs and more.

Guests will have the opportunity to participate in a Nature-themed Open Mic on Saturday afternoon, and a Campfire & Drum Circle facilitated by Bongo Boy Music School on Sunday.

The Owl Fest silent auction returns, too, with all proceeds benefiting the Eagle Creek Park Foundation's Birds of Prey Fund which supports the Ornithology Center's Raptor Ambassador Program. Sales of concessions, Owl Fest and Eagle Creek Park 50th anniversary merchandise and other items also will benefit the Foundation and Raptor Ambassador Program.

Additional information about Owl Fest, including silent auction items and bidding instructions, is available at eaglecreekpark.org/owl-fest-2022/.

Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center is located inside the park at 6515 Delong Road. Park entrances are located at 7840 W 56th St. and at W 71st St. off of Lafayette Road/I-65. Event times are Oct. 22, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Oct. 23, 1-5 p.m. Owl Fest is free with regular park admission: \$5 per vehicle for Marion County residents, \$6 per vehicle for out-of-county residents.

Persons interested in helping provide volunteer and financial support to promote, preserve, protect, and enhance the park are invited to become members of the Eagle Creek Park Foundation. Information about the Foundation can be found at eaglecreekpark.org/.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

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Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven & Indy Ghost Light Photography

Dom Piedmonte and Margaret Smith rehearse for Carmel Community Players' production of "Tick, Tick, Boom" opening Friday at The Switch Theatre at Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy in Fishers.

CCP's 'Tick, Tick, Boom!' Tells a Story in Music



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

The popularity of "Tick, Tick, Boom!" musical on Netflix in 2021 gave Kathleen Clarke Horrigan of Fishers the idea to direct the musical at the local community theater level.

"I decided to hop on with the hope of some name recogni-

tion," she said. "It is especially popular with young people who are in love with the music."

The one-act 90-minute musical opens Friday and continues through Oct. 23 at The Switch Theatre at Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy in Fishers. Tickets are still available.

"Tick, Tick, Boom!" is an autobiographical musical by Jonathan Larson, the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning composer of "Rent." The musical, "Tick, Tick, Boom!" is the story of a composer and the sacrifices that he made to achieve his big break in theater.

"Most people are familiar with the musical 'Rent.' This is about the composer of Rent when he was struggling to decide if he should continue to try to write a musical or give up

➔ See BETSY Page A8

Want TO GO?

What: Carmel Community Players presents "Tick, Tick, Boom," by Jonathan Larson, Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning composer of "Rent."

When: Opens Friday and continues with a total seven performances through Oct. 23. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and Oct. 20, 21, 22; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday and Oct. 23.

Where: The Switch Theatre at Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy, 10029 E. 126th St., Fishers.

How much: \$20 for adults, \$18 for students and 62 and older.

Reservations: carmelplayers.org/

Early Voting Locations Open Across Hamilton County Tomorrow

Early voting locations across Hamilton County are set to open at some locations on tomorrow. Dates, times, and locations for Noblesville, Fishers, Westfield and Carmel are as follows:

Noblesville
Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville

• Oct. 12-14 from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

• Oct. 17-21 from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

• Oct. 24-28 from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

• Oct. 29 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

• Oct. 31-Nov. 4 from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

• Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. - 4: p.m.

• Nov. 7 from 8: a.m. - 12 p.m., noon

Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville

• Oct. 12-14 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

➔ See VOTING Page A8

Who Knew CPR Stood for Chick Poultry Resuscitation?



JOHN O. MARLOWE
With The Grain

My friend Courtney not only marches to the beat of a different drummer, she's got Keith Moon hardwired to her soul.

She is sassy, yet serene. Avoidant, yet cuddlesome. Bitter, yet forgiving.

Large black circular eye-glasses rim her wolf blue eyes, which don't really twinkle, but penetrate -- like the blue flame of a welding torch cutting steel. The glasses make her look smart, which she says she isn't, but I'd put her brain up against anybody's in a street fight.

Her raven hair matches her glasses, but often you can't tell.

➔ See MARLOWE Page A8

➔ INSIDE TODAY

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➔ OBITUARIES

Fred Tipton 'Butchie' Gary
William D. Hewett
Gail F. Puckett
Mark Stephen Ogden
Gail F. Puckett
Mark Charles Sims

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

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Been to a high school football game yet? Better hurry! There's only one regular season game left.

➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"There is a child in every one of us who is still a trick-or-treater looking for a brightly lit front porch."

- Robert Brault

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Men over 35 without heart risk factors and women over 45 with risk factors should have their lipids checked.

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 JOKE

Who won the skeleton beauty contest? No Body!

WTHR 13 7 DAY FORECAST

45/73 WARMED	51/76 MILD, BAIN LATE	58/73 SCTD RAIN SHOWERS	50/59 COOL, WIND, BRISKLY	40/57 SUNNY & CHILLY	39/67 PARTLY CLOUDY	50/64 PARTLY SUNNY
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN



OBITUARIES

Fred Tipton 'Butchie' Gary

June 12, 1938 - October 3, 2022

Fred Tipton 'Butchie' Gary, 84, a lifelong resident of Sheridan, passed away on Oct. 3, 2022, in Noblesville.

He was born on June 12, 1938, to the late Clayton and Pansy (Tipton) Gary in Sheridan, Indiana.

Mr. Gary graduated from Sheridan High School in 1957. He knew the value of a day's work and he was an entrepreneur at heart. He worked as an independent painting contractor for many years.

Mr. Gary loved his country, and he was grateful to our servicemen and women. He was a proud member of the sons of the legion in Sheridan, Post 67. He was an avid golfer and looked forward to playing golf with his family and friends. Mr. Gary love watching sports especially Football and Horse Racing and he could be found going to the horse track to place bets on his favorite horses running that day.

The most important thing to Mr. Gary was his family, especially his grandchildren.

Survivors include his two sons Greg (Rhonda) Gary and Michael (Fawn) Gary; seven grandchildren Erin (s.o. Jeromy Chrisman) Gary, Riley (s.o. Nate Reinhart) Gary, Austin (s.o. Megan Moore) Gary, Amber (Jon) Saladin, Brock Rollins, Emily (Garrett) Hammond and Garrison (s.o. Lexy Condon) Rehfus; and five great-grandchildren to Kendall Chrisman, Cale Chrisman, Bennett Chrisman, Abram Saladin and Hudson Hammond.

Preceding him in death were his 10 siblings Evelyn, Floyd, Leann, Clayton, Robert, Howard, Betty Lou, Donald, Jack and James.

Friends and family are invited to sign the online guestbook, leave a condolence or share a memory at fisherfunerals.com

William D. Hewett

March 27, 1943 - October 6, 2022

William D. Hewett, 79, of Noblesville, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022 at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

He was born on March 27, 1943 to Harry and Ruth (Womack) Hewett in Durant, Oklahoma.

Mr. Hewett attended University of Arizona for his undergraduate degree and law degree. He was a corporate labor lawyer at Inland Container for many years before retiring. He enjoyed gardening, traveling, and reading. Most of all, Mr. Hewett loved spending time with his family, who will greatly miss him.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years Susan Hewett; three children David (Karen Keniff) Hewett, Elizabeth Hewett and Caroline (William Olabiyyi) Hewett; grandchildren, Grant Hewett, Aidan Hewett, Grace Olabiyyi and Will Olabiyyi; and sister Norma Hewett Johnson.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Harry Hewett, Jr..

Memorial contributions may be made to Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, 1700 Conner Street, Noblesville, IN 46060, <https://bgcni.org/>.

At Mr. Hewett's request, there will be no services.

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

David Howard Hoover

October 22, 1939 - October 6, 2022

David Howard Hoover, 82, of Westfield, Indiana, passed away on Oct. 6, 2022, after a brief illness.

He was born on Oct. 22, 1939, in Canton, Ohio, to Howard and Helen (Piecynski) Hoover.

Mr. Hoover graduated cum laude from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana in 1961, majoring in History and minoring in German. In 1965, he received his Master's Degree from the University of Cincinnati, concentrating in Medieval Russian History. While he started his teaching career at AJ Kent High School in Kentland, Indiana, he spent more than 30 years teaching and serving in the administration at his alma mater, St. Joseph's College. Mr. Hoover was a former member of the St. Augustine Catholic Church's parish in Rensselaer and was a St. Joseph's College Fellow.

He married Donna C. Sondgerath in Kentland, Ind., in 1964. She was the love of his life and they shared 49 wonderful years together before her death in 2013.

Mr. Hoover was a gentle soul, with a kind heart. His laughter, his smile, always genuine and unmistakable, provided those who knew him with the joy one hopes to leave behind in this world. His soft hopefulness, especially in the face of adversity, was a constant. It persisted throughout his life and was unwavering in his final days. His family knows now that he is at peace, reunited with his Donna, and searching for someone to put a pinstripe on his next vehicle, because "it really makes the car look sharp."

Survivors include his three children Erica E. (Joseph) Aker of Indianapolis, Peter C. Hoover of Noblesville and Thaddeus J. 'Ted' Hoover of Louisville, Ky.; granddaughter Makena L. Hoover of Noblesville; two brothers John M. (Patricia) Hoover of Buckhead, Ga. and Patrick J. (Trudy) Hoover of Louisville, Ohio; sister Catherine Hoover of Massillon, Ohio; four sisters-in-law Diane Hoover of Lancaster, Ohio, Sandra (Dale) Fallat of Zionsville, Cheryl (Thomas) Sims of Cicero and Marlene Sondgerath of Kentland, Ind.; and numerous nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and wife Donna, he was preceded in death by his brother Daniel.

Visitation is scheduled to be held at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, 17102 Springmill Road, in Westfield from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 17, 2022. A Mass of Christian Burial is scheduled to be held immediately following the visitation. Interment will follow at Hamilton Memorial Park, Westfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the donor's charity of choice.

To share condolences and memories with Mr. Hoover's family, visit www.randallroberts.com.

Mark Stephen Ogden

June 23, 1956 - October 7, 2022

Mark Stephen Ogden, 66, went to his eternal home on Oct. 7, 2022 after a brief illness.

He was born on June 23, 1956 at Ft. Dix, NJ to Joe and Vivian Ogden.

Mr. Ogden graduated from Manchester High School in North Manchester, Ind., and served in the US Army in Germany (where he became the family wine expert) and Ft. Hood. He married his love, Dianne Bohnke, on April 15, 1989.

After 20+ years at Braden Business Systems, Mr. Ogden started his dream job as Hunting Lead at Cabelas, where he was known for his quick smile and bad jokes. He enjoyed camping, fishing and being with his family. He was very involved in Scouting, from Cub Scouts to Scoutmaster, and loved mentoring his sons and the other boys in the troop.

Survivors include his wife Dianne; two sons Curtis (Emily Haydon) Ogden and Nicholas Ogden; parents Joe and Vivian Ogden; and two brothers Joel (Gail Van) Ogden and David (Karen) Ogden.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022 at Cornerstone Lutheran Church Fishers, 13450 E 116th Street, in Fishers. An additional visitation is scheduled to be held at the church on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022 from 10-11 a.m., with funeral services scheduled to follow at 11 a.m. Pastor Kevin Thomson will officiate.

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

Gail F. Puckett

December 8, 1937 - October 4, 2022

Gail F. Puckett, 84, of Carmel, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022.

He was born on Dec. 8, 1937 in Horse Cave, KY, son of William and Bettie (Burd) Puckett.

Mr. Puckett was a 1955 graduate of Paoli High School. He then enlisted in the US Naval Reserves. After he was discharged from the Naval Reserves, he took classes at the Meat Cutting School. He established his family business of Puckett & Sons Concrete Construction and worked until retirement. During that time, Mr. Puckett received an award for his fine concrete work from Ryland Homes.

A country boy at heart, he grew up on farms, roaming the woods, fields, fishing, hunting and loving all of God's beauty and creation. As a 13-year-old boy, Mr. Puckett was saved during a revival meeting. At age 15 he met the love of his life, Judy, on the front steps of his church. They married 5 years later, and along with their first two children moved to the Indianapolis area in 1960.

Mr. Puckett was employed with Washington Township Schools as a custodian at North Central High School, worked diligently and was soon appointed Supervisor of all the schools' custodians. He later learned the concrete flatwork trade with his brother-in-law. After several years, the Puckett & Sons Concrete Company was established. His two sons and a grandson have continued the family trade. He loved working outdoors.

Other hobbies of Mr. Puckett's include gardening and building, moving a house, remodeling and adding on to it. Around 30 years ago, he bought property, excavated and felled trees to create a pond and camping-picnic area for family gatherings.

He loved the Lord, his wife, and entire family with all his heart! He departed this world with a happy heart doing what he loved "fishing", on a beautiful fall day, going straight into his forever home with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 65 years Judy (Daugherty) Puckett; four children Philip Mark (Christi) Puckett, Lisa Gayle (Mike) Boles, Joel Douglas (Christie) Puckett and Lora Lee (Jerry) Baughey; 13 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and two brothers John Mitchel Puckett and David Jeriel (Shelia) Puckett.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandson Samuel Boles; two brothers Terry Lee Puckett and Carl Douglas Puckett; and sister Bettie Jo Harvey.

Family and friends are scheduled to gather on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022 at 10 a.m. in Colonial Hills Baptist, where Mr. Puckett had been an active member since 1962. The Funeral Service is scheduled to begin at 12 p.m., noon.

The burial will take place in Olive Hill Cemetery, Bowling Green, IN.

Memorial contributions in memory of Mr. Puckett may be directed to Colonial Hills Church, 8140 Union Chapel Road, Indianapolis 46240. Envelopes will be available at the service.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to assist the family in arrangements.



Mark Charles Sims

April 20, 1948 - September 20, 2022

Mark Charles Sims, 74, of Sebring, Florida, originally of Sheridan, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022.

He was born on April 20, 1948, the son of Charles Joseph and Betty Geneva (Waitt) Sims.

Mr. Sims was a 1966 graduate of Sheridan High School where he played football for the Blackhawks as well as being involved in 4-H and FFA. He spent his entire career working in agribusiness. He was well known throughout the state of Indiana for his work in rural construction, especially in the areas of grain handling and processing.

Mr. Sims was a servant to his community. He was a former member of the Indiana Young Farmers where he served as a state officer. He served on the Sheridan Recreation Board, and the Biddle Memorial Park Board, and was a charter member of the Sheridan, Indiana, Lions Club. Mr. Sims always gave generously in time, talent, and treasure when helping his neighbors.

He enjoyed fishing, playing cards, watching auto racing, and entertaining family and friends. Mr. Sims was a fixture at the local coffee shop where he loved to socialize every morning. He was always good for a laugh and all that knew him will dearly miss his sense of humor.

Mr. Sims was a devoted husband and father. He worked tirelessly throughout his life to support and provide for his family.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years Rebecca Ann (Benefiel) Sims; two sons Charles Sims (Angela) of Pendleton and Andrew Sims of Lafayette; and two grandsons Warner Sims and Carter Sims.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister Constance Jo Witt.

Mr. Sims' wishes were to be cremated. A memorial service and celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sheridan, Indiana Lions Club, PO Box 24, Sheridan, Ind. 46069, or to the Pendleton Heights H.S. Soccer Boosters, PO Box 503, Pendleton, Ind. 46064.

Local arrangements are handled by Rozelle-Johnson Funeral Service.

Post online condolences at www.rozelle-johnson.com.

Sheridan Public Library Adds Content Streaming Service hoopla digital



The popular on-demand film streaming service hoopla digital is now available for free at Sheridan Public Library card holders can access over 1,000,000 titles (audiobooks, eBooks, comics, movies and TV). Content can be streamed from any computer, television, mobile device or platform by downloading the hoopla digital app for iOS, Android, AppleTV, Chromecast or Roku.

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➔ Letters

Reader: Proven Leaders Are Future for School Board

Dear Editor,

As a graduate of Noblesville High School, who purposefully moved back to Noblesville to raise my family, I can attest to how important educational opportunities are for our children and young adults. A strong school board can make all the difference in what programs are available for our students and what funding is obtained. I attribute much of my success in higher education to the multitude of experiences I had throughout my career at Noblesville High School – academically and athletically.

When I think about who will best lead our school board, there are qualities that those members must possess. Leadership is imperative to achieving goals and working together for a common cause, and experience in leadership is a must. Chuck Haberman has leadership experience. Whether it was leading his troops while working in the

Marine Corps, teaching English to Japanese schoolchildren, serving as a board member for the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce or continuing his community involvement with the Hamilton County Leadership Academy, Chuck has the leadership experience to guide our school board over the next 4 years.

I've had the pleasure of talking with Chuck Haberman several times. As a parent with 2 young boys in the Noblesville School system, I wanted to know who he was and what he brings to the table. He too has young children and a vested interest in the Noblesville school system. He was very approachable and listened to my concerns. Having attended school board meetings, where there is little to no conversation, rather one-sided statements, I would like to see board members be accessible to parents. We need board members who are available, approachable, and will listen. Chuck is exactly

that person.

Chuck's current role in workforce and economic development brings a new fresh perspective to the board. His path to his degrees were not "conventional" and he can bring that insight to the board. The importance of providing opportunities and programs that prepare our children and adolescents for both higher education and the workforce is imperative. He has been on the employee development and retention side within the private sector and knows what training and life-skills our graduates need to succeed after high school.

Chuck is a leader with experience. He knows how to collaborate for the common good. He is a listener. He is caring. He is a parent.

I'd like to take a moment to thank Joe Forgey for his service. He was my dentist growing up, and I can't think of a more enthusiastic individual who genuinely cared for every single patient. As a teenager

deciding on a career path, I was drawn to dentistry as a possibility because of my interactions with him over the years. He was a leader in our community then, whether it was sponsoring an athletic team – we all wanted to be Forgey Flossers – or donating his time to teach kids about the importance of oral health. His true love for our community, kids, and schools is unmatched. I remember any time you were in the Ledger he would cut out the article and mail it to your home, congratulating you. He is passionate about the future for our children and is a natural leader, and he has been for nearly 40 years.

Our future is our children, our schools are a quintessential component to our future, and we need strong, proven leaders to continue Noblesville's excellence. I support Chuck and Joe. These two men won't let our schools, teachers, and students down.

Natalie Muir Eden
Noblesville

➔ Meeting Notes

Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Board

Meeting Agenda
Monday, Oct. 17, 2022 at 6 p.m.

HCPR Administration Building, 400 Lafayette Road, Noblesville

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Sept. 19, 2022 Minutes
3. Finance Report:
 - A. Approval of Payroll
 - B. Approval of Claims
4. Committee Reports
 - A. Foundation Update
5. Old Business:
 - A. Project updates

- a. HC Farms and Bray Family Homestead Park Master Plans
- b. Coxhall Gardens
- i. Williams House update
- c. Campground
- i. Water and septic update
- ii. Nation's trail update
- d. Morse Beach Restroom Renovation
- e. Cool Creek Bridge Repair
 - f. Misc
6. New Business
 - A. Potter's Bridge Roof Replacement
7. Director's Report
8. Deputy Director's Report
9. Additions/Announcement



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Photo courtesy of the Noblesville Lions

Noblesville Lions Partner with Main Street for First Friday

It was a chilly October First Friday in downtown Noblesville, as the Noblesville Lions partnered with Main Street in the Soup Cookoff. The Lions prepared toasted cheese, or ham and cheese sandwiches, along with the restaurants supplied soups. The Lions collected \$1,249 in sandwich monies for the Main Street project. They sold out almost all the sandwich materials for the large and hungry crowd.

Pictured at the top are Lions President Gordon Resler (left) and wife Lion Jeannie keeping busy cooking. Mr. Resler has demonstrated his keen Presidential abilities this new Lion year by leading this project.

Below, both photos: Lions and their wives prepping sandwiches for the event. Everyone was too busy to look up and smile!

Ivy Tech Names Chancellor for Kokomo Campus



Ivy Tech Community College has selected Ethan Heicher as the next Chancellor for its Kokomo campus.



NAME

Heicher, who has served as Ivy Tech Kokomo's Interim Chancellor since January, was previously the campus's Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. He has been with the College since 2009, where he began as a professor of English and chair of the Humanities program.

"Ethan's leadership will be crucial in supporting the community's economic and workforce development initiatives," said Dr. Sue Ellspermann, President of Ivy Tech.

"I look forward to supporting Ethan as he leads the Kokomo service area and seeing his leadership spur more growth and innovation that translates into high-wage, high-demand careers for our students."

"The role of Ivy Tech has evolved to meet the everchanging needs of the Kokomo region, but its mission to serve the community has remained the same," said Heicher. "I would like to thank President Ellspermann and Provost Dean McCurdy for their leadership, as well as my colleagues and our community partners for their daily reminder of what a mission-driven community college can do."

Ethan has over 21 years of instructional and administrative experience

at community colleges and currently serves as a member of the Kokomo area's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) grant planning committee.

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.

Aspire Indiana Health CEO Barbara Scott to Retire

Aspire Indiana Health President & CEO Barbara Scott, whose 36-year legacy saw the healthcare nonprofit grow from a small behavioral health company to a major regional provider of fully integrated healthcare services, has announced her intention to retire.

Scott plans to serve through the end of the current fiscal year, June 2023, which will allow for the development of the nonprofit's next three-year strategic plan. During that time she will support the Aspire Board of Directors as they work with The Meyers Group in search for a new chief executive.

Scott, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, began working for Aspire in 1986 as a van driver while in social work school. Her first post-master's position was as an outpatient clinician in the Elwood clinic. She served in various roles as a mental health provider and administrator before being promoted to Chief Operating Officer in 1997 and to President & CEO in 2017.

"It's time. It has been my honor to serve at Aspire Indiana Health my entire career. It has been amazing to be part of its expansion over the decades. In my early days as a new COO, we had an employee base of under 100. Today, we have over 750 FTEs," Scott said.

"We've gone from serving one county to five core counties with specialty services extending throughout the state. We have 55 facilities including



outpatient, residential treatment, group homes, apartment complexes and single family consumer housing. We started as a community mental health center but have evolved into one of the most innovative healthcare agencies in Indiana that fully integrates primary care, behavioral health and social services."

"While I am proud to have been a small piece of this comprehensive health service we call 'Whole Health,' I am most proud of being part of an organization that has a mission to serve individuals with the most complex needs and health inequities. For this, I will forever be grateful for such a wonderful opportunity to serve."

"I know I'm passing the baton at a time when Aspire is poised for even more growth and success."

As CEO, Scott has served on numerous state boards and committees, including Gov. Eric Holcomb's first Behavioral Health Commission which has just published its recommendations, the Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Center's board of directors and public policy committee and the Indiana Primary Health Care Association board of directors and public policy committee.

"Another honor I have



Barbara Scott

been given has been to work with advocates and policy makers on issues facing our vulnerable Hoosiers," Scott said.

"The passion and talent that is focused on improving the health of Hoosiers is so evident among our city and county officials, our state legislators, our members of Congress, our FSSA administration, and our leaders within the FQHC and CMHC industries here in Indiana. I know the work will continue and good things will continue to happen. As Aspire's mission states, 'Together... we make health and well-being a reality.'"

About Aspire:

Aspire Indiana Health is a fully integrated nonprofit health system serving central Indiana that addresses behavioral health, primary medical care, substance use disorders, infectious diseases, deaf services, veteran programs, abused/neglected children and social drivers of health such as housing and employment.

Aspire is supported by a strong network of community organizations, state/federal entities and generous benefactors.

Those interested in partnering with Aspire in making health and well-being a reality in central Indiana should contact them at info@aspireindiana.org.

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Photos courtesy of Mercedes

2022 Mercedes-Benz GLE450 Plants Fat American Tires on Luxury Crossovers

Mercedes-Benz once built its reputation on rock solid sedans that ate German Autobahn for snack. Of course, the traits that made them great at speed also made them delightful family cars and executive perks for Americans. A quarter-century ago, the German automaker debuted its first crossover – built in Alabama. While the plant will soon build MB’s new generation of EVs, it’s still kicking out world beaters like the 2022 GLE450 SUV.

It looks both elegant and brutal. Body shapes are more sensuous than in the past with wide fenders, wrap-around glass, curvy rear roof pillar, and twin hood bumps taken from the 1950s “Gullwing”. Our AMG-Line looks menacing with its big wide grille, beady LED headlights, aggres-

sive body trim, and 22” AMG wheels with big fat tires. It looks dressed for a night on the town – especially if that town is a fast drive across the state.

Interior accommodations are sumptuous and sporty, comforting passengers wherever they go. Being a Mercedes, what looks real mostly is: Real Grey Oak wood trim and soft aromatic black and white Nappa leather seats. Go ahead and enjoy heated/ventilated seats up front, Bermester audio system, and panoramic glass roof. Infotainment is delivered through twin screens as in the last-generation S-Class, but it all works easily to control devices connected via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Mercedes-Benz practically invented active safety and the GLE

continues the tradition. Adaptive cruise, automatic emergency braking, and active steering assist help avoid collisions – as do lane keep assist, blind spot warning, and rear cross traffic alert systems. Should the worst happen, know the body structure is up to the challenge.

Back in the old days, having “450” spelled in chrome across a Mercedes meant a 4.5-liter engine. Today, it’s more a suggestion of power once produced by a large engine. Instead, the GLE450 takes its inspiration from a 3.0-liter turbocharged inline-six delivering a whopping 362 horsepower and 369 lb.-ft. of torque to the all-wheel-drive system through a 9-speed automatic transmission. Auto stop/start pauses the engine at rest, contributing

2022 Mercedes-Benz GLE450
Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: 3.0-liter I16, 9-spd trans
Output: 362hp/369 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Air Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 22”/22” alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Must-have features: Luxury, Turbo
Fuel economy: 20/26 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Vance, AL
Base/As-tested price: \$56,150/\$82,435

to a reasonable 20/26-MPG city/highway.

On smooth roadways, the big crossover gathers all of its German heritage and shoves itself down-road forthwith. On smooth roadways... On rough ones, the AIR-MATIC electronic suspension struggles to tame the wide footprint 22” AMG wheels bouncing at all four corners. The big “Benz can get pretty jittery over urban patch-

work. Beyond all that, the vehicle does offer varying drive modes that allow drivers to choose from a comfortable floaty ride to one that’s considerably more engaging. Steering heft and throttle response can be correspondingly configured.

The GLE450 is full of contradictions. It is large and roomy to carry families, luxurious enough to rival limousines, and a brutal beast ready to



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

tackle fast freeways. It can also get you to a weekend cabin in snowy weather. However you like it, the turbo wagon plants its fat American tires on luxury rivals. A base price of \$56,150 – or \$82,435 as-tested – puts it against the BMW X5, Audi Q7, Range Rover Sport, Genesis GV80, and Jeep Grand Cherokee. Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com.

Autumn Came Late This Year



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

My husband, Peter, and I are spending time “up north” with my parents at their cabin by the lake. Fall is late this year. I mentioned this to Peter on the drive north.

“Aren’t the leaves supposed to change color at the same time every year?” I asked. “I thought they changed when the days were shorter.”

Peter didn’t know. We have a lot of conversations involving idle speculation. When we got to my parents’ house, my mother confirmed it was a late fall this year. A meteorologist had announced this on public radio, so it must be true.

We took the pontoon boat out for the last time this season. The lake was still. The sky and the trees were mirrored on the surface. It was disorienting and beautiful.

“It’s a perfect day!” I announced.

The next day was much colder. Everyone got up a little later than usual because the sun didn’t break through our windows and remind us we were overdue for coffee.

“It’s hard to get going on a day like this,” my father commented over coffee.

I had a big conversation scheduled with someone who was interested in my book. The talk went better than I expected, and I was filled with buzz hope. I decided to burn off my nervousness by walking to the boat landing. But, when I got there, I saw I had company.

“Hello!” said one of the three men about my age, piling out of the truck they parked feet from the boat landing.

“It’s your lucky day!” he announced. “We need someone to video us. Do you mind?”

This was such an odd request, I could hardly refuse.

“This is my brother,”

he continued, and one of the men nodded. “And this guy’s family used to own a resort that was right here.” He gestured to either side of us.

“We spent every summer here when we were kids. And this was our swimming hole,” he pointed to the boat landing. “So every year we come back at least once to go swimming!”

“It’s not real warm,” I warned.

“I know! But it’s the only day we could all make it here. We just got back from fishing in Canada!”

The other two men looked considerably less excited than their leader, and it was easy to imagine these three little boys, grown old, still following their high-spirited leader.

The man’s brother was down on the dock, nervously looking over the edge.

“I’m not sure we can dive off this,” he said. “It used to be deeper.”

“You used to be shorter,” I told him.

“That’s true,” he agreed.

“OK! Let’s do this!” the leader said.

He handed me his camera, and the men took off their shoes and shirts. The water was in the low 60s and the air was 10 degrees cooler. The other two men looked as if this was a tradition they were willing to let go of. But there was no chance of that.

Moments later, all three were in the lake, hooting and hollering and very proud of themselves. I caught it all on video.

“You guys enjoy the rest of your autumn,” I told them. They told me to do the same.

Fall is coming, but it’s late.

I watched those slightly over middle-aged men—who were just about my age—and I understood their need to do everything they could in the autumn—even if the water was cold, even if the whole idea was a little crazy. We all understood the need to do it while there was time.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon is a freelance writer and author and lives in New Mexico. Her columns appear each week.

Many Hoosier Republicans Are Refusing to Debate



BRIAN HOWEY
Howey Political Report

In 2019, Republican General Assembly leaders declined to pass legislation that would have created an independent redistricting commission. In 2021, they drew congressional and legislative maps that burnished the lopsided GOP advantage that has them controlling 71 of the 100 House seats and 39 of the 50 Senate districts.

Last summer, they passed Senate Enrolled Act 1 that created the nation’s most far-reaching abortion restrictions on a bill that had virtually no one testify in support.

And now, in the homestretch of the 2022 mid-term elections, many Hoosier Republican officeholders are refusing to debate, or even appear at non-partisan League of Women Voter forums.

Secretary of State nominee Diego Morales, 2nd CD nominee Rudy Yakym and U.S. Rep. Jim Banks have all refused to debate in recent days. The League of Women Voters of Hamilton County’s forum featuring candidates for Indiana Statehouse races became a one-sided affair after all five Republican invitees decided not to attend, according to the Current in Carmel website. This included State Sen. Jim Buck and Reps. Donna Schaibley, Jerry Torr and House nominees Alex Choi and

Fred Glynn.

Hamilton County Republican Party Chair Mario Massillamany said that he told the Republican candidates not to attend. “I feel like in the past, we’ve been treated unfairly,” Massillamany told the Current. “In the past, candidates have been attacked. I thought that it’s more important for us as Republicans to be knocking on doors and engaging voters one-on-one.”

Democrat State Sen. J.D. Ford tweeted: “My opponent was a no-show at a non-partisan (not even a debate) candidate forum last Tuesday. It’s disrespectful to voters who use these forums to make an educated decision on who to vote for. It’s also sad for democracy that these candidates would rather not show than face voters.”

Rep. Banks, who heads the House Republican Study Committee, backed out of a WANE-TV debate scheduled for later this month. “It’s a date we have a commitment,” Banks explained. “October 27th, I long ago committed to the Topeka Crisis Pregnancy Center up in LaGrange County and I’m very much looking forward to speaking with them.”

Independent 3rd CD candidate Nathan Gotsch responded, “It is so important for voters to be able to see the candidates together so that they can compare them and make the best decision in November.” Democrat nominee Gary Snyder added, “If you can’t come back and face the issues and face the voters, then you don’t really need to be in Washington.”

Morales, who has faced allegations of sexual

harassment and reports that he is an election denier who has twice been fired by past Republican Secretaries of State Todd Rokita and Charlie White, declined to debate Democrat Destiny Wells and Libertarian Jeff Mauer. His campaign says that Morales is focused on appearing in all 92 counties.

“If your ideas are so bad that you can’t even stand in front of a crowd of people, of your neighbors, to defend them, then something’s wrong,” Mauer said. “You need better ideas.”

What are they afraid of?

In 2012, Republican U.S. Senate nominee Richard Mourdock appeared at a debate with Democrat Joe Donnelly and said that when a woman is impregnated during a rape, “It’s something God intended.” His support collapsed among independent voters, giving Donnelly an upset win. A similar thing happened to Missouri Republican Senate nominee Todd Akin.

A decade later, the mainstream Republican position on abortion restrictions is to press for a total ban, though Indiana’s SEA1 signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb has exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the mother. In January, it is expected that many legislative Republicans will seek to end those exceptions. This, despite the fact that many polls show wide support for abortion access. A recent poll for Indy Politics by ARW Strategies revealed that 51% of voters say they’re more likely to vote for a candidate in state Senate and House races this fall who support abortion rights, while 35% say they’re more likely to vote for a candidate who

opposes abortion.

There are other cross-currents that are leaving a muddled picture. Tom Bonier, CEO of Target Smart, puts the Indiana post-Dobbs voter registration gender gap at 6% favoring females. Reporter Dave Bangert of the Based In Lafayette substack site, reports that absentee ballot requests have doubled in Tippecanoe County over the last mid-term in 2018, with Clerk Julie Roush saying, “The number of absentee ballots is unprecedented for an election like this.”

Bonier observed on Oct. 1 of the “Dobbs effect,” saying, “The red wave is no longer inevitable, and the notion that we are likely going to see a very close result in both the Senate and the House as younger voters and women engage in this election.”

This is a continuation of what I believe is a disturbing trend in Hoosier politics where self-funding candidates like U.S. Reps. Trey Hollingsworth have refused to debate or even attend town halls in their districts.

Not all Republicans are refusing. U.S. Sen. Todd Young has accepted an Indiana Debate Committee event set for Oct. 16 where he will appear with Democrat nominee Thomas McDermott Jr., and Libertarian James Sceniak.

A final thought: If you’re a nominee who fears debates or even appearing at public forums to explain your policy positions to voters, you should choose another line of work.

The columnist is publisher of *Howey Politics Indiana* at www.howeypolitics.com

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High School History Lovers Invited to Become County Bicentennial Ambassadors

High school sophomores and juniors interested in history and community can apply to serve as Hamilton County Bicentennial Ambassadors through a new program sponsored by the 2023 Hamilton County Bicentennial Committee.

Student ambassadors will serve as a bridge from the past to the future through conversation and public engagement from January through December 2023.

This unique opportunity is sponsored by Hamilton County Commissioners Christine Altman, Steve Dillinger and Mark Heirbrandt and is an official program of the Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission.

Its purpose is to engage high school students by using the past 200 years to inform the future. Curriculum support is provided by the Hamilton County Leadership Academy.

Applicants must be:

- A high school student in good standing at a Hamilton County, Indiana, public or private high school with at least a 3.0 grade point average.

- A sophomore or junior in 2022, and planning to attend the same high school in spring and fall 2023 (graduating classes of 2024 and 2025).

- Be genuinely interested in history, in how communities function, and in discussing how the past can inform the future. This



is a "thinking" program, although there is no homework!

- Be willing to attend 1 introductory session, 5 dialog sessions with local leaders on the Bicentennial's themes (Education, Historic Preservation, Parks/Environment, Diversity/Inclusion, Arts), opening ceremonies (January 22, 2023) and closing ceremonies (December 3, 2023) of the commemorative year, and a few other events to be determined throughout the year.

- Have transportation to and from all events. Logo apparel will be provided.

- There is no cost to participate in the program thanks to the generosity of the county's commissioners, but parents must sign a waiver for participation.

Selection criteria for Hamilton County Bicentennial Ambassadors, in addition to the requirements above, include a demonstrated desire to learn and connect to your community.

To apply online, visit

docs.google.com/forms/d/1o3mZxYeP_WY2ncO-0MzytCNensGRmdWTx-5RLJy26-hQ/edit.

Applications will be accepted through Nov. 30. Finalists will be invited to a Zoom interview process, and a decision will be made in late Dec., 2022.

About the Hamilton County Bicentennial:

The Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission was established by the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners as the official oversight agency for the upcoming 200th anniversary of the county in 2023. It will do so in partnership with the Hamilton County Historical Society and Hamilton County Tourism, Inc.

Duke Energy, Hamilton County, the Hamilton East Public Library and Hamilton County Tourism are all lead sponsors of the Bicentennial activities.

For more information, visit HamCoTurns200.com or follow HamCoTurns200 on Facebook and Instagram.

Antler Alert In Indiana – State Farm Reports Indiana Moves Up to 14th in Nation for Animal Collision Claims

It's Fall and that means it's prime season for animal collisions for drivers. According to the newest State Farm data, most animal-related crashes in the U.S. occur from October to December. While most collisions are with deer, many other animals followed closely behind such as dogs, raccoons, farm animals, and even large rodents.

For State Farm, Indiana drivers rank 14th in the nation for the number of animal collisions claims, including deer, dogs, and farm animals. Indiana drivers have a 1 in 96 chance of colliding with an animal while driving.

Compared to the previous 12-months, State Farm reported an increase of 4.6% in Indiana animal collision claims. From July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, State Farm alone paid out for 9,671 auto claims with animals in Indiana. That is an increase compared to the 9,245 auto claims for animal collisions from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

Nationally, the insurance industry paid for an estimated 1.9 million animal collisions over the past 12 months (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). That is a 5.5% decrease compared to the previous 12-month period (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). According to the State Farm analysis, U.S. drivers have a 1 in 116 chance of having an insurance claim involving a collision with an animal.

The state with the most auto animal collision claims was Pennsylvania, with 155,000 insurance claims and a likelihood of 1 out of 58 for licensed drivers to hit an animal while being behind the wheel.

The state where drivers have the highest likelihood of hitting an animal is West Virginia, with a

probability of 1 in 35.

The calculation of these industry estimates take in to account the number of claims received by State Farm (industry leader), the company's market penetration (proprietary), and the number of licensed drivers in each state.

The months drivers are most likely to collide with an animal in the U.S. are, in this order:

- November
- October
- December

Top 10 States for State Farm Animal Collision Claims

- Pennsylvania – 28,227 claims
- Michigan –21,891 claims

- Georgia –18,869 claims
- Illinois –17,729 claims

- Texas –17,462 claims
- Ohio – 15,824 claims
- Virginia –13,787 claims

- Minnesota –13,108 claims
- Missouri –12,375 claims

- South Carolina – 12,131 claims

Animal Collision Safety Tips:

- Animals are unpredictable, especially when faced with glaring headlights, blowing horns and fast-moving vehicles. They often dart into traffic.
- Know your insurance coverage. Before a collision occurs, make sure you're protected with the right type of insurance. Damages from auto-animal crashes typically are covered under comprehensive insurance, not collision.
- Slow down. Reduce your vehicle's speed and maintain a constant lookout for animals. Travel at a speed that will allow you to stop in time if an animal comes into the beam cast

by your headlights

- Use extra caution and slow-down in known animal crossing zones.

- Dusk to dawn are high-risk times; use high beams when appropriate.

- Scan the road and avoid swerving when you see an animal. Brake firmly when you notice an animal in or near your path, but stay in your lane. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars.
- Always wear your seatbelt. Safety belts saved an estimated 114,955 lives in 2017.
- Turn on high beams at night. When driving at night, use high beam headlights when there is no oncoming traffic. The high beams will better illuminate the eyes of any deer on or near the roadway. If you encounter a deer or other animal, switch your headlights to low beam so the animals are not blinded and will move out of your way.

After-crash tips:

- **Move your vehicle to a safe place:** Pull to the side of the road and turn on your hazard lights.
- **Call police:** If an animal is blocking traffic and could be create a threat for other drivers.
- **Document:** Take photographs of the road, your surroundings and damage.
- **Stay away from the animal:** A frightened, wounded animal could use its legs and hooves to harm you. Do not attempt to move an animal.
- **Don't assume your vehicle is safe to drive:** Look for leaking fluid, loose parts, tire damage, broken lights and other hazard.
- **Contact your insurance company:** Quickly file your insurance claim

Be the Change: Local Police Department Extends Open Enrollment for Recruitment

The Lawrence Police Department will open enrollment for new recruits on October 19 with the anticipation of hiring officers in March of 2023.

The department is looking to increase its numbers and provide more opportunities for incoming recruits who have felt constrained by older processes and procedures that did not offer much flexibility.

"Our former recruitment process was very quick and fixed," explained Professional Standards Division Commander Erika Schneider. "The entire timeline was only two months long and did not include any makeup dates for agility and written tests. We know

that life can be unpredictable, and we want to set every recruit up for success."

Enrollment has been extended by a month, allowing hopeful recruits more flexibility when it comes time to participate in tests and interviews. All interest forms must be submitted by Oct. 18 at midnight and the first 20 eligible submissions will have the first opportunity to participate.

"By extending our recruitment process, we open the door for bright new officers who want to make a difference," said Schneider. "Timing is everything, and if new recruits need a bit more time

to prepare for the process, we're happy to offer it."

About the Lawrence Police Department:

The City of Lawrence Police Department provides primary law enforcement services in the City of Lawrence, a municipality in the northeast section of Marion County, Indiana.

Lawrence Police currently consists over 100 law enforcement and civilian personnel, including 62 full time Police Officers, 25 Reserve Police Officers, a fully staffed Communications Center, and civilian personnel serving nearly 50,000 citizens and residents.

For more information visit, joinlawrencepd.com

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More Candidates Sitting Out Debates, Leaving Their Future Unknown

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

Debates between candidates for public office, particularly non-national races, don't rake in viewers. Those that watch are unlikely to be swayed in their votes. And now, as candidates increasingly choose to sit them out, what's the point?

Republican nominee for Secretary of State Diego Morales has declined. Numerous candidates in other congressional or statewide races haven't or won't as well.

"A political debate provides the best opportunity to compare the candidate side-by-side on the policy issues," said Indiana Debate Commission President Elizabeth Bennion.

"That's why they are so important in helping to create an informed electorate — and why, as somebody who supports civic engagement and informed voting, I am trying to keep that tradition of political debates alive."

More than a dozen groups joined forces to found the nonprofit, nonpartisan commission in 2007, which hosted its first gubernatorial debate in 2008. It remains the oldest of its kind in the country, according to its website.

The Commission still has a perfect candidate attendance record across 14 years and about two-dozen debates. That extends to this year's single debate on October 16, when incumbent U.S. Sen. Todd Young, a Republican, will face off against Democrat Thomas McDermott and Libertarian James Sceniak.

But Bennion is worried that tradition is in danger. "We have seen a movement of candidates refusing political debate," she

said. "That is troubling."

Campaign managers often advise frontrunners not to debate, she said, because they've got the cash to push out messaging in pre-packaged paid advertising and don't want to risk a live gaffe.

Already, candidates are declining — or ignoring — debate invitations from other organizations.

Missing piece

The nonprofit, nonpartisan League of Women Voters Indiana hasn't put on a debate since it helped form the commission. But that's changing this year, with an October 10 debate between Secretary of State candidates.

"When the Debate Commission decided they were only going to do one debate, the [U.S.] Senate debate, we looked at the Secretary of State race and said, 'This is too important not to bring it to the attention of voters,'" said Co-President Linda Hanson.

"To have a debate elevates that race in voters' eyes, and I think we decided that it was worth the effort to try to put this debate together," Hanson added. "Because voters need to understand how crucial the Secretary of State role is in our elections."

But the race's front-runner, Morales, didn't respond to the league's invitation. Democrat Destiny Wells and Libertarian Jeff Maurer will go on stage without him.

"We tried everything from Facebook messaging, to emails to the campaign, to phone ... and we went to his campaign manager," Hanson said.

"No response at all, from any of them. But clearly, he knows he got them because he's been telling

people he declined."

Morales told Fox59 in September that his focus was on "one-on-one" conversations with voters on the ground.

Asked about the benefits for wider contingencies of voters watching debates,

Morales said, "They already know who they're going to vote for. I'm trying to convince voters who will vote for me. I don't think that my opponents will vote for me. I will not vote for them. So why would I need to?"

New normal

It's a trend. Hanson said obtaining full candidate participation had gotten "progressively worse" for the 20-plus local leagues in Indiana that hold debates for non-statewide races.

Hanson attributed some of the change to redistricting in 2010, when she said political parties in cities and states landed supermajorities in government and began to focus more on loyalists. Social media algorithms, which tend to envelop users in echo chambers of media they already agree with, haven't helped, Hanson added.

Republicans in nine Hamilton County races skipped out on League of Women Voters of Hamilton County debates this month, prompting the county's Democratic party to put out an indignant news release.

Last Monday, Fort Wayne's WANE 15 canceled a debate between Third Congressional Dis-



Secretary of State nominee Diego Morales

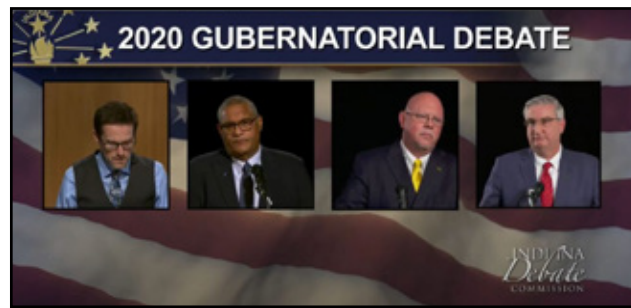


Photo courtesy of the Indiana Debate Commission

A screenshot of an Oct. 20, 2020 Indiana Debate Commission debate between Democrat Woody Myers, Republican Eric Holcomb and Libertarian Donald Rainwater. Due to COVID the men were put in separate rooms.

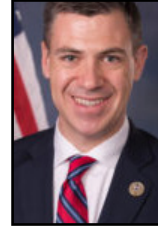
trict candidates after U.S. Rep. Jim Banks pulled out, citing a prior commitment. He didn't answer an attempt to reschedule, according to the broadcaster's announcement.

When Banks told a WPTA reporter on Wednesday that he was open to debating, independent candidate Nathan Gotsch pounced.

"Now that Congressman Banks has indicated this is just a scheduling issue and not an unwillingness to debate, we have reached out to his campaign to find out what dates he is available. We eagerly await their reply," Gotsch said in a statement Thursday. "It's vital that Northeast Indiana voters are able to see and hear all the candidates in this race side by side."

Indiana Republican Party Chair Kyle Hupfer said debates are "one of many avenues" for his party's candidates to communicate with voters.

"In this day and age, voters have more access to readily available information about candidates than ever before," Hupfer said



U.S. Rep. Jim Banks (IN-3)

in a statement to the Capital Chronicle. "Whether it's social media, websites, earned media, paid media, or anything else, it's easier than ever before to be informed."

"Furthermore, our candidates are more accessible than ever in all 92 counties," he added. "We work hard to get our candidates and their positions out to the public, and we hope voters take advantage of these opportunities to get to know candidates."

Why bother?

Political science experts and debate moderators acknowledged that for incumbents and other frontrunners, debating brings fewer strategic benefits and greater risks than for challengers.

"The reality is debates don't get big ratings," former WISH-TV reporter Jim Shella said. He moderated and covered numerous debates and panels over his three decades with the broadcaster.

"They may not mean a lot to the public — until they do," Shella continued. "Until a candidate under pressure makes a mistake. And it becomes the talk of the campaign, which is what happened to [Richard] Mourdock."

Mourdock's comments on rape and abortion in a 2012 U.S. Senate debate

with Democrat Joe Donnelly contributed to the Republican's loss.

But a solid debate performance, Bennion said, can boost an incumbent's legitimacy.

"There is the ability to strengthen the claim of a mandate if one is reelected, to say, 'I did not simply buy my seat. ... I did not rely solely on ads,'" she said. "I stood side-by-side with my opponents and Hoosier voters chose me."

"I think that's a very powerful message that a well-funded incumbent can send to suggest that he or she is not hiding from the debate, is not concerned about being bested on the debate stage," she added.

And although debates don't typically lead viewers toward a different candidate, they can at least enable more informed understanding at the ballot box.

"There is a lot of scholarship that shows ... it's not necessarily going to radically change the balance of voters, or the margin in terms of the winning and losing candidate," said Laura Merrifield Wilson, an associate professor of political science at the University of Indianapolis. Wilson is moderating both the league's and commission's upcoming debate.

"But it does change the process," she said.

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Photo courtesy of the IEDC

Indiana Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers (left) speaks with Riet Cadonau, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Zurich-based safety solutions company Dormakaba.

Holcomb Prioritizes Global Cooperation in Europe to Advance Energy, Life Sciences Industries

Governor Eric J. Holcomb returned to Indianapolis this past Friday after concluding a weeklong economic development trip to Germany and Switzerland. During the trip, the Gov. Holcomb-led delegation, which included Indiana Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers, met some of the state's largest foreign-owned businesses and advanced partnerships focused on industry growth and innovation in clean energy and life sciences.

"Europe is one of Indiana's top trading and foreign investment partners, accounting for nearly half of the 1,050 global businesses operating here," said Gov. Holcomb.

"Our global partnerships extend far beyond the numbers. Germany and Switzerland in particular have been long-standing partners and friends of Indiana for many decades. As we face new global events and economic challenges, these international partnerships are more important than ever, and I look forward to working with our German and Swiss friends to advance disruption and innovation in tomorrow's economy." Gov. Holcomb began

the trip in Germany, which is one of the state's largest foreign direct investors with approximately 122 German-owned business facilities now operating in Indiana. In Berlin, Gov. Holcomb and Sec. Chambers joined the American Chamber of Commerce Germany (AmCham Germany) to host an energy-focused roundtable, joining leading experts to discuss the ongoing energy transition across Europe and the U.S.

"Indiana and Germany share many similarities and strengths across academic, business and industry that make us ideal partners in tackling clean energy," said Sec. Chambers.

"Indiana ranks in the top five in the U.S. for new clean energy development, and I'm confident our industry and our innovators will play key roles in accelerating the development and commercialization of sustainable solutions worldwide."

On German Unity Day on Monday, Gov. Holcomb honored the long-standing Indiana-Germany relationship and the country's many contributions to the Hoosier State. In Berlin,

he and the delegation paid tribute to Germany's history and reflected on German American relations at prominent landmarks, including the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie and the Reichstag.

On Wednesday, Gov. Holcomb and Sec. Chambers traveled to Switzerland, which hosts 41 Swiss-owned businesses with operations in Indiana. In Zurich, the delegation visited the future-focused global safety solutions company Dormakaba to:

- Meet with the company's top leadership, including Riet Cadonau, chairman of the board of directors;
- Discuss opportunities to advance workforce development and apprenticeship programs; and
- Thank the company for its investment in Indiana.

Since acquiring the mechanical security business from Stanley Black & Decker in 2017, Dormakaba has invested more than \$16 million in its Indianapolis operations and has created more than 100 new jobs.

In Switzerland, the delegation also traveled to Basel to meet with leading Swiss life sciences and

medical device companies with Indiana operations, including Medartis, Novartis and Roche. These companies help propel the state's robust life sciences sector, which ranks third in the U.S. for exports, contributes \$79 billion to the state's GDP and supports nearly 59,000 high-wage Hoosier jobs according to BioCrossroads, Indiana's life sciences industry initiative.

This marks Gov. Holcomb's 13th international trip as governor and his third visit to both Germany and Switzerland. Indiana is home to more than 1,050 foreign-owned business establishments, including 535 European-owned businesses in Indiana that support 117,600 Hoosier jobs.

In 2021, 47 foreign-owned businesses committed to locating or growing in Indiana. Together, these firms plan to invest \$3.55 billion in Indiana, creating jobs with an average wage of \$29.57 per hour and accounting for 14% of the total new jobs committed in 2021.

The costs of the state delegations are being paid through private donations to the Indiana Economic Development Foundation.

New IHA Survey Shows Indiana Hospitals Facing Major Financial Challenges



A recent survey of Indiana Hospital Association (IHA) members highlights the financial challenges Hoosier hospitals continue to face due to an unprecedented workforce crisis, skyrocketing costs of drugs, labor, and equipment, and lingering supply shortages.

According to IHA's survey of Indiana hospitals, since Q1 of 2021:

- One-fifth of Indiana hospitals have lost 20% or more of their days of cash on hand. Even for just seven Indiana-based health systems that were part of the survey, the losses total roughly \$3 billion.
- Nearly 70% of hospitals have seen travel nurse expenses increase more than 20%.
- Meanwhile, hospitals have spent more to retain critical staff. Over half have increased salaries and benefits by 15% or more, and an additional third have reported that labor costs increased nearly 30% over the same time period.
- 75% of Indiana hospitals have paid up to 15% more on critical medical supplies like syringes, gloves, and other personal protective equipment (PPE).
- 57% of hospitals have reported that their pharmaceutical drug supply spend has increased by at least 10%.

"These financial impacts are hitting while hospitals are rebuilding from the peak of the pandemic which stretched our resources beyond belief just earlier this year," said IHA President Brian Tabor.

According to the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform (CHQPR), Indiana has the highest risk of hospital closures among its surrounding states with 38% of Indiana's rural hospitals at immediate risk of

closing due to continuing financial losses and lack of financial reserves to sustain operations.

Further, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission projects that the negative margin hospitals experience in Medicare will grow in 2022. In Indiana, 83% of all hospitals have 67% or more of their inpatient days paid by Medicare or Medicaid. For just under half of Indiana hospitals, the percentage is greater than 75%.

"Taken together, these challenges are incredibly daunting for our health care system, our patients, and our communities," said Tabor. "The perfect storm is brewing, and we must make sure hospitals and caregivers have the resources they need to provide access to the high-quality health care Hoosiers rely on — 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

About the Indiana Hospital Association:

The Indiana Hospital Association serves as the professional trade association for more than 170 acute care, critical access, behavioral health, and other specialized hospitals in Indiana. IHA advocates on behalf of its members in Indiana's General Assembly, U.S. Congress, and with multiple regulatory agencies at the state and federal levels.

Dedicated to improving quality, patient safety, and Hoosiers' health status, IHA holds numerous grants and facilitates collaboration among hospitals to improve outcomes. IHA also provides members with the data analytics that they need to ensure access to quality, cost-effective health care services across the state of Indiana.

To learn more about IHA, visit IHAconnect.org.

Thanks for reading The Times!

MARLOWE From Page A1

She might dye her hair blonde, or purple. Or, shave the sides almost all the way to the top. Most frequently she wears her hair in a bob that looks like she cut it herself in front of a mirror, which I'm certain she has.

Once, last summer, she buzz-cut her head completely to support her Mother's cancer battle. A decision that might take other ladies a long time to consider, Courtney made in the time it took to plug in the electric clippers.

She's only 27, but has embraced the hippie subculture of the 1960s. It's not unusual to see her with a flower in her hair, when she has hair, and sandals on her feet, when not going barefoot. To prove it further, she drives a 1969 Chevy 6.0L V8 Gas Shorty School Bus — named "Felton" — that looks like it was tied-dyed with a load of T-shirts.

I call her "Mouse," short for Mighty Mouse. She's only 5'2", which makes her undistinguishable, if not for the fact that she's big into body building. She has biceps that make Dwayne Johnson, aka the Rock, blanch.

Courtney has beautiful creamy skin, but chooses to adorn it with baubles and ink, head to toe. She says that one day she hopes to have her whole body covered in tattoos, which seems to old-fashioned-me like throwing a house painter's drop-cloth over the statue of Venus.

Nevertheless, I've come to appreciate her tattoos. She explained to me that every design on her body recalls an important event in her life — good and bad. I've read through two wrists, a left shoulder and an elbow, and I can say this woman has had some extraordinary things happen in her short life.

The birth of her two children inhabit the most predominant places, as do personal traumas. She's promised me a spot near the heel.

Above everything else, Courtney loves life — hers and everyone else's. She's seen enough to know

how fragile it can be, and abhors the senselessness of death — except perhaps when it comes to ex-husbands.

Tuesday night, Courtney and I were supposed to meet. I got this frantic message that she would be at least an hour late. I wasn't worried until she finally showed up haggard and pale.

"I had to save the chicken," she said.

"Leftovers?" I asked.

"No, idiot! Saved, as in rescued."

One of the baby chicks that she purchased for her kids to raise followed the baby ducks into the little plastic wading pool, ignoring the signs not to go in the deep end. Courtney came upon the tragic scene quite by happenstance, but immediately jumped into action, relying on her paramedic training.

She swooped the bird out of the water, and . . . I can't make this up . . . began mouth to beak resuscitation!

The bird's lifeless body swelled like a party balloon each time Courtney puffed lifesaving air down its gullet. The little hatchling failed to respond. She added chest compressions just above the gizzard, but still nothing. At last, Courtney abandoned the rescue. She laid the pooped poult gently to the earth, and contemplated what she would tell the children.

Suddenly the chick coughed, something else I didn't know they could do. With one mighty tweet-hack — a "twack" — the bird rose to its feet! Courtney grabbed the chick, pressed it to her chest, and scampered off to find a heating pad for life-sustaining warmth.

This whole story seems familiar to me. Then I realized that this isn't the first time a person wearing sandals performed miracles. But it might be the first time that the voice crying in the wilderness was a peep.

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

BETSY From Page A1



Kathleen Clarke Horrigan

and work in the corporate world like his best friend," she said. "He wrote this musical first and would perform it playing all of the roles to help make some money to support himself."

Clarke Horrigan said, "Although you may not know this musical, the theme might hit home with some people. Jon is turning 30 and he is having an identity crisis. Should he give up his dreams of being a composer or marry his girlfriend and get a real job?"

The girlfriend wants to get married and move out of the city, his best friend is making big bucks on Madison Avenue and, yet, Jon is still waiting on tables and trying to write the great American musical. Set in 1990, this compelling story of personal discovery is presented as a rock musical filled with instantly appealing melodies and a unique blend of musical theater styles.

The show has 14 songs,



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven & Indy Ghost Light Photography

Dom Piedmonte (from left), Margaret Smith and Ervin Gainer rehearse for Carmel Community Players' production of "Tick, Tick, Boom" opening Friday at The Switch Theatre at Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy in Fishers.

10 characters, three actors and a band and takes the audience on the playwright/composer's journey that led to a Broadway blockbuster.

All of the songs were written by Jonathan Larson. Clarke Horrigan said, "If you know songs from 'Rent,' you might hear some music that resembles those tunes. It is more of a rock score at times, but each song tells part of the story ... The musical was written originally for three actors. We expanded the cast to seven so the ensemble can play multiple roles to round out the cast."

The set is largely left to the imagination due to the nature of the show, she said.

The scenes go to many locations in New York City, so projections will

be used to help take the audience to the many locations. And costumes, hair and makeup will suggest 1990.

Clarke Horrigan, a Logansport native, has been directing in community theater since 1995, primarily at Footlite Musicals in Indianapolis. She has won several Encore Awards in directing and acting. She is a member of the Indiana Thespian Educator Hall of Fame and has received Ball State University's Theatre Alumni Award and Theatre Distinguished Alumni Award. By day, she's a theater teacher at Lawrence Central High School where she directs the plays and the musicals.

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

Meet THE CAST

Jon: Dom Piedmonte, Indianapolis

Michael: Ervin Gainer, Indianapolis

Susan: Margaret Smith, Fishers

Ensemble: Onis Dean, Abby Morris, BK Bady-Kaye and Ryley Trottier, all of Indianapolis

Meet THE CREW

Producer: Amy Jo Douglas, Indianapolis

Director: Kathleen Clarke Horrigan, Fishers

Vocal Director: John Phillips, Indianapolis

Conductor: Linda Parr, Indianapolis

Costumer: Curt Pickard, Indianapolis

Choreographer: Trish Roberds, Indianapolis

Stage Manager: Rachel Bowen, Greenwood

Lighting Designer: Andy Stephens, Beech Grove

Projections: Casey Ross

Props: Becky Sinkovic, Indianapolis

Hair/Makeup Design: Tina Pulliam, Indianapolis

VOTING From Page A1

- Oct. 17-21 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Oct. 24-29 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Oct. 31-Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., noon
- Fishers**
Roy G Holland Memorial Park Building, 1 Park Drive, Fishers
Billericay Park Building, 12690 Promise Road, Fishers
- Oct. 26-27 from 2-7 p.m.
- Oct. 28-29 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Nov. 2-3 from 2-7 p.m.
- Nov. 4-5 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Westfield**
Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn Street, Westfield
Cool Creek Nature Center, 2000-1 E 151st St, Carmel
- Oct. 26-27 from 2-7 p.m.
- Oct. 28-29 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Nov. 2-3 from 2-7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 4-5 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Carmel**

- Mercy Road Church, 2381 Pointe Pkwy, Carmel Jill Perelman Pavilion, 3000 W 116th Street, Carmel**
- October 26-27 from 2-7 p.m.
- October 28-29 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Nov. 2-3 from 2-7 p.m.
- Nov. 4-5 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 27. The form can be submitted electronically at indianavoters.com. You can also call (317) 776-8476 and make a request for an application over the phone. Once you have voted your absentee ballot, you can return your ballot by mail or return it in person to the Election Office in the Judicial Center at One Hamilton County Square in Noblesville. All absentee ballots must be received by the Election Office on or before 6 p.m. on Election Day.

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TUESDAY

In The Kitchen

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022

A9

HOST A HALL OF FAME HOMEGATE



Layered Mediterranean Hummus Salad

FAMILY FEATURES

From kickoff to the final whistle, taking your game day party to the next level starts with serving an all-star lineup of menu items. From starting-caliber appetizers to MVP-level main courses and a supporting cast of side dishes, dips like salsa and hummus can play the role of superstar when it comes to serving up game day grub.

One of the benefits of cheering on your favorite teams from the couch and bringing the tailgate to your literal home field is the availability of appliances you may not otherwise have access to at the stadium like the oven or air fryer. However, that doesn't mean missing out on the

action and being sidelined in the kitchen all game or that these recipes won't travel to a tailgate.

With a flavor-packed, vibrant recipe, the lineup of Fresh Cravings Salsa offers a homemade-tasting alternative to softer, duller blends of jarred salsa. Made with high-quality ingredients like vine-ripened tomatoes, crisp vegetables, zesty peppers and spices, the salsas make a perfect addition to these recipes from celebrity chef and entertainer George Duran, author of "Take This Dish and Twist It" and host of Food Network's "Ham on the Street" and TLC's "Ultimate Cake Off."

Kickoff your menu with an app like these Jalapeno Bacon and Salsa Biscuit Bites that

meld together traditional tailgate tastes. Then put a Tex-Mex twist on a traditional favorite with this Enchilada Lasagna, perfect for feeding a crowd of hungry fans.

To round out the playbook, this Layered Mediterranean Hummus Salad can make for an accompaniment to a variety of main courses. The cucumbers, olives, cherry tomatoes and other veggies are balanced by the savory taste of Fresh Cravings Hummus. Made with a short list of high-quality ingredients like chickpeas, tahini and Chilean extra-virgin olive oil, it has a smooth, creamy mouthfeel.

Find more game-winning recipes made for homegating and tailgating at FreshCravings.com.

Layered Mediterranean Hummus Salad

Recipe courtesy of chef George Duran
Servings: 4-6

- 2 containers (10 ounces each) Fresh Cravings Hummus, any flavor
- 1 cup sliced cucumbers
- 1/2 cup Kalamata olives, seeded and roughly chopped
- 1/2 cup canned garbanzo beans, drained
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 3/4 cup cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 1/4 red onion, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 lemon, juice only
- extra-virgin olive oil
- zaatar, for sprinkling (optional)
- pita bread or tortilla chips

On bottom of large, flat serving dish or platter, use spoon to evenly spread hummus. Layer cucumbers, olives, garbanzo beans, feta cheese, cherry tomatoes, red onion and parsley throughout hummus. Squeeze lemon juice over top. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with Zaatar, if desired. Serve immediately with pita bread or tortilla chips.



Enchilada Lasagna

Enchilada Lasagna

Recipe courtesy of chef George Duran
Servings: 4-6

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped (1 cup)
- 1 deli roasted chicken, skin and bones removed, shredded
- 2 tablespoons taco seasoning
- 1 cup chicken stock or broth
- 8 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 2 cups shredded Tex-Mex cheese blend
- 16 ounces Fresh Cravings Chunky Salsa, plus additional for serving
- 1 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- nonstick cooking spray
- 6 flour tortillas (9 inches each)
- 1 cup tortilla chips, crushed
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350 F.

In large skillet over medium-high heat, add olive oil. Add onions and cook until soft and translucent, 4-5 minutes.

Add shredded chicken and stir in taco seasoning. Add chicken broth and bring to simmer, about 5 minutes.

Add cream cheese, Tex-Mex cheese, salsa and cilantro. Stir until cream cheese is melted and simmer 3-4 minutes until slightly thickened.

Spray square baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Place two tortillas in bottom of pan, folding over or trimming sides of tortillas to fit.

Spoon half chicken mixture over tortillas. Repeat then place remaining tortillas over top. Mix crushed tortilla chips with cheddar cheese and sprinkle over top. Bake 30 minutes, or until lasagna is bubbling and lightly browned.

Let stand 10 minutes then top with additional salsa before serving.

Jalapeno Bacon and Salsa Biscuit Bites

Recipe courtesy of chef George Duran
Yield: 16 biscuit bites

- 1 tube biscuit dough (8 biscuits total)
- 7 ounces grated mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup jarred jalapenos, chopped
- 8 slices cooked bacon, chopped
- 1 cup Fresh Cravings Restaurant Style Salsa
- nonstick cooking spray

Preheat air fryer to 350-360 F.

Divide each biscuit in half by pulling apart in centers. Use hands to flatten each biscuit into circles. Set aside.

In bowl, mix mozzarella cheese with chopped jalapenos, bacon and salsa.

Add heaping spoonful into each flattened biscuit and pinch each together tightly to form balls. Top each with small amount of salsa mixture.

Spray nonstick cooking spray in air fryer and, working in batches, cook biscuit bites 6-9 minutes until golden brown.

Serve warm. Note: If air fryer access is unavailable, biscuit bites can be baked 8-10 minutes at 400 F in oven, or until golden brown.



Jalapeno Bacon and Salsa Biscuit Bites

www.TheTimes24-7.com
www.TheTimes24-7.com

TUESDAY

In The Kitchen

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022

A10

Put a Plant-Based Twist on Holiday Baking

FAMILY FEATURES

Flavorful desserts are a staple of the holidays and the exciting, appetizing allure of new recipes can help elevate seasonal gatherings and create sweet memories. With near-endless options for celebrating the season, putting a plant-based twist on traditional recipes offers everyone the opportunity to indulge with decadent treats.

In seasonal sweets like Brulee Pumpkin Pie and No-Bake Chocolate Peanut Butter Cheesecake, an option like Country Crock Plant Cream can be used as a dairy-free substitute for heavy whipping cream. With 29% less saturated fat than dairy heavy whipping cream, it's an easy 1:1 swap and is also soy-free, certified plant-based and 100% vegan, making it ideal to have on hand during holiday baking season. It's all of the deliciousness of heavy cream, with none of the heaviness of dairy.

Visit CountryCrock.com for more delectable holiday dessert ideas.



Brulee Pumpkin Pie

Brulee Pumpkin Pie

Prep time: 45 minutes
Cook time: 1 hour
Servings: 8

Pie Crust:

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 8 tablespoons Country Crock Plant Butter, cold and cut into cubes
- 2 tablespoons chilled vegetable shortening, cut into pieces
- 4 tablespoons ice water

Pumpkin Filling:

- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin puree
- 1/4 cup coconut cream
- 1 cup Country Crock Plant Cream
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon ground clove
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons white granulated sugar

Whipped Topping:

- 2 cups Country Crock Plant Cream, chilled
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

To make pie crust: Preheat oven to 350 F.

In bowl of food processor, add flour, sugar and salt; pulse to combine. Add cold plant butter and shortening. Process about 10 seconds until it looks like coarse meal.

With food processor running, add ice water. Process until mixture clumps together.

On lightly floured surface, roll dough into 14-inch circle. Transfer to 9-inch pie dish. Lift edges and allow dough to drape into dish. Trim, leaving 1-inch overhang. Fold excess dough under and crimp edges.

To make pumpkin filling: In medium saucepan over medium heat, add syrup and vanilla; warm about 2 minutes then remove from heat and set aside.

In large bowl, combine syrup mixture, pumpkin, coconut cream, plant cream, brown sugar, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, clove, salt and cornstarch; blend with hand mixer until smooth. Pour mixture into pie crust.

Bake 1 hour. If crust starts to burn, cover edges with aluminum foil. The middle will still be jiggly.

Cool at room temperature 30 minutes then cover and transfer to refrigerator to chill at least 5 hours or overnight.

Before serving, sprinkle pie with white sugar and, using kitchen torch, brulee until sugar is melted and dark brown.

To make whipped topping: Using electric hand mixer or stand mixer, whisk plant cream, powdered sugar and vanilla on high until mixture thickens and stiff peaks form.

Slice and serve with whipped topping.

No-Bake Chocolate Peanut Butter Cheesecake

Prep time: 5-10 minutes
Cook time: 5 minutes
Total time: 6-7 hours
Servings: 8

Country Crock Plant Butter, for greasing

Crust:

- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup Country Crock Plant Butter, melted

Filling:

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) dairy-free cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup Country Crock Plant Cream
- 1 cup powdered sugar

Chocolate Ganache:

- 1 stick Country Crock Plant Butter, cubed
 - 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- Grease 9-inch pie dish with plant butter; set aside.

To make crust: In medium bowl, combine graham cracker crumbs and melted plant butter; mix thoroughly.

Add crust to greased pie dish and press firmly to bottom and sides; refrigerate.

To make filling: In bowl of electric mixer, beat cream cheese until smooth and creamy.

Add powdered sugar; beat until fully incorporated.

Add peanut butter, vanilla extract and plant cream; beat until smooth and creamy.

Pour filling into prepared crust and refrigerate 5-6 hours or overnight.

To make chocolate ganache: In pan over medium heat, add plant butter cubes and chocolate; stir continuously.

Spread chocolate ganache evenly on top of chilled cheesecake. Refrigerate at least 1 hour before slicing and serving.



No-Bake Chocolate Peanut Butter Cheesecake

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Health and WELLNESS

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022

A11

The Importance of Regular Immunizations for Heart Health

(Family Features)
While most parents are good at keeping track of vaccines their kids need to stay healthy, many adults don't realize there are immunizations important for keeping themselves heart-healthy, as well. Adults, especially those with a history of heart disease or stroke, should take steps to stay up-to-date on preventive vaccines, particularly for the flu and COVID-19.

Influenza - While many experience just a few days of aches and chills, the flu can be deadly for some, including young children, the elderly and those with chronic conditions like heart disease, stroke and diabetes. There has also been research linking flu infection to cardiovascular disease (CVD). Getting a flu shot can not only prevent the flu, it may also reduce the risk of having a heart attack or stroke.

In fact, a study published in "Stroke" found that, among a group of people hospitalized for various reasons, those who experienced a flu-like illness within a month of their hospitalization were 38% more likely to have a stroke. Receiving the flu vaccine within a year prior to hospitalization lowered a person's stroke risk to 11%.

"Getting an annual flu shot should be part of routine health care for all individuals, especially for people who are already

living with chronic health conditions that put them at higher risk for heart attacks or strokes," said Eduardo Sanchez, M.D., M.P.H., FAHA, American Heart Association chief medical officer for prevention. "The potentially serious complications of the flu are far greater for those with chronic diseases. This is true not just for older people but even those age 50 and younger who have a history of high blood pressure, heart disease or diabetes."

COVID-19 - At the onset of the pandemic, the American Heart Association established the COVID-19 Cardiovascular Disease Registry, which found people with or at risk for CVD were more likely to become infected with and die from COVID-19. Additionally, the research found many people experience heart and vascular disease after getting COVID-19.

A study from the registry published in "Circulation: Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology" found new-onset atrial fibrillation in 1 in 20 patients hospitalized with COVID-19. Additionally, research also found people hospitalized with COVID-19 had a higher risk of stroke compared with people who had similar infectious conditions such as influenza or sepsis.

"We can't stress enough the connections between

COVID-19 and cardiovascular disease," Sanchez said. "There is clear evidence that people who have heart and vascular disease and even those with CVD risk factors are more likely to get COVID and to have more severe complications from the virus."

Other Immunizations - While flu and COVID-19 vaccines are of the utmost importance, there are a number of other immunizations that can help keep people heart-healthy.

* **The pneumococcal vaccination** protects against a common cause of severe pneumonia and is especially important for people 65 and older, and others with certain underlying medical conditions. This type of pneumonia can be deadly, especially for people already at high risk for health complications, including CVD. One shot is usually good for several years, although you may need a second one later depending on your age at your first shot.

* **Shingles**, a viral infection caused by the chickenpox virus, has been linked to an increased risk of stroke. More than 99% of people age 40 or older in the United States may carry the dormant chickenpox virus, also known as the varicella-zoster virus, and not even realize it.

Learn more about important immunizations and find other preventive health tips at heart.org.

Specialized Smart Soft Contact Lenses Can Address Global Issue of Glaucoma Diagnosis and Management

The vision of Purdue University biomedical engineer Chi Hwan Lee to develop specialized smart soft contact lenses that can accurately measure intraocular pressure (IOP) in a person's eye could be the latest answer to stopping glaucoma-related blindness.

Lee, the Leslie A. Geddes Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering in Purdue's Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering, led a research team that developed new ocular technology to continuously monitor patients' IOP readings more comfortably and accurately.

The technology serves as another option for eye specialists to identify glaucoma, which, according to the Glaucoma Research Foundation, can steal a person's vision without early warning signs or pain and affects more than 80 million people worldwide.

The only known modifiable risk factor is lowering a person's IOP, which is difficult to monitor for long periods of time, particularly during sleep.

While exams can be performed in a specialist's office and at-home monitoring systems are available, these all have their limitations. For instance, in-office measures are time-consuming, and current at-home technology is difficult to use, is uncomfortable and doesn't gather sufficient data at the right time periods or over long enough time periods for specialists to appropriately use the information to make optimized treatment decisions.

The new technology is highlighted in a study published in the journal Nature Communications. The study compares Purdue's technology to the current gold standard and other home monitoring systems and examines how the Purdue technology can gather important IOP measurements for 24-hour cycles, even during sleep.

The technology was developed by a multidisciplinary group of engineers and health care researchers from Purdue's colleges of Engineering and Veterinary Medicine and the Indiana University School of Optometry.

"The largest increase in IOP often occurs while people are lying down, when overnight IOP is typically 10% to 20% greater than daytime IOP. Vision loss may occur during sleep without the patient noticing it, even if daytime in-clinic or at-home measurements indicate normal IOP," said Lee, who has a joint appointment in the School of Mechanical Engineering and a courtesy appointment in the School of Materials Engineering. Lee, who has worked

on this technology for six years, specializes in stick-like items that contain electronics or smart technology. His lab develops wearable biomedical devices that can continuously monitor chronic diseases or health conditions in an unobtrusive manner.

Dr. Pete Kollbaum, professor and associate dean for research with the Indiana University School of Optometry and director of the school's Borish Center for Ophthalmic Research, has worked with Lee since 2019. Kollbaum's Clinical Optics Research Lab group, which researches contact lens technologies, helped with the human clinical testing and provided feedback for design improvements.

Some of the current wearable tonometers — or devices that measure the pressure inside one's eyes — are equipped with an integrated circuit chip, which leads to increased thickness and is stiffer than a typical commercial soft contact lens, in many cases causing discomfort for patients. Lee's version is different.

"To address this unmet need, we developed a unique class of smart soft contact lenses built upon various commercial brands of soft contact lenses for continuous 24-hour IOP monitoring, even during sleep at home," Lee said.

"Our smart soft contact lenses retain the intrinsic lens features of lens power, biocompatibility, softness, transparency, wettability, oxygen transmissibility and overnight wearability. Having all these features at the same time is crucial to the success of translating the smart soft contact lenses into glaucoma care, but these features are lacking in current wearable ocular tonometers."

The tonometer on the Purdue-developed contact lens sensor creates a wireless recording that is transmitted to a receiver in a pair of eyeglasses for daytime IOP measurement and a sleep mask for IOP measurement when sleeping.

The complete 24-hour IOP rhythm data can be shared with clinicians remotely via an encrypted server. The tonometer can generate an audible alert for detection of IOP elevation, allowing appropriate action to take place and reducing the need for clinic visits.

"This tonometer is significantly more comfortable than any other type of contact lens sensor we have come across and more comfortable than any currently available commercially available IOP sensor," Kollbaum said. "This is related to the

technology that Lee uses to apply the sensor to the lens, retaining a very thin overall sensor, and to the fact that the lens itself is a time-tested, commercially available lens, leveraging the clinical studies and associated time and money the contact lens manufacturers have spent to assure a comfortable lens."

Kollbaum said that not only do the specialized contact lenses provide crisp vision, just as any contact lens would, but the technology also expands the benefits for both patients and eye specialists, who have wanted less expensive and more comfortable ways to monitor eye changes for years.

"The eye is a very challenging body part that is even softer, more sensitive and curvilinear when compared to the skin," Lee said. "We hope our approach can be also tailored for aiding and detecting other chronic ocular diseases and for other functions." Lee and colleagues have a proposal for additional clinical trials with glaucoma patients who have dry eye diseases or who have had glaucoma surgery. They are also working with Boomerang Ventures, with which Purdue has a partnership, to incorporate the technology into clinical practice.

In addition to Lee and Kollbaum, members of the research team were Shin Ae Park, Seul Ah Lee, Bryan W. Boudouris, Yumin Dai, Keely E. Harris, Bongjoong Kim, Ho Joong Kim, Kyunghun Kim, Hyowon (Hugh) Lee, Kangying Liu, Haesoo Moon, Woohyun Park, Jay V. Shah and Jinyuan Zhang from Purdue; Dawn Meyer from the Indiana University School of Optometry; and Pedro Irazoqui and Brett Collar from Johns Hopkins University.

The technology was disclosed to the Purdue Research Foundation Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC), which has applied for a provisional patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to protect the intellectual property. For information on licensing opportunities, contact Patrick Finnerty of OTC at pwwfinnerty@prf.org about 2021-LEE-69240.

Lee's work at Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering is just one of many life-changing projects conducted by the biomedical engineering faculty and students. Many of those projects are partnerships among Weldon, health care providers, medical researchers and medical device companies that are key in taking aspects from classes and research labs into clinical settings.

The Fountain of Life: Water Droplets Hold the Secret Ingredient for Building Life

Purdue University chemists have uncovered a mechanism for peptide-forming reactions to occur in water — something that has puzzled scientists for decades.

"This is essentially the chemistry behind the origin of life," said Graham Cooks, the Henry Bohn Hass Distinguished Professor of Analytical Chemistry in Purdue's College of Science. "This is the first demonstration that primordial molecules, simple amino acids, spontaneously form peptides, the building blocks of life, in droplets of pure water. This is a dramatic discovery."

This water-based chemistry, which leads to proteins and so to life on Earth, could also lead to the faster development of drugs to treat humanity's most debilitating diseases. The team's discovery was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

For decades scientists have theorized that life on Earth began in the oceans. The chemistry, however, remained an enigma. Raw amino acids — something that meteorites delivered to early Earth daily — can react and latch together to form peptides, the building blocks of proteins and,

eventually, life. Puzzlingly, the process requires the loss of a water molecule, which seems highly unlikely in a wet, aqueous or oceanic environment. For life to form, it needed water. But it also needed space away from the water.

Cooks, an expert in mass spectrometry and early Earth chemistry, and his team have uncovered the answer to the riddle: "Water isn't wet everywhere." On the margins, where the water droplet meets the atmosphere, incredibly rapid reactions can take place, transforming abiotic amino acids into the building blocks of life. Places where sea spray flies into the air and waves pound the land, or where fresh water bubbles down a slope, were fertile landscapes for life's potential evolution.

The chemists have spent more than 10 years using mass spectrometers to study chemical reactions in water droplets.

"The rates of reactions in droplets are anywhere from a hundred to a million times faster than the same chemicals reacting in bulk solution," Cooks said.

The rates of these reactions make catalysts unnecessary, speeding up

the reactions and, in the case of early Earth chemistry, making the evolution of life possible. Understanding how this process works has been the goal of decades of scientific research. The secret of how life arose on Earth can help scientists understand why it happened and inform the search for life on other planets, or even moons.

Understanding how amino acids built themselves up into proteins and, eventually, life-forms revolutionizes scientists' understanding of chemical synthesis. That same chemistry could now aid synthetic chemists in speeding the reactions critical to discovering and developing new drugs and therapeutic treatments for diseases.

"If you walk through an academic campus at night, the buildings with the lights on are where synthetic chemists are working," Cooks said. "Their experiments are so slow that they run for days or weeks at a time. This isn't necessary, and using droplet chemistry, we have built an apparatus, which is being used at Purdue now, to speed up the synthesis of novel chemicals and potential new drugs."

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