#### 1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will

TODAY'S VERSE

make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of

God.



FACES of **HAMILTON COUNTY** 

What makes Diane Reed smile? "About everything," said the 82-year-old Noblesville resident."I like to see the glass half full, when I see people in a way, when they say something, I usually take it as an uplifting thing and more often than not I smile especially when something is really silly, then I really smile. I'm probably one of those old-fashioned people who smiles as the silliest things." She was found this weekend performing as a caterer onstage in The Belfry Theatre's current production, "Rehearsal for Murder," through Sunday at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville. She has been acting since she started on "this very stage," (The Ivy Tech Auditorium, which is the former Noblesville High School) almost 50 years ago, in 1973, when she and her husband moved to Noblesville and they both acted in "Guys and Dolls," directed by Betty Foland and John Foland. "My husband was cast as Sky Masterson, and they put me in as a Hot Box Dancer. Then years later, they reprised the ("Guys and Dolls") show at The Belfry, then I played a Mission Worker. Diane was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pa. What brought her to Hamilton County? "My husband's job," she said. "When I moved here (to Noblesville), people were so friendly." What else? "I had the record (at one time) of being the oldest mother at Riverview Hospital to

#### And **Another Thing...**

have a baby ... I was 43."

#### 1. Westfield Chamber

The Westfield Chamber of Commerce shared that, last week, the City of Westfield's Grand Junction Plaza received first-place honors in the Landscape Architecture category at the 45th Annual Monumental Awards presented by the Indy Chamber. The Monumental Awards showcase the region's best and brightest in our built environment and celebrate the work of companies across the region to strengthen Indy's placemaking, economic development, and talent strategy. Westfield City Staff attended the outdoor awards ceremony on Oct. 5, to accept the award.

The Chamber also highlighted their remaining October events, which

**Young Professionals - Happy Hour** Tuesday, Oct. 25 from 5-7 p.m. at Crafters Pizza and Drafthouse

**Coffee with the Chamber** Topic: Old Town Downtown Project

Update Wednesday, Oct. 26 from 8-9 a.m. in the Club at Chatham Hills

**Westfield Washington Schools School Board Candidates Forum** 

Thursday, Oct. 27 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Westfield High School

**Auditorium** The event is open to the public, no

**Optimizing Your Workforce Engagement Strategy Session** 

RSVP is needed

Friday, October 28 from 8-9:30 a.m. at the Hamilton County Community Foundation

#### 2. Sen. Braun Statement

On Tuesday, Senator Mike Braun released the following statement on President Joe Biden's proposed independent contractor rule:

"President Biden isn't just making your paycheck worth less, he's also making it harder to earn a second income as an independent contractor. Nearly 60 million Americans worked in the gig economy last year, and this rule will stifle growth in this important new sector of our economy and further strain supply chains that rely on independent contract labor to meet seasonal spikes in demand like trucking and logistics.

# Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

**NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA** 

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Photos courtesy of Alan Griffin

(Left) Marjorie (VanCauwenbergh) Miller's Carmel High School graduation photo in 1944; (Right) Rosemary (VanCauwenbergh) Griffin's Carmel High School graduation photo.

### Twins, '44 CHS Grads, **Preparing to Turn 96**



BETSY REASON

VanCauwenbergh Griffin and Marjorie VanCauwenbergh Miller are identical twins and mirror images.

your mirror

image.

Yes,

Rosemary

I wrote about the twins just ting readying before their 90th birthday in to turn 96 and 2016, and I'm sharing the story having a sister who looks like

The twins were born during the Depression, on Friday, Oct. 22, 1926, in Indianapolis, in a house on Westfield Boulevard between Nora and Broad Ripple. They were the third and fourth of five children born to Victor and Ora (Keown) Van-Cauwenbergh. (The family has

some interesting history. The twins' dad, Victor, served in the Belgium military and the U.S. military in and around World War I. He migrated from Belgium through Ellis Island, while being employed as a mess boy in January and February 1918, according to a manifest of aliens employed on a vessel from Bordeaux, France, to New York. In

See BETSY Page A7

## The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset **RISE:** 7:52 a.m. **SET:** 7:07 p.m.

High/Low **Temperatures HIGH:** 62 °F **LOW:** 48 °F

#### Today is....

- U.S. Navy's Birthday
- English Language Day • Good Samaritan Day

#### What Happened On This Day

- 1792 Construction of the White House begins
  - 1903 The Boston Red Sox win the first modern World Series
  - 1958 Paddington Bear makes his debut

#### **Births On This Day**

- 1925 Margaret Thatcher Prime Minister of the U.K
- 1941 Paul Simon American singer-songwriter, guitarist and producer

#### **Deaths On This Day**

- 1812 Isaac Brock English army officer
- 2005 Vivian Jones American activist

### Council OKs Help Fight **Noblesville** '23 Budget

The Noblesville Common Council approved the city's 2023 Civil City budget plan at tonight's meeting. Mayor Chris Jensen's budget continues to focus on all four of his Policy Pillars and maintains continued focus on government modernization, cost containment, and proactive preservation of

taxpayer-owned assets. Our city is growing and with that growth comes a city budget strategically crafted to meet the needs of the 10th largest community in the state," said

"We are fortunate to have healthy cash reserves, accumulated through many years of growth in assessed valuation and prudent management of public funds for us to be able to invest back into our community."

The approved budget was crafted during the summer and early fall based on priorities identified by the administration and city departments and feedback and direction given through Council work sessions and Council Finance Committee meetings.

See BUDGET Page A7

### Invasive **Species** with Beer

The Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) has teamed up with Bier Brewery to release the Midwest's first beer dedicated to raising awareness about native and invasive species -- Native Nectar. The can for the blood orange Kolsch style beer will feature native coneflowers, butterfly milkweed, and pollinators as well as information encouraging individuals to get involved with invasive species management.

'We are excited to work closely with HIP on this project to bring awareness to our native species along with the invasive ones that wreak havoc on our local environment" said Ryan Connor, a Bier Brewery co-owner and Director of Sales.

'We wanted to bring awareness in the community on how we can make a difference in the environment right here locally!' Claire Lane, coordinator of

the Hamilton County Invasives

See BEER Page A7



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy, Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Curtis

#### **Holding the Line**

Westfield's Ulrich Kini, a Seaman in the U.S. Navy pulls mightily as part of the line team on the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). The ship is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. Naval Forces Europe area of operations, employed by U.S. Sixth Fleet, to defend U.S., allied, and partner interests. Boatswains Mate 3rd Class Danyela Bravo (standing) is also pictured. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy and Mass Communication **Specialist Seaman Curtis Burdick)** 

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#### OBITUARIES John Leslie Bolen

Robert (Bobby) John Spear



#### TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Cut back on your exercise if you're running a fever. 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.



#### HONEST HOOSIER

Hoosier Carole Lombard was born in Ft. Wayne on this date in 1908. Some of us still remember when she perished in a plane crash.



#### TODAY'S QUOTE

"There is something at work in my soul, which I do not understand."

- Mary Shelley, Frankenstein

#### TODAY'S JOKE

Where do mummies go for a swim? To the Dead Sea.



PAGE TWO 🗉 THURSDAY, OCT. 13, 2022

#### OBITUARIES

**John Leslie Bolen** 

July 7, 1932-October 2, 2022

John Leslie Bolen, 90, passed away Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022 in Westfield with his loving wife by his side.

He was born at home, in Farmer City, Ill., on July 7, 1932, the son of Leslie and Inez Bolin (White).

Mr. Bolen graduated from Moore High School in Farmer City. He worked at Morgan Shell Station, within walking distance from his family home. He also clerked at Lou Gottlieb clothing store in Farmer City before enlisting in the Navy where he served 4 years as a navigator on a sea plane. This experience instilled his love of flying. While owning a gas station in Corpus Christi, Texas, Mr. Bolen took flight school night classes. He gave up his childhood dream of being a cowboy

his childhood dream of being a cowboy, and at age 30, became the youngest pilot ever to be hired at Eastern Airlines. Captain Bolin flew the Boeing 727 and the Lockheed 1011 aircrafts, one of which he piloted for the Stephen King television mini-series, "The Langoliers." He married the love of his life, Karen Molnar, on Oct.

He married the love of his life, Karen Molnar, on Oct. 31, 1990, in Reno, Nev. Together, they lived life to the fullest as they traveled the world with Air Lanka; Mr. Bolen as pilot and Karen as his social director.

Cars were also a passion of John. He and Karen drove extensively, visiting friends and family throughout the US. A favorite trip was driving Route 66 across the country. In his retirement, he enjoyed selling cars.

Survivors include his wife Karen; two daughters Cheryl Kay (Charmagne) Pfoff and Judy O'Kelley; two brothers Gerald (Betty) White and Paul (Ellen) Bolin; three brothers-in-law Joe Machnik, Joseph Dominczyk, Jr. and Fred Wrather; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Richard Bolin; and two sisters Divona Wrather and Charlotte Castor.

Heartfelt thanks to Mr. Bolen's caregivers and special family friends, Don and Judy Ackerson.

He was known for his positive attitude and his passion for life. This was an inspiration for everyone who knew him. He loved to tell stories of his flying experiences and often reflected on his life..."A life well lived."

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to serve the Bolin family.

#### Robert (Bobby) John Spear March 17, 1958-October 5, 2022

Robert John Spear, 64, of Westfield, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022.

He was born March 17, 1958 in Tacoma, Wash., son of Robert and Elaine (Beck) Brecka.

Mr. Spear lived most of his life in East Chicago, Ind. Following his mother's death, he was cared for in a group home located in North Vernon until health issues required skilled

nursing services at Maple Park Village in Westfield Mr. Spear was a very special guy who loved his family and they were blessed to share many happy memories with him through the years. He will be sadly missed by his family and caregivers.

Private arrangements will be made at a later date.
Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to serve the Spear family.

#### **□** Letters -

### Reader Endorses Chuck Haberman for School Board

Dear Editor,

I would like to offer my endorsement of Chuck Haberman for Noblesville School Board. I have had the opportunity to know Chuck while serving on the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Chuck's personal character qualities are apparent upon first meeting. Chuck is a leader! Chuck is also smart, passionate, caring, approachable and committed. I am always impressed by Chuck's pragmatic insights for

meeting challenges.

I believe Chuck has the right ideas for continuing to improve the educational opportunities and outcomes for every Noblesville student. Balancing the needs of our schools and students with the financial resources to pay for services is a critical task for our school

board. As a taxpayer, I am comforted to know that Chuck's excellent financial acumen will result in a continuation of the good financial stewardship we have come to expect from our school board leaders. Chuck fully understands the need to prepare students with the hard skills and the soft skills required for success in a competitive world. I have no doubt Noblesville Schools' stakeholders will find Chuck's contributions very valuable when it comes to shaping the educational pathways for the next generations of well-rounded young adults about to take their places in the workforce and in

our communities.

I encourage you to also vote for Chuck Haberman on Nov. 8!

Bryan Glover Noblesville



### A Few Quarters Made the Difference



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away . . . OK, wrong story line, but looking at the gorgeous

but looking at the gorgeou new NHS tennis facility got me thinking back on tennis in the early 1970s and a small but dedicated group that helped get things going in Nob City.

Some of you remember how tennis exploded back then. The country was just starting to embrace the fitness craze. Joggers could be seen on roads. Before that, boxers could be found on streets and back roads doing what was called, well, roadwork. Anyone else running was either on a cinder track or had an angry dog chasing them.

Bobby Riggs and Billy Jean King brought tennis to new heights in 1973 with their famous Battle of the Sexes. In fact, the NHS tennis team played an away match that night because as soon as we got home we all headed to Tom Weinschenk's house near NHS to watch Billie Jean dismantle Riggs in straight sets.

Tennis was growing, but

maybe not so much here. Our team wasn't very good and there weren't very many adults in the community lining up to get court time.

Enter a small group of men. Banker Bob Wyne, pharmacist Dick Reilly, John Talbott Sr., my Dad Earl Timmons and a few of us high schoolers created the Hamilton County Tennis League. From there we created the Noblesville Open tennis tournament. Between the league and tournament, we got a lot of folks playing and many of them contributed quite a bit to the growth of tennis.

Jack Hittle, a young attorney back then, was quite good and a great guy. He got more people involved. Rich Clouse was the coach at NHS and was followed by Jim Balsley – also great guys and both huge in helping this youngster learn the game. Jim Bray came along later and was a big part. Momentum was growing.

In fact it grew so much that the league attracted a big-time personality, the weather guy from an Indianapolis TV station. Everyone thought it was a huge deal that someone as big as Dave Letterman would come to Noblesville to play! If only we knew

About the only problem left was the courts. Back then there were five courts between the shop wing of NHS (Ivy Tech today) and the old football field (no,

not the one off Monument - and how's that for showing my age!). Five courts was a problem because high school meets were nine matches – six singles and three doubles. So with five courts, one of the singles had to wait until the first singles match got done for an open court. Back then, kids from singles usually played doubles (the IHSAA changed the rules later so that didn't happen). So that meant the meet couldn't end until the sixth player got done with singles, and then played the last doubles match.

Did I mention the NHS courts didn't have lights?

If the score of the meet was close and that match made a difference in the outcome, there were a lot of points won or lost because no one could see the ball . . . or because the car headlights – the jerry-rigged answer – got in someone's eyes. If the meet wasn't close, a lot of those final doubles matches were called on account of darkness.

Remember that small group from above? They decided to go to the school board and put in a push for lights. At that time, about the only lit court around was up in Tipton. It wasn't unusual for several of us to take the quick ride up Indiana 19 to get a few sets in. That, of course, became part of the sales pitch – how in the name of Stan Smith and Rod Laver could Tipton have lights and not Noblesville?

Determined to change that, we got our ducks in a row and ever so politely went to the school board with our request. The school board ever so politely said no.

It seems that lights for a tennis court fell somewhere below textbooks and basketballs.

But one of the fledgling group – I think it was Coach Clouse – came up with the idea of putting meters on the lights – 25 cents got you 15 minutes.

Turns out that was an idea the board could get its arms around. A few months later, there were lights – and meters – on the courts. Any idea how hard it was to play a match with 17 pounds of quarters in your pockets? No? Well, the good news was that as the match wore on, you got lighter.

It was indeed a long time ago, but it's funny how things work out, isn't it? When NHS dedicated its new 12-court, \$3.9 million facility I wonder if any of them realized it all started with a few quarters and the Battle of the Sexes?

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Thursdays in The Times. Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns The Noblesville Times. He is also a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com

#### Letters

#### Reader Says School Board Election Important

Dear Editor,

Noblesville Voters: Pay attention to the upcoming School Board election!

I was not one to pay attention to what my children were learning in school. The past two years have changed that forever.

I discovered teachers using their position to influence students' personal views on race and identity. Discussing racism and slavery in our nation's history is important. These teachers, however, promoted a view of America as systemically racist where all white people are inherently racist and non-white people are victims. I found this was not an isolated incident.

In the fall of 2020, one of my daughters told me her 11th-grade English teacher spent an entire class teaching about white privilege and advantage as they were reading "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" by Peggy McIntosh. In 11th grade U.S. History a predominant theme was Civil Rights . . . an important topic, but not the only topic in our nation's history. Something just didn't feel right.

"Critical Race Theory" (CRT) was in the headlines nationwide by this time, so I started doing my own research and talking with other parents. Some reported their 8th-grade students learning about "anti-racism" and "white fragility." The Noblesville Schools website had resources on "whiteness," "Learning for Justice" and books / articles by known critical race theorists Ibram X Kendi and Robin DiAngelo under the Noblesville Diversity Coalition which partners with Noblesville Schools. I also learned teachers were encouraged to read books such as White Rage, and How to be an Antiracist for professional development. What does this have to

do with academics? How is this helping our children grow into responsible respectful adults? Thankfully most Noblesville teachers are great and focus on academics. Unfortunately, it only takes a "few rotten apples to spoil the bunch".

Parents all over the

nation were speaking out against CRT spreading in their schools, and school boards were denying it

need a lob!

Find one in the classifieds.

<u>317.770.7777</u>

existed. The Noblesville School Board with Joe Forgey at the helm was no different. Parents voiced concern at school board meetings in the summer of 2021, but Laura Alerding was the only member to act. Ioe Forgey reportedly didn't agree with CRT but preferred to deal with these matters "behind the scenes." When opportunities arose to change or create a policy that would prohibit CRT in the classroom, Joe Forgey did nothing. There were many opportunities, but each time he was silent and went with the status quo.

Students need to learn the flaws in our nation's history, and I fully believe students of all races / ethnicities, religions and gender identities should be treated equally and with respect and dignity. I draw the line at activist teachers/ administrators pushing their ideas about race gender and social justice upon the minds of children. This most definitely was happening in 2020/21 and continues to happen today. I have since heard from parents that "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" is still being read in some 11thgrade English classes at NHS to this day.

This is one of many important issues where Joe

Forgey did not address the concerns of parents / taxpayers but instead went with the status quo. We need school board members who will work to improve academic achievement and excellence and not give in to pressure from political agendas so potentially damaging to our kids and communities. Joe Forgey may be a nice man and a respected dentist, but he is not the man for this job. Melba Kiser and Misti Ray have my vote and I hope you will ioin me in voting for them as well.

Alison Hanley Noblesville



to change without notice. Minimum balance to open account and obtain APY is \$1,000.00. Early withdrawal may be subject to penalty. Fees may reduce earnings on the account. Other standard rate maturity terms are available. \*\*Minimum \$25,000 to open account.

### **State Senator Kyle Walker Earns Police Group Endorsements**

State Senator Kyle Walker's campaign yesterday announced it has received endorsements from the Indiana State Police Alliance PAC and the Indianapolis Lodge #86 Fraternal Order of Police. These groups join a growing list of law enforcement organizations supporting Walker in his campaign for State Senate District 31.

The Indiana State Police Alliance Political Action Committee (PAC) is sponsored by the Indiana State Police Alliance, whose membership consists of 1,200 active state police officers, which is over ninety percent (96%) of the troopers serving Indiana.

"Senator Walker is a strong supporter of the Indiana State Police and our mission to promote better law enforcement to the citizens of Indiana," said Cory Martin, Executive Director of the Indiana State Police

"He's led and supported efforts to increase funding, expand training, and provide more resources for all members of law enforcement. We look forward to continuing our work together to make Indiana a better and safer place to live."

In 2021, Walker cosponsored legislation that provided expanded training for police officers (HEA 1006), and he supported the state budget which gave raises to state police and excise officers and increased funding for the Indiana Law **Enforcement Academy** and for other crime reduction programs (HEA

"Senator Walker has shown his commitment to



law enforcement not just in words, but in action. He's spearheaded several initiatives to improve public safety, support our officers and reduce crime in the Indianapolis area," said Rick Snyder, President of the Indianapolis Lodge #86 Fraternal Order of Police.

"Senate Walker listens to, collaborates with and advocates for our law enforcement officers and their families and we're grateful for his unwavering support."

In 2022, Walker authored legislation to improve electronic monitoring of offenders to prevent them from going on to commit additional crimes while under surveillance (SEA 9). Marion County has more offenders on electric monitoring than Cook County, Illinois where Chicago is located. The new law helps improve response time if a monitor is disabled and ensures victims are notified.

In 2021, Walker sponsored legislation to expand a partnership between the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) and the Fishers Police Department to track guns used to commit crimes across Central Indiana and bring more violent criminals to justice (HEA

1558). Over the last year since its creation, the Indiana Crime Guns Task Force has seized 369 illegal firearms, leading to the arrests of 397 repeat violent offenders.

Walker also authored bills to create the Marion County Crime Reduction Pilot Program to encourage law enforcement collaboration to tackle violent crime in the region (SEA 7), and to protect the identities of child crime victims (SEA

"Public safety is a critical issue for our region. I will continue to focus on efforts to reduce crime, help bring more violent criminals to justice, and support our men and women in blue." Walker said.

Walker has been endorsed by several organizations representing law enforcement and first responders, including the Indiana State Fraternal Order of Police, the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association. the Indiana Professional Firefighters PAC, the Fishers Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 199 and the Lawrence Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 159.

He's also been endorsed by several business groups, including the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the Indy **Chamber Business Advocacy Committee** (BAC), the Indiana State AFL-CIO and the **Indiana State Pipe Trades** Association.

Walker's district encompasses parts of Hamilton and Marion counties, including all of Fishers and part of Lawrence. For more information visit www. WalkerforIndiana.com.

### **NPA to Host Free Reception** for Artist Dan Howell on Friday



Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022

Dan Howell's clay work began when he was a boy, making sculptures on the creek banks near the source of the White River on his father's farm in central Indiana. With encouragement from his high school art teacher, he continued honing his craft specifically into clay.

Howell earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Ball State University, studied abroad in France for a year, then went on to receive a Master's Degree in Sculpture and Ceramics from Ball State.

He proceeded to teach art in a wide variety of forms for 45 years in three different Indiana high schools. His work has now come full circle with a ceramic studio at his home on the banks of the White River in Noblesville.

Howell has explored a range of media, including fiber, carved wood and stone, and cast and welded materials. His clay pieces range from functional wheel-thrown porcelain to hand-built stoneware abstract sculpture. His work spans 50 years and has been shown in collections both locally and internationally.

Currently, his work is featured in a collection of platters made of glazed stoneware on display at Meyer Najem in the 2nd floor gallery space. The series started as a reaction



Photo courtesy of Nickel Plate Arts

Dan Howell's piece Chaos Control Failure #10.

to political and social unrest, and his pieces that contain "Chaos Control Failure" in their title are a reflection of that unrest. Many of the platters are an image of some concrete structure that has been overrun by a more organic non-structured element.

"As I was working on these Chaos Control Failure platters, I got intrigued more and more by the textures and the patterns - so it's kind of a release to be able to express it and be done with it and then move on to another experience or expression of some sort," Howell says.

The series evolved into other images dealing with contrast of patterns and textures. "I feel very good about the finished collection, and I'm glad that I was able to move on in another direction as I moved onto colors, textures, patterns, and movement – the movement of the chaos and not being able to control it...I worked it out of my system. I am very pleased with how these turned

See the full exhibit, "Chaos Control Failure," partnered beautifully with Howell's hand-carved limestone sculptures at Meyer Najem located at 11787 Lantern Road in Fishers, on the 2nd floor, Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Meet Howell at his free public reception on Friday, October 14, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Meyer Najem in the 2nd floor gallery space. His work will be on display through December 29. All works are available for sale by scanning the QR codes in the gallery or by contacting Nickel Plate Arts directly.

#### **About Nickel Plate**

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

#### Thanks for reading The Times!

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### Indiana Case at SCOTUS Could **Impact Millions of Americans**

By Casey Smith

As the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to hear oral arguments in an Indiana case that could have national implications for millions of Americans participating in federal safety net programs, pressure is mounting locally for the public health agency at the heart of the legal battle to withdraw the case altogether.

Advocates for the elderly, poor and people with disabilities say the legal challenge could severely threaten federal benefit programs, like Medicaid.

A decision from the high court could federalize most medical malpractice litigation and such policy at the state level. That means patients could lose their ability to sue over poor care.

#### What's at stake?

Up for debate is a lawsuit — Talevski v. Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County - originally filed in federal court in Indiana in 2019 by the estate of Gorgi Talevski, who resided in Indiana before he died.

The court filing alleged that Talevski was chemically restrained and medicated so that he would go to sleep instead of being treated for his dementia while living in a Valparaiso nursing home.

Talevski's wife, Ivanka, additionally maintained that her husband was illegally transferred to another nursing facility – which she argued is a violation of federal rights granted to nursing home patients.

The lower court determined that Talevski's estate could sue under the Nursing Home Reform Act provisions of Medicaid, but that decision was appealed by the Health & Hospital Corp. of Marion County (or HHC), which owns the nursing home where Talevski received care. The local government agency operates the Sidney & Lois Eskenazi Hospital in Indianapolis, as well as the Marion County Health Department. It's also the state's largest nursing home owner, operating 78 facilities across Indiana.

HHC said its facility took necessary actions, noting that Talevski was violent and sexually aggressive toward staff and other residents.

But HHC went even farther, arguing that residents of publicly owned, Medicaid-funded nursing homes should not be allowed to sue the facilities for violating their civil

The high court justices agreed to review the case. Oral arguments are scheduled for Nov. 8.

It will then be up to the justices to decide whether beneficiaries of programs like Medicaid have the right to sue state and local governments, or have any form of recourse at all if their civil rights are violated.

#### Advocates push for HHC to drop the case

Former members of Congress and past U.S. health department officials are among the dozens of entities that have filed briefs in support of Talevski's wife and her right to to file a claim in court.

Current members of Congress said in their brief, too, that the right to sue is "essential for efficient administration and oversight" of federal safety net programs like Medicaid. Reversing that right would have "disastrous consequences," they

"Congress allocates billions of dollars each year in federal funds to assist the states in providing services for the nation's most vulnerable individuals," the members of Congress wrote. "Neither federal nor state authorities have sufficient resources to

provide complete oversight over the funding funneled into state programs ... Both Congress and the states depend on private enforcement of rights encapsulated in these statutes to protect vulnerable individuals and groups."

No Indiana members signed on to the brief, however.

But Republican Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita and attorneys general from 21 other states filed a separate brief, siding with HHC.

They maintain lawsuits like Talevski's "interfere(s) with administration and enforcement mechanisms created by Congress," and could make states hesitant to accept federal funds. The AGs added that the federal government already has regulations in place for state agencies that accept federal dollars for safety net programs.

The Arc of Indiana, an advocacy group for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, along with 91 other state and national advocacy organizations for vulnerable populations, are now urging the HHC board to withdraw the Supreme Court case.

The advocates emphasized that federal safety net programs have been a "lifeline for millions of people," especially those with disabilities. Specifically, they point to Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

"One in four adults in Indiana has a disability, and many of them rely on these programs to live full and active lives," the Arc of Indiana said in a news release. "Private lawsuits - often brought by The Arc and our partners – have often been the only

recourse for people to get the services and services and supports they need. A negative ruling will leave them without legal recourse if they face mistreatment or abuse or their benefits are taken away or denied."

The group is calling for the HHC board to re-examine the case at its Oct. 18 meeting. It's not yet clear whether the board will address the lawsuit in its public agenda.

The seven-member HHC board is appointed by the Democratic-led offices of the Indianapolis mayor, City-County Council and Marion County Board of County Commissioners.

The agency's president and CEO, Paul Babcock, did not respond to a request for comment. He told The Indianapolis Star that his legal team maintains the Federal Nursing Home Reform Act doesn't include a "private right of action to sue nursing homes or nursing home operators.'

Last month, Babcock said during a public meeting that nursing home patients have "a whole host of other remedies" for holding health facilities accountable, including filing a complaint with the Indiana Department of Health.

We're continuing to always be concerned with care in our nursing homes ... if (HHC) prevails in this case, that care level will not change," he said. "I do not believe that rights will be lost."

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### Reader Takes Issue with Howey

Dear Editor,

In reply to Brian Howey's article, "Many Hoosier Republicans Are Refusing to Debate," I have pondered why the Republicans are backing away and bowing out from attending. Most likely it is the abortion issue, being forced to admit the 2020 election was rigged (which it was in my opinion), any association with President Trump as we have a lot of Trump Haters out there (including Mr. Howey in my opinion), believing in God, prayer, Pro-Life, and the bible which shows a moral way of life and supporting the American Constitution.

On the other hand, the Democrats who won't admit to the national state of affairs of high gas and grocery prices, inflation, increases in crime, supporting "defunding the police," the pullout of the Afghanistan failure, the open borders where harmful drugs are being brought in from the millions of illegal aliens killing Americans esp. our youth, and our despicable Biden who threatened a large percentage of Americans who support MAGA which means "Make America Great Again" as 'terrorists.'

These debates could become a shouting match, pointing fingers at each other over the current concerns such as pornography books in our school and public libraries, CRT - Critical Race Theory which is a divisive issue, DEI – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, (America was doing better with this until the Obamas arrived and upset the apple cart), and SEL - Social Emotional Learning where I have read students were ostracized for living in a

normal functioning family. And I will add the "Transgender" significance in our society where innocent children as young as 4 and 5 are being asked "what sex do you identify"? I have placed myself in that age group when I was that age and I would look at the person who asked it with a "deer in the headlights" look. These children have no idea what they are being asked and it does not stop there from the inquiring adult. The manipulation begins and continues until you have a confused child who submits to believing the lie and told not to tell their parents.

This election is contentious because of the aforementioned issues and our very divided American citizenry whether it is local or national. The Republicans may be avoiding the debate because of these divisive issues but the Democrats have and are pushing their un-American agenda upon the American people who don't want our "capitalistic" system to change because it works. (Green New Deal is destroying our country)

The League of Women Voters have always offered candidate forums but this time they did not allow the attending citizenry to ask the questions which was a disappointment. The questions were pre-set which can set the mood and control of questions in a certain way.

Hopefully the candidates will provide answers on what they support when asked by local periodicals and or Vote411 being offered by the League.

This election is very disputative but very important. Please vote your choice.

Mari Briggs Sheridan

### Carmel Clay Parks & Rec to Host Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Walk, Oct. 22

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) will host its annual Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Walk on Oct. 22 from 1-3 p.m. along the Central Park East trails.

To provide inclusive experiences for the community, CCPR hosts sensory-friendly events as part of its adaptive programming designed for individ-

uals with disabilities. 'Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation strives to provide programming for all members of our community," said Kelvin Solares, Inclusion Program Supervisor.

"Holidays, like Halloween, can be very overwhelming for individuals with sensory needs. We are excited to offer Sensory-Friendly Trick-or-Treat again this year to remove barriers and provide an accessible way to celebrate."

During the trick-or-treat walk there will be no loud music, scary decorations, or people dressed in masks or full-body costumes. CCPR's adaptive program volunteers will dress in fun, non-frightening cos-

tumes and pass out treats. CCPR requests all trick-

or-treaters bring their own bag or basket for candy and wear friendly costumes that are not frightening (refrain from wearing masks that cover the full face). Trick-or-treaters can go around the trail loop multiple times.

Pre-registration is required for each trickor-treater. The cost to participate is \$10. Register for the Sensory-Friendly Trick-or-Treat walk in person at the Monon Community Center or online at

anc.apm.activecommunities.com/carmelclayparks/ activity/search/detail/22992

**About Sensory-Friendly Events:** 

Sensory-friendly events are structured for individuals with sensory needs who might become overwhelmed or overstimulated by their senses, including sight, sound, and touch. During sensory-friendly events, the environment is changed so those with sensory needs are comfortable, can participate fully, and enjoy time with family and friends.

### **The Times**

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### **IDEM Announces \$3.5M in Grants Now Available for Clean Air Projects**

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) announced Round 4 of the DieselWise Indiana with Volkswagen Diesel **Emissions Reduction** Act (DERA) Option program's grant funding which will distribute awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000. Total available funding for this round is \$3.5 million.

Grant money will be awarded to clean air projects that significantly reduce diesel emissions from non-road vehicles or equipment across Indiana. IDEM is specifically encouraging potential project partners from southern Indiana due to the lack of applications from this region in the previous rounds of the program, with the hope and intent of realizing meaningful diesel emission reductions equitably across Indiana.

Example projects include installing idle reduction technology on locomotives, replacing diesel-powered switcher locomotives with all-electric locomotives or railcar movers, replacing existing diesel-powered marine en-



gines with new clean-diesel powered engines, and replacing diesel-powered cargo handling equipment with new electric alternatives

Projects from Rounds 1 through 3 included replacing a diesel-powered switcher locomotive with an all-electric shuttle wagon, replacing two landfill compactors with much newer clean-diesel machines, and replacing old diesel-powered terminal tractors with new all-electric alternatives serving the same purpose. These projects will result in notably better air quality for those that live and work

Public and private entities may submit applications, and the Request for Proposals (RFP) deadline is December 16, 2022. Application information can be found at idem. IN.gov/airquality/dieselwise. Questions about the RFP process can be directed to IDEM Senior Environmental Manager Shawn M. Seals by phone AT (317) 233-0425 or by email at SSeals@idem. IN.gov

**About DieselWise:** DieselWise Indiana is a statewide program supported with funds from Indiana's allocation of U.S. EPA Diesel Emission Reduction Act funding along with a portion of the national Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Fund. The program is focused on equipment and vehicle repowers and replacements with newer, cleaner alternatives of various fuel types. IDEM expects to select projects in January 2023 with funds awarded soon thereafter. For more information about DieselWise Indiana, please visit www.idem.IN.gov/ airquality/dieselwise.

**About the Committee:** 

The Indiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund Committee (Committee) was formed under an executive order issued by Gov. Eric Holcomb on Oct. 4, 2017. The Committee will play a vital role in the disbursement of Indiana's share of funds from the Environmental Mitigation Trust created as part of Volkswagen's settlement of Clean Air Act violations regarding diesel emissions from its vehicles. Indiana will receive approximately \$41 million under the terms of the consent decree. The Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust webpage is www.idem. IN.gov/airquality/volkswagen-mitigation-trust/

**About IDEM:** IDEM (idem.IN.gov) implements federal and state regulations regarding the environment. Through compliance assistance, incentive programs and educational outreach, the agency encourages and aids businesses and citizens in protecting Hoosiers and our environ**Arts Commission Seeking Applications from Artists for Business Training Workshop** 

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) is now accepting applications for the 2023 On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program. On-Ramp is a program for artists and creative entrepreneurs seeking training and resources around establishing or supporting an arts-based business in Indiana.

Designed by Elaine Grogan Luttrull of Minerva Financial Arts, On-Ramp focuses on ten key business concepts for a successful creative career including defining value, business structure, identifying and marketing to customers, pricing strategy, marketing strategy, managing expenses and generating revenue, taxes, and planning.

The On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator is comprised of a threeday in-person intensive entrepreneurship and community engagement workshop and the opportunity to apply for up to \$2,000 in fellowship funding to put the training into action. The 2023 On-Ramp workshop will be May 10-12, 2023, in Columbus, Indiana.

Based upon survey results from previous



cohorts, On-Ramp alumni are consistently more confident in their ability to pursue a creative career in Indiana, more knowledgeable about the key business areas of focus, and more likely to take action in their careers following participation in the workshop.

"Indiana's creative economy is fueled by entrepreneurs," said Miah Michaelsen, IAC Executive Director. "Each year, the On-Ramp cohort demonstrates the drive, passion, and power of Hoosier creative entrepreneurs, and we look forward to welcoming the newest cohort into this inspiring network."

The deadline to apply to participate is Jan. 6, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Learn more about On-Ramp and how to apply online at in.gov/arts/ programs-and-services/ training/on-ramp-creativeentrepreneur-accelerator/

County Highway Depart-ment 1700 S. 10th

### **USDA** to Invest \$110M in Grants to Improve Health Care for Rural People

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development **Under Secretary Xochitl** Torres Small yesterday announced that USDA is awarding \$110 million in grants to improve health care facilities in rural towns across the Nation. These grants will help 208 rural health care organizations expand critical services for nearly 5 million people in 43 states and Guam.

"Access to modern and sustainable health care infrastructure is critical to the health, well-being and prosperity for the millions of people who live in rural and Tribal communities," Torres Small said.

"That's why the Biden-Harris Administration remains committed to making sure that people who need it most, no matter where they live, have access to high-quality and reliable health care services like urgent care. primary care and dental care. Through the Emergency Rural Health Care Grants I am announcing today, USDA is being a strong partner to people in 43 states and Guam.

The investments will help build, renovate and equip health care facilities like hospitals and clinics in rural areas. They also include more than \$9 million for 12 rural health care organizations to help 187,000 people living in energy communities, which are areas with high concentrations of coal-dependent jobs. This funding will help communities that are vital to our country's



energy production as the nation transitions to a clean-energy economy.

The USDA is making this Emergency Rural Health Care Grants Program funding available through the American Rescue Plan Act.

The investments will be used for projects such as those to help rural hospitals and health care providers implement telehealth and nutrition assistance programs, increase staffing to administer COVID-19 vaccines and testing, build or renovate facilities and purchase medical supplies. They will also help regional partnerships, public bodies, nonprofits and Tribes solve regional rural health care problems, which will help build a stronger, more sustainable rural health care system in response to the pandemic. For example:

• In New Hampshire, Families Flourish Northeast will use a \$1 million grant to renovate a residential treatment center to help address substance-use disorders among mothers. Rates of substance-exposed pregnancies and

the severity of maternal substance use have risen in Grafton, Carroll and Coos counties throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The facility will provide patients with easier access to public transportation, educational and employment opportunities, public school for their children, outpatient treatment and

social activities. • In Minnesota, Kittson Memorial Hospital will use a \$51,700 grant to renovate the clinic exam room and the clinic nurse's station. Funds also will be used to build an isolation room for patients with infectious illnesses or those who are susceptible to infections, keeping them away from other patients, visitors and health care staff.

• In Virginia, Appalachian Sustainable Development in Duffield will use a \$467,900 grant to help food pantries expand food distribution services to help people who need it most.

The investments USDA is announcing today will expand health care services in Alabama, Arizo-

Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island. South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming and Guam.

**Background: Emer**gency Rural Health Care Grants

Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act in March 2021 to deliver immediate economic relief to people impacted by the pandemic. Within months after the Act's passage, USDA responded quickly by making this funding available to ensure the long-term availability of rural health

care services. In August 2021, USDA made the Emergency Rural Health Care Grants available through the American Rescue Plan Act to help rural health care facilities, tribes and communities expand access to health care services and nutrition assistance.

The assistance is helping provide immediate relief to support rural hospitals, health care clinics and local communities. USDA is administering the funds through Rural Development's Community Facilities Program.

#### Meeting Notice

#### **Hamilton County Board of Com**missioners

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners have rescheduled the Fri-day, Oct. 28 highway meeting for Friday, Oct. 14 at 8:30 a.m. at the Hamilton

Street, Noblesville, Indiana. The Commissioners will hold an Executive Session for Discussion of Pending Litigation pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-1(b) (2)(B). Following Executive Session there will be discussion of highway projects and other county business.

#### Meeting Notice

#### **Hamilton County Health Board**

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5(a) the Hamilton County Health Board will hold its quarterly meeting on Thursday, Oct. 13 at

8 a.m. at the Hamilton County 4-H Grounds in the O.V. Winks Building, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville, IN 46060. The purpose of this meeting is for discussion of health department issues.

#### Meeting Notice

### **Hamilton County** Emergency Management Advisory Council Pursuant to IC 5-14-

1.5-5 (a) the Hamilton County Emergency

Management Advisory Council will meet at 9 a.m. on Oct. 13, 2022, at 18100 Cumberland Road Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of this meeting is for discussion of **Emergency Management** projects.

#### Meeting Notice

#### **Hamilton County Local Emer**gency Planning Committee

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) the Hamilton County Local Emergency

Planning Committee will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 13 at 18100 Cumberland Road Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of this meeting is for discussion of Local Emergency Planning Committee projects.



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#### Former Contractor Paid Just \$3K in Lobby Registry Fines; OAG Paid \$1.5K

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

A conservative policy activist and consultant previously contracting for the Indiana Office of the Attorney General paid just \$3,000 of a maximum \$45,000 in lobby registry

In August, Erin Tuttle was nearly a year into a two-year, \$200,000-maximum contract, when the Capital Chronicle asked the OAG why she was not listed in Indiana Lobby **Registration Commission** records; the OAG said she had mistakenly registered

as a lobbyist for the city of Indianapolis. In that time, she missed 10 required filings, each with a maximum late fine of \$4,500.

The OAG made the former anti-Common Core leader a full-time — and therefore registry-exempt — state employee in response.

Asked about the fines, OAG Chief Administrative Officer Larry Hopkins said in a statement, "Erin has changed her status from a contract employee to that of a paid staff employee and continues to be a valued and productive member of our legislative team."

First-time violation discount

Indiana law requires lobbyists to file registration statements (within 15 days of becoming a lobbyist, plus annually), as well as semi-annual activity reports. Late fees rack up fast: \$100 a day, up to \$4,500 for 45 days.

Tuttle herself had four late filings and was facing maximum fines of \$18,000, while her LLC, Tuttle Consulting, had six late filings with maximum fines of \$27,000, totaling

\$45,000.

But the commission has long had a policy allowing it to lower fines based on filing history, according to Executive Director and General Counsel Edward Ferguson.

Tuttle and her LLC were fined \$3,000 in total - \$300 per late filing because it was the first offense, Ferguson wrote in an email to the Capital Chronicle. She paid nearly 7% of the maximum, which is the default in the commission's filings portal.

The OAG, meanwhile,

has filed late once before. It had three late filings related to Tuttle, worth \$13,500, but was assessed a fine of \$1,500 — \$500 per late filing. That's about 11% of the maximum.

"The late filings have all been made, the late fees assessed have been paid in full, and the matter is now closed," Ferguson wrote.

Tuttle now earns \$100,000 a year as a full-time employee for the OAG, according to the Indiana Transparency Portal's state employee

database. She previously earned about \$94,000 across 14 invoices under her contract, according to the portal's vendor dashboard.

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#### Centerpoint Energy Offers Bill Assistance, Energy-Saving Resources as Prices Rise

CenterPoint Energy is encouraging customers to take action now to help manage natural gas bills for the upcoming heating season. The company's Indiana North natural gas territory today announced customers will likely see an incremental increase in their natural gas bills when compared to those of last winter, assuming normal winter weather, due primarily to natural gas market conditions. The volatility of natural gas prices continues to impact utilities across the state and country, but customers can take advantage of CenterPoint Energy's array of payment assistance options as well as energy-saving tips and energy efficiency programs to help mitigate the impact to bills.

This year based upon expected natural gas commodity costs and normal winter weather, customers can expect to pay on average \$135 a month, over the 5-month heating season of November through March. By comparison, last year's average bill amount for the 5-month period was around \$130 a month.

'With the increase in natural gas prices, assuming our region experiences normal weather this heating season,

**CenterPoint**<sub>®</sub> **Energy** customers should expect an incremental increase in their bills," said Ashley Babcock, Vice President,

Indiana and Ohio Gas. "While energy market prices have continued to rise over the last year, offsets such as the completion of the recovery of charges associated with Winter Storm Uri will likely help customers not experience the significant increase of last winter season."

CenterPoint Energy utilities are not allowed to markup, nor profit, from the purchase and sale of natural gas. Natural gas is a commodity bought and sold in a national deregulated market and prices fluctuate daily due to supply and demand pressures.

Only gas costs actually incurred and approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission are recovered from customers. CenterPoint Energy purchases natural gas on behalf of its customers and then passes those costs on to customers through the gas cost adjustment, which is listed

on the bill as "Gas Cost Charge."

Natural gas continues to be the most affordable heating source. In fact, CenterPoint Energy gas customers who heated their homes with natural gas last year saved up to \$1,152 compared to those who heat with propane and up to \$307 to \$1,244 compared to those who heat with an electric heat pump or electric furnace, respectively.

It is important to remember bills will vary by customer depending on the size and age of the home, number of gas appliances, number in the household, thermostat settings and levels of insulation. Customers are encouraged to still implement energy efficiency measures and find ways to use less natural gas to lower bills even further.

CenterPoint Energy has in place several tools to help customers manage their energy bills:

• Energy Assistance **Program (EAP):** State and federal utility assistance dollars are avail-

able for income-eligible customers. Those that fall within 60 percent of state median income should visit their local community action agency to sign up for the EAP. To apply for the EAP, customers should call 1 (800) 872-0371 to locate their nearest community action agency. Customers may also apply any time at the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority website at www.EAP.ihcda.in.gov.

 Universal Service **Program (USP):** All eligible natural gas heating customers who apply and qualify for EAP will automatically be enrolled in the USP, which provides additional gas bill reductions that range from 15 to 32 percent of the total bill received (not including EAP benefits) in the months of December through May. The USP, which has been in place since 2005 is the result of a collaborative effort by CenterPoint Energy, Citizens Energy Group, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, Citizens Action Coalition and a group representing industrial customers.

 Due Date Extension and Payment Arrangement: These are two free offerings which are available to customers in need of a special payment plan on a temporary basis in order to keep service connected and manage energy costs.

• Energy efficiency resources: CenterPoint Energy offers energy efficiency tips, appliance rebates and energy-saving tools to help customers lower their natural gas bills. All Indiana residential and small commercial natural gas customers are eligible. Visit centerpointenergy. com/smartsavings or call 1 (866) 240-8476 for a list of rebates, qualifying appliances and energy efficiency tips

• Budget Bill: Under this billing plan, a customer's estimated costs for a year of gas service are spread in equal monthly bill amounts for the year. This leveling of monthly bill amounts reduces the need to pay the full amount in the winter and spreads some of those higher bill charges into the non-heating months. Amounts are adjusted each summer for actual costs, and the customer's credit or amount due rolls into the next Budget Bill payment for the next 12-month period. Customers can enroll for free on www.centerpointenergy. com or by calling 1 (800) 227-1376.

"We recognize the financial hardships our customers may be facing this heating season, and we want to encourage them to contact us for options to assist in managing costs prior to their first high bill of the heating season,' said Babcock.

"Additionally, customers needing further financial assistance can apply for programs available through our local community action agencies and local non-profits."

**About CenterPoint** Energy:

As the only investor-owned electric and gas utility based in Texas, CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (NYSE: CNP) is an energy delivery company with electric transmission and distribution, power generation and natural gas distribution operations that serve more than 7 million metered customers in Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio and

As of June 30, 2022, the company owned approximately \$35 billion in assets. With approximately 8,900 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 150 years.

For more information, visit CenterPointEnergy.

#### Meeting Notes

#### **Carmel Common** Council Meeting Agenda

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

Council Chambers, City

Hall, One Civic Square

- 1. Call to Order 2. Agenda Approval
- 3. Invocation 4. Pledge of Allegiance
- 5. Recognition of City Employees and Outstanding Citizens
- A. Proclamation Celebrating Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month
- 6. Recognition of Persons Who Wish to Address the Council
- 7. Council and Mayoral Comments/Observations
- 8. Consent Agenda A. Approval of Minutes a. October 3, 2022
- Regular Meeting B. Claims
- a. General Claims \$1,848,829.06
- b. Wire Transfers \$2,482,480.51 9. Action on Mayoral
- Vetoes 10. Committee Reports A. Finance, Utilities and Rules Committee
- B. Land Use and Special Studies Committee C. All reports des-
- ignated by the Chair to qualify for placement under this category. 11. Other Reports - (at
- the first meeting of the month specified below): A. Carmel Redevelopment Commission
- (Monthly) B. Carmel Historic **Preservation Commission** (Quarterly – January, April, July and October)
- C. Audit Committee (Bi-annual - May, October)

- D. Redevelopment Authority (Bi-annual – April, October)
- E. Carmel Cable and **Telecommunications** Commission (Bi-annual – April, October)
- F. Economic Development Commission (Bi-annual - February, August)
- G. Library Board (Annual – February)
- H. Ethics Board (Annual - February)
- I. Public Art Commit-
- tee (Annual August) J. Parks Department (Quarterly - February,
- May, August, November) K. All reports designated by the Chair to qualify for placement
- under this category. 12. Old Business A. Resolution CC-09-**19-22-02:** A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Amending
- Resolution CC-12-21-20-04; Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Aasen, Campbell, Finkam, Rider, and Worrell. Remains in the Finance, Utilities and **Rules Committee.**
- a. Synopsis: Resolution amends prior Council Resolution approving 2021 Redevelopment District Bonds to add certain Palladium projects to the eligible project list.
- **B. Second Reading** of Ordinance D-2639-22: An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Establishing the Appropriations for the 2023 Budget; Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Rider and Aasen. Introduced and held over until the next meeting.
- a. Synopsis: Establishes 2023 appropriations

for the City of Carmel. 13. Public Hearings

A. First Reading of **Ordinance Z-677-22:** An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Rezoning 4 parcels located along 1st Avenue SE to the C2/Mixed Use District; Sponsor: Coun-

- cilor Rider. a. Synopsis: This ordinance rezones 4 parcels located along the west side of 1st Avenue SE, between 1st Street SE and Supply Street to the C2/ Mixed Use District for the purpose of facilitating
- redevelopment. 14. New Business
- A. Resolution CC-10-**17-22-02:** A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, to Petition the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance to Adjust the Levy Limit of the City for Budget Year 2023; Sponsor: Councilor Worrell.
- a. **Synopsis:** The resolution would authorize petitions to the Department of Local Government Finance to adjust the City's 2023 property tax levy by up to \$1,800,000. The basis of the adjustment would recovery of a property tax shortfall.
- **B. Resolution CC-10-17-22-03:** A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Adopting Guidelines for Common Council Legislative Redistricting; Sponsor: Councilor Worrell.
- a. Synopsis: Resolution adopts the procedures and guidelines that will be used to redistrict the City's legislative body districts.

- C. Resolution CC-10-**17-22-01:** A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Approving the 2023 Fee Schedule for Brookshire Golf Course; Sponsor(s): Councilor(s)
- Rider, Aasen and Finkam. a. **Synopsis:** This resolution approves the 2023 fee schedule for Brookshire Golf Course as submitted by the Brookshire General
- Manager. D. First Reading of **Ordinance D-2645-22:** An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Amending Section 8-48 of the Carmel City Code; Sponsor: Councilor Finkam.
- a. Synopsis: Establishes a 3-hour parking zone on a portion of Community Drive.
- 15. Agenda Add-On **Items**
- 16. Other Business A. City Council Appointments
- a. Carmel Audit Committee (Term Expires 1/1/24, two-year term); One appointment.
- B. Approving Mayoral Appointments for the Carmel Historic Preservation Commission
- a. Nick Davis (exp 12/31/23) b. Nick Kestner (exp
- 12/31/24) c. Rosemary Dunkle  $(\exp 12/31/23)$
- d. William Sanders, Jr. (exp 12/31/24) e. Miles Nelson (exp 12/31/2022)
- f. Fred Swift (exp 12/31/22) g. Jeff Lawhead (exp
- 12/31/2024) 17. Announcements
- 18. Adjournment

#### Meeting Notes

#### Westfield Redevelopment Commission (RDC)

Meeting Agenda Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022 at 5 p.m.

Westfield City Hall Assembly Room

The meeting can be viewed online at youtube. com/user/CityofWestfiel-

- 1. Declaration of quorum and opening of meeting
- 2. Approval of Redevelopment Commission September 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- 3. Approval of Claims
- 4. Overlapping Tax Unit Presentation – John Rogers 5. Aptiv Battery Management Systems Expansion Training Grant – Kai
- 6. Standby Land Transfer Agreement - Approval of Land Sale - Birch Dalton

Chuck / Steve Akard

- 7. Ratification of current Grand Park User Agreements - Matt Trnian
- 8. Q3 Grand Park Report - Matt Trnian
- 9. 2023 RDC and Grand Park Budget Approval
- 10. Additional Business before the Commission
- 11. Adjourn

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#### **UBETSY** From Page A1



Photo courtesy of Alan Griffin

Being twins, Marjorie (VanCauwenbergh) Miller and Rosemary (VanCauwenbergh were pictured at the top of their Carmel High School graduating class photo.

old newspaper articles, Victor's father, Frank VanCauwenbergh, appealed to King Albert of Belgium to re-lieve his son from service in the Belgium Army because the boy had run away from home the prior spring.) The parents are buried at Gray Friends Church Cemetery.

Now back to the twins. After a fire that destroyed their home when the twins were 3, the family moved to Carmel where they spent the next 15 years being "The Van Twins," according to Rosemary's daughter, Amy Griffin Stinson, a 1973 Noblesville High School graduate, who shared their story six years ago.

The twins moved just east of the Gray Friends Church in Noblesville, where they attended church and their parents were caretakers. That's where they celebrated their 90th birthday.

The twins' father died when they were 6 years old. When they were 8, they moved to Carmel and lived in a house where the Carmel Lions Club is now, until they were 15.

The twins attended the same school on Main Street in Carmel all 12 years, graduating in 1944. "They were well known

back in the day. Twins were rare because of survival rate, and they were also mirror twins. Mom is right handed and Marjorie is left handed," said Alan Griffin, Rosemary's son, a 1979 No-blesville High School graduate who lives near Amarillo, Texas, and who tagged me in a Facebook post this summer about his mom and her twin's upcoming 96th birthday.

Being twins, they were pictured at the top of their Carmel High School graduating class photo (which is included with this newspaper column).

Rosemary met her future husband, Virgil Griffin, who lived in Sheridan and Noblesville, when she was barely 15 while the twins were working as carhops at a restaurant on U.S. 31.

"Mom married Dad just after World War II. They dated while Mom and Margie worked at a drivein restaurant in Carmel," Alan Griffin said.

Rosemary and Virgil Griffin, a 1942 Noblesville High School graduate, married while she was still in high school in 1943, three days before Virgil was drafted into the U.S. Navy.

Marjorie married Robert Miller when she was

#### Then... and now....



Photo courtesy of Alan Griffin

Twins Marjorie (VanCauwenbergh) Miller (left) and Rosemary (VanCauwenbergh) Griffin at age 3-4 near the White River in Noblesville.



Photo courtesy of Alan Griffin

Identical twins Marjorie (VanCauwenbergh) Miller (left) and Rosemary (VanCauwenbergh) Griffin, who smiled for a photo two months ago, were born Oct. 22, 1926, and are getting ready to turn 96.



Photo courtesy of Alan Griffin

The twins, Marjorie (VanCauwenbergh) Miller and Rosemary (VanCauwenbergh) Griffin (two blond-haired girls), attended the same school on Main Street in Carmel all 12 years, graduating in 1944.

27, but not before breaking the hearts of several young men, according to family stories.

Rosemary and Virgil Griffin moved in 1948 to Noblesville's Riverwood community, where she lived for the next 60 years. They had four children who all graduated from NHS, Diana in 1964, Jay in 1967, Amy in 1973 and Alan in 1979. The Griffins owned and operated a home-improvement business, which Rosemary took over as owner after Virgil died in 1973. The aluminum-siding business ran for more than 26 years. Rosemary also worked for 17 years at the Noblesville Walmart, retiring when she was nearly 80 years

Robert was a career military man, a warrant officer in the U.S. Air Force. He and Marjorie had three children (their oldest son, Stephen Miller, retired from the Air Force a Major General; middle child, the late David Miller; and Melissa Miller-Hudson, who lives near her mother) and were stationed in places as diverse as Germany and Biloxi, Miss. When he retired in 1969, they moved to Orlando, Fla., where they lived for nearly 40 years. Robert died near their 60th wedding anniversary.

Today, Rosemary lives in Greenwood close to daughter, Amy, while Marjorie lives in Winston-Salem, N.C., close to her daughter. Relatives live in Westfield, Sheridan, Fishers and Carmel.

The twins try to see each other every year and talk on the telephone often, Alan Griffin said. Most re-cently, they saw each other about two months ago. They didn't have plans to get together for their actual birthdate due to health reasons. Both are showing signs of dementia.

Both have enjoyed being avid sewers. Even though they lived far apart, it wasn't unusual for them to buy the same patterns and fabric, thereby dressing alike.

One time they were getting ready for bed, and they pulled out the same nightgown.

And imagine this: Virgil took Marjorie to a family reunion instead of Rosemary, and nobody knew the difference.

Contact Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com. As I was writing this newspaper column, I learned that Marjorie Miller may have had a stroke, and Alan's sister, Amy, was on her way to take their mother, Rosemary Griffin, to see Marjorie. Please keep these twins and their families in your prayers.

#### **U** BUDGET

The 2023 budget totals \$105 million and includes \$9.1 million in one-time

spending.
City Controller Jeff
Spalding said the 2023
budget proposal is 13.6
percent larger than its
\$92.5 million adopted
2022 budget due to growth
and reinvestment. Spalding added that property tax
revenue and local income
tax revenue, which makes
up a majority of annual
income for the city, are
both going up.

"The certified net assessed value growth was very high for 2023 at 18 percent. This gives the city a great opportunity to invest more into the community. The average growth was 8.4% for the four preceding years," said Spalding.

"We continue to have very strong cash balances and this allows us to budget \$9.1 million for strategic reinvestment from the spenddown of previously accumulated reserves. That spenddown funds key one-time investments in capital projects, needed equipment, and future capacity. Excluding

From Page A1



Mayor Chris Jensen

this one-time spending, our projected revenues equal expenses."

Like 2022, the budget continues to spend down a portion of the City's reserve balances while maintaining a property tax rate of \$1.10 per \$100 of assessed value, which the city has held flat for four consecutive years.

"Noblesville's 2023 budget is a positive step in funding and addressing infrastructure and local services needs of a growing community," said Council President Megan Wiles.

"After concluding in-depth budget review meetings and considering recommendations and input from department

heads and other stakeholders, I am confident that this budget effectively balances emerging needs and economic trends while ensuring that our ongoing operational spending aligns with revenue growth."

Furthermore, the budget total does not include the over \$5 million in state and federal grant funding the city has been awarded for three major trail projects next year – Little Chicago Road Pedestrian Bridge, Nickel Plate Trail, and the Stony Creek Pedestrian Trail – and more than \$8 million for road projects like Pleasant Street and State Road 32/River Road roundabout.

Additional features within the 2023 Civil City

- \$50,000 for residential façade grant program in
- the city's historic districts.
   \$300,000 for Old
  Town sidewalk repair and
- enhancement program.
   \$356,000 for building and site security improvements.
- Continued infrastructure investments in Innovation Mile.

- Contributions to roundabout projects at SR 38/Whitcomb Ridge, SR 38/Logan, and 141st
- Street/Promise Road.
   \$400,000 to replace and enhance downtown traffic signals.
- Funding for 19 new full-time city employees, including eight new fire fighters and six police officers to address increased service demands from a growing population.
- 3 percent base pay adjustments for employees.
- Vehicle and apparatus replacement for police and fire personnel based on the city's equipment replacement cycle.

About the City of No-

blesville:

Noblesville is the 10th largest city in Indiana, home to more than 69,600 residents and is the county seat in Hamilton County, Indiana. Just north of Indianapolis, the growing city is known for its nationally recognized public schools, extensive public park system and is home to Hamilton Town Center and the outdoor music venue Ruoff Music

#### **UBEER** Fro

From Page A1

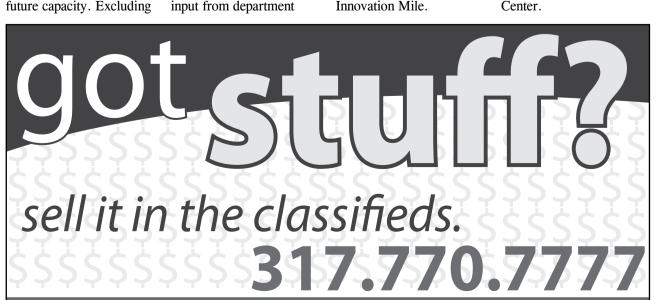
Partnership, added that "many people don't realize the sheer number of invasive species around, even in our own yards, or the level of destruction they create in parks and natural areas we love." She continued, "this beer is a great way to reach new audiences and draw attention to the fact that we can make a difference on invasive species on our own properties or on a larger scale by working together and planting natives."

Bier Brewery has been family-owned and operated since 2010 and has taproom locations in IndiHAMILTON COUNTY
Soil & Water

Conservation District

anapolis and Carmel. A third taproom, located in Noblesville, is planned to open in summer 2023. Native Nectar can be

found at both taproom locations and select package liquor stores in Central Indiana starting on October 21st. A portion of the proceeds from Native Nectar will go back to the Hamilton County Invasives Partnership. You can learn more about invasive species at hcinvasives.org.





www.TheTimes24-7.com



### Did You Know?

- Boone County was founded on April 1, 1880 and was named after Daniel Boone.
- Lebanon, the county seat, has an estimated population of 16,098 and is 15.64 square miles.
- Boone County contains Western Boone, Lebanon and Zionsville Community Schools.
- Abraham Lincoln's funeral train passed through the county in Zionsville, Whitestown, Lebanon, Hazelrigg and Thorntown.
- The county is formed by twelve townships and overall is estimated to have a population of 56,640.

### **Got Words?**

Jamestown experienced three significant fires between 1876 to 1883 which caused considerable damage, yet each time the residents were resilient in reconstructing their community. How do you think natural disasters impact Indiana socially,

environmentally and economically?

# Stumpers

1. If the entire county is 423.25 square miles, then what percentage of land does Lebanon inhabit?

2. How old is Boone County?

3. What percentage of the total population is made up of Lebanon residents?

4. How many schools are located in the county? How old is Boone County?

Answers: 1. About 3.7% 2. 138 years 3. About 28.4%

#### Word

### Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. OEOBN TYUOCN

2. SEIFR

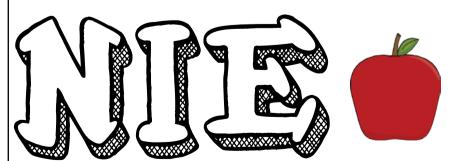
3. NNALBEO

4. SPSONITWH

5. SOMJEWATN

4. Township 5 Jamestown Answers: 1. Boone County 2. Fires 3. A Lebanon

### **Indiana Facts & Fun Is Presented This Week By:**



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Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022



### Indiana Department of Natural Resources

### **DNR Stocks Channel Catfish Statewide**

It's that time of year again, when the weather is cooling, leaves are falling, and the DNR is stocking channel catfish. This fall, DNR will stock 147 locations with approximately 63,742.

To provide additional angling opportunities, the DNR annually stocks channel catfish statewide in publicly accessible waters. All stocked channel catfish are produced by state personnel at the following DNR hatcheries (county): Cikana (Morgan), Driftwood (Jackson), and East Fork (Daviess). All locations should be stocked by the end of October or early November.

The channel catfish range in size from 8-10 inches. Once stocked, these fish acclimate to their new environment quickly and don't take long to start biting. Anglers are encouraged to harvest the catfish, as they make great table fare.

Anglers interested in harvesting channel catfish need to follow bag and size restrictions. In most lakes and reservoirs, the statewide regulation is 10 channel catfish per day in lakes, with no more than one being longer than 28 inches; however, there are a few lakes that have a different bag limit. They are listed at eregulations. com/indiana/fishing/ basic-fishing-information under Special Regulations Waters.

Channel Catfish stocking locations, numbers, and sizes are listed at: wild-life.IN.gov/fishing/indiana-fish-stocking.

To view all fishing regulations, check out our fishing guide at: on.IN. gov/fishingguide

To learn more about catfishing check out: dnr. IN.gov/fish-and-wildlife/fishing/catfish-fishing/

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr. IN.gov.

#### Applications Open For Energy, Water Programs

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Housing and Community **Development Authority** (IHCDA) have opened applications for Indiana's Energy Assistance Program (EAP) and Water **Assistance Program** (WAP). These programs are designed to help households across the state pay their bills and avoid shutoffs, especially during the winter months. Qualified Indiana households can now apply for federal funding to help pay their utility bills. Applications will be accepted until May 15, 2023.

#### **Energy Assistance**

**Program** IHCDA has been managing the Energy Assistance Program (EAP) since 2006. Community organizations designated by the state, called local service providers, are responsible for client intake and eligibility determination. These community organizations ensure that the program covers all 92 counties in Indiana. Information on LSPs can be found by visiting EAP.ihcda.in.gov. EAP can help cover utility costs associated with electricity, gas, and a home's

#### Water Assistance

**Program** Households can apply for water/wastewater utility assistance in the same application as energy assistance. When completing the EAP application, applicants must check a box to apply for water assistance and submit their most recent bill. The same LSPs that administer EAP also administer this program. The water assistance program is a temporary emergency program to help low-income households catch up on their water and wastewater bills during the COVID-19 pandemic, though the program does not require proof of COVID-19 hardship to apply.

#### Eligibility Require-

ments Households that make 60% of the state median income (60 SMI) or less are encouraged to apply for the program. See the chart below for a more detailed breakdown of income eligibility requirements. If a household is unsure if they meet income requirements, they are encouraged to fill out an application with the proper documentation so their eligibility can be determined.

### **As Ransomware Attacks Increase, New Algorithm May Help Prevent Power Blackouts**

Millions of people could suddenly lose electricity if a ransomware attack just slightly tweaked energy flow onto the U.S. power grid.

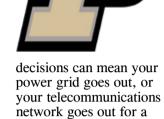
No single power utility company has enough resources to protect the entire grid, but maybe all 3,000 of the grid's utilities could fill in the most crucial security gaps if there were a map showing where to prioritize their security investments.

Purdue University researchers have developed an algorithm to create that map. Using this tool, regulatory authorities or cyber insurance companies could establish a framework that guides the security investments of power utility companies to parts of the grid at greatest risk of causing a blackout if hacked.

Power grids are a type of critical infrastructure, which is any network whether physical like water systems or virtual like health care record keeping – considered essential to a country's function and safety. The biggest ransomware attacks in history have happened in the past year, affecting most sectors of critical infrastructure in the U.S. such as grain distribution systems in the food and agriculture sector and the Colonial Pipeline, which carries fuel throughout

the East Coast.
With this trend in mind, Purdue researchers evaluated the algorithm in the context of various types of critical infrastructure in addition to the power sector. The goal is that the algorithm would help secure any large and complex infrastructure system against cyberattacks.

"Multiple companies own different parts of infrastructure. When ransomware hits, it affects lots of different pieces of technology owned by different providers, so that's what makes ransomware a problem at the state, national and even global level," said Saurabh Bagchi, a professor in the Elmore Family School of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security at Purdue. "When you are investing security money on large-scale infrastructures, bad investment



few days."
Protecting infrastructure from hacks
by improving security
investment decisions

The researchers tested the algorithm in simulations of previously reported hacks to four infrastructure systems: a smart grid, industrial control system, e-commerce platform and web-based telecommunications network. They found that use of this algorithm results in the most optimal allocation of security investments for reducing the impact

of a cyberattack.

The team's findings appear in a paper presented at this year's IEEE
Symposium on Security and Privacy, the premier conference in the area of computer security. The team comprises Purdue professors Shreyas Sundaram and Timothy Cason and former PhD students Mustafa Abdallah and Daniel Woods.

"No one has an infinite security budget. You must decide how much to invest in each of your assets so that you gain a bump in the security of the overall system," Bagchi said.

The power grid, for example, is so interconnected that the security decisions of one power utility company can greatly impact the operations of other electrical plants. If the computers controlling one area's generators don't have adequate security protection, then a hack to those computers would disrupt energy flow to another area's generators, forcing

them to shut down.

Since not all of the grid's utilities have the same security budget, it can be hard to ensure that critical points of entry to the grid's controls get the most investment in security protection.

The algorithm that Purdue researchers developed would incentivize each security decision

maker to allocate security investments in a way that limits the cumulative damage a ransomware attack could cause. An attack on a single generator, for instance, would have less impact than an attack on the controls for a network of generators. Power utility companies would be incentivized to invest more in security measures for the controls over a network of generators rather than for the protection of a single generator.

Building an algorithm that considers the effects of human behavior

Bagchi's research shows how to increase cybersecurity in ways that address the interconnected nature of critical infrastructure but don't require an overhaul of the entire infrastructure system to be implemented.

As director of Purdue's Center for Resilient Infrastructures, Systems, and Processes, Bagchi has worked with the U.S. Department of Defense, Northrop Grumman Corp., Intel Corp., Adobe Inc., Google LLC and IBM Corp. on adopting solutions from his research. Bagchi's work has revealed the advantages of establishing an automatic response to attacks and has led to key innovations against ransomware threats, such as more effective ways to make decisions about backing up data

There's a compelling reason why incentivizing good security decisions would work, Bagchi said. He and his team designed the algorithm based on findings from the field of behavioral economics, which studies how people make decisions with money.

"Before our work, not much computer security research had been done on how behaviors and biases affect the best defense mechanisms in a system. That's partly because humans are terrible at evaluating risk and an algorithm doesn't have any human biases,' Bagchi said. "But for any system of reasonable complexity, decisions about security investments are almost always made with humans in the loop. For our algorithm, we explicitly consider the fact that different participants in an infrastructure system have different

biases."

To develop the algorithm, Bagchi's team started by playing a game. They ran a series of experiments analyzing how groups of students chose to protect fake assets with fake investments. As in past studies in behavioral economics, they found that most study participants guessed poorly which assets were the most valuable and should be protected from security attacks. Most study participants also tended to spread out their investments instead of allocating them to one asset even when they were told which asset is the most vulnerable to an attack.

Using these findings, the researchers designed an algorithm that could work two ways: Either security decision makers pay a tax or fine when they make decisions that are less than optimal for the overall security of the system, or security decision makers receive a payment for investing in the most optimal manner.

"Right now, fines are levied as a reactive measure if there is a security incident. Fines or taxes don't have any relationship to the security investments or data of the different operators in critical infrastructure," Bagchi said.

In the researchers' simulations of real-world infrastructure systems, the algorithm successfully minimized the likelihood of losing assets to an attack that would decrease the overall security of the infrastructure system.

Bagchi's research group is working to make the algorithm more scalable and able to adapt to an attacker who may make multiple attempts to hack into a system. The researchers' work on the algorithm is funded by the National Science Foundation, the Wabash Heartland Innovation Network and the Army

Research Lab.
Cybersecurity is an area of focus through Purdue's Next Moves, a set of initiatives that works to address some of the greatest technology challenges facing the U.S. Purdue's cybersecurity experts offer insights and assistance to improve the protection of power plants, electrical grids and other critical infrastructure.





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# **Commission for Higher Education Hires Two Associate Commissioners**

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education announces the hiring of Michelle Ashcraft and Dr. Stacy Townsley as associate commissioner for K-12 strategy and associate commissioner for adult strategy, respectively.

Both positions are newly created to address Indiana's declining college-going rate, increasing pressure on the value proposition of higher education and the roughly 2 million working-age Hoosiers without a credential beyond a high school diploma. The two new associate commissioners will work with the Commission's outreach team members, state agencies, community and philanthropic partners and employers to further the Commission's policies and programs.

"Michelle and Stacy are results- and outcomes-oriented leaders who will bring tremendous value to our work with K-12 and adult learners," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "The needs of K-12 students and adult

learners vary greatly when it comes to deciding to pursue education and training beyond high school. The decision to add two new associate commissioners will allow our agency to address those needs and make the biggest impact for our work on behalf of Hoosiers."

Michelle AshcraftMichelle Ashcraft joins the Commission as its first associate commissioner for K-12 strategy. Prior to joining the agency, Ashcraft served as the director of Purdue Promise at Purdue University West Lafayette since 2012. Her previous work in higher education focused on new and continuing student transitions. In her new role, Ashcraft will oversee the development, planning and implementation of the Commission's K-12 strategy with an intentional focus on improving 21st Century Scholars program utilization, the college-going rate of high school graduates, completion of the Indiana College Core, increased participation in

ment, among others.

"Whether a student's pathway leads them to employment, enrollment or enlistment leading to service, we know that they will need education or training beyond a high school diploma," said Indiana Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner. "As we continue to help all Hoosiers chart that path, it takes an all-hands-on-deck approach to support Indiana's students, and with the addition of Michelle and Stacy, IDOE and CHE will continue to strengthen our collaboration and ultimately, our collective impact for students.'

Stacy TownsleyDr.
Stacy Townsley joins the
Commission as its first
associate commissioner for
adult strategy. Townsley
most recently served as
vice president for adult
strategy and statewide
partnerships at Ivy Tech
Community College.
Within her work in higher
education, she has actively
contributed to the development of national policy
and practice frameworks

supporting adult learners.

In her new role, Townsley will oversee the development, planning and implementation of the Commission's adult strategy for postsecondary attainment, intentionally focusing on decreasing the number of Hoosier adults without postsecondary credentials and increasing Workforce Ready Grant completions and Adult Student Grant utilization.

"The addition of these two leaders provides Indiana with the opportunity to further elevate its workforce and keep pace with the evolving job market," said Indiana Department of Workforce Development Commissioner David Adams. "We strive to better understand employers' requirements and can meet those goals by developing education strategies. This investment will better equip Hoosier students with the knowledge, skills and abilities employers need."

Ashcraft and Townsley were formally approved by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education at its Sept. 8, 2022 meeting.

# **CenterPoint Energy**

#### CenterPoint Energy Introduces New Home Repair Service Program

CenterPoint Energy understands that an unexpected home repair can be a big disruption to daily routines and a financial hardship for many of its customers. To help address these concerns, CenterPoint Energy is introducing an optional repair service program to its residential customers in Indiana and Ohio. The program, offered through HomeServe-USA Corp., an independent provider of home repair service solutions, is designed to help customers save money and reduce the inconvenience when they experience an urgent home repair covered by the program.

The HomeServe program utilizes a network of vetted local contractors. Utilization of local contractors not only bolsters the local economy, but it also provides customers with greater peace-of-mind knowing that repairs are performed properly by contractors who are licensed, insured and background-checked.

HomeServe estimates that since 2018 Center-Point Energy customers in its other service territories have saved more than \$30 million in out-of-pocket repair expenses. Approximately 410,000 of Center-Point Energy's customers use the protection available through this program.

Additionally,
HomeServe and CenterPoint Energy's Home
Service Plus business are
committed to the communities they serve and are
pledging \$500,000 over
the next five years to The
Salvation Army in Indiana
and the Ohio Salvation
Army to support social
services that benefit local

communities. "When you have an unexpected repair in your home, it can be costly," said Gregg Knight, Executive Vice President of Customer Transformation and Business Services at CenterPoint Energy. "With this expanded program from HomeServe, CenterPoint Energy customers in Indiana and Ohio can opt into a repair service plan that will make an unexpected home repair less stressful with skilled local technicians ready to serve. This is another way that we are always looking out for our customers."

Through HomeServe, a leading provider of utility sponsored home service solutions, the program is designed to help provide homeowners with protection against the expense and inconvenience of covered repairs to customer-owned natural gas lines and exterior electrical components that connect to CenterPoint Energy's electric grid and natural gas systems.

Due to normal wear and tear, these repairs to customer-owned equipment can be costly and are not typically covered by basic homeowners' insurance. Plan holders have access to a HomeServe Repair Hotline that is accessible 24-hours-a-day, 365-daysa-year to schedule local, licensed and insured contractors right to their home for repairs. With covered repairs, there are no deductibles or trip charges, and multiple service calls are available up to the benefit amount.

"HomeServe and CenterPoint Energy share a commitment to providing exceptional customer service," said Tom Rusin, CEO of HomeServe North America. "These plans are custom-designed for worry-free home repairs for CenterPoint Energy's customers."

CenterPoint Energy customers will soon receive information in the mail about the new service program from HomeServe. There is no obligation to sign up for it and program participation is voluntary. The mailings will include the CenterPoint Energy logo to indicate that the mailing is legitimate and that there is a program relationship in place between CenterPoint and HomeServe.

For more information about this program please go to www.homeserve. com or midwest.centerpointenergy.com/homeservices or call HomeServe toll-free at (833) 397-0314 in Indiana and (833) 397-0313 in Ohio.

### Purdue Team Introduces Advance in Automatic Forest Mapping Technology

How lightning travels from the sky to the ground inspired the concept behind a new algorithmic approach to digitally separate individual trees from their forests in automatic forest mapping.

"When lightning travels from the sky to the ground, it finds the path of least resistance through the atmosphere," said Joshua Carpenter, a PhD student in Purdue's Lyles School of Civil Engineering. That led him to think the same way of his digital forest data, or point cloud.

"If I could somehow treat all of the points in this point cloud like a path of least resistance, that will tell me something about where the tree is located," Carpenter said. The concept also works from a plant biology standpoint.

"Every leaf in a tree needs to be supplied with nutrients, and nutrients come from the ground. So, we find the shortest route for tree nutrients from the canopy down to the ground."

Carpenter and four
Purdue co-authors published the details of their
mapping methods recently
in the journal Remote
Sensing. The approach
means the difference between mapping a few trees
to mapping hundreds of
acres at a time quickly and
with high accuracy. It also
could lead to making digital twins of forests, which
could improve management planning in the face
of climate change, disease

outbreaks and population growth.

dual credit and dual enroll-

The work was partially supported by Purdue's Integrated Digital Forestry Initiative. This initiative, one of the five strategic investments in Purdue's Next Moves, leverages digital technology and multidisciplinary expertise to measure, monitor and manage urban and rural forests to maximize social, economic and ecological benefits.

"We developed a new individual tree segmentation algorithm that can be used to do tree inventory for large areas," said article co-author Jinha Jung, assistant professor of civil engineering. Carpenter is a member of Jung's Geospatial Data Science Laboratory, which specializes in mapping and measurement.

"Another contribution of this paper is how to evaluate the performance of the segmentation algorithm with data collected from the ground," Jung said.

The algorithm has proven more highly accurate according to most metrics, often by a wide margin, when compared to the current state of the art. Validation involves directly tagging and measuring individual trees in the field to correlate with Li-DAR data collected at the ground level and aerially at different times of the year to capture trees that are leafy and leafless.

collection methods: photogrammetry (creating 3D imagery from 2D photographs) and two types of LiDAR (aerial and ground-based).

Data in the point cloud have the same structure, but the data from each method contain different anomalies. One might capture tree canopy top details quite well but miss elements of the trunk and vice versa. Sometimes features in the landscape block data collection, too.

"The goal is to use all of the different point clouds that are available to make a flexible algorithm," Carpenter explained. "But coming up with a method to work with each of the specific anomalies is challenging."

Working in the 400-acre Martell Forest about 8 miles east of campus, the Purdue team continues to broaden the scope of its

technology.

"How can we get from several hundred acres to several thousand or several hundred thousand, and then to every tree on the planet? That's the future," said article co-author Songlin Fei, professor and Dean's Chair of Remote Sensing in Forestry and Natural Resources. "The issue is how to scale it up."

Taking inventory requires tedious fieldwork to sample 5% or 10% of an area. "A 100% inventory has never been an option. This paper is demonstrating technologies that allow a census of every single tree. We're talking about

a tremendous leap," Fei said.

The Remote Sensing paper focuses on forest mapping, but more algorithms will be needed to achieve complete inventories.

"We sen do dispeter"

"We can do diameter measurements with this data. But how about other key inventory features, like straightness, timber grade or species identification? Those are yet to be accomplished," Fei said.

The technologies now make it possible to produce a digital twin of an entire forest to see the potential effects of an ice storm or high winds.

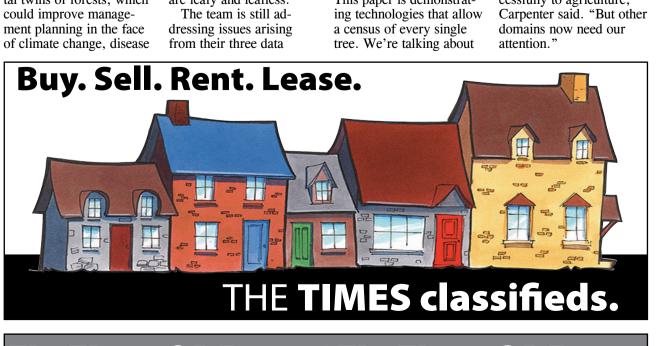
"If you do a forest management plan, you cannot just harvest the trees and see how it looks," Fei noted. "But in the digital world, you can cut any tree you want, and you can put it back. That allows you to do simulations and better management planning."

planning."

In recent decades, geospatial data have vastly increased agricultural production. The Purdue researchers seek to do likewise for forestry, a source of important raw materials for construction and fuel. Catastrophic wildfires and invasive species that have wiped out large stands of American chestnut and ash trees now focus attention on the

importance of forests.

"We have applied all these technologies successfully to agriculture,"
Carpenter said. "But other domains now need our attention."



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Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022

#### **Purdue Extension Helps Build Community Resilience After Natural Disasters**

Purdue Extension is continuing its role serving as an administrative lead for the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) and expanding disaster education response throughout America. EDEN, a multistate collaboration of land-grant Extension Services, including 1862, 1890, 1994, Hispanic-serving institutions and Sea Grant programs, aims to reduce the impact of disasters through research-based education.

Since 2003, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has provided EDEN with funding to support coordination, communications and resource development. Principal investigator Jason Henderson, director of Purdue Extension and senior associate dean of the Purdue College of Agriculture, and co-principal investigators Michael Wilcox, program leader of Purdue Extension's Community Development Program, and Abby Lillpop, National EDEN project coordinator, recently received additional funding to advance agrosecurity and community resilience through Extension program innovations.

As part of its national coordination of EDEN, Purdue Extension has outlined new goals to ensure its effectiveness and long-term success. The first goal is to protect U.S. agriculture and food systems during all phases of disasters by expanding Cooperative Extension's educational resources and programming. Secondly, Purdue plans to expand opportunities for Extension to engage and improve the quality of life in underserved communities by furthering the capacity of the current 1890 Extension system to deliver disaster programming.

"Rural communities and agriculture are disproportionately vulnerable when it comes to natural disasters as damage is often not covered by risk-management agencies. Through partnerships at the local level, EDEN is vital in helping communities recover when disaster strikes," Hender-

son said. Purdue Extension has invested in developing Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) to prepare communities to rapidly respond to weather-related disasters, resulting in coverage of nearly 75 percent of Indiana's 92 counties. In partnership with the University of Illinois, University of Nebraska, University of Missouri and Washington State University, EDEN is prioritizing developing COADs across the nation to partner with local emergency management and nonprofits.

"Since responding to the catastrophic Mississippi and Missouri river floods in 1993 to launching educational programming to protect our nation's food supply after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Purdue Extension has been a driving force for the evolution of EDEN. Our capacity and strength to serve communities efficiently and rapidly in times of need is critical for addressing agrosecurity challenges, Lillpop said.

#### Lt. Gov. Crouch, **OCRA Award Indiana Connectivity Funding to Expand Broadband Access**

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs today announced the third round of the Indiana Connectivity Program awarded \$760,727 to expand broadband access to 197 addresses across 28 Indiana counties. The program aims to help more Hoosier residents and business owners obtain access to high-speed, quality broadband.

The Indiana Connectivity Program acts as a tool to connect residents and businesses that lack internet service with internet service providers and assist in the expense of extending broadband to unserved and underserved locations.

"This program is unique to broadband initiatives across the country because it provides people a space to express their need for reliable broadband access," Crouch said. "Expanding internet connectivity is a priority and allowing Hoosiers to voice their need for access is important to ensure all are connected across the state."

Of the 197 addresses

funded, 188 are households and nine are businesses. Internet providers carrying out the projects are matching over \$1.8 million for a total investment of \$2.6 million. To find a list of providers granted funding, visit in.gov/ocra/broadband/

"Our rural Hoosiers should have the ability to work and connect online in the same capacity of those in urban areas,' said OCRA Executive Director Denny Spinner. "The Indiana Connectivity Program is now helping nearly 200 additional locations to gain broadband access and achieve this goal."

The program accepts addresses on a rolling basis. Hoosiers and business owners lacking internet connectivity can communicate their interest by entering their address and information into the Next Level Connections portal at in.gov/ocra/broadband.

Broadband providers must complete their projects within nine months of the contract date. For more information, visit in.gov/ocra/broadband/

#### DNR Forestry to Hold Multiple Open Houses

The public is invited to the respective open houses that DNR Division of Forestry will host on Oct. 17, 18, and 19.

During the events, division personnel will display information on forest, recreation, and facility management. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and comment. Written comments can be submitted at dnr.IN.gov/forestry/ state-forest-management/ public-comment/submit

A guided hike starting at 5 p.m. will be offered during each open house listed below. Those participating in the hike should meet at the office.

"These open house events provide Hoosiers with a chance to receive first-hand information about how the state forests are working to provide diverse wildlife habitat, forest products, and recreational opportunities,' State Forester John Seifert said. "They also allow us to receive valuable feedback from our neighbors and users about state forest management — I encourage everyone who has an interest to participate."

Open houses will be offered as follows:



#### Indiana Department of Natural Resources

 Jackson-Washington and Selmier State Forests: Oct. 17, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Jackson-Washington State Forest office, which is 2.5 miles east of Brownstown, just east of the Jackson County Fairgrounds on State Road 250. Call 812-358-2160 for more

information. • Owen-Putnam State Forest: Oct. 17, 4 to 7 p.m. at the property office, which is 5 miles west of Spencer and less than a mile north of State Road 46. Call 812-829-2462 for

more information. • Martin State Forest: Oct. 17, 4 to 7 p.m. at the property office off U.S. 50, approximately 4 miles northeast of Shoals. Call 812-247-3491 for more information.

• Clark State Forest: Oct. 18, 4 to 7 p.m. at the property office, which is

a mile north of Henryville on U.S. 31. Call 812-294-4306 for more informa-

• Ferdinand-Pike State Forest: Oct. 18, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Ferdinand State Forest office, off State Road 264, approximately 4 miles northeast of Ferdinand. Call 812-367-1524 for more information.

• Salamonie River and Frances Slocum State Forests: Oct. 18, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Salamonie River State Forest office off State Road 524, approximately 6 miles east of Wabash. Call 260-782-0430

for more information. • Morgan-Monroe, Ravinia, Yellowwood, and Mountain Tea State Forests: Oct. 19, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Morgan-Monroe State Forest office off State Road 37, approximately 6 miles south of Martinsville. Call 765-792-4654 for more information.

 Harrison-Crawford State Forest: Oct. 19, 4 to 7 p.m. at the property office off State Road 462, just past the gatehouse for O'Bannon Woods State Park. Call 812-738-7694 for more information.

• Greene-Sullivan State Forest: Oct. 19, 4 to 7 p.m. at the property office on State Road 159, approximately 1.5 miles south of Dugger. Call 812-648-2810 for more information.

Property staff members are also often available during normal business hours, which are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. See dnr. IN.gov/forestry/properties for contact information.

The DNR Division of Forestry promotes and practices good stewardship of natural, recreational, and cultural resources on Indiana's public and private forest lands. This stewardship produces continuing benefits, both tangible and intangible, for present and future generations.

To view more DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

#### **Donation from State Farm Funds Free Car Seats**

seats have been installed for families in need at Franciscan Health Car Seat Safety Clinics in Western Indiana this year, thanks to a \$20,000 grant from State Farm.

Additional car seats will be distributed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. EST on Saturday, Oct. 8, at West Lafayette Fire Station 3, 1100 W. Kalberer Road in West Lafayette. During the event, car seats will be installed by a certified technician. Caregivers must bring children to the event to allow the technicians to create a safe, proper fit. Those who already have car seats are welcome to have them checked for proper installation.

A formal presentation was made by State Farm **Public Affairs Specialist** Jim Slaven at the car seat clinic held on Saturday, Sept. 24, at Lafayette Fire Station 5 in Lafayette. State Farm's \$20,000 donation went to the purchase of 281 car seats for distribution in the community.

"We are very excited to offer car seat clinics again to the communities we serve. So far, we have checked more than 160 seats and have provided 100-plus seats to those in need. We are grateful to State Farm for providing grant funding for the new car seats, the fire stations who have hosted us and all of the car seat technicians

More than 100 free car and volunteers who have donated their time," said Tristan Kirby, Franciscan Health director of Community Education in Western Indiana.

> The State Farm donation provided 37 car and booster seats at Franciscan Health's Crawfordsville clinic on August 13 and 30 more seats at the Rensselaer clinic on August 27. At the Lafayette clinic, 47 car and booster seats were provided to families in need.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration recommends all drivers who transport young children in passenger vehicles have their car seats checked by a certified technician.

Those seeking a free car seat must meet eligibility requirements, and reservations are required. To schedule an appointment and determine eligibility, call (765) 449-5133 or register online at franciscanhealthcare.formstack. com/forms/carseat.

State Farm Public Affairs Specialist Jim Slaven (middle) presenting check to Franciscan Health representatives: Shelly Tansey, Community Education secretary (left) and Tristan Kirby, Franciscan Health director of Community Education in Western Indiana (right.)

During the clinic, technicians installed and checked car seats to make sure they were safe.



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