⇒ TODAY'S VERSE

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discour-

for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (NIV)



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

What makes Emily Seig smile? "Coming to work everyday and seeing these awesome kiddos and getting to really make a difference in their lives," said the program facilitator at the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville. The former Club kid, who has worked for the club for five years, was found supervising the monthly pizza meal served up by Noblesville Elks Club. The 2017 Noblesville High School graduate, the daughter of Joe and Mary Theresa Seig, is 23 years old and a student at lvy Tech Hamilton County Campus in Noblesville. "I go to school, and I come here after school." She is earning her associate's degree in General Studies before she moves to Florida to work at Walt Disney Co. full time. How did she get that gig? "I did the Disney college program for the past six months. From January to July, I was in Disney World working a regular parks job," enjoying a paid internship. She is finishing college thanks to an lvy Tech scholarship. Once I go back, my leaders want me to pursue the Disney professional internship program. So I would have a leadership position at the park. I want to do entertainment, live shows and parades, said the former NHS MadJazz singer and cast member of "A Christmas Carol The Musical"

And Another Few Things...

at The Belfry Theatre.

1. Back at it Again

The Noblesville Times once again has free tickets to give away for the Christmas Gift + Hobby Show. This year's extravaganza is scheduled for Nov. 9-13 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

All you have to do to win two tickets (valued at \$28) is send us a selfie of you and our front page (Print or Online Edition). Be sure to tell us who you are, where you are from and a little bit about yourself so we can include it if your photo is selected to publish on our front page. If we use your smiling photo on our front page - you win! It's really that simple! You can text or e-mail it to news@thetimes24-7.com.

2. Saturday Boo Bash

Boo Bash, presented by Centier Bank, is back! Come out to the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Saturday to celebrate Halloween with Fishers Parks and the Fishers community. Kids can walk the trick-or-treat trail to get free candy and prizes from more than 60 local businesses, organizations and city departments, enjoy food trucks, music and more! This event is free, and no registration is required. All are welcome and costumes are

encouraged. Fishers Parks will also be hosting more than 40 Teal Pumpkin Project booths, offering alternative prize items for those with dietary restrictions. See a list of all participating vendors, including Teal Pumpkin Project booths, online at playfishers.com/572/

3. Free Yoga in Fishers

Free yoga classes are making their return to Billericay Park this winter starting Nov. 9! Join Fishers Parks from 9 to 10 a.m. every Wednesday for a class that's open to all skill levels. No pre-registration is required; Just bring your yoga mat! All sessions are guided by Roots & Wings Yoga Wellness

4. Trunk or Treat

The First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville has invited Noblesville to a free Trunk-or-Treat event in the church parking lot on this Saturday from 5-7 pm at 1207 Conner Street, Noblesville

Bring your little ghouls and goblins and enjoy lots of treats, a make-n-take craft, music, and a brown bag hotdog dinner. In the event of inclement weather, all festivities will be held inside. For any questions, call the church at (317) 773-2383.

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM

Lots of Trunk-or-Treating, Live Music, Elvis Tribute, **Community Band Night**



BETSY REASON The Times Editor

Putting together this week's Things to Do, I've found most of the activities are Halloween related. I shared a list of Halloween happenings in Thursday's edition of The Times.

However, since there are so many trunk-or-treat events that keep coming in, I'm sharing with today's readers our large list of trunk-or-treat happenings, during which cars are decked out in themes, from Halloween, to Disney, and trick-or-treaters stop at the back of each decorated vehicle and receive candy. There are also some trunk-ortreat events that offer games for the kids.

Here's my list of trunk-ortreat events, followed by some other upcoming things to do:

1. Attend a trick-or-treat event at Grand Junction Plaza in downtown Westfield at 5:30 p.m. today, then gather on the Great Lawn for Movies in the Plaza at 7:30 p.m. featuring

2. Participate in a Trunk or Treat event at 6 p.m. today at Noblesville Moose Lodge.

3. Enjoy trunk-or-treat from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Bethel Lutheran Church in Noblesville.

4. Life Church campuses invite kids to attend trunk-or-treat and games on Saturday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Fishers campus and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Noblesville

5. Enjoy Trick-or-Treat on the Rails, a 65-minute adventure down the rails, from 2 p.m. to 3:05 p.m. Saturday and Sunday on the Nickel Plate Express. Wear your best costume for a Halloween costume contest.

6. A Trunk-or-Treat event is 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville at 1207 Conner St. Enjoy treats. make-n-take craft, music, and a brown-bag hot dog dinner. In case of inclement weather, activities will move inside.

7. Dress in costume and bring your candy bag for First Christian Church's Trunk or Treat 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Noblesville church.

8. Noblesville families can attend a Trunk-or-Treat event organized by Noblesville High School Thespian Troupe and Drama Club, with the help of NHS clubs, sports teams, faculty and staff, NHS Theatre parents and Noblesville businesses, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday in the NHS Parking Lot by Gate 1 (by the flagpole),

⇒See BETSY Page A6

Find Your Early Voting Location

Early voting locations across Hamilton County opened on Oct. 12. Locations remain open in the run up to Election Day. Below, you can find dates, times, and locations across **Hamilton County:** Noblesville

• Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville - Oct. 28 from 8 a.m.-4:30

- Oct. 29 from 9 a.m.-4

- Oct. 31-Nov. 4 from 8

a.m.-4:30 p.m. - Nov. 5 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Nov. 7 from 8 a.m.-12

p.m., noon • Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street,

Noblesville - Oct. 28-29 from 9 a.m.-4

- Oct. 31-Nov. 5 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Nov. 7 from 8 a.m.-12

Fishers

• Roy G Holland Memorial Park Building, 1 Park Drive,

• Billericay Park Building, 12690 Promise Road, Fishers - Oct. 28-29 from 10 a.m.-3

- Nov. 2-3 from 2 p.m.-7

- Nov. 4-5 from 10 a.m.-3

Westfield

• Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn Street, Westfield
• Cool Creek Nature Center,

2000-1 E 151st St, Carmel Oct. 28-29 from 10 a.m.-3

- Nov. 2-3 from 2-7 p.m. - Nov. 4-5 from 10 a.m.-3

⇒See VOTING Page A6

Sunrise/Sunset RISE: 8:08 a.m. **SET:** 6:46 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures HIGH: 70 °F **LOW:** 43 °F

Today is...

- Frankenstein Friday
- National Chocolate day • Vote Early Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1636 The Massachusetts Bay Colony votes to establish a college which would later become Harvard University
- 1726 The novel *Gulliv*er's Travels is published • **1886** U.S. president Grover Cleveland dedicates the Statue of Liberty

Births On This Day

• 1955 Bill Gates American businessman and Microsoft co-founder

• 1974 Joaquin Phoenix American actor

Deaths On This Day • 1704 John Locke English philosopher and physician

• **1998** Ted Hughes English poet

Noblesville High School Hosts Career Fair

p.m.

Over 100 representatives from 73 different local companies participated in a career fair at Noblesville High School this past Tuesday morning. Freshman students visited exhibitor booths to learn more about community companies and career opportunities in our area. They also worked on 4-year academic planning and participated in a session on safe technology usage led by school resource officers.



Jill Castor with IU Health demonstrated how to stop bleeding



Mark LaBarr talks about the lineman apprenticeship program



Local author Janet Hart Leonard spoke with students about careers in writing.



Todd Thurston with Hare Automotive answers questions about working in sales.

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HONEST HOOSIER

Why do some places limit when kids go trick or treating? Didn't we all grow up just doing it on the actual holiday?



it actually reinforces it. 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.



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP Smoking does not relieve stress

thetimes24-7.com.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"The witches fly across the sky, The owls go, 'Who? Who? Who?' The black cats yowl And green ghosts howl, 'Scary Halloween to you!" "

- Nina Willis Walter

TODAY'S JOKE

What do ghosts say when something is really neat? Ghoul!



OBITUARIES Barbara 'Barb' Joan (Miers) Cook

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





PAGE TWO 🗉 FRIDAY, OCT. 28, 2022

OBITUARIES

Barbara 'Barb' Joan (Miers) Cook

July 17, 1948-October 27, 2022

Barbara 'Barb' Joan (Miers) Cook, 74, of Fishers, Indiana, formerly of Crawfordsville, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022 at her home. She was born on July 17, 1948 in

She was born on July 17, 1948 in Greensburg, Ind., as the first daughter of Emerson and Joan (Jackson) Miers.

Mrs. Cook was a 1966 graduate of Burney High School (Decatur County) as Valedictorian and later received

her Bachelor and Masters degrees in Elementary Education from Purdue University. She was a 5th grade teacher for 24 years, primarily in the Linden and Southeast Fountain Schools. She married Frederick 'Fred' Cook over 53 years ago at The Burney United Methodist Church.

She was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Crawfordsville for over 45 years where she served on many boards, the handbell choir and as Church Librarian. Mrs. Cook enjoyed participating in book and Euchre clubs, and in her exercise and coffee groups. She especially enjoyed supporting and watching her children's and grandchildren's school and sport activities. She traveled to most states and several countries. After her retirement, Mrs. Cook always looked forward to spending the month of February in Siesta Key, Fla.

Survivors include her husband Fred Cook; son Troy (Armorelle) Cook of North Vernon, Ind.; daughter Melissa (Matt) Dietterle of Fishers; son-in-law Kevin Dubber of Olmstead, Ohio; grandchildren Connor Cook, Rowan Cook, Brennan Cook, Graham Cook, Kamden Dubber and Madelynn Dietterle; and sister Cheryll Evans.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter DeLynn (Cook) Dubber; sister Kay (Miers) Royer; and brother-in-law Ed Evans.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road in Fishers. Services are scheduled to be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 7, 2022 at the funeral home, with nephew Pastor Micah Mobley officiating. Burial is scheduled to follow the service at 2 p.m. at Union Chapel Cemetery in Decatur County, Ind.

Memorial contributions may be made to Crawfordsville First Baptist Church, 1905 Lebanon Road, Crawfordsville, Ind. 47933.

Online condolences may be made at randallroberts.com.

Meeting Notice

Hamilton County Election Board

The Hamilton County Election Board will convene a public meeting at 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 31, 2022 in the

Conference Room of the Hamilton County Clerk's Office. The purpose of the meeting is to sign a reosluton for the purpose of participating in a post-election audit of the Nov. 8 General Election.

Want **TO GO**?

The Westfield Chamber of Commerce will convene with community leaders next Thursday for a ribbon cutting ceremony for Collective Beauty to celebrate their move to a new location.

Where: 380 E. Main St., Westfield

When: Nov. 3 at 5 p.m.

Good to know: No advance registration is required. **For more information:** To learn more about Collective Beauty, visit collectivebeautysalonspa.com

Obituary deadline

The Times publishes obituaries daily at www.
thetimes24-7.com, and in its print product every day
with the exception of Sundays and Tuesdays.
All obituaries must come from a funeral home.
A photo may be included and should be sent as a highresolution JPEG.

Daily obituary deadline is 4 p.m. for the following day's print publication.

To read more obituaries, visit www.thetimes24-7.com.

Those Are Fighting Words



DICK WOLFSIE Funny Bone

A woman who keeps quiet during an argument with her husband is four times more likely to die from heart disease. This is according to a study that was published in the journal of Psychosomatic Medicine, a publication I don't generally read, but in my doctor's office I had a choice of that or a 1993 Reader's Digest.

So, let me understand this. If I argue with my wife, I'm a boorish brute and a sexist. But if she wants to argue with me, she'll live longer? It suggests that more and more women will be eager to take issue with their husbands' point of view in the hopes of staying healthy. This puts men in a tough spot. My favorite phrase to Mary Ellen: "Would it kill you to agree with me for a change?" has a new meaning.

This same journal also revealed to the public that drinking several cups of coffee a day is good for your health, only months after the same publication said coffee causes heart disease. For a long time, they also said it was tea that is good for you, so now I'm drinking both tea and coffee four times a day, just to be sure. I'm not convinced I will live longer, but since I can never fall asleep, it will certainly feel longer.

My wife and I have argued about some odd stuff over the years. ("Argue" is probably a bad choice of words, because Mary Ellen always reads this weekly column before it

gets published and she wouldn't want readers to assume we don't get along.) We talked about this the other day as our voices got louder and we shook our fingers at each other. In the end, I would have said I lost the argument, but now I know I simply got annihilated in a friendly discussion.

Truth is, we have debated just about everything in our 42 years of marriage: how to eat popcorn; when to nap; how to load a dishwasher; how to cook a scrambled egg. We once debated whether my mother knew how to raise children. I thought my mom had done a pretty good job, but I must admit Mary Ellen provided some strong proof to the contrary. Me!

I must not be a good debater, because I seem to lose the exchange even if I have most of the facts in my favor. For example, I was sure this past July was my wife's 71st birthday,

but she claimed she was only 67. I knew she was just kidding, but I liked the challenge and the chance to win an argument. I asked to see her passport and her driver's license to bolster my position. "Not only that, Mary Ellen, but I'm 75 and I remember that when we got married, I was four years older than you. That hasn't changed."

"Oh, Dick, you're living in the past. That was 42 years ago."

Mary Ellen keeps reminding me that if she digs in and holds her ground in a disagreement, she will live to a ripe old age. "Dick, don't you always want me to be around to take care of you?"

No argument there.

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

Sayger/McGill: A Great Creative Debate Coming to Nickel Plate Arts in November

Nickel Plate Arts has announced the November Stephenson Showcase, which will feature dual artists Stuart Sayger and Aili McGill.

McGill and Sayger met in 2013 and initiated a creative debate that has endured nearly 10 years. Sayger is an internationally celebrated illustrator, working primarily in the comic book industry and known for projects such as "Lego: Bionicle," "Joker: Year of the Villain," "The Walking Dead," and "Kiss: Zombies," along with his own comic book series, "Shiver in the Dark." He's known for his moody, atmospheric style that combines mixed media drawings with computer coloring and effects.

At age 13, McGill began as a visual and performing artist whose illustrations were submitted to the Fortville Community Shopper newspaper. Her first children's book, "The Owl and the Pussycat Went to Sea," is based on Edward Lear's historic poem and was published through a Kickstarter campaign in 2016. She also produced a collection of comics called "The Misadventures of a Bad Bunny" in 2021.



IIi McGill

ture in her work, and she utilizes bright watercolors and oil pastels in many of her pieces.

McGill and Sayger were married in a private, backyard ceremony in September of 2020. Although their styles vary wildly, the two artists have been drawing creative inspiration and strength from each other throughout their courtship.

"Stuart gave me the nudge I needed to reawaken my illustration career," says McGill. "Without him, I never would have produced my first children's book. He not only provided the graphic design expertise I needed, but he was also unfalteringly enthusiastic, giving me praise and constructive feedback exactly when I needed it. I never anticipated just how gratifying it would be to end up with



Stuart Sayger

someone who lives and breathes art; with Stuart, I always have a partner with whom I can go to museum exhibits, talk through creative roadblocks, and even build an art collection. We even have an ongoing conversation in illustrated love letters. It's a remarkably beautiful life we've built together."

"Aili can do anything,"
Sayger says. "Her creativity knows no bounds.
I have to work hard just to keep up with her. And that's a great thing; I never dared to dream that I could have the kind of life we've built together. She's a great partner in life and in the studio."

Explore their artwork and the products of their creative debates throughout the month of November in the Stephenson House, which is open Wednesday-Friday from 12-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sayger and McGill will

be on hand for a few public appearances.

Meet the Artists:

Nov. 1 from 3-7 p.m. during Nickel Plate Arts'
Day of the Dead event.
Nov. 4 (First Friday)

from 6-9 p.m. during
Nickel Plate Arts' November First Friday event

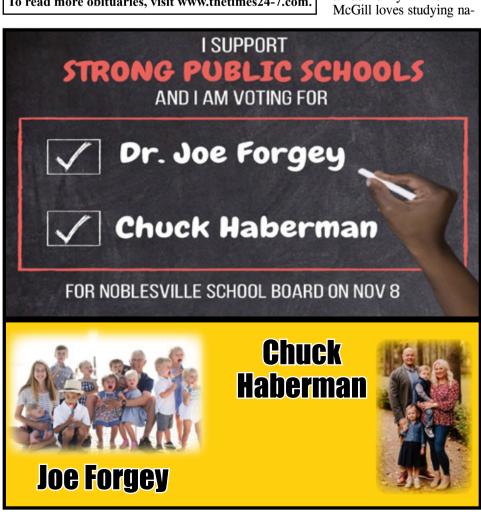
Nov. 23 from 6-9

p.m. during their public reception at Nickel Plate Arts (there will also be a live stream option on social media)

• Nov. 26 from 10 a.m. until early afternoon for Small Business Saturday

Artwork can be purchased by contacting
Nickel Plate Arts or online
at NickelPlateArts.org/
exhibits.

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





www.TheTimes24-7.com

Duke Energy Gives \$200K More Saturday is World to Help Struggling Hoosiers

dedicating an additional \$200,000 in financial assistance to its Indiana customers who may be struggling to pay their energy bills. Qualifying Duke Energy customers can receive up to a \$300 credit annually.

Year-to-date, Duke Energy has aided nearly 1,700 Indiana households with more than \$378,000 in energy bill assistance through its Share the Light Fund.

Duke Energy works in partnership with the **Indiana Community** Action Association to distribute assistance funds. Customers should contact their local community action agency to see if they are eligible. A list of Indiana community action agencies by county can be found at www.incap.org/ energy-assistance.

"We know that our customers are facing rising costs for necessities, from groceries and transportation to their electric bill, which has risen due to escalating fuel costs to produce electricity," said Duke Energy Indiana President Stan Pinegar.

"We've found that more of our customers could take advantage of



the resources available to them, and we want to connect them to help."

The company also is encouraging customers who may be struggling to apply to the Indiana Low Income Home **Energy Assistance** Program (LIHEAP). The federally funded program is administered through statewide community action agencies and assists qualifying individuals with their energy bills. The application period opened Oct. 3.

"We expect that with the rising cost of natural gas and heating oil, as well as the challenging economy, the number of families in need of energy assistance will increase again this year. We are proud to partner with our local service providers to administer the Energy Assistance Program to help Hoosiers with these costs," said Jacob Sipe, executive director of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.

Hoosiers should

contact their local service provider to apply for LIHEAP. A list of service providers and more information can be found at eap.ihcda.in.gov.

Duke Energy also offers a number of tools and resources to help customers manage their bills, control their energy use and save money, including:

• Budget Billing: Budget Billing lets customers pay one predictable amount every month to better manage their budget. The amount is periodically reviewed and adjusted.

• Pick Your Due Date: Customers can choose the date they want their Duke Energy bill to be due each month to align with a date that works for them.

• Installment plans: Duke Energy recently extended interest-free payment plans from three to six months for eligible Indiana customers. Customers can request a few extra days or restructure a past-due balance into a monthly

payment plan. Customers should contact Duke Energy at 800.521.2232 to discuss options available to them.

• Usage alerts: Customers can sign-up for emails and/or texts halfway through a billing cycle, well before a bill arrives, with their current usage amount and a projection of what their final monthly bill could

• Budget alerts: Customers can also set alerts, so they know when their bill reaches a specific dollar amount of their choosing, allowing them to adjust their usage before their bill arrives.

To learn more about these programs and others, visit duke-energy. com/HereToHelp.

About Duke Energy Indiana:

Duke Energy Indiana, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, provides about 6,300 megawatts of owned electric capacity to approximately 870,000 customers in a 23,000-square-mile service area, making it Indiana's largest electric supplier.

the Warning Signs

Strokes can happen to anyone. In fact, globally about one in four adults over the age of 25 will have a stroke in their lifetime. Even so, most adults in the U.S. don't know the F.A.S.T warning signs of a stroke, and that stroke is largely treatable if you call 911 as soon as you recognize the

For World Stroke Day on Oct. 29, the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association, invites people to learn how to spot the stroke warning signs with F.A.S.T. and how stroke survivors can prevent a recurrent stroke.

symptoms.

F.A.S.T. stands for: • Face Drooping - Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the

person's smile uneven? • Arm Weakness - Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

• Speech Difficulty - Is speech slurred? Is the person unable to speak



Stroke Day: Know

American Heart

Association.

or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, like "The sky is blue."

• Time to Call 9-1-1 - If someone shows any of these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call 9-1-1 and get to a hospital immediately.

A stroke happens when normal blood flow in the brain is interrupted. When parts of the brain don't get the oxygen-rich blood they need, those cells die. Early treatment leads to higher chances of survival and helps reduce disability.

A large majority of strokes can be prevented through education and lifestyle changes such as moving more, eating smart and managing your blood pressure.

For more information about stroke, including risk factors and prevention, visit stroke.

Indiana Speed Test Data Needed for Better Broadband Access

Indiana residents in both rural and urban areas have until the end of the calendar year to take the Indiana Speed Test and get their dot on the map that informs future broadband funding across the state.

The Indiana Speed Test is a crowd-sourced internet speed test that focuses on enabling cost-effective planning and deployment of broadband. The Indiana Speed Test has been taken almost 38,000 times over the past 18 months in 30,000 unique locations in the state. However, if you look at the map of the test results to-date, there are still several areas that lack

"While broadband needs are most obvious in the rural communities of our state, there are still many locations near our largest cities that lack sufficient broadband," said Randy Kron, INFB president.

"Data is a critical piece to help local broadband groups and the state of Indiana invest where

Indiana Farm Bureau

service is needed the most and to avoid overbuilding infrastructure."

The goal for the Indiana Speed Test is to gather data in all areas of Indiana. The software platform and the data will be available to local governments and organized broadband groups to analyze potential solutions and aid their applications for Indiana **Next Level Connections** Grants and a variety of federal grants like the American Rescue Plan

"The data from the speed test can be used by grant applicants and also by the state to verify where broadband is and where it's not affordable or available." said Katrina Hall, INFB senior director of policy strategy and advocacy. "New broadband maps are currently in development, so now is the time to make sure your dot is on the map. Regardless of whether you live in a rural or urban area, your broadband access matters.'

The speed test may be performed multiple times on any device that has an internet or cellular connection. The test takes less than one minute to complete, and no personal information will be collected.

Take the test online oday at infh org/speedtest About the Indiana Farm Bureau:

For more than 100 vears, Indiana Farm Bureau (INFB) has protected and enhanced the future of agriculture and our communities. As the state's largest general farm organization, INFB works diligently to cultivate a thriving agricultural ecosystem to strengthen the viability of Indiana agriculture.

Learn more at INFB.org

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The Memory of 29-Win Seasons Haunts Boilermaker Basketball

Friday, Oct. 28, 2022

Only five times in its 125-year history has the Purdue men's basketball team won at least 29 games in a season.

Coach Matt Painter owns three of those seasons, including a 29-8 mark in

2021-22. In those previous four seasons (1987-88, 1993-94, 2009-10, 2017-18), high expectations were not met. Dreams of a national championship in 1988, 1994 and 2010 were dashed by an upset (Kansas State), and injuries to irreplaceable stars (Glenn Robinson's back injury before 1994 Elite Eight game with Duke and Robbie Hummel's torn ACL at Minnesota). The 2018 Boilermakers probably weren't Final Four bound with eventual national champion Villanova in the same regional. However, Isaac Haas' broken elbow in the NCAA tournament opener arguably denied Purdue an Elite Eight berth

against the Wildcats. And then there's last season. Never has a 29-win season felt more underachieving. The school's first No. 1 ranking by The Associated Press. A clear path to the Final Four with lower seeded Saint Peter's and a North Carolina team the Boilermakers had already defeated on a neutral floor.

I don't need to reopen the wound of Saint Peter's nor the fact that somehow this Purdue team did not win at least a share of the Big Ten title.

Days away from the start of his 18th season, Matt Painter still has a bitter taste in his mouth.

"I thought our talent was higher than our production, and that's one of the few times I think that's happened at Purdue in the last 20 years," Painter said.

"Even though we had a great year, we didn't win



KENNY THOMPSON Columnist

the league. We should have advanced further in the tournament. We won 29 games. Pretty cool, right? But, you want to do better. You want to do better for the fans and the former players."

Doing better starts with taking care of the basketball and playing tough defense, two traits that have served Purdue well over the past 42 years under

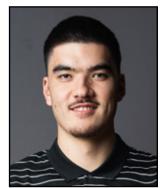
Gene Keady and Painter. The 2021-22 Boilermakers averaged nearly 12 turnovers a game and allowed just over 68 points a game to opponents.

We turned the ball over too much," Painter said. "When we didn't turn the ball over, we won."

The Boilermakers had double-digit turnovers in all eight losses. Saint Peter's forced 15, lost possessions that could have made a difference in that 67-64 defeat.

"I think I would have a ring on my finger right now if we didn't have so many turnovers," returning starter Mason Gillis said. "That's one thing we can learn from last year. Taking care of the ball also helps our transition defense.'

An offseason spent looking for a true point guard, which Painter has really had just one (Lewis Jackson) during his tenure, through the transfer portal ended up with frustration and settling for Utah transfer David Jenkins. Jenkins,



Zach Edey

who will likely reach 2,000 career points this season, is more of a combo guard than your typical pass-first, ignite the offense point guard.

Luckily for Painter, it might just turn out that he had already signed the point guard of his dreams.

Braden Smith, Indiana's reigning Mr. Basketball from Westfield, has by all media reports been impressive in preseason practices. It would surprise no one if he starts the exhibition opener against Truman State on Wednesday.

"He's a very intelligent player," Painter said. "He's got good savvy about him. He has a really good feel. He's got a high competitive spirit.

"The same things I just said could be said about Fletcher Loyer. There's a lot of similarities about them as players.'

Loyer, the runner-up to Smith in Mr. Basketball voting, is the latest in a long line of shooters Painter has targeted in recruiting since the 2013-14 last-place debacle. Dakota Mathias. Carmel's Ryan Cline. Carsen Edwards. Sasha Stefanovic. Eric Hunter. Brandon Newman. Jaden Ivey. Carmel's Brian Waddell.

Both freshman have gained the attention of Jenkins, who learned a thing or two about basketball during his stops at South Dakota State, UNLV and Utah.



"He's showing grit and toughness, confidence as well," Jenkins said of Smith. "He's going to have success early.

"If you're not going to come out here playing with confidence, you're going to get eaten up. Guys who come in (confident) like Fletcher shooting the ball and Braden coming in and guarding and passing. Braden doesn't look for his shot as much but we are telling him to shoot the ball."

Newman may have the edge to start alongside Smith in the backcourt, but don't be surprised if the freshman backcourt of Smith and Loyer record quality minutes together.

"We have guys on this roster that nobody is talking about who are going to be productive players at Purdue," Painter said.

Despite the loss of NBA lottery pick Ivey after just two seasons and the departures of Stefanovic and Hunter, there's still talent on this roster.

That comes from consecutive years of recruiting the top two players in the state. Forward Trey Kaufman-Renn, the runner-up to teammate Caleb Furst for the 2021 Mr. Basketball award, is almost certainly one of those guys.

One Boilermaker people are talking about is $\bar{7}$ -4 junior center Zach Edey. The Athletic recently rated Edey the eighth-best big man in the nation. Not bad for a Canadian who once was ranked 440th in the 2020-21 recruiting class.

"There is no player more productive on a per-minute basis than Edey, the imposing post-up threat who is in the perfect offense for his skillset,' writes The Athletic's Sam Vecenie. "Simply put, he's so big and large that it's impossible to stop him from gaining position when he wants it.

"He actually plays aggressively and likes to play with physicality. He embraces playing through contact. It's a huge edge for him. If he can play 25 to 30 minutes per night, Edey could get into the 16 to 18 point per game range."

The remaining 10-15 minutes could be split among the 6-10 Furst and the 6-9 Kaufman-Renn, who redshirted last season. Furst fought through a foot injury to start 12 games at forward and play key roles in the victories against North Carolina and Villanova in the Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic.

Furst and Kaufman-Renn also could see playing time at power forward, a position occupied by Gillis. The junior shot better than 41 percent from 3-point range a year ago while averaging 6.4 points and 4.8 rebounds per game.

"(I'm) just doing whatever the team needs me to do, whether it's hit open shots or making the right pass, rebounding, defense,"

Gillis said. Junior guard Ethan Morton is almost certain to start and could handle some of the defensive responsibilities of a point guard. A 44 percent 3-point shooter, Morton also takes care of the basketball. He was credited with no turnovers in 23 games and never

more than two in any of the other 14 contests.

As the only senior in the probable playing rotation, Jenkins' role may be providing instant offense to a team that graduated three of its top four scorers (Ivey 17.3 ppg., Trevion Williams 12.0, Stefanovic 10.4).

"I think coach Painter brought me here to be kind of a lead guard from the point guard role," Jenkins said. "It doesn't mean I'm going to go out and get 15 assists but be a scorer from the point guard position. That's something I wanted when I was in the recruiting process. When I was a 2 guard in certain spots it would be easy for teams to deny me the ball."

It's almost a certainty that the latest 7-footer in the Boilermaker program, 7-2 Sweden native Will Berg, will redshirt this season. Time will tell about 6-7 freshman forward Camden Heide's status. Heide, whose father graduated from Lafayette Jeff, had offers from Arizona, Texas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Virginia Tech, Iowa and Creighton among others.

Waddell suffered a torn ACL during his redshirt season a year ago and is working his way back into playing shape.

In a wide open Big Ten race this season, few are talking about Purdue. That's just fine with Gillis.

"We're an underdog," he said. We need to approach every game like we're an underdog. We're going to get the other team's best shot but they're going to our best shot every single game."

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





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Lilly Commits \$92.5M to Purdue for Pharmaceutical Scholarship Program Airport Brings Back and to Extend Research Collaboration Two Nonstop Flights

Eli Lilly and Company have announced they are establishing an innovative new pharmaceutical manufacturing scholarship program and have renewed their strategic research collaboration in a series of moves that will expand their impact in Indiana and improve lives on a global scale. Lilly has committed \$92.5 million to the West Lafayette campus through these two programs.

Lilly's commitment includes \$42.5 million over 10 years to fund pharmaceutical manufacturing scholarships for incoming Purdue undergraduate students, offering 75-100 talented students each year full tuition with a guaranteed internship or co-op at Lilly and a promise of coordinated interaction with company leaders.

Priority access to the new Lilly Scholars program will be given to undergraduate students who are underrepresented in Purdue's student population, have overcome socioeconomic or educational disadvantages or are among the first generation in their family to attend college.

"Lilly is among Purdue's most important partners, and this latest commitment reaffirms our longtime collaboration. Through these collaborations, Lilly and Purdue are helping to build a critical pharmaceutical ecosystem in the heartland," said Purdue President Mitch Daniels.

"We have a company that is committed to advancing research and fostering talent. Lilly is investing in students very early in their education rather than waiting until late in their college careers - connecting to students before they even arrive on campus.'

The Lilly Scholars program will provide participating students with preferred access and opportunities to compete for a role at the company following graduation. The first scholarships will be

offered for fall 2023. Purdue and Lilly have a historic relationship, dating back to the organizations' founding years. The organizations entered into a new strategic research collaboration in 2017, funded by an initial \$50 million commitment from Lilly. Those collaborative research efforts have helped advance understanding of the physiology of drug delivery and develop technologies to improve delivery of pharmaceuticals for better patient outcomes and experiences.

Lilly and Purdue are now expanding that research collaboration,



signing a new \$50 million master agreement that extends the work for another five years, with a research focus on genetic medicine, intrathecal delivery and nanoparticle drug delivery.

"As the number of people who may benefit from our innovative medicines continues to increase, we are investing to advance critical research and build a more diverse pipeline of talent in Indiana. Together with Purdue, we can help to keep our state's best and brightest in Indiana, furthering Lilly's ability to make life better for millions of people," said David A. Ricks, Lilly's chair and CEO.

"As a Purdue graduate, I am proud of the success the university has built and even more proud to see Lilly and Purdue team up to make both institutions better and better.'

The basic research by Purdue faculty helps Lilly expedite the development of technologies and pharmaceuticals, improving the pace of getting therapies to patients who need them. Over the last eight years, Lilly has introduced 18 new medicines to make life better for people living with diseases like diabetes and cancer. The company aims to introduce four additional potential new medicines in the next 18

"Purdue's approach to interdisciplinary research with Lilly is driven by an impact-focused mindset aimed at improving the lives of patients. Our collaboration spans training and development all the way to cutting-edge research and facilities," said Theresa Mayer, Purdue University executive vice president for research and

collaboration. "The extension of our agreement will continue to provide exceptional opportunities for faculty members and hundreds of graduate students from across the country to work side-by-side with colleagues from this leading pharmaceutical compa-

Both Lilly and Purdue have made strategic commitments in recent years to strengthen expertise and programs in bioscience areas, including pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Earlier this year, Purdue established the William D. Young Insti-

tute for Advanced Manufacturing of Pharmaceuticals, an interdisciplinary organization focused on furthering pharmaceutical manufacturing to reduce costs and expand access to

new drugs emerging from

biotech research.

That institute follows a \$250 million investment in life sciences as part of the Purdue Moves strategic plan, which resulted in three university-wide interdisciplinary institutes: the Purdue Institutes of Drug Discovery; Inflammation, Immunology and Infectious Disease; and Integrative Neuroscience, which have helped to attract leading faculty researchers in critical research areas.

Purdue has also invested in state-of the-art facilities, including the Bindley Bioscience Center, which provides a unique infrastructure to support

interdisciplinary research. Over the last five years, Lilly has committed over \$6 billion in pharmaceutical manufacturing globally. This includes \$2.1 billion and up to 500 new jobs in the LEAP Technology Park in Boone County, Indiana, announced in May 2022, and up to 1,500 more jobs during construction of the

"Collaborations between academia and industry are essential to innovation to bring therapies to patients as quickly as possible," said Edgardo Hernandez, executive vice president and president of manufac-

turing operations at Lilly. With the expansion of our footprint in Indiana, these initiatives with Purdue will help bring a highly skilled pipeline of diverse talent and enhance our manufacturing capacity to deliver medicines to patients around the

world." As Lilly and Purdue work together on new curricula, experiential learning, and certificate and degree programs in pharmaceutical manufacturing, they will help continue to grow pharmaceutical manufacturing in Indiana and expand Purdue's talent pipeline to the company with students supported by the new scholarship program.

Every year, Lilly hires Purdue graduates in areas such as engineering, sales, finance, human resources,

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

marketing, procurement, supply chain and more. In fact, Lilly employs nearly 2,500 Purdue graduates more than from any other university.

"These commitments will better position Purdue to recruit the best, brightest and most diverse students we can," said Kristina Wong Davis, vice provost for enrollment management at Purdue.

About Lilly:

Lilly unites caring with discovery to create medicines that make life better for people around the world. Lilly has been pioneering life-changing discoveries for nearly 150 years, and their medicines help more than 47 million people across the globe.

Harnessing the power of biotechnology, chemistry and genetic medicine, Lilly scientists are advancing new discoveries to solve some of the world's most significant health challenges, redefining diabetes care, treating obesity and curtailing its most devastating long-term effects, advancing the fight against Alzheimer's disease, providing solutions to some of the most debilitating immune system disorders and transforming the most difficult-to-treat cancers into manageable diseases.

With each step toward a healthier world, Lilly is motivated by one thing: making life better for millions more people. That includes delivering innovative clinical trials that reflect the diversity of our world and working to ensure Lilly medicines are accessible and affordable.

To learn more, visit Lilly.com and Lilly.com/ newsroom or follow them on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

About Purdue Univer-

sity: Purdue University is a public research institution developing practical solutions to today's toughest challenges. Ranked in each of the last five years as one of the 10 Most Innovative universities in the United States by U.S. News & World Report, Purdue delivers world-changing research and out-of-this-world discovery.

Committed to hands-on and online, real-world learning, Purdue offers a transformative education to all. Committed to affordability and accessibility, Purdue has frozen tuition and most fees at 2012-13 levels, enabling more students than ever to graduate debt-free.

Kansas to Cali: Indy



Indianapolis Airport Authority

Southwest Airlines has announced that it will resume two nonstop flights out of the Indianapolis International Airport (IND) beginning in the spring of 2023, with both flights headed to current top unserved destinations.

Southwest Airlines will reinstate its nonstop flight to Kansas City on April 11, 2023, operating two flights daily Monday through Friday, and one flight on Sundays. In addition, Southwest will resume a summer seasonal nonstop flight to San Diego on Saturdays starting June 4, 2023. Nonstop flights to these cities have not been available since before the pandemic.

San Diego is currently the top unserved nonstop destination out of Indianapolis.

"Both flights represent more signs that air travel is returning close to pre-pandemic levels, and the Kansas City flight schedule specifically supports business travel which has slowly increased in recent months," said Mario Rodriguez, executive director of the Indianapolis Airport Authority.

The Kansas City flight is in part the result of a local corporate push to make daily nonstop air travel available for Indy-based business operations.

Southwest currently operates 15 nonstop flights from Indy to Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Cancun, Dallas, Denver, Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Myers, Houston, Las Vegas, Orlando, Panama City, Phoe-

nix, Sarasota-Bradenton and Tampa and makes up approximately 26% of total enplanements currently out of the Indy airport.

To book a flight on Southwest Airlines, visit southwest.com/air/ booking/?clk = GSUBNAV-AIR-BOOK.

About the Indianapolis **Airport Authority:**

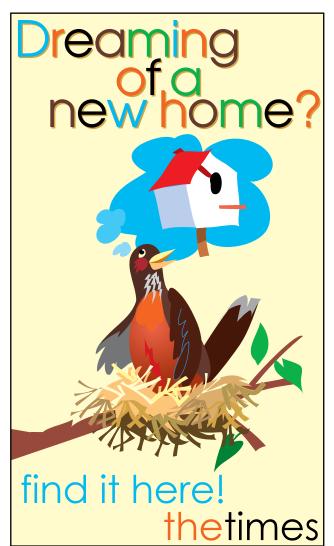
The Indianapolis Airport Authority owns and operates Indiana's largest airport system in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. In addition to the Indianapolis International Airport (IND), its facilities include the Downtown Heliport, Eagle Creek Airpark, Hendricks County Airport-Gordon Graham Field, Indianapolis Regional Airport and Metropolitan Airport.

IND generates a \$7.5 billion total annual economic impact for Central Indiana – without relying on state or local taxes to fund operations. More than 11,000 people work at the airport each day, and 22,600 area jobs have a connection to the airport. In 2021, IND served more than 7.1 million business and leisure travelers.

IND is consistently ranked, year after year, as the best airport in North America and the nation, based on ease of use, passenger amenities, customer service, local retail offerings and public art. The airport is home of the world's second largest FedEx operation and the nation's eighth-largest cargo facility.

For more information, visit IND.com.







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10. Visit Noblesville's Russell Farms Pumpkin Patch for a Spectacular Trunk or Treat at 7 p.m. Saturday in Noblesville.

Noblesville.

11. Dare to enter the Haunted Trail today and Saturday at Red Bridge Park in Cicero with kid-friendly hours 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and spooky hours 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., with food, vendors and games, plus special Royal Events entertainment. Freewill donations with proceeds to benefit Cicero Parks. Golf cart parking only at Red Bridge, Spooky Trolley will pick up at designated parking lots in Cicero. A \$100 cash prize for a pumpkin-carving contest during the Trail. Bring your carved pumpkin 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Label pumpkin with name and phone number and provide a battery-op-

BETSY also with games, stories erated candle. Pumpkins will be judged and will will be judged along the be showcased along the Haunted Trail on Satur-

> 12. Trunk or Treat at 4 p.m. Sunday at No-blesville First United Methodist Church, with free games, inflatables and candy in the church parking lot, and prizes for the spookiest, silliest and most creative.

13. The Noblesville American Legion invites kids to stop by from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Halloween, Monday, for their Trunk-or-Treat at 1094 Conner St., in Noblesville. The event is organized by the American Legion Riders Post.

14. The official trickor-treat hours in Noblesville are 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, with Noblesville Police Department having extra patrols for additional safety

15. Other communities' trick-or-treat hours: Arcadia, Carmel and Westfield, 5-8 p.m.; Atlanta, Cicero, Fishers and Sheridan, 6-8 p.m.

Here are some other things to do this weekend and beyond:

1. Enjoy live music with Jeff Day at 6:30 p.m. today and Brad Kleinschmidt at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Spencer Farm Winery in Nobles-

2. Hear live music with Kelli Ray Yates at 7 p.m. today at Primeval Brew-

ing in Noblesville.
3. Enjoy the Jai Baker
3 Halloween Bash at 10 p.m. today at Britton Tavern in Fishers.

4. In honor of National Drug Take Back Day, the Hamilton County Council on Alcohol & Other Drugs will host a takeback event, encouraging residents to drop off their expired or unused medications 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in the far-east parking lot of Riverview Health in Noblesville. No liquids, sharps or needles accepted.

5. Attend the Harvest Festival: Nightmare Before Christmas Market at 9 a.m. Saturday at Stuckey Farm Market in Sheridan, with face painting, vendors, costumes encouraged, pumpkins, gourd bowling, holiday foods, Tent-or-Treat, \$5

admission.

6. Roy Reynolds of Noblesville invites the community to come share a special evening as he presents The Tribute to Elvis Presley from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at Jim Dandy Family

Restaurant in Noblesville. 7. Join Noblesville Preservation Alliance's entertaining evening exploring murder ballads music genre during "Murder in Noblesville" from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday at Preservation Hall, with tickets \$10 each at preservationhall.

org 8. Noblesville Main Street's First Friday Holiday Open House is 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 4 in downtown Noblesville, with the Lacy Building open 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. 9. Main Street Produc-

tions presents "Mothers & Sons," an Artist's Choice Production that celebrates inclusion, diversity and new voices, Nov. 10-20 at Basile Westfield Playhouse.

10. Noblesville High School Bands' Community Night will be at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 3 at

Noblesville High School, with food trucks, senior recognition, parents' chance to march their kids' spot and watch the 2022 competition show, "A Million Dreams." Food trucks, 5:30 to 7 p.m., seating available inside the Community Center at 6 p.m., with stadium gates opening at

7 p.m. 11. Noblesville Main Street's First Friday Holiday Open House is 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 4 in downtown Noblesville.

12. Main Street Productions presents "Mothers & Sons," an Artist's Choice Production that celebrates inclusion, diversity and new voices, Nov. 10-20 at Basile Westfield Playhouse.

13. Attend the first worship of Northview Church opening in Noblesville at The Farm at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nov.

Contact Betsy Reason at betsy @ the times 24--7. com.For our previous list of Halloween activities, read the Betsy Reason column in Thursday's edition of The

U VOTING

From Page A1

The Times, serving Noblesville and Hamilton County

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- Nov. 2-3 from 2-7

- Nov. 4-5 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail passed on Thursday. Once you have voted your absentee ballot, you can return your ballot by mail or return it in person to the Election Office in the Judicial Center at One Hamilton County Square in Noblesville. All absentee ballots must be received by the Election Office on or before 6 p.m. on Election Day.





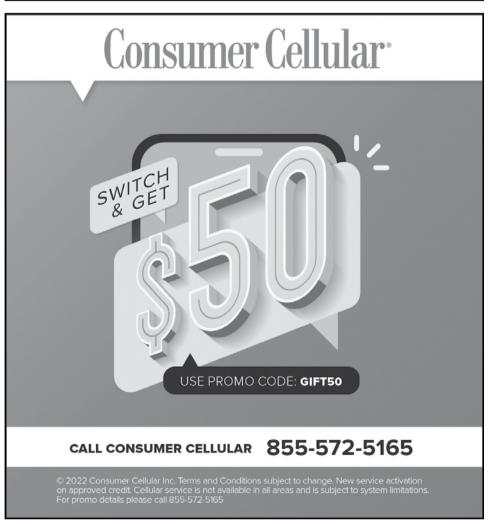


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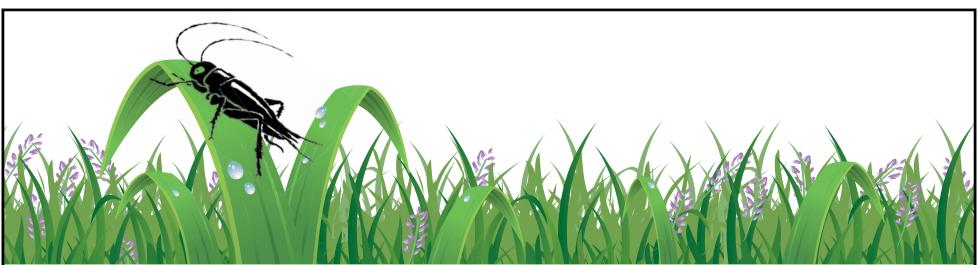




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Business Notes and NEWS

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READI Sparks Quality of Place Investments in Southwest Indiana

Governor Eric J. Holcomb joined local officials and regional leaders today as the Evansville Region broke ground on two significant quality of place investments that will support current and future residents by adding housing, wellness resources and community amenities in Princeton. Fueled by the transformational Indiana Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI), the region is investing \$21 million to develop the Toyota Indiana YMCA and \$21 million to construct The District, a new apartment complex geared toward housing the area's skilled workforce.

"Indiana is inhabited by leaders who continue to think outside of the box and collaborate to create a better future for Hoosiers," said Gov. Holcomb. "It is a great day for Princeton and the greater Evansville Region as we celebrate two important projects that will foster a growing, vibrant community and increase the region's ability to retain, attract and support top talent.'

The nationally recognized READI program is allocating \$500 million to 17 regions across the state to accelerate shovel-ready projects and programs that are expected to transform Indiana communities, attract talent and improve the quality of life for Hoosiers in the short and long term. In Southwest Indiana, the Evansville Region was awarded \$50

million in READI matching funds to advance its strategic plan known as 'TalentEVV' to become the talent and economic region of choice in the Midwest through focused improvements in talent attraction, growth opportunities, quality of place amenities and necessary infrastructure.

"Indiana's unprecedented READI initiative is setting the national standard for grassroots regional collaboration and development," said Indiana Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers. "These investments - Toyota Indiana YMCA and The District are perfect examples of how government, communities and industry can work together to create vibrant destinations, continue to grow population, and build a workforce to power the economy of the future."

Toyota Indiana YMCA and The District are both important projects within the Evansville Region's plan and vision for its future, increasing community amenities and addressing the abundant need for additional housing to support Hoosiers and their families, enable workforce attraction and population growth, and help major employers in the area retain and compete for top talent. These investments have already sparked additional private investments nearby as workforce housing and entrepreneuriai opportunities have been announced in the surrounding blocks.



"These projects will be critical transformations for Princeton and the greater Gibson County area," said Leah Curry, president and CEO of Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Indiana. 'The new Toyota Indiana YMCA will provide access to all, helping Gibson County residents with the resources they need to live better lives, while The District will serve the needs of talent and help employers like Toyota and our many suppliers attract even more skilled individuals to the region."

Toyota Indiana YMCA (\$21M total project investment; \$5M READI

allocation)
In Princeton, Gov.
Holcomb, Princeton
Mayor Greg Wright and
Tara Barney, CEO of the
Evansville Regional Economic Partnership, joined
Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Indiana President
and CEO Leah Curry and
YMCA of Southwestern
Indiana CEO Johnathan
Pope to break ground on

the new Toyota Indiana YMCA. This \$15 million investment will create a 56,000-square-foot health, fitness and wellness facility in the heart of downtown Princeton, offering first-class amenities to residents and prospective talent interested in working for Toyota or its many suppliers in the region.

The new facility will be located at 215 West Water St., revitalizing the former Lowell South property, and is expected to be open to the public in the summer of 2024. Equipped with a gymnasium, a competition pool, a teaching kitchen for nutrition education, a STEM lab, youth recreation areas, and more, the Toyota Indiana YMCA will provide access to all through financial, physical and cultural accessibility.

"The Toyota Indiana YMCA in Gibson County will be more than an exercise facility," said Johnathan Pope, president and CEO of the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana. "YMCAs often become community centers that connect people from all walks of life, and this community will benefit greatly from their new gathering space."

The District Housing Complex

(\$21M total project investment; \$2.5M READI allocation)

Just a little over one mile from the future Toyota Indiana YMCA, Gov. Holcomb, local and regional leaders celebrated the groundbreaking of The District, a 144-unit apartment complex at 2024 S. Second Avenue in Princeton. This \$21 million workforce apartment complex is scheduled to open in June 2024, providing affordable new housing in an area that will support employee preferences, employer needs and overall talent retention and attraction efforts.

The District will be the first multi-family housing development in Princeton in nearly 10 years, filling a workforce housing need for nearby major employers like Toyota Indiana. Once complete, the complex will offer a variety of units, several in-unit covered balconies, a club house featuring an exercise room, private mail delivery room, a pool, walking paths, parking garage rental space and storage rental space.

"The District will provide a first of its kind development in Princeton," said Wayne Kinney, developer of The District. "The plan is to transform 2nd Avenue into a destination for those wanting an up-and-coming environment to live and raise a family."

Through READI, 17 regions across the state that represent all 92 counties are moving forward with projects and programs designed to enhance Indiana's regions for current and future generations of Hoosiers. Collectively, the state's \$500 million investment is expected to yield an additional \$9.86 billion public, private and nonprofit dollars invested (19.72:1 investment leverage ratio) in enhancing Indiana's quality of life, quality of place and quality of opportunity.

About IEDC

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

401(K) Limit Increases to \$22.5K for 2023, IRA Limit Rises to \$6.5K

The Internal Revenue Service announced today that the amount individuals can contribute to their 401(k) plans in 2023 has increased to \$22,500, up from \$20,500 for 2022. The IRS today also issued technical guidance regarding all of the cost-of-living adjustments affecting dollar limitations for pension plans and other retirement-related items for tax year 2023 in Notice 2022-55, posted today on IRS.gov.

Highlights of changes

for 2023
The contribution limit for employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), most 457 plans, and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan is increased to \$22,500, up from \$20,500.

The limit on annual contributions to an IRA increased to \$6,500, up from \$6,000. The IRA catch-up contribution limit for individuals aged 50 and over is not subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment and remains \$1,000.

The catch-up contribution limit for employees aged 50 and over who participate in 401(k), 403(b), most 457 plans, and the federal government's Thrift Savings

Plan is increased to \$7,500, up from \$6,500. Therefore, participants in 401(k), 403(b), most 457 plans, and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan who are 50 and older can contribute up to \$30,000, starting in 2023. The catch-up contribution limit for employees aged 50 and over who participate in SIMPLE plans is increased to \$3,500, up from \$3,000.

from \$3,000.

The income ranges for determining eligibility to make deductible contributions to traditional Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), to contribute to Roth IRAs, and to claim the Saver's Credit all increased for

Taxpayers can deduct contributions to a traditional IRA if they meet certain conditions. If during the year either the taxpayer or the taxpayer's spouse was covered by a retirement plan at work, the deduction may be reduced, or phased out, until it is eliminated, depending on filing status and income. (If neither the taxpayer nor the spouse is covered by a retirement plan at work, the phase-outs of the deduction do not apply.) Here are the phase-out ranges

or 2023:

• For single taxpayers covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is increased to between \$73,000 and \$83,000, up from between \$68,000 and \$78,000.

• For married couples filing jointly, if the spouse making the IRA contribution is covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is increased to between \$116,000 and \$136,000, up from between

\$109,000 and \$129,000.
• For an IRA contributor who is not covered by a workplace retirement plan and is married to someone who is covered, the phase-out range is increased to between \$218,000 and \$228,000, up from between \$204,000 and \$214,000.

\$204,000 and \$214,000.
• For a married individual filing a separate return who is covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is not subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment and remains between \$0 and \$10,000.

The income phaseout range for taxpayers making contributions to a Roth IRA is increased to between \$138,000 and \$153,000 for singles and heads of household, up

from between \$129,000 and \$144,000. For married couples filing jointly, the income phaseout range is increased to between \$218,000 and \$228,000, up from between \$204,000 and \$214,000. The phaseout range for a married individual filing a separate return who makes contributions to a Roth IRA is not subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment and remains between \$0

and \$10,000.

The income limit for the Saver's Credit (also known as the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit) for low- and moderate-income workers is \$73,000 for married couples filing jointly, up from \$68,000; \$54,750 for heads of household, up from \$51,000; and \$36,500 for singles and married individuals filing separately, up from

\$34,000.
The amount individuals can contribute to their SIMPLE retirement accounts is increased to \$15,500, up from \$14,000.

Details on these and other retirement-related cost-of-living adjustments for 2023 are in Notice 2022-55, available on IRS.gov.

Six Banks Targeted by Rokita, Others

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita said on Wednesday that Indiana and 19 other states have served six major U.S. banks with civil investigative demands, which act as a subpoena, seeking documents related to the companies' involvement with the United Nations' Net-Zero Banking Alliance.

NZBA-member banks must set emissions reduction targets in their lending and investment portfolios to reach net zero by 2050. The banks under investigation are Bank of America; Citigroup; Goldman Sachs; JP Morgan Chase; Morgan Stanley and Wells

Fargo.

"These banks appear to be colluding with the UN to destroy American companies that specialize in fossil fuels or otherwise depend on them for energy," Rokita said. "They are pushing an investment strategy designed not to maximize financial returns but to impose a leftist social and economic agenda that cannot otherwise be implemented

through the ballot box." The apparent conspir-



Attorney General Todd Rokita

acy among the banks represents yet another scheme reflective of so-called "ESG investing" — an approach that purports to prioritize environmental, social, and governance issues over profit.

"This new woke-ism in the financial sector poses a real threat to everyday Hoosiers," Rokita said. "Indiana's farmers, truck drivers, and fuel-industry workers are hurt when the radical Left attacks whole segments of our economy. And it's troubling that these banks in the Net-Zero Banking Alliance are taking marching orders from UN globalists alltoo-eager to undermine America's best interests."

More information will be made available as the investigation continues.

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The Times of Noblesville Friday, Oct. 28, 2022

Definition of Insanity – and Voting



TIM TIMMONS **Two Cents**

Not too long from now we're going to head to the polls to once again put people in office who are the problem.

Think not? It doesn't matter if you are a Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Independent or some other affiliation. Every election, We The People continually place or return to office politicians who routinely agree to spend

more than they bring in. I know, I know, we can couch that into a thousand different ways and we can use all sorts of fancy words and long-winded explanations, but that's what it boils down to, isn't it? We are electing Congressmen and women to positions of power while they demonstrate the fiscal integrity of a teen-ager on a shopping trip to the mall with mom and dad's credit card.

Do you think any of them handle their own

finances that way? Of the ones who are not career politicians, do you think they run their businesses that way?

And how is it that \$31 trillion dollars in debt isn't the hot topic every election?

I'll tell you why. Because most of them don't want to talk about it. And it's understandable. \$31 trillion has 12 zeroes in it. Who wants to talk about that?

Well, we should. \$31,000,000,000,000. It even LOOKS like a

Why are we not sick and tired of it? If our local officials were throwing us into the deep, dark abyss of debt that seems to have no bottom, we'd vote them out of office in a heartbeat . . . well, let's leave Carmel out of it for now.

But we do it on the national level.

> Every. Single.

Time.

They all talk about it a lot when campaigning, don't they? But once in office, they all act like there's nothing they can do about this massive and crippling debt - well, not only that, but they then turn around and add to it. Oh sure, some of them rail and wail, wring their

hands and gnash their teeth. That looks great in the papers and sounds good on TV and radio. But take a look at their voting record. Like my granddad used to say, what you're doing speaks so loudly I can't hear what you're saying.

Here's the thing though. While I get the fact that a trillion bucks times 31 is a boatload of money, it doesn't necessarily have to be insurmountable, does it?

Do you remember a few years ago when then-Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels struck a deal to lease a toll road in northern Indiana for almost \$4 billion? The lease was for a long period, 75 years, and as it turned out, the overseas company that leased it has gone bankrupt. Good thing a bunch of that money was paid upfront, huh? (Nice work, Mr. Daniels!) If memory serves, those few billion bucks funded a lot of road work around the state and the negatives were pretty darn minimal.

Why couldn't something similar work for the national debt? What if we leased more roads for gazillions of dollars? Contracts can be set that ensure tolls don't go too high and that the overall condition of the roads must be maintained.

(Besides, could potholes possibly get worse?)

Maybe we lease some national parks? Again, we're not selling them, just letting someone else run them for a while. I can hear folks screaming now, but just remember, it's not forever. And whatever terms we set will probably be shorter than the years it will take our grandkids and great-grandkids to pay off the debt we're piling on

them now. Let's not stop at parks. We have a ton of land. What if we sold some especially the ones with major de-fund the police movements? What do you think we could get for California or Michigan or Minnesota?

Too much? OK, fine. How about selling drilling rights? Before folks scream about the ecology and global warming and all that, let's keep in mind that a lot of the same folks who would line up to pay a pretty penny for those rights don't exactly have stellar safety and environmental records where they currently operate. Why does that matter? Because when we shut down our domestic production, we gave those folks carte blanche to rape and pillage the earth anyway

they want - and charge

us an arm and a leg in the process. Besides, if we leased them the rights maybe they'd have to hire some of the same Americans who lost their jobs when we stopped U.S. production.

Here's a thought. How about if we cut every single federal department 25 percent? C'mon, if anyone thinks they don't have 25 percent fat that could be trimmed, well, I've got a newspaper company I would be happy to sell you. Cut the federal ones 25 percent, the state departments 10 percent and the local ones 5 percent. And if any struggle figuring out how to do that, call a small business owner. I guarantee you they could figure it out.

Still not enough? How about dividing what's left by 66? There are 50 states and 16 territories. Seems fair that we all pony up our share. Heck, maybe we could even do it by population. No sense Indiana paying the same amount as California, Michigan, Texas and such. Oh wait, is that too much like the Electoral College? Sorry.

Maybe instead of trying our damndest to screw over the richest folks in the country, how about if we offer them a sweetheart deal? What if we

told them that they and their corporations don't have to pay taxes for the next 20 or so years - if they write a check with 12 zeroes in it today.

Just saying. It won't be enough that we do all this though. Somehow, someway, we are going to have to change who we hire/elect so they can't spend us right back into the same

hole. The bottom line is that I'm not the smartest guy in the room, even when the room is really, really small. I'm just a newspaper vagabond with holes in the bottom of his Weejuns. But I know this – there are answers to the national debt. The first one is stop spending more than we have. The second is find ways to pay what we owe and the third is to not dig the hole again. Why is this never the conversation?

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.

Ask Rusty – How Do I Handle an Overpayment Notice from Social Security?



ASK RUSTY Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Things have gone good for me until now. I got a job and have enjoyed going back to work after being retired. But I just got some bad news - a letter from Social Security saying I owe them \$17,000 because when I went back to work, I earned more than allowed in 2021. They never mentioned that I told them I was going back to work! They now say they can't pay me benefits in 2022 because I am working. Good job SSA, since I told you when I went back to work! Anyway, I can't repay them all at once, I'm lucky to buy gas to get groceries. They list items for a waiver, but I am not sure what is best for me. I was planning on moving for health reasons, but if I paid them all at once I have nothing left for the move. I just started my research on how to handle this but hoped you would have some insight. Signed: Un-retired

Dear Un-retired Worker: Sorry to hear of the Overpayment Notice you have received from Social Security. Here are my thoughts: The repayment options they offered you are probably a) remit the entire amount in full or b) have your SS benefits withheld until they recover what you owe or c) ask for special payment terms because doing either of the above is a hardship.

Worker.

At this juncture, you can request a waiver of the Overpayment in either of two ways:

• File form SSA-632,

Social Security Matters by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor This article is intended for information purposes only and

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

you agree you've been overpaid but think you shouldn't be required to pay it back because it wasn't your fault (it was Social Security's fault because you notified them when you returned to work).

• File form SSA-634, which essentially says you agree you've been overpaid and want to pay it back, but you can't afford to pay it back in the man-

ner they've offered. I suggest you start by filing SSA-632, mainly because you notified them in August of 2021 that you had returned to work and they, nevertheless, continued to pay you thus causing the overpayment themselves (see Section 3, question.12 of SSA-632). While I can't predict the probability of you having the entire amount waived, I think there's a reasonably good chance they may provide you with some special accommodation because the overpayment was, indeed, a result of their own inaction after you notified them you had returned to work.

I suspect what happened is that they simply neglected to act after you notified them, and then when they received your 2021 earnings data from the IRS, they found you had earned more than the 2021 limit, causing them to issue the Overpayment Notice. But their lack of action shouldn't result in a financial hardship for you. which is why I suggest you seek a waiver. Be aware too that if your waiver request is denied you have the right to appeal that denial, including requesting a

or by the SS Appeals Council, or even in Feder-

al court if desired. In any event, while your case is pending, they shouldn't require you to repay them - they should temporarily suspend the repayment demand until

your case is adjudicated. Assuming you are still working full time, it's probable that your benefits are now suspended because your income is too high. FYI, you will later get credit for any months your benefits are suspended, which will result in your benefit amount increasing after you reach your full retirement age (FRA). Thus, you may be able to, over time, recover some of the SS benefits you've lost because of your earnings prior to reaching your full

retirement age. **About AMAC:**

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country.

And the AMAC Foundation (AmacFoundation. org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, they act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. More information is available online at at amac.

It Is Time to Release Your Inner 'Whistle-Pig'



JOHN O. MARLOWE With The Grain

When I was finally old enough to go get the mail on my own -- shortly after overcoming the dread of being shredded to pieces by Laddie, the mean collie dog living next door -- I still made it a point to run to the end of the long driveway as fast as I

could. Running for a well-padded whelp like me was not something that happened naturally. The usual stimulus was either terror or the promise of dessert. In the case of mail, it was anticipating the discovery of something in the mailbox

addressed to me. Most days I came away empty-handed. There were bills for Dad and magazines for Mother. My brother, Todd, was too young to get mail, but even he frequently got baby product coupons sent

to the house in his name. I was certain that I deserved to get mail. I just believed that people in charge of sending mail forgot that I lived here, too -- which is what my Mother said "Occupant" meant.

Occupant mail was fine reading, but it didn't have a lot of staying power. Once I read the front address line, and flipped it over to learn how tree root killer made our septic tank run smoother, the drama

was over. So my Mother signed me up for a monthly book club. It might have been the greatest single thing she ever did for me outside of shoving me out the birth canal while screaming something about "not in a million years!" to my Father.

On days a book was expected, I'd sprint to the end of the drive, sometimes catching mailman Don before he even had a chance to open the mailbox door. I'd rip the cardboard box open, pull out the book, shove the rest of the mail back into the empty box, and read my way back up the driveway.

I no longer was running to escape FROM something. I was running to escape TO something.

My favorite books without question belonged to The Happy Hollisters series. Written by Andrew E. Svenson (as Jerry West), 33 books chronicled the adventures of the always optimistic sleuthing siblings -- Pete, Pam, Ricky, Holly and Sue; plus their dog (Zip), six cats (White Nose and her kittens) and later a donkey (Domingo).

Solving mysteries is exactly what I knew my family would do, if we owned a donkey.

My favorite book in the series I easily remember. The Happy Hollisters and the Whistle-Pig Mystery had all the drama an early reader could muster. Plus, it had a strange new word right there in the title.

No one in my circle of family and friends had a clue what a whistle-pig was. So Mother and I looked it up in the Encyclopedia Britannica -- which to you younger readers was, in those days, Google with leather binding.

We learned that a whistle-pig is a smallish, pudgy burrowing animal -- a groundhog, gopher, or marmot. Think Caddyshack (1980) minus Bill Murray.

Sure enough, with the help of their old German woodcarver friend, Fritz, the Hollisters solved the mystery. That's the moment -- at age 5 or 6 -- when I knew I wanted to be a writer!

Then something happened to my dreams. Despite winning a story contest in seventh grade, the self-doubt of high school, the split up of my parents (John and Elaine Hollister

rigors of college, and the lack of early career confidence, the writing dream became buried beneath several layers of "I'm not good enough. I did write. I even

would never do that!), the

co-published a sports magazine. However, I mostly put words on paper as a copywriter. I became that guy writing about making your septic tank run smoother.

Hardly Tolstoy. Fast-forward to today. The Paper of Montgomery County is holding a writing contest in November. Montgomery County's Novella Writing Month is the perfect writing opportunity for people like us -- we who ache to tell stories, but let our lack of confidence creep into our

abilities. We've created Mo-CoNoWriMo to showcase our talented local writers. But we also want to encourage those of us who have a whistle-pig stuck deep inside us -- a story to tell. We need a little encouragement.

Yes, we will be judging for a top prize. However, don't confuse judging with judgmental. We aren't going to be very critical. Don't forget. You are the only one who can write your story.

Don't worry about grammar, either. Lots of famous writers lacked grammar skills only to write amazing stories.

The Germans have a saying, "Lass das Schwein raus!" . . . Let the pig out! Basically, it means to let yourself go! Be free! Don't let anyone stop you!

That's what Mo-CoNoWriMo is all about --having a great time! If nothing else, letting your inner pig out might be a fun way to climb out of a rut, and the odds of success are a lot higher than finding a donkey in your mailbox.

(Plus, you could win 100 bucks . . . and . . . ahem . . . that ain't whistling, Fritz. See?

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

hearing by an independent Administrative Law Judge, TheTimes24-7.com which essentially says us/join-amac. Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

The Noblesville Times **A9** Friday, Oct. 28, 2022

Colorado Wedding Artists Muzzled: 303 Creative v. Elenis

By John A. Sparks

The October term of the U.S. Supreme Court has begun. The previous term yielded some "blockbuster" decisions, and the new term seems likely to produce more of the same. One of these is the case 303 Creative v. Elenis.

Lorie Smith, doing business in the Denver. Colorado area as "303 Creative, LLC," is seeking to be able to expand her commercial web-design business into the wedding website market. However, she is being prevented from doing so by a Colorado "public accommodations" law. Colorado and other states have laws which are intended to prevent discrimination based on, among other things, sexual orientation by businesses who are open to the general public. Smith's proposed wedding websites are personalized and would "celebrate and promote the couple's wedding and unique love story by combining custom text, graphics and other media.'

Smith holds a traditional Christian view of marriage as a union between one man and one woman. Therefore, she states that she would not be able, in good conscience, to produce website products that run contrary to her biblical faith commitments and beliefs. However, under Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA), if she refuses to provide websites for "same sex unions," she risks being in violation by her refusal. Moreover, if she simply seeks to announce on her Jusiness she mai she is unable to use her artistry

to further messages which are contrary to her faith, she is also in violation. Violations trigger fines, cease and desist orders, required reporting, and other conditions that some have described as "re-education," all of which are burdensome and costly to a business.

Smith sensibly chose not to risk breaking the same law that she knew had been used against another Colorado-based Christian business (Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colo C.R. Commission) in a similar situation. Instead, she sought a preliminary court injunction against CADA's sanctions being enforced against her. Six vears later, her lawsuit has finally made it through the lower federal courts to the Supreme Court. During this time, she could not safely expand her artistry into wedding website market. The Supreme Court, in agreeing to hear her appeal, limited its inquiry to whether CADA as applied to her web design business was an unconstitutional restraint on speech.

What will happen next? First, the court must decide whether the creation of a wedding website is an exercise of "speech." At first blush, it may seem strange to regard website creation as "speech." However, the courts long ago recognized that the meaning of speech does "not end at the spoken or written word" (Texas v. Johson). For instance, the Supreme Court has held that wearing black arm bands to school in order to protest the Vietnam War, as well as picketing in labor disputes, are both examples of the exercise of "speech." In the 303 Creative case, graphics, images, and of course words, were put together to produce a wedding website. That expressive product certainly appears to constitute speech under previous case law. In fact, the lower court which last reviewed this case, the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, has already conceded that Smith's wedding website creations are "pure speech." That question seems to have already been resolved in the affirmative.

Next, the court would decide if the requirements of CADA infringe upon Smith's freedom of speech. The facts tell the story. In order to avoid violating CADA, Lorie Smith would have to be willing to artistically design and create wedding websites that celebrated marriages, such as same-sex unions, to which she has deeply held religious objections. Put another way, to break into the wedding market, she would have to create wedding websites containing content that the state forces upon her but which she rejects as a matter of personal conviction.

What Colorado and CADA are requiring of Smith runs counter to a nearly 80-year-old doctrine called the "compelled or coerced speech" doctrine. This doctrine, derived from the First Amendment speech clause, maintains that besides being free to speak, citizens also have a right to be free from being compelled to speak a message mandated by the government or another case against Colorado for

person.

The oldest and bestknown case embodying this idea is W. Va. State Board of Education v. Barnette (1943). There, the court ruled that public school children who were Jehovah's Witnesses could not be required to salute the flag and say the pledge of allegiance, which was against their religion's teaching. In that case, the court based its decision in support of the children upon their not being obliged by law to express a message contrary to their own beliefs or convictions. This is precisely what CADA is requiring of Lorie Smith. That should be the end of it.

Smith and her lawvers will have to counter the claim that if she were to create a website for a same-sex union she would not be supporting that view herself, but instead merely conveying the view of marriage endorsed by the couple. However, expressive wedding artistry involves the artist personally embracing and celebrating the subject of her artistry. As her lawyers argue in their brief, "Smith is not a passive conduit for someone else's message." She is an intimately involved participant in the finished product. Worse, the requirements of CADA force her to spend some of her limited time and imagination 1) proclaiming and furthering unions with which she disagrees, and 2) taking time away from the message of biblical marriages which she set out to further through her

Smith has a strong

another reason. CADA is a "content-based" law. Content-based laws are those which target speech because of the content of the speech; that is, because of the position taken by the speaker. Here the content that Lorie Smith seeks to further—a biblical view of marriage—is unwelcome and considered biased and discriminatory. The content of her "speech" conveyed by her wedding websites is unfavored by Colorado law. Since the court has held that content-based laws like this "are presumptively unconstitutional," it should strike down the CADA as applied to 303 Creative. Nonetheless, Colorado may argue that if it can prove that it still had a compelling reason for

CADA, it can stand. The government is rarely able to meet this high standard. Speech is a fundamental, constitutionally protected right. For Colorado to directly or indirectly restrict it is an extremely serious matter. Colorado will maintain that it is seeking to eliminate various types of discrimination which prevent Colorado citizens from market access to goods and services. Smith's first answer to that claim is that, in fact, she willingly serves gays and lesbians in providing her general website services. It is only when clients insist upon a message which she cannot in good conscience provide that she refuses service. For example, if a gay horse trainer asked her to create a website for his stables, she would have no problem providing a site

an business.

Secondly, it is clear that other providers would be willing to offer wedding website services to gays and lesbians because these vendors do not have the religious scruples possessed by Smith. To argue that potential clients wanting a wedding website would be unable to find a firm to craft one in the greater Denver area is to practice willful ignorance. Here, note that the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, recognizing that the claim of "exclusion from market access" did not hold water, concocted a finding that Ms. Smith's services were so unique that they constituted a kind of "monopoly" of quality and skill which could not be duplicated by any other website provider. This is judicial gymnastics at its

Finally, Smith can successfully argue that Colorado has defined "public accommodations" too broadly while other states have limited its definition to essentials, like food, shelter, and medical care.

worst.

The centerpiece of liberty-freedom of speechcannot yield to the new use and abuse of public accommodations laws like the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act.

Dr. John A. Sparks is the retired Dean of Arts & Letters, Grove City College and a Fellow in the Institute for Faith and Freedom. He is a member of the state bar of Pennsylvania and a graduate of Grove City College and the University of Michigan Law School. Sparks writes regularly for the Institute on Supreme Court developments.

Averting Nuclear Armageddon—In October 1962 and Today

work.

By Dr. Paul Kengor

It is ironic and scary that 60 years after the Cuban Missile Crisis that brought the world's two superpowers to the brink of nuclear Armageddon, President Joe Biden warned of possible nuclear "Armageddon" this October 2022, and once again with Russia.

Biden has been harshly criticized for that language, accused of hyping an already grave situation between Putin and the Ukraine and of fanning the flames with unnecessarily incendiary rhetoric. Personally, I think Biden's warnings are apt. I've been stating for months that the potential for a desperate Vladimir Putin to escalate to the level of using nuclear weapons is frighteningly real. A Putin whose army is defeated on the battlefield is an especially dangerous Putin who may well resort to something catastrophic, as we feared in October 1962.

The situation in October 1962 was dire. JFK faced a grim scenario that looked like it might spiral out of control. It was a grave situation difficult to hype. In fact, Kennedy struggled to communicate to Americans just how alarming the situation was without overly alarming them.

It all began on October 14, 1962 when an America U-2 spy plane doing regular reconnaissance over Cuba caught images of what appeared to be Soviet missile sites. This had been among America's worst fears since Fidel Castro had come to power in January 1959 and allied with the USSR. The prospect of a legion of Soviet nuclear missiles fired from Cuba at American soil, leading to nukes fired in retaliation by the United States against Cuba and the USSR, and then the USSR against the United States, and then Western Europe and Eastern Europe

brought into the fray killing countless millions of people—was truly a doomsday scenario.

Kennedy went public with the U-2 finding in a dramatic nationally televised speech on October 22. Americans were terrified. They dashed to grocery stores to buy up all canned food and supplies, and many of them literally started digging bomb shelters. Popular culture had been filled with fears of nuclear war. You could see it in movies and on TV. Now it looked like it might become a reality. Everyone readied to duck and cover.

As for President Kennedy, he faced hard choices. His advisers didn't know whether the missiles were armed yet with nuclear warheads. Thus, some military advisers urged strikes on the missile sites immediately, before the weapons became nuclear. But if he did, countered Kennedy, he would be seen as the aggressor, killing not only Cubans but Russians. The Cold War would become a hot war, with Kennedy perhaps perceived as starting it by going on the offensive. His closest adviser, Robert Kennedy, said he didn't want his brother to become a "Tojo in reverse"—a reference to the Japanese leader who authorized Pearl Harbor.

The nightmare scenario terrified all of humanity, from Washington to Moscow to every capital. But there were two extraordinary exceptions. There were two lunatics who welcomed Armageddon from ground zero in Cuba: Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. The fact that they did, and why, must be known and remembered, especially given the odd admiration for Fidel and Che by many misinformed young Americans.

"If the nuclear missiles had remained, we would

have fired them against the heart of the U.S., including New York City,' Che gleefully admitted in November 1962 to Sam Russell of Britain's Daily Worker. "The victory of socialism is well worth millions of atomic vic-

tims." Che was willing to fire those atomic weapons and launch a nuclear war that he understood would lead to the liquidation of Cuba. Che biographer Philippe Gavi said that the Argentine revolutionary had bragged that "this country is willing to risk everything in an atomic war of unimaginable destructiveness to defend a principle.'

The principle was communism.

Keith Payne, president of the National Institute for Public Policy, recounted how "Che Guevara specifically said that he was ready for martyrdom" (that is, to be an international martyr to the religious-like cause of communism) and "ready for Cuba, as a country, to be a national martyrdom." Payne quotes the response of a shocked Anastas Mikoyan, the leading Soviet official under Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, who responded to the martyr-like fanaticism: "We see your willingness to die beautifully. We don't think it's worth dying beautiful-

Che was an unhinged zealot who described himself as "bloodthirsty." Fidel Castro was no better.

If Fidel would have had his way in October 1962, Cuba would have ceased to exist. The fact is that Fidel actually recommended to Soviet General Secretary Nikita Khrushchev that they together launch an all-out nuclear attack upon the United States, and even urged Khrushchev to do so if U.S. troops invaded the

island.

This is no secret. Castro openly admitted it. Robert McNamara, President John F. Kennedy's secretary of defense during the Cuban Missile Crisis, was taken aback by Castro's candor when the two men publicly discussed the incident 30 years later in an open forum in Havana. Fidel told McNamara flatly, "Bob, I did recommend they [the nuclear missiles] were to be used."

In total, said Mc-Namara, there were 162 Soviet missiles on the island. The firing of those missiles alone would have led to (according to McNamara) at least 80 million dead Americans, which would have been half the U.S. population, plus added tens of millions of casualtie

That, however, is a mere conservative estimate, given that 162 missiles were far from the sum total that would have been subsequently launched. The United States in turn would have launched on Cuba and also on the USSR. President Kennedy made that commitment clear in his nationally televised speech on October 22: "It shall be the policy of this nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the Western Hemisphere as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States, requiring a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union." In response, of course, the Soviets would have launched on America from Soviet soil. Even then, the fireworks would just be starting: Under the terms of their NATO and Warsaw Pact charters, the territories of Western and

Once the smoke cleared, hundreds of millions to possibly over a billion people could have perished. If Fidel Castro had his way, he would have

start firing.

Eastern Europe would also

precipitated the greatest slaughter in human history.

that promoted his equestri-

good for Cuba? Fidel weighed in on that one, stating the obvious to McNamara: "What would have happened to Cuba? It would have been totally destroyed.'

Would that have been

Fidel didn't care, and neither did his comrade Che. They were ready for martyrdom. As McNamara said of Fidel, "He would have pulled the temple down on his head."

To Fidel and Che, Marxism was their faith, and they desired to be martyrs to the faith.

JFK, an intensely anti-communist Catholic, understood that about communists. He loathed Fidel and Che and what they were doing to Cuba.

Even the atheist-communist Soviets were stunned at such unbridled zealotry by Fidel and Che. In fact, that helps explain how this crisis was ended. Nikita Khrushchev quickly realized he was dealing with lunatics and better immediately remove the

missiles. Nikita Khrushchev's son Sergei, in his seminal three-volume biography of his father, chronicled the Kremlin's astonishment: "[Castro] had to inform Moscow as quickly as possible of his decision to sacrifice Cuba." The Soviet ambassador to Cuba, Alexander Alekseyev, was so stunned that he stood frozen as he listened to Castro tell him: "If we want to avoid receiving the first strike, if an attack is inevitable, then wipe them off the face of the earth." Without waiting for an answer from the speechless Soviet ambassador, Castro started writing his feelings on paper, which "seemed like a last testament, a farewell." Fidel was ready to go up in a giant mushroom cloud

for Marxism.

Nikita Khrushchev now knew he had to act without hesitation to get the nukes away from these madmen. He met with the top Soviet officials in the "code room" of the Soviet Foreign Ministry very late on a Sunday night, and ordered, repeatedly, "Remove them, and as quickly as possible."

As for Fidel, he was "furious," said Sergei Khrushchev: "Castro was mortally offended. He had made up his mind to die a hero, and to have it end that way." He now considered Nikita Khrushchev "a traitor."

Thankfully, the world averted nuclear war, through the steady leadership of President Kennedy and thanks to Nikita Khrushchev removing the Soviet missiles.

And so, in October 1962, nuclear Armageddon was averted. In October 2022, we pray that any use of nuclear weapons by Moscow will again be averted. Sixty years ago, it took the skill and resolve of key statesmen to pull the world back from the precipice. Do we have such men with such abilities in those posts today? We shall find out.

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