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TODAY'S VERSE

Philippians 3:13 "Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Laura Vaughan smile? "The thing that makes me smile the most is seeing young 4-H'ers start to grow up in the program and once they get toward the end of their journey, they really start to blossom," said the 19-year-old Noblesville resident, a 10-year Hamilton County 4-H'er and former Junior Leader who was found in 2021 helping with the Hamilton County 4-H Fair in Noblesville. The daughter of George and Lisa Vaughan, she was first runner-up in the 2020 4-H Fair Queen Pageant. During the 2021 4-H Fair, she earned multiple scholarships and was one of two county 4-H'ers presented the coveted Tenure Award with scholarship money from Farm Bureau. "My biggest achievement is being awarded the Cornelius Vanderbilt scholarship at Vanderbilt University" in Nashville, Tenn. "It's a full-ride scholarship so I get all of my tuition covered. I was so excited to be handpicked from a pool of, I think 45,000 applicants, to represent my school in such an amazing way." Today's feature is a look back at one of The Times' previous Faces of Hamilton County. Since age 10 until she graduated high school, she was a youth volunteer at Conner Prairie, which is open now through Dec. 18 for A Merry Prairie Holiday outdoor lighting display featuring thousands of holiday lights, courtesy of Reynolds Farm Equipment, plus visits to Prairietown, food and more. For tickets, visit connerprairie.org

And Another Few Things...

1. Holiday Crafts

In the wide variety of art-class offerings from Fishers Parks, you have the opportunity to learn from local and regional makers and artists! With a full slate of hands-on art programming and workshops in our Maker Labs and Maker Playground at the Fishers Parks HQ (8100 E. 106th St.), there is something for anyone - from stained glass and eco-dying to home decor and woodworking and more, for both kids and adults. Below are a few of the holiday-themed courses offered in the coming days. Visit playfishers.com to see the full list of activities offered.

Marbling Ornament & Custom Card Workshop

5, 6 or 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9
Choose from 3 different times for this all-ages workshop hosted by Sewful Cheryl and make your own marbled ornaments and custom holiday cards!

Holiday Wreath Workshop

6-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12
Dress up your door for the winter season with fresh, winter greenery. This two-hour class at the Fishers AgriPark will walk you through creating a beautiful wreath for your home using unique bundles of a variety of fir, pine and spruce trees.

Head to playfishers.com/655/Art-Courses-Workshops to register for these activities.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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The Times photo courtesy of Betsy Reason

Hear the Noblesville First UMC Chancel Choir during a Christmas Festival of Music & Art at 6 p.m. Sunday at the church, with a Janus Art Sale, followed by a Christmas concert at 7 p.m., with free admission.

NHS Choir Concert, Fun with Mrs. Claus, & First UMC Festival



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

If you love holiday music and performing arts, Santa and Mrs. Claus visits and carriage rides, this weekend and next weekend are both filled with many things

to do.

All of the Noblesville High School choirs will perform tonight and Saturday afternoon at the annual Holiday Concert, themed "Cool Yule," at NHS Auditorium. Santa is on the Square all weekend thanks to the Hamilton County Historical Society. Moffett Craig revives her Mrs. Claus for a special event for kids Saturday morning at Adriene's Flowers & Gifts in Noblesville. Noblesville First UMC will offer its gift to the community on Sunday evening during a Christmas Festival of Music & Janus Art Sale, followed by a Christmas concert.

Here are 22 holiday things to do this weekend and beyond:
1. All ages can visit the Hamilton County Historical Society's Santa House with hours 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. today and Dec. 15

(virtual), 16 and 23; noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 17, 18; noon to 3 p.m. Sunday; and noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 24.

2. Enjoy Nickel Plate Trail Night Lights with food, music and surprise festivities at 6 p.m. today and Saturday in downtown Fishers.

3. Visit the Christkindmarkt in Carmel now through Dec. 30, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays through Sundays, with special hours, extended until 10 p.m. Dec. 10, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 19-23 and Dec. 26-30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24 at 10 Carter Green in Carmel.

4. The Federal Hill Commons Ice Plaza is open through Jan. 9 in Noblesville. Rink hours are

➔ See BETSY Page A6



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Schools

Hamilton County School Superintendents Meet

Hamilton County's six public school superintendents participated in a panel discussion Thursday as part of the Hamilton County Leadership Academy's (HCLA) Education Day. They covered school accomplishments, challenges in education today, communications, school board relations and more with this year's HCLA class. From left to right are Dr. Derek Arrowood (Hamilton Heights Schools), Dr Dan Hile (Noblesville Schools), Dr Paul Kaiser (Westfield Washington Schools), Dr Yvonne Stokes (Hamilton Southeastern Schools), Dr David Mundy (Sheridan Schools), Dr Michael Beresford (Carmel Clay Schools).

Heirbrandt Earns Commissioner of the Year Honor

Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt was recently honored with a top award from the Indiana Association of County Commissioners (IACC). Heirbrandt was named 2022 "County Commissioner of the Year."

His work across Hamilton County has captured statewide attention since first being elected in 2013, he has been recognized with an additional 5 statewide awards during his time on the board.

"I'm honored to continue serving the residents of Hamilton County, no matter what award I may receive, this job is critical to improving the quality of life for our community," Heirbrandt says.

"Making a difference in the lives of the people that I

➔ See HEIRBRANDT Page A6

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OBITUARIES

Barbara Jean DeNoon

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

HONEST HOOSIER

16 Hamilton County shopping days until Christmas. Merry Christmas to the great folks at Gatewood's!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Water exercises are very helpful for people with back and joint pain. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Christmas gift suggestions: to your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect."

- Oren Arnold

TODAY'S JOKE

What did Adam say to his partner on Dec. 24? It's Christmas Eve!
What did Adam say to her the next day? It's Christmas, Eve.
(See how important commas are!)



Senator Young Names New State Director

Yesterday, U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) announced that Greg Goode will serve as State Director, effective January 2023.

"I am extremely excited to welcome Greg Goode to our team as State Director. Greg is a proven leader who is passionate about public service and improving Indiana's communities. His talent and wealth of experience will help our office better serve and represent all Hoosiers, and I look forward to partnering with him," said Senator Young.

Goode currently serves as Executive Director of Government Relations and University Communication for Indiana State University. For nearly 17 years over separate stints of service, Goode has served as Indiana State's liaison to the Indiana General Assembly, Governor's Office, and Commission for Higher Education, as well as the United States Congress

and local governments.

From 2009-2012, Goode served as Chief of Staff to the President of Bastyr University and was the founder and director of the University's Center for Health Policy and Leadership.

Goode has a lengthy history of direct involvement in higher education, economic development, health care, and transportation issues, having previously worked in Washington, DC for two members of the United States House of Representatives. He is a former Governor-appointed to the Midwest Higher Education Compact.

Goode has earned two degrees from Indiana State University, performed graduate studies at the Pentagon through the Catholic University of America, and is pursuing his doctorate at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



Senator Todd Young

Goode succeeds Andrew Kossack, who served as Senator Young's State Director for more than four years and recently left for a new opportunity as chief of staff to Keith Krach, founder of the Krach Institute for Tech Diplomacy at Purdue University and former U.S. Under Secretary of State.

"I would like to thank Andrew for his friendship, leadership, and tireless work as State Director, and I know he will continue to be a strong advocate for our state in his new role," said Senator Young.

Thomas Collins, II Receives Tourism Industry's Highest Honor from Lt. Governor

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC) announced yesterday at Newfields that Thomas Collins, II, owner and president of the Luke Family of Brands, is this year's recipient of the Will Koch Indiana Tourism Leadership Award.

The Luke Family of Brands began as a supplier of home heating fuel and has since diversified its assets. From convenience stores across the state to a popular Northwest Indiana orchard, an Indianapolis restaurant and the creation of the Indiana Dunes Pavilion, Collins, II consistently demonstrates extraordinary commitment to supporting tourism.

The Will Koch Indiana Tourism Leadership Award is presented annually and is the highest tourism honor given by the state. The award is named for the late Will Koch, long-time owner and president of Holiday World & Splashin' Safari. Visit Indiana and the Koch family established the honor to pay tribute to Koch's many meaningful contributions to tourism, business and society.

"Collins, II is a leader in every sense of the word," Lt. Gov. Crouch said.

"He has been instrumental not only in supporting Indiana tourism and economic development but also in his community service. He is well deserving of this honor."

Collins, II supports numerous charities. His recent donation to the Boys and Girls Club caused a ripple effect throughout his company. Shortly after that donation, employees expressed their interest in getting involved in their communities.

In response, Collins, II created a program called Serving U. Employees now have the opportunity

of paid volunteer days, grants, a giving match program, community clubs and a mentorship program for employees who serve on a Board of Directors.

"I am completely humbled by this honor," Collins, II said. "I accept this award on behalf of my family, Luke Family of Brands, the company and all the great people I work with every day."

Nominations for the Will Koch Indiana Tourism Leadership Award are submitted by community leaders and members of Indiana's travel, tourism and hospitality industry. A panel reviews submissions.

A video of this year's Will Koch Indiana Tourism Leadership Award can be found online at [youtube.com/watch?v=7rVkjHBEL2Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rVkjHBEL2Q).

Betty Cash received the Visit Indiana Leadership Award. After seven years as the executive director, she retired from the Perry County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Before her role as director, Cash served on the tourism commission in Perry County for 13 years. She worked tirelessly to bring visitors to Perry County, supporting the local community and businesses. Her peers from SIRMC (Southern Indiana Regional Marketing Cooperative) nominated Cash. That group calls her an innovator, a forward-thinker, and a cheerleader.

Crouch and IDDC also presented 16 tourism industry representatives with a Hoosier Hospitality Award for their high level of service in tourism-related jobs at hotels, restaurants, attractions and other destinations.

"These award winners represent the best of our state from the Leisure and Hospitality Industry," IDDC's Secretary and

CEO, Elaine Bedel said. "These individuals dedicate their time and service to showcase to visitors and their communities what a great place Indiana is to work, live and visit."

The 2022 Hoosier Hospitality winners are:

- Tessie Anderson - Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center
 - Shyla Beam - Vincennes Knox County Visitors and Tourism Bureau
 - Alan Brown - Newfields, Indianapolis
 - Manny Cortez - Community Pro-Education, Goshen
 - Denise Davis - Indianapolis Airport Authority
 - Kathaleen (Kate) Garrett - Metro Diner, Mishawaka
 - Eric Ivie - Hendricks County Parks and Recreation
 - Ariene (Ari) Mambo - Newfields, Indianapolis
 - Mark McKinney - Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne
 - Linda Meek - Hilton Garden Inn, Edinburgh
 - John Mellinger - Visit Indy
 - Cory O'Sullivan - Electric Key Records and Roux-Ga-Roux's, Franklin
 - Bruce Sigmon - Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center
 - Debra Wayman - Hope Medora Goes Pink Festival
 - Staff at Toodleydoo Toys - Franklin
 - The Team at the Veteran's National Memorial Shrine & Museum - Fort Wayne
- Nominations for Hoosier Hospitality Awards are submitted by community members and destination patrons and are reviewed and selected by IDDC. Outstanding service is a significant factor in determining whether a person returns to an individual business or destination.

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Kenny Talks Purdue's Future after Brohm Leaves for Louisville

Time will tell if the grass is greener (or in Kentucky's case, bluegrass) on the other side of the Ohio River for Jeff Brohm.



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

Brohm's 36-34 record that Purdue fans celebrated after the 9-39 Darrell Hazell era will get him fired at Louisville, his alma mater. And that's the risk Brohm is taking with his decision Wednesday to leave a flush-with-money Big Ten for a school in a dying conference, the ACC.

Clemson and Florida State would probably already be heading to the SEC. The Big Ten has coveted North Carolina for a long time and might take Duke too.

ACC schools are stuck with a terrible TV rights deal through 2035-36 (which paid out \$36.1 million per school in 2020-21). In 2024, when USC and UCLA officially join the Big Ten, estimates are that each Big Ten school will collect \$75 million from just its TV rights deal with Fox, CBS and NBC.

It's totally understandable why Brohm went home. His parents aren't getting any younger and the Brohm name is royalty in Louisville like the Mannings in Louisiana.

Add in revenue from the Big Ten Network, bowl games and an expanded College Football Playoff pool (imagine the Big Ten pocketing a potential 25 percent if it gets three schools in the 12-team playoff) and it's possible career suicide to be coaching anywhere outside the soon-to-be 32 Big Ten/SEC schools.

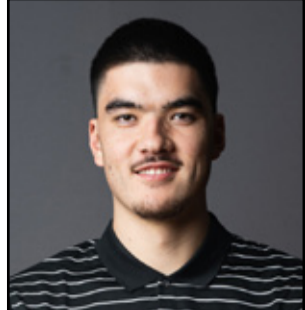
But there's a cautionary tale about going home again occurring in real time at the home of the Kentucky Derby. Former Louisville standout basketball player Kenny Payne was heralded as a savior after scandals involving former head coaches Rick Pitino and Chris Mack put the Cardinals under NCAA scrutiny.

If not for the ACC schools' television rights belonging to the conference for that period,

As of Thursday, Payne is off to an 0-8 start that includes losses to Belarmino, Wright State and Appalachian State. Louisville even lost a home exhibition game

to Lenoir-Rhyne. At \$3,350,000 a year through 2028, that's a poor return on Louisville's investment.

If reports are accurate, Brohm will be getting \$35 million over six years. That's similar to his contract at Purdue and doesn't leave a lot of cash for Louisville to compete in the athletics arms race.



Zach Edey

On the field, the ACC's Atlantic Division bears little comparison to the Big Ten West. Clemson has become a national power and Florida State appears to be righting the ship after a post-Bobby Bowden malaise. North Carolina State is no pushover. Neither are Syracuse and Wake Forest.

the Big Ten's financial leverage and hire a coach who will have the college football world saying "Purdue did that?" Wisconsin did it with Luke Fickell. Nebraska reached high and snared Matt Rhule.

Circle the calendar now: Louisville's 2023 schedule includes a trip to Lucas Oil Stadium to face Indiana on Sept. 16. Won't it be strange if/when Purdue fans root for the Hoosiers in that game?

No coaches from the Mid-American Conference (see Kent State and Hazell, Darrell). No retreats who retire on the job (see Akers, Fred). No coaches with Purdue ties (Kevin Sumlin, Dino Babers). No coaches with one eye on replacing Bill Belichick in New England (Bill O'Brien).

The Cardinals are set to host Notre Dame, Kentucky, Virginia and Virginia Tech as well. Matching this year's 7-5 record under former head coach Scott Satterfield appears reasonable. But will it be enough with the raised expectations from boosters and fans who believe Brohm will take them to the next level?

Look to the Pac-12 and ACC to see if someone wants to jump off those sinking ships. Or, find a young and rising coach hungry to make his mark in the Big Ten. Stability is a must in today's transfer portal/buying players through the guise of NIL (which should stand for "Now It's Legal") era. Thank goodness for bas-

ketball. On Terry Dischinger bobblehead giveaway day this past Sunday at Mackey Arena, it was fitting that Purdue center Zach Edey posted numbers unmatched by anyone since Dischinger's days in West Lafayette.

points, career-high nine rebounds, seven assists). Smith put up 13 points and five rebounds against Hofstra, while Loyer added 10 points and five assists.

A career-high 31 points and 22 rebounds for the 7-4 Edey is the best single-game effort for fourth-ranked Purdue since Dischinger put up 46 points and 22 rebounds, also against Minnesota, on Feb. 24, 1962.

Edey and Loyer repeated as Big Ten Player and Freshman of the Week this past Monday, the first time this feat has been accomplished in conference history.

Edey outrebounded Minnesota 22-21 and shot more free throws (10-8) than the Gophers. The former 440th best recruit in the 2020 class accomplished a feat no one in the last 25 years has done.

Mr. Football awards Two, for now anyway, Purdue recruits were among the Mr. Football position award winners announced this week by The Indianapolis Star.

With 23 points Wednesday night in an 85-66 victory against Hofstra, Edey's string of eight consecutive games with 20 or more points matches Andrew Bogut's scoring record for players 7-feet and over set in 2004-05.

Tight end George Burhenn led Mt. Vernon with 38 receptions for 784 yards and nine touchdowns. He even returned punts (19.5 yard average) and kicks (18.9).

Teams can't focus solely on Edey thanks to the freshman backcourt duo of Fletcher Loyer and Braden Smith. Loyer set career highs with 20 points and eight assists against the Gophers. Smith went scoreless against Minnesota but flirted with a triple-double at Florida State (13

Westfield's Dillon Thieneman, the third member of his family set to be a Boilermaker, earned the Defensive Back Award despite playing just six games due to injury.

His senior year totals of 64 tackles and an interception gave him career totals of 246 tackles and five interceptions.

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.

As More Hoosiers Report Drinking During Pregnancy, Calls for Task Force Grow

Hoosier Hospitals Honored for Excellence in Infant and Maternal Health

By Leslie Bonilla Muñoz

mothers — 0.4% — reported drinking while pregnant. The fetal alcohol spectrum disorder report the same year said that data "should be monitored for Indiana on a routine basis" — but in 2007, the state adopted a standardized live birth certificate that doesn't ask about alcohol during pregnancy.

Hoosiers increasingly report drinking alcohol during pregnancy, jeopardizing the physical and neurological development of those fetuses, according to a new report.

Still, IUPUI in 2012 estimated that about 900 Hoosiers are born with a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder annually, and that more than 63,000 Hoosiers in total have such a disorder.

The news is leading fetal alcohol spectrum disorder advocates to renew calls for improvements first proposed in an initial report sixteen years ago.

Alcohol use on the rise? In a survey of 47 people, just 63% of respondents reported not drinking in the last three months of pregnancy, a steep drop from 90% in a 2006 survey of 773 people. And 9% of 2022 respondents reported having 14 or more drinks in an average week during that period of time.

"This is not going away," said Susan Elsworth, who directs the Indiana Alliance on Prenatal Substance Exposure. She cited estimates that one in 20 school-aged children live with the impacts of such exposure.

More also said they drank in the three months before becoming pregnant than in 2006 — including more instances of binge-drinking, or having five-plus drinks in one sitting. About 34% of 2022 respondents reported binge-drinking during this period of time, compared to 22% in 2006.

"That means that's in our neighborhoods, our schools and all of our programs, and they're showing up in our juvenile justice systems and [Indiana Department of Child Services] cases," Elsworth said Tuesday.

That's key because about half of pregnancies in Indiana aren't planned, according to 2016 research by the Guttmacher Institute, a reproductive health policy organization.

She presented on Wednesday the results of a state needs assessment completed in September to the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana.

"It's not that alcohol exposure is always inten-

tional, or irresponsible," Ellsworth told commissioners. "It's that people who aren't expecting to be pregnant are not finding out until starting six weeks after conception that they're pregnant."

coordinator.

While the report indicated that more respondents understand that no type or amount of alcohol is safe at any point during pregnancy, they're still reporting drinking more.

Verbal screening, she said, isn't cutting it: new mothers in hospitals answering lengthy surveys are exhausted, and may not remember alcohol use, or fear admitting such use and inviting a visit from the Department of Child Services.

And while misinformation lingers among everyday Hoosiers, it also persists in small numbers of service providers such as social workers and nurses. About 4% of 279 providers said a glass of wine a day is safe, as is the occasional drink.

Indiana Health Commissioner Dr. Kris Box noted that test-based screenings by default included multiple drug types, but that screening for alcohol added \$45, with hospitals absorbing the costs. She also said that ideally, health care providers would meet with women before conception to talk about alcohol habits and pregnancy.

Another 14% of service providers said they didn't feel comfortable talking with clients about their alcohol consumption during pregnancy, up from just 2% in 2006. And just 4% of providers said they report diagnoses of any of the five fetal alcohol spectrum disorders to Indiana's Birth Defects and Problems Registry, which is how the state determines the prevalence of the disorders.

The birth defects registry isn't up to par either, Elsworth said. It only includes diagnoses from age zero to five, but most diagnoses of a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder aren't made until after five.

What's lacking Elsworth recommended expanding public education about the disorders, establishing training for service providers, boosting availability of screening tools and stepping up data collection efforts. She also recommended that Indiana establish a statewide task force with an array of members and a dedicated

"It never ties back to our prevalence rates," Elsworth said. "We already know that this is underreported. So we're looking at getting this changed ... to age zero through lifespan."

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BETSY From Page A1

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24, and closed Christmas Day. Admission includes skate rental, \$13 for ages 13 and older, \$11 for ages 12 and younger. Punch passes are available, 10 skate passes for \$110; 5 skate passes for \$60; skate aid rental \$3. Admission and skate rental are good for all day skating. Skate, take a break, shop, grab lunch and come back to skate later the same day for no additional cost.

5. Hear the wonderful sounds of Noblesville High School choirs during the annual Holiday Choir Concert, themed "Cool Yule," at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday, with choirs performing at both concerts but different auditioned student acts at both concerts, at NHS, with \$10 and \$15 reserved seating at nhscpo.org

6. Enjoy a holiday walking light tour, with displays and holiday photo opportunities, every evening now throughout the holiday season at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville. A special Santa mailbox will also be available at the Christmas Cottage.

7. Take a drive through the Magic of Lights: Drive-Through Holiday Lights Experience," now open nightly at Ruoff Music Center in Noblesville.

8. While there's a waiting list for Reindeer Rides through Dec. 23 on the Nickel Plate Express in Noblesville, there are still some adult Holiday Cheers rides available this season. Take a 75-minute ride with Santa and see Santa's workshop and cross over Morse Reservoir while singing Christmas carols and sipping hot chocolate, with tickets at nickelplateexpress.com. Also enjoy a night with Santa to support Toys for Tots at 5 p.m. Dec. 15 at Nickel Plate Express.

10. Take a stroll during A Merry Prairie Holiday outdoor lighting display, Fridays through Sundays, through Dec. 18 and Wednesday and Thursday Dec. 21-22 at Conner Prairie in Fishers, featuring thousands of holiday lights, courtesy of Reynolds Farm Equipment, plus visits to Prairietown, food and more for \$22 per person or \$11 per member. Also, Breakfast with Santa at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturdays through Dec. 18, with tickets \$19.95-\$25.95.

11. Enjoy "Christmas



The Times photo courtesy of Betsy Reason

Moffett Craig revives her Mrs. Claus for a special event for kids Saturday morning at Adriene's Flowers & Gifts in Noblesville, with pre-registration. Enjoy "Fun with Mrs. Claus" for ages 3-7 at 10 a.m. Saturday with storytime, singing and making a craft.

at the Playhouse" at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Basile Westfield Playhouse featuring six original one-act plays, "A Requiem for Shermey-last Minute Shoppers," "Clara The Christmas Angel," "Holiday Cards," "Garland, Gynos and Gurneys" and Traditions," directed by Nicole Amsler, Kelly Keller and Jen Otterman, with tickets \$12-\$15 and veterans and military free, at westfield-playhouse.org.

12. Enjoy Carmel Community Players' comical collection of stories, songs and vignettes at "Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas," with director Kate Hinman, today through Dec. 18, with shows at 7:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, Thursday, and 2:30 p.m. Sundays, at The Cat in Carmel, with \$18 tickets, and \$16 for ages 62 and older and students, at www.carmelplayers.org

13. Bring your family to Breakfast with Santa at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Sheridan Elementary School. Enjoy breakfast brisket tacos from True Texan BBQ, biscuits and gravy and French toast sticks, and Christmas shop from more than 25 vendors.

14. Enjoy Fun with Mrs. Claus for ages 3-7 at 10 a.m. Saturday at Adrienes Flowers & Gifts in Noblesville, with Santa's favorite food, cookies and punch, storytime, singing and making a craft. Bring a letter to

Santa with your Christmas list to drop in Santa's mailbox and also canned or nonperishable food item for the First Presbyterian Church's food pantry next door. Preregistration required for the event by calling (317) 773-6065.

15. Families can reserve a private 15-minute carriage ride, weekends through Dec. 18, through downtown Noblesville for \$75 or a carriage ride with Santa for \$125. Carriage rides can seat up to six adults and three to five children on adults' laps (Santa rides seat five adults and three to five children on adults' laps.

16. Smile for photos with Santa from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Speck's Pet Supplies in Fishers.

17. Carmel Holiday PorchFest is 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in Midtown Plaza in Carmel.

18. Experience a Living Nativity with drive-thru experience with real animals from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at Cornerstone Lutheran Church in Fishers.

19. Hear the Noblesville First UMC Chancel Choir during a Christmas Festival of Music & Art at 6 p.m. Sunday at the church, with a Janus Art Sale, followed by a Christmas concert at 7 p.m., with free admission.

20. Hum along as The Attic Theatre presents "Hello Dolly!" musical at 7 p.m. Dec. 14-17 at Ivy Tech with show times at

\$12 tickets, \$8 for ages 4-12, tickets at theatthetheatre.com.

21. If you love dance, experience EnPointe Indiana Ballet's best as the studio presents "An EnPointe Christmas" at 7 p.m. Dec. 16 and 2 p.m. Dec. 17 at Noblesville High School Auditorium, with tickets, at \$10, available at enpointe.yapsody.com. The show features 108 dancers and more than 25 dance numbers with a mix of classical and contemporary ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, modern, plus a nine-minute finale to a playful rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

22. Hear Fishers 21-year-old vocalist Peter Fulton perform during Carmel Christkindlmarkt in downtown Carmel at 5 p.m. Dec. 20, 8 p.m. Dec. 21 with Songbook Academy, 2 p.m. Dec. 22, 5 p.m. Dec. 27 and 29 and 8 p.m. Dec. 30, all 45-minute sets.

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

Save the Date in January 2023: The Underdog Theatre presents "The Choices We Make," an original one-act play written and directed by Clay Howard, a 2022 Noblesville High School graduate, and featuring students, on stage for three performances, at 7 p.m. Jan. 6 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Jan. 7, at the Noblesville First United Methodist Church in Celebration Hall. Visit underdogtheatre.org

HEIRBRANDT From Page A1

encounter every day is my top priority." Heirbrandt has been responsible for driving and completing many transformational county projects requiring extensive partner collaboration and identifying and securing major funding in order to improve the lives of Hamilton County's constituents and visitors. Through Heirbrandt's help, the county now has a taxpayer savings of \$25 million over twenty-five years in new energy-efficiency initiatives and currently maintains 600 miles of roads and over 300 bridges. His work has also assisted in strengthening businesses and encouraged millions of dollars in investments for Hamilton County.

Some of Heirbrandt's notable accomplishments so far include working to expand adequate infrastructure projects like roads and bridges as Hamilton County continues to rapidly grow. The major challenge is financing these projects while maintaining a tax neutral environment for the citizens. Heirbrandt has worked tirelessly to coordinate a county financing team to model Hamilton County's future needs against its financial resources. These efforts produced a fresh, budget-neutral long-term capital plan for the county.

Additional priorities for Heirbrandt include a focus on public safety, road safety and infrastructure, cost savings, and communication and transparency. He continues to work with Commissioners' Christine Altman and Steve Dillinger to ensure Hamilton County is at the forefront of positive change.

"I've always communicated consistently and honestly with residents. When people come together



Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt

er with new ideas and new solutions, we have a greater impact," Heirbrandt says. "In order for our community to succeed, we need to be proactive about providing the best resources while maintaining fiscal responsibility."

Now, Heirbrandt will take his work to the next level. He was also elected to serve as 2023 President of the Indiana Association of County Commissioners during their annual conference.

As President, Heirbrandt will represent the elected county commissioners in the 92 counties of Indiana. He will be President of the IACC's Board of Directors, which determines policies and legislative goals for the association. The elections were held during the IACC's 2022 Annual Conference, the largest gathering of County Commissioners in the state.

"I'm humbled that my colleagues have selected me to serve in this new capacity, it's truly an honor," Heirbrandt says. "This new position allows me to reach every corner of our great state, and I'm hopeful to use the resources at hand to continue to push county government forward not only for the residents of Hamilton County, but for all members of the Hoosier community."

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Indiana Chamber Releases 'Indiana's Leaking Talent Pipeline'

Improving K-12 outcomes for students of all races and income levels and greatly elevating the postsecondary attainment levels of Indiana's adult workforce are the most significant challenges facing the state, according to the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

That's because in the race to develop and establish a well-skilled, well-educated workforce for the jobs of today and tomorrow, Indiana is behind its competitor states. Currently, there are twice as many job openings in Indiana as there are jobseekers. And the workforce participation rate remains lower than before the pandemic started.

"We hear it from employers, and we see it in virtually every education and workforce statistic. It's that Indiana has a massively leaking talent pipeline," declares Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar.

He points to two key statistics: A little more than half of all Hoosiers age 20 to 65 with only a high school diploma are employed. For those with no high school diploma, 60% are not in the workforce.

The Indiana Chamber has developed a brief white paper called "Indiana's Leaking Talent Pipeline" (www.indianachamber.com/talentpipeline) that delves into this dilemma and what can and must be done to right the ship.

"We first should concentrate our policy focus and state resources on improving the outcomes and skills of those at the bottom end of the educational attainment scale. That's one of the very best ways to improve our overall workforce participation rate and fill the open jobs we have," Brinegar offers.

There is a high level of alignment between the steps the Indiana Chamber believes should be taken to bolster the state's overall talent landscape and the recent 30 recommendations from the Governor's Workforce Cabinet.

Brinegar, Jason Bearce, the Indiana Chamber's vice

president of education and workforce development, and Paul Perkins, the organization's board chairman from Amatrol, a provider of online career and technical education solutions, were part of the workgroups that suggested and vetted recommendations to the Cabinet.

"We celebrate their work, focus and commitment to getting this right," Brinegar begins. "Over the past few months, we've been sharing our pipeline document with the Governor, the Workforce Cabinet, legislators and other stakeholders. We are pleased so much of the concerns outlined in it and policies developed from it have been addressed in the Cabinet's final report.

There are any number of actions lawmakers should strongly consider in the upcoming legislative session, he continues, but notes two are particularly vital in enabling young Hoosiers nearing the point of entering the workforce full time to realize their potential.

Indiana still has one of the lowest Free Application for Student Aid or FAFSA completion rates in the country. Legislation passed in 2022 ensures families receive information about FAFSA and its importance in accessing resources to pay for postsecondary education. But for the majority, the Indiana Chamber and others contend filling out the FAFSA form should be a requirement for high school graduation.

The 21st Century Scholars program is another area in which much needed process improvement and fulfillment needs to occur, Brinegar stresses. The initiative provides free college tuition for low-income students who graduate from high school and who have completed a short list of preparatory activities.

"That participation level is shockingly low because students don't know about it or have the support to apply. What needs to happen is for every qualified student to be made aware and automatically

enrolled," he asserts.

It all begins, however, with a strong early foundation. The Indiana Chamber is pushing for increased public and private sector investment to help address the "clear and distressing decline in learning among all young Hoosiers – particularly low-income and minority students – the last few years," Bearce remarks.

"Later on in their education journey, dedicated career exploration courses (and related experiences) as expectations for all middle and high school students, as well as increased regional capacity for more work-based learning experiences would aid tremendously in the state growing its own talent," he adds.

"And every student in every Indiana high school should have available to them the full array of college core courses needed for the next level of education attainment. No student should be penalized or hindered in their postsecondary preparation due solely to their geographic location or size of their school district."

Bearce also notes that initiatives around retaining college graduates and providing employer incentives to increase the number of work-based learning opportunities are also high on the policy list for the Indiana Chamber.

The organization's "Leaking Talent Pipeline" document covers workforce rankings and rates, student learning and proficiency, underutilized programs, the impact of too many school districts, and postsecondary education and job openings. It is available to download for free at www.indianachamber.com/talent-pipeline.

With this effort and its top legislative priorities, announced last week, the Indiana Chamber is seeking to help frame the important talent conversation that will take place in the 2023 General Assembly – and, as Brinegar concludes, "to push for transformative actions that will have the most impact on the state."

IWU-National & Global Announces Revamped, Updated A.S. in Business

IWU-National & Global is creating interactive, engaging pathways for career advancement through its newly revamped Associate of Science degree in business. The updated program offers real-life, interactive perspectives and assignments that culminate in an ePortfolio with artifacts students can present to employers as evidence of career readiness. Graduates will be prepared to enter the workforce or pursue a bachelor's completion program to advance their careers.

"Through this program, students can attend weekly synchronous sessions from professors, prepare to pursue a Microsoft Office certification that can increase their earning potential, and learn important soft skills valued by today's employers," says Dedra Daehn, Director of Curriculum and Operations in IWU's DeVoe School of Business. "With the credits they've earned, graduates will also be able to enroll seamlessly in a bachelor's program that sets the course for a successful career."

IWU's associate degree in business focuses on building foundational business knowledge and developing students' proficiency in communication, emotional intelligence, leadership, teamwork, and adaptability. Students in the program have the potential to earn a certificate of completion through Peregrine Academic Services for Fundamentals of Business Writing, along with opportunities to earn IWU skill-based badges throughout the program.

With highly interactive courses and newly updated curriculum,

the A.S. in business is designed to give its graduates an edge in today's workforce and prepare them to be effective in various roles. To learn more about this degree, visit indwes.edu/asb.

About IWU:

Indiana Wesleyan University celebrates 100 years as a Christian, global, comprehensive university providing liberal arts and professional education to approximately 10,000 students worldwide. IWU is one of the largest faith-based universities in America with rich undergraduate, graduate, master's, and doctoral programs in such highly acclaimed academic units as the School of Nursing, School of Physical and Applied Sciences, College of Adult and Professional Studies, and School of Arts and Humanities. An early leader in adult and online education, IWU is known for excellence in innovation. Students live and learn on the beautiful 350-acre IWU-Marion traditional campus and study through IWU-National & Global programs offered online and at education centers in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. Wesleyan Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University, founded by the Wesleyan Church denomination and IWU, prepares Christian leaders to engage in missional ministry locally and globally. Indiana Wesleyan University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. It is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. For more information, visit indwes.edu.



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Voice of our PEOPLE

Christmas is in Your Heart Failure Rebound

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Christmas once started for me when the JC Penny and Sears catalogs came in the mail. They came early in the Fall and I wore them out looking at the toy section. By December the catalogs were in shambles.

My mother used to order clothes and other stuff from those catalogs. I don't remember her ever ordering toys. They usually came from the five and dime store in our town of Inez, KY or G.C. Murphy's store in Paintsville. Yet, the catalogs were fun and gave me ideas of the latest items for which to wish and hope.

I think my mother would enjoy the Internet today. She could order online like many of us are doing. Having Internet in the country is like have an updated Christmas catalog every day. There is always a means to shop and order. Back in that day ordering was tedious and arrival took weeks. Shipping back a dress that didn't fit was a



GLENN MOLLETTE
Guest Column

long ordeal.

As a child there was always much more that I saw, dreamed of and wished for than I ever received. Some Christmases were lean and others were more abundant. Life is like that most of the time. We have hopes and wishes that never come true and some that do. It's nice when one or two come true.

We hope for good health and enough money to pay the bills. We hope for our children to have meaningful lives and to be independent. We hope for peace and to see positive results from our efforts in life. We would all like to be

compensated well for the jobs we do. Being stuck in a job that is restraining with little hope of better wages is discouraging. Everyone deserves a life where internal inspiration can lead to reward and a better life.

The hardest part of life is when we feel hopeless. A terminal illness. Hard work with little to no reward. An empty house that isn't changing because you just buried a spouse. Failing when you may have tried hard or just decisions that didn't work out too well. All of these and more can be heartbreaking. Heartbreak doesn't do much for the Christmas spirit.

Those of us who have lived a few years know that Christmas doesn't come in a catalog, nor never did. It doesn't come on Black Fridays or cyber-Mondays. The multitude of Christmas programs don't bring Christmas. Decorated houses and trees are delightful but they don't create Christmas.

Christmas is an inside job. Christmas is in your heart and mind. The first Christmas was a peasant couple giving birth to a baby in a barn with a cow's trough for a crib. They were poor and just paying their taxes was about all they could afford. Yet, the child brought a joy they had never experienced.

In Luke chapter 2:19 we read "but Mary treasured up all these things and pondered in her heart..." Consider what and mainly who brings you joy and what really matters in your life and let there be Christmas in your heart during this season.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of 13 books including UncommSense, the Spiritual Chocolate series, Grandpa's Store, Minister's Guidebook insights from a fellow minister. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.



RANDALL FRANKS
Southern Style Columns

Have you ever found yourself in life at the bottom looking back up at what was once your life?

You look upon the environment that your hopes, desires and skills under God's allowances and providence afforded.

What you see however is not the attainment of a goal but a failure to meet the expectations held towards you, by yourself, by others, or even by your perception of what God wants from and for your life.

A business deal didn't work out; the relationship with your girl or boyfriend crashed and burned; you didn't get the job for which you applied; you made a promise to God or a fellow human being but failed to deliver; you were overcoming an addiction yet backslid for the first or umpteenth time.

When you look in the mirror, someone else that you do not like is staring back.

Are you a failure? We all see ourselves in this way at various points in our life. It can be temporary or extend well beyond its usefulness. You might say "usefulness," how can failure be useful?

Sometimes, we have built a team of support, our family, friends or mentors to uplift us in those downtimes. Knowing those people are there is a reminder of the strengths we build upon, they are there from love or because in your good times, you invested in their lives.

Sometimes, we can learn from our falls - in business we can review why the deal didn't work and next time make it better; next time we can give a

better interview; we can be more mindful of the promises we make and learn what is actually within our power to fulfill; we can also make amends to those we have wronged; we can seek a closer relationship with God through the reading of His Word, attending Bible studies, and prayer; we can cast off whatever afflicts our mind, body, or Spirit, pray for God's guidance and support and take our journey one hour, one day at a time striving to live a better life.

The most successful people that we see in life can likely spend many hours talking about the failures they endured before they walked boldly into success. No matter the arena that I walk into, I know the potential is there that I might not attain my aim. It's the process of aiming and coming ever closer to the target, that makes up the small stories in life that push us forward. Am I a failure, yes, I am one, I was one and I will be one. Does it matter what I failed at today. No, because my failures are not what make up who and what I am in the eyes of God, my loved ones and myself. Those downfalls are simply the rickety steps that I must take to reach the greatest moments of my life when all those low points are simply a memory.

Go out and create greatness, it's within your grasp. Failure is simply a tool that you release from your hands once you know how to use it.

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

According to Veteran Reporter Kimberly Strassel, It's Liberalism Vs Conservatism

By John Grimaldi

Kimberly Strassel is a veteran journalist and member of the Wall Street Journal's editorial board who writes the weekly column, Potomac Watch. The Wall Street Journal printed its first edition in 1889; today it has a worldwide circulation of about three million readers. It was founded by Charles Dow and Edward Jones and to this day, it is still published daily by the Dow Jones Companies and noted for its award-winning news coverage.

Recently, Kimberly Strassel joined Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens, on AMAC's Better For America podcast, for a discussion of the current state of American politics. As she put it, we are currently "having an up close and personal experience with liberalism, with an administration that is pushing forward ideas that are more progressive and aggressive than anything that we have probably

seen since when Jimmy Carter was in office, if not before."

Strassel went on to remind us that the nation got "really sick of that experiment" when along came Ronald Reagan, "a great communicator who [united] the conservative movement and fundamentally changed the structure of politics in the country for a generation or more." She called it the "Reagan Revolution" and said that President Reagan not only united the party, but he invited others to join in. "That's what's really at stake here. It's not just the next two years, but will conservatives capitalize on the great discontent that is washing across the country and use it to build a new movement?"

Meanwhile, the GOP now has control of the House of Representatives and has the ability to investigate and expose the damage for which the Biden administration is responsible. "That would include taking a deep dive in the FBI, looking a little bit more at what

happened starting all the way back with the Russia collusion hoax. But also, we've had whistleblowers coming forward, talking to Congress about continued political bias happening at the very top of the agency. I think Americans deserve answers on Afghanistan and that horrible withdrawal that weakened the country. I think they deserve answers in terms of the CDC and various other public health organizations that very much got it wrong in a lot of ways on COVID, mostly so that we know how to make sure that we get it right if there is another pandemic."

Strassel also pointed out that as a journalist, she is supposed "to be skeptical of government... to counter government spin, government officials. But look at what happened during the Russia collusion narrative. They [reporters] were essentially taking dictation from the same government officials who had engaged in wrongdoing, some of whom had been fired. But just telling their side, their story, not

actually asking any questions. That's very problematic because the fourth estate is meant to keep the government on its toes, expose ill-doings, and work on behalf of the people by telling the truth." As we have seen in the media, this is not something that is being done by journalists or news outlets. We have in fact seen quite the opposite.

However, Strassel shared the good news: "for every [news] outlet that I think has gone down that road, there have been others that have popped up. They might not have as big a megaphone, but they are committed to continuing to tell the truth, to respect their readers, [and] to understand that their job isn't just to give a narrative. And what I always argue is if you don't like that kind of partisan journalism, there's a very easy answer to it. It's the same thing that we do as consumers every day. Turn it off, don't buy it, don't listen to it, and send the message that that kind of journalism isn't acceptable."

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