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TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 5:3 - 5 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, hope; And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Anne Moore smile? "My kids, and anything funny. I love to laugh, sometimes if I get going, I can't stop and tears start rolling, haha," said the 1994 graduate of Noblesville High School. She and husband, Chris Moore, have two children, Jake and Joey. They co-own En Pointe Indiana Ballet school in Noblesville with Chris' brother, ballet dancers and instructors Robert Moore, and sister-in-law Pollyana Ribeiro. Moore loves working with her family and is thrilled that Robert and Pollyana moved here after very successful careers as principal dancers to teach the highest level of ballet there is to offer. Anne operates the business side of En Pointe. Her free time is spent helping her mom make costumes for the ballet, reading, and spending time with her sister and family. Anne has been married since 1998. "I love to read and I enjoy walking in my neighborhood." What else? She has earned two bachelor degrees, from the IU Kelley School of Business and Marian University's School of Nursing. She enjoys using her nursing education to help the dancers with their health and nutrition questions. She has been readying for "An En Pointe Christmas," with performances at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday at Noblesville High School. Tickets are for sale at enpointe.yapsody.com

And Another Few Things...

1. DNR Run & Walk

Monroe Lake will host its 10th annual First Day Trail Run and Walk at Fairfax State Recreation Area on Sunday, Jan. 1 at 3:30 p.m.

This noncompetitive event has three distances, 3.7, 2.9, or 1.3 miles, through fields and forested areas. Participants are encouraged to tap the bell and ring in the new year as they cross the finish line.

Advance registration is available through Dec. 30 at bit.ly/firstdayrun2023 for \$15 per person. The first 300 advance registrants will receive an embroidered collectible event patch.

Same-day registration will be \$20 per person (cash or check only) from 2:15-3:15 p.m.

All registrations include a post-event food station with soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, hot cocoa, and a wide variety of snacks. There will also be free event photos to download. Everyone also receives a ticket for the prize drawing, which includes race entries from Indiana Trail Running, Indiana State Parks annual entrance permits, and a guided kayak trip for up to eight people with kayaks included.

The event is co-sponsored this year by the Indiana Trail Running Association. Proceeds support public events, programs, and interpretation at Monroe Lake.

For more information contact the Paynetown Activity Center at Monroe Lake at (812) 837-9967 or email Jill Vance at jvance@dnr.in.gov.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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The Times photo courtesy of Betsy Reason

All ages can visit the Hamilton County Historical Society's Santa House with hours 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. today and Dec. 23; noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; and noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 24.

Weekend filled with Santa Visits, Holiday Shows, Christmas Lights



BETSY REASON

The Times Editor

If you love Santa visits and carriage rides, ice skating, and holiday plays and music and dance, this weekend and next

weekend are filled with many holiday things to do.

Here are 17 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. 23; noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; and noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 24.

2. Enjoy "A Christmas Story, The Musical" through Dec. 24 at Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre in Carmel.

3. Visit the Christkindlmarkt 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, 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. Amazing Athletes of Cen-

tral Indiana is coming to Noblesville Parks and Recreation this weekend and is offering a free "Try-It" Day at the park from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday with 20-minute classes running about every 25 minutes for ages 18 months to age 5. Join Coach Stacy at the Forest Park Lodge for some basketball, football, volleyball, tennis, soccer, hockey, golf, baseball, lacrosse, track and field. It's free and open to the public, with sessions at 10 a.m. (18 months to 2-1/2 years), 10:20 a.m. (ages 2-6) and 11:05 a.m. (K-6th grade). To register, call (317) 776-6350 or visit noblesvilleparks.org

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

See BETSY Page A5

Arrowood Reflects On Another Semester Over



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD

HHSC Superintendent



It's hard to believe that we are just a week away from wrapping up the first semester of the

2022-2023 school year! Our first semester ends on Tuesday, December 20 with our Christmas break taking place Wednesday, December 21 through Monday, January 2, 2023. I commend our students, staff, and families for their work and focus this semester to finish this first half of the year strong.

Our Synchronous E-Learning Day pilot run went extremely well a couple of weeks ago. Thank you for your part in making this day successful for your student. Going forward, if school is canceled for inclement weather, we will inform you via our School Messenger program as well as via our social media outlets. We will also inform our families of what kind of learning day it will be. For example, "Hamilton Heights Schools will be on a synchronous e-learning schedule today, December 9."

See ARROWOOD Page A5



Photo courtesy of HHSC

Doug Ozolins was recognized for his service and contributions during his 8-year tenure as a member of the school board representing White River Township. HHSC School Board members pictured are (from left to right) Arnett Cooper (At-Large), Gretchen Pennington (White River Township), Julie Davis (Jackson Township), Doug Ozolins (White River Township), Dr. Kevin Cavanaugh (Jackson Township) and HHSC Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood.

Doug Ozolins Honored at HHSC Board Meeting

On Wednesday, Doug Ozolins was honored at Hamilton Heights School Corporation's last School Board meeting of the year. Ozolins was recognized

for his commitment, dedication, and service to the school corporation.

See OZOLINS Page A5

INSIDE TODAY

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HONEST HOOSIER

9 Hamilton County shopping days until Christmas. Counting the days until I can get back out on the Forest Park Golf Course! Hey, only 93 days until spring!



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone." - Charles Schulz

TODAY'S JOKE

How did Scrooge win the football game? The ghost of Christmas passed!

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you want youthful skin, limit your exposure to the sun. 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.



OBITUARIES

Mattie Mae Pitman

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



OBITUARIES

Mattie Mae Pitman

February 4, 1942-December 14, 2022

Mattie Mae Pitman, 80, of Noblesville, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022 at her home.

She was born on Feb. 4, 1942 to Johnny and Ruby (Blevins) Sawyer in Washington County, Virginia.

Ms. Pitman worked as a waitress for Steckley's Old House in Carmel and a bartender for the American Legion. She attended Victory Baptist Church and Genesis Church in Noblesville. She was a member of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary and enjoyed attending flea markets and festivals. She also loved feeding ducks on Morse Reservoir, eating Mexican food, watching wrestling and attending Pacer games. Most of all, Ms. Pitman loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include her companion Jeff Bannon; son Larry (Kim) Forrer; daughter Sharon (Scott) Carey; 3 grandchildren Samantha Carey, Seth Carey and Larry Neal Forrer III; 2 brothers George Chapman and John Sawyer; sister Barbara Chisholm.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by 2 sisters Charlotte House and Bo Chisholm; and brother Joby Chapman.

Visitation is scheduled to run from 4-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Breast Cancer Research Foundation, 28 West 44th St., Suite 609, New York, NY 10036 (bcrcf.org).

Online condolences may be made at randallroberts.com



How Hard Can It Really Be to Keep A Secret?



DICK WOLFSIE
Life in a Nutshell

Over the past 20 years, I have written many humor columns about the holiday season. This is my favorite one, because not only is it based on something that really happened, but it's pretty much exactly what happened. In December of 2016, a UPS truck pulled up to our curb and, as always, we were eager to see what was in store for us. Actually, nothing was in a store. We bought everything online that year.

We saw the driver struggle with a huge carton the size of a big-screen TV. He maneuvered it to the front porch and left it

leaning against the door. I went outside to look at it. "Who's it for?" asked Mary Ellen.

I checked the label and it was addressed to me, but that could have been misleading. Some of our credit cards are in my name, some are in Mary Ellen's; when a delivery is made, we are not sure who ordered it and who the gift is ultimately for. If the wrong person opens it, well, there goes the surprise on Christmas morning.

"It says it's for me," I told her, "but I have no recollection of ordering anything so big. Maybe you ordered it, Mary Ellen."

My wife thought for a moment and so began the weirdest conversation in our 34-year marriage. "Dick, I know what it is. It's that special item I mentioned two months ago that I wanted for Christmas. You said you found it in a catalog. Don't you remember?"

I am so excited! Thank you."

"I have absolutely no idea what it is. Can you give me a hint?"

"No, I can't give you a hint. That would ruin the surprise."

"Ruin the surprise? Ruin my surprise? The gift is for you! It's supposed to be your surprise. But you already know what it is. I'm the one who doesn't have a clue."

"It doesn't seem right to tell you. That's not in keeping with the spirit of giving, Dick."

"Okay, how about you whisper softly in my ear and I promise I won't tell you what you said." It scared me a little that for a brief moment this actually made sense to me. It was driving me crazy that I had no memory of what I bought her. "Is it a high-tech item?" I asked.

"Not really," said Mary Ellen.

"Do you plug it in?"

"No."

"Is it artwork?"

"No, not even close. But I don't want to play anymore. If you guess it, I'll have nothing to look forward to on Christmas morning. I want to see the expression on your face when I open it."

Later that morning when Mary Ellen went out grocery shopping, I opened the box. Let me tell you, it was a really neat present. I don't think I have ever been happier with something I bought my wife. Before Mary Ellen got home, I resealed it and then gift-wrapped it and placed it under the tree. Of course, now we both knew what was in the package. It will still be a surprise on Christmas morning, as long as we can both keep a secret.

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.

Meeting Notes

Noblesville School Board

Meeting Agenda
Educational Services
Center Board Room,
18025 River Road Noblesville

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022
at 7 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Moment of Silence
4. Minutes

A. Approval of the minutes of the minutes of the Nov. 15, 2022 regular School Board meeting

5. Recognitions
- A. 2022 Holiday Card

Artwork Selection

- B. Girls Soccer / NHS
- C. Boys Soccer / NHS
- D. Girls Cross Country / NHS

- E. Cheerleading / NHS
- F. Boys Cross Country / NHS

- G. Volleyball / NHS
- H. Football / NHS

- I. Girls Golf / NHS
- J. Boys Tennis / NHS

- K. Hare Teacher Spotlight / HD

6. Reports

- A. Building Spotlight

- Hazel Dell Elementary School

- a. Karen Carter, Principal

- B. ESSER Plan December 2022

- a. Dr. Jen Townsend, Ex. Director of Learning

7. Public Comment

- a.. The board provides

an opportunity for members of the public to address the board pursuant to Policy 0167.3 Public Participation at Board Meeting

8. Consent

- A. Claims

- B. Donations

- C. Overnight Trips

- D. Personnel

9. Action

a. By individual motions, the board approves/adopts the following items or actions which reflect application of Board Policy and Indiana Code

- A. 2023 Elementary Summer Programming

- B. 2023 Middle School Summer Programming

- C. 2023 High School Summer Programming

- D. NHS Course Additions and Course Title Changes

- E. Transfer of Appropriations

- F. Resolution Establishing Supplemental Payment for Teachers for Class Coverage

- G. J. Everett Light (JEL) Career Center Memorandum of Understanding

- H. Technology Equipment Network Infrastructure Upgrades / NHS, NEMS, NWMS

- I. Bids / NWMS Cafeteria Expansion

- J. Bids / NHS Athletic Addition

- K Policy Adoption

10. Committee Reports

11. Adjournment

Application Period Opens for Great American Songbook Foundation's Songbook Academy

High school students with a passion for singing and the stage can learn directly from Broadway performers and other arts and entertainment professionals at the Great American Songbook Foundation's annual Songbook Academy, now accepting applications for its 14th national summer intensive July 15-22, 2023.

The Songbook Academy focuses on the pop, jazz, Broadway and Hollywood standards that have come to be known as the Great American Songbook, but the experience can be life-changing for any young person who wants to gain experience and expertise as a singer in professional or academic settings.

Only 40 students nationwide are selected each year to attend the weeklong intensive at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. Alumni have gone on to perform on NBC's The Voice, on Broadway, and at Carnegie Hall and other prestigious venues.

"There's nowhere else that you're going to learn about music in this way," said 2021 and 2022 participant Lydia Herrera of Kennesaw, Georgia, now studying in the renowned Department of Musical Theatre at the University of Michigan.

Through a rigorous but fun schedule of workshops, masterclasses and performances, the 40 students have opportunities to:

- Learn from award-winning artists, music directors and educators from top college performing arts programs about topics such as vocal technique, song interpretation, stage presence, music history,

auditioning for college arts programs, and life as a working professional.

- Gain personal insights from professional performers including Songbook Foundation Founder Michael Feinstein, the five-time Grammy-nominated "Ambassador of the Great American Songbook." The other 2023 industry mentors are still to be announced, but previous mentors have included Broadway and Netflix stars Ashley Park and Solea Pfeiffer, performers from the hit musicals Mean Girls, Hamilton and Wicked, and members of Postmodern Jukebox and The Manhattan Transfer.

- Perform in solo and group formats in state-of-the-art venues for public audiences of a thousand or more, as well as online viewers.

- Connect and make friends with other young artists from across the country, joining an alumni network that provides support and shares information on scholarships, performance opportunities and academic and professional experiences.

Although Songbook Academy originated as a judged competition with awards for top performers, it has since evolved into a format that emphasizes camaraderie and mutual support among the participants.

"Songbook Academy is the first arts experience I have had where I felt true support and that I was on a real team," said 2022 alum Alexander Kim of Laguna Niguel, California.

"I was surrounded by peers and mentors who are brilliant examples of what I



Photo courtesy of Wayne Images

Student singers selected from across the nation rehearse for a group performance at the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts during the 2022 Songbook Academy, the flagship educational program of the Great American Songbook Foundation.

can attain if I apply myself to the song."

How to apply:

To be considered for the Songbook Academy, active high school students as of Jan. 1, 2023, who live in the United States are invited to submit videos with performances of two contrasting songs. Students are encouraged to select songs from the Broadway stage and the Hollywood screen as well as 20th century jazz standards. Submissions are evaluated by a national panel of music educators and industry professionals who provide written feedback to every applicant.

Candidates may apply at app.getaccepted.com/songbookacademy. The application deadline is March 26, 2023, with an early-bird discount available through Feb. 26. Need-based scholarships, fee waivers and other financial-aid opportunities are available.

More details and application information are available at TheSongbook.org/SongbookAcademy or by email at SongbookAcademy@TheSongbook.org.

About the Great Amer-

ican Songbook Foundation:

The mission of the Great American Songbook Foundation, founded in 2007 by five-time Grammy Award nominee Michael Feinstein, is to inspire and educate by celebrating the timeless standards of pop, jazz, Broadway and Hollywood.

Headquartered at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, the Foundation advances this rich musical legacy by curating a vast Library & Archives of items representing its creators, performers and publishers; operating a multimedia exhibit gallery; overseeing the Songbook Hall of Fame; offering programs for the public and research opportunities for scholars and artists; and providing educational opportunities for student musicians, including the annual Songbook Academy summer intensive. The Foundation is a Cultural Affiliate of the Los Angeles-based Grammy Museum.

More information is available at TheSongbook.org

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Did Purdue Make A Mistake Hiring Ryan Walter?

This football coaching search was an opportunity for Purdue to be bold and reach for the stars like their Big Ten peers Nebraska and Wisconsin did a few weeks ago.

The hire of Illinois defensive coordinator Ryan Walters was disappointing upon first reaction, mostly because of the raised expectations for replacing Jeff Brohm that came from athletic director Mike Bobinski.

"I think we'll be able to attract a deeper and higher-quality pool than perhaps we were able to get in 2016," Bobinski said the day after Brohm took most of his coaching staff and a handful of recruits to Louisville. "We had really good people there, and we hired a really good coach. But I think we may have more of that to be able to select from this time around and that's a result of where we've come."

Talk about overpromising and underdelivering.

The reported coaching pool in 2016 included Air Force coach Troy Calhoun and Skip Holtz, Brohm's Conference USA rival at Louisiana Tech. Bobinski did an admirable job keeping this search quiet, but I would have remained mum too if I was going to foist a 36-year-old first-time head coach on a skeptical Purdue fan base.

Walters did make a good first impression Tuesday with at least one member of his new team. In a widely circulated video on social media, Walters awarded a scholarship to redshirt freshman running back Devin Mockobee. This was a wise move because a report circulated last week that Brohm tried to



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

convince Mockobee to follow him to Louisville, technically an NCAA violation since Mockobee is not in the transfer portal.

Walters also won the press conference Wednesday afternoon but press conference victories don't count in the Big Ten standings in September. There will not be a more important hire for Walters than his choice for offensive coordinator.

The hire was greeted positively by Adam Rittenberg, a longtime Big Ten beat writer for ESPN.com who gave Purdue a B-plus.

"Walters is ready to lead a program," Rittenberg wrote. "Walters likely would have been the choice at Colorado if not for Deion Sanders, and had impressed several schools in interviews this cycle. He should energize Purdue's recruiting efforts, although his staff -- both on the field and in support roles -- will be very important to keep the program's momentum after its first Big Ten West Division title."

"After the Jeff Brohm era, Purdue fans will want the excitement on offense, and specifically with the quarterback position, to continue under Walters. Like all defensive assistants getting their

first opportunities as head coaches, Walters will need a detailed plan for how he's going to approach the offense. Although the Big Ten is a league where defenses often carry the day, especially in the West Division, Purdue has stood out because of its quarterback tradition. How Walters addresses those areas will be essential to the early part of his tenure."

Walters is Purdue's first defensive-oriented hire since Leon Burtnett in 1982, when he replaced a College Football Hall of Fame coach in Jim Young. As head coach, Burtnett shifted his focus to offense and leaned heavily on quarterbacks Scott Campbell, Jim Everett and Jeff George during his five-year tenure.

History suggests Walters will continue the nearly century-long Purdue tradition of a losing hire following a winning head coach. Examples include Jack Mollenkopf to Bob DeMoss in 1970, Young to Burtnett and Joe Tiller to Danny Hope in 2009.

The last winning transition came in 1930, when Noble Kizer was promoted to replace Jim Phelan. All Phelan did was go 8-0 in 1929 and win Purdue's most recent undisputed Big Ten championship. Kizer would go 42-13-3 before a fatal kidney disease forced him to resign before the 1937 season. It would be nearly 20 years before Purdue found another consistently winning coach in Mollenkopf.

On paper, the 2023 Purdue schedule is not easy. Fresno State (9-4 in 2022) comes to West Lafayette for the Sept. 2 opener. A trip to Virginia

Tech (3-7) and a rematch with Syracuse (7-5) in Ross-Ade Stadium wraps up the non-conference slate. September concludes with home games against Wisconsin (6-6) and Illinois (8-4).

Trips to Iowa (7-5) and Nebraska (4-8) sandwich a home game with Ohio State (11-1) in October. A trip to Michigan (13-0) and a home game with Minnesota (8-4) open November before the Boilermakers once again close the season with Northwestern (1-11) in Evanston and Senior Day against Indiana (4-8).

Walters is the youngest Purdue head coach since Stu Holcomb, who was 36 when he came to West Lafayette from an assistant coach's role at Army in 1947. The only younger head coaches in Boilermaker football history are Phelan (1922), Kizer and Isbell (1944). Each were 29 at the time.

Rapid, record rise for No. 1 Purdue

Monday's ascension of Matt Painter's Boilermakers to the top of The Associated Press college basketball poll for the second consecutive season is unprecedented.

Never has a school unranked in the preseason AP poll reached No. 1 faster than Purdue, according to Dave Worlock, the NCAA's director of media coordination/statistics. The Associated Press college basketball poll debuted in 1950.

Purdue is also No. 1 atop Joe Lunardi's latest NCAA tournament bracket for ESPN.

"Purdue's resume in replacing Houston as the No. 1 overall seed is awfully impressive for

mid-December," Lunardi writes. "The Boilermakers have a best-in-the-nation five Quadrant 1 wins (only Kansas and Wisconsin have as many as three), and four of them have come away from home."

"For all the talk about the chip on Kentucky's shoulder after losing to St. Peter's in the NCAA tournament, perhaps we were shortchanging the team that lost to the Peacocks two rounds later. This Boilermaker team is clearly on a path to surpass that Sweet 16 showing from a year ago, and it will take a lot more than a St. Peter's to knock them out."

Junior center Zach Edey claimed his third consecutive Big Ten Player of the Week award. It matches the school record set by Carl Landry during the 2006-07 season. Wisconsin's Ethan Happ was the most recent player to accomplish the feat in November 2018.

Edey leads the nation at 13.7 rebounds per game and seventh in scoring at 22 points a game.

The 7-4 Canadian is also starting to look like a national player of the year favorite among college basketball media. Edey ranks first in analyst Ken Pomeroy's Player of the Year standings, and veteran analyst Andy Katz also favors Edey for the award last won by a Boilermaker in 1994 when Glenn Robinson swept the postseason honors.

Noteworthy

Leading the nation in receptions and receiving yards was only worth a second-team All-America honor from The Associated Press for Purdue's Charlie Jones.

Jones has 110 receptions

for 1,361 yards. His 12 receiving touchdowns rank fourth nationally. The transfer from Iowa broke John Standford's 20-year-old school record for yards in a season.

Jones is the third Purdue wide receiver in four years to earn AP All-America honors, following Rondale Moore in 2018 and David Bell last season.

The Athletic also honored Jones as a member of its All-Portal team. The site noted that Jones outperformed his former school's group of receivers for the 2022 season. Iowa's receivers combined for 72 catches for 752 yards and two touchdowns. ...

Jones' childhood friend, Purdue quarterback Aidan O'Connell, is ranked 12th in ESPN.com's list of top NFL quarterback prospects. That projects to a mid-to-late Day 3 draft pick. ESPN.com projects O'Connell to be a good fit for the Los Angeles Chargers.

"The Chargers are an ideal fit because of their propensity to rely on getting the ball out quickly. O'Connell's at his best when he can make quick decisions and keep pass-rushers from bearing down on him." ...

Purdue guard Marcus Mbaw was selected to The Athletic's Freshman All-America team. Mbaw was credited for giving up no sacks on 671 snaps.

Running back Devin Mockobee was a second-team selection.

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

\$50K Donation Helps Give Boost to Salvation Army Christmas Campaign

Christmas is just days away, but thanks to an anonymous "Angel donor" in Central Indiana, donations made online and in storefront Red Kettles will be tripled during the final days of the annual Christmas campaign.

Donations made from Dec. 19 through Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) will be tripled up to \$45,000 for Red Kettle gifts and up to \$5,000 for gifts made to the Central Indiana Virtual Red Kettle. A \$10 gift will have a \$30 impact in the community thanks to this generous donor's triple match.

"As we head into the final days of our Red Kettle campaign we know that every dollar counts more than ever," said Major Rachel Stouder, Area Commander for The Salvation Army of Central Indiana.

"By tripling the donations of shoppers and our online donors, these generous friends of the Army are providing more than just an extra boost to help us reach our goal. They are providing the funds that we will need to feed, shelter, and care for Hoosiers throughout 2023."

This matching gift comes at a time when The Salvation Army could really use a boost in donations. Because of rising costs for Salvation Army programs like Angel Tree, emergency utility assistance, and food pantries, reaching the Red Kettle Campaign goal of \$3.4 million is more vital than ever before.

As of Dec. 13, the campaign had only raised 39% of the goal. Shoppers have until Christmas Eve (Dec. 24), the final day of



the triple match, to donate to Red Kettles before they are put away for another year.

In addition to cash dropped into Red Kettles, donations made through the touchless giving "tap to give" Tip Tap devices on kettle stands will also qualify for the triple match. Donors can use Apple Pay, Google Pay, Venmo, or PayPal to make their gift by simply tapping their credit card, smart phone, or smart watch to the device.

Shoppers looking for a Red Kettle during the \$50,000 triple match period will be able to find bell ringers at many locations, including Walmart, Sam's Club, Kroger, Big Lots, JCPenney, Cabela's, Walgreens, Emagine Theaters, Needle's Fresh Market, Hobby Lobby, and Simon Malls.

Volunteer bell ringers are still needed for this final week of fundraising. Anyone interested in volunteering to ring a bell this holiday season is invited to visit

RegisterToRing.com and find a location, date, and time that works for their schedule.

Virtual Red Kettle: \$5,000 Match

Not all of The Salvation Army's volunteer bell ringers are standing outside of storefronts this year. Some have signed up as "virtual bell ringers" for the 2022 Virtual Red Kettle Campaign, which has a goal of raising \$50,000 online through a peer-to-peer fundraising platform. These volunteers have their very own Virtual Red Kettles with personal fundraising goals.

Anyone who donates to the Central Indiana Virtual Red Kettle Campaign between December 19 and Christmas Eve will have their donations automatically tripled until the \$5,000 limit is reached. This is an exciting development and gives those who cannot get out to visit a Red Kettle a chance to still double their donation during this special week through these 24/7 online donation pages.

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Photos courtesy of the Noblesville Lions

Noblesville Lions Celebrate Holidays With Cheer and Awards

Last Wednesday evening at The Remnant in Arcadia, the Noblesville Lions Club celebrated the holidays with dinner and awards. During dinner, the club was entertained by Morgan Dennhardt, a HH Elementary Music Teacher. For Jingle Bells, she asked for help ringing the bells. Lion Mark Bachar came to the rescue!

Lion Julia Kozicki was honored with the Melvin Jones Fellowship award by Council Chair Scott Smith. Julia is the club's past President, current Secretary, and also 1st Vp of Lion 25D District. She was approved by the club to be next year's 25D President. Julia has provided outstanding leadership for the Noblesville Lions Club, and the 25D District since her 4 years of Lion's membership.

The club also honored certain long-time Lion members with awards. Those honored were Steve Shaw (45 yrs), Bob Minton (55 yrs), Dale Unger (40 yrs), John Grimes (60 yrs), and Mark Roberts (30 yrs).

(Above, left) Lion Julia Kozicki receiving Melvin Jones Fellowship award from Scott Smith.
 (Above, right) Long-serving memberships went to Steve Shaw, Bob Minton, Dale Unger, John Grimes and Mark Roberts.
 (Below) Lion Mark Bachar ringing Jingle Bells for Morgan Dennhardt.

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BETSY From Page A1



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven and Indy Ghost Light Photography

Get your tickets for The Attic Theatre's "Hello Dolly!" musical at 7 p.m. today and Saturday at Ivy Tech with show times at \$12 tickets, \$8 for ages 4-12, tickets at theattictheatre.com.

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.

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 is 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. Watch "White Christmas" during the Allied Solutions Movies at Midtown event at noon Saturday at Midtown Plaza in Carmel.

9. Go out to the farm and enjoy live music with the Booze Hounds Bluegrass band at 7 p.m.

Saturday at Spencer Winery in Noblesville.

10. 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.

11. Take a stroll during A Merry Prairie Holiday outdoor lighting display, today through Sunday, 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. Saturday with tickets \$19.95-\$25.95.

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



The Times photo courtesy of Betsy Reason

Kevin Shadle, Tonya Rave and Matt Trgovac rehearse for Carmel Community Players' comical collection of stories, songs and vignettes at "Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas," with director Kate Hinman, today through Sunday, 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 carmelplayers.org

at www.carmelplayers.org

13. Families can reserve a private 15-minute carriage ride, through Saturday 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).

14. Hum along as The Attic Theatre presents "Hello Dolly!" musical at 7 p.m. today and Saturday at Ivy Tech with show times at \$12 tickets, \$8 for ages 4-12, tickets at theattictheatre.com.

15. If you love dance, experience EnPointe Indiana Ballet's best as the studio presents "An EnPointe Christmas" at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday at Noblesville High School Auditorium, with tickets, at \$10, available at https://enpointe.yapsody.com. The show features 108 dancers and more than 25 dance numbers with a mix of clas-

sical and contemporary ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, modern, plus a nine-minute finale to a playful rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

16. 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.

17. 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 www.underdogtheatre.org

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

OZOLINS From Page A1

Ozolins served as the elected school board representative for White River Township for the past eight years. He served as a member of a number of committees throughout his tenure, most recently, the Hamilton Heights School Board Facilities and Policy committees. He was also a four-year member on the Indiana State School Board Association (ISBA) Legislative Committee and is the high school Robotics Coach. After his family lost their son Nick, a freshman at Purdue University, in 2010, the family established the Engineering Scholarship for HHSC in Nick's honor.

"There is no greater honor for me than to serve on our local school board and to try to give back to the community that has given my family so much," said Doug Ozolins. "It has been an honor and humbling experience to serve the community, the students, the taxpayers, families, teachers, and administration. I am truly proud and grateful for the opportunity to have positively contributed to Hamilton Heights in this role during my tenure."

"I didn't really know Doug Ozolins before I was elected to the School Board four years ago," said Julie Davis, HHSC School Board President. "I taught his wife Christi in Honors English, and I was blessed to teach his son Nick. Nick sat near the front of the class and always kept me on my toes. After getting to know Doug, I realized that at the heart of this really good family was a really good man."

"Doug has served the Hamilton Heights School Board well, both on the local level as well as on the state level as an ISBA policy board member," she continued. "His every decision has been based on what's good for kids. I will always remember the time that we were holding a closed School Board Executive Session at the Central Office, and a patron

showed up and was upset that he wasn't allowed to enter. Doug followed him out to the parking lot, spoke with him and listened to his concerns for upwards of half an hour, making sure he knew that his voice would be heard. Actions like this are what makes the HH School Board great. Doug Ozolins, it is an honor to have served with you."

"In my opinion, there are two reasons folks run for the School Board," added HHSC Superintendent, Dr. Derek Arrowood. "They either run to make the school an even better place to serve students or because they have a personal ax to grind. Doug is the epitome of a board member who always put the needs of Hamilton Heights' students at the forefront of every decision. His passion for all things Heights an inspiration to me on a personal level and I will miss having him as a member of the HHSC Board of School Trustees. During his tenure as a school board member, he has helped make HHSC an even better place for students to learn and to me that is the ultimate compliment a school board member can receive".

Beginning in January 2023, three members will begin their four-year terms. Arnett Cooper (At-Large) and Julie Davis (Jackson Township) whose seats were unopposed. Ben Lehman (White River Township) will begin his four-year term of service in January. Cooper, Davis, and Lehman join Gretchen Pennington (White River Township) and Dr. Kevin Cavanaugh (Jackson Township).

Hamilton Heights School Board consists of five members, each elected to staggered four-year terms. The first school board meeting of the new year is 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2023, at the Student Activity Center-Board Room. Learn more about Hamilton Heights School Board and its members at hhschus-kies.org.

ARROWOOD From Page A1

Please follow your child's building schedule. As a reminder, if any updates are needed to your child's information on school messenger, those can be made by contacting the registrar at your student's building. Registrar contact information can be found online at hhschus-kies.org/registration

Congratulations to all 8 HHMS Robotics Teams on an outstanding start to the season. This past weekend, in a field of 52 teams, four of the HHMS teams placed in the top five in the Teamwork Challenge. Team 214D brought home first place and secured their place to compete at the state level this spring. Team 214A won the skills competition. In a tournament earlier this season, 214A and 214B also secured their state

championship spots. In January, five teams will travel to the Kalahari Classic Signature Event to try and secure a spot at the VEX World Championship.

I want to give a shout out to several of our student groups for their work in making the holidays and our community a little better and brighter. Under the leadership of Emily Beechler, HHMS Media Center Specialist and Husky Readers Club advisor, members collected almost 30 new pajamas for babies through teens as part of their second annual "Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive." Each set of pajamas is paired with a book from Scholastic and donated to a local shelter. Children who come to the shelter are given the book and PJs upon arrival.

Tracy Zachary, HHES Special Education Teacher and K-Kids Club advisor, along with 17 other adults and some 40 members of the K-Kids Club, went shopping for Christmas gifts as part of the Angel Tree program at Heights. Not only did the students raise money for the presents, they kicked it up a notch by shopping and wrapping the presents.

HHHS Student Government members, under the direction of HHHS Media Center Specialist and club advisor, Lori Hippensteel, have been working to raise money for Riley Children's Hospital. This Saturday they have partnered with the BoatHouse where 20% of all purchases between 6 and 9 p.m. will be donated to Riley. Their next fundraiser is the Riley Dance Mar-

athon on Friday, Jan. 13, 2023, as part of this year's Winter Homecoming activities. Check out students Anna Jozsa and Kaylee Rhoton's video tutorial on how to donate to the marathon on YouTube by visiting youtube.com/watch?v=qVvkXhZksvc

Thank you for supporting our children, teachers, and staff and helping to make Hamilton Heights an amazing place to teach, learn, and belong. Have a wonderful holiday break. We look forward to the start of the second semester on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023! From our family to yours, Merry Christmas! #WeAreHuskies

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

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FRIDAY Voice of our PEOPLE

Odds and Ends From My Israel Trip



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

Let me repeat something I wrote earlier. Jet lag is real.

As of this writing, we have been home a little less than 24 hours. The clock and bright daylight tell me it's mid-afternoon, but my body tells me it's time for bed. In addition, my wife and I both feel like death eating a brick, a line I'm borrowing from an old friend. Don't know if it's that wonderful recirculated air we spent 14 hours breathing on Delta yesterday or what, but I'd have to start feeling a whole lot better before I could even say I feel worse.

Know what I mean? Anyways, this is my next-to-last scribbling on the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. And this one won't focus so much on any one aspect, but instead will offer a bunch of quick hits on a whole lot of tidbits. So without further ado, let's go.

ONE QUESTION we asked was why so many stories from the bible occurred inland? The Mediterranean is a beautiful area and we wondered why very few stories originated from there? The tour guide smiled and said things weren't a lot different back then. The rich lived on the coast and everyone else lived inland. Hmmm, the more things change the more they stay the same!

IF YOU THINK we have a lot of roundabouts in Indiana . . . what's the old saying . . . you ain't seen nothing yet. There are roundabouts EVERYWHERE. And believe me when I tell you that drivers have no fear. If we drove that way over here road rage would be worse. MUCH worse.

SPEAKING OF driving, tour bus drivers (of which there are many in the Holy Land) can park tour buses in spots a Smart car would have trouble with.

WE ALL know from bible school how Jesus and his disciples traveled from village to village, almost completely on foot. Now that I've seen the hills, the rocks, the mountains that they had to go through, over and around . . . well, "impressive" is an under-

statement.

WE SPENT very little time in Tel Aviv, but I was surprised by the lack of smokers there. Not sure why I expected more, but there was little to no evidence. However, when we went to the markets in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, it was hard to find someone not smoking.

ANOTHER SURPRISE was how small the Jordan was. Sugar Creek is bigger in some spots.

WHEN WE were up north in Tiberias on the banks of the Sea of Galilee, the tour guide told us that the sunrise over the sea and mountains would be spectacular. So the next morning, I waited on the deck watching . . . and watching . . . and in a little bit got a blanket because it was chilly. We were on the 8th floor of our hotel and I watched the street lights blink off as the sky began to lighten. The street sweeper looked small from that high up. The sky was a pale blue with hints of yellow and orange to the east. The smell from the eucalyptus trees was fresh and inviting. The closer the clock ticked to 6:15, the more the hills behind us began to take on definition. And then the big moment arrived,

and the sun peeked over the horizon – DIRECTLY BEHIND THE HOTEL to our east.

FOOD? I found I like falafels – even after I found out what was in them. Basically, these are deep-fried balls (they look like hushpuppies) made from chickpeas and beans, all ground up. I also fell in love with schnitzel – a thinly sliced boneless chicken that's breaded. Yeah, I ate about as healthy there as I do here. Oh, and the stuffed tomato they served at breakfast . . . wow!

FOR HOLLYWOOD fans, we went by one of the cemeteries where the final scene from Schindler's List was filmed.

WHEN WE were walking through Jerusalem and went from sites of the Last Supper, the trial of Jesus, the crucifixion, the place where Abraham was going to sacrifice his son, the rising of Jesus on the third day and more, it begged the question: Is there one spot on earth that witnessed so many things of epic proportion in such close proximity?

JERUSALEM IS a city of just under 900,000. Just south of there is smaller Bethlehem with its population of around

75,000. These two cities used to be miles apart, but Jerusalem has grown to the south and Bethlehem has grown to the north and now it's hard to tell when you leave one and go into the other?

NOT SURE about politics over there, but there was a definite anti-Russian sentiment in regard to the war on Ukraine. One bumper sticker read: Putin Khuylo. Being the intrepid journalist I am, I dove into learning what that meant (I googled it) and found out it has something to do with comparing the Russian leader to a body part.

ALONG THOSE lines, we asked our tour guide if missile strikes were of concern. He said they had not had any in a while and didn't think we needed to worry . . . unless Russia's aim is really off that day.

THE CHURCH of the Holy Sepulcher is maintained by six churches and represents nearly 2 billion people – almost a third of the world's people. The six are the Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholics, the church in Egypt, Armenians, Ethiopian Christians and Syrian Orthodox.

AND WHILE we are talking about Ethiopia, our tour guide said he is

of the belief that the Ark of the Covenant may well be in Ethiopia in a church.

THE WEATHER was wonderful. I wore shorts on all the days that modest wear was not required. Temps were mostly in the 60s and 70s.

WHILE EATING lunch at an outdoor market (we almost always ate lunch at outdoor markets) we heard a frantic woman screaming, and then another. The cause? A little boy had wandered away and his parents (I assume) could not find him. Suddenly, another woman came running up dragging what looked to be a 4- or 5-year-old by the hand. The boy, who looked scared to death, started crying as his mom rushed in and swooped him up. No interpreter was needed. Any parent watching could tell she was ready to hug him to death and then fan his little bottom.

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

Marlowe's Three Wise Men: Balthasar, Melchior and Butkus



JOHN MARLOWE
With the Grain

I believe that I'll put my Christmas tree up, this year.

Until a few years ago, that would have been odd to write. I love Christmas trees. We put one up every year when I was a child, sometimes two. I continued the tradition into my adult years, although I am not blessed with children in my home making merry around it. I always went to the trouble of decorating the Christmas tree with do-dads, ornaments and twinkling light strands, anyway.

Until three years ago. A combination of a lingering heartache, the fact that I was never home on Christmas and the residue of an endless home remodeling gave me little reason to go to the trouble of dragging the tree up from storage.

I didn't turn my back on Christmas entirely. Close perhaps.

Regardless, I did manage to set up a little tabletop Christmas tree each year. I found a scraggly loblolly in a thrift store, and like the renowned Charlie Brown, I took it home because it shared my sense of holiday forsakenness.

This sorrowful spruce has served me well, but this year I want to put up the official "family"

Christmas tree -- the big tree that stood sentry not too near the fireplace in the family room for decades of Christmases.

The tree, a traditional fresh-cut evergreen in the early years, was a big part of our family heritage. I remember standing in front of it each year, transfixed by the array of bubble lights percolating on the boughs.

It always had silver garland, because Mom disliked gold, and bore all the heirloom Christmas ornaments passed through the generations.

I had two favorite ornaments. The first was a ceramic ornament depicting a somewhat athletic Santa Claus riding a white and red rocket. Perhaps it was a nuclear missile, I don't know. It was the height of the Cold War, but I preferred to think Santa was riding off to explore the galaxy rather than nuking a foreign adversary.

The other Christmas bauble that I cherished was a plastic ornament about the size of a deck of cards that depicted the Nativity scene. Mother picked it up while in Germany visiting Grandad, who was stationed there. The creche had a decided Bavarian theme, complete with giant Black Forest pine trees and a snowcapped chalet for a manger, neither of which would likely be found near Bethlehem.

That didn't matter to me. I used to stare into the scene, and imagined myself a witness to the extraordinary birth. I envisioned myself as one of the wise men, a demonstration no doubt of my youthful hubris.

I was the wiseman, "Murry." Since I had no idea what myrrh was, that's the name I gave the

wiseman who brought the spice to the baby. "Frank" brought frankincense; "Goldie" brought the gold. I made up pretend scenarios for each of the characters in the scene, including the arrival of King Herod one year, only to be trampled by the "watch camel" guarding the babe.

One year, while pulling the ornament out of the box, we noticed that Murry was missing-- probably at the hands (or paws) of our cat, Biscuit, who considered the Christmas tree his own personal playground. Gaspar, the wiseman from India was gone. Sheared off at the base; only his two buddies Balthasar and Melchior remaining to attend the baby.

That didn't deter me, though. Earlier that fall I had saved enough cereal box tops, and -- along with my \$1.50 in hard currency -- had sent away for a 1/60th scale replica of my favorite football player, Dick Butkus of the Chicago Bears.

Much to my parents' chagrin, Butkus was the perfect size, and I glued the middle linebacker right into Gaspar's sandals. For years Butkus hovered over the stable daring anyone to challenge the infant in the crib.

Today, the creche exists as a mere shred of its original splendor. Even Butkus is gone, along with the camel, the star, and at least three pine trees. Yet, in looking back, I can't help recognizing a metaphor: No matter how out of place you feel, there is always room for you under the Nativity tent . . . or Bavarian chalet, as the case may be.

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

Ask Rusty – Will My Wife's Benefit Change My Claiming Decision?



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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Dear Rusty: I'll be 69 in April 2023, and my wife will be 59 later this month. I'm still working and am trying to determine whether I should take Social Security at 69 or 70. My main question revolves around my wife's future Social Security benefits and how they will affect my decision on whether to start mine at 69 or 70. I would like to know how to map this all out. *Signed: Waiting but Wondering*

Dear Waiting: Since you're now 68 and not yet collecting benefits, you have been (since you were 66) earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) which will result in an increased personal Social Security benefit for as long as you delay claiming, up to age 70 when your maximum benefit is reached. If you claim at age 69, your benefit will be 24% more than it would have been at your full retirement age (FRA) of 66; if you wait until age 70 to claim your benefit will be 32% more than it would have been at 66 (8% additional benefit for waiting that extra year).

Your wife's future spousal benefit while you are both living (if she is entitled to one) will be based on your age 66

amount, not the higher amount you will get because you waited to claim. But your wife's benefit as your surviving widow will be based on the amount you were actually receiving at your death, not on your age 66 amount. So, if your goal is to maximize your younger wife's benefit as your widow, then waiting until you are 70 to claim your benefit will do that. Keep in mind that your wife's surviving spouse benefit will be affected by her own age when she claims. If she has reached her own full retirement age of 67 when she claims, she will get the maximum survivor benefit available to her. Claimed at age 67 while you are both living, her spouse benefit will be 50% of your age 66 benefit amount, if that is more than she is personally entitled to on her own. If you die first and your wife claims her survivor benefit at or after age 67, she will get 100% of the benefit you were receiving at your death instead of her own smaller benefit. But if she claims her survivor benefit before reaching her own FRA of 67, that benefit will be actuarially reduced according to the number of months prior to her FRA it is claimed. Note your

wife can wait to claim her survivor benefit until it reaches maximum at her full retirement age.

So, to recap: Your wife's spousal benefit while you are living will be based on your age 66 amount and her age when she claims it, and your wife's benefit as your widow will be based on 100% of what you are getting when you die and her age when she claims it. The maximum benefit for your wife in either case is attained when she reaches her FRA (67) but claimed earlier will be reduced. And you waiting until age 70 to claim will maximize your wife's benefit as your widow.

Finally, since you are still working, you should know that if your current earnings are among the highest of your lifetime, you will still get credit for those earnings even after you start collecting your Social Security benefits. Your SS benefit when you claim will be based on the highest-earning 35 years over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation), but SS will monitor your earnings each year to see if a benefit increase is warranted because your current earnings are higher than any used in originally computing your benefit amount.

Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

Voice of our PEOPLE

An Aisle to the Future

I walked down the aisle between the rows of seats in the Dresden Elementary School cafeteria. On each side were the parents and grandparents of my classmates watching with bright faces as we walked by in our best. Kelly Carter was paired to walk beside me in the procession as we completed seven years of learning before transitioning to high school in the fall.



RANDALL FRANKS
Southern Style Columns

Within this room, I had eaten five meals a week for seven school years. After I was diagnosed allergic to milk, that was a daily trip into the kitchen to get a glass of orange juice, more times than I can count.

In that room, the Cub Scouts held their Pack Meetings and Pinewood Derbys. As I recall, Mr. Donor, our principal doubled as pack leader. My late parents also served - Mom was a den mother.

We held choral and orchestra performances from the stage of that room

and a few childhood plays also made their way to the parents' awaiting eyes.

We held parts of Halloween events, Spring Carnivals and special programs in that room. Some of my favorite moments were the special Christmas chorales that were held with such wonderful music. All of us had clear childhood voices with which to harmonize and make the music blend.

I recall at least one Peachtree Pickers performance by my youth bluegrass band from that stage, but on this day all of that was coming to a close as

we were handed our certificates and bid goodbye to the teachers we had known from ages 6 to 13.

There were many hopes and dreams that were realized for us that day and many new dreams began.

In your hometown, in your elementary and middle schools, many of the youth will gather to share songs or music during this Christmas season. I encourage you to lend your support to these efforts. Make a difference in the lives of youth who wish to share their talents. Some may be presenting special plays at Christian schools or churches that reflect the story of the season. Please attend and encourage the participants. You never know, you may find yourself uplifted by talents who will change the world in a few years.

I am sure those parents sitting out in the audience at my graduation or at one of those early performances, likely never imagined

they would one day see me acting on network television or hear me from the stage of the Grand Ole Opry, but that is where those early experiences led me.

You may experience the same, but while doing it be sure to encourage them along the way and support your local charities which make Christmas that much brighter for the young people in your hometown.

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 rfranksca-toosa@gmail.com.

Christmas Rest and Peace

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Christmas is a good time to catch up on your pumpkin pie eating. Pecan pie seems readily available so this too is a good option. Try to drink one glass of eggnog during the season of joy. Eggnog does have some calories and fat grams but one glass won't hurt you too bad. I don't recommend drinking a gallon.

If you had turkey and ham for Thanksgiving, you may have it again for Christmas. There is nothing wrong with repeating the Thanksgiving meal especially if it was good. If it was bad then you might consider something else. The only time of the year that I eat much turkey or country ham is during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Be careful eating too much of that smoked Turkey and ham because they can be a bit salty. You don't want to swell up like a balloon on Christmas.

Christmas should be a relaxing time. If you believe Santa Claus is coming then let him take care of the work. Surely, he will show up. Just ask him to bring dinner when he comes. Make sure he comes in the front door. I don't know about bringing broccoli casserole down the chimney.

If you are putting up lights, now is the time to do so. You want to have time to enjoy the lights and the more you string together and cover your house the more electricity you are using. This in turn creates a big electric bill but you are keeping the paychecks going for the utility people.

The main thing is don't go crazy this Christmas. You don't have to buy everything. The stores love

for you to max out your credit cards but you won't love it in February and March when you are paying it back. Use common-sense when it comes to the entire season. Eat a piece of pie but don't eat the pie. Eat a slice of turkey but don't eat the turkey. Decorate if you wish but you don't have to spend a week putting up lights. They all have to come back down you know. Spend only what you can afford. If you can't afford much then don't press yourself to do what you cannot do.

Christmas is the birthday of Jesus but we often make it a day of bedlam. The birth of Jesus was in Bethlehem. His parents were poor. They had gone to an out of the way town to pay their taxes. There was no place for them to sleep. They slept in a barn and Jesus was born while they were there. Mary laid him in a cow's trough. They were poor, tired and life was not very easy for Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Keep in mind that Jesus came to save us from our sins. He came to give us peace. The Bible calls him the Prince of Peace. Most people need some peace and one way to have more peace is to focus on the baby of Christmas. Christ is comfort and peace.

You don't always find your peace at church. The church isn't Jesus. If your church is stressing you out, harping about money every Sunday, and pulling you in ten different directions then you might consider taking a step back and reevaluating.

The season of joy is here. Don't depend on others to create joy for you. Get alone with God every day and focus on him. You'll discover a peace and a rest that only He can provide.

Covid-19 Patent Waiver Will Cost Lives, Not Save Them

By Joe Crowley

Anyone wondering why Democrats fared better than expected in the mid-terms should direct their attention to President Joe Biden's recent string of legislative victories.

These accomplishments helped Democrats win crucial votes in key states and maintain control of the Senate. But if they want to hold onto the White House, it's important that President Biden and congressional Democrats avoid any policy stumbles before 2024.

One such stumble would be the president and his allies throwing their support behind the World Trade Organization's proposal to waive intellectual property protections on therapeutics and tests related to Covid-19. It would allow our global competitors -- including China -- to help themselves to U.S. patents and other intellectual property.

The stated goal of the proposal is to improve access to Covid-19 therapeutics and diagnostics

in the developing world, similar to the WTO's nullification of IP protections for vaccines in June. But there's little evidence that such access is lacking or that this reform would improve it.

What it would do is harm the research ecosystem that has made the U.S. the world's leading source of medical breakthroughs.

The very idea that patents are inhibiting access to Covid-19 tests and therapies is unfounded. Since the beginning of the pandemic, pharmaceutical firms have voluntarily licensed their Covid-19 therapies to manufacturers in low- and middle-income countries around the world.

Simply put, suspending IP for valuable Covid-19 technologies isn't likely to save lives. But it will certainly compromise the Biden administration's efforts to improve healthcare access and encourage domestic biotech innovation.

Currently, getting a new medicine to market requires a massive invest-

ment -- \$2.6 billion, on average. Patents help ensure that when a new drug passes government-mandated clinical trials -- about 90% don't -- investors have a chance to recover their development costs and pay for the numerous failures that came along the way.

If federal officials start calling patents into question, the result will be a future deprived of cutting-edge medicines for everything from cancer and heart disease to diabetes and Alzheimer's. It's also a future in which the world will be far less ready to handle a global health crisis like Covid-19.

Had patent waivers been the norm before the pandemic, America's scientists and drug manufacturers would have lacked the basic infrastructure to invent, mass produce, and distribute the vaccines and therapies that are now bringing this emergency to an end.

Indeed, a new Progressive Policy Institute paper notes that strong, codified IP protection has "contributed to a long-term upturn

in scientific research and invention, a public good well worth preserving; which makes this next decision one that raises some systemic questions."

By weakening IP protections, the WTO's expanded waiver would deal a blow to a \$1 trillion domestic industry that supports millions of U.S. jobs. It would also enable other countries -- friends and foes alike -- to piggy-back off American innovation, hurting our economic competitiveness.

President Biden's historic strides in expanding healthcare access and bolstering America's biotech economy are legacy accomplishments. Rejecting an expansion of the WTO waiver gives his administration the opportunity to continue that legacy of supporting American ingenuity and prosperity, and restoring our nation's position as a leader in global health.

Joe Crowley represented New York's 7th and 14th congressional districts from 1999 to 2019.

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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