

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 5:3 - 5 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, 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 Santa Claus smile? "Just being with the kids," said Robert Shuck, who was found during a previous year listening to Christmas wishes from all ages of visitors at the Santa House on the Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville. Shuck, a now 76-year-old Westfield resident, has been playing Santa for more than 10 years. Today's feature is a look back at one of The Times' previous Faces of Hamilton County. He owns his own Santa suit, hat and boots. He has perfected a jolly ol' laugh, and he dons a real white beard that he has been growing for years. He played Santa the last four years on the Courthouse Square. His wife, Judith, played Mrs. Claus. His wife is a fifth-generation Westfield resident. He was born in Greensboro, N.C., then lived in Mays, Kennard, Westfield and Carmel, where his dad coached athletics, and then Evansville, where his dad was in the insurance business, before living 38 years in Alabama, where he graduated high school. He is a retired band director of 40 years and helps with the Westfield High School band. He reunited with Mrs. Claus, his "first-grade sweetheart," in 1999 and got married and moved back to Westfield. Kids can visit the Santa House on the Square before Santa returns to the North Pole, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. today and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Christmas Eve.

# The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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The Times photo courtesy of Betsy Reason

Santa will greet visitors for the last time of the season in the Hamilton County Historical Society's Santa House from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. today and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday in downtown Noblesville. In 2021, Abigail Phillips, then 6 and a first-grader at North Elementary in Noblesville, asks Santa for a Pixie fairy and a unicorn with wings. Then she goes on to ask Santa a few questions about his reindeer and elves.

## Enjoy Final Santa Visits, Ice Skating, Lights and Local Church Services



BETSY REASON  
The Times Editor

Christmas is almost here, and there are only two more times to visit with Santa in the Hamilton County Historical Society's Santa House. There is also ice skating and holiday lights. And the Christkindmarkt goes on through Dec. 30 in Carmel.

Here are 10 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 noon to 4 p.m. Saturday in downtown Noblesville.  
2. Enjoy "A Christmas Story, The Musical" through Saturday at Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre in Carmel.

3. Visit the Christkindmarkt in Carmel now through Dec. 30, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays through Sundays, with special hours 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. today and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 26-30 at 10 Carter Green in Carmel.  
4. The Federal Hill Commons Ice Plaza is open through Jan. 9 in Noblesville. Rink hours are 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

➔ See BETSY Page A5

And Another Few Things...

1. Closing Time

The holidays mean a few changes in schedules.

For the most part, banks and government offices will be closed on Sunday and Monday, Christmas and the day after. This includes the U.S. Post Office as well.

The same schedule follows a week later when New Year's Day falls on Sunday. Government offices and many businesses will also be closed Monday, Jan. 2. This also includes the U.S. Post Office.

For us at The Times, we don't have Sunday and Monday issues, so there are no changes for us. We will continue to publish Tuesday through Saturday. However, it is important to note that our offices will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 26 through Jan. 2. If you need something during that time, please e-mail Tim Timmons at ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com.

2. County Offices

Most Hamilton County Buildings will be closed all day today due to inclement weather. Essential services will be operating but are not open to the public. Be safe and stay warm today. For any specific exemptions, contact the agency in question.

3. Ivy Tech Closed

Due to inclement weather forecasted statewide, all Ivy Tech campuses will be operating virtually today.

An Ivy Tech representative will reach out to students who have an appointment on campus to discuss options for virtual appointments.

Students should watch for IvyAlerts and check MyIvy for additional information about possible early campus closures today.

## HHSC IDES Meal Pack Yields Over 15K Meals

The 2nd Annual International Disaster Emergency Services Team (IDES) Meal Pack, sponsored by the Hamilton Heights School Corporation Wellness Team, took place earlier this week. This gathering and service project was designed to focus on staff social/emotional wellness in this season of giving.

In traditional Heights' fashion, several student teams joined in bringing together a total of 90 staff, some of their families, and students who packed and boxed 15,960 meals that will be sent to Honduras.

Emily Beechler, Media Center

➔ See MEALS Page A5

## City, Local Partners Coordinate Response to Severe Winter Storm

The City of Noblesville has been preparing all week for the winter storm that arrived yesterday evening, and is reminding residents of services available as well as precautions to take to prepare.

Plans are being made and altered as the city learns more about this storm. City officials, along with police, fire and street

departments, are coordinating efforts with the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency and other local partners to make sure residents are safe.

The Noblesville Street Department will be working around the clock as ice or snow accumulates to clear roadways. These efforts began last night. Main roads will be prioritized

to ensure first responders can travel throughout the city in the event of an emergency.

"The city's priority is to provide services to residents that keep our community safe during and after this forecasted weather event," said Mayor Chris

➔ See STORM Page A5

## Sheriff's Office Closed for Weather

Due to the Hazardous weather conditions, the administrative offices of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office will be closed today. They will remain closed on Monday Tuesday in observation of the holidays.

The office will reopen next Wednesday for regular hours of operation. Patience is appreciated during the hazardous weather and holiday season.

Essential public safety ser-

vices will remain open (Patrol, Corrections & Dispatch). Please be prepared for this hazardous weather. Listed below are some resources that are available to you should you need them.

Preparedness:  
• Sign up for Smart911, which is also a special needs registry for those who may need additional assistance - smart911.com  
• Download the HCEM App for storm reports, power

outages, travel advisories, and more - apps.myocv.com/share/a14846034  
3. Make a plan, build a kit, and stay informed (ready.gov)

Need Help?  
• Only call 911 for life-threatening emergencies.  
• Call 211 for warning centers, shelters, or other assistance  
• Find the website for your power provider to monitor progress if there are power outages.

➔ INSIDE TODAY

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➔ HONEST HOOSIER

2 Hamilton County shopping days until Christmas. Hey Santa, how about being extra nice to the folks who are our emergency responders. They are doing the work of the angels!



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."  
- Linus Van Pelt

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?  
A mince spy!

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you sit a lot at work, take walking breaks as often as you can to help keep your weight in check. 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

Leslie 'Denise' Bever  
John Wayne Stanford

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank JOHN GENTRY for subscribing!



7 DAY FORECAST  
FRI: -8/2  
SAT: -2/11  
SUN: -5/13  
MON: 3/21  
TUE: 12/28  
WED: 20/40  
THU: 32/48  
WARMING UP

## OBITUARIES

### Leslie 'Denise' Bever

May 16, 1954-December 17, 2022

Leslie 'Denise' Bever, 68, of Fairmount, Indiana, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, at her residence in Fairmount.

She was born on May 16, 1954 to Frances and Virginia (Ferrer) Bever, in Anderson.

Ms. Bever graduated from Lapel High School in 1972. She retired as a sales representative for several companies.

She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Radiant Chapter.

Survivors include her adopted family; Donald Everett of Fairmount; Cari (Tony) Hesch of Fishers; Indra (Charles) Bradley of Leola, Pennsylvania; grandchildren; 5 cousins Shirley Buffone, Carolyn Wix, Joan Fisher, Rita Williams and Bob Forrer; and 2 best friends Mary Politis of Indianapolis and Kim Reeves of Markleville.

She was preceded in death by her parents Frances and Virginia Bever.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 4-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 27 at Hersberger-Bozell Funeral Home, 1010 N Main St. Lapel.

Graveside services will be held in Brookside Cemetery in Lapel at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society for Hamilton County.

Online condolences may be shared at [www.hersbergerbozell.com](http://www.hersbergerbozell.com)

### John Wayne Stanford

September 15, 1939-December 20, 2022

John Wayne Stanford, 83, of Anderson, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2022, at Community Hospital in Anderson following a brief illness.

He was born on Sept. 15, 1939, in Lapel.

Mr. Stanford graduated from Lapel High School. He served his country in the US Army. He retired in from Brockway Glass after 25 years of employment.

He loved fishing, hunting and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Mr. Stanford loved old western movies.

Survivors include his wife Rose (Marshel) Stanford, whom he married in Lapel in 1983; 3 children AJ Stanford of Chicago, Edward Watkins of Anderson and Valerie (Steve) Dishman of Anderson; 3 grandchildren Cody Miguels, Michalee Wallace and Matthew Dishman; 3 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; 1 sister; and 5 brothers.

A funeral service is scheduled to be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, at Hersberger-Bozell Funeral Home, 1010 N Main Street, Lapel, with the Rev. Gary Klinger officiating. Burial will follow in Brookside Cemetery in Lapel.

Visitation is scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

Online condolences may be shared at [www.hersbergerbozell.com](http://www.hersbergerbozell.com)

## Meeting Notice

### Hamilton County Council

Pursuant to IC 5-3-1-2(b), notice is hereby given that the Hamilton County Council will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 4,

2023 at 7 p.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom at One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville. The purpose of the meeting is for consideration of transfer of funds, 2023 144 amendments.

## Meeting Notice

### Noblesville Fire-fighter Pension Board

The Noblesville Fire-fighter Pension Board will meet in Executive Session on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023 at 9 a.m. The Executive Session will be held pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(6) and (7), with respect to an individual over whom the governing body has jurisdiction and regarding records deemed confidential by law. The

meeting will be held at the Hamilton County Professional Fire Fighters Local 4416 Union Hall, 399 S 14th St., Noblesville.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session on Jan. 3, 2023, the Noblesville Firefighter Pension Board will hold a public meeting at the Hamilton County Professional Fire Fighters Local 4416 Union Hall, 399 S 14th St., Noblesville, to vote on the matter presented in the Executive Session.

# Thanks for the Memories (Part 1)



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Life in a Nutshell

Every year about this time I look back at the previous 12 months and express appreciation for the people, places and things that have made their way into my weekly columns. So, thanks to:

My old roommate from college who called me after 55 years. He reminded me we hadn't spoken in 55 years. I told him it was 57, if you count the two years we lived together.

My wife's mother, Margaret gave an original copy of the The Joy of Cooking to Mary Ellen to read. Not to cook anything, just to read. In the poultry and game chapter, here is a summary of their advice:

"Draw out the entrails, cut the neck close to the body, remove the windpipe end then chop off the feet." As you can tell, this book was also a big hit with serial killers.

My physical therapist, who helped me through rehab. For several months I was encouraged to do Kegels. There is a specialist for that at Community Hospital, but she was out one day, so I asked a question of another therapist who was not trained in the procedure.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Wolfsie, that's a little over my head."

"Then you are doing it wrong," I told her.

The folks at the Sleep Center at Community Hospital where I participated in a sleep study. They had lots of questions:

"Does your wife say you snore?"

"She has no idea because she sleeps in another room...maybe because I snore."

"Mr. Wolfsie, then how do you know you snore?"

"I get a lot of complaints

from the neighbors."

My wife, who wanted to try a new Chinese restaurant, found one online and ordered the food. I called back because I wanted to know how long it would take to get there. "Where do you live?" I was asked. I told him the northside of Indianapolis.

"Oh, about six hours. Sir, you are calling a Chinese restaurant in Canton, Ohio."

"That's okay," I said. "I love Cantonese food."

My wife, Mary Ellen, one more time. She is reluctant to let me go shopping alone because of all the crapola I bring home. When I do bring it home, I hide it, like the dozen Twinkies I hid under my pillow.

"Promise me, no more junk food," she said.

I wasn't sure I could make that promise. I told her I'd sleep on it.

The researcher at Ohio State who found that the average couple kisses about 25,000 times in a typical marriage. I was concerned we were not

keeping up with the Joneses, who are newlyweds down the street. I came home the other night and told Mary Ellen how beautiful she was, how good dinner was, and how hot she looked in her jeans. I was hoping that kissing up counted.

My brother-in-law Tom, who gave me an Apple Watch for Christmas last year. I called him in Oregon and admitted I was overwhelmed by how complicated it was to operate. "Come on, Dick. You just think you are out of your league. Relax. Don't be nervous. And don't be intimidated like so many others have."

"Tom, that is exactly the same advice you gave me when I married your sister.

I'm not done. More next week.

*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](mailto:Wolfsie@aol.com).*

# Fishers Launches Winter Weather Preparedness and Response Plan

The City of Fishers, in conjunction with Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency, has launched its weather preparedness response teams ahead of the predicted weather system in Fishers.

The extent of the team's response will be dependent on the outcomes of the weather event which has the potential to include dangerous wind gusts, rain-ice-snow precipitation, and dangerously cold temperatures.

The following actions were implemented yesterday, with additional emergency response support prepared in the event the weather system causes severe outcomes:

### Department of Public Works

• Snow Fight Activated: More than sixty trucks are deployed with crews working twelve-hour shifts through the end of the storm system

• Crews will begin treating roadways just prior to the anticipated flash freeze

• As snow precipitation falls, crews will begin clearing roadways according to the CoF snow removal policy, beginning with primary roadways and ending with neighborhood roadways as the storm concludes

• Information on roadway snow clearing can be found online at [fishers.in.us/1489/Snow-and-Ice-Control](http://fishers.in.us/1489/Snow-and-Ice-Control)

### Fishers Fire and Emergency Services

• Information and resources will be communicated to all Smart 911 subscribers and vulnerable populations

• Fire Stations throughout the city are fully

staffed with additional backup staffing scheduled

• Fishers DPW will place crews with Fire Stations to accompany Emergency Services on runs to clear roadways

• Emergency Operations Center is led by Fishers FES which will monitor the changing conditions of the weather event and assess emergency response

### Fishers Police Department

• Patrol officers are prepared for winter weather and will be on alert for hazardous driving

• FPD will support Emergency Operations Center monitoring and response.

### City of Fishers

• City communications channels will provide up-to-date information on resources and emergency response through email, social media, and local media

Residents are asked to be prepared for the weather event, particularly the possibility of widespread power outages for an extended amount of time.

### Emergency Alert Information

• Residents are encouraged to follow the City of Fishers on social media and register with Smart 911 for the most up-to-date information.

o Website: [fishers.in.us/Weather](http://fishers.in.us/Weather)

o Facebook: [facebook.com/fishers.indiana](https://www.facebook.com/fishers.indiana)

o Twitter: [twitter.com/FishersIN](https://twitter.com/FishersIN)

o Instagram: [instagram.com/fishersin/](https://www.instagram.com/fishersin/)

o City News Email: [editor.ne16.com](mailto:editor.ne16.com)

Subscribe/Form.ashx-?l=1002298&p=b1d-8b6ad-8a1b-4c1b-b4ac-

b059d44e518b

o Smart 911: [smart911.com](http://smart911.com)

• Indiana 211 is a free service that connects Hoosiers with help and answers from thousands of health and human service agencies and resources right in their local communities. The website will include information on warming centers, shelters, and other cold weather resources available if residents need them.

### Extreme Cold Weather Tips:

• Limit the amount of time outdoors. Extreme cold can lead to frostbite and hypothermia within 15 minutes.

• Per City Ordinance, when the temperature is 40 degrees or lower, shelter for animals must include sufficient, dry bedding material or other means of protection from the weather that will allow the animal to retain body heat when the weather is colder than what an animal of that breed and condition can comfortably tolerate.

• Exterior faucets and household pipes along exterior walls are at risk of freezing. Open cabinet doors to allow warm air to prevent freezing. Exterior faucets should be winterized.

### Power Outage Informa-

tion:

• In the event residents experience a power outage, residents may do the following:

o Contact your provider to report the outage

- Duke Energy: [duke-energy.com/outages](http://duke-energy.com/outages)

or text 'OUT' to 57801

- NineStar Connect: call (317) 326-3131 opt. 9

or visit their website

o Monitor status of outages at [poweroutage.us](http://poweroutage.us).

o If you have a non-emergency issue or question, call 2-1-1.

o If you are medically or physically vulnerable and need assistance due to power outages, call 2-1-1 or dial 9-1-1 if it is a life-threatening emergency.

• If power outages are anticipated to occur over an extended period of time, the City of Fishers will communicate emergency resources and support via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Smart 911.

### Trash Collection

• Changes to trash or recycling collection will be determined by your provider. Contact your HOA leadership or provider for more information.

Further information will be shared as conditions change.

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Noblesville • \$329,900

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# Merry Christmas from Peggy and Jennifer

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317.695.6032 Jennifer

# Kenny Takes A Look at Purdue Football's Young Coaches

Purdue football is undergoing a youth movement with its coaching staff that Boilermaker fans haven't witnessed in 45 years.

If those fans are lucky, the results will be similar.

Jim Young was early in his eventual College Football Hall of Fame coaching career when he left Arizona to return to the Big Ten Conference at Purdue on Dec. 6, 1976. Young had been defensive coordinator under Bo Schembechler for four seasons at Michigan before taking the head coaching job at Arizona in 1973.

Young was 41 when he was the unanimous choice to replace Alex Agase at Purdue. Instead of hiring veteran assistant coaches, Young turned to men he believed were on the rise in the coaching profession. None were older than 34 at the time.

The headline in the Jan. 11, 1977 edition of the Lafayette Journal and Courier stated "Young's staff averages 30 years of age." Not the greatest headline ever written but at the time it was unheard of to have a pair of 33-year-olds as your top assistants. As it turned out, both were future head coaches.

Defensive coordinator Leon Burtnett was hired away from Michigan State, where he served as linebackers coach under Darryl Rogers. Rogers had brought along Burtnett from San Jose State, where he was linebackers coach in 1974 and 1975.

Making the most of his talent - including future four-time Super Bowl champion Keena Turner and Purdue's all-time tackles leader Kevin Motts - Burtnett's



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

"Junk Defense" was the foundation of three consecutive bowl victories and the only 10-win season in school history. When Young went into a brief retirement following the 1981 season, Burtnett was the obvious choice to take over. He went 21-34-1 before being forced to resign following the 1986 season.

Assistant head coach/offensive coordinator John Mackovic stayed just one season in West Lafayette but he helped groom future College Football Hall of Fame quarterback Mark Herrmann into a starting quarterback as a freshman.

Like Young, Mackovic was a protégé of Bo Schembechler as a graduate assistant at Miami (Ohio) following his playing career at Wake Forest. Mackovic returned to his alma mater in 1978 and led the Demon Deacons to their first bowl game in 30 years. The Dallas Cowboys hired Mackovic as quarterbacks coach, leading to a four-year stint as the Kansas City Chiefs' head coach. Mackovic would later serve as head coach for Illinois, Texas and Arizona, finishing with a 95-82-3 collegiate record.

The "old man" of Young's first coaching staff was 34-year-old



Jim Young

offensive line coach Bob Bockrath. Another graduate assistant for Schembechler at Miami, Bockrath was offensive line coach during Young's four seasons at Arizona. Bockrath turned to administration in his post-Purdue days, serving as athletic director at California, Texas Tech and Alabama.

Another assistant with a connection to Schembechler was 29-year-old defensive ends coach Mike Hankwitz. Having played for Schembechler's 1969 Big Ten championship team, Hankwitz became a defensive coordinator for the first time in 1976 for Young at Arizona.

With the exception of two stints as an interim head coach for Arizona and Colorado, Hankwitz spent 25 years as a defensive coordinator before retiring from Northwestern in 2020. Fourteen of his defenses were ranked in the nation's top 25, and Hankwitz coached 14 first-team All-Americans.

Another long-time assistant coach, Ed Zaunbrecher, was 26 when he came to Purdue as running backs coach. He would go on to serve as offensive coordinator for

Wake Forest (1980-83), LSU (1984-90), Marshall (2000-01), Florida (2002-03), Purdue (2006-08) and Rice (2009).

Randy Hart was 28 but had three years' experience as Iowa State's defensive line coach before coming to West Lafayette. Hart, a three-year letterman for Woody Hayes at Ohio State, remained for Young's five years in West Lafayette. Hart then spent five seasons at his alma mater before settling in at Washington from 1988 to 2008. Hart also coached defensive linemen at Notre Dame (2009) and Stanford (2010-15).

Former Illinois linebacker Doug Redmann was a graduate assistant under Young for two seasons at Arizona before becoming Purdue's linebackers coach at age 28. He remained with Young for all five seasons but I was unable to find any information about Redmann's post-Purdue career.

Larry Thompson was 29 when he joined Young's Purdue staff as interior offensive line coach.

Another member of the Schembechler coaching fraternity, Thompson also played for Bill Mallory at Miami (Ohio). Like Redmann, I was unable to find any information on Thompson after he left Purdue in 1979.

While Walters is unlikely to have a staff more youthful than Jim Young's 1977 group, he will enter the 2023 as the Big Ten's youngest head coach. Minnesota's P.J. Fleck, 42, surrenders that title to his division rival.

The hiring of four assistant coaches have been announced so far, ranging

in age from 26 to 39. The biggest name belongs to Graham Harrell, 37, the former star quarterback for the late Mike Leach at Texas Tech.

Harrell's West Virginia offense in 2022 averaged 30.6 points, 227.5 passing yards and 171.5 rushing yards per game. Harrell also was offensive coordinator at USC from 2019-21, and his 2019 team set school records for passing yards (4,365), completion percentage (71.0), completions (365) and attempts (514).

Defensive coordinator Kevin Kane, 39, follows Walters from Illinois. Kane earned All-Big 12 Conference honors as a linebacker at Kansas (2002-05). His coaching stops have included Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Kansas and SMU.

Two other imports from Illinois are linebackers coach Joe Dineen and secondary coach Grant O'Brien. The 26-year-old Dineen was a defensive graduate assistant in 2002. Dineen was a consensus All-American linebacker for Kansas in 2018.

O'Brien, 32, was a defensive analyst for the Fighting Illini for two seasons and at Missouri for three seasons.

**Noteworthy**

Just how deep is the top-ranked Purdue men's basketball team?

Zach Edey, the favorite to win National Player of the Year awards, sat out Wednesday's 74-53 victory against New Orleans with the flu. No problem, thanks to redshirt freshman Trey Kaufman-Renn.

Kaufman-Renn scored a career-high 24 points in 26 minutes, the highest

output off the bench in the Big Ten this season. It was an efficient 24 points, too, coming of 8 of 10 shooting from the field and 8 of 10 at the free throw line.

That was the highlight of the first home game in Purdue history with the Boilermakers ranked No. 1. The 12-0 start is just the fourth time the Boilermakers have accomplished that record. The 2009-10 team started 14-0 only to have that season ruined by Robbie Hummel's ACL injury at Minnesota. Glenn Robinson's 1993-94 Boilermakers also started 14-0 and reached the Elite Eight before Robinson's back injury affected the National Player of the Year in a loss to Duke.

There was no NCAA tournament in 1911-12 when Purdue went 12-0 for the season under coach Ralph Jones. Twenty years later, Jones coached the Chicago Bears to the 1932 NFL championship but lost his job when the Great Depression forced owner George Halas to return to the sideline to save paying a head coach.

The Boilermakers enter the holiday break one of three remaining undefeated teams (No. 2 Connecticut, New Mexico).

One more bit of trivia: Purdue is the first Big Ten program since Indiana in 1974-75 and 1975-76 to be ranked No. 1 in consecutive seasons.

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

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# State EOC, Indiana Guard Working to Respond to Storm

The Indiana State Emergency Operations Center remains on enhanced activation as the winter storm system moves through the state. Nearly 150 soldiers from the Indiana National Guard have activated to patrol and help motorists on Hoosier roadways.

The Indiana National Guard fully activated nearly 30 Highway Assistance Teams (HAT) as of 5 p.m. today, patrolling designated areas in the central and northern parts of the state. The soldiers are assisting local first responders to ensure no motorists are stranded alongside roads in the extreme and dangerous temperatures moving through the area. The Indiana Department of Transportation reported nearly 750 plows on Indiana roadways as of 5 p.m., with another 200 on standby as needed throughout the night.

"The State EOC is coordinating a comprehensive state and local response, utilizing multiple state agencies and the Indiana National Guard to help Hoosiers endure this brief, but serious, event and enjoy the holiday safely. We caution people to stay off the roads, if at all possible," said Mary Moran, director of Emergency Management and Preparedness with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

"Our Guardsmen are trained and equipped to meet the needs of Hoosiers during all weather emergencies. We consistently train with our state agency counterparts to ensure ease



of collaboration during responses such as this," said Lt. Col. Randi Bougere, director of strategic communications with the Indiana National Guard.

Indiana 211 can provide a list of warming shelters in your community and other needed assistance.

Hoosiers are encouraged to stay off the roads for the next 24-48 hours as temperatures fall off quickly and rain transitions to ice then snow. The snowfalls are expected to be between 3-6 inches over the next few days, but the strong winds will produce windchills as low as -30 degrees in some parts of the state. The strong winds also could produce near whiteout conditions in some areas, even with minimal snow.

The IDHS website and the Get Prepared website are important resources for Hoosiers to stay safe during a weather emergency. Both provide critical resources and real-time information on road conditions as well as tips to stay safe before and when you may find yourself stranded in an extreme weather event.

The IDHS Travel

Advisory Map is active on the IDHS site, with current updates provided by local level emergency managers. 511in.org can provide Hoosiers with the location and road conditions according to INDOT snowplow drivers, including photos and live video of plow locations.

To protect yourself on the road:

- Don't drive if possible.
- Keep plenty of fuel in your car.
- Create an emergency kit with blankets, food, water and cell phone chargers.
- Do not exit your vehicle unless you are within 100 yards of shelter.
- Slow down.

To protect yourself in your home:

- Prepare an emergency kit to keep your warm and nourished for up to three days if necessary.
  - Contact utility companies immediately if necessary.
  - Gather everyone in the most-insulated interior room.
  - Protect your pipes from freezing by insulating them, allowing them to drip and open cabinets.
  - Do not use a fireplace unless it has been cleaned and swept.
- Finally, please remember pets and livestock during this type of weather event:
- Brings pets indoors if possible.
  - Provide straw or warm bedding, away from wind.
  - Provide clean, unfrozen water and food.
  - Pay attention to animals in distress.

# Spartz Releases Indiana Senate GOP Primary Poll

On Wednesday, Congresswoman Victoria Spartz released a statewide survey of likely Republican primary voters in Indiana showing a wide-open race for the U.S. Senate seat which will become open in 2024, where Spartz leads off in a competitive position.

The poll, conducted by Response:AI, asked 503 registered Republicans who are likely to vote in the primary who they would vote for. Spartz came in second, with 8% saying "definitely" and 6% saying "probably." Former Governor and soon-to-retire Purdue University President Mitch Daniels finished first, with 24% and 11%, respectively.

"I am very honored to be one of the top-tier contenders for a potential



Rep. Victoria Spartz

U.S. Senate seat after just two years serving our great state of Indiana in Congress," Spartz said.

"I know that with my strong fundraising capabilities and proven successful track record of fighting for our freedoms in trenches not just on TV channels, I would be a strong candidate in this race. I am also kind of tired of the good old boy networks trying to pick

nominees and believe the Senate could use more capable conservative women and independent thinkers who can deliver results for the people."

"However," Spartz went on to say, "I also understand that it will divert my energy from some other important issues I have been working on in the House, so I will have to decide what I need to prioritize in the next two years to bring the most value."

17% of respondents answered "Undecided," with Rep. Jim Banks finishing tied with Spartz with 14%.

To view the results of the poll, visit [musercontent.com/c85918f-147157cf1c0ccdcf91/files/ca1d1dee-fd5c-dd38-54b7-da115f959a3b/Spartz\\_poll\\_topline\\_memo\\_12.20.22.pdf](https://musercontent.com/c85918f-147157cf1c0ccdcf91/files/ca1d1dee-fd5c-dd38-54b7-da115f959a3b/Spartz_poll_topline_memo_12.20.22.pdf)

# Weather Causes Changes in State Park Activities

Winter weather is causing some changes in state park activities over the next day or two.

State park properties remain open for hiking. State Park Inns, cabins, and campgrounds will also be open as usual, but snowplowing may limit access in some locations. Guests are asked to be aware of weather conditions if hiking or enjoying other outdoor activities, dress warmly and in layers, and limit time exposed to extreme conditions.

Changes in activities thus far include:

- The Pokagon State Park toboggan will be closed Dec. 23 due to the bitter cold to ensure the

safety of guests and staff.

Reopening is expected Dec. 24, if temperatures moderate, but that determination will be made as the weather picture for Saturday emerges.

The toboggan is closed on Christmas Day. The park will be open for other daily activities. Pokagon's annual Christmas Eve walk will be modified with activities at the Nature Center at 9 a.m.; guests can enjoy refreshments, make a Christmas ornament and reindeer treats, enjoy the new exhibits, and bird-watch at the updated Woodland Window.

- Mounds State Park's Nights of Lights is canceled Dec. 23-24, but will

reopen Dec. 25.

- Ouabache State Park's Wonderland of Lights is canceled Dec. 23-24 and will reopen Dec. 25.

DNR property offices are closed Dec. 23-26, but open today, if you need to buy annual passes as gifts. State Park Inn gift shops will be open normal hours through the weekend, and the inns have annual passes available for sale, too. Holiday Gift Packs can be purchased online at [shopINStateParks.com](https://shopINStateParks.com) through Dec. 31.

Watch for other changes or notifications on Indiana State Parks' and property-specific Facebook pages or on Twitter at @INDNRstateparks.

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## STORM From Page A1

Jensen. "I encourage residents to heed the travel watches and only go out if they must, respect our public servants who are out working in tough conditions and thank everyone for taking care of one another as a community."

As temperatures fall, residents can take proactive steps to minimize impact. Precautions can include opening cabinets beneath kitchen and bathroom sinks to allow warmer air to circulate around pipes. Be sure to remove any toxic substances located in these cabinets if there are children or pets living in the residence. Drip one cold water faucet slowly if you feel your pipes may still freeze. The faucet you choose should be the one that is the greatest distance from your main shutoff valve. If you do drip your faucet, capture the water for future use.

Follow the City of Noblesville on social media to stay up-to-date on city-wide services and weather updates. Follow on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CityofNoblesville](http://www.facebook.com/CityofNoblesville) and Twitter at [twitter.com/NoblesvilleIN](http://twitter.com/NoblesvilleIN).

The Holidays at the Hills Ice Plaza will be closed today and tomorrow due to the extreme cold and weather. The ice skating rink also will be closed Sunday for Christmas. The Parks Department plans to reopen on Monday with the extended hours of 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

With the forecasted weather, there may be power outages across our community. If you lose power, contact Duke Energy to report the outage at (800) 343-3525 or text 'OUT' to 57801. Check the outage map and sign up for text or email alerts at [Duke-Energy.com/Outages/Alerts](http://Duke-Energy.com/Outages/Alerts).



Mayor Chris Jensen

Republic Services has informed the City of Noblesville that the winter weather has made routes unsafe to operate. This will impact those Noblesville residents that have trash/recycling collected today.

Republic Services said its plan is to pick up Friday's routes on Monday, Dec. 26. All residents should put their bins out next week (Dec. 26-30) on their normal day; however,

due to the added routes on Monday, trash collection may not occur that day and will be picked up the following day.

For questions or concerns regarding trash or recycling collection, contact Republic Services' Noblesville-specific call center at (317) 567-6400.

Hamilton County EMA also reminds residents that Indiana 211 ([in211.com/munityos.org](http://in211.com/munityos.org)) is a free service that connects Hoosiers with help and answers from thousands of health and human service agencies and resources right in their local communities. The website will include warming centers, shelters and other cold weather resources available if residents need them. The City of Noblesville in partnership with Hamilton County EMA will monitor the weather situation and open warming center(s) if needed.

## BETSY From Page A1

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. 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.

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

7. Attend Christmas Eve candlelight services at 7 p.m. Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church in Noblesville with overflow parking at City Hall; at 5 p.m. (30-minute family worship in Celebration Hall), 7 p.m. (contemporary worship in Celebration Hall), 9 p.m. (traditional candlelight in the Sanctuary) and 11 p.m. (also traditional) Saturday at Noblesville First United Methodist Church; at 7 p.m. today at White River Christian Church in Noblesville and Hamilton North at The Remnant in Arcadia and at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday at both locations; at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday (lights up, sound down) at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Dec. 24 at Grace Church in Nobles-

ville; from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, with hot cocoa and cookies at 7:30 p.m.; and 5:30 p.m. (children and family worship), 7:30 p.m. (special music) and 8 p.m. (evening service) on Saturday at the Noblesville First Christian Church; and at 7 p.m. today and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday at Noblesville Life Church and 7 p.m. today at Fishers Life Church; and many more Christmas Eve services at other local churches.

8. Hear Fishers 21-year-old vocalist Peter Fulton perform during Carmel Christkindlmarkt in downtown Carmel three more of his total eight performances at 5 p.m. Dec. 27 and 29 and 8 p.m. Dec. 30, all 45-minute sets.

9. Celebrate New Year's Eve on Dec. 31 with Terry Wariner, Joe Hampton and family and special guest Jason Salyers performing live music at the Noblesville American Legion Post, with prime rib dinner \$29 per plate and the event open to the public; and the Second Chance Band beginning at 8:30 p.m. Dec. 31 at the Noblesville Moose Lodge.

10. 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](http://underdogtheatre.org)

Contact Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes24-7.com).

## MEALS From Page A1



Photos courtesy of HHSC

Staff and students from Hamilton Heights gathered for fellowship and service assembling and packaging nearly 16,000 meals as part of the 2nd Annual IDES Meal Pack in partnership with the Noblesville-based nonprofit.

Specialist, Hamilton Heights Middle School, who has helped spearhead the event for a second year in a row, said it's a privilege and honor to support a local ministry that serves with heart, soul, and resources that make

a life-changing impact around the world.

The Noblesville-based International Disaster Emergency Service (IDES) is a 501c3 non-profit that seeks to meet the physical and spiritual needs of suffering people throughout

the world by partnering with Christian Churches / Churches of Christ and their missionaries. Since its founding, IDES has carried out relief projects in more than 100 nations around the globe averaging more than 200 projects in

30 to 35 nations annually.

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# FRIDAY Business Notes and NEWS DAY

Friday, Dec. 23, 2022

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## IEDC Continues 5E Focus, Forms New Partnership With Research Institute

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) today announced a new partnership with the Applied Research Institute (ARI), also known as the Indiana Innovation Institute (IN3), to become a trusted partner on innovation strategy and federal programs execution. Under this new partnership, new leadership and an expanded mission, ARI aims to accelerate the IEDC's goal of facilitating conditions for higher wage opportunities rooted in a diverse, resilient and future-focused economy.

Indiana Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers also announced that effective Dec. 22, 2022, Dave Roberts, IEDC executive vice president of entrepreneurship and innovation, will transition into his new role as the CEO of ARI.

"The market continues to evolve and innovate," said Sec. Chambers. "Indiana's enhanced focus and partnership with ARI will support Indiana's unprecedented momentum in securing innovative investments supporting higher wage careers. Dave Roberts is uniquely qualified to lead that effort, as he understands the foundation we have built and the assets we possess to become the premier destination for transformative innovators. Partnering with ARI enables us to play economic offense working on disruptive opportunities that will fundamentally alter the trajectory of our state's economy for decades to come."

ARI will continue to operate as a 501(c)(3) with statewide focus as it pursues catalytic federal funding opportunities, promotes industry-led, public-private partnerships and secures commitments from businesses and Indiana's major research universities to invest in and around the WestGate Technology Park.

ARI's priority areas for feder-



al funding opportunities include securing funding for non-coastal regional tech hubs, attracting semiconductor manufacturing and training opportunities, and helping establish a landmark hub for clean hydrogen fuel. These lines of effort will augment ARI's existing federal contracts, which provide credible past performance history on which future partners can rely.

"With all that Indiana has going for it, we are ideally positioned to be at the forefront of securing federal funding that will continue to create an economic landscape that is the envy of the Midwest," said Roberts.

"ARI's partnership with IEDC and the state will enable us to leverage Indiana's assets and help fulfill Sec. Chambers' vision to build the economy we want by creatively promoting growth in sectors that make up the economy of the future."

Moving forward, ARI will operate under a new professional services agreement with the IEDC, in a similar capacity as Elevate Ventures in that both organizations operate in close alignment with the IEDC, but both are independent entities.

Elevate Ventures will continue to focus on developing Indiana's entrepreneurship culture, and ARI will focus on innovation initiatives which position Indiana to move quickly in pursuit and capture of federal opportunities. This includes coordination of efforts such as the Battery Innovation Center, Emerging Manufacturing Collaboration Center and 5G lab.

IEDC Vice President of Technology Engagement, Brooke Pyne, will join Roberts at ARI. The new ARI board of directors will include Sec. Chambers, Thompson Distribution Company Inc. CEO John Thompson, Indiana University President Dr. Pamela Whitten, Purdue University President-elect Dr. Mung Chiang, and Regional Opportunity Initiatives President and CEO Tina Peterson.

About ARI:

Applied Research Institute (ARI), also known as Indiana Innovation Institute) works with academia, industry and government to create a hub of national security innovation that helps solve critical defense priorities. ARI connects regional, state and national partners through a variety of means including convening research and business teams to solve emerging technical challenges for the U.S. Department of Defense.

ARI is focused on hypersonics, cyber-physical systems, trusted microelectronics, additive manufacturing and artificial intelligence.

Learn more at [www.in3indiana.com](http://www.in3indiana.com) and follow them on Twitter @IN3indiana and LinkedIn.

About IEDC:

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

For more information about the IEDC, visit [iedc.in.gov](http://iedc.in.gov).

## Holcomb Announces \$22B in 2022 in Capital Commitments



Governor Eric Holcomb

This week, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb announced the end of a sixth consecutive record-breaking year for economic development in Indiana. In 2022, 218 companies committed to locate or expand in Indiana, investing more than \$22.2 billion in their operations and creating 24,059 new jobs.

"Indiana's economy is firing on all cylinders," Holcomb said. "These investments and job commitments will transform our high-tech industries and ensure that Hoosiers are at the forefront of the 21st century economy. Our strategic focus on advancing entrepreneurship, innovation and quality of place is igniting our neighborhoods and communities statewide, providing more opportunities for Hoosiers and their families to thrive."

Capital investment commitments in 2022 grew by more than 260 percent, unprecedented in the state's history. Job commitments in 2022 come with an average wage of \$34.71, which is 27 percent more than the state's average wage. This marks the highest capital investment and annual record for average wages since the Indiana Economic Development Corporation was established in 2005.

"Indiana continues to lead in building the economy of the future," said Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers. "Our strategic initiatives and focus are attracting first-of-their-kind investments from innovative businesses around the world while enabling growth and innovation in future-looking industries like semiconductor fabrication and design, electric vehicles and batteries, life sciences, agbiosciences and future industry. These efforts will pay dividends for generations to come, creating high-value, high-quality jobs in our communities."

A key component of Holcomb's economic roadmap is ensuring that Indiana is at the center of the future, global economy. The strategic vision is a focus on building an economy of the future with next-gen industry, investing in the jobs of tomorrow, retaining and attracting top talent and in creating a quality of place that provides more opportunities for all Hoosiers.

## Smart Concrete from Purdue Named A Next Big Thing in Tech by Fast Company Magazine

Interstates across the country boast an innovative concrete technology that promises to save American travelers time and money. This "smart concrete" can communicate with engineers about its strength, weakness and need for repair - making road repair more efficient and preventing unnecessary shut-downs. Developed at Purdue University, the innovation is earning attention and has now been named one of the Next Big Things in Tech by Fast Company magazine.

Chosen from a pool of nearly 1,400 applicants, 124 final projects across 21 categories were selected for already making an impact on a real-world problem while also showing promise to make a greater impact in the years to come. Among large corporations and small startups, Purdue is the only university represented on the list.

Purdue shares the Transportation stage with organizations like ClearFlame Engine Technologies, which enables active heavy trucks to shift away from diesel fuel, and Walmart-backed DroneUp, a leader in aerial drone delivery.

Developed by Luna Lu, the American Concrete Pavement Association Professor of Civil Engineering in Purdue's Lyles School of Civil Engineering, smart concrete works via sensors embedded into the

pour during construction. The "smart" factor involves telling engineers, via smartphone app, when the concrete has reached maximum strength after construction or when it is beginning to break down.

"Traffic jams caused by infrastructure repairs have wasted 4 billion hours and 3 billion gallons of gas on a yearly basis," Lu says. "This is primarily due to insufficient knowledge and understanding of our infrastructure's condition."

Fast Company states that the self-aware concrete may "provide highway users with a gift that will keep on giving." Intelligent infrastructure, like roadways that feed us data, is a fairly new field, and Lu and her team already have a running (or rolling) start.

According to Lu, who is also director of the Center for Intelligent Infrastructure, digitally improved roadways may cut down on construction, be better for the environment and be more adaptive to future needs as vehicles continue to evolve.

Prototypes of the sensors have been in place throughout Indiana highways since 2019, thanks to Purdue partnerships with the Indiana Department of Transportation. A Federal Highway Administration nationwide pooled fund has allowed seven other states to join the project.

To improve the tech's

transfer to market, Lu founded WaveLogix, a startup focusing on Internet of Things sensing systems for infrastructure monitoring. Lu has disclosed the work to the Purdue Research Foundation Office of Technology Commercialization, where she also licensed it to create WaveLogix. Under Lu, the startup recently received National Science Foundation support and recognition from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The recognition complements Purdue's recent honor as, for the second year in a row, the only university on Fast Company's 2022 list of Brands That Matter. Through accessible education and innovative, transferable technology, Purdue continues to ask, What can you imagine?

For more about Luna Lu and the future of smart concrete sensor technology from Purdue:

- Science to reveal how long highway construction should actually take
- Enabling highways and bridges to prevent their own damage
- Purdue Expert: Smart Roads (video)
- Expert: Roads need to be 'smart.' Here's why.
- Tech startup WaveLogix receives federal SBIR grant to develop its IoT sensors for concrete strength monitoring

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## Business

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# NEWS

Friday, Dec. 23, 2022

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## Indiana Chamber of Commerce Unveils 'Coolest Thing Made in Indiana' Contest Champion

At the first Best IN Manufacturing luncheon today, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce celebrated that thriving industry by honoring the makers that have risen to the top in the Coolest Thing Made in Indiana competition and Indiana's Best Places to Work in Manufacturing program.

"The importance of Hoosier manufacturers cannot be overstated. They create the goods that sustain individuals and businesses all across the state. And the products make their way throughout the nation and around the world," says Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar.

The second Coolest Thing Made in Indiana contest wound up being a battle of Kosciusko County. In the end, online voters crowned Maple Leaf Farms – and its roast half duck – of Leesburg the champion and Polywood of Syracuse – the maker of a 12-piece pit sectional – the runner-up.

Founded in 1958, Maple Leaf Farms has grown to 900 employees and produces about 40% of the nation's duck supply. The winning entry, the roast half duck, is a fully cooked dish that both saves chefs time and allows consumers to create a restaurant quality meal at home for their families, according to the company.

Joining Maple Leaf Farms and Polywood in the semifinals were Hiker Trailers in Columbus and Kidstuff Playsystems in Gary. Rounding out the top eight: Grinds Coffee Pouches in Westfield, Hard Truth Distilling Co. in Nashville, Hudson Aquatic Systems in Angola and Wag'n Tails Mobile Conversions in Granger.

The field began with 54 makers that represented 43 Hoosier communities and a wide variety of products made – from racing tires to children's car seats to wine and video notes – and even Batmobile replicas.

Brinegar reports the battles were often fierce, with thousands of votes cast in every round.



"Indiana is fortunate to be home to companies that grow and make all kinds of things," he enthuses. "We are thrilled to recognize and bring attention to some of the state's best and most innovative manufacturers. We especially congratulate Maple Leaf Farms on its well-deserved victory."

Learn about all the companies in the tournament at [www.indianachamber.com/coolestthing](http://www.indianachamber.com/coolestthing).

An online randomizer generated the initial Coolest Thing Made in Indiana matchups, with online voting determining the winners in each round. There was no entry fee to participate. A company did not need to be headquartered in Indiana, but the product submitted had to be manufactured in the state.

The inaugural Indiana's Best Places to Work in Manufacturing program saw 14 companies recognized with Kalenborn Abresist Corporation of Urbana coming in at the very top. The Wabash County company develops and manufactures custom solutions for the protection of industrial facilities from wear and impact damage to ensure the proper flow of materials in the production process.

"Manufacturing workplaces must adhere to various safety and other regulations. Every company on the list not only is committed to those standards but goes above and beyond for its workers and is a leader in its community," Brinegar offers.

"Kalenborn Abresist, in particular, showed how it values its employees and frequently recognized them and jobs well done."

The 2022 Indiana Best Places to Work in Manufacturing companies range

in Hoosier employee count from 39 to over 7,600. The list by ranking:

1. Kalenborn Abresist Corporation in Urbana
2. Nucor Steel Indiana in Crawfordsville
3. IBC Materials & Technologies LLC in Lebanon
4. Nix Companies in Poseyville
5. Nexxt Spine LLC in Noblesville
6. CrossPoint Polymer Technologies LLC in Evansville
7. Oliver Winery in Bloomington
8. Wag'n Tails Mobile Conversions in Granger
9. Major Tool and Machine in Indianapolis
10. MCP USA, Inc. in Portage
11. SMC Corporation of America in Noblesville
12. Lippert in Elkhart
13. Functional Devices, Inc. in Sharpsville
14. Kelco Industries in Fremont

Wag'n Tails Mobile Conversions pulled off a double – also being honored as a Coolest Thing Made in Indiana company quarterfinalist.

Recognized Best Places companies were determined through employer reports and comprehensive employee surveys. The Workforce Research Group handled the selection process.

Learn more about Indiana's Best Places to Work in Manufacturing in the current issue of BizVoice magazine at [www.bizvoicemagazine.com](http://www.bizvoicemagazine.com).

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## Inflation Pressures Ease Slightly

Inflation remains the top business problem for small business owners, with 32 percent of owners reporting it as their single most important problem in operating their business, five points lower than July's highest reading since the fourth quarter of 1979. The Small Business Optimism Index rose 0.6 points in November to 91.9. November's reading is the 11th consecutive month below the 49-year average of 98.

"Indiana's small business economy is recovering, but owners are still facing labor issues throughout the state," said Natalie Robinson, NFIB State Director in Indiana. "Many employers say finding the right people with the right skills is still a challenge as the new year approaches. This is especially troubling as small businesses continue dealing with inflation that's affecting the price of everything from raw materials to their monthly rent."

Key findings include:

- \* Owners expecting better business conditions over the next six months improved three points from October to a net negative 43%, a recession reading.

- \* Forty-four percent of owners reported job openings that were hard to fill, down two points from October, but historically high and not typical of a recession period.

- \* The net percent of owners raising average selling prices increased one point to a net 51% seasonally adjusted, a high reading but lower than earlier this year.

- \* The net percent of owners who expect real sales to be higher improved five points from October to a net negative 8%, a weak economic reading.

As reported in NFIB's monthly jobs report, 44 percent of all owners reported job openings they could not fill in the current period. The difficulty in filling open positions is particularly acute in the transportation, wholesale, and construction sectors. Owners' plans to fill open positions remain elevated, with a net 18% (seasonally adjusted) planning to create new jobs in the next

three months.

Fifty-five percent of owners reported capital outlays in the last six months, up one point from October. Of those making expenditures, 39 percent of owners reported spending on new equipment, 19 percent acquired vehicles and 12 percent improved or expanded facilities. Eleven percent spent money for new fixtures and furniture and 5 percent acquired new buildings or land for expansion. Up one point from October, 24 percent plan capital outlays in the next few months. Overall, capital spending remains too weak to improve productivity.

A net negative 7 percent of all owners (seasonally adjusted) reported higher nominal sales in the past three months. The net percent of owners expecting higher real sales volumes improved five points to a net negative 8 percent, a weak reading.

The net percent of owners reporting inventory increases rose six points to a net 5 percent. Nineteen percent reported increases in stocks and 14 percent reported reductions.

Twenty-nine percent of owners recently reported that supply chain disruptions have had a significant impact on their business. Another 34 percent report a moderate impact and 26 percent report a mild impact. Only 11 percent report no impact from recent supply chain disruptions.

A net negative 2 percent of owners viewed current inventory stocks as "too low" in November, down two points. By industry, shortages were the most frequent in wholesale (18 percent), manufacturing (14 percent), transportation (12 percent), and retail (11 percent). Shortages in construction (9%) have been reduced because of home sales and new construction have slowed. Down six points from October, a net negative 4 percent of owners plan inventory investment in the coming months. Overall, inventories are starting to build, but only modestly to date.

The net percent of owners raising average selling prices increased one point from October to a net 51

percent seasonally adjusted. Unadjusted, 8 percent of owners reported lower average selling prices and 56 percent reported higher average prices. Price hikes were the most frequent in wholesale (73 percent higher), retail (69 percent higher, 7 percent lower), construction (66 percent higher, 5 percent lower), and manufacturing (63 percent higher, 5 percent lower). Seasonally adjusted, a net 34 percent plan price hikes.

Seasonally adjusted, a net 40 percent reported raising compensation, down four points from October. A net 28 percent of owners plan to raise compensation in the next three months, down four points from October's reading. Nine percent of owners cited labor costs at their top business problem and 21 percent said that labor quality was their top business problem.

The frequency of reports of positive profit trends was a net negative 22 percent. Among owners reporting lower profits, 29 percent blamed the rise in the cost of materials, 25 percent blamed weaker sales, 10 percent cited labor costs, 9 percent cited lower prices, 6 percent cited the usual seasonal change and 3 percent cited higher taxes or regulatory costs. For owners reporting higher profits, 57 percent credited sales volumes, 15 percent cited usual seasonal change, and 12 percent cited higher prices.

Two percent of owners reported that all their borrowing needs were not satisfied. Twenty-two percent reported all credit needs were met and 62 percent said they were not interested in a loan. Three percent reported that financing was their top business problem, up two points and the highest since December 2018.

The NFIB Research Center has collected Small Business Economic Trends data with quarterly surveys since the 4th quarter of 1973 and monthly surveys since 1986. Survey respondents are randomly drawn from NFIB's membership. The report is released on the second Tuesday of each month. This survey was conducted in November 2022.



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# Voice of our PEOPLE

## Timmons Answers Questions From Readers

I'm 65 years old and started working for my high school newspaper when I was a sophomore in 1972. If I'm counting on fingers and toes correctly, that means I've been involved with the craft for right at 50 years. During that time I've been fortunate to have a fair amount of reader reaction. Some good, some not so much.



**TIM TIMMONS**  
Two Cents

But I have never, not even close, had the kind of reaction that the trip to Israel created. And a good many of you have asked questions – so let me do two things here. First, I'll try to answer some of them today. Second, if any church or community group would like to hear first-hand the details of the trip, just e-mail me and I will be happy to visit with you and share. I'm trying to organize the photos now into some sort of organized manner that doesn't resemble Uncle Bob's vacation slide show from 1964. No promises though!

More importantly, let's get to your questions:

Several of you asked if I found any answers? At first I wasn't sure what you meant. But one reader from Sheridan mentioned a column I wrote as we were leaving that mentioned the world being in a funk and that the Holy Land might be the best place to start looking for answers.

The short answer is, I don't know. When we were in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and I was losing patience with another group that had cut in front of us, I realized my trials and tribulations

were absolutely nothing compared to what Jesus of Nazareth went through. And after more reflection on that, maybe handling things with more grace is part of the answer . . . and, for me at least, the biggest challenge.

The most often asked question was, what was it like to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles? In a word, unreal. On the last day of the tour we were walking the path Christ followed when He was forced to carry His cross. Our guide pointed to a spot on a stone wall where Jesus reportedly leaned and placed His hand. We all did the same. And when it was my turn, the idea that I was physically doing the exact same thing the Son of God did, albeit in much different circumstances, physically impacted me. It made me think of how tired He must have been. I could not begin to imagine the pain He was in after the torture He endured. Nor could I wrap

my head around carrying a wooden cross that weighed a few hundred pounds.

Humbling? Overwhelming? Thankful? I work with words for a living and even more than a week after the fact am still not sure how to describe it.

What was my favorite part of the trip? Many of you asked that. It's hard to pick out one thing. Hermon Mount, the place where Jesus told Peter he would build His church on that rock, was very big (no pun intended). Masada, the fortress on top of a mountain where a thousand Jews chose death rather than surrender to slavery under the Romans, was impactful. But the three sites – the birth, the death and the resurrection – would have to be at the top of my list.

Conversely, several asked if there were any disappointments?

Sure. I wish we would have had lots more time. But more than that, it was disappointing to learn

that there is some healthy disagreement on what happened where. Scholars and archaeologists are at odds on many of the locations – like the exact spot of the crucifixion. It's certainly understandable. Two thousand years have gone by and everything from the landscape to governments to cultures and even written records have changed.

Understandable, no doubt. But still disappointing.

Would we go back, was another question echoed from many? No doubt. However, I would want to do it differently if we did. The tour worked well for us as first-time visitors. It gives a very broad view of a lot of things. But if we were able to go back, I'd rather be able to spend more time with fewer places – especially the three favorites mentioned above.

The second-biggest question I got was how did this impact my faith?

I guess the easiest answer is that it made me realize how much work I have to do. I mentioned before we left that believing wasn't the problem, it was prioritizing time for that belief. I hope to do better in that regard. Perhaps more importantly, I understand why I should.

For those ready to move on to other topics, this is the final planned column on the Holy Land pilgrimage. Thank you from the very bottom of my heart for so many of you coming along with me on this trip.

God bless!

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

## Ask Rusty – Retired Federal Employee Has Questions About Smaller Social Security Benefit



**ASK RUSTY**  
Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** When I started getting Social Security at 62, I was told by the SS office I would get a smaller monthly amount because I worked for the Federal Government and received a Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) pension. I paid into Social Security for about 20 years working outside the government, and I now receive only about \$280 a month in Social Security. It just seems like I should be getting more. How can I look into this matter that Social Security calls a "windfall?" **Signed:** Federal Retiree

**Dear Federal Retiree:** From what you've shared, you didn't contribute to Social Security while earning your CSRS pension, but you did contribute to SS while working elsewhere, thus earning a Social Security retirement benefit in addition to your CSRS pension. Those who receive a federal pension under the old Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) are affected by Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which reduces any Social Security benefit they become entitled to through other work outside the Federal government,

### Social Security Matters

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and this is the reason your SS benefit is only \$280 per month. For clarity, federal employees who retire under the newer Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) are not affected by WEP because they contribute to Social Security.

The formula for computing Social Security when WEP applies is rather complicated and depends on the number of years you contributed to Social Security from substantial earnings in the private sector. With 20 or fewer years contributing to SS you incur the maximum WEP penalty for your "eligibility year" (the year you turned 62), but with more than 20 years contributing to Social Security the WEP reduction is mitigated, and with 30 or more years contributing to SS, WEP no longer applies.

If you were receiving your CSRS pension when you claimed Social Security, your WEP-reduced SS benefit was computed at that time and has continued. But if you had additional years working and contributing to Social Security after you first claimed, it's possible that you now have more than 20 years contributing, in which case you may be entitled to a smaller WEP reduction and thus a higher Social Security benefit. The only way to find out if you're now entitled to a higher benefit due to additional years contributing

is to call Social Security, either at your local office or at the national number 1(800) 772-1213 and ask them to review your current benefit under WEP. If you now have more years contributing to Social Security than you had when you first claimed, you may be entitled to a benefit increase.

Before calling SS, you may wish to first review your lifetime earnings record on file at Social Security and determine how many years of contributions from substantial SS earnings you actually have. You can get a copy of your lifetime SS earnings record from Social Security, most easily from your personal online "my Social Security" account. If you don't yet have an online account set up, you can easily do so at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Then, you can review your lifetime SS-earnings against the chart at the following link which shows what your earnings must have been each year to count under WEP: [ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10045.pdf](http://ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10045.pdf).

So, to recap: if you continued to work after starting your WEP-reduced Social Security benefits, you may be entitled to a smaller WEP reduction and thus a higher Social Security benefit now, but you will need to contact Social Security to evaluate your current status (and, if appropriate, increase your Social Security benefit).

## Lemme Get Through the Holidays



**JOHN O. MARLOWE**  
With The Grain

There are two kinds of Holiday traditions. There are those which transcend our individual families, and are shared by entire communities of people -- like putting up a Christmas tree, spin-ning the dreidel, or playing Jingle Bell Rock.

Then there are other traditions which are solely confined within the family. For instance, my step-cousins always show up at Christmas dinner wearing matching red flannel pajamas.

While the rest of us are sharing appetizers and spritzers before the big meal, the cousins pop open a soft drink. Not just any cola, mind you. It has to be traditional Coca-Cola in the original 8-ounce (or if they can find it, 6.5-ounce) bottle. One year, they even paid a fortune to buy Coca-Cola from Mexico, because word was that it was manufactured using pure sugar cane, like the original formula.

I don't know why they do it. It's their tradition, not mine. Other families have special menus, make special treats, or play special games.

Our family tradition was different. We called the plumber.

Year in and year out, our 4-inch Orangeburg pipe, which conveyed yucky matter from the smaller pipes in the house to the septic tank in the

side yard would become clogged. Infiltrating tree roots brought the flow of gloop, and the holiday reverie itself, to a halt.

It was uncanny how that big pipe clogged right before Christmas every year. Granted, the house was always teeming with additional family members, all with differing bathroom habits, I sup-pose. But it wasn't like the day after Thanksgiving -- a day plumbers call "Brown Friday" -- where big meals and bad timing dam up the works.

Our plumber in those days was named Lemme (LEM' mee), probably short for Lemuel, but I don't know that. All I do know is that Lemme was a character. He was hilarious, and was always welcomed from five miles up the road with more elation than cousin Donald, who drove all the way in from Missouri.

Lemme wasn't what you'd think a plumber would look like by today's examples. He didn't drive a fancy van with decals on the side. Nor did he show up wearing an antiseptic, brightly colored uniform.

Instead, he drove an old pick-up truck, later a rusty light blue step-van, and wore his trademark blue denim overalls. He was about 5'7" tall, and had thinning white hair and round glasses. He didn't have much of a white beard, but a significant jolly paunch in front meant he looked to us children like he belonged at our house during the Holidays.

I'm sure there were other plumbers around, but it never seemed so. Lemme knew everyone, and everyone knew Lemme. I don't imagine he even had a business card, and the only advertising he did was planting an old toilet seat in the flower bed in front of his house, with the family name scrolled on

the open lid. (Those of you who live in West Central Indiana know who I'm talking about, now, don't you?)

Without doubt my favorite Christmastime visit with Lemme was when he explained -- jokingly, I believe -- that the whole plumbing fiasco had been caused by my Aunt Betty's fruitcake. Aunt Betty had spent two days baking her bulletproof bricks as gifts, and the thought of everyone tossing them down the toilet sent her to her bedroom in a Scrooge-worthy sulk.

It was only when Lemme suggested loudly that it was the best looking fruitcake he had augured out of a pipe in forty years that Betty rejoined the family. She even made him a turkey sandwich to go.

One year my father was so happy that Lemme came out on a particularly snowy pre-Christmas day that Dad gave Lemme four tickets out of his stash to see the next Indiana Pacers basketball game.

I wish you had been there to see Lemme's face. I guess you could say that he was quite flushed.

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

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# Voice of our PEOPLE

## Celine Dion, Kirstie Alley, Christmas, Good News & Bad

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Award winning actress Kirstie Alley was diagnosed with cancer shortly before her untimely death at the young age of 71. Grammy award winning Celine Dion has recently been diagnosed with a neurological disease called Stiff Person Syndrome. The disease attacks about one in a million and is a very debilitating disease. She is 54 years old.

Disease, death and bad news can attack anyone at any age and none of us are immune.

Good news came to Britney Griner who spent 10 months in a Russian prison for allegedly having hashish oil in her suitcase at a Moscow airport. She was recently released and is now back in the United States. The Bad news is that arms dealer Victor Bout who smuggled millions of

weapons to the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa was released from prison in exchange for Griner's release.

Paul Whelan a former United States marine received bad news in that he is still being held in a Russian prison accused of spying. Russia is apparently holding onto him for another deal with the United States. It's tragic that he wasn't released with Griner.

Please stay out of Russia, North Korea, Iran and China. There are other places to avoid as well but there are plenty of nice places to visit.

My deceased wife was 37 when she received the bad news that she had multiple sclerosis. The diagnosis was very bad news and Karen died one day at a time for 12 years. The last four years of her life she could do nothing. She required

24-hour care. She became a person trapped inside a body. She died at the age of 49. The toll that such a disease took on our family and my young sons was severe. Such an illness changes the lives of the entire family. Everyone to some extent is involved in the caregiving and are changed by the emotional drain of sickness and death. However, no one suffers as much as the person struggling with the disease.

Such life struggles play havoc with holidays such as Christmas. Our family never had a normal Christmas for at least 12 years. However, it became our new normal.

Jesus is good news at Christmas. He was bad news to King Herod of Judea. Herod was a mental illness case who ordered the death of all male babies two years old and under in the vicinity

of Bethlehem. He hoped to eliminate Jesus because wise men from the East had come to worship him.

We must pray for the families of Kirstie Alley, Celine Dion and Paul Whelan and many others. These families are suffering. Fame and fortune never provide a way of escaping bad news and the results of bad news. We should also pray for one another and rejoice with any good news that comes each other's way.

We are all sojourners in this life. The message of Christmas is a Savior is born, Christ the Lord, peace on earth and good will toward all.

May good news find its way to you this season of the year and may we all with God's grace be there for each other when the news is not so good.

Visit [GlennMollette.com](http://GlennMollette.com) to learn more.

## The Smell of Flowers Upon the Heart

The sweet smell of flowers emanated on the breeze as I ran through the backyard trail. For me, as a small boy, it seemed immense as the rhododendrons towered above me.

It was like an enchanted garden that you could imagine catching the Irish little people scurry out of your sight and the fairies to be dancing in the air about you.

It was a backyard domain of vibrant red, purple, pink, white, orange and yellow colors in every shade created by long serving forestry employee Baxter Reed who created the sights and smells for his loving wife Hazel.

Baxter and Hazel Reed were my childhood neighbors. They were of my grandparents' generation and themselves had no children. But in their own way, they had many grandchildren - those who made up our little neighborhood.

As we played upon the streets or across the yards, they were there to smile and cheer us along. There were often cups of lemonade nearby and occasionally a cookie to boost our energy. Hazel's love emanated through many of us.

I was able to come to know Baxter some as I assisted him with a few chores around the yard before his Parkinson's advanced to where he was less active.

The couple was originally from Oregon and Baxter had retired from the forestry service. I am not sure what had brought them to Atlanta and our neighborhood. I guess I never asked, or if it was said, it was lost in the annals of my youthful inquisitiveness.

But from him I learned that in order to create a beautiful environment, outside of nature's normal beauty, it took dedication and care. That is what he gave to the space he created for Hazel and he to enjoy.

When I was big enough, I took on mowing yards to earn money. The one yard that I really did not want to mow was the Reeds. Mr. Reed had cultivated the only Zoysia front yard in the neighborhood. It was thick and difficult to push the mower through. But in time, I was asked and could not refuse Hazel's request.

One of Hazel's pastimes was painting flowers on china, and she was very good at this hobby. I was blessed as a boy to get a few of her creations and have cherished them through the years. I recent-



**RANDALL FRANKS**  
Southern Style Columnist

ly passed those along for someone else to continue in that enjoyment.

In life, often we are not provided what other might see as the ideal situation. We may not have family or close friends with which to share our day-to-day. There may be no children who will carry on our legacy. Our health may not be the best it can be. We may face problems of our own making or thrust upon us by others.

No matter what is in the hand we are dealt in the game of life, it is our job to play it. To make the very best of the situation and along the way to strive to make our world a better place.

The Christmas and New Year's holiday season is a time for many of loneliness. In some cases, people are outgoing and can fill the time with friends or activities that mask this until the season is passed. But others are mired in a stillness that prevents them from seeking the support of others.

You have a chance to make the lives of those around you better every day of the year. This is a lesson I learned from Hazel and from Baxter, you do your best to uplift, encourage and persevere no matter your circumstances and while doing that you make your life, your days, and your circle of engagement a happier and more loving place to be.

Create a memory that lasts far beyond you. Thank you Hazel and Baxter, gone from us now for decades, but still in the memory and in the heart of one of those little neighborhood boys.

*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](mailto:rfrankscatoosa@gmail.com).*

## 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 piggyback 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.

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