

▶ TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.



▶ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Savannah McClure smile? "Ballet," said the 17-year-old, a Noblesville High School junior. The daughter of Matt McClure and Missy McClure, she has been studying ballet for 14 years and was found in December 2021 dancing the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in White River Ballet Co.'s production of "The Nutcracker" at NHS Auditorium. Much rehearsal time went into preparing for this ballet, she said, to coordinate with her teachers to come into the studio and work with her ballet partner, Simon Pawlak, who played the Nutcracker Prince. Also, she said, "I had to get new pointe shoes fitted for this role since I needed more durability for the shoes to be able to perform such big parts," including "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy." Why does she enjoy ballet? "I just love the ability to be so many different cool characters and to be able to tell your story through your dance." Today's feature is a look back at one of The Times' previous Faces of Hamilton County. In high school, she also enjoys performing in the NHS Singers show choir, which begins its competition season today. The choir's first contest performance is at 3:30 p.m. today at Jay County High School. Read more about the NHS show choirs in the Betsy Reason column in today's edition of The Times.

And Another Few Things...

1. Home Show Tickets

Want free tickets to the 101st Indianapolis Home Show, running from Jan. 20-29 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center? All you have to do to win tickets (valued at \$15 each) is send us a selfie of you and our front page (Print or Online Edition) to ttrimmons@thetimes24-7.com. Be sure to tell us who you are, where you are from, how many tickets you would like and a little bit about yourself so we can include it if your photo is selected to publish on our front page. Then all you have to do is wait and watch. If you see your smiling face on our front page - you win!

2. Fishers Food Drive

The City of Fishers will expand its annual MLK Day and National Day of Service celebration with a community-wide food drive this coming Monday, Jan. 16.

With local food pantries experiencing an increase in demand and decrease in supply after the busy holiday season, the City of Fishers has partnered with Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County to replenish these resources. This coming Monday, food donations will be collected with a Pack the Bus event at eight Fishers park properties in conjunction with HSE Schools, and with a Pack the Snowplow event at Fishers' three Kroger stores between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. A list of donation needs is available on ThisIsFishers.com/MLK.

3. Comet Coming!

Want to see a comet with your naked eye? Well, you just might get your chance soon. Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) will be closest to our planet on Feb. 1 and Feb. 2. According to the good folks at space.com, if the comet continues to get brighter, we just might be able to look up and see it. And even if it fades a bit, we should still be able to use binoculars or a telescope around then. Go to space.com for more information.

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Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty - How Will My Work Earnings Affect My Social Security Benefits?

Dear Rusty: I am presently 67 years of age and am still working full time. I am receiving Medicare coverage, but I have not yet applied for monthly Social Security payments. I have been told that I can take SS payments even if I am still working. Is that correct? Is there a limit to how much I can earn each year and still receive SS payments? Signed: Working but Wondering

Dear Working: Social



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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

Security's so-called "earnings test" applies only to those who haven't yet reached their full retirement age. At 67 years of age, you are already past your

SS full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 2 months, which means there is no longer a limit

▶ See RUSTY Page Ax

Five Resolutions For A Fraud-Free New Year

The loss of money, personal information and perseverance of scammers continue with online purchase scams as the riskiest of scams. And the group that may be targeted the most are today's senior citizens. The Better Business Bureau recommends adding a few precautionary steps to the New Year's resolution list, along with the weight loss and financial goals, to help make the upcoming days and months fraud-free.

I resolve to be cautious with email. Be wary of unsolicited emails from a person or a company. Remember, scammers can make emails look like they are from a legitimate business, government agency, or reputable organization (even BBB!). Never click on links or open at-

tachments in unsolicited emails.

I resolve to never send money to strangers. If you haven't met a person face-to-face, don't send them money. This is especially true if the person asks you to transfer funds using a pre-paid debit card or CashApp. Money sent to strangers in this way is untraceable and once it is sent, there's no getting it back. Scammers will try to trick you into panicking - so before making a move, think the situation through. Don't fall for it!

I resolve to do research before making online payments and purchases. When shopping online, or if asked to make a payment online, research the retailer before entering pay-

▶ See FRAUD Page A5

Pack It In - You Are the 'Working Aged'



JIM THRASHER
Columnist

My new Human Resources/Medicare employment identity is "Working Aged." Ok, sure, I get it—as in elderly, feeble, de-

▶ See THRASHER Page A5

NHS Show Choirs Kick Off Competition Season Today



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

Noblesville High School's show choir competition season begins today.

NHS Singers, the high school's top mixed show choir, and their traveling companion choir, New Dimension, NHS's top all-female show choir, today travels to and competes at Jay County High School in Portland.

I know this because my daughter, a NHS junior, is in NHS Singers this school year, and she was in New Dimension last school year.

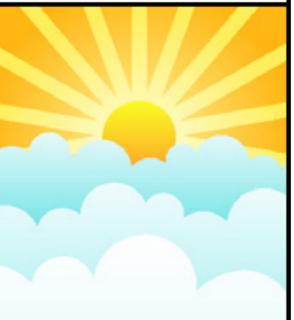
Today begins with students, and parents, rising in the wee

hours of the morning to board Noblesville school buses to travel to Jay County, nearly 90 minutes northeast of Noblesville.

New Dimension competes at 9:30 a.m. on the auditorium stage, and NHS Singers compete after lunch at 3:45 p.m. Finals begin at 6:30 p.m. with awards later tonight. Yes, the show choir competitions make for long days. But the students love it. And most parents end up enjoying the days just as much, not wanting to miss even one

▶ See BETSY Page A5

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 8:04 a.m.
SET: 5:41 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
HIGH: 37 °F
LOW: 26 °F



Today is...

- Caesarean Section Day
- International Kite Day
- Ratification Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1639 The "Fundamental Orders", the first written constitution that created a government, is adopted in Connecticut
- 1911 Roald Amundsen's South Pole expedition makes landfall on the eastern edge of the Ross Ice Shelf
- 1967 The Human Be-In takes place in San Francisco, California's Golden Gate Park, launching the Summer of Love



Births On This Day

- 1963 Steven Soderbergh American director, screenwriter and producer
- 1969 Dave Grohl American singer-songwriter, musician and director

Deaths On This Day

- 1977 Anthony Eden British politician and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- 2016 Alan Rickman English actor

▶ INSIDE TODAY

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▶ HONEST HOOSIER

Monday is a good day to remember two great leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King and James Atwell Mount. (Indiana's 24th governor who passed away on Jan. 16, 1901.)



▶ TODAY'S QUOTE

"Anyone who thinks they can always do what they have always done is a fool."

- Joyce Meyer

▶ TODAY'S JOKE

Why did Frosty go to the middle of the lake? Because snowman's an island.

▶ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Chill out - people who are aggressive appear to be at greater risk for heart attacks and strokes.

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

Russell E. 'Russ' Whittaker, Jr.

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



7 DAY FORECAST

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
26/37 SUNNY AND COLD	26/42 NOT AS COLD	36/50 RAINY AND BREEZY	44/50 MORNING RAIN, BREEZY	38/51 MOSTLY CLOUDY	45/52 BREEZY AND RAINY	33/41 CLOUDY BREEZES

OBITUARIES

Russell E. 'Russ' Whittaker, Jr. May 11, 1943-January 6, 2023

Russell E. 'Russ' Whittaker, Jr., 79, of Noblesville, passed away on Friday, Jan. 6, 2023.

He was born on May 11, 1943 in Baltimore, Maryland to the late Russell E. Sr., and Ellen Whittaker.

Mr. Whittaker was a 1961 graduate of BCI Highschool located in Coalport, Pennsylvania and a 1965 graduate of California State College located in California, Penn.

He began his career as an industrial arts teacher for 4 years at Tyrone High School in Tyrone, Penn. He later worked for Fuellgraf Electric Company in Butler, Penn. as a project manager, where he retired in 2018.

Mr. Whittaker was a HAM radio operator and a member of the American Radio Relay League. He served as a member of the Glendale Junior/Senior School Board in Flinton, Penn. He enjoyed target shooting and was an avid hunter, and a member of the National Rifle Association.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 at Flanner Buchanan-Hamilton Memorial Park, Prairie Waters, where family and friends are scheduled to gather from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Family services will take place in Bellwood, Penn. at a later date.

Survivors include his his wife of nearly 58 years Jo; daughter Jennifer J. (Matt) Etchemendy; 2 grandchildren Russell (Kayla) Whittaker, IV and Christopher Etchemendy; 2 great-grandsons Grayson and Ryland Whittaker; and 2 brothers Deane Whittaker and Neil Whittaker.

He was preceded in death by his son Russell E. 'Rusty' Whittaker, III; and sister Eleanor 'Cookie' Nierle.

Memorial contributions should be directed to The Little Red Door Cancer Agency 1801 N. Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46202 in the name of Russell E. Whittaker Jr. (littlereddoor.org/donate).

Visit flannerbuchanan.com to leave condolences.



Longtime Local Resident and Leader Announces Run for Carmel City Council

Shannon Minnaar has filed to run for Carmel City Council in the Northeast District. Minnaar has lived in Carmel for 22 years and has been involved with several impactful Carmel community organizations and initiatives.

"Carmel is a leader across the board. I'm thrilled to take my leadership and community experience to the city council," said Minnaar. "I intend to keep Carmel

a fiscally responsible and vibrant city.

Currently, Minnaar is the Vice Chairman on the Board of Directors for the Carmel Symphony Orchestra. In addition, she leads the Marketing Committee. Her passion is to get younger people engaged and activated in the arts.

Minnaar is also a Commissioner for the Carmel Cable and Telecommunications Commission. She's been a past PTO



Shannon Minnaar

President for Mohawk Trails Elementary School, Co-Chair of the

After School Enrichment program, President of the Brookshire Ladies 18 Hole League, President of the Board for the Cool Creek North HOA, and was the creator of the Carmel United Golf Outing benefiting the CUSC scholarship fund.

Minnaar and her husband David have been married 30 years and have two adult children. Both children graduated from Carmel Clay schools.

Carmel-Based Author Publishes Poetry Collection

It Ends Well, a new book by Samantha Schlecter, has been released by RoseDog Books.

While growing up, Samantha was a seemingly joyful child. She got along with others, was talkative, and never stopped laughing. This was because she always wore a mask. This mask changed everything that made her, her. This hid her sadness from others but also, her true personality. She picked apart and manipulated every aspect of this new face to create a whole new person.

Instead of facing the grief of losing her sister head on, or the numerous mental illnesses poured on her plate, she spent her time perfecting every part of her body and personality. After years of comparing, judging, and downgrading herself, she hit a breaking point. She didn't know where else to turn.

So, Samantha started pouring her emotions out by writing. Although not realizing this initially, writing poetry became an outlet and helped Samantha

emerge from a long depression.

It Ends Well takes the reader through this grueling journey of pain and loss. Samantha discusses body image, self harm, the death of her sister, sexual assault, and the deep emotions she was feeling, but didn't know how to process.

The worst parts of her life are within these pages, but so are the best. She finds herself and her true meaning as the book progresses. Watch her grow and mature, and find out who she wants to be. She hopes that through her journey, the readers can see, everyone's story truly does end well.

It Ends Well is a 350-page paperback with a retail price of \$24.00 (eBook \$19.00). The ISBN is 979-8-88604-642-7. It was published by RoseDog Books of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For more information go to dorrancepressroom.com/it-ends-well/

To purchase a copy, visit rosedogbookstore.com/it-ends-well-1/

Meeting Notice

Carmel Public Art Advisory Committee

This is notice that the Carmel Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023 at 6 p.m. in City Hall has been cancelled,

as there is no old business or intake forms to discuss.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023 at 6 p.m. in the Caucus Room on the second floor of City Hall - One Civic Square. Any agenda or notice will be distributed the week prior.

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Photo courtesy of HHSC

HHES Students Artwork Represents Husky Family When Cheri Trachtman, Hamilton Heights Elementary

School art teacher, and her students were asked to take a blank canvas and transform it into a work of art, they stepped up in a big way and created a colorful, meaningful painting. "The inspiration was a tessellating hexagon which represents a beehive," explained Cheri Trachtman. "We are the busy bees working together to make something beautiful. Each hexagon is a different shade of orange. We mixed orange with white, gold, brown, black, and white. This signifies the different tints and shades of people that all blend beautifully to make our Husky family."

Their artwork will be proudly displayed in the lobby of Hamilton Heights Administration building. Students who helped create the painting include: (Front row, from left to right): Olivia Smith, Jax Peters, Bentley Lippott, Jackson Van Kirk and Ava Trees. (Back row, from left to right): Camdyn Jackson, Cheri Trachtman, Reid Hughes, Grace Hodson and Brody Wariner. Not pictured: Hayden Griffith, Karrington Wegrzyn and Kylar Williams.

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Legislator Takes Aim At Data Privacy

By Whitney Downard

Americans have no federally protected data and privacy protections, leaving individuals and companies scrambling to control a huge flow of information that could damage billions of lives. A small number of states have started introducing their own laws to enshrine these protections and Indiana could be next. "Right now, there is no legislation at the federal level that protects consumers and only five states so far have this," Sen. Liz Brown said about her proposed legislation, Senate Bill 5. "We will be at the forefront of protecting consumer data privacy."

Brown, a Republican from Fort Wayne, presented her data privacy bill as part of the Senate Republican agenda earlier this week, re-introducing a bill she filed last year.

The bill would come as a win for everyone from technology companies to everyday consumers, Brown said, except for the bad actors profiting from the sale and misuse of sensitive information about Hoosiers.

"(Technology companies) want assurance that they know how to act in this space but they also want their customers to be assured they're taking good care of (consumers') data," Brown said.

What companies might know about their users

With technological advances come additional layers of surveillance, some used to enhance how a consumer interacts with an organization's website or business model. For example, a local grocery store offering customers points toward future purchases with each item they buy.

But the program also allows the store to track what a customer orders and when, even anticipating future purchases. That information can be packaged and sold to a third party, who can

use that information to tailor advertising or other marketing materials for that customer.

"They know when, for example, my grandchildren visit because I probably went down and bought diapers and baby food," Brown said. "They probably know more about us than the Amazons of the world."

Brown's bill would allow consumers to ask these entities who hold their personal data, called controllers, to stop selling their data to a third party, correct inaccuracies, obtain their own copy of that information or delete it altogether.

"If you really don't want anyone to have it or if you want to check it, then you'll have the ability to do that," Brown said.

Businesses must also improve the ways they safeguard that data, preventing some of the data breaches Hoosiers have experienced - whether with local healthcare entities or multinational consumer credit reporting agencies.

The "bill of rights" codified in the bill closely resembles Virginia's legislation, which went into effect this year.

Brown's bill gives companies three years to comply and doesn't apply to most small businesses.

"We want to give (companies) time to implement those security measures that they're going to need and understand how to control the data," Brown said.

In contrast to European data protection laws, one of the first efforts to institute protections worldwide, Brown's bill doesn't address censorship or content issues. But it does penalize companies who don't follow the law - \$7,500 per violation.

According to the Attorney General's Office, which oversees data privacy cases now and would have expanded authority under this bill, these types of cases have grown in number and complexity.

"Particularly, we want

to protect consumers' ability to opt-out of targeted ads, which could include sensitive personal information that should remain PERSONAL," an office spokesperson said in a statement. "Along with the modernization of our laws, more resources will be necessary to fund additional professionals and investigative tools. We will work with legislators to make sure Hoosiers know how their data is being processed."

Tracking someone else without their knowledge

Another bill under consideration in the General Assembly would be Brown's bill creating a law against non-consensual tracking, a practice that was previously legal.

In 2021, Apple released its AirTag, a \$29, disc-shaped device that can be used to remotely track objects such as keys or luggage. Other, similar devices exploded in popularity, enabling stalkers and abusers nationwide to track their victims without their knowledge. Anyone can also order vehicle tracking devices on Amazon.

In response to a flurry of articles early last year criticizing the company for its lack of protections, Apple released an update that automatically alerts its users to AirTags following them. Android users must download and proactively use Apple's Tracker Detect app to get the same services.

Those actions didn't prevent two women from filing a class action lawsuit against Apple in December, who alleged former partners used the devices to stalk them.

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IDEM to Reassess Area Near Old American Lead Facility

Beginning next Tuesday, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will assess soil for lead contamination in rights-of-way along residential streets near the former American Lead reclamation facility located at 2102 Hillside Avenue in Indianapolis.

The American Lead site was used for industrial purposes dating back to at least the late 1800s, and for secondary lead smelting operations from 1946 to 1965. Previous lead soil investigations and removals in the American Lead Environmental Advisory Area were conducted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2005, 2007 and 2016.

The American Lead Environmental Advisory Area, or area of contamination, is roughly defined as 25th Street to the north, Ralston Avenue to the northeast, along the railroad to Interstate 70 with I-70 forming the southern border, and the Monon Trail to the west. There are properties in the area where contaminated soil was not removed because the property owner at the time did not grant EPA or IDEM access; or results from samples showed lead concentrations below the mandatory cleanup levels.

IDEM staff will be field testing soils along public rights-of-way to assess the presence of lead in areas previously unsampled.

In cooperation with the City of Indianapolis, the EPA, and the Marion County Public Health Department, IDEM



will be mailing an informational brochure to area residents to raise awareness of sampling and provide information on resources available to reduce the risk of lead exposure for children.

IDEM and EPA have created dedicated websites with specific information for the American Lead site:

- idem.IN.gov/cleanups/sites-of-special-interest/american-lead/
- epaosr.org/site_profile.aspx?site_id=11741

General online lead information resources are

available through:

- The Indiana Department of Health's Lead and Healthy Homes Division at IN.gov/health/lead-and-healthy-homes-division/ and www.in.gov/health/lead/
- EPA at epa.gov/lead/learn-about-lead

Questions regarding public health should be directed to:

- Indiana Department of Health email at media@isdh.IN.gov
- Marion County Public Health Department at (317) 221-2211 or email at kjohnson@marionhealth.org

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Influential Super PAC Takes Aim at Mitch Daniels Over Possible U.S. Senate Bid

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

Prominent national conservative organization Club for Growth hopes to keep two-term Indiana Gov. and former Purdue University President Mitch Daniels out of a new race for U.S. Senate with a blistering new advertisement set to hit Hoosier TVs Sunday.

Daniels is considering a run to replace Sen. Mike Braun, who is giving up the seat to run for governor. He hasn't publicly announced a decision yet, but some conservative groups don't want to see him return as a candidate.

"His brand of Republicanism is out of date," said David McIntosh, president of Club for Growth Action. "Hoosiers need new leadership to tackle the problems that Mitch and other moderates created over 50 years."

The move comes after a Bellwether Research poll in December found that Daniels easily leads a

hypothetical Senate field with 32% and the nearest competitor being U.S. Rep. Jim Banks at 10%.

Longtime Daniels adviser and friend Mark Lubbers reacted swiftly to the ad, saying "If anything, this McIntosh ad will make his running more likely. It's personal. It's a gross distortion. And it insults Indiana, whose reputation soared higher under Gov. Daniels than ever before."

"In the last 15 years, no fewer than 25 Republican Governors have modeled their service on Mitch Daniels. His conservative record is crystal clear — and not in the fairy tale world that David McIntosh lives in, but the real world of running a state."

The ad opens by claiming Daniels' credentials as a free-wheeling, big-thinking truth teller are a myth.

"An old guard Republican cling to the old ways of the bad old days," the 60-second ad proclaims while adding that Daniels is not

conservative and "not the right guy for Indiana anymore."

The group says it wants to get "the right kind" of "limited-government" and "pro-growth" conservatives in Congress, according to its website. That includes U.S. Sens. Victoria Spartz of Indiana, Ted Cruz of Texas and more.

The super-PAC is starting with a \$16,500 ad buy during Sunday political shows statewide. But McIntosh warned the group would spend "whatever it takes to ensure voters know his real record."

The ad lambasts Daniels for spending decisions he made as director of the federal Office of Management and Budget under President George W. Bush and for tax hikes while Indiana governor. For instance, it says he proposed an income tax (he did) and that he raised the sales tax.

The latter was the result of the state taking over the majority of funding for

K-12 schools and capping property taxes statewide.

And it criticizes the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget — which Daniels co-chairs — for supporting a carbon tax and approving of President Joe Biden's climate and tax bill as "fiscally responsible."

"Mitch Daniels bragged to Newsweek that he never uses the word 'conservative' to describe himself — because he's not," the ad says, referencing a 2010 interview.

Daniels didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

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Indiana Commission for Higher Education Approves Funding Formula Metrics

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education yesterday unanimously voted to support revised enrollment, completion and economic metrics for Indiana's Outcomes-Based Performance Funding formula. The new metrics address current issues facing higher education in Indiana such as the declining college-going rate, adult educational attainment, college completion and graduate retention.

For two decades, the Outcomes-Based Performance Funding formula has provided incentives to public higher education institutions that improve student outcome-driven metrics. In 2022, Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 366 for the first time added a requirement into law that the Commission continue its work in performance funding.

In response, and based on legislative feedback, the Commission developed a revised funding formula that is focused on mission differentiation for institutions, utilizes more recent data, allows institutions to be measured against themselves and removes the historical practice of redistributing funding between institutions.

"The Outcomes-Based Performance Funding formula proposed by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education addresses the key challenges facing students, the workforce and our state," said Commission Chair Jud Fisher.

"Our public institutions have made tremendous gains in college completions. We must not lose focus on that goal, but the proposed formula

improves intentionality around getting more Hoosiers enrolled in college and staying in Indiana after graduation."

Governor Holcomb's 2023 Next Level Agenda mirrored the Commission's funding recommendations including a significant increase of \$184 million over the biennium. Additionally, Gov. Holcomb fully committed to the Commission's proposed Outcomes-Based Performance Funding formula, including metrics around increasing the retention of college graduates in Indiana.

The Commission's Budget and Productivity Committee is charged with the development, implementation and oversight of the Commission's fiscal policies focused on increasing postsecondary efficiency and productivity.

"The Commission's Budget and Productivity Committee have been actively involved in reviewing and providing insight into how Indiana funds higher education," said committee Chair Chris LaMothe.

"The proposed metrics lay the foundation for strengthening Indiana's higher education pipeline, building a skilled workforce for today and tomorrow."

The Commission will continue working alongside university and college partners to maximize student and economic outcomes through Indiana's financial investment in higher education. The next Commission meeting is on March 9 at Indiana University Kokomo.

Auditor Klutz Appoints New Chief of Staff

Auditor Klutz appointed Courtney Schaafsma to serve as Chief of Staff, announced earlier this week during Monday's inauguration ceremony.

"We couldn't be more excited to have Courtney join our team," said Auditor Klutz.

"Courtney has extensive knowledge and experience in government finance at the state and local levels. Her expertise and commitment to a supporting a more transparent and



Auditor Tera Klutz

accountable government are what made her a perfect fit for the role." Schaafsma previously

served under the Pence and Holcomb Administrations as the Commissioner for the Department of Local Government Finance.

She served as Director of School Efficiency with the Indiana Department of Education for 1.5 years. She also served as Executive Director of the Distressed Unit Appeal Board for 4 years.

"She brings 12 years of leadership at the state level in addition to almost 10 years serving as a municipal financial advisor

for Crowe, LLP."

As Chief of Staff, Schaafsma will plan and direct all administrative, financial, and operational activities in collaboration with the Auditor of State.

"The Auditor of State's Office continues to modernize and improve the services it provides to Hoosier residents and state employees. I appreciate the opportunity to work with Auditor Klutz and the AOS team on these important initiatives," said Schaafsma.

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BETSY From Page A1



Photo courtesy of Matthew Doudt Photography

Noblesville High School's NHS Singers, a varsity mixed choir of 60 voices, hams it up for Matthew Doudt Photography, before the show choir season begins today with the choir's first contest at 3:30 p.m. at Jay County High School.

contest. "I'm very excited about Singers and New Dimension this year. The students have worked very hard to be prepared to compete," NHS choral director John Neubauer told me on Thursday.

"I'm looking forward to seeing these kids shine and enjoy making memories and great music together, sharing it with our community and other communities," he said.

Neubauer also looks forward to his students getting the opportunity to watch competing choirs both near and far. The closest contest this year is Warren Central, and the farthest contests are in Iowa and Ohio.

Without giving too much away about today's competition set themes, Neubauer said, "New Dimension explores the many dimensions of being female. Singers, coming off a very successful story show are trying to tell a new story. The students have embraced it."

Preparation for show choir contests starts at the beginning of the school year. "We learn some of the material in August and spread it out the rest of the semester."

Yes, there are a lot of hours put in. But students have gotten to work with "outstanding choreographers with varying styles," he said. "So each piece works well and the overall

look is very cohesive." Most recently, the choirs rehearsed for the NHS Choir Department's holiday concerts which were on stage Dec. 9-10 and open to the Noblesville community.

But just as soon as those concerts happened, the choirs were back on track and worked very hard the next two weeks rehearsing for contest season, he said. Then there were three weeks of holiday break with no organized rehearsals. Students returned on the Monday after break, a day early, to begin rehearsals and "have really been intensively working so we are ready," Neubauer said.

This past week? He said there were lots of details that needed to be perfected. The choirs had a list of items to hit.

"Singing well is, of course, our top priority," Neubauer said. "And then we work on the choreography and performance presentation. The kids really care, and that makes all the difference."

Show choir competitions, such as the first one today of the season, builds the groups' commitment and comradery. "Working hard to achieve success brings people together. The students have a great time and do enjoy the rigor," he said.

It's exciting not just for the singers in the choirs but also the band that performs with the choirs and the



Photo courtesy of Matthew Doudt Photography

Noblesville High School's New Dimension is a varsity unisex choir of 54 voices.

student crew that travels with them. "I know this is the most exciting time of the year for everyone in the choir, band and crew. They love it," Neubauer said.

There are also parent chaperones who ride the buses and parent "roadies" who travel to each competition to set up and break down lights and sound and stage. This season, there are some extra special effects, I'm told. I haven't yet seen the competition sets but am excited to watch for the first time today.

"The parents and community members work tirelessly to make sure that the students have all the support they need to create this experience. It is a lot of work. Parents seem to find their calling and assist with dedication and energy," Neubauer said. "The program would not be workable were it not for the parent support we are so fortunate to have."

The excitement drives students -- from eighth-graders to juniors -- to audition for the next school year. Auditions will be coming up in February.

There are four show choirs that compete each year. MaleTonez are 20 all-male singers. Sensation features 50, mostly young underclassmen all-female singers. New Dimension is a varsity women's choir of 54 voices, and NHS Singers is a varsity mixed choir of 60 voices. Plus, there is a crew of 10 students and a 20-member band Main Event Band directed by Bethany Robinson.



Photo courtesy of Matthew Doudt Photography

Noblesville High School's Maletonez is an all-male choir of 20 voices.



Photo courtesy of Matthew Doudt Photography

Noblesville High School's Sensation is an all-female choir of 50 voices mostly young underclassmen.

a part of Noblesville High School's history and "long tradition of having great show choirs."

He said, "I remember seeing Singers back in my youth. It's exciting to lead a program that has a rich history."

This is just the start of show choirs' competition season. On Jan. 28, the two choirs are off to Beech Grove High School, then on Feb. 4 the MaleTonez and Sensation choirs with the KeyTonez band will join New Dimension and NHS Singers and head to Plainfield High School and then on Feb. 25 to Warren Central Invitational. MaleTonez and Sensation will head out without the varsity choirs on Feb. 11 to the Decatur Central Invitational. Also, NHS Singers and New Dimension will head out of state twice, to Fairfield, Ohio, and to Davenport, Iowa.

The 2022 competition season was a stellar one. So anything that the choir director would do differently this season? "Every year is different but the

ingredients for success remain basically the same: great singing, entertaining performers who work hard to satisfy the audience and dedication to work very hard to improve. The students are coming through marvelously," Neubauer said.

He and new assistant choir director Julianne Fowler invite the community to watch the show choirs' competition sets later this month during a public concert. "The community should not miss the chance to see the NHS Choirs in performance," Neubauer said. "They are fantastic. And they are very nice kids. Humble and very hard working."

The free public performance of this year's competition sets will be presented at 7 p.m. Jan. 26 at NHS, with tickets on sale soon. Neubauer encouraged the community to "Come out and support your great students, Noblesville."

Contact Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com

RUSTY From Page A1

to how much you can earn from working. Regardless of how much you earn, your monthly Social Security benefits will not be affected, so you can claim your Social Security at any time and not worry about your benefits being affected.

You should also know that because you haven't yet claimed your Social Security, your monthly benefit has been growing since you reached your full retirement age in October of 2021. You've been earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% more benefit for each month you have delayed claiming, so your benefit now at 67 would be over 8% more than it would have been at your FRA last year. And, if you wish to, you can continue waiting to claim SS and continue to earn those DRCs to get a still higher benefit. But DRCs stop when you reach 70, when you would get your

maximum Social Security benefit -- about 31% more than your FRA amount -- so never wait past age 70 to claim.

To recap: because you've already passed your full retirement age you can claim your SS benefit now (e.g., to start in January) and get a benefit which is 8+% more than you would have gotten if you claimed at your full retirement age, or you can continue to wait and get an even higher amount by claiming even later. Which way to go depends a lot on your current financial needs and your life expectancy. If you don't urgently need the money now and are in good health and expect at least average longevity (about 84 for a man your current age), then waiting longer to claim would be a smart move. But if you need (or want) the money now, then claiming at this time would also be a wise choice. In either case, you don't need to worry about

your earnings from work negatively affecting your monthly Social Security benefit -- they won't.

About the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC):

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

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

THRASHER From Page A1

crepit, ancient, debilitated, worn out and shot. Yes, I am 64 and approaching retirement age, but what a dispiriting designation. If I continue to work beyond 65, what will they call me next, the "Working Dead?"

Is my true usefulness over? I get the message-- you are old and your ability to contribute has been significantly compromised. It's time to pack it in and go for a cup of coffee and a McMuffin in the morning with other aimless folks in the same boat and then watch TV the rest of the day. You have reaped the rewards of your hard work by being put out to the proverbial purposeless pasture. Upon retirement, my colleagues will send me off with congratulations, confirming that I have earned this final useless chapter of my life. Really?

Something does not seem right; this strikes me as a misguided and hollow outlook. The bluntness of being called the "working aged" has prompted some healthy reflection on the concept of retirement. What is retirement, anyway?

The Book of Numbers contains the only passage in the Scriptures that specifies an age limit for work. The Levites, the priestly class in the Old Testament, were to withdraw from their formal duties at the age of 50. The Levites performed many crucial spiritual functions pointing the Israelites to God, but they also, as an example,

performed construction, maintenance, lifting, and transporting duties related to the tabernacle. There is a time when an aging body is not suited for a particular work. But this transition, described in Numbers, involves "assisting their brothers" in other ways. The purpose was not to "retire" the priests, but to redirect their expected service in a more mature direction. Their Godly wisdom, discernment, and experience was intentionally and purposefully utilized. Nowhere in the Bible does it mention that we should stop working.

An American creation, the age 65 modern retirement idea of pleasure and leisure came into being in the 1950s. It says relax, rest, and put those feet up to enjoy a carefree and work-free life. This line of thinking has indoctrinated us into believing that retirement involves completely withdrawing from any notion of work in order to have no obligations, commitments, or concerns. This is not God's intention for us. Intentional work is part of the Lord's lifelong design for us. Our multi-faceted and continuous vocational callings have no age limitations. Christians never retire from serving God through all the seasons of life. We are to grow and invest in our gifts and talents, while simultaneously looking for opportunities to serve. Time is a gift, and we are to redeem each day by glorifying God, serving

the common good, and furthering His kingdom. There is true dignity and consequence in laboring in His vineyard until He calls us home. This call to service remains the same throughout our lives and is an expression of Christ's love to others. Retirement is not a time for self-serving idleness.

Moving out of full-time work is repurpose-ment, not retire-ment. It is a time to repurpose how and why we invest our time, energy, wisdom, experience, and resources.

The goal should be to finish life well. Being a good steward of this phase of life will not occur unless we are prepared with a proactive, well-grounded, and thoughtful vision. Be intentional and expectant about having your life experiences and wisdom being used providentially in the lives of others.

Do not let age define your life. Author Richard J. Leider states that "the trouble is, when a number--your age--becomes your identity, you've given away your power to choose your future."

The Lord's call does not fade over time but summons us to the high calling of life-long, meaningful service to Him. Age with purpose.

Dr. Jim Thrasher is the Senior Advisor to the Vice President for Student Recruitment and the coordinator of the Institute for Faith & Freedom's working group on calling.

FRAUD From Page A1

ment information. Ask: Is this a person or business I know and trust? Do they have a working customer service number? Where is the company physically located? Would I be making payments through a secure server (https://....com)? Have I checked to see if others have complained?

I resolve to use my best judgment when sharing my personal information. Sharing sensitive personal information with scammers opens the door to identity theft. Never share financial information, birthdate, address, Social

Security/Social Insurance number or Medicare number with an unsolicited caller.

I resolve to be social media smart. Make use of privacy settings on social media and only connect with people you actually know. Be careful about including personal information in your profile and never reveal your address and other sensitive information -- even in a "fun" quiz. Scammers may use this information to make themselves pass as a friend or a relative and earn your trust. Also, be careful when buying

products you saw on social media. BBB Scam Tracker has received thousands of complaints about misleading Facebook and Instagram ads.

For more information: To learn more about scams, go to BBB.org/ScamTips.

For more about avoiding scams, check out BBB.org/AvoidScams.

If you've been targeted by this scam, help others avoid the same problem by reporting your experience at BBB.org/ScamTracker.

Stay up on the latest scams by subscribing to BBB Scam Alerts emails.

WEEKEND

In The Home

Weekend, Jan. 14-15, 2023

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Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Healthy Habits for Your Home

FAMILY FEATURES

If you're like most Americans, health is an important aspect of your resolutions when each new year rolls around. While factors like diet and exercise are keys to healthy living, so are the ways you care for your home and belongings.

Your home living environment plays a major role in your health and comfort, so incorporating some new habits like these from the cleaning experts at Swash Laundry Detergent can help you establish a healthier lifestyle.

Control Air Quality

Especially during the winter months when your home tends to be closed tight, air can grow stale. Do your best to keep air quality strong by opening windows on mild days to circulate fresh air, using an air purifier to remove irritants and pollutants, frequently vacuuming and sweeping to keep floor dust and debris under control and regularly cleaning textiles that can trap allergens and other particles.

Scale Back Detergent Use

Using too much laundry detergent isn't just risking buildup and unnecessary wear on your washer and dryer; it can also increase

the residue and buildup in your clothes, which can lead to skin irritation and damage fabric faster. Using only what you need helps protect your belongings and your skin. An option like Swash Laundry Detergent, which features a Precision Pour Cap, dispenses the detergent for you, so you only pour what you need to effectively clean each load and fight stains. A single bottle of the ultra-concentrated formula – available in Simply Sunrise, Free & Clear and Pure Linen scents – washes up to 83 loads while taking up less space than traditional, bulky detergent bottles.

Make Use of Natural Light

When winter brings day after day of dark, dreary weather, it can take a toll on your mood. Brightening your living space with natural light can positively influence your emotional state while helping with your electric bill. If you're concerned about privacy, utilize window treatments at night, but let the sunlight bring good cheer to your living spaces during the day.

Switch Bedding on Schedule

While you sleep, your body sheds oils, cells and elements you carry into your home like pollen. Sheets should be washed once a

week on the hottest water setting your fabric will tolerate (check tags for laundering directions on your sheets before washing). If your schedule makes weekly washing, drying and remaking the bed unrealistic, consider having a couple sets you can rotate so you always have fresh, clean sheets waiting to remake your bed on laundry day.

Work Up (and Wash Out) a Sweat

The materials that keep you feeling cool and fresh by wicking away sweat can quickly get stinky, but over-washing can make them lose their shape and fade. Even so, washing after every use is a must. Washing workout clothes inside out exposes the surfaces that have absorbed sweat and body oil to detergent and agitation. Be sure to close zippers, buttons, clasps and other fasteners to prevent snags. Pre-soaking with equal parts vinegar and cold water can also help eliminate odors, and washing in a gentle, cold-water cycle and drying on low heat can help protect the fabric's elasticity and wicking properties.

Start your year off right with more advice for healthy habits around the home at Swash.com.

5 Ideas for an Organized, Intentional Laundry Space

Having an organized and decorated laundry room can ease the weight of your to-do list and the tension you feel from the day-to-day grind. It can also help keep your laundry routine simple, orderly and organized. Consider these tips from the laundry experts at Swash:

1. Think like a minimalist.

Empty your laundry space and sort through what you need and what you don't. Eliminating the extras leaves room to evaluate your space. Consider whether you could organize differently to make frequently used items more accessible and make the most of your storage space. Cutting down on clutter may even make it possible to incorporate shelves or cabinets that add stylish functionality.

2. Update your space with open shelving.

Open laundry shelves offer a sense of more space, and the horizontal lines can lend a sense of calm. For an easy and attractive upgrade, try hanging 2-3 open shelves within easy reach. If you're hesitant about the open feel, limit to just one shelf for the everyday necessities and keep the rest of your laundry supplies out of sight in a complementing cabinet. Baskets offer another option for concealing your belongings, whether you use them on the open shelves or inside cabinets to keep things tidy and clutter-free.

3. Create a practical workspace.

Mundane laundry chores like folding can be more enjoyable when you have a comfortable, dedicated space for the job. An open counter or table that folds down from the wall gives you the surface you need to fold clothing within your laundry space without disrupting the rest of the house. Other ways to add practical space include areas for sorting garments that need special attention and a place to hang items that shouldn't be dried in the dryer.

4. Use colors and materials that evoke calm.

Natural materials and a neutral color palette can lend to a more peaceful space. Lighter neutral colors reduce stress and anxiety, promote relaxation and can even make a space feel more expansive. For a calm, refreshing area, start with a base of white then add natural textures like woven baskets, faux or real plants and marble stone accents in the tile flooring or backsplash. Add a calming color like blue to evoke the tranquility of the sky or ocean, or consider green to incorporate the soothing effects of nature.

5. Invest in products that bring you joy.

Choose quality pieces that aren't overly trendy and will stand the test of time. Consider how your investment of laundry decor, including your washer and dryer, will serve you in the space in the coming years.



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