

TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Kate Baker smile? "The kindness of others, my nieces and nephew, laughter, my dogs, the ocean. There are so many things that bring me joy." She's "an incredibly proud aunt, the best title I've ever had," and "a proud mom" to her two sweet huskies, Dakota and Dasher. Since coming on to the job as Noblesville Main Street's executive director, Baker feels right at home. She invites everyone to stop in. "I love hearing about what people value about Noblesville Main Street and, of course, what they'd like to see from us in the future," she said. In Noblesville, Baker grew up singing and loving theater. She was involved in high-school drama productions and sang with NHS Singers and New Dimension show choirs, and she still sings in the chancel choir at Noblesville First United Methodist Church. Currently, she's preparing for Noblesville Main Street's First Friday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in downtown Noblesville. The event offers all kinds of reasons to shop downtown with Caravan Classes having a free Vintage Valentine activity, Wild Bohemian Boutique selling \$20 Galentines Gift Sets, Vintage Adventures offering a chance to win a wall art and vase of wooden flowers, specials at Little Petal Farm, giveaway at Noblesville Antiques on the Square, and special dinner and roses with special purchases of jewelry at Smith's Jewelers on the Square, including things to do at The Lacy Arts Building with local vendors, artists and live music in The Lacy Arts Building, the former Kirk Hardware, on the north side of the Courthouse Square. Read more things to do in the Betsy Reason column in today's edition of The Times.

And Another Few Things...

1. Legislative Coffee

Join the Westfield Chamber of Commerce at the Bridgewater Club today as they partner with the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce for their Legislative Coffee with County & City Council Members.

The three panelists Mike Johns, Westfield City Council President, Darren Peterson, Noblesville Common Council Vice President and Ken Alexander, Hamilton County Council President, will give insight and updates about the Legislative Priorities of Hamilton County, Noblesville and Westfield. There will be time for open networking 7:30-8 a.m., with the panel to begin at 8 a.m.

There is a \$10 fee to attend, and coffee, tea, and juice will be served. Register online at business.westfieldchamberindy.com/event-calendar/Details/noblesville-westfield-legislate-series-county-city-councils-813492

2. Spartz Town Hall

Congresswoman Spartz will host a town hall in Howard County at 11 a.m. tomorrow in the Cardinal and Peony rooms at Kokomo-Howard County Public Library South Branch, 1755 E Center Rd., Kokomo. For any questions, contact Rep. Spartz Carmel office at (317) 848-0201

3. DNR at Boat Show

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources wants to see you at the Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show on Feb. 17-19 and 22-26. The show takes place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. The DNR and State Park Inns will have an information booth in Tackle Town in the Blue Ribbon Pavilion. The booth is a convenient one-stop shopping opportunity for licenses, state park passes, lake-use permits and Outdoor Indiana magazine subscriptions. DNR biologists and State Parks interpretive naturalists will be on hand to share program information and resources, as well as answer fish and wildlife and park questions.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

50¢ WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM

First Friday Valentine Activities, Live Music, Comedy, Bee Keeping



BETSY REASON The Times Editor

First Friday, Valentine's events, live music all weekend and more can be found in our list of 25 things to do this weekend and beyond:

1. Noblesville Main Street's First Friday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today, offers all kinds of reasons to shop downtown with Caravan Classes having a free Vintage Valentine activity, Wild Bohemian Boutique selling \$20 Galentines Gift Sets, Vintage Adventures offering a chance to win a wall art and vase of wooden flowers, specials at Little Petal Farm, giveaway at Noblesville Antiques on the Square, and special dinner and roses with special purchases of jewelry at Smith's Jewelers on the Square, including things to do at The Lacy Arts Building with local vendors, artists and live music in The Lacy Arts Building, the former Kirk Hardware, on the north side of the Courthouse Square.

ware, on the north side of the Courthouse Square.

2. Enjoy live music with John Beatrice at 7 p.m. today and Tay Bronson on Saturday. The Dead Squirrels on Feb. 10, Kris Huntley on Feb. 11, at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

3. Enjoy live music with Craig Thurston 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. today at Big Woods in Noblesville at the Hazel Dell Crossing restaurant.

4. Hear live music with My Yellow Rickshaw at 8 p.m. today at Parks Place Pub in Fishers.

5. Check out the comedians at The Brick Room Comedy Club, featuring Neil Meyer, Mariah Davison and Mandy McKelvey on Friday night; and Tennah McDonald Eric Sablan, and headliner Mande McKelvey on Saturday; Hanna Ljungholm and DJ Dangler on Feb. 11; Cam O'Connor and Willie Bostic on Feb. 17, Will Concannon and Marz Timms on Feb. 18; Katie Kincaid and Tyler Ross on Feb. 25; at the downtown Noblesville Maple Avenue club, with tickets \$10 at thebrickroom. cc. Comedians Eric Hoole and headliner Dan Barnardo

6. Westfield Winter Farmers Market is 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, through April 1 at West Fork Westfield Event Center on East 191st Street.

7. Celebrate the opening of a new Just Lagom Boutique in the

See BETSY Page A7

Dr. Arrowood Explains Snow Days, Highlights Events to Come



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD HHSC Superintendent



The snowstorm "aka snowmagen" that blew through the Midwest last Wednesday resulted in most schools throughout the state closing their doors due to the dangerous conditions. When we receive reports that severe weather is coming our way, we follow an intricate process to help us make the best decision we can on whether to delay, dismiss early, or close all together. (Read more about our Inclement Weather Delay or Closing Process at Hamilton Heights School Corporation by visiting drive.google.com/file/d/1M3afoZ41YCI4M-

See ARROWOOD Page A7

Support Local Students, Attend The Monsters of Math Plan a Party Book Launch and Signing

Ryan Reed, a second grader at Hamilton Heights, has been telling stories for as far back as he can remember. His great aunt, Theresa Morris, a 1988 graduate of Hamilton Heights, has been listening to those stories and taking notes. Lu Hubbell, also a Hamilton Heights graduate, is an award-winning student artist who loves to draw and paint.

What do these three have in common? They all played a part of bringing a series of children's books to life.

Theresa Morris, the founder and CEO of MPASS Education, collaborated with her great nephew on this project. Reed was blessed with an incredible imagination and gift of storytelling and Morris had the vision to transform those oral stories into written form.

Together, they created The Monsters of Math, a series of interactive children's books where a group of friends work together through everyday situations and learn how math skills help to inform their decisions. The math skills included throughout the books are relevant for 2nd through 5th grade and the stories include specific connections to social emotional learning, community, and citizenship.



Photo courtesy of HHSC

A book launch and signing for the newly released The Monsters of Math Plan a Party takes place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 at Hamilton Heights Elementary Media Center. Above, Illustrator Lu Hubbell (left) and co-authors Ryan Reed (center) and Theresa Morris (right).

Morris and Reed had the content but needed an illustrator. Morris reached out to administrators at Hamilton Heights High School for a recommendation for a student artist to illustrate the books. This is where Lu Hubbell joins the party. Hubbell, who graduated in a semester early in December, was up to the challenge.

"Students have valuable skill sets at every age and this is an example of a fun and creative project to demonstrate just that," said Theresa Morris, of this positive and rewarding learning experience.

No matter what direc-

See SIGNING Page A7

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset RISE: 7:50 a.m. SET: 6:05 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures High: 21 °F Low: 14 °F



Today is...

- American Painters Day
Elmo's Birthday
National Wear Red Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1488 Bartolomeu Dias of Portugal lands in Mosel Bay after rounding the Cape of Good Hope, the first known European to travel so far south
1870 The Fifteenth Amendment to Constitution is ratified, guaranteeing voting rights to male citizens regardless of race
1959 Musicians Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and J. P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson are killed in a plane crash along with the pilot near Clear Lake, Iowa



Births On This Day

- 1809 Felix Mendelssohn German pianist, composer and conductor
1874 Gertrude Stein American poet and art collector

Deaths On This Day

- 1468 Johannes Gutenberg German publisher who invented the Printing press
1924 Woodrow Wilson American politician, 28th President and Nobel Prize laureate

INSIDE TODAY

- Obituaries...A2
Dick Wolfie...A2
Meeting Notes...A2
Meeting Notice...A2
Ken Thompson...A3
Capital Chronicle...A5, A6
Classifieds...A7
Business...A8
Voices...A9, A10

HONEST HOOSIER

T-minus 45 days and counting until spring. I know it may not mean much when it comes to our actual weather, but just knowing winter is over makes me feel better.



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Alcohol has almost twice the calories per unit weight than carbohydrates and almost as much as fat. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"You've got to continue to grow, or you're just like last night's cornbread - stale and dry."

Loretta Lynn

TODAY'S JOKE

How did one orca ask another orca to be their valentine? They said, "whale you be mine?"

OBITUARIES

Cynthia Jo Thornburg

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



7 DAY FORECAST: FRI 14/21, SAT 16/43, SUN 33/48, MON 28/49, TUE 45/56, WED 41/53, THU 45/55

OBITUARIES

Cynthia Jo Thornburg April 4, 1956-January 21, 2023

Cynthia "Cindy" Jo Thornburg, 66, of Noblesville, passed away surrounded by family and friends on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023.

She was born on April 4, 1956 in Lafayette, the daughter of Dan and Carol (Kear) Thornburg.

Ms. Thornburg graduated from Daleville High School in 1974, where she was involved in Pep Club, Spanish Club, Girls' Athletic Association, and Future Homemakers of America. She enjoyed spending time with her family and spoiling her grandkids.

Survivors include her 2 children Carol (Chris) Gerholdt and Robbie Paro; mother Carol (Kear) Thornburg; stepdaughter Sabrina Nikoloff; 3 grandchildren Austin Lamp, Matt Autry and Zayden Wallace; niece Christina (Adam) Douglas; nephew Nicholas Fraizer; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father Danny Thornburg; sister Catherine Ann Fraizer; and grandparents.

A celebration of life is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Community Center, 315 S. Harrison St. in Alexandria, Ind.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Autistic Self Advocacy Network at P.O. Box 66122, Washington, DC 20035 or online at autisticadvocacy.org.

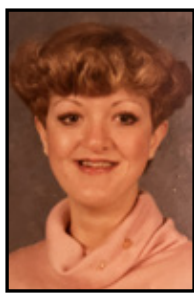


Photo by Jen Kauffman courtesy of HHSC

Heights' senior Kylee Trexler signed a letter of intent to become a member of the Lady Techsters Bowling Team at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, Louisiana this fall. Trexler (seated) signed with her parents Joey and Lori Trexler.

Heights' Trexler Signs to Bowl for Louisiana Tech

Kylee Trexler, Hamilton Heights' senior, has signed a letter of intent to bowl for Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. Louisiana Tech is a member of Conference USA and a NCAA Division I athletic institution. She is the daughter of Lori and Joey Trexler.

"It felt like home as soon as I walked on campus," recalled Kylee Trexler of her first visit to Louisiana Tech.

"I clicked with the

coach and the team right away." Trexler plans to pursue a degree in sports marketing and build a career in the bowling industry while taking her game to the professional level.

Trexler is a two-time sectional champion, semi-state champion, regional champion, named to the 1st Team All State, 2022 State Champion and the 2022 Indiana Girls High School Bowler of the Year. A member of the

Lake Michigan Cup Teams (2020-2022), Trexler loves to bowl, and it shows.

She has been bowling for the past 16 years and been passionate about the sport for the past 13 years. She has worked hard in practice and tournament competition to build her skill and experience to prepare her for the next level.

She credits her entire family for their support and encouragement, especially her parents and

cousins to help her stay the course and follow her dreams.

"We are really excited for Kylee and the opportunity she has received from Louisiana Tech to continue the passion she has for the sport of bowling," said Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights High School Athletic Director.

"She has been very successful as a young bowler, and we hope that success continues for her at the college level."

Meeting Notes

Clay Township Board

Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023
at 6 p.m.

Community Room, John W. Hensel Government Center

10701 N. College Ave., Carmel, Indiana

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes from the Jan. 3, 2023 Organizational Board Meeting

B. Minutes from the Jan. 13, 2023 Special Board Meeting

5. Action Items
 - A. Organize as Board of Finance pursuant to IC 5-13-7-6 to Elect Chairman and Secretary

B. Review Investment Policy

C. Approve 2022 Annual Financial Report

D. Resolution 2023-02-07-01 Approving Donation and Restricting Use (Survive a Life Project)

6. Information Item

A. 1782 Notice - Budget Year 2023

B. Update on Township Assistance

C. Oversight committee member from the board

D. Closing of following Bonds:

- a. Carey Grove
- b. Flowing Well
- c. Park Entrance

Project

7. Financial Questions from Board

8. Board Comments

9. Announcements

10. Adjournment

Travel is Just Plane Ugly



DICK WOLFSIE Life in a Nutshell

I'll be honest. I do not like to travel. I like being there; I don't like getting there. As we sat in one airport waiting to board, I made the huge mistake of buying a magazine containing an article called: "Your Feel-Good Vacation." This feature detailed all the potential woes of reaching your destination. Here were a few:

TRAVELER'S DIARRHEA: Apparently, seven out of ten vacationers experience this, which is why aisle seats on a plane are requested more than window seats, especially on overseas flights. One infectious disease specialist is quoted as saying that "many people are de-railed by this problem." My guess is that even more have been de-planed and de-boated. But I suppose it happens on trains, as well.

This doctor suggests you take a drug called bismuth subsalicylate with you on the trip. But in a real emergency, I'd suggest just saying Pepto Bismol to the druggist in a foreign country. You might not have a great deal of time to mess with pronunciation. The doctor also suggests you do not drink tap water or eat local fruits and veggies that may be contaminated, but he obviously did not read the warning in the next paragraph.

CONSTIPATION: This is a different doctor (I know, medicine is so specialized). He says that four out of ten people suffer from this on a trip. Hold on! If seven out of ten people have the first problem and four out of ten have the second problem, that means one person has both problems. Or does that mean he doesn't have any problem? It does mean that

four out of ten people do not need an aisle seat. This guy also suggests eating lots of fruits and vegetables. Do these doctors ever talk to each other?

BLOOD CLOTS:

Here's another cheery paragraph in the article. It begins by telling readers who travel by plane to stand often and stretch—so always take an aisle seat. Sadly, most of those seats are taken by people who have you-know-what. If you end up in the middle seat, you should be okay since the guy on the aisle won't be there much of the time. Are you following this?

MOTION SICKNESS:

Once again, an aisle seat is recommended. But, if travelling by car, sit by a window. If you drank heavily in college, you already know this.

BACK PAIN: An orthopedic surgeon says to be careful when lifting your carry-on bags into the overhead compartment. You can hurt yourself or in some cases take out an entire family in the seats below. "To protect your back, hold your bags close to your body before lifting." Holding your bags really close is overall some good advice, especially if you are landing or connecting in New York City.

Finally, the article includes a photo of suggested travel drugs and how they will appear if you pack them neatly into a designer bag that they are offering for \$39.95. There's Miralax, Ricola, Dramamine, Lomotil, Benadryl and Metamucil, to name a few. The magazine warns you not to buy these in a foreign country, because they may be counterfeit, but if you have been buying health and beauty products from a dollar store your whole life, you probably built up a pretty good tolerance.

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

Nickel Plate Arts to Celebrate 10th Annual Valentine's Day For All Event

Nickel Plate Arts is celebrating this year's Valentine's Day For All event on February 11 and 14, with crafts and activities for all ages.

"Valentine's Day is no 'Hallmark holiday' on our campus," says Nickel Plate Arts Director Ailithir McGill. "Instead, you'll fall in love with quirky, art-infused events and activities."

The event goes hand-in-hand with the Nickel Plate Arts Judge Stone House gallery for the month of February, Temptation: In Words & Pictures, which features the most tempting subject matter, from the delicious to the risqué, of writers, poets, painters, potters, and more.

Join Nickel Plate Arts for Second Saturday on Feb. 11 for Valentine's Day inspired family crafts. Deanna Leonard from Caravan Classes will be hosting a 3D Love Bird craft designed for all ages on Nickel Plate Arts' campus. Mini geometric heart canvas take-home kits will be available for sale starting next Wednesday.

On Feb. 14, celebrate your love of downtown Noblesville and your



significant other with hands-on date night activities at Nickel Plate Arts, Caravan Classes, Two Paddle Press, Gal's Guide Library, and Vintage Adventures. Pick up your map at Nickel Plate Arts or the Lacy Building and make sure to hit all the fun locations!

On Nickel Plate Arts' campus, you can listen to the music of Conversation Pieces, complete craft activities hosted by two local artists, and enjoy desserts from Debbie's Daughter. Artist Margot Bogue will guide adults in the creation of beautiful paper flowers, while artist Sue Payne will teach couples how to felt wool and make an ornament together.

Mike and Linda Felix, who attended the event last year, reflected on their experience, saying, "[It was]

so much fun! We went with friends and had a totally different Valentine's Day experience from just doing dinner and a movie. Great crafts and a great time! We definitely will be going again this year," the couple said.

Downtown Noblesville featured activities will include creating 3-D hearts from material found at Caravan Classes, painting landscape hearts at Vintage Adventures (located in the Community Room in the South Alley), entwining Valentine's Day messages with yarn hearts at Gal's Guide Library, and printing messages on hearts with Two Paddle Press. Don't forget to make a reservation with one of the great restaurants in Downtown Noblesville to complete your Valentine's evening!

Valentine's Day For All Events

Nickel Plate Arts, along with its partners and other local businesses, will host various events and activities for Valentine's Day For All. These events are open to the public:

• **Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** - Nickel Plate Arts Second Saturday

event featuring Valentine's crafts for all

• **Feb. 14 from 6-9 p.m.** - Nickel Plate Arts Valentine's Day For All

• **Feb. 14 from 6-9 p.m.** - Live poetry reading, love poetry workshop, and temptation spoken word workshop hosted by Poetry Society of Indiana at the Lacy Building (Kirk's Hardware)

• **Feb. 14 from 6-9 p.m.** - "Love & Temptation, Poetry & Dessert" Valentine's Day Date Night at Nickel Plate Arts, Caravan Classes, Two Paddle Press, Gal's Guide Library, and Vintage Adventures

Tickets are available for individual activities at each location. A \$100 Big Ticket for couples and duos is available for all the activities downtown and includes drinks and desserts from Debbie's Daughters on Nickel Plate Arts' campus.

Purchase tickets online at nickel-plate-arts.square.site/product/2023-valentines-day-for-all/7071.

Visit nickelplatearts.org/valentinesday/ to learn more about the Valentine's Day For All event.

Meeting Notice

Hamilton County Personnel Committee

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Personnel Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana (Conference Room 1A). The purpose of this meeting is for discussion of Personnel issues.



Thanks for reading The Times!



NOBLESVILLE BABE RUTH BASEBALL

Providing an affordable and positive baseball experience for all young men ages 13-18

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Though we are "Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball," we welcome and encourage players from other communities to participate with us!

Registration: Now thru March 8, 2023

Evaluations: March 11, 2023 from 2-4 PM, Noblesville HS (New players ages 13-15 only)

Opening Day: April 17, 2023 (13-15)
April 21, 2023 (16-18)

www.noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.com

Professor Thompson Grades Big Ten Hoops

It's time to issue mid-term grades for Big Ten Conference basketball.

Entering the season, Indiana and Illinois were supposed to be teacher's pets. The Hoosiers' Trayce Jackson-Davis was the odds-on favorite for Big Ten Player of the Year honors.

A funny thing, though, happened on the way to the awards ceremony.

The team generally picked to finish fifth in the league, the team that lost its backcourt and an All-American big man, once again proved to the so-called experts that one overlooks Purdue at your peril.

With either nine or 10 games remaining on most schools' conference schedules, only the Boilermakers merit professor Thompson's highest grade.

Purdue: A

You know it's a special season in West Lafayette when a national sports writer declares the national player of the year race over before Feb. 1. "This has been Zach Edey's race to lose since the third week of the season, when Purdue went from unranked to undefeated and vaulted into the top five on the back of Edey's dominant play at the PK85," writes Matt Norlander of CBSSports.com.

"Barring (and God forbid) any severe injury, the 7-foot-4 junior center from Toronto is going to galumph away with all of the awards and become just the third Boilermaker to win national player of the year. When the unsolvable problem that is Zach Edey rightfully receives his trophies in March and April, he'll join a pair of Purdue legends who played six decades apart: John Wooden and Glenn Robinson.

"Any window that might have been narrowly open for Gonzaga's Drew Timme, Kansas' Jalen Wilson or Indiana's Trayce Jackson-Davis was elbowed shut Sunday after Edey got elbowed in the lip on his way to a career-high 38 points and 13 rebounds vs. Michigan State."

Edey has been so brilliant that many overlook the impact the freshman starting backcourt of Westfield's Braden Smith and Fletcher Loyer have had. Without Smith and Loyer, Purdue would be a good team. With them, the Boilermakers hold a three-and-a-half game lead over Illinois and Rutgers in the Big Ten Conference standings.



KEN THOMPSON
Columnist

Loyer is the Boilermakers' second-leading scorer at 12.8 points a game and is shooting better than 36 percent from 3-point range. Smith is third at 9.5 points per game while also averaging 4.8 rebounds and just over four assists.

Illinois: B

At times this season, the Fighting Illini have resembled a failed chemistry experiment. Coach Brad Underwood's reliance on the transfer portal to rebuild his squad has left him frustrated at times.

Following a December loss at home to Penn State, resulting in an 0-2 conference start, Underwood publicly criticized his team.

"The lack of leadership on this team is zero, it is none. Inexcusable," Underwood said. "We have been atrocious in practice, maybe the two worst days of practice leading up to a game I've been part of and that's leadership. Plain and simple, leadership. Put it bold damn print, leadership, lack of. And no effort, that's what happens in this league when you have none of that."

Illinois has won seven of eight to get back in the conference race. The next five games will determine if the Fighting Illini can stay in contention. A 4-1 mark seems imperative with trips to Iowa, Penn State and Indiana in that stretch along with a gimme against Minnesota and a tough home game with Rutgers.

Northwestern: B

The Wildcats' upcoming schedule may end up taking the shine off what has been the other great story of the Big Ten season.

Tuesday night's loss at Iowa knocked Northwestern out of a share of second place. During the next six games, the Wildcats host Michigan, Purdue, Indiana and Iowa. In between are trips to Wisconsin and Ohio State.

Boo Buie (15.9 ppg.) has emerged as the go-to scorer with six Big Ten games of 20 or more points. Chase Audige is

close behind at 15.7 points a game.

Rutgers: B

The only team to beat Purdue so far this season (by one point in Mackey Arena), the Scarlet Knights' inability to defeat Iowa will probably cost them a shot at the league title. Winning at Indiana and at Illinois next week could change things, however.

Big man Clifford Omoruyi has had an All-Big Ten caliber season at 13.4 points and 10 rebounds a game. Cam Spencer is one of the league's best 3-point shooters at nearly 42 percent.

Indiana: B-minus

Inconsistent is the best way to describe the Hoosiers. Look good at Illinois, struggle to defeat an extremely short-handed Minnesota team. Tuesday night's 11-point loss at Maryland was the direct result of getting little other than another strong performance from Jackson-Davis (18 points, 20 rebounds).

Shooting remains an issue and teams will put pressure on Indiana to make a basket outside of 15 feet the rest of the way. Jalen Hood-Schifino may well be Big Ten Freshman of the Year but the Hoosiers can't win with 1 of 14 shooting nights from him.

Maryland: B-minus

Losing three out of four Big Ten games to start January left the Terrapins no margin for error. Unlike the cluster of teams fighting for second place, Maryland is the best bet to move up thanks to a pretty soft February schedule.

At Minnesota. At Michigan State. Home with Penn State and Purdue. At Nebraska. Home with Northwestern and Minnesota.

If there was a Big Ten Transfer of the Year award, one of the favorites probably would be Jahmir Young. The Charlotte transfer is averaging 16.6 points a game, including 20 against Indiana. The bigger question is how will coach Ralph Willard backtrack his remarks earlier this week, declaring Trayce Jackson-Davis the Big Ten's best player, before Purdue comes to town Feb. 16?

Iowa: B-minus

The good news: Iowa leads the Big Ten in scoring at 81.3 points a game.

The bad news: The Hawkeyes are dead last in scoring defense at 73.3, more than three points ahead of 13th-place Michigan.

In two sentences, we've described the Fran McCaffery era in Iowa City.

The Hawkeyes have three outstanding players in Kris Murray (20.6 ppg, 8.6 reb.), Patrick McCaffery (11.8 ppg.) and Filip Rebraca (14.0, 8.5). Unfortunately for Iowa, the unbalanced Big Ten schedule gives it only one shot at Purdue, and it's in West Lafayette.

Penn State: C

Jalen Pickett is almost a certain first-team All-Big Ten selection next month. He's a stat stuffer, averaging 17.6 points, 8.0 rebounds and 7.0 assists before Purdue held him to 12 points and five rebounds in Wednesday's 80-60 loss.

However, the Nittany Lions haven't had a winning streak since New Year's Day. They'll finish with a winning record in former Purdue assistant Micah Shrewsbury's second season, but there's still a lot of work to be done in State College.

Michigan: C

More was expected from the Wolverines with Hunter Dickenson, Jett Howard and a highly regarded recruiting class.

But Michigan has reached the season's mid-point having lost five of seven even though Dickenson has been his usual reliable self (17.7 ppg., 8.5 reb.). Howard is among the league's best 3-point shooters and is averaging nearly 15 points a game.

Losing transfer point guard Jaelin Llewellyn to a torn ACL was an early setback but his replacement, freshman Dug McDaniel has been solid. The schedule turns favorable this month with a trip to Northwestern, followed by home games with Ohio State, Nebraska and Indiana. Go 4-0 and Michigan's chances of making the NCAA tournament improve.

Michigan State: C

It may be time to start wondering if Tom Izzo's magic in East Lansing is running out. Puzzling strategy (not double-teaming Zach Edey once, but twice) and recruiting disappointments have put the Spartans on the brink of Big Ten irrelevancy for the third consecutive season.

There is talent on the roster (Tyson Walker, Joey Hauser, A.J. Hoggard, Malik Hall) but there's no one who puts fear into opponents like Cassius Winston, Miles Bridges, Denzel Valentine, etc. There are enough victories left on the schedule that Michigan State

should make the NCAA tournament (Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio State) but is that enough for a proud program that has one national championship and eight Final Fours under Izzo?

Wisconsin: C

One year removed from a surprising Big Ten title with one of the oldest rosters in the country, the Badgers have lost six of seven.

Freshman Connor Essegian (Central Noble) has been a pleasant surprise, shooting 43 percent from 3-point range and averaging 10.5 points. Injuries have hampered leading scorer Tyler Wahl (12.6), but veteran Chucky Hepburn (12.3 ppg.) has been solid.

Ohio State: C-minus

Brice Sensabaugh is a contender for Big Ten Freshman of the Year, ranking second in the nation among all freshmen at 17.6 points a game.

But the Buckeyes have collapsed since Purdue beat them 71-69 on Jan. 5, losing six out of seven since then. An 11-10 overall record has led to some grumbling about coach Chris Holtmann.

Nebraska: D

Two hard-fought games with Purdue have pretty much been the season highlight for the Cornhuskers, who are well on their way to a fourth consecutive losing season under Fred Hoiberg.

Minnesota: F

When injuries haven't limited the Gophers, their lack of team play has defined this season. Who would have thought fans would look back fondly at the Richard Pitino era?

Billy Packer and Purdue

Of all the tributes to Billy Packer following the Wake Forest legend and college basketball analyst's death last week, none mentioned the impact he had on Purdue basketball.

In the mid-1960s, Packer was a young assistant coach under Bones McKinney at Wake Forest. Integration was slowly chipping away at the obstacles for African-Americans to play at major universities in the south. So, using a 1960 point-shaving scandal in college basketball as an excuse, the Atlantic Coast Conference voted to require a score of 750 in the Scholastic Aptitude test for admission. The bar was raised to 800 in 1964.

Future NBA player Herman Gilliam was in Wake Forest's backyard

playing for segregated Atkins High School in Winston-Salem, N.C., in 1964. McKinney and the

Demon Deacons desperately wanted Gilliam. Packer was assigned the task of recruiting Gilliam, but there was a problem - that 800 test score.

"Herman was an exceptionally talented player, and there was no question in my mind that he had the character and ability to do the academic work," Packer told Larry Keech of the Greensboro News & Record in 1996. "Heck, he probably would have been a better student at Wake than I had been."

Looking out for Gilliam's best interests, Packer told him he needed another option in case his final attempt to get the 800 score on the SAT fell short.

"He had an aunt living in Indianapolis, so I called Bob King, an assistant coach at Purdue," Packer recalled. "He hadn't seen him play, but I told him Herman was good enough to help any college team and explained the situation. King checked with his head coach, George King, and they called back to agree to the bargain.

"Herman scored 792 on the boards. It was heartbreaking for all of us, but at least he had that option."

By falling eight points shy of admission to Wake Forest, Gilliam came to Purdue and teamed up with Rick Mount and Billy Keller to provide the nucleus for the Boilermakers' 1969 national runner-up team.

Gilliam, who died in 2005, later earned All-Big Ten honors and went on to a long NBA career.

Karlaftis honored
Former Purdue All-American George Karlaftis has been selected to the Pro Football Writers Association All-Rookie Team.

Karlaftis, who went 30th overall to AFC champion Kansas City, joins No. 2 overall pick Aidan Hutchinson of Detroit as the defensive ends on the squad.

During the final seven games of the regular season, Karlaftis recorded six sacks. His 48 quarterback pressures ranked second to Hutchinson among rookie edge rushers.

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.

2914 Fordham Lane
Indianapolis • \$99,900
SOLD!



Attention investors! This condo is ready for your expertise. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, eat-in kitchen, laundry on main level, brick hearth fireplace in family room, great patio, assigned covered parking. BLC#21897547

26 Forest Bay Lane
Cicero • \$695,000
NEW LISTING!



Stately and well maintained brick 2-story, 2.24 acres with wooded backyard. 3 BR, 3 full and 2 1/2 baths, huge finished basement, 3-car garage, screened porch, access to lake. BLC#21896185

7123 Burlat Lane
Noblesville • \$359,900
PENDING



Over 3,000 square feet of living space in this beautiful home in Cherry Tree Meadows featuring 4 BR/2.5 BA office and loft. LVP Hardwoods on main level, fenced backyard with large deck. New roof! BLC#21902247

1999 N Harbour Drive
Noblesville • \$379,900
NEW PRICE!



Pristine home situated in the heart of North Harbour on over half an acre (.65). Features include 4 BR, 2.5 BA and a stunning 22x15 sunroom. Lovely view of Harbour Trees Golf Course #7 across the street. BLC#21893242

This is a great time to buy or sell!
Call Today!
Speak to Deak!



Jennifer
Peggy

The Deaklyne Team
REALTORS®

Talk to Tucker
REALTORS
F.C. TUCKER COMPANY

Speak to Deak.com 317.439.3258 Peggy or 317.695.6032 Jennifer

The Focus is On Love at Upcoming CSO, Harlem Quartet Performance



It's all about love on Feb. 11 as Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) under Artistic Director Janna Hymes is joined by guest artists the Harlem Quartet for a lush pre-Valentine's Day performance at the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts.

The concert begins at 7:30 pm at the Palladium, 1 Carter Green, Carmel. Tickets start at just \$25 and are available at the Palladium Fifth Third Bank Box Office, (317) 843-3800, or online at thecenterpresents.org.

"Since this performance is scheduled just before the most romantic day of the year, we're presenting a program filled with some of the world's most romantic music," said Hymes.

"From the classics of Wagner and Tchaikovsky to more contemporary works such as the dance segment from Bridgerton, this concert will be a treat for people who truly love glorious, passionate music of all styles."

"It's the ideal Valentine's celebration - a perfect date night!" she added.

The Harlem Quartet - featuring Carmel's own Felix Umansky on cello - will join the CSO on the Randall Craig Fleischer arrangement of the Leonard

Bernstein West Side Story. This selection holds special meaning for Hymes, who studied under Bernstein while learning the fine art of conducting an orchestra.

"It brings back wonderful memories of the maestro for me," she said, "and of course the February 11 performance will be even more special since we'll be featuring Carmel's very own Felix Umansky of the Harlem Quartet on this particular piece."

Other selections included on the CSO's Feb 11 program are:

- *Wagner* - Liebestod from Tristan and Isolde
- *arr. Langford* - Dance Segment from Bridgerton
- *Mascagni* - Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana
- *Khachaturian* - Adagio of Spartacus & Phrygia from Spartacus Suite No. 2
- *Massenet* - Thais Meditation
- *Tchaikovsky* - Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture.

Harlem Quartet has been praised for its "panache" in The New York Times and hailed in the Cincinnati Enquirer for "bringing a new attitude to classical music, one that is fresh, bracing and intelligent."

It has also won plaudits from such veteran musicians as Jazz at Lincoln Center woodwind virtuoso Ted Nash, who declared

in a 2018 Playbill article, "Harlem Quartet is one of the greatest string quartets I have ever heard. They can play anything." Since its public debut at Carnegie Hall in 2006, the ensemble has thrilled audiences throughout the US and the world.

The quartet's mission is to advance diversity in classical music, engaging young and new audiences through the discovery and presentation of varied repertoire that includes works by composers of color. Harlem Quartet collaborated with jazz pianist Chick Corea in a GRAMMY-winning Hot House album that included Corea's "Mozart Goes Dancing," which won a separate Grammy as Best Instrumental Composition. Harlem Quartet's latest album, the July 2020 release Cross Pollination, features works by Debussy, William Bolcom, Dizzy Gillespie, and Guido LópezGavilán.

Carmel Symphony Orchestra, currently in the midst of its 47th season, is a resident company of the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts located in Carmel's City Center district. An abundance of free parking - in garages, lots and curbside - is available within easy walking distance of the Palladium. There also are numerous restaurants in the area for pre- or post-concert dining. Additional information about the Feb. 11 concert and a preview of the remainder of performances during CSO's current season can be found at carmelsymphony.org.

The 2022-23 Carmel Symphony Orchestra season is supported by the City of Carmel, the Center for the Performing Arts, the Palladium and Pedcor.

Franklin College Announces Fall 2022 President's and Dean's Lists

Franklin College has announced the president's and dean's list for the fall 2022 semester.

Students named to the president's list have achieved distinction by earning a 4.0 grade point average while completing at least 12 credit hours during a regular semester. The following local students have been named to the president's list:

- Makenna Mundy, a junior, from Noblesville
- Isabella Neiling, a sophomore, from Cicero
- Victoria Simmons, a senior, from Carmel
- Jada Tooley, a junior, from Noblesville

Students named to the



dean's list have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours during a regular semester, earning a grade point average of at least 3.5 but less than 4.0. The following local students have been named to the dean's list:

- Lora Adkins, a senior, from Carmel
- Kathryn Brown, a junior, from Noblesville
- Justin Case, a senior, from Westfield

- Amber Dawson, a junior, from Sheridan
- Colleen Kincaid, a senior, from Fishers
- Ashlynn Meadows, a senior, from Carmel
- Jireh Ojata, a junior, from Carmel
- Mara Wilson, a senior, from Fishers

For more information, please contact the Franklin College Office of Communications at (317) 738-8185.

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Unveils Free Sphinx Series Concerts

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announced two new performances in the popular Sphinx series to be held in February and March 2023. Since the 2021-22 season, the ISO has partnered with the Detroit-based Sphinx Organization, a national nonprofit dedicated to developing young Black and Latinx classical musicians.

The spring concerts will be held on the following dates:

Next Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Symphony on the Avenue Walker Theatre
617 Indiana Avenue, Indianapolis

Reserve free tickets at indianapolissymphony.org/event/22-23-february-sphinx-series/

Presented in collaboration with the Madam Walker Legacy Center,

the concert features Sphinx artists Titus Underwood, oboe, and Rubén Rengel, violin, alongside ISO musicians Yu Jin, principal viola, and Austin Huntington, principal cello. The program includes Mozart's Quartet for Oboe and Strings in F Major; Loop for String Trio by Carlos Simon; Phantasy for Oboe, Violin, Viola and Cello by Benjamin Britten; and String Trio No. 5 in C Minor by Beethoven.

March 25 at 5:30 p.m.

ISO Presents an Evening with Sphinx
Hilbert Circle Theatre
43 Monument Circle, Indianapolis

Visit indianapolissymphony.org/event/22-23-march-sphinx-series/to-reserve-free-tickets.

Featuring the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, conductor Jeri Lynne John-

son, and double bassist Kebra-Seyoun Charles of the Sphinx Organization, the program includes Slavonic Dances by Dvořák; Source Code by Jessie Montgomery; Raise Hymn, Praise Shout by John B. Hedges; and Symphony No. 3 by Florence Price.

The series offers concerts at Hilbert Circle Theatre and other Indianapolis venues to create memorable community connections and celebrate the talents of composers and musicians who have been unjustly overlooked or underrepresented. The Sphinx series, made possible with generous support from the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, as well as the National Endowment for the Arts and JP Morgan Chase, are free of charge. The March 25 concert is "pay what you wish."

Indiana's Largest Safety and Health Conference Will Return February 27

Workplace safety doesn't happen by accident. It requires planning and teamwork from people at all levels of an organization. The state's largest safety and health event takes place later this month and can help businesses mitigate risks, improve safety and stay current on key issues.

The 2023 Indiana Safety and Health Conference & Expo on Feb. 27-March 1 will feature more than 70 educational sessions to keep Hoosier workers safe on the job. Among the pressing topics to be discussed: effective safety communications, strategies that work, supervising lessons and common misconceptions.

The three-day event is presented by the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) and Indiana Chamber of Commerce in partnership

with INSafe Indiana and the Coalition for Construction Safety. Indiana Safety & Supply Co. is the conference sponsor.

"We can't wait to welcome safety professionals from across the state and are grateful for our impressive slate of speakers who will share insights and offer motivation," said Kerri Begley, vice president of business education and events for the Indiana Chamber.

"Attendees can be assured they'll be heading back to work armed with a great deal of new information to help their workforce remain safe."

The conference's two keynote speakers are Indiana Motor Speedway President Doug Boles, who will impart the importance of safety in the racing industry, and Patrick Nelson, CEO of Loyalty Point Leadership. Nelson will present a roadmap

for organizational safety through individual empowerment and explain how to leverage a leadership strategy that has resulted in a 57% reduction in the total recordable incident rate or TRIR (for Fortune 500 organizations).

The forklift rodeo returns for another year. Forklift operators will showcase their driving abilities in an obstacle course Feb. 28 and complete challenges as quickly and efficiently as possible. All forklift rodeo participants must be certified to operate a lift.

On day three of the conference, the 2023 Governor's Workplace Safety Awards will be presented during the lunch hour.

Visit insafetyconf.com or call (317) 264-6885 to register to attend or for more information. Registration options and costs can be viewed at insafetyconf.com/registration.

Earlier this week, Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) reintroduced the *Workforce Mobility Act*, bipartisan legislation to limit the use of non-compete agreements that negatively impact American workers. Senators Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) co-sponsored the legislation. Congressmen Scott Peters (D-Calif.) and Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.) introduced the legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Almost one in five American workers - 30 million people - are constrained by a non-compete agreement, which blocks workers from leaving their jobs for a competing employer or starting a competing business.

Research indicates that workers trapped by non-competes have lower wages, and their restricted mobility makes it more difficult for businesses to recruit talent. In states where non-competes are enforced, young firms are more likely to die in their first three years compared to states where they are not enforced.

"Non-compete agreements stifle wage growth, career advancement,

innovation, business creation, and human freedom. Our bill aims to remove these barriers and create opportunities that help, not hinder, Hoosier workers," said Young.

"The reforms in our legislation will assist workers and entrepreneurs so they can freely apply their talents where their skills are in greatest demand."

"Across industries and income brackets, non-competes are terrible for workers and a major drag on economic growth. It's ridiculous we let companies hide behind these agreements as a means to depress wages and stave off competition. I'm glad the FTC has proposed a rule to ban the use of non-competes, but Congress should go even further and pass our legislation to protect workers and support entrepreneurs," said Murphy.

"Companies shouldn't be able to restrict Americans' freedom to pursue different jobs," said Kaine.

"Non-compete agreements suppress wages, make it harder for businesses to hire talent, and hinder our economic growth. I'm proud to join my colleagues in introducing this bill to support

workers."

"Non-compete agreements stifle innovation and job mobility. North Dakota is a national leader in blocking these inhibitive practices," said Cramer.

"Our bipartisan bill makes non-competes virtually illegal and puts more back into the hands of the American worker."

The *Workforce Mobility Act* would:

- Narrow the use of non-compete agreements to include only necessary instances of a dissolution of a partnership or the sale of a business;
- Require employers to make their employees aware of the limitation on non-competes, as studies have found that non-competes are often used even when they are illegal or unenforceable. The Department of Labor would also be given the authority to make the public aware of the limitation; and
- Require the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Labor to submit a report to Congress on any enforcement actions taken.

A one pager is available online at murphy.senate.gov/404?notfound=/download/workforce-mobility-act-one-pager.

LIVING WITH DIABETES CAN BE **PAINLESS**

If you administer insulin 3 or more times per day or using an insulin pump, **CALL NOW** and learn how a Continuous Glucose Monitor CAN HELP YOU.

Get **FREE** shipping of your new CGM, plus we will bill your insurance for you... **AT LITTLE OR NO COST!**

CALL NOW! 866-641-0141

COPAYS AND DEDUCTIBLES MAY APPLY

BLUE PILL PROMOTIONAL OFFER **SAVE OVER \$500!**

Generic and Herbal versions of Viagra® right now as low as \$2 a pill. Mention the discount code [STEELMAN] and get the special **BUY 1 GET 1 FREE!** Call now for rush delivery in your unmarked package.

Change your life and call today! **1-800-515-6311**

Education Bills to Overhaul School Curriculum Advance in Legislature

By Casey Smith

Broad career readiness initiatives, changes to K-12 literacy curriculum and incentives for up-and-coming teachers are at the heart of multiple education bills advancing through the Indiana legislature.

State lawmakers in House and Senate education committees collectively took up more than a dozen bills on Wednesday. Most of those measures advanced or are scheduled for committee votes next week.

Here's a snapshot of the latest education-related developments at the statehouse.

Progress — and concern — for Career Scholarship Accounts

The House education committee approved, 8-4, a wide-ranging bill that seeks to "reinvent" high school curriculum. Bill author Rep. Chuck Godrich, R-Noblesville, said his proposal — a priority bill for the caucus — aims to narrow the "skills gap" between Hoosiers and employers.

The bill seeks to expand work-based learning in Indiana high schools, like apprenticeships and internships.

It would also create career scholarship accounts that are similar to Indiana's school choice voucher program. Grants could be used by students in grades 10-12 to pay for career training courses, apprenticeships and certifications outside of the student's school district.

The amount each participating student can receive to pay for apprenticeships, coursework, or certification would be based on a calculation of the state dollars that their school receives.

Democrats pushed back on the bill, however, saying language around credentialing programs is still too vague.

New teacher incentives
House lawmakers additionally supported two bills that seek to increase state scholarship dollars available to future teachers.

One of the proposals would increase certain

scholarship amounts in an effort to attract more students into teaching — particularly black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC).

Attracting educators of color has been an ongoing concern for local schools and policy makers. Indiana had 79,120 full-time teachers in the 2019-20 school year, according to state data. Of those, 92% were white.

Those who testified in support of House Bill 1637 said the increased dollars would help BIPOC educator recruitment — good news for Indiana's ongoing teacher shortage. Supporters said the bill would also provide much-needed support to address achievement gaps among Hoosier students of color.

The bill passed 12-0 out of the House education committee.

A separate measure, House Bill 1528, would allow Hoosiers in an alternative teacher certification program to apply for up to \$10,000 under the Next Generation Hoosier Educators scholarship program.

The bill passed 13-0 with an amendment to limit the program to \$1 million. Democrats expressed concern that the funding won't be enough. Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, who chairs the committee, said the current spending ceiling is intended to keep the bill from getting killed in the the fiscal-minded ways and means committee.

Automatic enrollment for 21st Century Scholars program

Another bill heard in the House education committee would automatically enroll eligible Hoosier students in the 21st Century Scholars program — a statewide grant program that funds student attendance at two- and four-year schools.

House Bill 1449, authored by Rep. Earl Harris Jr., D-East Chicago, unanimously passed the committee and now heads to the full House for further consideration.

"Thousands of students a year miss out on opportunities that 21st Century Scholars can provide for

them," Harris said. "Not having this funding there to help with education — for a lot of a lot of people — means they do not continue their education ... it affects the future of our workforce here in the state of Indiana."

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb made automatic enrollment in the 21st Century Scholars program a priority within his 2023 legislative agenda. Administration officials said auto-enrollment shouldn't be a cost to the state for six to seven years.

Science of Reading bill draws mixed testimony

Senate Bill 402, filed by Sen. Aaron Freeman, R-Indianapolis, would define the "science of reading" and require schools to adopt such curriculum.

The "science of reading" is defined in both bills as the successful integration of concepts such as phonics, vocabulary and comprehension in reading.

Although Indiana lawmakers and education advocates have repeatedly said the state needs to take action to improve the state's dismal literacy rates, some provisions in Freeman's bill drew hesitation, especially from teachers.

The Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA), the state's largest teachers union, specifically pointed to language in the bill that directs schools to post reading materials online for inspection by parents.

"Our main point of contention in this bill is a requirement that every single material used in connection with K-8 reading must be placed on a website at the beginning of the school year and updated each semester," said Jerrell Blakeley, ISTA's director of government, community, racial and social justice. "I think there's an opportunity for us to get to a common sense solution that furthers the agenda of the bill, as well as to — I can't believe I'm saying this — deregulate aspects of teaching in Indiana."

Freeman told the committee he's meeting with teachers and education groups to address concerns

about that portion of the bill. The proposal could come up for a committee vote as soon as next week.

Other bills on the move

In the Senate education committee, lawmakers approved a bill to bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program to the entire state. The bill passed 11-0 and now goes to the appropriations committee.

Additionally, Senate Bill 480 passed narrowly, 7-6, onto the full Senate. The bill seeks to streamline numerous teacher regulations. Democrats and teacher union representatives said it also makes "concerning" changes to collectible bargaining.

All four Democrats on the committee voted against the bill, along with GOP Sens. Jean Leising, R-Oldenburg, and Dan Dernulc, R-Highland.

Sen. Jeff Raatz's SB 380 also passed the committee in a 9-4 vote and heads to the Senate chamber. State senators heard mixed testimony last week on the bill, which places restrictions on high school graduation waivers and doubles down that schools can have dress codes.

An amendment to the bill approved by the senate committee on Wednesday would further require districts to post high school graduation rates online. The latest draft of the bill also sets a 10% cap on the number of students who can graduate from a school with a waiver before July 1, 2027. After that, the cap drops to 5%.

Another bill that seeks to help Hoosier students regain access to their college transcripts was put on hold, however. Raatz said lawmakers are continuing to have discussions about provisions in the bill.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Indiana Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Follow Indiana Capital Chronicle on facebook.com/IndianaCapitalChronicle and twitter.com/INCapChronicle

Lafayette Take Top Spot in New WSJ/Realtor.com Housing Index of Affordable Housing Markets

Think the burgeoning Discovery Park District at Purdue is benefiting only Purdue University?

Not the case. It's helping grow the Greater Lafayette economy and bringing new jobs, leading to a comparatively affordable housing market and a skilled, technology-based workforce.

Lafayette is ranked No. 1 in the latest Wall Street Journal/Realtor.com Emerging Housing Market Index, winter 2023. Purdue's presence is a significant factor.

The WSJ/Realtor.com fourth-quarter rankings, released Tuesday (Jan. 31), show Lafayette in the No. 1 spot, followed by two other Indiana communities — Fort Wayne and Elkhart, Topeka, Kansas, and Johnson City, Tennessee, round out the top five.

The index identifies the top metro areas for homebuyers seeking an appreciating housing market, strong local economy and appealing lifestyle amenities, according to the story. News Corp., parent company of the Wall Street Journal, operates Realtor.com.

Working with state and local leaders, Purdue has helped position the university and Greater Lafayette to become a national leader in the semiconductor industry. In December, university and local officials announced a Purdue-led project that will receive \$5 million in funding through a Greater Lafayette economic development initiative to support expected regional workforce demand in the promising semiconductor manufacturing industry.

In the announcement, Purdue and Greater Lafayette officials revealed the seven regional READI (Indiana's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative) projects that would

share \$30 million in total funding.

The Discovery Park District at Purdue includes the likes of Saab, Rolls-Royce, major facilities and partnerships in hypersonics, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Wabash, MediaTek and others in the district, among the most attractive and innovative environments in the Midwest.

It all fits with the \$1 billion district's mixed-use development of housing, high-end manufacturing, and industry and research-driven partnerships. The live-work-play community is for families, young professionals and retirees excited about living near a university community and the vibrancy of its culture.

West Lafayette has a No. 8 ranking for the Best College Towns & Cities in America. In compiling its 2022 list, WalletHub gauged 415 communities across three key areas: wallet friendliness, social environment, and academic and economic opportunities.

Purdue has helped lure people to the area through its Work from Purdue initiative, a program inviting people who work remotely to live in Discovery Park District at Purdue for its available affordable housing and the collaborative, invigorating energy of a campus with the flexibility of remote work.

According to the WSJ/Realtor.com story, the December median home-sale price in Tippecanoe County, which includes Lafayette, was \$243,000. That was up 13% from a year earlier, according to the Indiana Association of Realtors, but it was still more than \$100,000 below the national median existing-home sales price of \$366,900 for the same period.

Lt. Gov. Crouch Honored by the Indiana Mineral Aggregates Association

The Indiana Mineral Aggregates Association (IMAA) named Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch as the 2023 Honorary Aggie at its annual Winter Workshops on this past Wednesday.

This prestigious award recognizes a non-industry member who makes an exceptional contribution to the Indiana aggregates industry.

"It has been my life's greatest honor to serve the state of Indiana alongside organizations who strive to improve the quality of life of Hoosiers," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development.

"The Indiana Mineral Aggregates Association is a prime example of an organization that works hard to make our state the best it can be."

The IMAA solves common problems of the Indiana aggregate producing industry, increases public awareness of the importance of aggregate products in Hoosier lives and represents over 90% of aggregate production in Indiana. Aggregates are essential construction materials for residential and

commercial development, as well as for improvements to infrastructure projects to support quality of life.

"One of the great facets of Lt. Gov. Crouch's character is she is always willing to listen, and she gets it," said Calvin Lee, executive director of IMAA.

"She recognized that the Indiana aggregates industry is essential to the overall viability and success of this great state of Indiana and its citizens as it relates to infrastructure and economic development."

In the last few years, Indiana aggregate companies have produced nearly 75 million tons of crushed stone, sand & gravel, slag and similar products. They employ approximately 2,300 workers and pay almost \$100 million in wages and over \$4 million in state income taxes.

"From our interstates to our walking trails, I am confident IMAA will continue to be a key player in the future of Indiana and how we connect our communities," Crouch said.

"We are very lucky to have you. I will proudly carry the title of Honorary Aggie."

Report: Indiana Hospitals Suffer Toughest Financial Year Since Before the Pandemic

Indiana hospitals experienced their most difficult financial year since the beginning of the pandemic last year, according to a new analysis by Kaufman Hall. Record-high hospital expenses coupled with losses in operating income left Indiana hospitals with cumulative negative margins in 2022.

According to the report, Indiana hospitals operated on a -2.0% median operating margin last year, declining 22% compared to pre-pandemic levels. Expenses for labor, medical supplies, drugs, and other purchased services rose \$3.2 billion during this time due to inflation and other external factors, outpacing revenue. The median hospital operating margin for the state of Indiana was at or below the national median each year, the report found.

Meanwhile, Indiana hospitals experienced negative operating income for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic in



Indiana Hospital Association

2022, losing \$72 million. In addition, total operating income for Indiana hospitals fell \$1.2 billion below pre-pandemic levels.

As a result, Indiana hospitals saw significant declines in days cash on hand—a key measure of cash reserves. In 2022 alone, Indiana hospitals experienced a nearly 20% median decline in their number of days cash on hand compared to 2021.

"These findings underscore the existential financial and operational threats Indiana hospitals continue to face," said Erik Swanson, Senior Vice President of Data and Analytics at Kaufman Hall.

Indiana hospitals faced a

host of other related challenges in 2022 according to the report, including workforce shortages and increased labor costs.

Hospital efforts to attract and retain critical staff resulted in a nearly \$2 billion increase in labor costs compared to pre-pandemic levels. Salary increases for health care workers accounted for 96% of those costs.

Further, a significant rise in patient length-of-stay outpaced growth in hospital discharges, further stressing hospital finances. The rise in average length of stay suggests that patients who visited hospitals in 2022 had more severe health needs than

prior to the pandemic.

"Indiana hospitals are facing unprecedented financial strain, but we remain committed to providing accessible, high-quality care to Hoosiers," said IHA President Brian Tabor.

"We must make sure our hospitals and the thousands of caregivers who sustain them have the resources they need to rebuild and remain viable in communities across the state."

The full analysis is available online at ihaconnect.org/Advocacy/Documents/20230131_IHA%20Financial%20Impact%20Report_FINAL_2.1.23.pdf

Become an author today! **DON'T WAIT!** www.mybook100.com

Learn how to get your book idea sold online and at bookstores nationwide.

Call or visit us to get your FREE authors guide to publishing! **800-448-1964**

SAVE ON YOUR **Travel Plans!** *Spend your travel dollars when you get there not getting there!*

- ✓ Up to **75%**
- ✓ more than **500 Airlines**
- ✓ and **300,000 Hotels** across the world!

Let us do the research for you for free... we'll save you time and money

We're not allowed to publish fares online so call for the best rates now **800-419-9625**

Public Health Infrastructure Bill Moves Forward

By Whitney Downard

A bill earmarking funding for local public health departments advanced through a Senate committee Wednesday, despite the outcry of COVID-19 misinformation and state dictatorship.

The bill, which has no price tag yet, moves to Senate Appropriations for further funding discussion.

“In one sense, Senate Bill 4 is actually an infrastructure bill regarding public health and preventative health services designed to ensure that every county in the state provides coordinate services,”

former Sen. Luke Kenley told lawmakers. “We don’t build a road system and then neglect; we don’t build local schools and then staff them. The same is true for public health.”

Kenley, along with former State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe and current commissioner Kris Box, led the Governor’s Public Health Commission, crafting a series of recommendations to boost Indiana’s dismal public health outcomes.

Asking for less than the Governor’s Public Health Commission originally suggested, Gov. Eric Holcomb is pursuing \$120 million in fiscal year 2024 and another \$227 million in fiscal year 2025

to increase public health services across the state.

When compared to the national average, Indiana has higher rates of tobacco use, more diabetes diagnoses, and higher maternal and infant mortality rates – all areas public health is designed to combat. As a whole, Indiana underfunds public health, with 88 counties spending less than a quarter of the national average on their residents.

Under the legislation, counties who accept enhanced funding for their health departments from the state government must meet higher quality standards designed to better address Indiana’s public health shortcomings. Additionally, it creates a commission dedicated to studying the state’s trauma care, which many rural Hoosiers can’t access.

In order to become nationally accredited, entities must provide the ten essential public health services, as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Examples include monitoring population health needs, educating the community, enabling equitable access and more.

In this bill, local health departments must provide maternal and child health services as part of their core offerings. Counties who opt into the funding

will report their health metrics, which will be published by the Department of Health.

Issues with bill language

But while business leaders, local elected officials and health care providers broadly supported the bill, some worried about the details.

In particular, testimony highlighted problems surrounding vision screenings in school. Currently, children can be screened in either kindergarten or first grade while this bill requires screenings both years – which adds an expense for local schools.

But many schools – nearly one in four – request a waiver from screening requirements from the Department of Education, meaning that many students may go without the vision test. However, it isn’t clear if those schools chose to conduct screenings in another method.

“It is important, after children undergo a vision screening and fail, that the public health apparatus kicks into place to ensure that those children are then followed up (with) appropriately and are given the opportunity for further testing,” ophthalmologist Louis Cantor, an Indiana University professor, said. “The goal is to screen all Indiana school children.”

However, in order to increase the number of students getting tested, the bill lowers the bar for screenings – though Cantor said the lesser standard would still be effective.

Bradley Rogers, the president of the Elkhart County Commissioners, said there would be a lot of pressure on local health departments to accept the money, even if they didn’t agree with the attached strings. In particular, he worried that his local health department would be held to a new standard of care.

“This bill means nothing to your county if you just say no,” bill author and committee chair Sen. Ed Charbonneau, R-Valparaiso, said.

Earlier testimony from the Indiana Association of County Commissioners indicated that 85% of their members approved the bill as written.

Kellie Streeter, president of the association and Knox County Commissioner, said that current grants didn’t go far enough when it came to covering costs.

“We do feel that this provides local health departments and counties (the chance) to provide a service that is woefully needed,” Streeter said.

“There was some trepidation but our concerns with local control have been

addressed.”

COVID, vaccine misinformation swarms legislators

A flurry of testimony against the bill mostly consisted of vaccine misinformation and denigrating the senators for introducing the “tyrannical” bill that enabled “child abuse” and a “state takeover” of local health departments.

The hour-plus of negative testimony didn’t appear to sway senators, who unanimously approved the bill, though with reservations.

“We need to do something but I don’t know if this is the right something,” said Sen. Mike Bobacek, R-Michiana Shores. He noted that some of the negative testimony came from his constituents.

But other senators hadn’t heard any local opposition, including Sen. Vaneta Becker, R-Evansville.

“We have a high infant mortality rate, high maternal mortality rate... lots of health issues in this state,” Becker said. “I think this bill will help.”

Other senators said the bill needed work on its vision screening language as well as the relaxing of requirements for county health officers. Under the bill, those officers no longer need to be doctors and can be advanced practice nurses, which some people

didn’t like.

Other bills in the Health Committee

Senators also unanimously approved a statute change to allow health providers to use abandoned long-acting reversible contraceptive devices. Under previous language, only the assigned Medicaid recipient could use the device – even if that recipient later changed their mind about the procedure and didn’t complete the process.

Additional legislation simplifying regulations for home health agencies received zero ‘no’ votes. The bill allows for remote supervision of employees and doesn’t require a physical presence in a county to provide services.

Home health agencies would no longer be required to drug test their employees – something that staffers at nursing homes aren’t required to do. However, companies can still test at their own discretion.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Indiana Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Follow Indiana Capital Chronicle on facebook.com/IndianaCapitalChronicle and twitter.com/INCapChronicle

Digital Revolution Inspires New Research Direction in Ecosystem Structural Diversity

A special issue of the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* lays the foundation for pursuing structural diversity as a new research direction in ecology. The issue, funded by the National Science Foundation, also describes the digital data collection methods that enable the new research direction, and the applications of the work in various ecosystems.

“Structural diversity is thinking about what elements occupy a space and how they have been arranged in the space,” said the special issue’s lead editor, Songlin Fei, a professor of forestry and natural resources and the Dean’s Chair of Remote Sensing at Purdue.

“The hope is that we’re providing a framework that can be applied regardless of the system that you’re working in, from terrestrial to aquatic.”

As Fei and three co-editors wrote in their overview, the special issue’s contributions “provide a new framework for structural diversity, new applications to ecological theory, and case studies.”

The co-editors were Purdue’s Brady Hardiman, associate professor of urban ecology in Purdue’s Department of Forestry and Natural Resources; Elizabeth LaRue, assistant professor of biological sciences at the University of Texas at El Paso; and Kyla Dahlin, associate professor of geography, environment and spatial sciences at Michigan State University.

Six of the seven lead authors in the special issue are early-career scientists who are developing applications for the 3D technologies that could result in new ecological theories. These technologies include light detection and ranging (lidar), and data sensors mounted on drones and satellites.

“Adopting these emerging digital tools and technologies will enable the next generation of ecologists to gracefully operate a fleet of sensors to measure ecosystems and swim freely in the resulting ocean of data,” the

editors wrote.

Such methods form the basis of Purdue’s new Center for Digital Forestry, which Fei directs. As one of the five strategic investments in Purdue’s Next Moves, the center leverages digital technology and multidisciplinary expertise to measure, monitor and manage urban and rural forests to maximize social, economic and ecological benefits.

“In the past, as scientists we measured the Earth as a flat entity,” said LaRue, a former postdoctoral researcher mentored by Fei and Hardiman. “That’s in part because we didn’t have good technology to measure 3D aspects of the planet.”

Those aspects include elevation differences and fine-scale features such as the branching patterns of trees. Previously, researchers had to make such measurements by hand.

“The technology is rapidly advancing. We need to catch up on the science and the theory that are being enabled by these 3D technologies,” she said.

The special issue notes that despite key work already started in forestry, more needs to be done in ecosystem types like wetlands, grasslands and marine ecosystems.

“Our knowledge is still quite limited about structural diversity in different ecosystem types,” LaRue said.

Traditionally, scientists have sought to measure biodiversity by counting species and assessing their genetic diversity.

“These existing measures come back to this basic question: How much of the available ecological space has been occupied by different organisms?” Hardiman said.

“The more ecological space that has been occupied by different species, the more stable the system might be, because missing one species would not cause the collapse of the system.”

But with the new 3D digital technologies, researchers can now quickly determine the layered arrangement of species

within an environment, along with their size and number. Such capabilities benefit land managers as well as researchers. Managers now can often collect higher-quality data much faster and at less expense to help their decision-making. Sometimes they can simply use a cellphone app to make measurements that previously required a tape measure.

The editors and authors of the special issue highlight four challenges that researchers need to address to realize the full potential of such digital advances in ecology.

The first challenge is for ecologists and environmental scientists to collaborate more extensively with colleagues in other specialties. The needed expertise ranges from aviation technology, engineering and computer science to graphic design, information science and the social sciences.

The second challenge is to apply supercomputers, cloud computing, machine learning and artificial intelligence to process the massive 3D data sets that digital technology now generates.

“A lot of the data we work with is publicly accessible and available,” Fei said. But researchers sometimes lack the expertise to take advantage of it. “They don’t have the computational capacity or the right tools to handle it,” he said.

The third challenge is to adopt new approaches to better assess the hundreds of variables in ecosystem structure that 3D data sets now often present. Instead of depending on traditional hypothesis testing, the editorial team recommended that researchers should take data-driven approaches or combine the two.

And finally, the editors emphasized the critical importance of training the next generation of ecologists in digital technology.

“New data-oriented skills such as acquisition, visualization, analysis, and management of large datasets must become essential parts of ecological training,” they wrote.

Purdue Researchers Receive More Than \$143K to Strengthen Marketplace Interest

Purdue University innovators who create new processes and products need capital, among other resources, to bring their ideas to reality. A Purdue fund is making financial support available to help them further develop their work.

Researchers from the College of Agriculture and College of Engineering have received more than \$143,000 from the Trask Innovation Fund to make their work more attractive for commercial use. The fund is managed by the Purdue Research Foundation Office of Technology Commercialization. It awards up to \$50,000 for short-term projects that enhance the commercial value of intellectual property. The application deadline for the next round of funding is Feb. 17.

Brooke Beier, Purdue Research Foundation’s senior vice president of commercialization, said researchers need funding to bridge the “valley of death” between creating innovations and advancing them to market.

“PRF recognizes that funding and other resources assist innovators and entrepreneurs in developing products viable for industry commercialization,” Beier said.

“The Trask Innovation Fund complements the other resources provided under the Purdue Innovates brand.”

Abhijit Karve, the Office of Technology Commercialization’s director of business development, said recipients have used Trask Innovation Fund awards in several ways.

“Often, companies want additional validation of the technology before they can license it. Trask Innovation Fund awards have been used to develop prototypes, conduct tests, support students and generate data,”

Karve said.

“These steps add another round of validation for these researchers’ work and make it more attractive for the marketplace.”

Trask Innovation Fund recipients, their project and award amounts are:

- Jian Jin, College of Agriculture and College of Engineering, “PhenoBee: A Drone-Based Robot System for Single Leaf Scan with LeafSpec in the Soybean Field,” \$25,000.

- Mohsen Mohammadi, College of Agriculture, “Efficient Genotype-Independent In-Planta Transformation of Wheat,” \$47,773.

- Xiulin Ruan, College of Engineering, “Durable and Water-Based Radiative Cooling Paints,” \$48,681.

- Gyeong Mee Yoon, College of Agriculture, “Constitutive Nuclear Targeting of CTR1 (CNTC) as a Genetic Tool to Confer a Drought Tolerant Trait to Soybeans,” \$25,000.

Jin said researchers in his laboratory have been developing new sensing technology for next-generation plant phenotyping, which shows how genetics and the environment impact a plant’s characteristics and a crop’s yield performance.

The newly awarded Trask funding will test PhenoBee, our new phenotyping drone robot, in the field and collect data to validate its accuracy and throughput for potential commercial applications,” Jin said.

“We hope through this project we will be able to prove PhenoBee provides unprecedented crop phenotyping quality for earlier nutrients and disease detection based on the featured LeafSpec technology.”

A video of a PhenoBee technology demonstration is available online at youtube.com/watch?v=Vllbcg2qS9o

Mohammadi said his

team’s innovation enables fast-track genome editing and trait development to create wheat varieties that address challenges like salinity, drought, heat stress, diseases and pests.

“We will use this funding to evaluate the inheritance of traits to next generations and the applicability of the technique to develop better agronomic traits,” Mohammadi said.

Ruan said his research team has created ultrawhite radiative cooling paints that can cool below the ambient temperature under direct sunlight without consuming power.

“We will use the Trask award to further develop the paints and improve the readiness of the technology for market,” Ruan said.

“The paint formulations will be optimized to enable anti-soiling hydrophobic surfaces and minimize the amount of volatile organic compound (VOC), resulting in formulations that will be durable and water-based radiative cooling paints.”

Yoon said their CNTC technology enhances plant stress responses by modulating the hormone ethylene. She said the funding will be used to develop drought-tolerant soybean plants.

“The success of this project will not only provide new drought-tolerant soybean genotypes, but also improve our understanding of how plant hormones regulate stress responses in crops,” Yoon said. “It could potentially be applied to other important crops such as maize and rice.”

These and other inventions created by Purdue researchers across all academic disciplines and campuses are available for further development and licensing. Contact otcp@prf.org for more information.



Life without local news is like hearing crickets

STOP LISTENING TO CRICKETS

THE TIMES
Serving Noblesville & Hamilton County

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
770-7777

Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

Indiana Tech Cybersecurity Program Earns Prestigious National Designation

Indiana Tech has been designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) for its Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity program. This designation is given to institutions meeting the newest standards of cybersecurity from National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)—co-sponsors of a program created to develop skilled cybersecurity professionals across a variety of government agencies at federal, state and local levels. Schools with the CAE-

CD designation are thoroughly assessed by NSA and DHS to determine their capabilities and ensure that their students are receiving top-notch education to become leaders in a variety of cybersecurity fields. Only five other universities in the state of Indiana have earned this elite designation. “This significant national recognition for Indiana Tech is a testament to the work our faculty, students and staff have done to make our university a go-to source for outstanding cybersecurity education,” said Dr. Ying Shang,

Indiana Tech’s dean of the Talwar College of Engineering and Computer Sciences. “When an organization hires an Indiana Tech cybersecurity graduate, its network and data are in the best of hands.” The CAE-CD designation, which lasts through 2028, comes as another example of the growth and impact of Indiana Tech’s cybersecurity program: • In 2022, as part of \$21.5 million expansion and renovation of its Talwar College of Engineering and Computer Sciences, Indiana Tech

created the following areas to strengthen the learning experience for cybersecurity and computer science students: • A state-of-the-art security operations center, which allows students to monitor and learn from activity on the university’s network. • A digital forensics lab, where simulated crime scenes can be created to give students practice at incident response and digital forensics investigation. • A data center, where professors can customize virtual environments to test their students’ knowledge

and skills. • In 2021, driven by the outstanding reputations of Indiana Tech’s Center for Criminal Justice and its cybersecurity degree program, the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council chose to partner with the university for one of 10 High Tech Crime Units in the state. Through this collaboration, students assist prosecutors and local law enforcement in analyzing and processing digital evidence, which yields faster turnaround times and more thorough investigations. • Over the past two decades, the university’s

cyber competition team, the Cyber Warriors, has become a national power. The Cyber Warriors have won Indiana’s Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition 15 of 17 times and finished among the nation’s top 10 teams in 2007, 2011 and 2018. What’s more, every member of the Cyber Warriors has secured a job in their career field prior to graduation for four years running. Indiana Tech’s cybersecurity program offers students a variety of educational options. Learn more at academics.indianatech.edu/colleges/cyber-center.

BETSY From Page A1

former location of Lil’ Bloomers on Logan Street in downtown Noblesville, during a launch party 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday with beverages and bites, plus small gifts for the first 50 customers. 8. Learn about beekeeping during a Pop Up Beekeeping 101 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Fishers AgriPark, with no registration required. 9. Enjoy live music with Jamie Owens 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville. 10. Experience Music Bingo from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays at The Boat-house Kitchen & Swan Drive in Cicero. 11. Experience Turntable Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville. 12. Enjoy live music of Craig Thurston the first and third Thursdays beginning in February. 13. Experience Basile Westfield Playhouse’s production of “Night Must Fall,” directed by Ian Hauer, Feb. 9-10, with tickets

at westfieldplayhouse.org 14. Take your sweetheart to see the ballet, EnPointe Indiana Ballet’s “Sweet Love,” at 7 p.m. Feb. 10 and 2 p.m. Feb. 11 at Noblesville High School, with reserved seating available. 15. Experience Hamilton County Theatre Guild and The Belfry Theatre’s “Around the World in 80 Days,” directed by Eric Matters, Feb. 10-17, with performances at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at Arts for Lawrence’s Theater at the Fort on Indianapolis’ northeast side, with tickets at thebelfrytheatre.com. 16. See the story of Anne Frank come to life in “The Diary of Anne Frank” Feb. 10-25 Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre in Carmel. 17. Nickel Plate Arts has Valentine’s offerings with a family-friendly event with Caravan Classes from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 11 at Nickel Plate Arts Campus in Noblesville. 18. Audition for Basile

Westfield Playhouse’s “The Spitfire Grill” musical 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 11 and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Playhouse, with performances April 13-23. 19. Make plans to attend the Galentine’s Goddess Brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 12 at The Lacy Arts Building in downtown Noblesville, with tickets \$45 each, includes waffle bar, mimosa bar, juice bar, book bingo, activities, goddess crowns and more. 20. On Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14, head to downtown Noblesville from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for a Valentine’s Day Downtown Celebration by following a map to multiple locations for Valentine’s Day activities. 21. Enjoy a night under the sea at The Attic Theatre’s production of “The Little Mermaid” musical Feb. 16-18 at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville. 22. The Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville’s 37th annual Auxiliary Auction, Mardi Gras Charity Ball, is

6:30 p.m. Feb. 18 at Harbour Trees Golf Club, with a live and silent auction, and \$175 tickets available in advance. For information, visit bgcni.org or call the club at (317) 773-4372. 23. Come out and see Carmel Community Players’ production of “The Murders of 1940,” a musical comedy whodunit, Feb. 24-March 3 at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville. 24. Experience Dr. Seuss’s “The Cat in the Hat” Feb. 28 and March 4 at Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre in Carmel. 25. Save the date: Noblesville Schools Education Foundation’s Miller-Palooza is 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. March 10 at the Embassy Suite in Noblesville, with \$125 tickets, sponsorships available, dress casual Noblesville school spirit, and featuring Dueling Pianos from Felix and Fingers. To donate to silent auction, email adriann_young@nobl.k12.in.us

ARROWOOD From Page A1

M9GxC37sW689BU2n-FQq/view) We carefully review all the information we have prior to making any adjustments to our traditional school day, with the safety of our students and staff as the top priority. When we do make the call to close, we also need to decide whether to utilize a synchronous e-learning day, a flex day, or a make-up day tacked on at the end of the school year. If we do use a synchronous e-learning day please know that it will likely be with some notice because we are aware in advance of a large weather system headed our way. After a successful pilot run of a synchronous e-learning day in December, we decided to use a synchronous e-learning day last Wednesday that also proved to be a success, despite a few glitches that were addressed and resolved quickly. Our principals shared the day went well overall, with teachers and students prepared and engaged. Having a positive outcome on these e-learning days is a strong testament to the collaboration between our educators, students, and their families. While our preference is always in-person learning, the opportunity to utilize a synchronous e-learning day affords several benefits including the opportunity for students of all ages to practice real world digital literacy, develop 21st-century skills to gain proficiency in collaboration, questioning, problem-solving, and critical thinking, stay on pace with our curriculum maps in anticipation of standardized testing in the Spring, and reduce the number of make-up school days. This year’s annual Kindergarten Roundup will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 15 from 3-6 p.m.

at the elementary school. This is an open house style event. Pre-registration opens on Friday, February 10. Our Kindergarten educators are phenomenal in providing an exceptional blend of engaging, inspiring, and fun learning experiences that are the building blocks of early literacy, socialization, communication skills, independence, and success in school for our littlest Huskies. Visit drive.google.com/file/d/1Pxd50gkUxQ5-kDza2IR5Ihh90rE122/view for more information on what you need to do to begin your child’s educational journey at Heights. Are you ready for a little magic in your life? The community is invited to come experience all the magic of a young woman looking for her one true love, and of a prince only having a shoe to help him find his future wife, in the classic fairy tale, Cinderella. Brooks Myers, our theater director, and the talented students from the middle school and high school will help bring one of her favorite stories to life on stage with three special shows Feb. 17-19. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased online (beginning Feb. 10 at hhschuskiies.org) or at the door. As we celebrate all things love and appreciation this month, let’s make a conscious effort to ensure Heights is a place where relationships are paramount. Where concern, compassion, empathy, respect, dignity, and well-being of all our students, all our staff, and each other, carries the day. Think of the impact this can have in making our school and community a better place to live and learn. #WeAreHuskies

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

Never miss a public notice on legal proceedings! After it prints in your local newspaper, it goes online:
IndianaPublicNotices.com
TheTimes24-7.com

SIGNING From Page A1

tion Ryan goes, he became a published author in the second grade. Lu became a published illustrator at age 18. It’s all about looking for opportunities for successes and achievements throughout the PreK - Post-Secondary education journey which can have a significant lifelong impact.” The first of the three books, The Monsters of Math Plan a Party, has been printed and is available on Amazon. A special book launch and signing to meet the authors and illustrator is set for 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 at Hamilton Heights Elementary School’s Media Center at SR 19. Enter through Door A. Here you can learn more about their unique stories and how these Huskies used their talents today to produce this new book series. Copies of this book will be available. The event is sponsored

by the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation. The next two books in the series, The Monsters of Math Host of Fishing Derby and The Monsters of Math Go on a Hike, are expected to be available in the months ahead. The math skills and stories are intended to support parents, teachers, and students understand the importance of applying math skills within everyday decisions in grades 2 through 5. These books have been written to be read in any order. **About the Authors:** **Theresa Morris** is the founder and CEO of MPASS Education. Prior to starting her own business, Morris was with Stanford University as a Mathematics Performance Assessment Developer at the Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity (SCALE). A 1988 graduate of Hamilton Heights High School, she

brings over 30 years of experience including classroom teaching, district administrator, and consultant for CTB, Smarter Balanced, Discovery Education, and College Board as an item architect, item writer, and author of performance tasks. The focus of her recent work has been supporting state and district level development of high-quality performance assessment systems for the purposes of true accountability. She is a lead facilitator in supporting state and local educational networks in building balanced assessment systems that include the use of performance assessments. **Ryan Reed**, a second grader at Hamilton Heights Elementary School, is a promising storyteller. From a young age, Reed’s tremendous creativity and imagination has fascinated family and friends with his stories of

monsters and heroes. Theresa Morris, fondly known as “Aunt T”, helped transform Reed’s stories into a series of short children’s books and educational resources for children and their families to enjoy. **About the Illustrator:** **Lu Hubbell**, a December 2022 graduate of Hamilton Heights High School, is an award-winning student artist. Throughout middle and high school, Hubbell was active in art club and participated in a number of community art projects including helping to design and paint a building mural and crosswalk in Arcadia, Indiana. Hubbell is currently taking classes at IVY Tech and plans to study graphic design and marketing in the fall to pursue a career in advertising and designing packaging and logos. The Monsters of Math Plan a Party is Hubbell’s first illustrated children’s book.

Classifieds

765-361-0100 ext. 15 | class@thepaper24-7.com

Deadlines for next-day publication:
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Line ads: 1 p.m. | Display ads 11 a.m.

Earthlink High Speed Internet. As Low As \$49.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-855-977-7069

High-Speed Internet. We instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. Call 1-844-961-0666

4G LTE Home Internet Now Available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo! 1-877-327-0930

FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 877-930-3271

DISH Network. \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-855-551-9764

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit. Call 855-965-4916

New Starting Base Pay - .60 cpm w/ option to make .70 cpm for Class A CDL Flatbed Drivers, Excellent Benefits, Home Weekends, Call 800-648-9915 or www.boydandsons.com

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY! FAST FREE PICK-UP-24 HR RESPONSE! Help Children in Need, Support Breast Cancer Education/Prevention or Veterans. Tax Deduction 844-820-9099

Smart Home Installations? Geeks on Site will install your WIFI, Doorbells, Cameras, Home Theater Systems & Gaming Consoles. \$20 OFF coupon 42537! (Restrictions apply) 855-668-0067

LIVE PAIN FREE with CBD products from AceWellness. We guarantee highest quality, most competitive pricing on CBD products. Softgels, Oils, Skincare, Vape & more. Coupon Code: PRINT20 Call Now 833-226-3105

SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 844-517-6414

Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF 2 FREE Months! 1-855-408-3894

COMPUTER ISSUES? GEEKS ON SITE provides FREE diagnosis REMOTE-LY 24/7 SERVICE DURING COVID19. No home visit necessary. \$40 OFF with coupon 86407! Restrictions apply. 888-715-8176

Need Help with Family Law? Can't Afford a \$5,000 Retainer? www.familycourtdirect.com/ Family/Law - Low Cost Legal Services - Pay As You Go - As low as \$750-\$1,500 - Get Legal Help Now! Call 1-888-417-4602 Mon-Fri 7am to 4 pm PCT

DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG CANCER? You may qualify for a substantial cash award. NO Obligation, NO risk! We've recovered millions. Let us help you!! Call 24/7, 844-284-4920

Looking to SELL your Home? Save time & money, connect with the Top Agents in your area to get more MONEY and close FASTER! Call 317-854-9781

Wesley Financial Group, LLC - Timeshare Cancellation Experts - Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 4500 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207

Guaranteed Life Insurance! (Ages 50 to 80). No medical exam. Affordable premiums never increase. Benefits never decrease. Policy will only be cancelled for non-payment. 833-535-1043

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-888-965-1444 or visit http://dorranceinfo.com/hoosier

DIRECTV for \$69.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. One year of HBO Max FREE. Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Call for more details! (some restrictions apply) Call 1-888-885-8931

Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed for SSD and denied, our attorneys can help get you approved! No money out of pockets! Call 1-855-995-4758

Thinking about installing a new shower? American Standard makes it easy. FREE design consultation. Enjoy your shower again! Call 1-855-475-0534 today to see how you can save \$1,000 on installation, or visit www.newshowerdeal.com/hoosier

AT&T TV - The Best of Live & On-Demand On All Your Favorite Screens. CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12months. Stream on 20 devices at once in your home. HBO Max FREE for 1 yr (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) Call for more details today! (some restrictions apply) Call IVS 1-844-412-9997

FRIDAY

Business

Notes and NEWS

Friday, Feb. 3, 2023

A8

EMAIL, news@thetimes24-7.com U.S. MAIL, 54 N. 9th St., Noblesville, IN 46060 ONLINE, www.thetimes24-7.com

READI Makes 9.25M Investment in North Central Indiana

Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers joined local officials and regional leaders last week in Kokomo as the North Central Region celebrated five quality of place investments that will support current and future residents. Fueled by the transformational Indiana Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI), the region is investing \$98.9 million to advance community amenities, infrastructure and workforce development to support talent retention and attraction.

"Across Indiana, communities are making unprecedented investments in their neighborhoods and their people thanks to READI," said Sec. Chambers. In north central Indiana, the region has come together to advance initiatives focused on quality of life, quality of place and quality of opportunity, and because of their collaboration, the future of the North Central READI

region is bright."

The nationally recognized READI program is allocating \$500 million to 17 regions across the state to accelerate shovel-ready projects and programs that are expected to transform Indiana communities, attract talent and improve the quality of life for Hoosiers in the short and long term. The North Central Region, led by the North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council (NCIRPC), was awarded \$30 million in READI matching funds to advance its strategies grow its population base, improve quality of place and quality of life, increase and diversity the region's quality of opportunity, and spur innovation and entrepreneurship to attract and retain talent.

"The North Central region has seen tremendous successes over the past eight years, and the READI investment enables us to rapidly advance that success, keep the momentum going and secure a

bright future for our families," said Paul Wyman, NCIRPC Board President. "Our community leaders work together for a larger purpose, and as a result, we are now seeing unprecedented levels of private investment and job creation.

Last week, the North Central Region announced its first READI funding allocations, designating \$9.25 million to support five projects:

Industry 4.0 Training Lab at Ivy Tech Kokomo (\$2M total project investment; \$1M READI allocation)

At Ivy Tech Kokomo, READI funds will be used to help prepare the region's workforce for the future of advancing manufacturing as the sector continues to modernize operations and integrate smart technologies and processes. This initiative will enable the region to proactively develop an educated workforce pipeline and upskill its current workforce to support

Industry 4.0 and fuel the future of manufacturing.

Riverfront Development in Peru (\$22.523M total project investment; \$2.75M READI allocation)

In Peru, the region is transforming 40 acres of idle real estate along the Wabash River, bringing new vibrancy and quality of place to the area. Revitalization of the riverfront property includes the newly constructed Miami County YMCA and a 174-unit development that will include apartments, duplexes and senior housing. READI funds will be used to enhance the streetscaping at the site along Forrest and Maple streets.

US-31 & SR-28 Infrastructure in Tipton County (\$67M total project investment; \$3.5M READI allocation)

In Tipton County, the region is investing in infrastructure near the recently-developed US-31 & SR-28 interchange to facilitate further com-

mercial and residential development in the area and along the SR-28 corridor. The city of Tipton, Tipton County and Tipton Municipal Utilities are partnering to extend water and sanitary sewer services with support from READI funds. The project is expected to lead to \$60 million in private investment and development.

Broadband Development in Cass & Howard Counties

(Cass County: \$4.455M total project investment; \$1M READI allocation // Howard County: \$3.952M total project investment; \$1M READI allocation)

The North Central region will allocate \$2 million of READI funds to increase broadband in Cass and Howard counties, working to resolve the digital divide and increase digital accessibility. In Cass County, READI funds will build on the county's prior investment, adding an additional 237 miles of fiber to the existing 117 mile

fiber ring. This expansion will increase broadband infrastructure and fill in the gaps inside the ring, creating an affordable, scalable, reliable fiber network supplying upload and download speeds of 1G.

To the southwest, Howard County will build a fiber backbone with an estimated 300 miles of laterals to better serve rural communities, reaching approximately 250 businesses, 3,000 households and five schools.

Through READI, 17 regions across the state that represent all 92 counties are moving forward with projects and programs designed to enhance Indiana's regions for current and future generations of Hoosiers. Collectively, the state's \$500 million investment is expected to yield more than \$9 billion of additional public, private and nonprofit dollars invested in enhancing Indiana's quality of life, quality of place and quality of opportunity.

Liberation Labs Joins Indiana's Thriving Agbiosciences Sector

Liberation Labs, a precision fermentation manufacturer, announced plans today to establish operations in Indiana, investing \$115 million to develop its first commercial-scale biomufacturing facility in Richmond.

"Next generation technology is critical to future food security for people everywhere, and I am proud that Indiana is leading the charge," said Indiana Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers. "We are excited to welcome Liberation Labs to our growing agbiosciences ecosystem. Liberation Labs will continue to enable companies to innovate while creating high-paying,

quality career opportunities for Hoosiers."

The company, which aims to enable the commercialization of alternative protein products through fermentation manufacturing, will construct a facility on 36 acres of Richmond's 700-acre Midwest Industrial Park. The new facility, which will have a fermentation capacity of 600,000 liters with a fully dedicated downstream process (DSP), is part of the company's model to offer customers fit-for-purpose capacity at large scale. Liberation Labs' facility in Richmond will help meet demand for alternative proteins, increasing its availability

and cost-effectiveness for existing major food brands as well as the growing network of food-tech innovators.

"The three things a biomanufacturing facility like ours needs are sugar, power and people - and Richmond, Indiana, has them all," said Mark Warner, co-founder and CEO of Liberation Labs. "While sugar and power are commodities, a workforce experienced in manufacturing is not, which is why Richmond really stands out. We are thankful for the support the state and the local community have provided us, and we can't wait to break ground." Liberation Labs plans

to break ground later this spring and reach full commercial production by the end of 2024. The company plans to create 45 new manufacturing jobs to support its growth, with average wages well above the state average.

"Securing this partnership and investment from Liberation Labs is another milestone in our strong relationship with Governor Holcomb and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation," said Richmond Mayor Dave Snow. "We are thrilled to add the expertise of Liberation Labs to our Industrial Park. Make no mistake, when a company of this caliber chooses to invest in

Richmond, it's a resounding vote of confidence that we are moving in the right direction. With more jobs being created, and such a strong business model, I am confident this is just the beginning of a long and mutually prosperous relationship."

Liberation Labs' first-of-its-kind precision fermentation facilities are engineered to deliver cost-effective, high-yield production of novel proteins and accelerate consumer adoption of healthy food alternatives. The company aims to build a network of purpose-built facilities to accommodate 80 percent or more of the alternative protein market,

delivering a global solution to unlock a new era of food accessibility and sustainability.

Based on the company's job creation plans, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) committed an investment in Liberation Labs of up to \$780,000 in the form of incentive-based tax credits and up to \$50,000 in training grants. These tax credits are performance-based, meaning the company is eligible to claim incentives once Hoosiers are hired and trained. Wayne County will consider additional incentives at the request of Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County.

Transistors Repurposed As Microchip 'Clock' Address Supply Chain Weakness

Microchip fab plants in the United States can cram billions of data processing transistors onto a tiny silicon chip, but a critical device, in essence a "clock," to time the operation of those transistors must be made separately - creating a weak point in chip security and the supply line. A new approach uses commercial chip fab materials and techniques to fabricate specialized transistors that serve as the building block of this timing device, addressing the weak point and enabling new functionality through enhanced integration.

"You would have one chip that does everything instead of multiple chips, multiple fabrication methods and multiple material sets that must be integrated - often overseas," said Dana Weinstein, a Purdue University professor of electrical and computer engineering, who is developing acoustic resonators

with the processes used to produce industry-standard fin field-effect transistors (FinFETs). "There's a need for America to advance its capabilities in chip manufacturing, and an advance of this nature addresses multiple concerns in supply chain, national security and hardware security. By moving the whole clock inside the processor, you harden the device against clock-glitching attacks, and you enable new functionality such as acoustic fingerprinting of the packaged chip for tamper detection."

Like all transistors - the devices that undergird modern microelectronics - FinFETs are a voltage-activated on/off gate. As its name suggests, a FinFET passes a current along a fin of semiconducting material that runs through the gate. In the closed, or off, state, the fin does not conduct electricity. A voltage applied to the top of the gate

builds an electric charge in the fin, allowing electricity to flow in an open, or on, state.

But transistors must be synchronized to perform operations for microprocessors, sensors and radios used in all electronic devices. The devices that do this are built on sound, the resonant frequency that some structures emit, much as a glass bowl may sound a specific note when pinged. The regular repeating wave of this so-called acoustic resonator serves as a cadence that is incorporated into a larger microelectromechanical system and used to mark time. Current commercial microelectromechanical resonators cannot be fabricated in a standard chip fabrication process and must be made separately and later bundled with microchips for use.

Weinstein's innovation is to build an acoustic resonator with the existing

repertoire of materials and fabrication techniques available in a standard complementary metal oxide semiconductor chip fab. In a recent paper in Nature Electronics, her research team reports its most advanced design to date. Using a commercial process run at the GlobalFoundries Fab 8 facility in New York and described in the GlobalFoundries 14LPP FinFET technology design manual, team members fabricated a specialized set of FinFETs capable of producing a frequency in the range of 8-12 gigahertz, which exceeds the typical native clock rates of microprocessors.

The elegant solution essentially repurposes data processing transistors into a timing device.

"With our approach, the chip fab runs this device through the same process they would use for a computer's central processing unit or other application,"

said Jackson Anderson, a Purdue graduate student in electrical and computer engineering and first author on the Nature Electronics paper. "When the microprocessor and other components are done, so is the resonator. It doesn't have to undergo further fabrication or be sent somewhere else for integration with a separate microprocessor chip."

Although the on or off state of a transistor ordinarily directs current to serve as the 0s and 1s of binary code, all transistors can also be used as capacitors to store and release a charge. Weinstein's team does exactly that with arrays of "drive" transistors, squeezing and releasing a thin layer of dielectric materials between the fin and the gate.

"We're squeezing those layers between the gate and the semiconductor, pushing and pulling on that thin region between the gate

and the fin," Jackson said. "We do this alternately on adjacent transistors - one compressing, one stretching - building vibrations laterally in the device."

The drive transistors are sized to guide and amplify the vibrations into building upon themselves into a specific resonant frequency.

This, in turn, stretches and compresses the semiconductor material in an adjacent group of "sense" transistors, which alters the characteristics of a current across those transistors, translating the vibration into an electrical signal.

"Every single piece of high-performance electronics that you have uses FinFETs," Weinstein said. "Integrating these functions advances our microelectronics capabilities beyond just digital microprocessors. If the technology changes, we can adapt, but we would be moving forward with an integrated microprocessor system."

www.TheTimes24-7.com
www.TheTimes24-7.com

Voice of our PEOPLE

Try This With Your Credit Card Company . . .

Last week we, as in We The People, hit a financial landmark. We maxed out our credit card.

Oh, the uppity ups in the government didn't call it that. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen explained that the U.S. reached its debt limit, a plain and simple way of saying, well, we maxed out the credit card.

Except we didn't. Not really.

But first, let's take a look at the nuts and bolts.

The debt limit – how much money the government can borrow – is almost \$32 trillion. That's trillion with a capital T and that rhymes with C and that stands for . . . Congress. To quote the good Professor Harold Hill, aka Robert Preston in the Music Man, we surely got trouble.

But don't you worry your pretty little head about it. The hired help in Washington are working to fix the trouble so that by this summer everything will be all swell again. How? Why don't



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

you know? The answer to the crisis is just as plain as the dollar in your pocket. They're going to increase the limit on how much we can borrow! Yup, just like they and their predecessors have done since, oh, let's see . . . 1837.

Really? The last time our beloved country was debt free was when the man who's face graces our \$20 bills was president – Andrew Jackson. That's right. The seventh president of the U.S. said that the country couldn't really be free unless that included freedom from debt.

What a concept, huh?

To be fair, Jackson had his problems. He killed a man in a duel, had a lot of other fights, owned slaves and more. As a human being, he had issues. When he took office in 1828, the country was still trying to pay off the debt from wars – our fight for independence and the War of 1812. Nationally, we owed just a tick under \$60 million – about \$1.5 billion in today's money. Jackson, a Democrat, called it the “national curse.” Over his first six years as president he cut government spending – another novel concept – and sold off a bunch of federal land out west and eliminated the debt. To this day, it remains the only time our country was debt free.

Let's think about that for a second.

Have you paid off a significant debt? A house? Car? Maybe a big credit card? Remember how good it felt?

Isn't it amazing that in the history of this great country we've only done that once in the last

almost 200 years?

Fast forward to today. President Joe Biden and the Democrats are playing chicken with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and the Republicans. Over the next few months we're going to hear all sorts of posturing, accusations, proposals and noise. When the dust settles, what we're going to see is an agreement between Dems and Repubs to increase the debt limit.

Can we go back to the idea that hitting the limit is like maxing out the credit card please? Imagine with me, if you will, that phone call between you and the credit card company. You are well past the friendly voice on the other end asking how they can help. The person you are dealing with now – after maxing out the card time and again – has a hard edge to their voice. There's no warm and fuzzy anymore. There's talk about being turned over to collections. The dark and ominous cloud looming on the horizon means your

life is about to change. If you can't pay your bills, you could lose your car – which could mean losing your job . . . which could mean losing your house . . . which could mean . . . OH WAIT! It's OK you tell the unfriendly voice. You are borrowing a page from your elected representatives and you have an answer: Increase your card's limit!

How's that going to go over?

But that's exactly what's going to happen in June. The \$32,000,000,000,000 – yes, that's 12 zeroes – will be increased. And just like that, the folks inside the beltway will shake hands, congratulate themselves on averting the crisis – the national media will heave a huge sigh of relief – and the federal spending – which is something around \$10,000 every three seconds – will roll on. (How long have you been reading this, a minute, two? Guess what? The debt is a couple hundred thousand bucks more

than what it was when you started.)

And we aren't doing a damn thing about it.

The insanity will continue so long as we keep electing the same people over and over. Isn't it time for the grownups in the room – and politicians have proven that's not them – to say enough is enough. Indiana has 11 members in Congress – Reps. Victoria Spartz, Greg Pence, Andre Carson, Larry Bucshon, Erin Houchin, Frank Mrvan, Rudy Yakym, Jim Banks and Jim Baird and Sens. Mike Braun and Todd Young. You want them to do something different? Let 'em know.

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

Ask Rusty – About Difficulty With Social Security's Sign-in Process

Dear Rusty: Last month I tried to contact Social Security who never picked up a phone on their end. The same with the IRS. When I finally got through, they said I had to join ID.me before they could help me. That took me over a week, and many applications and rejects, to get through. The last step was holding up my Social Security card and my driver's license on a Zoom call to an ID.me representative. I found this very peculiar - why do I have to go through this place to get information from my government agencies? Now I am receiving catalog offers to buy things from ID.me online. I think this is very strange and out of



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

line. How do I get unregistered from this place? I am very afraid they will share my information with the world. Is this a government agency and why do we have to register there, only to have offers to buy things?
Signed: Frustrated Senior

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.

Dear Frustrated: Many others have shared with us their frustration when seeking enrollment in the federal government's newest credential verification programs so, though I know it's no comfort, you are not alone.

Social Security has, since September 18, 2021, required all newly created online accounts to use either ID.me or Login.gov to authenticate the user's

identity. “ID.me” is a private company contracted by the government to ensure that you are who you say you are, thus avoiding any fraudulent activities. Login.gov is the government's own authentication program set up to allow access to multiple government agencies for the same purpose. The intent of both is to give you one set of sign in credentials which can be used to access multiple government

agencies, rather than a unique login procedure for each agency. And, most importantly, the purpose is to protect you from any fraudulent activities which could cause you financial harm. Rest assured that your personal information is safe using either of these government-sponsored methods to verify your identity for government business.

Those who have a “my Social Security” account set up before September 2021 can still use their previous SSA-unique identity verification method (a “2-factor ID process”) to access their “my Social Security” online account. This method is as secure as the newer methods but is only good for accessing your Social Security ac-

count (not the IRS or any other government agency). Nevertheless, creating a new online Social Security account now requires you use the government's current identity verification methods - either ID.me or Login.gov. If you select ID.me (a private company) you do have control over the type of communication you receive from them and can opt out of receiving any offers for additional services. To do so, it is basically a matter of signing into your ID.me account, accessing your Profile, and selecting “Unsubscribe All” in the Preferences section. And in the meantime, you can also select “Unsubscribe” at the bottom of any promotional email you receive from ID.me.

Some Fantastic Tips to Get Out of Feeling Like You're Stuck in A Rut

I have often heard a comment when people seem to be immobilized in life about them being “stuck in a rut.”

Another adage equates the rut with a grave suggesting that covering oneself up and relenting to your demise may be the best course of action.

Since there is only a slim chance any of us reading this are likely driving a covered wagon to get stuck in the rut, and even a lesser number are actually grave diggers, I will suggest, we have the ability to change our direction without filling our own grave with us in it.

However, often we might seem to be like the proverbial mouse on the turning wheel, getting nowhere in our efforts to redirect our lives.

Can we get out of the rut and “In the groove?”



RANDALL FRANKS
Southern Style Columns

That's another one of those descriptors meaning we have everything going our way. It reflects the needle within the jazz record groove moving smoothly over the surface of the album or the jazz talents being in sync with one another. A later adjective would have simply been “groovy.”

But for our analogy, its predecessor fits as we are seeking the right path. But

unlike the needle going around the circles on an album, we do not know where our groove will lead.

However maybe all it will take is for us to get up and turn the crank on the Victrola to give us that momentum to find out.

What do you want next in life?

Is there a new job which is your hope?

Do you have your eyes on that perfect person to share your life?

Maybe its smaller, a few repairs, a part-time job, or simply studying a new subject that will give you skills needed for a better life.

I have often found myself seated on the precipice, trying to decide whether to jump into the unknown or remain safely perched on my solid rock watching the world roll

by.

It is only when I had the strength to push off from safety that I actually began to see that forward momentum impact what was to come.

Safe is a nice thing. Comfort is a nice thing. We all have aspects of our life in which we desire those adjectives to dominate. Sometimes though we must strive away from the safety and comfort to help us find those new adventures which will forge what is ahead of us.

My multiple great uncle John Shields stepped into the unknown beside Lewis and Clark as they explored the interior of the continental United States for my third cousin Thomas Jefferson. How could he decide to embark on such an arduous adventure. I am not sure but when he was asked, he went.

My first cousin (13-removed) Sir Walter Raleigh embarked on numerous adventures, some which could have easily ended in his death, but yet he went, with his final one resulting in English execution at the behest of Spain.

Jumping bravely into the unknown does not always result in happy endings but it does add variety in the tapestry within which the threads of our life are depicted.

So, is it better to stay in the rut or to rock with all our might to force ourselves out of it, so we can gain forward momentum?

I can't speak for you, but for me I will rock with all my might until I am able to push on to reach whatever God has in store. I pray those things are blessings and He protects me from all harm which could befall me.

But if that not be my fate, then I only ask the Grace to face the adventure with dignity, patience and understanding in whatever comes my way.

What will be your fate? Are you filling the dirt in around you with each day or does your groove show you a way out?

Randall Franks is best known for his role as "Officer Randy Goode" on TV's "In the Heat of the Night." 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.

www.TheTimes24-7.com

www.TheTimes24-7.com

Voice of our PEOPLE

Learning for Freedom's Sake (Pt. 2): 'Freedom From' vs. 'Freedom To'

By Dr. Peter Frank

Grove City College's historic commitment to freedom is purposely conveyed to each generation of students through our unique core curriculum. We believe that a populace well versed in the classical liberal arts will be one that not only understands the value of freedom but also uses that freedom well.

There are two aspects of freedom, and one of them—often overlooked—can be powerfully impacted by a strong, Christ-centered liberal arts education. I think of these two sides of freedom as “freedom from” and “freedom to.” Both are necessary for a well-ordered civil society.

Freedom From vs. Freedom To

Staunch defenders of freedom tend to focus mainly on “freedom from.” “Freedom from” emphasizes political freedoms as outlined in the U.S. Constitution or other freedom charters, and these freedoms are deemed the core of a liberal society. Freedom from governmental oppression and suppression of ideas and beliefs is key. That is, “freedom from” focuses on ensuring that no government, no group, and no person can infringe upon individual liberty.

Government of the people clearly plays an important role in this aspect of freedom. For example, emancipation from slavery required political and legal rules to secure freedom for slaves in the American South. However, political freedom—or “freedom from”—is not sufficient alone for a well-ordered flourishing society.

The second aspect of freedom can be broadly understood as “freedom to.” “Freedom to” goes hand in hand with “freedom from;” whereas the latter protects the individual from any violation of his or her freedoms, the former is the freedom to act well. As Galatians 5:13 reminds us, this is the purpose of our striving for liberty: “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

This is one of the primary building blocks of a free society; that is, structuring the “rules of the game” in such a way where individual free actions benefit others more than if those actions were coerced.¹ The catalyst for innovation and economic development during the past few hundred years began with entrepreneurial decision-making rooted in the incentives to produce what others desire to attain.

Freedom to act is

essential to a free and fair society but it also creates an important tension.

Freedom to act necessitates the need for boundaries, as an action by one person can hinder the freedoms of another. Additionally, it requires moral judgement shaped by both personal convictions and a worldview that grounds the individual in a proper understanding of human nature. This is where institutions like Grove City College play a role. Education must provide a foundation for helping individuals to develop this framework in order to act in ways that lead to a prosperous and flourishing society.

Educating for Morality

I previously wrote about the liberal arts at Grove City College, and the Christian classical liberal arts in particular, as a central building block for cultivating the moral virtues that lead to individual actions which benefit society. Freedom to act, and act in a way that maintains a strong civil society, is strengthened by the cultivation of virtue. Policy alone fails to lead individuals to act morally and wisely for the benefit of all, but Christian higher education can and does help shape these virtues.

The Christian liberal arts are central to cultivating virtue in three ways: by building social capital and trust, building an understanding of community, and enhancing the framework for moral choosing.

Education has long played an important role in building trust among individuals, especially those who do not know each other. A liberal arts education, in particular, provides students with a much more expansive view of the world, the historical context we live in today, and the vast cultural, social, and religious complexity within society. This expanding knowledge helps students to learn about new people, places, and ideas that collectively help shape a more holistic understanding of the world. All of this builds trust and growth in the social capital that helps establish a strong citizenry. Scholars have shown that social capital is critical for achieving development and for an efficiently functioning economy, but it is difficult to generate through public policy.² Education is the driving force that leads to engagement in society, and a strong liberal arts education builds the framework for positive civil discourse and action.

Simply put, education provides arguably the most impactful means to generate trust and social capital in society. I would

contend that the study of the classical liberal arts in a Christian framework is the most valuable type of education that builds a robust civil society. Students study not only learn the skills of data analysis in a mathematics course or radioactive activity in physics, but also the ethics behind human cloning and the moral choices faced by characters in a Dickens novel. By rooting education in the Christian liberal arts, students are further equipped to act in ways leading to the benefit of others.

In addition to building social capital and trust through a broader and richer education and knowledge of the world, a Christian liberal arts education helps to foster a healthy understanding of community. Learning in an environment where students eat and play with the same colleagues with whom they discuss Plato, Rembrandt, and the book of Job helps to continually reshape their perspective on self-versus-others. Developing that sense of community will help inform the choices they make, seeing beyond the narrow understanding of individualism so prevalent today.

As Carl Trueman has written about extensively, some of the defining troubles of this age stem from the rampant expressive individualism in the culture. A strong antidote to expressive individualism can be found in the community built at a Christian liberal arts college.

Finally, building a moral foundation via the Christian liberal arts will help students develop a sharper lens to view the world and guide their actions within it. Just as many students in college today may work in jobs that do not yet exist, they will also face ethical questions and dilemmas that are currently unimaginable. These students need to develop a more complete framework from which to operate when confronting these future decisions and actions. A Christian liberal arts program will help solidify this framework for all students, from the accountant to the engineer; students will need a grid to use in formulating their actions. Many of these dilemmas will surface unrelated to a specific job or vocation, and thus a strong educational core will help root students in the virtues that lead to appropriate moral choosing.

Freedom That Leads to a Thriving Society

Freedom to act is a necessary condition for a prosperous society, but it is not sufficient alone

for a virtuous one. The cultivation of a moral framework, enhanced by a Christian liberal arts education, is what will lead to the actions that build a thriving society.

One need only look at the discourse so prevalent in our day, whether via social media or the 24-hour news cycle on television, to see that our freedom to act is clouded with ad hominem attacks and demagoguery. We need more educated citizens who can speak wisely and eloquently, who can parse through arguments with logic and can discern with good judgement.

“Freedom to” is both an essential aspect of our human agency and an important responsibility. A broad liberal arts education helps to capture the imagination of students with a more complete understanding of what is possible, while also helping to shape a vision for what is right and true. Using this God-given freedom is a responsibility we all have, and educating young people to utilize this responsibility toward virtuous ends is at the heart of a Christian liberal arts core. We, as Christians, are not here to primarily seek freedom from oppression so that we have liberty to do what we want and serve our own pleasure. We desire to use that liberty to love and serve our community well.

For society to thrive, for our neighbors to thrive, we seek to expand both “freedom from” and “freedom to.” A focus on policy and government institutions will help to protect the former, and educating our citizens in the classical liberal arts at a place like Grove City College will help to protect the latter. Building the foundation for how to live in a free society, choosing to act and engage responsibly, requires drawing on a deep well of understanding that is cultivated in a Christian liberal arts education.

¹ See Adam Smith (1776), *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, Prometheus Books (1991), note in particular Book 1, Chapter 2. Douglass C. North (1990), *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*, Cambridge University Press.

² Francis Fukuyama (2001), *Social Capital, Civil Society and Development*, *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 7-20.

Dr. Peter Frank is the Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs at Grove City College. Frank also teaches economics.

Monterey Park, Evansville Shootings and Brandon Tsay - We Need to Hear the News, Good and Bad



GLENN MOLLETTE
Guest Column

We like good news but typically the news is not good. Too often no news is good news. In reality, no news is bad news for us all.

There is lots of recent bad news. A crazed gunman entered a dance hall in Monterey Park, California killing 10 people and wounding many innocent people. A former employee walked into an Evansville, Indiana Walmart and shot an employee in the face in the store break-room. The shooter was killed by local police. A planned protest in downtown Atlanta turned violent when protestors damaged stores and burned a police car over the weekend.

We did hear astonishing good news from Monterey Park. Brandon Tsay confronted the gunman at a second location where he was about to enter and kill more people. He heroically wrestled the gun away from the killer and pointed it at him causing the gunman to leave the scene. Only God knows how many lives Tsay saved. He is a true hero.

News is always happening nationally, locally and individually to us all. We need the information whether it's good or bad. We need the national and regional news but the local news is up front and close to us.

For example, all around us we are targets of scams, thieves and prowling bad people. Americans were scammed to the tune 5.8 billion dollars in 2021. (Digital Guardian). We are never beyond being duped. Today, daily text messages, emails, phone calls and mail come to Americans phishing for a sucker who will buy the false story they are telling. They are good at what they do.

My son was away in a foreign country when I was duped out of \$350 years ago. The caller was very professional sounding and convincing. I believed that if I did not pay the money owed by my son it would negatively impact his career. This was at the beginning of the telephone scam industry and I paid him the money. Later I

realized that I had been scammed.

Years ago, a dear friend received a telephone call from someone posing as an IRS agent. The scammer told the senior adult man that he owed \$45,000 in back taxes for various reasons. The friend was about 90 years old and living on a meager retirement income. He didn't realize he was being scammed, was overwhelmed with anxiety and killed himself.

“At every level of life there is a new devil,” an old friend once said. At every stage of life there are new twists, turns and curves. We are never beyond being informed, learning and developing. Young people make mistakes but so do old people. We often think we've lived long enough and know most everything, but we don't. Most of us have become more aware of this problem but crooks work at catching people off guard and are constantly developing new schemes.

Today, we have search engines and are inundated with news and information. However, we don't hear all the news nor do we know everything we need to know when we need to know. Often, we learn the hard way. This is why education is expensive. Life experience education is often the most expensive and difficult of all learning processes. Even in life education we learn but we don't always utilize the life experience very much. Too often we repeat the same mistakes hoping for a different outcome.

We can't go wrong with good information. This is why you need the publication you are reading. Your local paper and online news sources are crucial to a community's health and overall well-being. Local newspapers, blogs and online sources tell what is happening in your local town and county. Support this news source with your subscription and advertising needs. County newspapers that have been around for years continue to close. Every week I receive notification of a newspaper printing its final edition and that's not good news.

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

Buy. Sell. Rent. Lease.



THE TIMES classifieds.

The Times

Public Notices Deadline:

11:00 a.m.

2 Business Days Prior to Publication

legals@thetimes24-7.com

Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline

May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee

In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement