

▶ TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.



▶ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Nancy Hernandez smile? "Working at Adriene's," said the Noblesville resident who has worked at Adriene's Flowers & Gifts on Conner Street in Noblesville for 26 years. "I like working here. Everybody's nice. The owners are really nice. We're more like a family than employees." She was very busy and was found getting ready for Valentine's Day, the second-busiest holiday for the shop, the first busiest being Mother's Day. "It'll get worse as the week goes on." What's the most popular flower for Valentine's Day? "Roses, red roses," she said. For Monday and Tuesday (Valentine's Day), she said Adriene's would have extra crews to help with the deliveries. Noblesville Lions and Noblesville High School show choirs' Noble Roadies will volunteer to deliver flowers on Monday and Tuesday. She was born Nancy Sylvester in Noblesville. Her dad was Charles Sylvester, who retired from the Noblesville Fire Department. She graduated from NHS in 1974. She is married to Joe Hernandez and they have two sons, Jason and Mark.

And Another Few Things...

1. February Luncheon

Established as the newest campus of the Ivy Tech Community College system in 2021, Westfield has had a front-row seat to watch Chancellor Dr. Stacy Atkinson, the faculty and the staff of the Ivy Tech Hamilton County Campus grow into a campus with 44 programs, the ability to confer its own degrees and build a team from 16 full-time employees to 58.

At the Westfield Chamber's February luncheon, Dr. Atkinson will talk about the growing campus and how it is helping to meet the needs of Hamilton County students. She will also discuss ways businesses can partner with Ivy Tech. Ivy Tech recognizes the growing demand for additional staff training across many industries, so she will discuss how they meet that need today and plan for the future.

The cherry on top - Dr. Atkinson will share insight into her leadership mantra, her ability to build relationships and what it means to represent companies and brands in the community. She has an insightful message to share and will keep you laughing throughout her presentation. The Westfield Chamber is encouraging all members to come learn more about Ivy Tech.

Visit business.westfieldchamberindy.com/event-calendar/Details/february-chamber-luncheon-813420 to register to attend.

2. Easier FSA Loans

The USDA has developed a simplified direct loan application to provide improved customer experience for producers applying for loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The simplified loan application enables producers to complete a more streamlined application, down from 29 to 13 pages. Producers will also have the option to complete an electronic fillable form or prepare a traditional paper application for submission to their local FSA farm loan office. Both versions of the form will be available on March 1, 2023.

Coupled with the Loan Assistance Tool released in October 2022, the simplified application will provide loan applicants access to information regarding the application process and assist them with gathering the correct documents before beginning the process. This new application will help farmers and ranchers submit complete loan applications and reduce the number of incomplete, rejected or withdrawn applications.

The simplified direct loan application and Loan Assistance Tool are the first of multiple farm loan process improvements that will be available to USDA customers on farmers.gov in the future. Other improvements that are anticipated to launch in 2023 include:

- An interactive online direct loan application that gives customers a paperless and electronic signature option, along with the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns.
- An online direct loan repayment feature that relieves borrowers from the necessity of calling, mailing, or visiting a local Service Center to pay a loan installment.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

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Best Equipment Co. Announces New Headquarters in Noblesville



Mayor Chris Jensen

Best Equipment Company has announced plans to build a new 35,000-square-foot headquarters in the City of Noblesville. Family owned and operated since 1917, Best Equipment is relocating its headquarters from Lawrence, Ind.

"Best Equipment's decision to relocate their corporate headquarters to Noblesville continues



our strategy to grow our economic base through corporate relocations in our community," Mayor Chris Jensen said.

"Besides having great people and superior products, Best Equipment is unique because of its values, customer focus and community involvement. We are happy to welcome them home to Noblesville."

Best Equipment will bring approximately 40 new jobs to Noblesville as part of its \$9.6 million investment. The new

headquarters will be located on 11.56 acres at the northwest corner of 141st Street and Herriman Boulevard. The facility will have a campus feel and will provide centralized support to their staff in Indiana, as well as their two Midwest service branches.

Construction of Best Equipment's modern, state of the art headquarters will include premium office space, an open training area for their own employees and their customers on their products, a showroom of the newest technology in heavy duty environmental equipment, and common areas both outside and inside to host events.

Best Equipment is one of the oldest environmental equipment companies in the country. It has a long history of providing Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky, and recently expanded into Michigan, with environmentally sound, efficient and budget-sav-

▶ See BEST Page A6

Prom Night Train, Valentine Ballet, Heart Hike, Goddess Brunch, More This Weekend



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

A home show, a sweetheart ballet, Prom Night Train, Heart Hike, plays and more can be found in our list of more than 25 things to do this weekend and beyond:

1. Visit the Suburban Indy Home & Outdoor Living Show beginning at 10 a.m. today, Saturday and Sunday at Grand Park Event Center in Westfield, with free parking and online tickets \$5.

2. Enjoy the Second Friday with Fishers Arts Council: Embracing Black Culture from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. today at the Hamilton County Community Foundation in Fishers.

3. Take your sweetheart to see the ballet, EnPointe Indiana Ballet's "Sweet Love," at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday at Noblesville High School, with reserved seating available.

4. Experience Basile Westfield Playhouse's production of "Night Must Fall," directed by Ian Hauer, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays, through Feb. 19, with tickets at westfieldplayhouse.org

5. Experience Hamilton County Theatre Guild and The

Belfry Theatre's "Around the World in 80 Days," directed by Eric Matters, opening today and continuing through Feb. 19 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 www.thebelfrytheatre.com.

6. See the story of Anne Frank come to life in "The Diary of Anne Frank" today through Feb. 25 at Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre in Carmel.

7. Take in live music with The Dead Squirrels from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. today and Kris Huntley on Saturday at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

8. Nickel Plate Arts has Valentine's offerings with a family-friendly event with Caravan Classes from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Nickel Plate Arts Campus in Noblesville.

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

10. Get out in nature at the Heart Hike 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Ritchie Woods Nature Preserve in Fishers, with no registration required.

11. Board the Prom Night Murder Express '84 at 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Nickel Plate Express, featuring dinner, live music in Atlanta with the Stompers, plus a murder mystery, with tickets \$159 for ages 21 and older, and \$154 for ages 13-20, with choice of beef or chicken, and guests invited to dress as they did in 1984, period clothing mandatory and prom dresses and tuxedos recommended but not required.

12. Enjoy live music with

▶ See BETSY Page A6

Embracing Black Culture Features Fall Creek Junior High Artists and Local Fiber Artist



Jean-Michel Basquiat

Fall Creek Junior High art students, under the guidance of art department chair Michelle Feeney, have developed their own self-portraits inspired by American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat's unique style. These self-portraits are on display in the Fishers Arts Council Gallery at the Collaboration Hub at the Hamilton County Community Foundation this February.

The students captured themselves and used voice and imagery to bring light to social issues that were personal to them. You can read about their artwork through their written artist statements that accompany each piece.

Students were given the choice to display their work publicly in a gallery setting, along with having the opportunity to sell their work, and over 100 students jumped at the chance.

In addition to visual artwork, many students have also contributed colorful reports on Black Americans who have made

▶ See ARTIST Page A6

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:43 a.m.
SET: 6:13 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 42 °F
Low: 33 °F



- Today is...**
- Plimsoll Day
 - Teddy Day
 - The Inbox Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1861 Jefferson Davis is notified that he was chosen as provisional President of the Confederate States of America
- 1906 HMS *Dreadnought*, the first of a revolutionary new breed of battleships, is christened
- 1967 The 25th Amendment to the US Constitution is ratified



Births On This Day

- 1890 Boris Pasternak Russian author, poet and Nobel Prize laureate
- 1929 Jerry Goldsmith American composer and conductor

Deaths On This Day

- 1837 Alexander Pushkin Russian author and poet
- 1932 Edgar Wallace English journalist, author and playwright

▶ INSIDE TODAY

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▶ HONEST HOOSIER

Valentine's Day is a few days away. Do you know where your next Valentine's Day present is? You better!



▶ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Learn to read food labels and watch for ingredients that end in -ose, that means it's a form of sugar. 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

"If I had a single flower for every time I think about you, I could walk through my garden forever."
Claudia Adrienne Grandi

▶ TODAY'S JOKE

What'd one oar say to the other oar?
How about a little row-mance!

▶ OBITUARIES

None

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



WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
14/21 A.M. WIND CHILL -5 TO 0°	16/43 BREEZY, NOT AS COLD	33/48 WARMING UP	28/49 BREEZY, MILD	45/56 MUCH WETTER WITH RAIN CHANCE	41/53 SCATTERED SHOWERS	45/55 STILL MILD

⇒ OBITUARIES

Philip Barkley

March 22, 1935-February 4, 2023

Philip Barkley, age 87, passed away at his home in Sheridan, Indiana on Saturday morning, Feb. 4, 2023. Born March 22, 1935, in Tipton, Indiana, he was the son of the late Theodore M. and Elizabeth F. (Skelton) Barkley. He was a 1954 graduate of Kokomo High School, and worked as a draftsman for Tuttle Aluminum for 35 years. Philip had a love for design and was humbled to be able to put his mark on many churches throughout the years, including the Sheridan Bible Church and the Windfall Church. Philip was a 60-year member of the Sheridan Bible Church. He graciously served the congregation in many capacities, including Sunday school teacher, church secretary, and church trustee. Philip loved outdoor activities. He enjoyed bicycling, hunting, and fly fishing. By far his favorite activity was taking his grandkids to Pacers games. He always enjoyed the games, but the time spent with the grandchildren was the real treat. Philip is survived by his four sons, Daniel J. Barkley (Debbie) of Santiago, Chile, David L. Barkley (Tina) of Danville, Mark A. Barkley of Sheridan, and Andrew A. Barkley (Donna) of Delphi; daughter, Rebekah J. Barkley-Emry of Grand Blanc, Michigan; 10 grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; 3 great-great grandchildren; brother, Arthur Barkley of Peru, Indiana; sister, Pauline Linger of Akron, Ohio; brother-in-law, Herbert Goodrich of Monterey, Tennessee; and sisters-in-law Janet Irene Martin of Kokomo, and Lori Barkley of Fishers. He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore M. and Elizabeth F. (Skelton) Barkley; son Paul Gilbert Barkley; brother, Timothy Barkley; sister, Janice Goodrich; son-in-law, Jim Emry; brothers-in-law, Robert Linger and James Martin; and by the love of his life, Carol Levee (Besser) Barkley on January 25, 2018. She and Philip were married on June 18, 1954. Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at the Sheridan Bible Church, 1478 State Road 38, Sheridan, Indiana. Burial will follow at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan, Indiana. Reverend Daniel Barkley, Pastor Terry Cooper, and Pastor Harrell Wilson will be officiating. Visitation will take place from 4-8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, at the Sheridan Bible Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Sheridan Bible Church.



When Left to My New Book About Own Devices . . . '65 Palm Sunday Tornadoes Now Available Online



DICK WOLFSIE
Life in a Nutshell

Mary Ellen and I compete against each other every evening as we watch Jeopardy! I usually win because she is also playing Sudoku and is only listening to the show. She doesn't realize the closed captions come up on the screen to reveal the answer before contestants buzz in. So, when I hear a clue like: It's the highest point in South Dakota, I yell out: "What is Black Elk Peak?" Mary Ellen is impressed and always asks, "How did you know that?" That question would be easier to answer if I were willing to admit to cheating.

There's more competition in our household. Right now, we have the following electronic devices plugged in: my Amazon Fire, Mary Ellen's Kindle, my Apple Watch, her Fitbit. Three Alexa Echoes, and two iPhones. Oh, and a landline phone, which I seldom use. But you'd have to pry it from my cold dead hands. I'm old school.

I purchased new hearing aids before the holidays. These are incredible devices that have changed my life, but not always for the better. You see, these devices are intended to interface with other electronic devices, which has caused somewhat of a bidding war for my undivided attention.

When I am jogging, for example, my cell phone might ring. I hear that ring through my hearing aids. But then I must dig the phone out of my sweatpants pocket

and select how I want to converse with the caller: over my headset, through my hearing aids, on the speaker or holding the phone to my ear. Here I am moving at a blistering three miles per hour and they expect me to make this decision on the run. Well, it's not really a run, but still it's a blistering three miles per hour. I know one thing: whichever option I choose, the phrase "Can you hear me now?" is bound to be said about a half dozen times during the call.

The other night I asked Alexa to play John Legend. My Apple Watch chimed in and said: "Sorry, to hear John Legend you must sign up for Apple Music."

"I'm not talking to you," I yelled at my wrist. Then I realized I should watch my tone because all the gadgets in my house are monitoring me. They know my most personal secrets. Best not to disrespect them.

Recently, during a nap, I was awakened when one of my wife's audio books for her monthly book club starting coming through my hearing aids. No matter what I did, I couldn't turn the sound off. Later that week, I was the only person at the woman's book club discussion that hated "Bridget Jones's Diary."

Just this past weekend, I asked Alexa what the weather would be like for the coming week. After a brief pause, she said: "I'm sorry, I can't answer that question while you are driving your car."

"I am not driving," I told her. "I am on my treadmill, going at the blistering speed of..."

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.

Applications Available for Indiana Court of Appeals

Chief Justice Loretta Rush announced yesterday that the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission will begin accepting applications for a vacancy on the Court of Appeals. The position on the state's second highest court will become available when Judge Margret Robb retires this summer.

The chief justice encourages eligible Indiana judges and lawyers to consider applying. Applications are due by March 17 at 12 p.m.

A candidate for the

vacancy must be an Indiana resident living in the second appellate district. Candidates must also be a member of the Indiana Bar for at least ten years or have served as an Indiana judge for five years.

The application—which must be submitted online through the Indiana Courts Portal and in hard copy to the Judicial Nominating Commission—requires candidates to provide pertinent background information, writing samples, references, and educational

A new book covering Indiana's worst natural disaster — The 1965 Palm Sunday Tornadoes in Indiana — is now available from national publisher The History Press. The book was written and compiled by Tipton-based author Janis Thornton.

The tornadoes that devastated much of Indiana were part of a collective rampage that ripped through six Midwestern states. The day started as the nicest of the year, with the kind of weather that encouraged Hoosiers to enjoy an afternoon outdoors, fire up the barbecue grill, hit the golf course, or take a leisurely drive through the country.

That evening, however, the skies over northern and central Indiana turned an ominous black and storms moved in, quickly manifesting as the worst tornado outbreak in Indiana history. Within three hours, twisters, some a half-mile wide, swept through seventeen counties, destroying communities and leaving death and destruction in their wake.

When the tornadoes were finished with Indiana, 137 people were dead, hundreds were injured, and thousands more were forever changed.

Thornton's book is the first encompassing all three lines of tornadoes that tore through northern and central Indiana on April 11, 1965. The book features dozens of photographs and more than 100 stories shared by people

who experienced the tornadoes' wrath first hand. The stories tell of heroism, terror and heartbreaking loss, many told for the first time.

"When people ask what drew me to this project," said Thornton, "my answer is simple: I love people, I love history, and I love telling powerful stories. Recording one of Indiana's most tragic natural events through the experiences of people who lived it makes for powerful storytelling, and I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to document how so many lives were touched that long-ago Palm Sunday night."

The 1965 Palm Sunday Tornadoes in Indiana is Thornton's sixth non-fiction work. Her previous works include true crimes books, No Place Like Murder and Too Good a Girl; pictorial histories covering Tipton County, Frankfort and Elwood, Indiana; as well as three mystery novels. She is a member of The Authors Guild, the national and Indianapolis chapter of Sisters in Crime, Women Fiction Writers Association, the Indianapolis Writers Center, and the Tipton County (Indiana) Historical Society.

The book is available for purchase at major bookstores and online booksellers, as well as Thornton's website, janis-thornton.com. For more information, contact Thornton on her website.

⇒ Meeting Notice

Noblesville Council Public Safety Committee

The Noblesville Council Public Safety Commit-

tee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023 has been changed to Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in the Council conference room at City Hall, 16 South 10th St.

SERVPRO Urges Noblesville Property Owners to Focus on Disaster Readiness

Since Fall 2022, the United States has experienced extreme weather from coast to coast ranging from major rain and flood events to hurricanes and tornadoes to extreme freezing conditions including a "once in a generation blizzard." As catastrophic weather events impact property owners more frequently, it magnifies the need for disaster readiness ahead of this spring's storm season.

The National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), reports that from 1980-2022, there were, on average, 7.9 "billion-dollar" events each year. In 2021, there were 20 "billion-dollar" weather or climate disaster events, and 2022 delivered another 18 - each year more than doubling the previous multi-year average.

Because spring weather can be particularly unpredictable, SERVPRO franchise owners in the Noblesville area urge

property owners to take advantage of state, federal and other online resources now to prepare for a possible severe weather event. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offers tips at [cdc.gov/nceh/features/springweather/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/springweather/index.html) for preparing an emergency kit to have on hand. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers an emergency preparedness checklist at [fema.gov/sites/prod/files/FEMA_Red-Cross_Emergency_Preparedness_Checklist.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/prod/files/FEMA_Red-Cross_Emergency_Preparedness_Checklist.pdf), and more ideas and tools are available from sources like the Red Cross, the AARP and others.

For more information on SERVPRO in the area, contact one of the local business owners below:

*For SERVPRO of Hamilton County, contact Mike Johnson at (317) 773-0422 or office@servproindynorth.com.

*For SERVPRO of Howard/Tipton Counties, contact Steven Wolf at (765) 459-3473 or servpro8741ht@sbcglobal.net.

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
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
PENDING
Pristine home situated in the heart of North Harbour on over half an acre (.65). Features include 4BR, 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 fall in love with a new home!
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 Latest News and Notes From Kenny

Two former Purdue standouts who skipped the Citrus Bowl game ostensibly to avoid injury and improve their NFL prospects succeeded on the first goal but their professional outlook doesn't seem to have changed significantly.

Quarterback Aidan O'Connell is projected to be a mid-to-late Day 3 pick, which ranges from the fourth through seventh rounds, by ESPN.com writer Jordan Reid. O'Connell was ranked 10th on Reid's NFL Draft quarterback rankings following the East-West and Senior bowls.

"O'Connell has a quick, over-the-top release, and he's a timing-based passer who gets the ball out in a hurry," Reid states. "And despite an average arm, he shows the ability to anticipate when throwing to the intermediate areas and quickly process pre-snap reads to attack the underneath areas."

"During practices at the Shrine Bowl, O'Connell was sharp in getting through his reads and placing the ball in adequate spots for his targets. He displayed efficient footwork and was often able to marry it up with concepts that were asked of him. If O'Connell improves ball placement consistency, he could be a popular target for teams in the fourth or fifth round."

Reid sees a potential fit for O'Connell with the Los Angeles Chargers, who feature Justin Herbert as



KEN THOMPSON
Columnist

the starting quarterback. Veteran backup Chase Daniel and Easton Stick are the other QBs on the Chargers roster.

"O'Connell needs to be in a scheme that keeps him on schedule, and the Chargers are an ideal fit because of their propensity to rely on getting the ball out quickly," Reid writes. "O'Connell's at his best when he can make quick decisions and keep pass-rushers from bearing down on him."

Tight end Payne Durham was ranked among a short list of players who impressed during Senior Bowl practices and game action.

NFL.com writer Eric Edholm says to look past meager bowl game statistics (two receptions for 24 yards, plus a two-point conversion) in Durham's case.

"Durham appeared to improve with each day during practice and might have saved his best for Saturday's game," Edholm writes.

"Durham ... showed off impressive athleticism for a 258-pounder."

"It unquestionably was a productive week for Durham, who at times outshined the more ballyhooed Luke Musgrave (Oregon State) in the buzz department, making several contested catches this week. Considering that Durham, a former lacrosse player, didn't play football until late in high school and arguably was underused at times for the Boilermakers, he's a rising prospect worth keeping tabs on."

Three other Boilermakers are also draft prospects: cornerback Cory Trice, linebacker/safety Jalen Graham and All-American wide receiver Charlie Jones.

Football transfer talk
Former Texas

quarterback Hudson Card may be the instant impact transfer for Purdue football in 2023, but another new Boilermaker could be instrumental in keeping Card's jersey clean.

Jalen Grant, a former guard at Bowling Green, is among the 10 "more important than you think Big Ten transfers" in On3.com writer Mike Huguenin's opinion.

The 6-3, 285-pound Grant was a three-year starter who also has experience at center, which could ease concerns about Purdue's three-year starting center Gus Hartwig's recovery from a knee injury.

Huguenin speculates that Grant could step into the role vacated by Spencer Holstege's transfer to

UCLA.

Grant is one of five transfers, so far, added by first-year coach Ryan Walters. In addition to Card, the others are defensive lineman Isaiah Nichols and safety Anthony Brown from Arkansas, and former Stanford defensive back Salim Turner-Muhammad.

Future Indiana offensive lineman Max Longman (Massachusetts) and former Hoosiers tight end AJ Barner, now at Michigan, also made Huguenin's list. The 6-4, 302-pound Longman was a three-year starter who played for new IU offensive coordinator Walt Bell. Barner was Indiana's third-leading receiver in 2022.

One more accolade for Edey

With his selection as co-Big Ten Player of the Week on Monday, Purdue junior center Zach Edey is just one more Big Ten honor away from matching the single-season league record.

Ohio State great Evan Turner was chosen Player of the Week seven times during the 2010-11 season. Edey's sixth award was shared with Indiana's Trayce Jackson-Davis for the second week in a row.

Edey tied the late Caleb Swanigan, who was named Big Ten Player of the Week six times in 2016-17, for the Purdue record.

Against Penn State and Indiana, Edey averaged 25.5 points, 15.5 rebounds, 2.0 blocks and 1.5 assists in 30 minutes

per game. He shot 22-of-28 (.786) from the field and 7-of-9 (.778) from the free throw line in the two games.

Edey leads the nation with 19 double-doubles, second in rebounds (13.2 per game) and fourth in scoring (22.4). His six games with at least 30 points and 10 rebounds is more than the rest of the Big Ten combined (5). He's also doing it against the best teams. In 10 games against foes ranked in the nation's top 50, Edey is averaging 25 points and 13 rebounds while shooting better than 60 percent.

The top-ranked Boilermakers took a three-game lead in the Big Ten (with seven games to play) over Indiana and Rutgers into Thursday night's home game against Iowa.

C-Plus for Purdue

Not surprisingly, the hire of first-time head coach Ryan Walters did not receive high marks from college football writer Stuart Mandel of The Athletic.

The Boilermakers were given a C-plus, puzzling Mandel by shying away from their history of offensive head coaches. "The 36-year-old did a fantastic job at Illinois, producing the nation's No. 2 defense at a program with little recent success," Mandel writes.

"But the two best coaches in modern Purdue history, Joe Tiller and (Jeff) Brohm, were offensive innovators. Hiring a

defensive-focused coach at a program that will always struggle to amass as much talent as the top half of the Big Ten seems a tad risky."

Not surprisingly, Mandel gave Wisconsin an "A" for hiring Luke Fickell and an A-minus for Nebraska's choice of Matt Rhule.

"Fickell feels like the ideal coach to uphold the program's deep-rooted blue-collar identity while also modernizing it."

"The 47-year-old (Rhule) previous orchestrated remarkable turnarounds at Temple and Baylor, which should prove valuable in undertaking what could be a massive rebuild in Lincoln."

Louisville also received an "A" for luring hometown hero Jeff Brohm away from West Lafayette.

"My 2016-17 coaching grades have been washed from the internet, but I'm fairly sure I gave Purdue an A for hiring Brohm," Mandel writes. "Louisville gets the same for bringing him home. Brohm is an outstanding offensive coach who led the Boilers to their best run in two decades, and now he returns to a school and a city where he and his family are football royalty. That's a lot to like."

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.

Committee Scales Down Pregnancy Child Support Proposal

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

House lawmakers on Wednesday approved a scaled-back version of a bill that originally would've let expectant mothers claim child support beginning at conception — in the wake of Indiana's much-litigated abortion ban.

Instead, the House Judiciary Committee stripped the bill and replaced it with language allowing courts to make fathers pay for a wider range of expenses, amid fears the original language would open up a can of legal worms.

Indiana law already allows court orders to include half of costs for prenatal and postnatal

care, delivery, and hospitalization. The amended House Bill 1009 would add two more options: "other necessary expenses" related to birth, and "postpartum" expenses.

"When we talk about [birth-related expenses], I want you to think about everything that's needed from the day that you walk out of the hospital," said Rep. Elizabeth Rowray, R-Yorktown. That could include a car seat, a crib, mattress, blanket, diapers, wipes, nursing supplies and more.

"You can't wait for child support to kick in a month later," she said.

Postpartum expenses, Rowray added, could

mean medical issues that develop during pregnancy or birth, like those who lose their teeth because of hormonal changes.

"I think that adding [the provisions] in here is really necessary to make sure that the children that are being born have everything they need on the day" upon discharge from a hospital, she said.

Legal fears remain Though the bill did away with a novel attempt to expand child support through the 40 weeks of pregnancy, some still saw potential legal trouble in the replacement language.

The term "other necessary expenses" could lead to "creative lawyering" or "over-lawyering," said Andrew

Soshnick, a family law attorney speaking on behalf of the Indiana State Bar Association's Family & Juvenile Law Section.

He said it could also overlap with child support provisions currently on the books.

The term "postpartum," could also engender legal fights about causation, Soshnick said: did pregnancy cause the medical issue, or would it have happened regardless — and should the father now pay for it?

And he said that the bill could be vulnerable to legal challenges over income, because the new provisions could encompass child support-like expenses, but the 50-50 divide doesn't account

for differences in income.

"Is this a deviation from the income-shares model ... that the Indiana Supreme Court, in adopting this rule, could find inappropriate?" Soshnick asked. "Again, we don't have the answers. We're simply pointing out potential issues with respect to this legislation as drafted."

But for others, the bill was still a way to boost support for Hoosier families.

"I know a lot of other people were really hopeful that it wouldn't just end with things being anti-abortion, but that it would actually be pro-life, and that there would be bills that would help support mothers, babies and

families, said Angela Espada, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference.

"We see this bill as doing that," she concluded.

The committee approved the bill unanimously, 11-0. It now moves to the full House for any new amendments.

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Indiana Members Credit Union Announces Senior Leadership Promotions

Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU) recently announced 10 senior leadership promotions to further position the credit union for growth and success.

"We are proud to appoint John Newett as our President and CEO," said Robert E. Martin, Board Chairman.

"John's dedication, leadership, strong financial background, and proven success at Indiana Members Credit Union position him well for this role. Our Board of Directors is confident that John and this senior leadership team will continue to build on the IMCU legacy of member service, growth and success."

"I'm grateful for the continued trust in me to lead our IMCU team and look forward to collaborating with our team of senior leaders," said John Newett, President and CEO of IMCU.

"We're pleased to elevate these 9 individuals from our team to their new roles. These changes allow IMCU to more efficiently manage a growing organization and position us to deliver on our mission of People Helping People. They each have and will continue to play a vital role in leading our organization as we continue to deliver



quality financial services to Hoosiers, and assist in helping our communities thrive."

John Newett was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of IMCU effective January 1, 2023. Newett succeeds Ron Collier, who retired as Chief Executive Officer of IMCU in December 2022. Newett joined IMCU in 2011 as Director of Planning and Administration and was named President of the credit union in April 2022. He has over 26 years of experience in the financial services industry.

Newett is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), a Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA), and has served in leadership roles for many professional and trade organizations.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Business from Indiana University Kelley School of Business at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Todd Habig has been promoted to Chief Financial Officer. He has been with IMCU for 37 years, overseeing Finance, Compliance and several mergers.

Habig is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). In this role, Habig will lead Commercial Services, Accounting, and Investment Services, while continuing to focus on the long-term financial success of the credit union. Habig is a graduate of Butler University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Justin Sinders has been promoted to Chief Strategy Officer. Sinders has been with IMCU since 2012, and is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). In this new role, he will focus on strategic initiatives which include growing new markets, and expanding the information security and business intelligence programs. Sinders will oversee the Market Presidents, Finance and Mortgage Departments and serve on the Commercial Loan Committee. He served 8 years in the Army National Guard, and is a graduate of Indiana University Kelley School of Business.

Scott Mann has been promoted to Chief Retail Officer. Mann has been with IMCU for 34 years. In this role, Mann will lead Retail Operations, which include the Branch Network, Consumer Lending, Deposit Operations, Member Services, Cards, Digital,

and Facilities Departments. He is a graduate of the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University.

Thorpe Miller has been promoted to Chief Marketing Officer. Miller has been with IMCU for 10 years. In this new role, Miller will continue to lead the Marketing and Business Development teams, in addition to overseeing the Community Relations Department and initiatives. Miller is a graduate of Anderson University with Bachelor degrees in Marketing and Management.

Tom Wellman has been promoted to Chief Risk Officer and General Counsel. Wellman has been with IMCU for 15 years. In this expanded role, Wellman will lead Risk Management, Legal, Compliance, and Collections. Wellman holds a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Ball State University, and his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the Indiana University McKinney School of Law. He has been a member of the Indiana Bar since 2003.

Jeff Hawkins has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Information Systems. Hawkins has been with IMCU for 30 years. In this role, Hawkins will continue

to lead the Information Systems Department and focus on positioning the credit union with best in class technology solutions for members and employees. Hawkins holds a Bachelor's degree in Finance from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business.

Chantelle Sparks has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Human Resources. Sparks has been with IMCU for 30 years. In this role, Sparks will lead DEI, Recruiting, Training, Employee Development, and Human Resources including payroll and benefits. Sparks is a graduate of Ball State University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

Michael Murphy has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Commercial Services. Murphy has been with IMCU for 17 years, and has 30+ years of commercial lending experience. In this role, Murphy will continue to lead the Business Lending team with a continued focus on providing small business members with the funds and services needed to run their business. Murphy is a graduate of St. Joseph's College and holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in

Finance and a minor in Economics.

Daralyn Schneider has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Mortgage Services. Schneider has been with IMCU since 2014. In this role, Schneider will continue to lead the Mortgage Lending team, focusing on process improvement and training opportunities to continue delivering an exceptional mortgage experience to members. Schneider is a graduate of Marian University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration as well as a graduate of the School of Mortgage Banking, through the Mortgage Bankers Association.

About Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU):

Indiana Members Credit Union, headquartered in Indianapolis, was founded in 1956 on the campus of IUPUI. IMCU has since grown to 32 branches, serving Central and Southern Indiana, offering consumer and business members a full array of products and services.

Traditionally offering better rates on loans and deposits, IMCU maintains true to its roots by "Keeping It Simple" for members.

For more information, visit imcu.com.

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Photo courtesy of MJ Multimedia

Laurie Hayn lost her left arm and leg in a combine entanglement in 2018. During her 2023 AgrAbility National Training Workshop keynote address, she will share how the AgrAbility program helped her continue farming after her accident.

Indiana AgrAbility Farmer to Speak at 2023 AgrAbility National Training Workshop

The National AgrAbility Project, housed at Purdue University's Breaking New Ground Resource Center, invites farmers, ranchers and agriculture professionals to the 2023 AgrAbility National Training Workshop (NTW) to address issues of disability in agriculture.

The workshop will take place March 20-23 at the Centennial Hotel in Spokane, Washington. Early bird pricing ends on Feb. 17, with registration ending on March 13. The complete event schedule, pricing and hotel information are available online.

"The 2023 NTW will be held in conjunction with the Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Network, so there will be a special focus on the mental and behavioral health needs of farmers and ranchers," said NAP manager Paul Jones.

"We're also excited to

have one of our Indiana AgrAbility clients, Laurie Hayn, as the keynote speaker. She has overcome severe disabilities to remain productive and positive."

Hayn lost her left arm and leg in a combine entanglement in 2018. She will share how the AgrAbility program helped her continue farming after the accident. A preview of her inspirational story can be viewed online. Additional event breakout sessions will cover topics such as farm stress, assistive agriculture technology, support for veteran and beginning farmers, and more.

Attendees will have the opportunity to tour sites that include a beef cattle operation, a family-run farm and the Washington State University Wilke Research Farm.

Traditionally known for helping those with physi-

cal disabilities gain access to assistive technologies, AgrAbility continues to evolve to meet the needs of underserved populations, including but not limited to veterans and caregivers. Connect with AgrAbility on social media to learn the latest about assistive technologies, resources, safety tips, information, and more.

• **Facebook:** @NationalAgrAbilityProject

• **Twitter:** @NatlAgrAbility

First authorized in the 1990 Farm Bill (with funding appropriations beginning in 1991), AgrAbility is a grant-funded program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Each project must involve a collaboration between a land-grant university and at least one non-profit disability services organization.

Over \$24.6M from Interior Department Now Available to Create Union Jobs and Spur Economic Revitalization in Indiana



The Department of the Interior yesterday announced more than \$24.6 million in fiscal year 2022 funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to create good-paying union jobs and catalyze economic opportunity by reclaiming abandoned mine lands in Indiana.

Millions of Americans nationwide live less than a mile from an abandoned coal mine. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allocated a total of \$16 billion to address legacy pollution, including \$11.3 billion in abandoned mine land funding over 15 years, facilitated by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

This funding is expected to address the majority of inventoried abandoned coal mine lands in the nation, which will help communities address and eliminate dangerous environmental conditions and pollution caused by historic coal mining.

"President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has given us a historic opportunity to address legacy pollution in Indiana and across the country. The reclamation landscape of tomorrow presents endless opportunities for innovation, efficiency and partnership," said Secretary Deb Haaland.

"Reclaiming and restoring these sites will create jobs, revitalize economic



US Interior Secretary Deb Haaland

activity, and advance outdoor recreation. I am so excited about what we can do with these new resources, today and for future generations."

To date, nearly \$677 million in awards have been announced for 18 states. Funding will be awarded to additional eligible states and Tribes on a rolling basis as they apply.

AML reclamation supports jobs in coal communities by investing in projects that close dangerous mine shafts, reclaim unstable slopes, improve water quality by treating acid mine drainage, and restore water supplies damaged by mining.

It also enables economic revitalization by reclaiming hazardous land for recreational facilities and other economic redevelopment uses like advanced manufacturing and renewable energy deployment. As directed by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, funding will prioritize projects that employ dislocated coal industry workers.

This funding will enable states to remediate abandoned mines that are leaking methane – a key contributor to climate change.

This effort also advances the Justice40 Initiative that commits to delivering 40

percent of the benefits of certain climate and clean energy investments to disadvantaged communities.

As required by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, funding allocations are determined based on the number of tons of coal historically produced in each state or on Indian lands before Aug. 3, 1977, when the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act was enacted.

States are guaranteed at least \$20 million over the 15-year life of the program if their inventory of AML sites would cost more than \$20 million to address. As state AML inventories are updated, future distributions may change.

These Bipartisan Infrastructure Law AML funds supplement traditional annual AML grants, which are funded by active coal operations. In the 45 years since SMCRA was enacted, OSMRE has provided more than \$8 billion under the AML reclamation program to reclaim lands and waters that were mined or affected by mining prior to 1977.

About the U.S. Department of the Interior:

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

Comprehensive School Counseling Grant Recipients Announced



Secretary Katie Jenner

In conjunction with School Counseling Week, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) yesterday announced recipients of \$5 million in funding, which will support 26 school districts, charter schools and community partners to further develop and expand school counseling services and resources that improve student achievement, well-being and college and career readiness.

A full list of school districts and partners receiving the Comprehensive School Counseling Grant can be found here. Successful applications specified how grant funding would improve coun-

selor-to-student ratios as well as establish or further strengthen partnerships with community organizations and employers.

"School counselors are uniquely positioned to provide students with a number of important services, including guidance in completing all necessary courses and other graduation requirements, encouraging exploration of career and postsecondary opportunities and overall well-being support," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education.

"The recipients of this grant understand the importance of comprehensive school counseling and the range of support our students need in order to reach their full potential. With this additional funding, they will be better equipped to support the needs of their community, and ultimately, move the needle for their students."

To further support student achievement, well-being and college and career readiness, IDOE identified three key goals when estab-

lishing the Comprehensive School Counseling Grant:

1. Expand the number of Indiana schools providing a comprehensive school counseling program;

2. Explicitly define the role of a school counselor in improving student outcomes as it pertains to the five student characteristics of Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed;

3. Create a network of progress monitoring to assess effectiveness and identify areas in need of additional local support and guidance.

Funding for the Comprehensive School Counseling Grant is allocated as part of the state's federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief plan. Through this grant, more than 117,000 students across 17 Indiana counties will be supported.

To learn more about Indiana's Model for Comprehensive School Counseling, visit media.doe.in.gov/news/indiana-model-for-comprehensive-school-counseling-1.pdf

Senators Young and Kaine Introduce Bill to Formally End Gulf and Iraq Wars

Yesterday, U.S. Senators Todd Young and Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and U.S. Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA-12), Chip Roy (R-TX-21), Abigail Spanberger (D-VA-07) and Tom Cole (R-OK-04) reintroduced bipartisan legislation to repeal the 1991 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force (AUMFs), to formally end the Gulf and Iraq wars, and to reassert Congress' Constitutional role in deciding whether and when to send our servicemembers into harm's way.

The 1991 and 2002 AUMFs—which passed 32 and 20 years ago, respectively—authorized the use of force for the Gulf and Iraq wars, but Congress has failed to repeal these AUMFs to prevent potential misuse by future presidents.

This bill would also enhance the relationship the United States now has with a sovereign, democratic Iraq.

"In 1991, Congress authorized America's involvement in the first Gulf War. Eleven years later, Congress again acted to authorize the invasion of Iraq. Today, Iraq is a strategic partner of the United States in advancing the security and stability of the Middle East. Sadly, according to these laws that are still on the books, Iraq is still technically an enemy of the United States," said Senator Young.

He went on to say, "This inconsistency and inaccuracy should be corrected. Congress must do its job and take seriously the decision to not just commit America to war, but to affirmatively say that we are no longer at war. Our bipartisan legislation will repeal the outdated and unnecessary 1991 and 2002 Authorizations for the Use of Military Force and ensure Congress fulfills its constitutional responsibility."

"Congress is responsible for both declaring wars and ending them because decisions as important as whether or not to send our troops into harm's way warrant careful deliberation and consensus," said Senator Kaine.

"The 1991 and 2002 AUMFs are no longer necessary, serve no operational purpose, and run the risk of potential misuse. Congress owes it to our servicemembers, veterans, and families to pass our bill repealing these outdated AUMFs and formally ending the Gulf and Iraq wars."

"Three presidents have come and gone since Congress last voted to authorize a US invasion of Iraq over twenty years ago; a fourth is now in office. Yet the legacy of these horrific forever wars lives on in the form of the now-obsolete 2002 and 1991 AUMFs. I am proud to join Senators Kaine and Young leading this effort to finally repeal

these authorizations. Reps Roy, Spanberger, Cole and I will be leading the charge in the House to restore our constitutionally protected Congressional war powers in a bipartisan fashion. It's far past time to put decisions of military action back in the hands of the people, as the constitution intended," said Representative Lee.

"Voting on decisions of war and peace is a fundamental and constitutional responsibility for Members of Congress. We must be accountable to the American people and cannot abdicate this responsibility to open-ended AUMFs that give too much power to a President and don't require Congress to take consequential votes," said Representative Spanberger.

"I'm proud to be a part of this serious, bipartisan effort — and I'd like to thank my fellow Virginian Senator Kaine for leading the charge to do what is right for the people we serve and the men and women who keep us safe."

Senators Young and Kaine's bill has garnered bipartisan support since they first introduced it in 2019, and their bill passed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) in August 2021. The House voted to repeal the 1991 and 2002 AUMFs in June 2021.

The full text of the bill is available online at [young.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/AUMF%202023.pdf](https://www.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/AUMF%202023.pdf).

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COPAYS AND DEDUCTIBLES MAY APPLY

Indiana Senators Pass ‘Site of Service’ Bill With Reservations

By Whitney Downard

A bill dictating payments for certain health services based on location — or site of service — cleared a Senate health committee Wednesday, though nearly every senator voiced concerns with the bill.

Senate Bill 6 passed 8-4 with bipartisan votes on both sides, but at least five of the ‘yes’ votes expressed reservations about the measure.

“I think this is a flawed bill unintentionally,” Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, said, before voting yes on the Senate priority bill.

Supporters say that they, through their insurance coverage, shouldn’t have to pay hospital-level prices for care delivered at outpatient clinics owned by hospitals. But hospitals argue that these clinics — whether or not they’re physically part of the hospital — operate under the same regulations and standards set for hospitals.

Hospital prices are typically higher due to the intensive, 24/7 services offered and specialized equipment. Opponents said the bill would cost hospitals billions.

Valparaiso Republican Sen. Ed Charbonneau, the proposal’s author, acknowledged the work ahead for the bill and assured critics that he wouldn’t rush the bill through the chamber. He said he planned to hold the bill on second reading — which allows for amendments from the Senate — until the bill deadline at the end of the month.

Employers seek relief from high health care costs

Employers’ organizations spearheaded the support for the bill, which wouldn’t directly decrease hospital prices but rather decrease costs to those paying for insurance coverage. Under the bill, the site of service — which could include nearly all outpatient treatment depending on the definition — would determine the payment.

Andrew Berger, the senior vice president of the Indiana Manufacturer’s Association, criticized the large reserves held by hospitals — enough to cover operations at some hospitals for up to 260 days — when the state itself only held enough in its reserves to fund 85 days.

“And I don’t think anybody would say that Indiana’s finances aren’t in good shape,” he said.

Berger shared health care costs for several national employers with employees in Indiana, saying companies routinely paid more for health care costs for their Hoosier employees.

One company averaged \$12,000 nationally per employee, compared to \$16,000 for Hoosiers. Another reported health care costs were 15-20% higher in Indiana, even if their Hoosier employees were healthier than their out-of-

state counterparts.

“The fact that employers have a premium they have to pay to employ someone in Indiana... is a problem that can’t go unaddressed,” Berger said.

Gloria Sachdev, the president and CEO of the Employers’ Forum of Indiana, said hospitals purchased independent clinics and then charged patients more, which adds to costs for employers.

“(We should) pay for offices at the same rate no matter who owns the office because the service is the same,” Sachdev said.

Hospitals decry intervention in private negotiations

Hospital representatives said their rate negotiations with insurers already tried to consider the different costs at clinics versus hospital campuses but this bill overrode all of that work on site of service issues.

Gregg Ferlin, a CFO for the parent company of Community Healthcare System in Northwest Indiana, said that his system alone could lose up to \$40 million.

“I’m not exaggerating; this bill will lead to closures and more consolidations,” Ferlin said. “We operate facilities across the Region; this is for ease of patient care and local services. We’re going to be looking at patients driving further for services or, in some cases, not getting service at all.”

Hospitals say that reimbursement rates for government programs haven’t kept pace with costs, meaning health care providers must recoup the loss elsewhere — typically with private insurance holders.

Testimony decried the state’s low insurance reimbursements for physicians, which are some of the lowest in the country. According to the oft-cited RAND study putting Indiana’s hospital costs at 7th in the nation, Indiana ranks fourth-lowest for physician reimbursements as a percentage of Medicare.

Joining a hospital, which receives a higher reimbursement rate, can help those independent physicians who have less bargaining power with insurers, hospitals said.

Republican Sen. Vaneta Becker, whose Evansville district butts up against the Kentucky state border and sits close to Illinois, said her local hospital, Deaconess, had met the national average for care.

But under this bill, certain off-campus treatments like cancer services, would have to close because the system could lose money.

“How is that good for care?” asked Becker, who was one of the four senators to vote against the bill.

Insurers sit out this debate

Senators and testimony alike openly questioned why no insurance representatives had appeared to testify on site of service language. Charbonneau asked committee members to limit testimony related

to insurers, who have their own bills.

Marty Wood, the president of the Insurance Institute of Indiana, said while many insurance stakeholders watched the meeting, the site of service bill didn’t have a direct impact on their industry.

“This is a payment issue and the ultimate payers of these hospital fees, these provider fees, are the business groups,” Wood said. “... the truth of the matter is, this is really more of an issue that impacts the employers.”

Wood noted that their lobbyist, Maddie Howe Augustus, has testified on insurance-specific issues, including prior authorization, and she was scheduled to speak on a separate bill Wednesday morning in the House insurance committee that ultimately wasn’t called.

But Wood noted that health care testimony, particularly on thorny issues, frequently pits insurers against hospitals and is unproductive.

“It kind of devolves into, ‘Who’s the bigger evil?’” he said.

But Wood said his association, which represents industry interests, supported the bill overall so that “facility billing is reflective of where the services were actually presented.”

He said that physician reimbursement is an issue that insurers wanted to participate in but that high hospital reimbursement rates overwhelmed the discussion.

“We want to be involved in discussions on that but those discussions are never going to take place as long as we’ve got hospital reimbursements in the top 10 in the country and so much higher than the average,” Wood said. “And, obviously, so much higher than what the costs really are.”

SB 6 is one of several bills under consideration in the General Assembly as an attempt to reduce above-average health care costs for Hoosiers, which several researchers have attributed to the monopolization and vertical integration of health care under the state’s hospital systems.

Non-profit hospitals, especially, have been a target for legislators, as their reported revenues and investment income increased even during the pandemic.

Though lawmakers in both chambers have heard testimony on several bills, only one other priority bill has advanced — Senate Bill 7, which limits non-compete agreements for physicians.

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Indiana Voters Could Make School Board Elections Partisan Under New GOP-Backed Legislation

By Casey Smith

Indiana voters could get to decide whether their local school board elections should be partisan under a new draft of Republican-backed legislation that lawmakers say would provide “more transparency” about candidates.

House Bill 1428, authored by Rep. J.D. Prescott, R-Union City, seeks to add political party identifications to what are now nonpartisan school board elections throughout the state.

But unlike other versions of the bill that have previously circulated through the Indiana Statehouse to no avail, Prescott’s legislation provides “local control” over the issue.

The House elections committee adopted an amendment to the bill on Wednesday giving school boards an option to vote to become partisan. It also allows voters in a school corporation to decide on the elections via a ballot referendum.

The measure advanced 6-4 from committee — with Rep. Bob Cherry, R-Greenfield, joining Democrats in opposition — and now heads to the full House chamber. It’s a novel move, given that Indiana’s GOP leaders have consistently resisted efforts to let Hoosiers vote on referendums for other issues like abortion rights or legalizing cannabis.

“This is all about transparency for the voters — give our voters as much information as possible before they cast their vote at the ballot box,” Prescott said. “This could really be tailored to your individual communities now, whether your community wants to move forward with this process or not.”

Currently, Indiana is among 41 states where local school board elections are held without any party identification on the ballot for candidates.

A separate proposal under consideration in the current session would instead create a blanket requirement for school board candidates to identify as a Republican, Democrat or Independent. The bill has yet to advance from the Senate elections committee, however.

Locals could decide

As amended, Prescott’s bill gives Hoosier communities three options.

- The first is to do nothing at all, meaning school board elections in a particular district would remain nonpartisan. That’s the default option laid out in the bill.

- Another provision says sitting school board members can decide on their own to vote for their seats to become partisan. According to the bill, they can do so as early as Jan. 1, 2024.

- A third option would permit the decision to be made through a petition process requiring signatures of 500 voters or 5% of voters in the district, whichever is lesser. A successful petition would put the question on the ballot.

Whether through a school board vote or voter-led public question, school board candidates would either have to run in partisan primaries in order to be nominated for the general election, or forgo a primary altogether but have to use a partisan label in the general election.

As the bill is written now, there’s no way for a school board or community to opt-out if they later change their minds about the partisan school board races, however.

Candidates for school board additionally cannot work for that school corporation, according to the latest version of the bill.

Rep. Alan Morrison, R-Brazil, who authored the amendments adopted to the bill, said he’s seeking to give Hoosiers more say in local elections.

“I certainly understand that there have been a lot of opinions on this. It has been a hot topic for a lot of people,” Morrison said. “This is something where we are saying that there are some communities that want this and there are some communities that don’t, and through this (amended bill), they will be able to make that choice.”

School boards association still opposed

The bill drew more than two hours of testimony on Wednesday.

Those who supported the proposal said forcing partisan labels will increase transparency, arguing, too, that school board races are already partisan — just not in name.

Many of the education advocates and school board members who testified were opposed to the

measure, though.

The Indiana State Teachers Association, the state’s largest teachers union, said they oppose partisan school board elections because “keeping the labels out helps people come together at the local level.”

Terry Spradlin, executive director of the Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA), said politics will “further divide our communities” and compromise the ability of school boards to “serve the best interests of children.”

“This invites politics to the boardrooms to the detriment of children. This bill is a solution looking for a problem,” Spradlin said. “Our school communities should not be governed by politics. There’s no Democrat or Republican way to teach children.”

While testifying against a separate bill in the 2022 session that sought to make all Indiana school board races partisan, Spradlin said the ISBA recommended moving to a hybrid system, where local voters would decide whether to create a partisan school board for their school district.

The school boards association has changed its position, however. Instead, Spradlin said the ISBA is now recommending lawmakers support Senate Bill 177, which would move the candidate filing deadline for school board races up by 60 days.

Spradlin said the shift would give voters more time to get to know candidates. The bill unanimously advanced from the Senate chamber Monday and now heads to the House.

Still, he conceded that if lawmakers pass legislation to make school board elections partisan, Prescott’s bill “would probably be the best option.”

“If it becomes law, we would want local communities to exercise their rights that you’re providing through this legislation,” Spradlin said.

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B **BETSY** From Page A1

Clara Haskett at 7 p.m. Saturday at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville.

13. Check out the comedians at The Brick Room Comedy Club, featuring Hanna Ljungholm and DJ Dangler tonight; 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.

14. Audition for Basile Westfield Playhouse's "The Spitfire Grill" musical 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday at the Playhouse, with performances April 13-23.

15. Make plans to attend the Galentine's Goddess Brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday 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.

16. On Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, head to downtown Noblesville from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at a Valentine's Day Downtown Celebration by following a map to multiple locations for Valentine's Day activities.

17. Experience Music Bingo from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays at The Boat-house Kitchen & Swan Drive in Cicero.

18. Experience Turntable Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

19. Enjoy live music of Craig Thurston the first and third Thursdays at Grindstone Public House in Carmel.

20. 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.

21. Enjoy live music with The Moontown Pickle Stompers at 8 p.m. Feb. 17 at Syd's Fine Food and Spirits in downtown 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. Embrace the chilly temps of winter at Clay Terrace's Winter Blast, a free family event, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Village Green in front of Dick's Sporting Goods in Carmel, with carriage rides, face painters, train rides, ice sculptures, giant snow glove, hot chocolate, Silly Safari Animal Meet & Greet.

25. Experience Dr. Seuss's "The Cat in the Hat" Feb. 28 and March 4 at Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre in Carmel.

26. Enjoy First Friday Sip & Shop from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 3 throughout downtown Noblesville.

27. 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

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

A **ARTIST** From Page A1

incredible contributions in the field of science.

Jean-Michel Basquiat was born Dec. 22, 1960. He was an American street artist from Manhattan who rose to fame in the 1980's. He started as a graffiti artist on the lower East Side inspired by hip-hop culture and his experiences within the black community.

It was hard for the art community to take his work seriously after starting as a graffiti artist. Early in Basquiat's career, he made his money by selling homemade postcards on the street corners. Artist Andy Warhol purchased one of his postcards. This transaction helped catapult Basquiat's creative livelihood.

He turned to large scale paintings, often completed on old doors that were found in local dumpsters. He used a variety of mixed media and subject matter to bring awareness to social issues, especially the gap between the poor and the wealthy and integration vs. segregation within the black community.

His paintings were intertwined with brilliant poetry, text and imagery to capture the viewers' attention to issues that were often neglected or hard to talk about.

He was soon breaking down barriers in art museums. It was not often you

saw a black man's work on display in predominantly a white man's world. He was soon featured in galleries all over the world and even had a solo exhibit at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

His most famous painting "Untitled," sold in 1982 for \$4,000.00. In 2017, it was auctioned at Sotheby's for 110 million dollars. His rise to fame and success did not come without struggles. His abundance of wealth, fame and success was something he was not equipped to deal with. He struggled with addiction and later lost his battle at the young age of 27.

His portraits are multifaceted, full of layers, words, images, colors, textures, symbolism and representation from other artistic styles, cultures and time periods. They bring light to social issues that are still hard to talk about today.

Join the party at the Second Friday reception today from 6-8 p.m. at the Collaboration Hub at 11810 Technology Dr. in Fishers and meet the student artists and Kali, explore their passionate art, dig the music of blues duo Scrapper & Skelton and enjoy some light refreshments. This event is welcome to all ages - plus there will be a special interview segment with the artists at 6:45 p.m.

B **BEST** From Page A1

property that will allow the company to thrive for years to come," Best Equipment Owner/CFO Maria Dahlmann said.

The company is planning to break ground later this year.

About Best Equipment Company:

Specializing in environmental equipment solutions since 1917, Best Equipment has a long history of providing Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky with environmentally sound, efficient and budget saving solutions. Best is proud to provide top notch service and support in the refuse and recycling, storm water and sewer, sweeping and litter control, yard waste and turf control and hydro-excavation industries.

Owners Mike and Maria Dahlmann have been involved in the company since the early 1980s, acquiring the company from Mike's father in 1998, and have two daughters on the leadership team to continue the family's legacy.

Best Equipment has two additional full-service facilities located in North Royalton, Ohio and Louisville, Ky.

"Thanks to the hard work of our teams, Best Equipment continues to grow and improve, expanding our capabilities and support. To better serve our staff, customers, and communities, we are thrilled to work alongside the City of Noblesville, moving to a beautiful

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FRIDAY Business Notes and NEWS

Friday, Feb. 10, 2023

A7

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Sec. Chambers' 5E Focus on Innovative Entrepreneurs

Earlier this week, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb and Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers announced the conclusion of a record-setting year for entrepreneurship in Indiana, fostering innovation and fueling small business and startup growth statewide.

"Indiana's business-friendly climate paired with our strong Hoosier work ethic make our state prime for entrepreneurial growth and innovation," said Gov. Holcomb. "As a state, we are committed to investing in entrepreneurs and small businesses, enabling innovators to continue growing, finding success, and contributing to our economy and to our communities."

"2022 was a record year for Indiana, and one thing is clear: entrepreneurship is thriving in Indiana," said Sec. Chambers. "Indiana is now the number-one best state in the U.S. to start a business and among the top 40 destinations globally thanks to the commitments of our state and the perseverance of our innovators. Today and every day, we celebrate the many contributions of our entrepreneurial ecosystem and look forward to supporting tomorrow's businesses and breakthroughs."

Advancing entrepreneurship is a key pillar of Sec. Chambers' comprehensive, economic roadmap designed to ensure that Indiana is at the center of the future, global economy and Indiana's leadership in innovation and entre-



preneurship continues to grow. In 2022, Indiana was named Best State to Start a Business by Forbes, citing the state's business-friendly climate, above-average business survival rate and healthy funding opportunities. Additionally, Indiana was named a Global Top 40 Emerging Ecosystem by Startup Genome and six of the state's cities were named among the 2022 Best Startup Cities in the Midwest with Indianapolis ranking No. 3.

The IEDC, along with its venture capital partner, Elevate Ventures, works to fuel the entrepreneurial ecosystem by supporting innovators and small businesses across all stages of the entrepreneurial journey, from ideation to formation to expansion and beyond.

INSPIRING INNOVATORS & STARTUPS: In 2022, a record number of startups (38) participated in IEDC-supported accelerators. These startups also set new annual records by raising more than \$65 million in growth funding and creating 236 high-wage jobs. Since the IEDC launched its partnership with gener8tor, a leading national startup accelerator, in 2018, 120 startups have utilized



Secretary Brad Chambers

state supported accelerator programs, advancing innovation and growth in key industries, such as 5G technologies, the future of mobility, advanced manufacturing and more.

Additionally, the IEDC set new records for utilization of its Venture Capital Investment (VCI) tax credit program, which helps entrepreneurs and startups attract capital more quickly by giving an investors an additional incentive to invest in early-stage, growing Indiana companies or in qualified investment funds that support these fast-growing companies. In 2022, the IEDC certified \$71.8 million in capital investments in Indiana companies, totaling \$18.5 million in associated tax credits. Additionally, 49 new Indiana businesses were certified to use the program, including 18 women- and minority-owned companies, advancing the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the coming years.

INVESTING IN ENTREPRENEURS & SMALL BUSINESSES: The IEDC works to support entrepreneurs and small businesses through the Indiana Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the Indiana Procurement Techni-

cal Assistance Center (PTAC). In 2022, the Indiana SBDC provided no-cost support to more than 5,469 entrepreneurs and small businesses, helping secure \$110 million in capital and helping launch 407 new businesses – a new annual record. Of these new businesses, 32 percent were founded by minority entrepreneurs. The Indiana SBDC also provided funding for a record number of growth and improvement projects through the Indiana Technical Assistance Program (INTAP) in 2022, helping 62 startups with projects, including business management systems, product prototyping, SBIR/STTR support and technology research and development.

Additionally, PTAC served 433 new clients, with roughly 68 percent qualifying as women-, minority- or veteran-owned business enterprises, helping businesses secure \$446.1 million in federal government contracts and create 815 new jobs as result.

ENCOURAGING ENTREPRENEURIAL EQUITY: The IEDC secured up to \$99.1 million in federal funding through the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) to expand access to and increase capital for Hoosier entrepreneurs, startups and small businesses. The funds, invested alongside private dollars, are expected to result in at least \$990 million invested in Indiana's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem and at least 37 percent of SSBCI funds will be

allocated to traditionally underserved small businesses and entrepreneurs, encouraging greater equity in access to capital for Hoosiers.

INVESTING IN HIGH-GROWTH STARTUPS: As the number-one most active venture capital firm in the great lakes region since 2017, Elevate Ventures supports the efforts of the IEDC by providing assistance to high-growth, high-potential, cross-sector startups and innovators, making capital more accessible and attracting additional private co-investment. In 2022, Elevate Ventures made 183 investment commitments totaling nearly \$35 million – a new annual record. Since inception, Elevate Ventures has invested \$152 million in Hoosier businesses, attracting \$2.035 billion in capital from other sources (13-to-1 investment leverage ratio).

Elevate Ventures also assists small businesses in applying for grants through the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) programs, which encourage research and development technology commercialization, and with securing state matching funds. In 2022, Elevate Ventures committed \$1.8 million in state matching funds to leverage \$12.5 million in federal SBIR/STTR Phase 1 and Phase 2 grants secured by 34 Indiana companies.

In 2022, the IEDC also celebrated the many contributions of Indiana

entrepreneurs and innovators during Global Entrepreneurship Week, announcing new entrepreneurial ecosystem assets: Entrepreneurship Indiana, an annual publication honoring the entrepreneurial journey, and a new website, which is in the final stages of testing, that will provide a comprehensive, statewide listing of resources, programs and services for entrepreneurs, helping them start and grow their business. Visit EntrepreneurshipIndiana.com to submit an inspiring entrepreneur in your community for next year's issue.

Read more about Indiana's focus on entrepreneurship and its 5E approach to creating the economy of the future in the IEDC's 2022 annual report.

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

Experts Offer Plan for Increasing Workplace Safety American Senior Communities Names Cate Sabatine As General Counsel

Compliance with OSHA and industry safety standards should not be the ultimate goal for an organization; it should be the baseline, say workplace safety experts Ken Chapman and Tony Orlowski.

In their new book, *Safety Beyond the Numbers: A Path to Principled Leadership*, Chapman and Orlowski address the "what now?" question when a company has a robust safety compliance program but is still experiencing serious injuries.

"We have come a long way in organizational safety. Fewer people are injured at work today than ever before. But safety is a job that is never 'done,'" the authors write in the book's introduction. "What is good in safety should be viewed through the lens of what can become even better."

In *Safety Beyond the Numbers*, the authors introduce readers to the next step beyond compliance: ownership.

"Good leaders who lead good organizations adhere to both OSHA and industry standards. But that is just the foundation," Chapman said. "They also own

their moral responsibility to ensure safe outcomes, and likewise require all team members to be worthy partners in keeping themselves and the people they work beside safe. Building an ownership culture on the foundation of compliance is the essential component that drives outstanding safety results."

Companies continue to invest a great deal of time, effort and money in newer equipment, smart controls that make good decisions, and advanced technologies to track and analyze compliance efforts, the authors explain. But these same companies spend relatively little time focusing on a component that has remain unchanged for thousands of years: human nature.

"Responsible human interaction and meaningful engagement with your people is as important to safety as technological advancement," Orlowski added.

Safety Beyond the Numbers provides a clear path toward implementing ownership principles for leaders who see safety as more than a mandated priority. It is for leaders who view

the well-being of their people as critical to the business, a prerequisite of doing business and a moral obligation.

About the Authors

Ken Chapman is an industrial psychologist with 40 years of experience working with foundries, generating plants, paper mills, steel fabrication and other heavy industry. His focus has been on leadership development and building durable safety cultures.

Tony Orlowski earned bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering followed by four years as a consultant in the mining industry, ultimately becoming a licensed professional engineer and completing an MBA. For the past 25 years, he has served in a series of leadership roles as a general manager and is currently an executive vice president in heavy industry.

The ownership principles described in *Safety Beyond the Numbers* are also available in a one-day, introductory seminar and as in-house training for organizations of all kinds.

For more information, please visit www.safepath.solutions.

Cate Sabatine has been appointed General Counsel of American Senior Communities, Indiana's largest senior care provider. Cate will oversee legal matters, real estate business and corporate transactions.

Cate joined ASC in 2016 as Associate General Counsel and then in 2019, served as Chief Compliance Officer. Prior to joining ASC, Cate spent five years of private practice in two Indianapolis law firms with a focus on health care law. Cate is a graduate of Penn State University and received her Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration degrees from Indiana University.

Cate is involved in the community as a volunteer with the Indianapolis Bar Association and is on the board of directors at State Bank.

About American Senior Communities: American Senior Communities offers a wide variety of Life-style and Care Options including Garden Homes, Assisted Living, New Energy Wellness, Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation, Memory Care, Skilled Nursing Care, Hospice and Respite. Our mission is to compassionately serve each customer with quality care and excellence. To learn more about American Senior Communities visit ASCCare.com.

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Where Are We With Taxes? Let's Ask ...



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

I'd like to think that my talent with the written word is responsible for the landslide of response the last two weeks. But I suspect the topics – politics as usual and the insanity of our massive national debt – has far more to do with it. Whatever the reason, I'll take it. The more of us who get involved the better. The more unwilling to accept the embarrassing load of debt we're handing our child-, uh, grandchild-, er, great-grandchildren . . . the better.

Let's recap. The discussion began when our country reached its debt limit . . . and the hired hands in Washington appear to be going down the same ol' path of not addressing the real problem (let alone cutting spending and actually starting to fix it). Nope,

they're going to play politics for a while and then, one-two-presto . . . they're going to "solve" everything by kicking the can down the road and raising the debt limit.

However, there's a little good news. In addition to an awful lot of you talking about this, Sen. Mike Braun – yes, the same one running for governor in the great Hoosier State, and 23 of his Republican buddies sent a letter to President Joe Biden about the growing debt. Was it a political stunt? Oh, probably. But at least they said something.

"Americans are keenly aware that their government is not only failing to work for them – but actively working against them," the letter said in part. "We do not intend to vote for a debt-ceiling increase without structural reforms to address current and future fiscal realities and manage out-of-control government policies."

It stops short of saying they'll find ways to reduce spending.

Hey, it's a start. How did we get here? Well, part of it is greed and corruption. If anyone out there thinks that Joe

Biden and his pals all over D.C. (past and present) didn't get fat and happy in their government jobs, well, I've got a couple of daily newspapers I want to sell you! Besides, let's not forget the wise words from one of the last honest guys to sit in the Oval Office, Harry S. Truman. "Show me a man who gets rich by being a politician, and I will show you a crook."

Amen, Harry . . . amen!

Look, a lot of us grew up the same way. My wife and I will celebrate 40 years of marriage in a few months – assuming she doesn't kill me first. And we've done OK for ourselves. I say that not to brag. We worked our asses off for what we have. The thing is, we – like many of you – started out with little. We lived in Mrs. Schroeder's upstairs for a while on West Main Street because we couldn't afford our own place. When we finally could, that first abode was a house trailer. Hey, the newspaper I worked at was paying me \$190 a week and all the newsprint I could eat. It's what we could afford.

Did I suggest the government was to blame?

Did I expect someone to improve things for me?

My Dad and his Dad would have kicked me in the posterior if I had.

Instead, I got more jobs. I worked at the Park & Rec Department running a summer league. I got my referee's license and started ref'ing games. As a writer, I freelanced. Later on, I coached three sports at a high school.

How many of you worked more than one job back in the day? I'll bet a lot.

We had to, right? The idea that the government would step in and either give us a free handout, or force our employers to double the wages they were paying would have resulted in a whole lot of politicians finding out just how angry voters react at the ballot box.

- Times have changed.
- Our taxes are out of control.
- Government spending is out of control.
- Government growth is out of control.

I'll ask again – how did we get here? It sure didn't happen overnight. It's kind of like that old story about the camel's nose. The thought is that if a camel

sticks its nose under the tent and you don't shoo it away, then little by little the camel will soon follow. Tell you what friends, the camel and his buddies are in our tent.

So we're going to be like that camel. Over some time, we're going to take a closer look at the details of where our money goes in the government and pass what we learn along. We've already started by reaching out earlier this week and asking for some "big picture" data. Simply put, we asked four things: 1.) How much money does the county bring in each year 2.) What are the sources of that money (income tax, property taxes, etc.) 3.) What local taxes have been passed over the years (dates and what it was for) And 4.) How much does the county spend year by year?

However, let me be crystal clear. The intention here is to not be critical of the county. It's just a place to start to figure things out. Let me say it again:

- Times have changed.
- Our taxes are out of control.
- Government spending is out of control.
- Government growth is out of control.

out of control.

So we're asking questions. We'll report the answers – good, bad or indifferent – and we'll see what we learn. Truth to tell, I hate to start here. The best, and I truly do mean that, the best people in government are those on the local level. For the most part, these are friends and neighbors and folks who just want to do their part. Government at the local level is usually as good as government gets.

The bigger issues, 97.5 percent of the problems, are in Indianapolis and Washington. But if we're going to get things to change, we have to start somewhere.

Want to join in? Send your questions, comments and concerns my way. We'll see where this goes.

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 – Will Social Security Be There for Me?



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am 56 and hope to hold out to get maximum Social Security at age 70. However, with all of the talk of Social Security funds being depleted, is it wise to continue with this mindset? Will there even BE Social Security benefits for folks in my age bracket? Should I think about starting Social Security benefits as soon as I am eligible? I am em-

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

ployed; however, I don't have a large amount of savings. I contribute to my company's 401(k) and receive the match, and I own my own home (almost paid off) with an estimated \$250,000.00 in equity, but I won't be able to stay in the home long term. Any insight you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Signed: Weary Worker

Dear Weary Worker: I don't suggest changing your strategy due to fears of Social Security not being there – it will be. Although the program

is facing some future financial issues, the very worst that could happen is that everyone's benefits might be cut by 20+ % if Congress fails to act to restore the program to solvency before the Trust Funds are depleted in the early to mid-2030s. In my opinion, Congress will not likely fail to act because to do so would be political suicide. The fact is, they already know how to fix Social Security's financial issues; they just lack the bipartisan spirit and political fortitude to do so until they extract every possible ounce of political

capital from the issue. So, it's largely a matter of how long Congress will wait to reform the program.

Right now, the Social Security Trust Funds hold about \$2.8 trillion in reserves to ensure full benefits will be paid. But Social Security now pays out more in benefits than it receives in revenue, so the extra money needed to pay full benefits is taken from those reserves. What is needed is reform which addresses the reality that people today are living much longer and collecting benefits for much longer than the program is structured to accommodate. Many possible solutions are on the table in Congress, including raising the full retirement age a bit to deal with the reality of people living much longer, and increasing the program's tax revenue by withholding a bit more from American

workers. The eventual reform will likely include some variation of both, as well as other "tweaks" which further guarantee the program will be there for future generations.

As for the thought of claiming your benefits as soon as you are eligible (age 62), be aware that Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects benefits before reaching full retirement age (FRA). If you are working full time when you first become age-eligible, you likely wouldn't be able to collect benefits because your benefit amount would be insufficient to pay the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit (\$1 for every \$2 over the limit) within one year. And, as you may already know, your age 62 benefit would be cut by about 30% from your FRA amount, while your benefit at age 70

would be about 76% more than your age 62 benefit.

So even if the worst case scenario happens (which it almost certainly won't), an across the board cut of 20+ % to your age 70 benefit would yield a higher monthly payment than that same cut to your age 62 benefit amount. So, I suggest you stick with your current strategy to continue working and wait as long as practical to claim your benefits (up to age 70). As an aside, AMAC (Association of Mature American Citizens) has, for years, been proposing (to Congress) its "Social Security Guarantee Plus" which would restore Social Security to solvency for generations to come and would not require an increased payroll tax rate. Congressional reaction has been generally positive, leading us to be hopeful for a reasonable solution to the problem.



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Classified Document Stink Piles



GLENN MOLLETTE
Guest Column

An Old Testament story records an overwhelming infestation of frogs throughout Egypt. There was no place in Egypt where frogs were not present in large numbers. The plague was sent in response to Pharaoh's attitude toward the Israelite people who lived in slavery under his rule. When God ended the plague there were piles of dead frogs all over Egypt. In the streets, bedrooms, bathrooms, closets, storage facilities, and places we can only imagine. It became a very stinky situation as they raked up the dead frogs and piled them up all over Egypt.

ment saga seems to be growing in similar fashion to the dead frogs of Egypt. They appear to be everywhere and they stink. The odor has to be particularly bad for Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden as well as Vice President Mike Pence.

First came the big raid of Trump's home in Florida. Late at night, FBI agents went through his home and personal items and carried out boxes of documents. Next, we hear that Biden has had classified documents in his home for years. They seem to be scattered everywhere throughout his house. Then, Mike Pence in Indiana has more classified documents. What are these men doing with these documents? They are scattered out like the dead frogs of Egypt.

Again, what are these individuals doing with classified documents? I used to keep a big box of comic books when I was a kid. I would read a comic and then put it in the box. Sometimes I would read them again. I definitely knew that I had them. Why would past administrations hold on to classi-

fied documents? How did they get to the locations where they were found?

The National Archives has asked all the former Presidents to check for classified documents. Jimmy Carter? Where would he have them? In his family Bible? Mixed in with old Sunday school lessons that he has taught at the local Baptist Church? I don't think so but you never know who might have picked them up, packed them in a box, and placed them on a shelf in his garage. What about George W. Bush? Could documents be under the seat of his old truck? Bill Clinton has emphatically stated he does not have any classified documents but he has made emphatic statements before. These former Presidents have said they do not have such documents.

Did Trump carry these documents out of the White House when he and his family climbed aboard the Presidential helicopter? I've never seen Trump or Biden carry anything. Which aid picked up some boxes and tossed them into the moving van? Where is White House security

when it comes to classified documents?

Only time will tell and we may never know for sure about the plethora of classified documents. We hope they aren't reading some of them in China or Russia. Who can say for sure where they are not being read? We do not know for sure whether or not someone else has them. Could another family member have a box or two somewhere? How much money would China, Russia or others pay for classified documents?

Democrats and Republicans will point fingers and scream about all this in the next election. Both sides will try to make the other side look worse but it appears there is plenty of stink everywhere.

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.

How Do You Preserve History That You Don't Know Exists?

By **Unice Trotter, Director of Indiana Landmarks' Black Heritage Preservation Program**

Imagine reading a book with chapters torn out. Or watching a movie that's missing scenes. Or trying to describe a family when you've not met all of its members.

That's what it's like trying to understand Indiana's history without knowing key stories.

Like the story of Mary Bateman Clark.

Mary was a slave who was brought to Indiana from Kentucky in 1814 and given her freedom ... sort of. Although no longer a slave, she was immediately forced into indentured servitude, first with Benjamin J. Harrison, then with Gen. Washington Johnston, one of the most influential men in the state.

A practice common in America throughout the 18th century, indentured servitude was a contractual agreement in which one person worked for another for no pay to resolve a debt, such as the cost of passage to the states, or to learn a trade.

The difference between that model and Mary's servitude is that hers was not voluntary.

Fortunately, abolitionist attorney Amory Kinney was willing to fight Mary's indenture. While the lawsuit he filed, Mary Clark, a woman of color vs. General W. Johnston, lost in the Knox County Circuit Court, Kinney successfully appealed the decision before the Indiana Supreme Court in 1821, creating a precedent that others were able to use to effectively

put an end to indentured servitude in Indiana.

As a result of Mary's contributions, a historical marker now stands in her honor at the Knox County Courthouse in Vincennes, a fitting acknowledgment of a remarkable story that's even more remarkable to me because, as I discovered several years ago, Mary was my great-great-grandmother. But her story isn't just a part of my family's story; it's a part of Indiana's story.

I am aware that, by knowing Mary's story and its connection to my family, I'm an exception among Black Hoosiers. Many don't know their roots. I have become increasingly aware of this challenge since I joined Indiana Landmarks last year to lead the organization's Black Heritage Preservation Program. As we seek to save and celebrate places significant to the state's Black history, we first need to identify the history.

To do that, we need help. That's why I'm asking you to contact us if you know about stories or places that could help fill those gaps. Email us at shareyourstory@indiana-landmarks.org to share your story.

Indiana's history is not complete without the story of Black Indiana, and that story starts with Black families. After all, as I discovered, digging deeper into the stories of your family might allow you to uncover a history maker like Mary Bateman Clark. And, even if you don't, it will allow you to fill in missing chapters of the story of Indiana.

Following Dreams That Inspire You



RANDALL FRANKS
Southern Style Columns

I ran down the dark corridor. My heart was beating fast as I heard footsteps rushing towards me from behind. I opened the door at the end as it swung inward and next I found myself dangling from the doorknob over a dark pit that seemed bottomless.

I held on for dear life trying to pull myself back up into the hall.

Which was worse? Falling into the dark unknown or making it back to the solid hallway where I was being chased by who

knows what.

Thankfully, I didn't have to find out as my alarm went off bringing me safely back into my bedroom.

Dreaming can sometimes bring us to smiles, sometimes to fear, sometimes in between.

I have spent time in many dreams sitting and talking with loved ones who were long passed. Those moments are usually cherished opportunities to spend a few more minutes with a dear friend or relative.

Other dreams have found me in places I have never been experiencing new adventures with people I have never known or with faces I recognize. Those are usually quite comforting as well.

As a youth I saw dreams as roadmaps to where God wanted to take me, and often he placed the footsteps out ahead of me as if they were flashing in neon.

Those took me places I could have never dreamed of in my waking hours.

Are dreams simply our imagination running wild?

Are messages from our past, our future, or from our loved ones gone on hidden within?

I know that people in various forms of study have spent endless hours trying to answer those types of questions. From the Biblical stories of Joseph interpreting the dreams of pharaoh, to whatever scenario one might surmise from their own research, dreams play a vital part in our lives.

They give us relief, sometimes hope, and sometimes fear. No matter what they provide, if you are blessed with a good dream experience, be thankful for what has passed. Perhaps it is a God wink to uplift.

If it's not such a good experience, maybe that is an inducement to examine

your life and find where you might improve to clear your heart and mind, so next time it can be.

For me, despite a few frightening ones along the way, the good ones outweigh those, and from time to time, I do believe God's drops in a bit of guidance here and there to make my life better, if I only recall it.

So, get a good night's rest...

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.



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