

TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Emily Seig smile? "Coming to work everyday and seeing these awesome kiddos and getting to really make a difference in their lives," said the program facilitator at the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville. The former Club kid, who has worked for the club for five years, was found supervising the monthly pizza meal served up by Noblesville Elks Club. The 2017 Noblesville High School graduate, the daughter of Joe and Mary Theresa Seig, is 23 years old and a student at Ivy Tech Hamilton County Campus in Noblesville. "I go to school, and I come here after school." She is earning her associate's degree in General Studies before she moves to Florida to work at Walt Disney Co. full time. How did she get that gig? "I did the Disney college program for six months (in 2022). From January to July, I was in Disney World working a regular parks job," enjoying a paid internship. She is finishing college thanks to an Ivy Tech scholarship. Once I go back, my leaders want me to pursue the Disney professional internship program. So I would have a leadership position at the park. I want to do entertainment, live shows and parades," said the former NHS Mad-Jazz singer and past cast member of "A Christmas Carol The Musical" at The Belfry Theatre. Read more about the Club's happenings in the Betsy Reason column in today's edition of The Times.

And Another Few Things...

1. Sheridan Library

Experience a variety of educational exhibits on a fun trip to two museums with newly available passes at the Sheridan Public Library. Explore a large collection of artifacts, mastodon bones and three floors of fun when you check out the Indiana State Museum pass that is good for up to four general admissions. \$3 parking is available in the White River State Park parking garage located beneath the museum. Next up, immerse in the diverse culture of Native America at the Eiteljorg Museum. Young patrons will enjoy the Nina Mason Pulliam Education Center for play and discovery. This pass is good for 4 adults and all children 17 and under. Patrons will need a SPL library card to check out and each pass is available on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, visit sheridan.lib.in.us

2. President's Day

The Postal Service will observe Presidents Day on Monday. Post Offices will be closed and there will be no mail delivery.

Customers needing postal services may use self-service kiosks at select locations or visit Postal Service Approved Shippers. Go to usps.com to find a location near you.

Post Office will reopen and regular mail delivery will resume on Tuesday.

3. Organic Program

The National Organic Program (NOP) recently launched a new course in the Organic Integrity Learning Center on Growing the Organic Workforce.

Growing the Organic Workforce provides resources to support a robust, highly skilled workforce of qualified organic professionals. These resources promote organic market development, protect organic integrity, and enhance diversity, equity and inclusion. You can use Growing the Organic Workforce to find information on recruitment, educational programs, professional training and more.

Current Growing the Organic Workforce topics include:

- Experiential Organic Agriculture Education Programs
• Organic Internship Best Practices
• Organic Field Crop Practices

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Boomer Bits Ask Rusty - About Social Security's 'First Year Rule'

Dear Rusty: I'm considering filing for my SS at age 64 in February, before my full retirement age of 66 years and 10 months. I'm working full time and would like to continue earning until I meet the \$21,240 limit for this year. When does the \$21,240 limit go into effect? Does it start after receiving my first SS benefit deposit? Or does Social Security go by my year-to-date earnings starting on January 1st?

If I file in February and it takes 90 days to receive my first SS deposit, and at that point my year-to-date earnings are \$18,500, can I continue to work until I earn the balance of the \$21,240 (\$2,740) and then stop working? Or do they only count the earnings after I receive the first benefit payment? I know that for anything earned over \$21,240 I'll need to repay \$1 for every \$2 over the limit. Signed: Ready to Retire



ASK Rusty Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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

Dear Ready: Since you haven't yet reached your full retirement age (FRA), if you claim now and are working, things will work somewhat differently during your first year collecting benefits.

If you claim for your benefits to start in February, only your earnings starting in February count toward the earnings limit. But during your first calendar year, once your benefits start, you'll be subject to a monthly earnings limit of \$1,770 and, if that is exceeded in any month (February - December), you won't be eligible for benefits for that month. That means that

they could withhold your entire monthly amount for any 2023 month after January that exceeds the monthly limit. This is part of Social Security's "first year rule," which applies only during your first calendar year collecting. If, instead, you claim for your benefits to start in March, then the monthly limit will apply from March thru December. Remember, it's not when your payment is received that counts; it's when your benefits start (SS pays benefits in the month following the month earned). Beginning in 2024 only the

See RUSTY Page A5

BBB Scam Alert: Scammers Close In As Tax Season Opens

The 2023 Tax Season has officially begun and the Better Business Bureau is alerting the public of schemes that con artists will use over the next several weeks to take your money, personal information and peace of mind.

It will be taxing as people prepare to file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). And, as the chaos of tax season picks up, scammers will capitalize on the pressure taxpayers' face. The last day to file taxes this year is Tuesday, April 18.

Tax identity theft occurs when a scammer uses your Social Security number to file a tax return in your name and collect

your federal or state tax refund. Scammers can steal your tax information in several ways. It could be a phony tax preparation service, a data breach, a hack, or a phishing scam, baiting you into clicking on a link in a text message which downloads malware to your device.

Email phishing scams appear to be from the IRS and include a link to a bogus website intended to mirror the official IRS website. These fraudulent emails will direct you to update your IRS e-file immediately, state a problem with your taxes, and sometimes mention USA.gov

See BBB Page A5

Life After Stroke

(Family Features) In the weeks and months immediately following a stroke, an early rehabilitation program offers the best possible recovery outcomes. While each person's stroke recovery journey is unique, starting the path toward rehabilitation as soon as it's medically safe allows stroke survivors to mitigate the lasting effects.

According to the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association, each year, approximately 800,000 people in the United States have a stroke. Strokes can happen to anyone, at any age. In fact, globally about 1 in 4 adults over the age of 25 will have a

See STROKE Page A5

Kiwanians Partner With Boys & Girls Club, Serving Pancakes



BETSY REASON The Times Editor

What better way to spend a cool Saturday morning than to enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage. The Noblesville Kiwanis Sunrisers did just that last Saturday by inviting the community to the pancake breakfast, which annually raises money for the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville.

Kiwanians arrive early at the Boys & Girls Club's Community Center to set up, with each Kiwanian having a duty, from cooking pancakes and sausage to

See BETSY Page A5



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Noblesville High School Key Club members serve pancakes to guests at the recent Noblesville Sunrisers Kiwanis Club and Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville breakfast benefiting the Boys & Girls Club.

INSIDE TODAY

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HONEST HOOSIER

For those of us who went to high school in the 1960s and '70s - did you know WNAP is back? Long live the wrath of the buzzard!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you're trying to lose weight, keep a food diary and calculate what you're actually eating each day - there are apps for that! 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

"It is an old maxim and a very sound one, that he that dances should always pay the fiddler."

Abraham Lincoln

TODAY'S JOKE

How do you scare a snowman? Mention global warming!

OBITUARIES

None

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





Photo courtesy of FHCPI

Front row (from left to right): Bruce Snyder (FHCPI, President), Christy Brocken (HCPR Historian), Andy Kingsley (Coxhall Grounds Manager), April Williams (FHCPI, Executive Director), Angela Krahulik (FHCPI, Secretary), Jenn DeLeonardis. Back row (from left to right): Courtnie Pettigrew (FHCPI, Admin Asst.), Thomas McLean, Todd Irwin, Dan Lawson, Matt Reynolds (FHCPI, Treasurer)

## Friends of Hamilton County Parks Awards \$375K to Help Renovate Coxhall Gardens Williams Home

Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc. (FHCPI) foundation board members and Hamilton County Parks & Recreation (HCPR) representatives gathered in front of the historical Williams Home on the Coxhall Gardens property in Carmel, IN for a check presentation photo in celebration of a \$375,000.00 grant awarded to HCPR by FHCPI to begin a planned renovation project.

HCPR's historian, Christy Brocken, toured FHCPI Board Members throughout the Williams home, sharing the plans for preservation and res-

toration of what was once the home of early settler John Williams.

John Williams was a successful farmer who built the Italianate home in 1865. Nearly 100 years later, Jesse Cox and his wife Beulah purchased the 125 acre Williams farm. The Cox' chose to preserve the original victorian home even after building their contemporary mansion, modeled from the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg, VA, in 1974.

Jesse and Beulah Cox donated the Coxhall property to the Hamilton County Parks and Recre-

ation Department in 1999.

Jesse and Beulah were, and still are today, the largest donors to the Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc. foundation. Jesse Cox was one of the original board members of the FHCPI foundation.

"It is our honor to carry on Jesse and Beulah's legacy and continue to preserve and restore this home they cherished. The FHCPI Board was thrilled to consider the request after hearing Christy Brocken's passion behind the project and the depth of work put into learning about the Williams family and era in which

they lived, as well as the unique, architectural features of the home. We believe preservation of Hamilton County's history is important, and we look forward to one day seeing the public enjoy learning from the Williams' and Cox families' story," said April Williams, Executive Director FHCPI

### About Friends of Hamilton County Parks:

The Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc. (FHCPI) is a nonprofit foundation created for the sole purpose of bettering parks and recreation in Hamilton County and its communities.

## Noblesville Receives \$5.9M in New Funding for Infrastructure Projects

The City of Noblesville has received a total of \$5,970,100 from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (IMPO) for major infrastructure improvement projects. This includes a new award of \$5,475,700 for phase 3 of Pleasant Street and \$494,400 for phase 2 of the Midland Trace Trail. The IMPO governing board approved the grants during its meeting this week.

"We are grateful to have IMPO's and the Noblesville Common Council's partnership and support with these projects. All of the new projects and the previously awarded road and trail projects will provide better and safer mobility in our city," Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen said.

Noblesville had two of the 16 Central Indiana projects that were awarded a total of \$47.3 million.

"The financial support lessens the burden on our city as we make these



necessary improvements to address traffic issues and enhance pedestrian connectivity," Noblesville City Engineer Alison Krupski said.

Noblesville's projects include:

### Pleasant Street - Phase 3:

The Reimagine Pleasant Street project is a multi-year initiative in partnership with Hamilton County that will result in improved east-west connectivity and accessibility in and around Noblesville. This corridor will relieve traffic congestion off of State Road 32 by connecting Hague Road at State Road 32 to State Road 37 and providing an additional bridge crossing over the White River.

"As the 9th largest city in Indiana, this project is crucial to mobility and connectivity in Noblesville and across Hamilton County, especially considering the growth we have experienced and expect going forward," said Jensen. "It is a strategic transformation of Noblesville to support the future. Pleasant Street and the Midland Trace Trail will create a safe, vibrant corridor for residents to drive, walk or bike to downtown Noblesville."

The City and its partners broke ground on Phase 1 of Reimagine Pleasant Street in November of 2022. Phase 3 of the project connects Hague Road/ State Road 32 to River Road. Phases 2 and 3 are anticipated to begin later this year and will be complete by the end of 2025.

### Midland Trace Trail - Phase 2:

The 12-foot wide extension of the Midland Trace Trail is being constructed as a part of the Pleasant Street project. The

trail project will be built in three phases like the roadway. The trail corridor will ultimately connect from Hague Road/State Road 32 to State Road 37. The Midland Trace Trail provides regional multi-use path connectivity and will connect to the Nickel Plate Trail being built this year. Phase 2 of the project will connect to portion of the trail currently under construction as a part of Phase 1 and extend it from 11th Street to 19th Street.

The Indianapolis MPO is responsible for planning and programming federal transportation funds in an eight-county Central Indiana region, and this funding allocation is an annual IMPO process. The recipients were selected from a highly competitive pool, and each funded project requires a local match and is judged based on relative technical criteria including impacts to air quality, improvements to congestion, pavement quality and safety.

## Longest-Serving NFD Firefighter to Retire after 37 Years



Deputy Chief Chris Gellinger

The Noblesville Fire Department (NFD) will be holding a retirement ceremony to recognize Deputy Chief Chris Gellinger for his 37 years of service to the citizens of Noblesville.

Chief Gellinger was born in Noblesville and graduated from Hamilton Heights High School. He began his firefighting career with the Cicero Fire Department, where he served for 6 years before joining NFD on Jan. 16, 1986. At that time, NFD had 2 stations and 4 trucks to serve approximately 13,000 people.

Chief Gellinger quickly rose through the ranks serving as a Lieutenant for 4 years, then Battalion Chief for 23 years, and finishing his career as Deputy Fire Chief for the past 6 years.

Chief Gellinger is a member of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire Apparatus Manufacturers Association. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy and served as a member of NFD's Tactical Rescue Team, Hazmat Team, and the Truck Committee. He was the 2012 recipient

of the Noblesville Fire Department Leadership Award.

Chief Gellinger and his wife of 42 years, Karen, raised their family in Noblesville with all 4 of his children graduating from Noblesville High School.

When asked about his time at NFD, Chief Gellinger stated, "It has been a privilege to serve the citizens of Noblesville and be a part of the growth from 2 stations when I was hired to now 7 stations. Our members numbered in the low 20's when I was hired and grew to today's numbers topping 150. I knew after my first shift day at NFD that this was the place where I wanted to spend my career. It has always been an honor to put on the uniform and get to come to work every day."

After retirement Chief Gellinger and Karen plan to spend more time traveling.

"Deputy Chief Gellinger has brought his expertise, experience, and calm demeanor to chaotic scenes for over three decades," said Fire Chief Matt Mitchell. "Thank you for selflessly serving the community with integrity, professionalism, and compassion."

Deputy Chief Gellinger's ceremony will be held next Friday at Noblesville Fire Department Station 71 located at 135 South 9th St., Noblesville. The ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. with an open house to follow. The public is invited to attend.

## Heart and Soul Clinic in Westfield Announces Strategic Plan, Updates in Board of Directors

Heart and Soul Clinic, a Free Healthcare Clinic Located in Westfield, announces the launch of a three-year strategic plan. The clinic's mission is to provide the highest quality healthcare to our uninsured and underinsured neighbors in Central Indiana regardless of their social, cultural, and economic status.

The launch of the strategic plan comes at a critical time for the clinic due to the demand for the healthcare services and the need to grow in a sustainable way. The strategic plan vision is building our capacity to multiply our impact and will provide the clinic with a roadmap for growth, impact, and sustainability. "We are so pleased that the creation of the plan has been with input from the board, staff, volunteers, patients, and the expertise of Hedges" explains Lisa Kream, Executive Director.

The goals of the plan include:

- Goal 1: Informed Care We partner with our patients to deliver care designed to meet their needs.
- Goal 2: Intentional Team Support We invest

in our people to support a mission-centered, diverse team of volunteers, staff members, and board leaders.

· Goal 3: Sustainable Resource Development We engage with our supporters to inspire sustained giving and strengthen our operational capacity.

· Goal 4: Broad Community Awareness We connect with our community to be a recognized and trusted health resource.

The clinic looks forward to implementing the strategic plan with the Board of Directors. The Board comprises of the following:

- Sherese Martin, Board Chair
  - Doug Fauth, Vice Chair
  - Ruben Alicea, Treasurer
  - Paul Kaushal, Secretary
  - Jake Gilbert
  - Cindy Brumbarger
  - Catherine Middleton
  - Hilary Herendeen
  - Hunter Haines
  - Nick Smarrelli
  - Stacy Atkinson
- To learn about the clinic, visit [heartandsoul-clinic.org](http://heartandsoul-clinic.org) or call (317) 804-5782

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# Roberts Settlement Receives \$75K to Help with Preserving Black Churches

The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund (AACHAF), a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, announced its award of \$75,000 to Roberts Settlement for Preserving Black Churches.

Roberts Settlement is one of 35 organizations in 22 states to receive a total of \$4 million in grant funding to advance long-term and sustainable strategies that strengthen stewardship and asset management, interpretation and programming, and fundraising activities for historic Black churches across the country. This program works to uplift the legacy of often-overlooked Black churches, ensuring their legacy of spirituality, history, and democracy endures.

Located 30 miles north of Indianapolis, Roberts Settlement was founded in 1835 by free Blacks of mixed racial heritage who migrated mostly from North Carolina and Virginia to escape deteriorating racial conditions in the South. Their goals were the pursuit of economic, educational, and religious aspirations with greater freedom and fewer racial barriers. Today, set on a gently rolling landscape, visitors will find a chapel and cemetery, representing a once thriving community that continued to grow through the late-1800s.

This grant will aid in the funding of an interpretive outdoor public exhibit that centers the legacy of Hamilton County, Indiana's Black pioneers and broadens visitors' understanding of the Midwest's diverse history. The plans for this project will be unveiled later this month along with a public fundraising campaign.

"We are honored and humbled to be chosen to receive this grant among more than 1,500 applicants," said Roberts Settlement President LaVella Hyter. "In assisting with the creation of this exhibit space, the grant helps ensure the legacy of the Roberts Settlement for years to come."

The Action Fund's Preserving Black Churches program is



National Trust for Historic Preservation®

a \$20 million initiative funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., to help historic Black churches and congregations reimagine, redesign and deploy historic preservation to protect the cultural assets and legacies they steward, tell their stories of resiliency and hope, and carry their missions into the future. With more than \$85 million in funding, the Action Fund is the largest U.S. resource dedicated to the preservation of African American historic places.

"Leaving an indelible imprint on our society, historic Black churches hold an enduring legacy of community, spirituality, and freedom that continues to span generations," said Brent Leggs, executive director, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund and senior vice president, National Trust for Historic Preservation. "The Action Fund created the Preserving Black Churches program to recognize and celebrate the Black church for its contributions on American life, culture, and history, while also investing in their physical permanence and financial sustainment into the future. We are honored to award our first round of grantees with the resources needed to ensure the Black church continues to stand in its fullest glory."

Since our nation was founded, the Black church has played a prominent role in advancing critical democratic and societal change. According to Pew Research Center, around three-quarters of Black adults say predominantly Black churches have helped advance the fight for racial equity.

"From one room praise houses to unprecedented metropolitan mega churches, Black churches since slavery times have been the heart and soul of the African American community," said Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., professor, historian, filmmaker, and national

advisory councilmember for the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund.

"So, it is inspiring to see the Action Fund's commitment to preserving their history and their physical structures. After all, these are our sacred sites, which our ancestors built from the ground up, and we must do everything we can to ensure their survival. Preserving these structures is a visible way of preserving a crucial chapter of Black History."

Today Black churches are experiencing challenges like deferred maintenance, insufficient funds and threats of demolition. With leadership support from Lilly Endowment Inc., Preserving Black Churches will advance strategies that model and strengthen stewardship and asset management, interpretation, and fundraising activities of historic Black churches across the country. In addition to helping churches preserve their historic buildings, the program is designed to help congregations strengthen their capacities to serve the spiritual and social needs of their communities for years to come.

Learn more about the 2023 recipients of the Preserving Black Churches Fund at [SavingPlaces.org/BlackChurches](http://SavingPlaces.org/BlackChurches).

#### About Roberts Settlement:

Roberts Settlement was established in 1835 by free people of color who migrated mostly from North Carolina and Virginia to escape deteriorating racial conditions. Their goals were the pursuit of economic, educational and religious aspirations with greater freedom and fewer racial barriers. Today the descendants gather annually for a family Homecoming to celebrate their shared history and renew their family bonds. In 2023, Roberts Settlement publicly unveiled plans for the

Roberts Settlement Legacy Walk with support from the Lilly Endowment Inc. This project was funded in part by a grant from the African American Cultural Action Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit [RobertsSettlement.org](http://RobertsSettlement.org).

#### About the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund:

The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund is a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in partnership with the Ford Foundation, The JPB Foundation, the Mellon Foundation and other partners, working to make an important and lasting contribution to our cultural landscape by elevating the stories and places of African American resilience, activism, and achievement. Visit [savingplaces.org/actionfund](http://savingplaces.org/actionfund). The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places. Visit [savingplaces.org](http://savingplaces.org).

#### About Lilly Endowment Inc:

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly, Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. Although the gifts of stock remain a financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff, and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education, and religion. Although the Endowment maintains a special commitment to its founders' hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana, it also funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion. Visit [lillyendowment.org](http://lillyendowment.org).

# Indiana American Water Names Matthew Hobbs Director of Engineering



INDIANA AMERICAN WATER

Indiana American Water has named Matthew Hobbs Director of Engineering effective February 20, 2023. Hobbs is replacing Stacy Hoffman who is retiring after 29 years of service with American Water.

Hobbs most recently served as engineering and program manager and client service leader in the Water Services Group for HNTB Corporation. Prior to that, he was a water and wastewater project engineer with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

"We are pleased to have Matt on board with the company in this key leadership position," said Indiana American Water President Matt Prine.

"He brings more than 18 years of experience to this position and will play a key role in implementing our capital investment strategies and initiatives moving forward."

Hobbs has a bachelor's degree in engineering from Purdue University, is registered as a professional engineer and is a certified

LEED Accredited Professional.

#### About Indiana American Water:

Indiana American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and wastewater services to approximately 1.3 million people.

With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly traded water and wastewater utility company. The company employs approximately 6,400 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and regulated-like drinking water and wastewater services to an estimated 14 million people in 24 states.

American Water provides safe, clean, affordable, and reliable water services to our customers to help keep their lives flowing. For more information, visit [amwater.com](http://amwater.com) and [diversityataw.com](http://diversityataw.com).

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# Biden: No Evidence Yet That Unidentified Flying Objects Were Tied to China Spying

By Ashley Murray

In his first address since the U.S. military shot down three unidentified flying objects last weekend, just days after taking down a suspected Chinese surveillance balloon, President Joe Biden on Thursday defended the actions and said the skies above the U.S. will now be more closely scrutinized.

Biden, who was under increasing pressure from lawmakers to address the unprecedented situation, also said nothing so far suggests the mystery objects were related to Chinese surveillance or spying by any other nation.

"The intelligence community's current assessment is that these three objects were most likely balloons tied to private companies, recreation or research institutions, studying weather, or conducting other scientific research," Biden said.

Biden said during his brief remarks that he has "no apologies" for ordering American forces to shoot down the sizable Chinese balloon suspected of surveillance capabilities and said that he expects to speak with China's President Xi Jinping "to get to the bottom of this."

China denies the balloon was used for espionage, saying it was collecting weather data.

The U.S. maintains that China operates a vast surveillance balloon program over the U.S. and nearly 40 other countries.

Biden said there is no evidence of increasing numbers of unidentified objects in the skies. "We're now just seeing more of them, partially because the steps we've taken to increase our radars, to narrow our radars, and we have to keep adapting our approach to dealing with these challenges," Biden said.

"... But make no mistake, if any object presents a threat to the safety and security of the American people, I will take it down," he said.

## Debris in deep waters

Fighter jets from bases in Alaska and Wisconsin were ordered Friday, Saturday and Sunday to take the objects down over Alaska sea ice, Canada's Yukon wilderness and Lake Huron, respectively.

As of Tuesday, White House officials said that none of the debris had yet been found in the difficult terrain with temperatures well below zero, and in waters of up to a couple hundred feet.

Some lawmakers have been urging Biden for days to address the nation about why he ordered the objects to be shot down, what the objects were, and what the protocol will be going forward.

"Americans are worried, they're interested, and they're concerned, and they have a right to know why President Biden directed the actions that he did over the last week," Arkansas Republican Sen. Tom Cotton said after senators received a classified briefing Tuesday.

The White House and Pentagon offered little detail about the objects that were each taken down with a nearly 200-pound air-to-air missile.

The first AIM-9X Sidewinder missile fired from two F-16 jets over Lake Huron missed and landed in the water, Pentagon officials said Tuesday. The second missile hit the object, and debris crashed into the Canadian side of the lake, according to the administration.

The administration promised Tuesday to update the public by week's end about a new interagency policy plan for deciding when to take action against unidentified aerial objects.

Senators who were privately briefed said they were told the objects were "very, very small," according to Idaho Sen. Jim Risch, ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

## 'Size of an A.T.V. or four-wheeler'

Democratic U.S. Rep. Jeff Jackson, of North Carolina, wrote in a Substack post Wednesday that the three objects shot down over the weekend were "fundamentally different" than the high-altitude suspected Chinese spy balloon because they were flying lower and moving with the wind, according to what he learned in a congressional briefing from Gen. Glen VanHerck, Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD.

One was the size and shape consistent with a balloon, and the other two were roughly "the size of an A.T.V. or four-wheeler," he wrote. While the purposes of the objects were unclear, members were told they weren't outfitted with a required transponder that communicates location data to the Federal Aviation Administration, he said.

"This episode has sparked a new effort to develop a set of strategies for detecting and eliminating UAPs (unidentified aerial phenomena) — ideally without having to use extremely expensive missiles — and a better notification system for our governors and allies," Jackson wrote.

## GOP governors' statement

Seventeen Republican governors on Thursday released a joint statement criticizing the Biden administration for what they described as a lack of communication about the objects hovering over their states, according to a press release from South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem.

In addition to Noem, those governors included Kim Reynolds, of Iowa; Sarah Sanders, of Arkansas; Ron DeSantis, of Florida; Brian Kemp, of Georgia; Brad Little, of Idaho; Eric Holcomb, of Indiana; Tate Reeves, of Mississippi; Mike Parson, of Missouri; Jim Pillen, of Nebraska; Doug Burgum, of North Dakota; Kevin Stitt, of Oklahoma; Henry McMaster, of South Carolina; Bill Lee, of Tennessee; Greg Abbott, of Texas; Glenn Youngkin, of Virginia; and Mark Gordon, of Wyoming.

"The violation of American airspace by multiple foreign objects is unprecedented and threatens our national sovereignty along with the security of our states," wrote Noem and fellow governors. "As governors, we have sworn an oath to defend against 'all enemies, foreign and domestic.' Yet, President Biden has chosen not to fully communicate with the public about this critical issue impacting public safety."

Noem is now working with state lawmakers on legislation to address the safety of South Dakota's airways, according to her release.

Prior to the three smaller unidentified objects being shot down over the weekend, several U.S. senators, including Alaska's Lisa Murkowski and Montana's Jon Tester,

grilled Pentagon officials last week on why the Chinese balloon was able to traverse Alaska and the lower 48 states before being shot down 6 miles off the coast of South Carolina.

## New rules for unmanned airborne objects

Biden said Thursday that his administration will soon implement classified protocols to deal with unmanned airborne objects that enter U.S. airspace.

"I'll be sharing with Congress these classified policy parameters when they're completed, and they'll remain classified, so we don't give our roadmap to our enemies to try to evade our defenses," he said.

Biden said other changes will include:

Establishing "a better inventory" of unmanned aerial objects above the U.S. and making sure the inventory is "accessible and up to date."

Implementing "further measures" to detect the unmanned flying objects. (NORAD adjusted its radar sensitivity following the detection of the suspected Chinese surveillance balloon.)

Updating the rules and regulations for those who launch and maintain unmanned aerial objects above the U.S. for commercial, recreational or scientific purposes.

Directing Secretary of State Antony Blinken to begin working with foreign counterparts to establish global norms "in this largely unregulated space."

## Bipartisan condemnation of China

The Senate, by unanimous consent, approved a resolution Wednesday condemning China for sending a suspected surveillance balloon over the U.S. just weeks ago.

"This resolution condemning China is precisely the kind of bipartisanship Americans expect at a time like this. Instead of each party attacking each other, we are united in this resolution, in condemning China, exactly as we should be," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said in his floor remarks Thursday morning.

The Senate resolution came nearly one week after the U.S. House, in a 419-0 vote, unanimously approved a resolution condemning the Chinese Communist Party's use of the surveillance balloon as a "brazen violation of United States sovereignty."

Biden delivered the State of the Union address just three days after a U.S. fighter jet downed the suspected Chinese surveillance balloon upon his order.

While Biden remarked in his Feb. 7 speech that he remains "committed" to working with China when it benefits U.S. interests, he also said "But make no mistake: as we made clear last week, if China threatens our sovereignty, we will act to protect our country. And we did."

Officials estimate the balloon was 200 feet tall and was carrying a "jetliner-sized" payload, or equipment.

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# Indiana Republicans 'Committed' to Voucher School Expansion

By Casey Smith

Indiana House Republicans will seek to expand the state's "school choice" program despite a top GOP senator's call for more voucher school reforms.

Republican House Speaker Todd Huston said his caucus is "110% committed" to funding — and growing — Indiana's voucher program, known as Choice Scholarships. He suggested that lawmakers will widen eligibility for the vouchers in the House-proposed state budget, which is expected to be unveiled later Friday.

That's the opposite of what Mishawaka Sen. Ryan Mishler said state lawmakers should do in the current legislative session.

Instead, the powerful Republican senator threatened to hold up new state spending on the voucher program — and advised parents to "beware" of non-public schools — after he claimed to have witnessed "disgusting" behavior at a private Catholic school in northern Indiana.

Mishler aired his concerns in a letter published last week.

"It's time to continue to expand school choice," Huston said Thursday. "I was disappointed in Sen. Mishler's — whatever that thing was, his letter, missive — extremely disappointed in it."

Voucher schools receive state funding but are not required to operate within the same parameters as local public schools. For instance, they don't have elected school boards and don't have to justify their spending. Critics have long maintained that such schools lack transparency and accountability to the public.

## School voucher expansion likely

Huston maintained Thursday that Indiana's voucher system is already accountable enough, calling it one of the state's "most successful programs."

"We've had hundreds of thousands of kids go through the Choice Program over the last decade. It's been an

extraordinarily successful program," Huston said. "I am sorry that (Mishler) may have had a bad experience, and that he may have extrapolated that to the entire program is a mistake."

The House speaker added that — in addition to "historic investments in K-12" — his caucus plans to "give parents and families more opportunities to choose the schools that they feel are best for their kids."

"Our caucus remains and will continue to remain committed to providing families and parents options to their kids of school choice," Huston continued.

Meanwhile, Republican Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray said that while his chamber is "passionate about school choice, too," he hesitated to say if GOP senators are willing to expand the program in the same way.

"I haven't seen anything in writing yet. When they bring it over, we'll certainly talk about it," Bray said Thursday, referring to the House GOP's voucher plan. "There are a lot of benefits to it, and it's generally something I support, but there's also a cost to it that we have to be cognizant of, and we'll take a look at it like we look at everything else."

As those conversations heat up, lawmakers will pay special attention to the options Hoosier parents have to both enroll and remove their kids from private schools whenever they choose, Bray continued.

"That'll be part of the conversation we have as to whether that's necessary or not," he said.

## Mishler airs concerns

Mishler's reprimand is an uncharacteristic move for a member of the state's GOP supermajority which has been the driving force behind Indiana's "school choice" expansion for more than a decade.

"I would advise families looking at voucher schools to be aware that they are on their own at this point and time. They should strongly consider

an alternative to the blemished and blatantly flawed procedures of accountability when choosing a school for their child," Mishler said in his letter. "We need to hold the schools to the same high level of accountability they expect from the students and their parents."

He detailed issues with one school's policies, as well as alleged "mistreatment and bullying" of students by a staff member.

The senator said the school mishandled parents' concerns about those incidents — noting that administrators were able to do so because of a lack of accountability and transparency within the private school.

Mishler does not name the school outright, but his letter points to the same Mishawaka high school where his son is enrolled as a senior.

Mishler, who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee, pledged not to support "one additional dollar spent" on the voucher program until lawmakers enact policies to "protect these kids from abusive behavior and mistreatment."

An expansion of Indiana's education scholarship accounts — of which state dollars would largely go to private schools — has already sat untouched in Mishler's committee for more than three weeks.

Senate bills that seek state dollars in the next two-year state budget must first get approval from the committee. The bill has to be acted on by the Feb. 23 deadline, or it dies.

As of Friday, an agenda for the final Appropriations Committee meeting had not yet been posted.

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# Young, Coons Resolution Establishing National FFA Week Passes Senate

On Wednesday, the United States Senate passed a bipartisan resolution introduced by Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Chris Coons (D-DeI.) to establish Feb. 18-25, 2023 as National FFA Week. The resolution was cosponsored by a bipartisan group of 58 senators.

The resolution highlights the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing the next generation of leaders by providing educational and career opportunities to students, and also celebrates the iconic FFA jacket.

"Throughout Hoosier communities and our country, FFA plays a critical role in the development of students through agricultural education. The lessons, tools, and resources

gained through the FFA program equip Indiana's future leaders with the skills needed to succeed in a variety of fields," said Senator Young. "I'm glad to introduce this resolution establishing National FFA Week in support of the more than 11,600 FFA members in Indiana."

"Delaware's long agricultural history continues to foster bright, young minds to meet today's global challenges," said Senator Coons. "As a member of the FFA Caucus, I'm proud to support the Delaware FFA, the National FFA Organization, and their critical role in developing the minds and values of young Delawareans. I'm glad to have worked with over fifty of my colleagues on this bipartisan resolution recognizing National

FFA Week and the organization's incalculable contributions to Delaware and to our nation."

"National FFA Week is a meaningful week for members across our country as we continue to share the message of agriculture and agricultural education while celebrating our more than 850,000 members and our supporters," said National FFA Advisor Dr. Travis Park. "Today, FFA and agricultural education continue to play a key role in developing the next generation of leaders and those who will be filling the ever-growing need in the talent pipeline across our food systems. We are grateful to our elected officials for supporting National FFA Week and their continued support of our organization."

# Suicide Prevention Spotlited at State Capitol

The Indiana arm of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention will have a rally at the Indiana State House on March 27.

The organization says that their State Capitol Day events bring advocates together with state and local officials to share information and urge that suicide prevention be made a priority. As part of our State Capitol Day

events, advocates have the opportunity to meet with their legislators and speak about legislative and policy issues that need support. Because of these personal connections between advocates and lawmakers, state bills have been enacted that now ban the practice of conversion therapy, require suicide prevention policies and personnel training in K-12 schools,

increase suicide prevention on college and university campuses, require insurance plans to treat mental health and physical health equally and create statewide suicide prevention offices and task forces.

This year's event begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. Registration is required by March 22. Go to [afsp.org/indiana](https://afsp.org/indiana) or on Facebook @afspindiana.

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# Cancer Patients, Survivors Return to Statehouse to Rally Legislators

After three years of virtual Cancer Action Days, cancer patients, survivors and caregivers from across the state traveled to the capitol in Indianapolis yesterday to meet in person with their elected officials. They let their lawmakers know with 34% of cancer deaths in Indiana caused by smoking, Indiana can and must do better to prevent cancer by reducing tobacco use and treating cancer.

Advocates urged state lawmakers to prioritize

tobacco control measures, including increasing the cigarette tax by \$2.00 per pack, increasing the tax on all other tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to parallel the new cigarette tax, and investing \$15 million in tobacco control programs. In doing so, Indiana would take a decisive step towards reducing tobacco use and its devastating toll on our communities with the cigarette tax increase alone projected to keep 24,500 kids from becoming adults

who smoke, help 50,200 adults who smoke quit, and save 19,900 lives.

Furthermore, they asked lawmakers to invest funding into cancer research. Cancer research saves lives and few states are better positioned to benefit from cancer research investments than Indiana. Not only does Indiana have cancer death rates higher than the national average, but it is also home to two premier cancer research centers at Indiana University and

Purdue University. It is time for Indiana to join approximately 15 other states and provide funding for lifesaving cancer research happening here in Indiana.

This year, an estimated 40,270 Hoosiers will be diagnosed with cancer and 13,660 are expected to die from the devastating disease. Those gathered at the capitol yesterday are calling on Indiana lawmakers to change this by taking steps to make the fight against cancer a priority.

## STROKE

From Page A1

stroke in their lifetime.

### Early Intervention

The rehabilitation and support a survivor receives can greatly influence health outcomes and recovery. The first three months after a stroke are especially critical. Although recovery may continue for years after a stroke, this time in the immediate aftermath of a stroke is when the brain is most able to adjust to the damage done by the stroke so the survivor can learn new ways to do things.

### Physical, Communication and Cognitive Changes

Following a stroke, a survivor may experience physical changes, such as fatigue, seizures, weakness or paralysis on one side of the body or spasticity, stiff or rigid muscles which may cause difficulty with completing daily activities and tasks. If experiencing fatigue, speak with your health care provider about ways to reduce it. Your care

team may also be able to provide medications to help with seizures and spasticity. Physical therapy is also an option.

Challenges after a stroke depend on the severity and location of the stroke. In addition to various physical disabilities, stroke survivors may experience aphasia, communication and thought problems related to speaking, listening, understanding or memory. Planning, organizing ideas or making decisions can also be harder.

"Remember to be patient when communicating with a stroke survivor," said Elissa Charbonneau, M.S., D.O., chief medical officer of Encompass Health and an American Stroke Association national volunteer. "The impact of a stroke on cognitive, speech and language can be significant and isolating. When connecting with a stroke survivor, some helpful practices include demonstrating tasks, breaking

actions into smaller steps, enunciating, asking multiple choice questions and repetition."

### Customized Rehabilitation

Once a stroke survivor's medical condition is stabilized and he or she is ready to leave the hospital, rehabilitation can help restore function and teach new ways to complete everyday tasks. Rehabilitation may take place in an inpatient facility, skilled nursing facility or long-term acute care facility. Outpatient clinics and home health agencies can also provide rehabilitative care in certain circumstances.

One patient's rehab journey might include therapy to improve balance, strength or mobility while another might need speech or other therapies. A rehabilitation designed for the individual is critical.

### Preventing a Recurrence

After a first stroke, nearly 1 in 4 survivors

will have another. Stroke survivors can help reduce their risk of having another stroke by working with their health care team to identify what caused the stroke and uncover personal risk factors.

Taking steps such as healthy eating, reducing sedentary time and taking medications as prescribed can help your brain and reduce your risk of a repeat stroke. Controlling conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and sleep apnea also reduce your risk of having another stroke.

### Support During Your Journey

Caregivers and other loved ones can provide important long-term support during your recovery and rehabilitation.

Find resources for stroke rehab and recovery including the "Life After Stroke" guide, "Simply Good" cookbook and a support network to connect with other survivors at [Stroke.org/Recovery](http://Stroke.org/Recovery).

## RUSTY

From Page A1

annual limit would apply. Nevertheless, the "first year rule" offers some latitude on your earnings. If the penalty for exceeding the annual earnings limit (\$21,240 for 2023) is less than the penalty which results from using the monthly limit, Social Security will use the annual limit and assess the smaller penalty amount. So, if your annual (full year) 2023 earnings are less than \$21,240, no penalty will be assessed, or if you only exceed the annual limit by a small amount, you'll be assessed a penalty of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. But if your annual earnings are substantially more than the 2023 limit, Social Security may deem you temporarily ineligible to get benefits. When you complete your application there will be a section asking you to tell them about this year's earnings as well as what

you expect next year's earnings to be. From that they will decide whether you are currently eligible to collect benefits.

So, if your goal is to work only to the point that no penalty will be assessed, you can work until your 2023 earnings reach \$21,240 (whenever that is). Or you could work even a little bit longer and simply take the penalty (half of what you exceed the annual limit by), in which case SS will simply withhold future benefits for enough months for them to recover what is owed for exceeding the limit. But if you continue working full time and will substantially exceed the annual limit, it's likely Social Security will say you are temporarily ineligible to collect benefits (until your earnings are less or you reach your full retirement age when the earnings test no longer applies).

## BBB

From Page A1



or a variation of the actual IRS site. Scammers want you to call the fake number in the email or click on a link so they can download malware onto your device; or access your personal financial information.

IRS impersonation scams often start with a phone call and take two basic forms. In the first version, the IRS "agent" says you owe back taxes and pressures you into paying by prepaid debit card or wire transfer. Then, the scammer threatens you with arrest and fines if you don't comply. In the other version, scammers claim they are issuing tax refunds and ask you for personal information so they can send you your refund.

"Ghost" shady tax preparers set up shop around tax time, usually in a vacant storefront. They will often promise tax filers large refunds quickly. Unfortunately, these "ghost" tax preparers are uncertified individuals who bypass checks and balances in the tax preparer certification system. Even more disturbing: the big refunds they promote are not calculated in legal ways.

Ghost tax preparers do prepare the tax return, but when it's submitted to the IRS, these scammers ask the taxpayer to sign their own return, making it look like it was self-filed. This is a big deal; once something goes wrong, the preparer is nowhere to be found.

### BBB tax time tips:

- The best way to avoid tax ID theft is to file your taxes as early as possible

before a scammer can steal your information and file a fake tax return.

- Always check out a new tax preparer before you do business with them, and a great place to start is with [BBB.org](http://BBB.org) for ratings and reviews.

- Ask any tax preparer you are considering hiring what security steps they will take to protect your data.

- Check out websites carefully and make sure you access the real IRS website when filing your taxes electronically or inquiring for additional information.

- When in doubt, contact the IRS directly to verify any contact, not a number in an email or text.

- The IRS will never threaten you or demand immediate payment, require a specific form of payment, or ask for credit card or debit card numbers over the phone.

- Be wary of a tax preparer offering fast refunds or significant returns. What you owe is solely based on your past year's tax information and the current tax laws.

- Only allow funds to be deposited into your personal accounts. Some ghost tax preparers will have funds deposited into their accounts "to later be distributed."

- Review your tax return before it's submitted to ensure your tax preparer correctly signed it.

- Contact the IRS immediately if you get a written notice from the IRS about a duplicate tax return, a notice stating that you received wages from a company that you never worked for or any notice that "additional taxes are owed, the refund will be offset, or a collection action is being taken against you."

### For more information:

If you've spotted a tax scam (whether or not you've lost money), report it to [BBB ScamTracker](http://BBBScamTracker). Visit [BBB.org](http://BBB.org) or follow us @ChicagoBBB on social media. Look for the BBB seal, The Sign of a Better Business.

## BETSY

From Page A1

pouring apple juice and getting coffee ready.

Kiwanis is the parent organization of Noblesville High School Key Club, which annually has Key Club members serving breakfast and helping with the beverages. Key Club is a student-led organization that volunteers in the community.

The breakfast, which annually raises money for the club's youth sports program, always takes place during the Club's youth basketball league season, during which players sell breakfast tickets to the community for \$5 each. My daughter, who has aged out of the basketball program, still sells tickets each year to help raise money for the club.

About \$5,500 has been raised from this year's breakfast, with more dollars being turned in from teams in the next few days, Club Community Center director Tony Eslamirad said Friday. Gordon Food Service and Grindstone Public House helped sponsor.

The youth basketball league season will culminate with an annual Basketball Spectacular open to the public on March 10 at the Club Community Center.

Tonight, the Boys & Girls Club will benefit from the 37th annual Ladies Auxiliary Auction charity gala at Harbour Trees Golf Club in Noblesville. This year's theme is Mardi Gras and features a live auction and a silent auction and a meal for \$175 per person.

I've attended this fundraiser many times representing the news media. The auctions bring in thousands of dollars from faithful folks who love to support the Boys & Girls Club. Businesses, nonprofits and individuals in the



The Times photo courtesy of Betsy Reason

**Noblesville Sunrises Kiwanians Bill Taylor and Dan Stevens help with the making of pancakes at the recent Noblesville Sunrises Kiwanis Club and Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville breakfast benefiting the Boys & Girls Club.**

past have donated all kinds of items for the silent auction, from golf outings and mini vacations to diamond jewelry, and boat rides, homemade dinners and more.

I remember attending the auction in the early days when the event took place at the South Harbour Clubhouse, where silent auction items filled the lower level and attendees filled the main level bidding on all kinds of sought-after items. This event is really a lot of fun and has sold out quickly in the past, sometimes with standing-room only. For more information or tickets, visit [one.bidpal.net/bgc23/welcome](http://one.bidpal.net/bgc23/welcome)

Another upcoming event for the Boys & Girls Club is the annual All Star Basketball Contest, which is open to all Hamilton County youth, starting at 1 p.m. Monday, President's Day, at the Club's Community Center. Ages 12 to 18 are welcome but must

be enrolled in a school within Hamilton County. My daughter, who played basketball at the club and also on the Noblesville East Middle School seventh-grade team, has participated in the basketball contest for several years and has even taken home a prize.

It's always a fun event. Participants battle for the best in four events: free-throw contest (up to three misses allowed), three-point contest (shoot three balls at five different racks in 45 seconds), skills challenge (make a free throw, chest pass to target, master the cone dribble and make a layup), ultimate all-star knockout (massive game of knockout) and a slam dunk contest. Prizes will be awarded. To register in advance, visit [bgcni.org/](http://bgcni.org/)

Registration is also now open for the Club's annual spring break camp at Camp Crosser, the week of March 27 and the week of April 3.

Another upcoming Club fundraiser is a TopGolf Tournament on April 6 at the Fishers TopGolf.

Noblesville Kiwanis Sunrises, who hosted the Club's pancake breakfast last Saturday, invites new members to the club, which will celebrate its 47th year in 2023. Years ago, when founder, the late Bob Anderson (who held every office in the club and lieutenant governor twice), had trouble getting to Noblesville Noon Kiwanis Club meetings, he started Noblesville Sunrises Kiwanis Club, which meets for breakfast. The club meets every Tuesday at 7 a.m. at Ginger's Cafe, 1111 S. 10th St., Noblesville, in the Navy Room. The club usually hears from an interesting speaker at each meeting and members often volunteer in our community.

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

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**THE TIMES**

# WEEKEND

*In The*  
**Home**

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Weekend, Feb. 18-19, 2023

TIM TIMMONS, Publisher @ JOE LARUE, Vice-President of Readership @ MELISSA MEME, Account Executive @ BETH HEDGE, Business Manager

## Clean Energy Home Upgrades



### Make dependable environmental improvements

**FAMILY FEATURES**

When you're considering upgrades for your home, earth-friendly enhancements that impact your energy usage are smart investments. Energy-saving home upgrades can offer long- and short-term advantages for the earth, your wallet and even your safety.

Many homeowners evaluate their energy needs as they plan home improvements. There are several low-carbon, resilient energy options available that can help safeguard your family. Consider these environmentally friendly upgrades to diversify your home's energy sources, reduce energy consumption and ensure your home is well-prepared to withstand interruptions to power service if the electrical grid fails.

**Diversify Energy Sources**

The growing conversation to "electrify everything" will require an overhaul on the aging electric grid just to manage the increase in demand. Accomplishing this will take decades and cost billions, according to the Department of Energy. In fact, according to a study conducted by Acupoll Precision Research on behalf of the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC), 54% of respondents believe electricity for everything will be too expensive for taxpayers while 70% strongly agree Americans should have a choice when it comes to their energy source. Propane is a clean, affordable and abundant energy option that reduces carbon emissions right now. Using propane appliances like furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces and kitchen appliances alongside other energy sources reduces the strain on the fragile electrical grid. Unlike electric appliances, propane appliances can work even during power outages.

**Seal In Energy**

Outdated doors and windows often lack energy benefits. Newer models have stronger, thicker panes that reduce the transfer of heat from inside to outdoors (and vice versa in the warmer months). Updating doors and windows allows you to easily repair any cracks or faulty seals that make it easy for energy to escape. When your home is well-insulated, your heating or cooling system works more efficiently.

**Consider Solar Panels**

When many homeowners think of renewable energy, they often think "solar." Some states are mandating solar adoption, and while financial rebates help, solar panels are still considered an expensive upgrade for many people. The number of panels you need depends on your geographic location and weather, as well as the size of your home and your family's energy consumption habits, which can add up. If you have access to propane and electricity, and are planning to upgrade to solar, consider adding propane appliances to offset the energy load required from your solar system.

**Install a Backup Power Source**

The Department of Energy's "Electric Disturbance Event Annual Report" showed an increase in power outages from 2000 to 2020. More than half of consumers nationwide indicated they or a close family member or friend have been personally impacted by a power outage in the past two years, according to PERC.

As a result, many homeowners are saying "yes" to backup power generators. A propane standby generator can be a key part of resilient home upgrades by offering supplemental electricity in as little as 10 seconds after an outage. Propane doesn't degrade over time, making it an ideal standby power fuel. Plus, it's cleaner than diesel so you can keep your home functioning and family safe while being a good steward for the environment.

**Increase Energy Efficiency**

While landscaping plays an important role in curb appeal, it also serves more practical purposes. Thoughtfully placed trees and shrubs can block the heat that comes from powerful direct sunlight while serving as a break against blustery winds and providing a natural form of external insulation for the home. In outdoor living spaces, propane-powered appliances can offer increased energy efficiency. For example, propane can power full outdoor kitchens, fireplaces and fire pits, patio heaters, flame lighting or pool and spa heaters.

Find more ideas and information to inspire your earth-friendly home upgrades at Propane.com.



**When the Grid Fails**

In 2021, a winter storm decimated a major electrical power grid, leaving thousands of Americans in the dark and cold. Some people lost their lives while others battled to overcome extensive damage to their homes and businesses.

Jennifer Borget's family is one of many that weathered those winter storms. However, the Borget family home used propane to power their water heater, stove, furnace and fireplace.

"When your power goes out, you can still use some propane appliances," said Borget, who blogged about her experience. "This is one of those things I didn't realize but learned during the historic winter storms.

When the power was intermittent, our propane-powered fireplace and water heater quickly warmed our family." One year later, the Borgets are discussing investing in a standby generator to mitigate future power outages.

Another way to reduce the risk of large-scale disasters is increasing Americans' reliance on a broader mix of energy sources. Using a combination of propane, solar, electricity and natural gas can keep homes and businesses alike running efficiently and safely.

Relying on alternative energy sources like propane can also make a meaningful environmental impact in the long-term while offering short-term advantages, including continued access to power during emergencies when another energy source fails.

# WEEKEND

*In The*  
**Home**

Weekend, Feb. 18-19, 2023

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# LIVING COLOR

## ON-TREND HUES REFLECT COMFORTING LIFESTYLE DESIGN



### FAMILY FEATURES

Upgrading your home design is an opportunity to tap into new color schemes. Knowing what shades are trendy and how different hues can work together for a cohesive design is an important step in creating an attractive design aesthetic.

While you might turn to family or friends for inspiration for your next DIY project, another resource for collecting concepts and options to upgrade your space is the internet. Consider the Valspar Color-verse, which allows visitors to explore colors in a unique way and offers paint color inspiration and decor trends they can envision within their own homes.

The interactive virtual home showcases the latest paint and design trends so you can get creative for your next project. After experiencing the Valspar 2023 Colors of the Year firsthand by painting walls and art from the collection to see the 3D virtual house come to life, you can find the perfect paint shade for your space.

“Through the Color-verse, visitors can experience the 12 Colors of the Year in a realistic virtual home,” said Gus Morales, vice president of brand marketing for CBG Sherwin-Williams. “Aside from exploring the Colors of the Year, the home is an engaging space for visitors to create art, play games and order paint chips to see how their top color picks look and feel in their homes.”

### Color Trends to Consider

Many of this year’s popular nature-inspired designs are all about finding comfort, embracing a flexible lifestyle, rediscovering joy and leaning into the growing DIY movement. The most trend-worthy, forward-thinking and livable colors reflect specific facets or emotions of life so you can update your well-used spaces with thoughtful colors that evoke positive energy and lasting change.

**Comfort and Contentment:** If your goal is to create a space that envelops you in a sense of comfort,

consider a white with a yellow undertone that makes a space cozy like a soft blanket, like Cozy White from Valspar. Complement the softness with a muted clay that brings in brown undertones that suggest gentle contentment.

**Calming Restoration:** Tap into the calming tones of nature with a hazy green that has duality, which brings in both the calm and liveliness of the great outdoors. Another option is a deep midnight blue used as an elegant calming shade to restore mind, body and home.

**Healthful, Mindful Living:** Create an uplifting space where your wellness is a priority. Evoke a greater sense of health consciousness with a light blue that has a dose of softness used as a fresh neutral with uplifting qualities of a modern pastel, like Valspar’s Rising Tide. Reinforce the benefits of mindful living with a cool gray that is balanced by the warmth of the yellow undertone, a natural hue like a cotton muslin cloth.

**Connections and Joy:** Establish spaces where you can celebrate relationships with others, the world around you and happiness in your being. Consider hues like a white softened by a violet undertone, a harmonious shade promoted by digital connectivity. Evoke joy with a dependable classic tan that features a yellow undertone suggesting new life with uplifting qualities.

**Natural Balance:** Bringing hints of the outdoors into a well-loved living space creates a soothing ambiance. Consider a warm neutral brown tone inspired by the shades found in nature or a cooled down blue that strikes a beautiful balance between cool and warm shades in your design.

**Inspirational Thought:** A work-from-home or crafting space needs color to inspire great thinking. Try a faded natural terracotta that sparks individuality and warmth or a deep blackened olive, an on-trend neutral that embodies charm and sophistication.

Explore the tool and find more colorful ideas at Valspar.com.



## Navigate New Colors

Exploring color options before you apply them to a home improvement or design project gives you the chance to experience and visualize different styles before you fully commit. Using a tool like Valspar’s Color-verse, a 3D virtual home, you can experience on-trend color palettes that inspire your next big project through resources like:

- An interactive feature that allows you to repaint walls of a living room, dining room, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, walls and cabinets using the 12 Colors of the Year then takes you directly to the site to order free paint chips to try at home
- An artistic element where you can create a 3D panorama nature scene, explore others’ artwork and share creations on social media
- A light-hearted game that inspires you to get on the road to gather your home improvement essentials

# WEEKEND *Travel or stay! and Play* END

TIM TIMMONS, Publisher @ JOE LARUE, Vice-President of Readership @ MELISSA MEME, Account Executive @ BETH HEDGE, Business Manager

## Lincoln Amphitheatre 2023 Performance Series Unveiled

The Lincoln Amphitheatre will head into its 36th summer with a diverse and eclectic lineup of live events and performances. Anchored by KISS' original guitarist Ace Frehley, Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry, Grammy nominee Southern Avenue, as well as Peter Beckett of the band Player, the 2023 season will also feature a number of tribute performances to some of the all-time great rock and roll bands and country artists.

2023 marks the eighth summer of a unique multi-state agency partnership between the Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC) and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). IDDC is part of Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch's family of businesses.

"The Lincoln Amphitheatre celebrated its 35th year with a fantastic season in 2022," Lt. Gov. Crouch said. "We look forward to seeing the continued success of this resurgent southern Indiana facility in 2023 as it, again, offers a diverse and entertaining lineup of



events."

The Lincoln Amphitheatre's 2023 Performance Series includes:

- Saturday, May 20: Johnny Folsom 4 – a tribute to Johnny Cash
- Saturday, June 3: Rearview – a tribute to Pearl Jam
- Saturday, June 10: '84 – a Van Halen tribute
- Friday-Saturday, June 23-24: The Rivalry
- Saturday, July 8: Electric Avenue – the 80s MTV Experience
- Saturday, July 29: Ace Frehley
- Saturday, Aug. 12: Southern Avenue
- Saturday, Aug. 26: Turn the Page – a tribute to Bob Seger
- Saturday, September 2: The Yacht Rock Radio Cruise starring Peter Beckett the voice of Player

with Monsters of Yacht

- Saturday, Sept. 9: Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry
- Saturday, Sept. 23: Led Zeppelin 2

Individual tickets for each of the 2023 Lincoln Amphitheatre events are on sale now at [www.LincolnAmphitheatre.com](http://www.LincolnAmphitheatre.com). Each ticket price is inclusive of concert admission, parking, facility and service charges, as well as Lincoln State Park's gate fee. Seating for all shows and sections is general admission/festival seating. VIP tickets include preferred seating, as well as a complimentary drink token redeemable for Pepsi or beer/wine products. Concessions, venue merchandise, and artist merchandise (when applicable) will be available at each event.

## Travel Trends Break from Routine in '23

**(Family Features)**  
Travel in 2023 will be about saying "no" to normal, breaking routines and searching for experiences without compromises. Whether it's flying to those once-in-a-lifetime events or hosting group celebrations at a vacation rental home, travelers are no longer adapting to the next new normal, but creating their own status quo altogether.

"We see a detailed and robust picture of travel into 2023," Expedia Brands President Jon Gieselmann said. "We're seeing a surge in trips to culture capitals, a new wave of interest in wellness retreats and a spike in demand for outdoor destinations beyond just beaches and mountains. It's not a new normal so much as people branching out to unexpected trends in what we're calling the 'no normal.'"

A close look at these trends suggests there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach to travel in 2023. Insights sourced from the company's first-party data, and from custom research of thousands of travelers and industry professionals across 17 countries, show food, abundant space and unconventional destinations are influencing travel choices.

Consider these conclusions from the experts at Vrbo:

### Foodie-Menties

Kitchen credentials are a must with travelers looking to plate up at their own convenience in a private vacation home. Outdoor kitchens, pizza ovens and air fryers are the top three foodie-menties travelers crave. Additionally, nearly half of U.S. travelers (43%) use cooking to cut down on costs.

Travelers are looking for amenities in their vacation rentals rather than focusing on location. In fact, more than half (57%) of travelers would rather book a unique vacation home to be with their people in a lesser-known destination than a less interesting, less equipped vacation home in a popular area.

### Cowboy-Cations

Rustic getaways are on the rise as travelers crave private vacation homes with abundant space and exhilarating views. Cue the cowboy-cation, offering an intimate escape in the rugged wilderness. Demand for homes in western destinations increased by more than 30% from September 2021-August 2022. Plus, 42% of U.S. travelers find inspiration in outdoorsy destinations and landscapes that include log-lined cabins, flickering fires and sweeping vistas.

Travelers can live out their western fantasies by booking a luxurious lodge,

ranch retreat or farmhouse that fits the whole crew. Destinations across Montana, Colorado and other western states spring to mind, but the cowboy-cation is not confined to the U.S. For a home on the range in Europe, travelers are booking converted barns and farmhouses in Italy, Spain, France and the United Kingdom.

Thrill-seekers can also embrace their inner cowboy in Australia, where farmhouses in the outback overlook acres of wineries and wild brush.

### Hidden Gems

Travelers are exploring unassuming locales and new places. Top hidden gems in the U.S. have one thing in common: beautiful lakes where travelers can take in tranquil views. Demand for private vacation homes in these unconventional destinations has increased by 30% or more since September 2021:

- Nampa, Idaho
- Greensboro, North Carolina
- Layton, Utah
- Irmo, South Carolina
- Oneonta, New York
- Hampton, Virginia
- Bristol, Rhode Island
- Spokane, Washington
- Las Cruces, New Mexico

Find more ideas to plan an adventure that's uniquely your own at [Vrbo.com](http://Vrbo.com) or by downloading the app.

## Solo Travel Tips: Recommendations for Venturing Out Alone This Year

**(Family Features)**  
Whether you're a lone wolf at heart or looking to broaden your sense of independence, traveling solo can be a richly empowering and satisfying experience.

Setting out on your own has many practical advantages. You're not worrying about accommodating another's schedule, interest or needs, and you're free to decide what you want to do and when. Solo travel also elicits some mental and emotional benefits, as you experience a unique sense of freedom, liberation and self-sufficiency.

If you're considering a solo journey, consider these tips from the book "101+ Tips for Solo Women Travelers," which is offered by Overseas Adventure Travel in free digital and print editions.

### Make Sure Your Passport is Updated

Many countries now require your passport to be valid for six months after your return to the United States. If you don't have a passport, or need to renew one, apply for one as soon as possible. Ideally you should have your application in six months before you depart.

### Look for Trips with No Single Supplement

Often, quoted rates are "per person, based on double occupancy." This is

because travel hosts know they can make more from a couple traveling than an individual. You can avoid paying a single supplement premium by being willing to match with a roommate or traveling with a tour company or cruise line with free or low-cost single supplement fees.

### Use the ATM

As an affordable and convenient way to get cash, you can avoid wasting time in line at a bank or currency exchange bureau by visiting an ATM. While you'll likely incur a fee for using an ATM that's not part of your bank, it is often less than the commission you'd pay at an exchange bureau. Plus, you can avoid additional fees by calculating how much you'll need for the trip and making one withdrawal as opposed to multiple smaller withdrawals.

### Download Entertainment Before You Leave

When traveling, Wi-Fi can be expensive, slow or just not available. Before you leave, download music, e-books, podcasts, favorite tv shows or movies to enjoy while you're en route or during down time.

### Join Group Tours

Once you reach your destination, you may enjoy joining small groups for excursions or to explore

local cuisine. Or you can make your entire journey a group experience. A small group adventure with Overseas Adventure Travel has many benefits, and built-in dining companions is just one of them.

### Take Precautions in Your Hotel Room

When you check in, ask the receptionist to write your room number down instead of announcing it so everyone can hear. Make sure your room's locks work on both the door into the hallway and the balcony. Never let any repair person or staff member into your room without confirming with the front desk first. Bring a rubber doorstop, which makes a hotel room door nearly impossible to open. Finally, have an exit plan: Know where the nearest exit is located and the route from your room.

### Make New Friends

For some, making friends seems to happen naturally while traveling alone by chatting with strangers at a neighboring restaurant table or striking up a conversation while waiting in line at a store. If those situations don't occur naturally, there are useful apps that can connect you with local people as well as fellow travelers.

Find more tips to prepare for your journey at [oattravel.com](http://oattravel.com).

## Fall In Puppy Love: PAW Patrol Live! 'Heroes Unite' Coming To Indy

PAW Patrol Live! "Heroes Unite" has the perfect gift for you and your kids this Valentine's Day! From Feb. 8-14, receive 15% off tickets when you use code VDAY15! Don't miss this opportunity to make new memories with your kids at this incredible new production. As honorary PAW Patrol members, your kids will be encouraged to move, sing, and dance along with their favorite PAW Patrol characters, as they embARK on a brand-new adventure!

Offer valid from Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. local time through Feb. 14 at 10 p.m. Subject to availability. Select seats only. Limit 9 tickets per customer. Offer excludes VIP. Cannot be combined with other offers or on previously purchased tickets. Additional fees may apply. No cash value. Other restrictions may apply.

Presented by Nickelodeon and VStar Entertainment Group the all-new PAW Patrol Live! "Heroes Unite" is an interactive live stage show, where members of the audience get to be heroes unleashed, helping the pups solve puzzles as honorary members of the pack, while they navigate the globe to make it back to Adventure Bay in the nick of time. Featuring stunning visual effects, captivating storytelling and a vibrant musical score that will have guests dancing in their seats and singing along, this staged extravaganza is jam-packed with action and fun for the whole family!

PAW Patrol Live! "Heroes Unite" is based on the top-rated animated preschool series PAW Patrol, airing on Nickelodeon and produced by Spin Master Entertainment. Tickets for all four performances are on sale now and may be purchased at [www.pawpatrollive.com](http://www.pawpatrollive.com).

PAW Patrol Live! "Heroes Unite" follows Ryder and the PAW Patrol pups as they face their greatest challenge yet. When Mayor Humdinger clones Robo Dog, chaos ensues all over the world. It's up to the PAW Patrol to catch the clones, rescue Robo Dog, and show that when the going gets "ruff," lending a paw makes you the ultimate TOP HERO! This new adventure is going to

be PAWsome! "Heroes Unite" marks the third VStar Entertainment Group and Nickelodeon touring collaboration under the PAW Patrol banner. Since its debut in the fall of 2016, the PAW Patrol Live! Stage shows have been seen by over 4.5 million people, providing fans in over 40 countries with an unforgettable Broadway-style production. It's the perfect way for families to create lifelong memories and introduce their kids to live theatre.

A limited number of V.I.P. (Very Important Pup) Packages are available, starting at \$118.50. The VIP package includes a premium seat and exclusive photo opp with PAW Patrol characters after the show. Each adult & child (age 1 & up) in a group must have a VIP ticket.

For more information or to join the Tail Mail mailing list for presale and other exclusive offers, visit [www.pawpatrollive.com](http://www.pawpatrollive.com). Follow PAW Patrol Live! on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @pawpatrollive, and the hashtag #pawpatrollive.



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