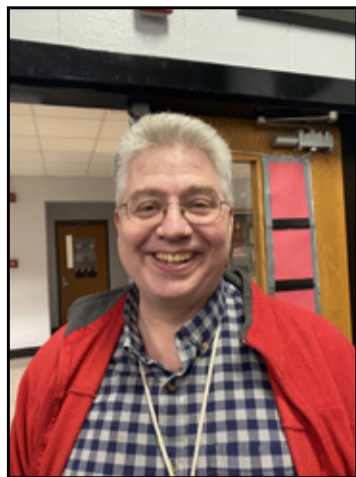


▶ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 117:1 & 2 O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.



▶ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own. Patrick Cronin is a band teacher at Sheridan High School. Music is at the forefront of his life through his career and music-oriented family. Mr. Cronin almost always has a smile on his face and is a bright light in the lives of his students. He says that while he is naturally happy most of the time, he sometimes has to choose to be happy, and he advises others to do the same. Thanks for the smile, Mr. Cronin!

And Another Few Things...

1. Biden-Harris Administration Helps Farmers

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is accepting applications starting on April 1 for \$1 billion in grants to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses invest in renewable energy systems and make energy-efficiency improvements. USDA is making the \$1 billion in grants available under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), with funding from President Biden's landmark Inflation Reduction Act, the nation's largest-ever investment in combatting the climate crisis.

2. Gov. Holcomb appoints Don Lamb as new executive director of the Department of Agriculture

Governor Eric J. Holcomb appointed 2nd-generation farmer Don Lamb, from Lebanon, Indiana, as the executive director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA).

Lamb is the co-owner and operator of Lamb Farms Inc., along with his brother and father. The farm produces popcorn, corn, soybeans and wheat. The family also owns AgRecycle, a composting and recycling business, and Lamb Farms Agronomy, which provides soil management and crop production products to surrounding farms.

Lamb graduated from Purdue University in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics. He was named the Agricultural Professional of the Year in 2014 by the Boone County Chamber of Commerce.

3. Dream Center Phase I Underway with Purchase of 8091 Township Line Road

To disrupt and reverse the cycle of poverty in Indianapolis, Dream Center Indianapolis has designed a unique pathway to prosperity for individuals facing housing insecurity in the area. Their program will provide a select group of young adults and families, who are poised to succeed, with a systemic web of support in a campus environment.

To create this community and make the vision come to life, the Dream Center has launched Phase I with the purchase of 8091 Township Line Rd, a 17-unit medical office building located near the Ascension St. Vincent Women's Hospital Campus in partnership with Paragon Realty out of Fishers, Indiana. The medical office building will house workforce and mission partners who will start facilitating the initial program with 24 single mothers and former foster youth this summer.

The program participants will receive a life coach and job training in health and technology related fields. Additionally, they will receive a furnished apartment in the area as well as access to health & wellness, daycare, financial literacy, and community services provided through local churches, businesses, and community organizations.

The Dream Center is currently taking applications for the pilot program and for those interested in volunteering. For more information, please visit www.dc-indy.org or call 317-548-2842

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Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty - Why Should a Non-working Spouse be Entitled to Social Security Benefits?

Dear Rusty: Why can a non-working spouse claim half of their working spouse's benefit even though they have not contributed to the Social Security system? This doesn't seem right or fair to those of us who have contributed for years from our paychecks. Signed: Inquisitive



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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Dear Inquisitive: This is a question which needs a bit of historical background to properly explain: Social Security's original purpose when it was enacted in 1935 was to prevent America's seniors from living in poverty (remember, Social Security was enacted during the "Great Depression"). Even before the first Social Security check was sent to a retired worker in 1940, Congress had already changed the original Social Security law to, as well, provide anti-poverty benefits to non-working spouses of a work-

er (a predominant family reality at that time) and surviving spouses, as well as to their minor children. Social Security's fundamental goal has always been to lift eligible Americans out of poverty, which it still does very effectively.

It's important to note that this change did not (and does not) detract in any way from the benefits provided to those who work and contribute to Social Security thus earning their own SS retirement benefit. In other words, those who receive their personally earned SS retirement

benefit are not at all penalized if their non-working spouse also receives a benefit (albeit a considerably smaller amount) on the worker's record. Living expenses for two people are, simply, higher than for one, which was/is the rationale for also paying benefits to a dependent not eligible for Social Security benefits on their own work record. In the end, it all comes down to avoiding poverty.

Although the numbers vary

▶ See RUSTY Page A5

Suicidal Veterans Need Our Help Now

By John Grimaldi

As President Calvin Coolidge put it, "the nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten." It's why we take the time to remember the selfless sacrifices of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines on Veterans Day. But is one day of remembrance in November enough of a commemoration. Not only have valiant service men and women given their lives to protect our freedom, bear in mind that each year thousands of former service men

and women commit suicide due to service related trauma.

According to the American Addiction Centers [AAC], "suicide rates have been historically high among young veterans and older veterans as well. In the 20 years between 2001 and 2020, the suicide rate among veterans between the ages of 18 and 34 increased by 95.3%. During that same time period, the suicide rate among veterans between the ages of 55 and 74 rose 58.2%. From 2019-2020, however, the suicide rate for older veterans decreased while the suicide rate

among veterans in the 18-34 age group increased."

The AAC report explains that the chief causes of veteran suicides are depression, social problems, money troubles and engaging "in impulsive, high-risk behaviors." Mental disorders and substance abuse, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and traumatic brain injury (TBI) also can play a role.

However, the Center for Deployment Psychology [CDP]

▶ See JOHN Page A5

Spring Cleaning: Don't Toss That 'Junk,' It May Be Valuable!

(StatePoint) It's time to hit the garage, basement, attic and closets for that age-old task of spring cleaning! Before hauling unwanted possessions to the curb, you may be surprised to learn they might be valuable -- especially if you have sports cards and memorabilia gathering dust.

With prices of sports cards rising in recent years, take time to determine if yours are valuable and how to best sell them.

"Older sports cards and memorabilia aren't just highly collectible; they can be worth lots of money. Recent sales of scarce vintage cards have topped anywhere from thousands of dollars to tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands. And really rare cards can go higher," says Al Crisafulli, Auction Director at Love of the Game Auctions, an internet sports auction house

that helps families identify and sell valuable items.

Crisafulli has assisted people in selling such keepsakes as a grandparent's autograph collection and an uncle's childhood baseball cards, for tens of thousands of dollars. In one life-changing event, he helped a family determine that a baseball bat that spent decades protecting their home was used by Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig -- and Love of the Game Auctions sold it for almost half a million dollars. Today, that bat could bring more than a million dollars.

The key is understanding what makes old sports collectibles valuable. To help, Crisafulli is sharing some tips:

Older is Usually Pricier
Cards from the 1960s and earlier are collectible, and those

▶ See JUNK Page A5

Why Early Detection Of Lung Cancer Is So Important

(StatePoint) Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States.

While early detection can vastly improve a patient's chances to lead a full and healthy life, the majority of those who are high risk are not getting screened.

The American Lung Association, which is committed to defeating lung cancer and supporting those with the disease, is sharing vital information to help more people learn their risk and connect them to screenings and other life-saving resources:

Preventable Deaths
According to the 2022 "State of Lung Cancer" report, a mere 5.8% of Americans eligible for a low-dose computed tomography (CT) scan were screened. A low-dose CT scan is a special

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:26 a.m.
SET: 8:09 p.m.

High/Low
Temperatures
HIGH: 48 °F
LOW: 46 °F

Today is...

- April Fools' Day
- Boomer Bonus Day
- Fossil Fools Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1976 Apple Inc. is founded. The computer company, which has evolved into a multinational corporation and whose best-known product is the iPhone, was founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ronald Wayne.
- 2001 Slobodan Milošević is arrested. The former President of Serbia was arrested on corruption charges. Later he was put on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague for war crimes during the Yugoslav wars.
- 2001 The Netherlands becomes the first country to allow same-sex marriage. Despite opposition from conservative factions, gay and lesbian couples are today allowed to marry in many other countries also.

Births On This Day

- 1815 Otto von Bismarck
German politician, 1st Chancellor of the German Empire
- 1961 Susan Boyle
Scottish singer

Deaths On This Day

- 1984 Marvin Gaye
American singer-songwriter
- 2010 John Forsythe
American actor

kind of X-ray that takes multiple pictures as the patient lies on a table that slides in and out of the machine. A computer then combines these images into a detailed picture of the lungs. Studies estimate that if even just half of the approximately 8 million Americans identified as high risk for lung cancer were

▶ See LUNGS Page A5

▶ INSIDE TODAY

- Obituaries.....A2
- Service Directory.....A3
- Capitol Chronicle.....A4, A5
- In The Home.....A6

▶ HONEST HOOSIER

Just want to officially announce my retirement. Today is the last day you'll get to share in my wonderful wit and wisdom . . . APRIL FOOLS! We all know I don't have any wisdom and only about half on the other.



▶ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Influenza is in town - wash your hands frequently and stay home if you have a cough and high fever. 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

"This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other three hundred and sixty-four."
-Mark Twain

▶ TODAY'S JOKE

How is today a little like Thanksgiving? Because on Thanksgiving, you are thankful. Today, you're a little prankful!

▶ OBITUARIES
Burlin Chadwell Ewing

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



WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

49/63 RAIN AND STORMS FRI	46/48 WET & CLOUDY SAT	28/58 MAINLY SUNNY SUN	45/68 WARMING UP MON	55/72 ISOLATED STORMS TUE	64/73 BREEZY, STORMY WED	38/55 MUCH COOLER THU
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OBITUARIES

Burlin Chadwell Ewing

October 18, 1931, Sunday, March 26, 2023

Burlin Chadwell Ewing passed from this life into the loving arms of Jesus on March 26, 2023, at 6:02 pm. at his home in Sheridan, surrounded by his loving family. He was born October 18, 1931, in Lee County Virginia, and was the second son of the late Virgil Lee and Willie Mae Ewing. He attended Pennington Gap Virginia Schools.



When Burlin went to work at 16 he worked outside the coal mines in Virginia until he turned 18 then he went down in the mines to work. In 1951 when Firestone came looking for workers for their factory in Noblesville, Indiana Burlin saw this as an opportunity to get out of the coal mine and came to Noblesville to work. Because of the sporadic work Burlin left Firestone and went to work for a factory in Indianapolis. After leaving the factory he worked for 40 years in the grain elevator. First for Mendenhall's, Hightshue Brother's and finally Wallace Grain retiring in 1994. Burlin loved the Lord and was a member of the Assembly of God in Kirklin, Indiana for many years.

In 1959, Burlin met the love of his life Virginia (Callahan) Ewing. They were wed on November 23, 1963 and would spend the next 59 years by each other's side. Family was very important to Burlin. He loved his children and looked forward to seeing and talking to them every day. He had seven grandchildren and they were his "Magnificent Seven" as he called them. Burlin's first great-grandson Eugene Bennett Pickett was "his boy". Eugene always brought a smile to his face.

He always enjoyed spending time with family whether it was just sitting at home talking or going on family vacations or gatherings. He was a very avid storyteller.

His two brothers would stop by almost daily to visit with him. Burlin is survived by the love of his life, Virginia Callahan Ewing; daughters, Tina Marie (David) Kalman of Kirklin, and Trena Lee (Stephen) Hunt of Kirklin; son, Brian Chadwell (Rachelle Brown) Ewing of Cicero; 7 grandchildren, Kaitlyn Marie (Eric Brandon) Pickett of Sheridan, Wesley Adam Malbone of Houston Texas, Kristina Gabrielle Kalman (Corey Hamersley) of Sheridan, Ciara Raelynn Ewing (finance' Nicholas Halbert) of Noblesville, Taylor Nicole Ewing of Muncie, Christian Chadwell Ewing of Cicero, and Ella Renae Ewing of Cicero; 2 great-grandchildren, Eugene Bennett Pickett, and Baby Pickett (due in April); 2 brothers, Bernard Gale (Louise Lindenmayer) Ewing of Sheridan, Kerman Lee Ewing of Sheridan; Special Family Members, David Wesley Malbone of Sheridan, Drew and Laurie (Rankin) Hunt of Kirklin, James Tyson Hunt, and Emma Lee Hunt; many nieces, nephews, great nieces, nephews and great-great nieces and nephews; and his buddies, Jimi the Corgi and Nikita the Siberian Husky.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Virgil Lee and Willie Mae (Reynolds) Ewing; sisters and brothers-in-law, Alma Luette (Tinley) Burgan, Montete Sue (Bernard "Sonny") Ulrey, Reta Kay Ewing, Donna June (Gerald "Jerry") Swank.

Services will be held at 1:00 pm on Monday, April 3, 2023, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th Street, Sheridan, Indiana. Burial will follow at Spencer Cemetery in Sheridan. Burlin's son-in-law, David Kalman, will be officiating. Visitation will take place from 4:00-8:00 pm on Sunday evening, April 2, 2023, at Kercheval Funeral Home of Sheridan.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the American Cancer Society.

Spring In Fishers Features Fun For All Ages

Spring is right around the corner, and the City of Fishers and Fishers Parks are gearing up for a season of outdoor adventures and favorite community traditions.

The spring event and programming lineup includes:

Fishers City Hall & Arts Center Beam Sign-ing

Beam available to sign now | North of construction site at 1 Municipal Drive

Be part of Fishers' next chapter and sign your name on a beam for the new Fishers City Hall & Arts Center, opening next year! The beam will be available to sign beginning today after 1 p.m., just north of the construction site at 1 Municipal Drive. Stop by anytime to sign the beam, but it will only be out for a week or so before it will need to be installed, so act fast and don't miss your chance to be part of Fishers' next chapter!

Storywalk

April: Cheeney Creek Natural Area (11030 Fishers Pointe Blvd.)

May: Billericay Park (12690 Promise Road)

This spring, Fishers Parks' self-guided Storywalk hike features Have You Ever Seen a Flower? by Shawn Harris in April and The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld in May. Visit playfishers.com/Storywalk to see the full 2023 Storywalk schedule.

Fishers Sesquicentennial Trail

Ongoing | Citywide
The City continues its 150th birthday celebration this spring with a self-guided tour of Fishers' history, culture, and community favorites on the Fishers Sesquicentennial Trail. During your Spring Break staycation, pick up a trail passport from various locations around the city and begin checking off destinations as you explore. Enjoy the spring flowers at Ritchey Woods Nature Preserve, soak up the sunshine with a stroll along the Nickel Plate Trail, and cap off your adventure with a sweet treat at Handel's Homemade Ice Cream. The first 150 finishers receive a gift card to a local business and a trail finisher t-shirt. Learn more at thisisfishers.com/Fishers150Trail.

Free Yoga Classes

Wednesdays, April - May | 9 - 10 a.m. | Billericay Park | Free
Wednesdays, June | 9 - 10 a.m. | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater | Free

Saturdays, May - September | 8 - 9 a.m. | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater | Free

Third Thursday of the month, May - September | 5 - 6 p.m. | Fishers AgriPark | Free

Fishers Parks is expanding its free yoga program with opportunities throughout the week at Billericay Park, the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater, during the Fishers Farmers Market, and at Yoga on the Farm at the Fishers AgriPark. No registration

is required for any session. Learn more at playfishers.com.

Fishers AgriPark Opening

Opens for the season Tuesday, May 2 | Fishers AgriPark (11171 Florida Road)

A 33-acre urban farm and one of the city's most unique assets, the Fishers AgriPark is one of the nation's largest urban farms and pays homage to Fishers' agricultural roots. Every year, May through October, residents are invited to the AgriPark for u-pick opportunities in the public fields and gardens, animal encounters, and special programming. Learn more at playfishers.com/AgriPark.

Mental Health Awareness Month

Join the community during Mental Health Awareness Month in creating a Stigma Free Fishers through events, community stories, and educational opportunities all month long. The City of Fishers and Fishers Health Department will host the annual Hope for Happiness event at the Fishers Farmers Market on Saturday, May 13 from 8 a.m. to noon in partnership with Fishers High School and Hamilton Southeastern High School's Bring Change to Mind student clubs to raise awareness about mental health and the city's Stigma Free initiative. The Forgiving Sea Project, a nonprofit multi-media collaboration from Indianapolis artist Carolyn Springer and composer Joseph Lamm funded by the Fishers Arts & Culture Commission, will provide an interactive art installation at Hamilton County Community Foundation Collaboration Hub and four public events throughout the month. Learn more about Mental Health Awareness Month at thisisfishers.com/MentalHealthMonth.

Fishers Farmers Market

Market at NPD AMP: Saturdays, May 6 - September 30 | 8 a.m. - noon | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater (6 Municipal Drive) | Free

Market at Saxony: Wednesdays, June 7 - August 30 | 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. | 13578 E. 131st Street | Free

Rated one of the top farmers markets in the region, the Fishers Farmers Market showcases vendors from Central Indiana offering fresh produce, baked goods, honey, specialty food items, meats, coffee, plants, and more. Learn more at playfishers.com/FarmersMarket.

Free Fishing Day

Sunday, May 7 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Flat Fork Creek Park (16141 E. 101st Street) | Free
Join the Fishers Parks team for free, pop-up fishing! Bring your own supplies or borrow equipment on site. Free Fishing Days are designated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Indiana residents do not need a fishing license to fish in

the state's public waters on these dates. Learn more at playfishers.com/fishing.

Touch-a-Truck

Tuesday, May 16 | 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater | Free

In honor of National Public Works Week, check out Fishers' fleet of big rigs, including a firetruck, snowplow, police car, and more at this family-friendly event around the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater. Learn more at thisisfishers.com/TouchaTruck.

Geist Waterfront Park Grand Opening

Opening Day: Saturday, May 27 | Noon - 8 p.m.

Regular Beach Hours: Daily, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Geist Waterfront Park (10811 Olio Road) | Fishers SmartPass required for entry after May 27

Celebrate the opening of Fishers' newest park on Geist Reservoir! Beach access is open seasonally from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day weekend. Learn more at playfishers.com/GWP.

Splash Pad Opening Day

Opening Day: Saturday, May 27

Open Daily | 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

The free splash pads at Holland Park (1 Park Drive) and Billericay Park (12690 Promise Road) and the fountain at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater Pavilion (10 Municipal Drive) will open daily beginning Saturday, May 27 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (weather permitting) through Labor Day. Learn more at playfishers.com/WaterAmenities.

Saxony Lake & Beach will not open in 2023 as Fishers Parks opens the new Geist Waterfront Park beach this summer.

Free Tuesdays Concert Series

Every Tuesday in June & July | 7 p.m. | Free

The Nickel Plate District Amphitheater's annual Free Tuesdays series, presented by IU Health, offers free, weekly shows every Tuesday evening in June and July. The Free Tuesdays lineup is as follows:

• June 6 - Six Foot Blonde

• June 13 - DUDE!

• June 20 - Jukebox Luke

• June 27 - My Yellow Rickshaw

• July 4 - Karma (Show begins at 8 p.m. with fireworks following at 10 p.m.)

• July 11 - Street Pen-nies

• July 18 - GrooveSmash

• July 25 - Hank Ruff

See the AMP's complete summer schedule at npdamp.com.

Summer Concert Tickets

Various dates | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater

Tickets are on sale now for RIPE, performing July 15, and Snarky Puppy, performing September 8, at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater in partnership with Fishers Parks and MOKB Presents. Get tickets at npdamp.com and stay tuned for more

upcoming shows to be announced soon.

Summer Camp Registration

Fishers Parks offers camps for children ages 4 to 19 to explore their interests, make friends, and shake their summer break boredom. Whether your kid is an adventurer, nature-lover, artist, all-star athlete, or scientist-in-training, Fishers Parks offers something for everyone to keep kids active and learning. Register for summer camp at playfishers.com/Summer-Camp.

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 29 | 10 a.m. | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater | Free

Join the City of Fishers to honor the service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom at this special ceremony. After the ceremony, take a walk around the Central Green and Nickel Plate District Amphitheater to see the new light pole banners honoring local veterans and active duty service-members in the Fishers community. You can also honor a hero by purchasing an Engraved Brick Paver, which will become a permanent addition to the Liberty Plaza walkway. Learn more at fishers.in.us/FishersHonors.

Spark!Fishers

Tuesday, June 20 - Saturday, June 24 | Nickel Plate District | Free

Don't miss the biggest celebration of the summer! The weeklong celebration features concerts at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater on Tuesday and Friday nights, a 5K fun run and walk on Wednesday evening, a Car & Art Show on Thursday, and a Street Festival with live music, family activities, a parade and aerial show on Saturday. Learn more at sparkfishers.com.

Registration is now open for the annual Spark!Fishers 5K and Kids Fun Run and the Spark!Fishers Car & Art Show, as well as applications for Street Fair vendors, parade spots, entertainment, and more. Sign up or learn more at sparkfishers.com.

Fishers Maker Playground Workshops

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Fishers Parks HQ (8100 E. 116th Street)

Take a shop class, learn power tool basics, discover the art of stained glass, and more at the Fishers Maker Playground and Fishers Parks Maker Labs. Register for classes at makerplayground.com.

Get Involved

Looking for ways to make an impact in the community? Whether you're volunteering solo or as a group, there are ways to get involved for all ages, interests, and abilities. See current volunteer opportunities for Spark!Fishers, the Geist Half Marathon & 5K, Fishers Farmers Market, Fishers AgriPark and more at volunteerfishers.com.

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Spring Break Travel Continues, Early Morning Flights Busiest Time

The Indianapolis Airport Authority anticipates more than 110,000 passengers will travel through the Indianapolis International Airport (IND) over the next week as spring break travel continues for Indiana schools and universities.

According to TSA officials, approximately 18,000 passengers per day are anticipated to move through the Indy airport security checkpoints. Wednesday through Saturday are the busiest days this week with more than 18,000 passengers anticipated on Friday and nearly 19,000 on Thursday.

Airport officials say early morning flights (4 a.m. - 7 a.m.) are the most impacted by the surge in travel and encourages travelers flying out during this timeframe to arrive at least two hours early.

The Indy airport is also going through various upgrades to improve the passenger experience with new advanced Computed Tomography (CT) technology being installed in TSA security checkpoints and construction taking place for an expansion to the Terminal Garage. While these upgrades will improve the airport's world-class customer experience in the near future, they may cause some delays in getting into the airport and through checkpoints this spring break season.

The IAA reminds passengers of the following tips as they head to the Indy airport this week to fly out to their destinations.

PREPARING FOR SPRING BREAK TRAVEL

With Spring Break travel expected to exceed 2019 pre-pandemic levels, it's important for travelers to be prepared before arriving at the airport.

Plan ahead, pack smart, and get to the airport early.

TSA checkpoint A opens at 4:00 a.m. and checkpoint B opens at 3:30 a.m. Hoosiers can process through either TSA checkpoint and proceed to their gate. TSA PreCheck is only available on checkpoint A. Airline ticket counters opening time varies, but generally they open two hours before flight departure.

The Indy airport also strongly encouraged travelers to consider the following travel tips below, and to sign up for TSA PreCheck at <https://www.tsa.gov/precheck> for a smoother screening process, which eliminates the need to remove shoes, belts, 3-1-1 liquids, laptops or light jackets.

Before leaving for the airport

- Always check flight status with the airline prior to arriving at the airport
- Arrive a full two hours ahead of the departure time to get checked in, through security, and to the gate in plenty of time before boarding call
- Download the airline's mobile app for all pertinent travel update
- Use a mobile boarding pass or print boarding passes ahead of time
- Download the MyTSA app for 24/7 access to the most frequently requested airport security information, including helpful tips for preparing for security, including a searchable database of items that can and can't go in checked or carry-on bags
- Pack smart - check for prohibited items and follow the 3-1-1 liquids rule. Learn more at: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/travel-tips/refresh-your-memory-liquid-rules>

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- Pack smart - check for prohibited items and follow the 3-1-1 liquids rule. Learn more at: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/travel-tips/refresh-your-memory-liquid-rules>

Plan ahead for parking

- IND is currently

undergoing construction for a Terminal Garage expansion and parking in this location is anticipated to go full during Spring Break

- Consider alternative forms of transportation, such as Uber & Lyft or having a loved one drop-off and pick-up at the airport

- For help determining parking options at IND, visit <https://www.ind.com/parking>

- The Economy Lot is a convenient and cost-effective option for travelers <https://www.ind.com/parking/economy-lot>

- For a contactless parking experience at IND, register for the free parkIND plus program <https://www.ind.com/parking/parkind-plus-program>

- Valet parking offers the closest proximity to the pedestrian walkway to the terminal. To learn more, visit <https://www.ind.com/parking/valet>

At the terminal

- Bring your own reusable water bottle and fill up at the numerous water bottle filling stations located throughout the terminal

- New restaurants are now open at IND offering a local flavor, see all available dining options and their operating hours at <https://www.ind.com/dining-shopping-services/dining>

- Use the Concourse Connector to explore available dining options in both concourses, no matter which one you are flying out of

- Explore new artwork throughout the terminal from local artists, and the new KIND Gallery space. Learn more at: <https://www.ind.com/publicart>

- When picking up friends or family, use the Cell Phone Lot to wait then proceed to the drive for pick-up or park in hourly parking and meet your guest inside

Wellfield Botanic Gardens Voted America's 142nd Must-See Public Garden

Public and botanical gardens are a beloved part of many communities across the US. These outdoor spaces offer a peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of city life, providing visitors with a chance to connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of various plant species. From lush gardens featuring vibrant flowers and towering trees, to intricate displays of succulents and cacti, public gardens offer a range of experiences for visitors to enjoy.

Good Plant Care recently polled 3,000 people, revealing the top 200 public gardens in America they would most like to visit in their lifetimes. It transpires that the top 3 public gardens as voted by the public are all in... Hawaii! Perhaps this is not surprising - the state's unique climate and geography make it a perfect location for cultivating a wide variety of plant species. With an abundance of sunshine, regular rainfall, and nutrient-rich volcanic soil, Hawaii is a botanical paradise, and its public gardens offer visitors a glimpse into this natural wonderland.

Hawaii's public gardens are also a reflection of the state's rich cultural heritage. Many of the gardens feature plants and flowers that are native to Hawaii and are culturally significant to the indigenous people of the islands.

1st. Koko Crater Botanical Garden
2nd. Hawaii Tropical

Botanical Garden, Big Island.

3rd. Wahiawa Botanical Garden

Following in 4th position was the Florida Botanical Gardens based in Largo. The garden spans over 30 acres and features a diverse range of native Florida plants, as well as exotic species from around the world. Visitors can explore themed gardens, including the Tropical Fruit Garden, Bromeliad Garden, and Butterfly Garden. The garden also has several walking trails, a boardwalk through a wetland, and a butterfly house.

And rounding up the top 5 came San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers. It is a historic greenhouse and botanical garden located in Golden Gate Park. The conservatory features a wide range of plant collections from around the world, including rare and endangered species. Visitors can explore several exhibition spaces, including a highland tropics gallery, a lowland tropics gallery, and a potted plant gallery, as well as a living roof garden.

And Indiana had 3 public gardens ranked within the top 200:

#142 Wellfield Botanic Gardens is a 36-acre public garden located in Elkhart. The gardens feature a variety of themed areas, including the Japanese-inspired Island Garden, the Children's

Garden, and the English Cottage Garden. Visitors can also enjoy a diverse collection of plant species from around the world, including many native to the Midwest region. In addition to the gardens, Wellfield also features several walking paths, a boardwalk, and a large pond, making it a popular destination for both nature lovers and families looking for a fun outdoor activity.

#151

James Irving Holcomb Botanical Gardens is a beautiful garden located in Shelbyville. The garden is named after James Irving Holcomb, who was a local businessman and philanthropist. The garden features a variety of plants, trees, and flowers, including a large collection of hostas and daylilies. Visitors can take a leisurely stroll through the garden's winding paths and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. There are also benches scattered throughout the garden, providing a perfect spot to relax and take in the beauty of the plants and flowers.

#195

Garfield Park Conservatory and Gardens, located in Indianapolis, is a public botanical conservatory that showcases various plants and gardens from around the world. The conservatory was established in 1916 and spans over 10,000 square feet, featuring an array of gardens such as a sunken garden, a desert garden, a tropical rainforest, and a bonsai garden.

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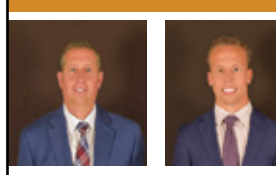
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Raising Awareness Of National Child Abuse Prevention Month

This April, in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, StepStone Family & Youth Services of Indiana is planting a garden of more than 36 blue pinwheels outside “Growing Minds” in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Through the initiative, StepStone hopes to raise awareness about preventing child abuse and neglect and providing children with a safe, loving home.

“Many of the children and youth that we serve have experienced abuse or neglect by their caregivers and carry an immense amount of trauma. At StepStone Family & Youth Services, we work tirelessly to connect children to stable, loving homes where they can heal and grow,” said Program Director, Emily Bidelman with StepStone Family & Youth Services of Indiana. “These pinwheels represent the important role that

our community plays in protecting children and strengthening families.”

In Indiana, more than 9,000 children are in foster care, creating a dire need to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs and meet the increasing need for loving foster parents.

“We’re always looking for new foster families to help children in Indiana communities who need safe, caring living environments,” added Chris Eichman, Executive Director. “This national Child Abuse Prevention Month, we hope to encourage more families to join our StepStone family by opening their hearts and homes and becoming trauma-informed foster parents.”

If interested in becoming a foster parent or learning more about StepStone’s services, please visit stepstoneyouth.com.

Budget, Housing Testimony Seeks More For The Poorest Hoosiers

By Whitney Downard
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Senate committee responsible for drafting the state’s budget heard over four hours of public testimony Thursday, as leaders negotiate how to spend more than \$43.3 billion over the next two years.

The House version of the budget included an unprecedented increase in education vouchers, which amounts to roughly a third of the overall K-12 budget increase. Democrats argue that most public schools will lose out under the proposal.

In addition to the overall budget, lawmakers fielded testimony from nearly a dozen Hoosiers about a proposal to spur housing developments across the state.

Budget testimony
Several health care providers, including dentists and home health organizations, urged the committee to consider Medicaid reimbursement rates, which they say have lagged behind costs and de-incentivizes providers to participate in the government health insurance programs. Only impoverished Hoosiers qualify for Medicaid.

“Dental providers have not received a comprehensive rate increase in Medicaid reimbursement since 1999,” said Jill Burns, the president of the Indiana Dental Association.

Burns said the Family and Social Services Administration’s primary funding matrix included a \$8.9 million investment in dental Medicaid for fiscal years 2024 and another \$8.9 million in 2025, something she said was “incredibly inadequate.”

The number, Burns continued, should be closer to \$27 million annually.

“If this appropriation request seems high, that is because it has been more than 20 years since there’s been any kind of

increase,” she said.

Others, specifically economic development organizations, urged senators to do more for child care — a lack of which hurts their ability to attract workers, they said. Though eligibility and dollar amounts have increased for On My Way Pre-K, the amount of funding hasn’t.

Some also called up the legislature to increase the cigarette tax to \$2, up from \$0.99 currently, to promote smoking cessation and reduce Indiana’s high smoking rate, which many say contributes to Indiana’s poor health metrics.

The Senate hasn’t yet released their version of the budget, which will be influenced by the above testimony.

“The budget will probably be something that goes down to the wire,” Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray said Thursday.

Senate Republicans will unveil their version of the budget the week of April 10 to meet a committee deadline. A revenue forecast is expected April 19 and will be used by lawmakers in conference committee to iron out final details.

Housing testimony
A bill creating a revolving loan fund to build infrastructure related to housing developments additionally passed the committee in a 10-1 vote. Proponents say the bill will help solve the state’s housing shortage.

House Bill 1005 will allocate \$50 million in the first budget year followed by \$25 million the next year that communities can borrow to build sidewalks, sewer systems, roadways and more to incentivize developers to build workforce housing.

The committee opted to amend the bill by removing restrictions on housing or residential tax increment financing programs (HO-TIF), an economic development

tool under which property owners pay an additional tax to help fund a specific housing project. In particular, school districts now have far less say in the implementation of HO-TIFs.

Nearly everyone who testified supported the bill. But one entity, the Association of Indiana Counties, had reservations following the change.

Ryan Hoff, the director of government relations and general counsel for the organization, said he’d been neutral on the bill before the amendment and now opposed the measure. He said the state needed to implement more guardrails on HO-TIFs.

“The property tax base is already looked at to provide for a lot of things in the state, including services,” Hoff said. “We’re looking to the property tax to do more and more things.”

Those concerns pushed Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, to vote against the bill, saying he didn’t see much evidence of school boards quashing HO-TIFs — as claimed by the amendment’s proponents.

House Speaker Todd Huston, who named the bill as one of his caucus’ priorities, said that he’d supported HO-TIFs in the past and would need to examine the Senate addition.

“We know we need to increase housing availability in the state of Indiana,” Huston, R-Fishers, said. “If this is a tool locals can use — and some locals have used it already — we’ll ... have that conversation.”

A push for affordability
But the biggest push for change came from supporters, half of whom asked the committee to add a provision prioritizing affordable housing to increase the state’s supply for the lowest income Hoosiers.

Communities who have completed a housing

needs study and loosened their zoning laws to permit smaller lots and accessory dwellings are prioritized for funding. But affordability doesn’t appear on that list.

Testimony from both Habitat for Humanity and the Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership highlighted development projects that failed or whose final cost out-priced affordable buyers due to the rising costs of infrastructure.

“While we think that (House Bill) 1005 has a lot of potential ... it’s currently missing a critical priority that’s needed to develop housing for Hoosiers and communities statewide who’ve experienced gaps in affordable housing,” said Andrew Bradley, the policy director for Prosperity Indiana.


Bradley highlighted results from the organization’s latest release, which demonstrated that for every 100 renters in extreme poverty there were only 39 units available. Currently, the bill does earmark the majority of funding, 70%, for communities with less than 50,000 residents — which can include smaller municipalities within larger cities.

“There’s some data there. However, that gets at the geographies where there is the most need, it doesn’t get to who are the Hoosiers who have the most need,” Bradley said.

The bill advances to the full Senate, where the chamber can consider further amendments.

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JOHN From Page A1

says it also has a lot to do with relationship problems, legal issues and workplace troubles. The CDP notes that “other medical conditions that are associated with an increased risk for suicide include traumatic brain injury (TBI), chronic pain, and sleep disorders. These conditions can contribute substantially to increased suicide risk in affected individuals. The most common method for suicide in the DoD is firearms, accounting for over 60 percent of all suicide deaths in the military.” The CDP also notes that while veterans are only 8.5% of the U.S. population, they account for about 18% of all adult suicides. “This means that approximately 20 veterans die each day by suicide [or about 7,300 veterans a year]. Like Service members, the most common method for suicide among U.S. veterans is firearms, accounting for over two-thirds of all veteran suicides.”

Active duty military personnel are also experiencing high levels of suicide. Executive Director, Elizabeth Foster, of the Pentagon’s Force Resiliency Office reported a few months ago that year-to-year active duty suicides have dipped. She reported that the active duty suicide rate fell by 15% between 2021 and 2020. However, as she put it, “while we

are cautiously encouraged by the drop in these numbers, one year is not enough time to assess real change. The year-to-year trend provides helpful preliminary insight, but there is still a gradual increasing trend for suicide in the military over a 10-year period, and we need to see a sustained long-term reduction in suicide rates to know if we’re really making progress.”

If you have a friend or family member with mental issues, they may be in need of professional care. But, says Seamus Callahan at the White Light Behavioral Health, “one of the most important ways that friends, family members, and communities can support veterans in recovery is by advocating for access to quality mental health and addiction care. Unfortunately, many veterans face significant barriers to accessing care, including long wait times, lack of resources, and bureaucratic obstacles within the VA system.”

For more information about dealing with this critical issue confronting veterans at risk, organizations such as the Association of Mature American Citizens can also help. The AMAC Foundation’s dedicated Veteran Outreach Program provides online access to resources available for the men and women who have served our nation.

LUNGS From Page A1

deaths could be prevented. In fact, since low-dose CT scans started to be used for screening, it has reduced cancer deaths by 20% and it has reduced deaths from other causes by almost 7%.

Risk Eligibility
Many people who are at risk for lung cancer and are eligible for screening are not identified and are not referred for screening. Under the most recent lung cancer screening guidelines, those ages 50-80 who have a 20 pack-year smoking history or who have quit smoking in the past 15 years should get screened for lung cancer.

The American Lung Association offers a helpful tool for determining your eligibility for screening, found at www.Saved-ByTheScan.org.

Eliminating Racial Disparities

It is especially important for Black men and women to speak to their health care provider about their risk and get screened if necessary, as they are more likely to develop lung cancer and less likely to survive five years with the disease than people of any other racial or ethnic group.

Research suggests that Black Americans have a higher baseline risk for developing lung cancer -- Black American smokers get lung cancer at least 20% more often than other people who smoke. Furthermore, systemic racism and injustices and issues continue to persist in the healthcare system, and Black people and other communities of color are

less likely to be diagnosed early, less likely to receive surgical treatment, and more likely to not receive any treatment at all.

Fighting Barriers
Despite the fact that lung cancer screening is extremely effective at improving life expectancy and has the potential to dramatically improve lung cancer survival rates, many patients are not getting screened, even when they have a referral from their doctor to do so. The reasons for low screening adherence range from practical concerns, such as financial and transportation barriers, to more elusive issues like distrust of the medical system and lack of awareness regarding the seriousness of the disease.

Emerging resources are helping eliminate these barriers and are making it easier for people to assess their screening eligibility, locate screening centers, schedule appointments, and receive financial assistance if they don’t have insurance or transportation. Free tobacco cessation resources and other lung health resources also exist to help people to reduce their risk. To learn more, visit www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases.org or speak directly to a nurse or respiratory therapist by calling the Lung HelpLine at 1-800-LUNG-USA.
When lung cancer is detected and treated in its earliest stages, more positive outcomes can be expected. That’s why it’s so important that everyone learns their risk and connects to resources to help them get screened.

RUSTY From Page A1

somewhat by state, gender, and ethnicity, without Social Security about 38% of all Americans over age 65 would be living below the poverty line, whereas with Social Security only about 9% of Americans over 65 live below the poverty line. But that 9% number would be significantly higher if non-working spouses and survivors of eligible workers were also not entitled to Social Security benefits.

While it is true that Social Security is facing

future solvency issues, the thought of restricting benefits to only those who have worked and contributed to the program (and not to their non-working spouses or minor children) is not something being considered by anyone with Congressional influence, regardless of political affiliation. Doing so would be devastating to a large segment of the American population, severely increasing poverty – the very thing that Social Security is designed to prevent.

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Ban on Taxpayer-Funded Gender-Affirming Surgery For Indiana Inmates Heads To Governor

By Leslie Bonilla Muniz and Casey Smith
Indiana Capital Chronicle

A bill to ban state and federal dollars from being used to provide Indiana inmates with gender-affirming sexual reassignment surgery advanced to the governor’s desk Thursday.

Senators voted 38-9 to move House Bill 1569, which restricts the Indiana Department of Correction (DOC) from paying for an offender’s reassignment surgery — even if recommended by a medical provider.

The latest version of the bill, authored by Rep. Peggy Mayfield, R-Martinsville, does allow access to hormone therapies that are intended to make one appear or function as the opposite sex, however.

“(The bill) is focused solely on unproven, irreversible and life-altering surgeries that would be paid from Hoosier taxpayers,” said bill sponsor Sen. Stacey Donato, R-Logansport.

Taxpayer dollars can’t cover gender-affirming surgery costs

Currently, those incarcerated within DOC facilities, such as state prisons, are able to undergo the transition procedure. A DOC spokesperson said earlier this month that no inmates have done so yet, though.

Indiana’s Medicaid policy does not explicitly prohibit — nor allow — reimbursement for transition therapies or surgeries. Federal Medicaid guidelines additionally do not mandate states to cover sex reassignment surgeries.

Republican lawmakers who support the bill say they want to protect taxpayers from paying for an “unnecessary” procedure.

Democrats and LGBTQ advocates pushed back, holding that the bill is not about saving state resources, but rather part of a “hateful” GOP-backed agenda to enact anti-transgender legislation.

“So we can go ahead and make it seem like this is a saving-the-taxpayer-money issue,” Senate Minority Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, said Thursday. “But I think it’s about whether or not you agree with the surgery procedure or not. It shouldn’t matter.”

Mayfield said previously that about three dozen people in Indiana’s jails and prisons are currently receiving hormone therapy for gender dysphoria — a clinical diagnosis describing the feeling of discomfort or distress that might occur in people whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth or sex-related physical characteristics.

Another two dozen individuals are being assessed “as to whether accommodations need to be made.”

Surgical procedures like vasectomies and hysterectomies are — when medically necessary — provided by the state at no cost.

Although neither the DOC nor its third-party medical providers have provided sexual reassignment surgery to any inmates, that’s about to change.

As the result of a federal case settled in 2022, DOC will provide surgical care to Tonie Loveday, who is now undergoing pre-operative care. Loveday’s case is exempted from the bill — the provision does not apply to patients approved by the DOC for sexual reassignment prior to July 1.

A second federal case, *Stillwell v. Dwenger*, is still being litigated and remains undecided.

Watch out, GrubHub
Senators made minor changes to few bills Thursday — but more significantly altered a bill cracking down on third-party food delivery services like GrubHub and Uber Eats.

House Bill 1279 is intended to make it easier for dissatisfied restaurants to get out of contracts with delivery services, and to block those services from offering a restaurant’s food without its consent.

But it initially would’ve let a restaurant void its contract within 72 hours of telling delivery services of its intent, regardless of the contract’s terms. Lawmakers pulled back slightly, approving an amendment enforcing cancellation after a contract’s notice period is up, or 72 hours if there’s no time period specified in the contract.

“I believe in the freedom of contract and free enterprise,” amendment

author Sen. Spencer Deery, R-West Lafayette, said. Stakeholders, he added, were actually more interested in “follow-through” after a cancellation.

The amendment therefore says delivery services need to take down all menus and ordering options, and stop all delivery activities, within the time frame specified in a contract or the 72 hours. The bill itself allows restaurants to sue if delivery services don’t comply.

Lawmakers also approved a smaller tweak meant to ensure internet companies and search engines don’t get caught up by the proposal.

The Senate could consider the bill for final adoption as soon as Monday. Upon passage, it would need to return to the House for approval of the new edits before going to the governor’s desk.

Nearing the finish line?
With less than a month left until the end of the legislative session, a number of large bills — including priority measures and ones that have sparked controversy — are still in the works or have stalled altogether.

House Speaker Todd Huston said he’s “comfortable” with progress made so far on bills that are important to both his chamber and the Senate.

“We’re talking about all of those bills,” he said Thursday. “We’re having conversations around all of them.”

Lawmakers face their next set of deadlines in early April.

In the House, bills must be finalized in committee on April 11, then amended by the full chamber by April 13. Representatives have to greenlight bills to the governor or back to the Senate by April 17.

The Senate has until April 13 to advance bills from committees. Those measures then have to be amended by April 17 and voted out of the chamber by April 18.

Some bills will still need concurrence votes or hashed out in conference committees before being sent to the governor for a signature or veto.

Where are big priority bills?

Key bills still in committee that have not been assigned a hearing: Senate Bill 1 (behav-

ioral health), Senate Bill 6 (health care billing), Senate Bill 8 (prescription drug pricing), House Bill 1008 (anti-woke pension investing)

Bills still awaiting a committee vote:

Senate Bill 3 (tax review task force), Senate Bill 4 (public health funding boost), Senate Bill 5 (consumer data protection), House Bill 1002 (“reinventing” high school), House Bill 1003 (health reimbursements), House Bill 1004 (multiple health care changes), House Bill 1006 (mental health)

Bills still on second reading and pending amendments on the floor:

Senate Joint Resolution 1 (right-to-bail limits), House Bill 1005 (housing and tax financing)

As for the state’s next two-year spending plan, Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray said Thursday his caucus likely won’t reveal its version of the state budget until sometime around April 12.

Senators plan to vote on the budget by April 18 — one day before the release of the state’s next revenue forecast. After that, leaders in the House and Senate will work together to finalize the plan before the April 29 Sine Die deadline, when all legislative work must come to a close.

“We’re already in some conversations (with the House) about what that (budget) looks like,” Bray said, adding that — despite desire in years prior to end the session a few days early — state lawmakers will likely be at the Statehouse closer to their final deadline. “You can’t make those decisions, of course, until the revenue forecast comes in, but we’ll do as much work as we can leading up to that. It is a very quick turnaround when we’ve got a north-of-\$40-billion budget to sort out.”

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JUNK From Page A1

from before the 1940s can be worth a lot of money, especially those depicting stars. Do you have cards of Hall of Famers, such as Mickey Mantle, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner or Ty Cobb? Even non-stars from the early days of a sport can be worth big bucks, especially if the cards have no creases and retain sharp corners and original gloss.

If you have very old cards from the 1880s through the 1930s, look for tobacco, gum and candy brands, such as Old Judge, Piedmont, Sweet Caporal, Goudey or American Caramel.

If you want to sell sports items for the most money, consider a specialty auction, such as Love of the Game, which has the expertise to properly research sports ephemera and maintains bidder lists of collectors specializing in sports. More information is available at loveofhegameauctions.com.

Postcards and Photographs

We all have keepsakes of vacation destinations, but most aren’t valuable. However, photographs and postcards depicting sports stars and ballparks can be significant. Look for early “real photo” postcards from the 1900s through the 1940s, which are photographs printed on postcard backs.

As with sports cards,

star power matters, so preserve those Babe Ruths as opposed to images of your great grandma’s baby cousin once-removed. And when it comes to photos, look for old markings on the back, such as photographer, publication and date stamps.

Memorabilia
Set aside old advertising posters depicting sports stars and food, tobacco or sporting goods brands. Ads from magazines aren’t valuable, but those used as store displays and for other marketing purposes can be pricey. Tin signs from the 1960 and earlier can be highly prized, but reproductions aren’t.

Your family’s sporting goods, such as balls, gloves and bats, can be valuable. Pre-1950s uniforms and catcher’s masks, helmets and other equipment are highly collected, especially when endorsed by star players. Top condition brings the highest prices, but even used equipment can be valuable.

“The golden rule is the older the sports card or item, the more valuable it usually is. Pre-1975 pieces start to get interesting and are worth researching,” says Crisafulli.

Don’t just clean out your “junk” this spring, examine it closely to potentially maximize its value.

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Enjoy The Many Benefits Of Adding Water Features To The Landscape



MELINDA MYERS
Columnist

By Melinda Myers

Boost the beauty and your enjoyment by adding a fountain, birdbath, or other water feature to your balcony, deck, or landscape. This one addition to your outdoor space provides many benefits.

The sound of moving water helps create a sense of peace and relaxation. It is a form of white noise that helps calm the mind and revive your spirit.

It also helps mask noise pollution. Combine water features with strategic screening to create a quiet and private space.

Water is also a great way to attract songbirds and pollinators to your gardens. A birdbath with gently sloping sides allows birds and insects to take a sip without getting all wet. Or add a few stones to your birdbath to accomplish the same results. Be sure to change the water often as providing fresh water is important for the health of your winged guests.

Bring in even more birds by adding some



Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

A water feature and statue add interest and relaxation to the landscape.

type of water agitator to your birdbath. Moving water is very appealing and helps attract more birds, especially during spring and fall migration.

No need to worry about mosquitoes taking residency in your water feature. Moving water is less appealing and adding Summit® Mosquito Dunks® (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) to water features prevents mosquitoes from breeding there. Just toss this donut-shaped cake of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) into the water. This naturally occurring bacteria only kills the larvae of mosquitoes, black flies, and fungus gnats. It won't

harm people, pets, fish, or wildlife.

With so many options you are sure to find one that fits the size and style of your outdoor space. A wall-mounted fountain provides calming sound to patios, porches, and spaces near your home without taking up any valuable floor space.

A small tabletop water garden or fountain can make a nice centerpiece when dining outside or entertaining guests. Then simply move your miniature water feature as needed to maximize your enjoyment.

A natural boulder-turned water fountain is the perfect addition for those with informal

or natural spaces. Make it appealing to birds by selecting one with a flat area or small indentation to capture some of the water before it flows over the edge.

Select a garden statue with a built-in water fountain for a different aesthetic. Animals and mystical figures add playfulness to the garden while stately figures fit nicely in more formal settings.

Convert one or several plant pots into a fountain. You'll find lots of ideas and step-by-step directions on the internet. Or purchase one ready to install in the garden. These, like other fountains, recirculate water which reduces water waste.

Freshen up any space in the landscape with one of these water features. As soon as it is in place, you'll enjoy the relaxing sounds of water and the songbirds, butterflies, and others it attracts to your gardens.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

The Comeback Of Cheerful Begonias In The Garden

Tuberous begonias are all hip and happening again, whether in pots on patios or balconies, or in the border. This is hardly surprising, given that their many flowers can be enjoyed for months in all manner of cheerful colors. Plant the tubers after the last frost to enjoy them this very summer!

Flower and leaf Tuberous begonias come in all shapes and sizes. Many new varieties have been developed specifically for the garden. From June until the first night frost, they show off their blooms non-stop in red, orange, pink, apricot, yellow, and white. In other words, you will enjoy lots of color for a whopping five months! Their foliage is interesting too, with rounded as well as tapered shapes.

Classification Tuberous begonias are divided into bedding and cascading species or pendulas. The bedding group consists of three categories: double-flowered, small-flowered, and single-flowered. Cascading begonias come in large-flowered and small-flowered varieties, with the blooms elegantly cascading down. They really come into their own in taller pots and hanging baskets.

Planting and care 1. You can buy begonias in spring as a dry, flat tuber. It is difficult to imagine that such a large plant will grow out of this small tuber.

2. Plant them after the risk of night frost has passed since the tubers are not hardy (barring a few exceptions). Most begonias prefer partial shade. Check the packaging for information.

3. Keep a planting distance of 10 to 12 inches and make sure that the convex side faces down when planting. Sometimes

you can already see small shoots on the hollow top. If in doubt, you can plant the tuber on its side.

4. Apply a thin layer (1/2 - 1 inch) of soil.

5. If you are planting in pots, choose spacious pots with holes in the bottom. Put some shards or clay pellets at the bottom of the pot and use potting soil.

6. Water the pot after planting.

7. Begonias have shallow roots, so make sure that the top layer does not dry out. The plant will absorb a lot of water, especially when it is in full bloom.

8. Faded flowers will fall off the stem of their own accord. How easy is that?

How begonias got their name

The French monk Charles Plumier came across Begonia in the Caribbean during his first botanical journey in 1689 and 1690. He named the plant after Michel Bégon, who had organized the trip. In those days, Bégon was the naval steward at Rochefort, France's main seaport, from where ships departed to new countries.

Practical tips Position several tuberous begonias together to create a lovely corner in your garden or on your balcony.

You can start planting the tubers indoors as early as March and put them in a warm, light place. This is called forcing bulbs. Once the risk of night frost has passed, you can move them outside.

Remove the tubers from the soil around the time of the first night frost. If you keep them in a cool and dark place, you will be able to replant them next year.

You can find more information about flower bulbs at www.flowerbulbs.com.

Plant 'Summer-Snacking Bulbs' For Biodiversity

Are you looking for some company from happily fluttering butterflies and softly humming bees on your balcony or in your garden on a sunny summer day? Let's create a snackbar for insects with blooming summer bulbs. With their nectar and pollen, many summer bulbs are perfect as snacking flowers. They increase biodiversity. What's more, they have a lovely long flowering period.

Non-stop food source

In addition to their beautiful appearance, the long flowering period of summer bulbs is a plus. The first ones will bloom at the end of May and the last in November. In other words, the flowering lines up seamlessly with that of spring blooming flower bulbs like crocuses. This way flower bulbs provide insects with a non-stop food source from early spring to fall. You can use lots of different varieties. Not only will it look cheerful, but you will also attract more insect species. Af-

ter all, every insect has its own preference when it comes to flowers. Butterflies, for example, use their rolling tongues to snack on the nectar from deep flowers. Bees prefer more open flowers, where they can gorge themselves on the nectar with their shorter tongues.

Suitable summer bulbs for biodiversity

- African Lily (*Agapanthus*)

Flowering period: July-August, in white and different shades of blue.

Prefers the open ground, but is also suitable for planting in pots. Can withstand a few degrees of frost, but is not hardy.

- *Crocsmia* (previously known as: *Montbretia*)

Flowering period: August-September, in yellow, orange or red.

Sets the border on fire with its bright colors. Perennial, cover for the first year.

- *Dahlia*

Flowering period: July-October in almost any color.

One of the most famous summer bulbs, of which the single-flowered and semi-double flowers are strong performers among the snacking flowers for insects. Annual.

- *Gladiolus*

Flowering period: July-September in almost any color.

The flowers are arranged on the stems in double rows. Not hardy, with the odd exception.

- Variegated pineapple lily (*Eucomis*)

Flowering period: July-August, in yellow, green or white.

This is an unusual flower whose bloom consists of countless tiny flowers. This bulbous flower will return the following year after a mild winter.

- *Liatris* (*Liatris spicata*)

Flowering period: July-August, in purple or white

Its vertically growing spikes consist of many small flowers. Perennial.

Practical tips

- Plant annual summer

bulbs from the end of April (when the chance of frost has passed) until the end of May.

- Replace tiles with greenery to reduce flooding, increase biodiversity and give nature a helping hand.

- Most summer bulbs are real sun worshippers: the more sun, the richer the flowering!

- Their demands on the soil are modest; it just needs to be sufficiently permeable to water.

- You can also plant summer bulbs in a pot, for some very impressive creations. They also look great on a balcony!

- Ready-made bee and butterfly mixes are also available.

- Annual summer bulbs should be removed from the soil before winter arrives. Store them in a cool, frost-free place. If they are staying in their pot, you can keep the entire pot indoors during winter.

You can find more inspiration and information about flower bulbs at www.flowerbulbs.com.

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Potted Summer Bulbs: Real Eye-Catchers On Your Balcony Or Terrace

Once the danger of night frost has passed, it is time to plant summer bulbs. Perhaps you don't have a garden. Not to worry! Summer bulbs thrive planted in pots as well. With so many varieties available, you can create the most colorful displays. You can enjoy these eye-catchers on your terrace or balcony for months this very year.

Exuberant effect All summer bulbs are suitable for planting in pots. They come in all kinds of shapes and colors. Five of the best-known ones include: dahlia, Begonia, gladiolus, Calla and lily. They all have their own charm, so it all depends on what you like. Low-growing summer bulbs are particularly suitable for pots,

such as dahlias up to about 20 inches tall and tuberous begonias. For an extra exuberant effect, mix several varieties of summer bulbs together. It is a smart choice if you want to extend the flowering period. Some flowers, such as dahlias and begonias, will actually continue to flower until the first frost! More information and varieties are available at www.flowerbulbs.com.

Step-by-step plan for planting summer bulbs in pots

1. Decide which and

how many bulbs you want to plant. The bulbs or tubers should easily fit in the pot, so there is plenty of room for the roots. Choose pots with a hole in the bottom to allow excess water to drain away.

2. Fill the pot with potting soil, keeping the planting depth stated on the package and a few inches for watering in mind.

3. Place the bulbs/tubers on the soil.

4. Cover the bulbs with potting soil. Keep a few inches free below the rim for watering. Gently press down the soil.

5. Water sufficiently, to prevent drying out.

Now it's time to look forward to the colorful results.

- Perfect for empty spots

- Why not brighten up a bare patch in your border by adorning it with one of these brightly colored pots?

- Arrange several pots together in the area where you like to sit, to create a lovely outdoor spot where you can just be, and relax.

- Position these eye-catchers in a spot where you will be able to see them from the inside.

Do you want to find out more about summer bulbs? Then take a look at www.flowerbulbs.com.