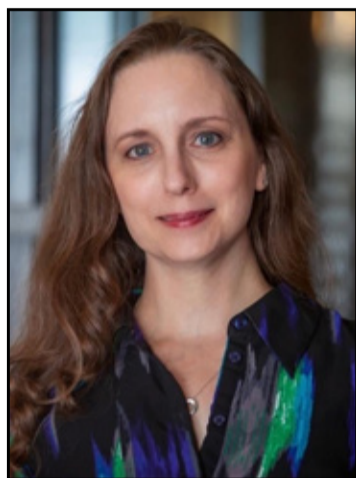


➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 23:1-6 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own. What makes Tonya Rave smile? "The collaboration of community theater," said the former Westfield resident, who is stage manager for Main Street Productions' "The Spitfire Grill," a musical that opened Thursday and continues through April 27 at Basile Westfield Playhouse. "The entire production process is a most enjoyable challenge. Especially with a musical, the multitude of moving pieces makes the journey a truly collaborative effort, and it is such a joy to witness it all come to fruition." A former high school theater teacher, the Lawrence North High School grad continues to pursue her passion for education and theater as a standardized patient actor and educator for Indiana University Health. Tonya is blessed to be the mother of two adult children. She also volunteers for a number of animal rescue organizations in central Indiana, including the Humane Society for Hamilton County. Tonya and her husband Toby, who were married on St. Patrick's Day seven years ago and have opened their hearts and home to numerous foster animals in the interim, consider themselves very lucky to currently share their homestead with nine rescue dogs and three rescue cats.

And Another Few Things...

1. Policy

It is this Newspaper's policy to not share information of any kind of a called in threat. Those that need to know any pertinent information have been informed and we as a part of this great community do not want to bring any more attention to this kind of behavior than is necessary.

2. ROAD CLOSURE

- 296th Street between SR-213 and Carpenter Road

Please be advised, beginning on or after Wednesday, April 26, 296th Street / 600 S will be closed to all thru traffic for the installation of a new drain through the Hamilton County Surveyor's Office. The estimated project completion date is Friday, April 28.

For bus and local traffic, the hard closure is nearest the address point of 13601 E. 296th Street. If you have any questions about this closure, please reach out to the Surveyor's Office at 317-776-8495.

3. Attorney General Todd Rokita Seeks Justice

Attorney General Todd Rokita has filed a lawsuit against a LaGrange County car dealer alleging the dealer rolled back odometers on vehicles sold to at least 42 consumers. The lawsuit alleges that Flexible Auto Sales LLC - owned and operated by John Allen - rolled back odometers by a combined total of more than 3 million miles on the known vehicles. "Here in Indiana, businesses must know they will face serious consequences if they betray the trust of Hoosiers in violation of the law," Attorney General Rokita said. "We will hold them accountable, and we will make them pay." The lawsuit alleges that the odometer-tampering violates the Indiana Deceptive Consumer Sales Act, the Indiana Odometer Act, the Federal Odometer Act and the Motor Vehicle Unfair Practices Act.

The TIMES

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Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty - What Can I Earn in My First Year Collecting Social Security?

Dear Rusty: My 62nd birthday is in late August of this year. I would like to start collecting Social Security, but after reading about the need to keep my earnings less than \$21,240 in the first year it doesn't seem fair to those who have birthdays later in the year. I will have earned a lot by the end of August. Or am I missing the part where the year starts from the day you retire? Or is it a fiscal year? Please elaborate? Signed: Looking Ahead



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.

The penalty for exceeding the annual limit is \$1 for every \$2 you are over the 2023 limit and, if using that formula yields a penalty which is less than for exceeding the 2023 monthly limit for September - December, they will use the annual limit instead of the monthly limit to compute your penalty. Thus, your annual earnings earned before September will only count if using the annual limit will result in less of a penalty than using the monthly limit for the months after your benefits start. If you plan to retire from working before September, then there will be no penalty for exceeding the annual earnings limit prior to that, but if you continue to work full time there will likely be a penalty which will cause Social Security to take away some of your benefits.

Starting in 2024, only the

annual earnings limit (which will be a bit more than the 2023 annual limit) will apply to you. Generally, if you continue working full time and will significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, it may be wise to reconsider claiming your Social Security until your income is below or closer to the annual limit each year, or until you reach your full retirement age after which the earnings limit no longer applies. And if you do claim early and exceed the earnings limit, and if you have benefits taken away for some number of months to satisfy the penalty, you'll get time-credit for those months after you reach your full retirement age. That credit will, essentially, move your claim date forward by the number of months you didn't get SS benefits, increasing your benefit amount accordingly after your full retirement age.

Dr. Ben Carson Believes 'We the People' Will Save Our Country

By John Grimaldi

You may recall that, for a moment there, Dr. Ben Carson sought to join the 2016 Presidential Election slugfest. The noted neurosurgeon's campaign for the presidency was short lived and he decided to back President Trump instead. In fact, he served as President Trump's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

He told Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens, during a recent episode of AMAC's Better For America podcast, that the president would "always say to me, Ben, aren't you glad you didn't win. And I would say, the only thing for the left that's worse than Satan is a Black conservative. They don't like that at all, because you're not supposed to be able to think for yourself. And if you don't follow a certain pattern, you're a race traitor. You're an Uncle Tom. Your every name that they can come up with. And it flies in the face of their narrative that you're supposed to be a victim, that the system is supposed to be systemically racist, it's supposed to be against you, and you're not supposed to be able to achieve at the highest levels."

Long before he joined the Trump Administration Dr. Carson was widely applauded for his accomplishments in the field of medicine. But that all changed when he revealed his conservative, pro-Trump focus. As he put it, they would say things like, "he must be crazy." But the fact is that "there are a lot more people who are starting to think for themselves. You know, when I went to conservative gatherings, I used to be the only black face there. And that's not the case anymore by a long shot. I think that's good because, we need to get back to the place that Dr. King dreamed about, where people would be judged by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin."

Dr. Carson expressed his concern about America's future during his interview. "There are a lot of people who actually have the right thoughts and the right belief systems, but they have a tendency to stand in a corner looking at issues rather than getting out there and being vocal. And that's so important because the reason that the leftists are able to achieve so much

➔ See PEOPLE Page A5

5 Steps To Properly Manage Blood Pressure

(Family Features) Nearly half of all American adults have high blood pressure, or hypertension, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of those, about 75% don't have it under control, and many may not even realize they have it unless they experience other complications.

In fact, high blood pressure is a leading cause and controllable risk factor for heart disease and stroke as well as other issues such as kidney failure, vision loss and sexual problems. However, the American Heart Association recommends taking these simple steps to help control your levels and manage risks.

1. Know Your Numbers

In most cases, normal blood pressure is 120/80 mm HG or less. Readings consistently higher than 130/80 are considered high blood pressure. Have your blood pressure measured at least once a year by a health care professional and regularly monitor it at home with a validated monitor then discuss the readings with your doctor. Getting accurate readings can

➔ See PRESSURE Page A5

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:04 a.m.
SET: 8:23 p.m.

High/Low
Temperatures
HIGH: 80 °F
LOW: 57 °F

Today is...

- Anime Day
- ASL Day
- Jackie Robinson Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1994 The World Trade Organization is founded.
- 1989 A small group of students initiates pro-democracy protest on Tiananmen Square in Beijing.
- 1945 The German concentration camp Bergen-Belsen is liberated.

Births On This Day

- 1452 Leonardo da Vinci
Italian painter, sculptor, architect
- 1894 Nikita Khrushchev
Soviet politician, 7th Premier of the Soviet Union

Deaths On This Day

- 1865 Abraham Lincoln
American lawyer, politician, 16th President of the United States
- 1998 Pol Pot
Cambodian politician, 29th Prime Minister of Cambodia

What Older Adults Should Know After a Doctor's Visit

(StatePoint) You know how important regular check-ups are and that consulting your healthcare provider when you have a concern is smart. But what happens after the visit is just as essential to maintaining good health.

Unfortunately, some people don't follow their provider's advice. Maybe they don't take their prescriptions as written or forego recommended preventive screenings and immunizations. This can be costly, both for individuals and the health care system. Case in point: More than 125,000 people die each year because of prescription medication non-adherence, according to the National Council for Patient Information and Education.

Following a doctor's recom-

➔ See VISIT Page A5

➔ INSIDE TODAY

- Betsy Reason.....A2
- Capital Chronicle.....A4
- Service Directory.....A4
- In The Home.....A6

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

So today isn't tax day? Why was it good enough for all those years and now it has to change?



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."
-Albert Einstein

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

"How do you get Pikachu on a bus? Poke him on."

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

When walking on a road, walk on the same side of the road as the oncoming traffic.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com



➔ OBITUARIES

None

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





The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Noblesville students participate in the cross country camp behind White River Elementary during a previous Summer Recreation Camp program. The program, annually open to students in Noblesville Township, is made possible thanks to Noblesville Township Trustee Office, with many of Noblesville Schools' facilities used for the programs. Openings were still available in this camp at presstime.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Noblesville students participate in the track and field summer camp during a previous Summer Recreation Camp program, made possible thanks to Noblesville Township Trustee Office. As of presstime, openings were still available.



Photo courtesy of Darlene Patterson

Noblesville students participate in girls and boys pottery camps a previous year at Promise Road Elementary. The camp is led by Darlene Patterson and Kittie Brown.



Photo courtesy of Darlene Patterson

Noblesville students participate in Adventure Camp during a previous year. The camp takes place at Koteewi Sport & Target Archery Center and will be led by Darlene Patterson and Kittie Brown.

Free Summer Camps Return, Thanks To The Township Trustee



BETSY REASON
From The Editor's Desk...

When my now high school junior daughter was in middle school, I sat at my laptop computer waiting for Noblesville Schools' annual free summer camps to go on sale.

It kind of reminded me of when I used to try to get tickets for popular concerts at the former Deer Creek Music Center, or this school year when I was trying to get front-row tickets for Noblesville High School's "Chicago: Teen Edition." Needless to say, the summer camps are very popular.

We all should thank

the Noblesville Township Trustee Office for partnering with Noblesville Schools to offer the programs again this year.

We took advantage of the camps for the first time six summers ago, and we loved the camps.

My daughter likes to stay busy. So she attended several camps.

Our first year, we signed up for track and field, tennis, cross country, swimming and softball. Our second year, we signed up for synchronized swimming (thanks to a partnership with Indy Synchro), color guard, hiking and again, track and field.

Our third year, 20-plus different free summer camps were offered, and we signed up for hiking and adventure camp, led by Promise Road Elementary art teacher, Darlene Patterson. She's leading the hiking and adventure camps again this year, along with a pottery camp.

Noblesville Schools

on Monday released this year's summer camps. There are so many choices of summer camps, even more choices than in 2022, with most of those being free camps, thanks to Noblesville Township Trustee. Camps are offered for kindergarten through Grade 8.

Free recreational camps include boys basketball at Noblesville East Middle School (NEMS), boys baseball at the NHS baseball complex, girls basketball at Noblesville West Middle School (NWMS), girls and boys soccer at White River soccer fields, girls track and field and boys track and field and girls and boys football at Beaver Materials Stadium, girls volleyball at NWMS, girls and boys dance at North Elementary, girls and boys hiking camps at Cool Creek Park, girls and boys adventure camp at Koteewi Sport & Target Archery Center, girls softball camp at NHS softball complex, girls and boys drama and theater camp

at NHS Auditorium, art camp at Caravan Classes, boys volleyball at NHS, girls and boys color guard camp and cheerleading camp at Noblesville Schools Community Center, girls and boys Esports Super Smash Brothers camp at NHS media center, beginner girls and boys dance at North Elementary, girls and boys rhythm and music camp at NEMS, clay camps at Kiln Creations, boys tennis and girls tennis at the NHS tennis complex, girls and boys cross country at the Cross Country complex behind White River Elementary, girls and boys strength training and fitness at the NHS weight room, girls and boys wrestling at the NHS wrestling room, mixed-media art camps at Kiln Creations, and girls and boys pottery camps at Promise Road Elementary.

Being that students can sign up or cancel with a couple of clicks on the computer, I advise them to sign up for desired

camps as soon as possible.

But there are still lots of openings.

"This year for camps is going to be great," Caldwell said. "Finally it seems like we are getting back to pre-COVID camp offerings. We have 34 camps this year as well as partnering with Kiln Creations, Caravan Classes and Nickel Plate Arts."

She said new this year will be theater camp, rhythm camp, gaming camp, percussion camp, softball camp (returns after a hiatus), and pottery camp. They will still offer all the others like hiking and adventure camp.

Caldwell said at this time there are 944 kids signed up since Monday.

"The cost of camps will really depend on how many coaches and assistants are needed but will cost around \$45,000," she said.

Shauna Metzger, Summer Recreation Director for the Trustee Office, and Joan Lawrence,

Noblesville Schools, have spent a lot of time preparing the camps and getting coaches and putting in the hard work to make sure the camps run smoothly, Caldwell said.

"All of us working together are happy to provide these opportunities for the kids of our community."

For the summer camps, Noblesville Schools provide use of facilities and help with advertising on its website. Individual camp directors and their helpers are paid. Most camp directors are school teachers. Noblesville Township works with a camp coordinator in determining the camps.

For Summer Recreational Camp opportunities, visit <https://www.noblesvilleschools.org/noblesville> and click on "Summer Camps."

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com.

BGCN Grateful For Hare's Support Of Youth Sports



Photo courtesy of Boys & Girls Club Noblesville

Longstanding partnership of Hare Chevrolet and BGCN benefits local youth. This week, the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville presented Hare Chevrolet with a token of appreciation for their generous title sponsorship of the 2022-23 Youth Basketball League. More than 500 youth and teens took part in the Club's basketball and cheerleading leagues that took place December through March.

Pictured L to R accepting a youth-signed basketball are Todd Thurston, Hare Truck Center Sales Manager, Tony Eslamirad, BGCN Community Center Director, and Jason Horack, Hare Chevrolet General Manager.

Buy. Sell. Rent. Lease.



THE TIMES classifieds.

School Patrol Stats- March 2023

Location	COUNT	SUBSTATION	DURATION
Westfield High School	54	8	15:22:25
Westfield Middle School	25	2	9:05:52
Westfield Intermediate	24	1	5:07:54
Carey Ridge	63	8	26:58:24
Washington Woods	51	12	15:41:20
Shamrock Springs	60	9	21:21:53
Maple Glen	105	6	19:21:21
Oak Trace	61	10	24:01:58
Monon Trail	47	1	12:56:32
Early Learning Center/Admin Building	15	0	1:39:09
St. Maria Goretti	37	0	14:22:53
Totals	542	57	165:59:41

*Note: School visits total include substation visits.

Graphic courtesy of Westfield Washington Schools

Due to strong the strong partnership with the Westfield Police Department, Police Officers have visited Westfield Washington Schools 4,197 times.

Westfield Police Department Partnership

Westfield Washington Schools and the Westfield Police Department have a great relationship which has been beneficial to both parties as well as for the safety of our students and community members. In addition to having 5 school resource officers (officers whose full-time post is within the school district), every one of our schools is a police substation, which means any officer on duty, SRO or not, can stop in and get paperwork done and be a presence in the school building.

This school year, Westfield PD made a total of

4,197 visits to our schools, and this is doesn't count the constant presence of the resource officers. This has led to our principals, teachers and students having great relationships with our local police officers and WPD's very timely responses in the event that we have a safety situation.

For an idea of the frequency of visits, check out the chart below that shows the amount of WPD visits to our schools in the month of March.

NOTE: Maple Glen has so many more visits than other schools because the

municipal gas pump is on their campus. So, officers technically have to "visit" the school to get gas. If you notice the "duration" column, you will see that the time spent is in line with the rest of the elementary schools.

Schools are open for volunteers, lunches and many more opportunities. Anyone who would like to come into our school buildings will need to register with SafeVisitor and do a background check. Check with your child(ren)'s teacher and/or principal for opportunities to visit.

Thanks for reading The Times!



Photo courtesy of Merit Page News

Students competing at the Novice National Tournament won AFC's 24th national championship.

Sabrina Richard Of Westfield Among Alabama Forensic Council National Championship Team

The Alabama Forensic Council, The University of Alabama's competitive speech team, recently competed in five national tournaments and brought home its 24th team national championship and nine individual event national championships among other awards.

During March, AFC attended the Novice National Forensic Association's 40th Annual Novice National Tournament; International Forensics Association Tournament in Tokyo, Japan; Pi Kappa Delta National Comprehensive Tournament; National Online Forensics Championship; and Asynchronous Speech Championship.

After completing five of their six total national tournaments this season,

the team won more than 100 awards. Most notably, AFC won the national championship in Team Individual Events Sweepstakes at the Novice National Tournament.

"Our team worked hard all season, and this 24th national title reflects the process every member of our team embraces to reflect a championship mindset as people, students and competitors," said Dr. Ben Pyle, director of the Alabama Forensic Council. "With our first-year competitors bringing home such a fantastic win, I know our program will continue to excel in the years to come."

Students won nine individual event national championships in duo interpretation,

extemporaneous speaking, impromptu speaking, persuasive speaking, poetry interpretation, prose interpretation, rhetorical criticism, slam poetry and individual sweepstakes.

The AFC is the oldest co-curricular organization on campus and aims to respect and build upon the successes of alumni and forge a path for current and future students. AFC provides students with skills and resources to engage in intellectual discovery, enable professional development, strengthen and utilize their unique voices, construct compelling messages, engage in interpersonal and rhetorical exploration, and foster community through advocacy and argumentation.

Vote411.org Offers Candidate Info, More

The League of Women Voters of Hamilton County offers a one-stop resource for voters looking for info about the upcoming May 2 primary elections.

Vote411.org is a nonpartisan resource that provides ways to access candidate information and bios and to find polling place locations, among other services.

"Vote411 is the best online election resource," said Lisa Dick, president of the local league. "One of our group's focuses for primary and general elections is to prepare this guide for all of Hamilton County's voters." League members have sought information from all candidates running in the primary this year. They are contributing this information to the national Vote411 website so that Hamilton County users

can see who is running in their areas and learn more about their platforms.

When logging onto Vote411.org, simply enter your address, and all the information on the next page will be tailored to your area. You'll see descriptions of the office, then photos and bios of the candidates who responded to the league's request for info. Dick said each candidate was sent a survey by email or postal mail, and their responses were entered by their own representatives. The league does not edit candidate responses.

Dick added a few reminders for primary voters. Indiana's is a "closed" primary, which means voters select candidates in one party or another. You choose one party to cast all your votes, but you do not have to be a member of that

party to choose its ballot.

"In the general election in the fall, you do not have to declare a party and you can vote for anyone on the ballot, regardless of party," she explained. A list of more primary voting reminders is on the league's website home page.

Vote411.org is free and nonpartisan in keeping with the League of Women Voters' mission as an organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Leagues around the nation work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

For more information, visit Vote411.org, the League of Women Voters of Hamilton County website or its Facebook page.

Conductor Markus Stenz Leads The ISO And Pianist Zoltán Fejérvári In Schumann And Bartók

Hilbert Circle Theatre, 45 Monument Circle, Indianapolis

11 a.m. Thursday, April 20

8 p.m. Friday, April 21

Pianist Zoltán Fejérvári will explore the lyrical depths of Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 3, a piece that was left incomplete at the composer's death. Conductor Markus Stenz leads the ISO through Beethoven's Leonore Overture No. 3—one of four overtures to his only opera. The concert concludes with a breath of springtime and new life during Schumann's Second Symphony.

Buy tickets now at: <https://www.indianapolisymphony.org/event/schumann-and-bartok/>

Performances begin at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 20, and 8 p.m. Friday, April 21

For more information regarding the policies of the Hilbert Circle Theatre, please visit the ISO website.

Clowes Collaborative Inaugural Invitational Art Exhibit on display at Hilbert Circle Theatre through June 4.

Three of Indiana's most enduring arts and arts-supporting organizations are joining in a special collaboration of music and visual art. The Indianapolis Symphony

Orchestra, Hoosier Art Salon, and the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc. are partners in an art exhibition and competition called the Clowes Collaborative. Artwork by 18 award-winning Hoosier Salon artists will be on display throughout Hilbert Circle Theatre for all ISO patrons to enjoy through June 4, 2023. Event Sponsor: Daniel H. Spitzberg, M.D. Charitable Fund; Supporting Sponsors: The Rapp Families – George, John and James; and Jerry and Rosie Semler; Underwriting Sponsor: Diana and Dan Yates.

Look Under The Hood Before Booking Pet-friendly Hotel

Pet parents increasingly want to take their furry family members with them wherever they can. This has led to an uptick in pet travel, whether around town, on business, or across the country. In response to this demand, more hotels are taking steps to accommodate four-legged guests.

While there may be an increase in accommodations that allow pets, taking a trip with a pet still requires you to look under the hood. Taking a closer look at hotel pet policy details is essential to ensure you and your whole crew are welcome.

"Just because a hotel indicates that they allow pets, doesn't mean that they will accept all pets," says Kim Salerno, CEO/Founder of TripsWithPets.com, a website that provides online reservations for pet-friendly accommodations. "It's important to do your homework before booking. Reviewing specific hotel pet policies is a "must" to ensure it can accommodate your pets."

Salerno notes that there are a number of specific pet policy details to check for when looking to book a pet-friendly hotel.

1. Pet Fees

There is a waning number of hotels that allow pets to stay for free. Most pet-friendly accommodations charge an additional fee for pets. Fees can range from

\$10 to around \$100. It is most common for hotels to charge per night. However, some charge per stay, while others may charge per pet/night. In rare cases, pet deposits may also be required. It's important to be aware of these added costs and factor them into your trip budget.

2. Pet Weight Limit

You'd be hard pressed to find a hotel that does not have a pet weight limit. If you have a large pet, it's important to know before booking whether an establishment is willing to accommodate him, or whether you need to keep looking.

3. Number of Pets Allowed

The majority of hotels only allow one or two pets at most per room. If you're traveling with human companions and 3+ pets, you might consider renting two rooms to accommodate everyone. If you need help finding space for a crowd, TripsWithPets.com can assist you.

4. Types of Pets Welcome

Pet friendly doesn't automatically mean "all pets." All pet-friendly hotels allow dogs, and many also allow cats. Some hotels, like Kimpton, are open to whatever pet you happen to bring, regardless of species, size or breed, but these are uncommon. Bottom line: Because a hotel says they allow pets, don't assume they allow all types of pets.

5. Unattended Pet Policy

During your travels, you may want to attend an event or visit a place where your pet won't be welcome. Some hotels will allow you to leave your pet unattended in your room, and others will not. If the hotel you choose has a "no unattended pets" policy, you may have to either modify your plans so that you can bring your pet along, or make arrangements for your pet's care in your absence.

6. Breed Restrictions

Although not prevalent, dog breeds such as bully breeds, German Shepherds, and Dobermans, are restricted by some accommodations. It is more commonly found with vacation rentals and B&Bs.

"What sets TripsWithPets.com apart is that we provide detailed pet policies for all the properties on our site. This allows pet parents to know before booking," says Salerno. "There are plenty of accommodation options out there. And if you need us, we're happy to help."

While some hotel chains are reliably "pets allowed" across the board, most individual hotels have their own specific pet policy, and policy restrictions can vary widely, even within brands and chains. Policies are also subject to change. Never assume a hotel's pet policy – always know before you go.

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No Voucher Expansion, More Health Care Funding In Indiana's GOP Senate Budget Plan

By Casey Smith
Whitney Downard
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's Senate Republicans nixed a major voucher school expansion in favor of increased Medicaid funding under their latest state budget proposal released Thursday.

That's a significant shift from the House GOP spending plan, which sought to allocate \$1.1 billion in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to expand eligibility for the Choice Scholarship program.

The new voucher dollars accounted for roughly a third of the \$2 billion in new, additional state funds that House Republicans wanted to earmark for K-12 education. K-12 tuition support increased by 8.5% in the first year and 2% in the second year in the House budget. On the Senate side, tuition support goes up 4.68% in the first year followed by a larger 9.43% bump in the next year.

But Senate budget writers opted to keep the Choice program as-is, meaning vouchers will stay limited to Hoosier families that make less than 300% of free and reduced lunch eligibility, equal to about \$154,000 annually for a family of four.

Sen. Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, outlines the Senate budget proposal in a press availability on April 13, 2023. (Whitney Downard/Indiana Capital

Chronicle) "Medicaid is now outpacing K-12," said Sen. Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee. "(Medicaid) has already grown at a rapid pace. Everybody wanted to expand it more in their bills. And this is the thing that scares me the most... we have to figure something out."

The two-year budget spends \$43.3 billion overall and ends the biennium with \$3.2 billion in reserves.

The Senate also included a separate, \$160 million annual line item to eliminate K-12 student textbook fees. House budget writers, on the other hand, required schools to dip into their foundational funding to fully pay students' curricular materials costs. Advocates for vouchers blasted Senate Republicans, who have long been more cautious than their House counterparts.

Betsy Wiley, the president & CEO of the Institute for Quality Education said in a statement that six other states had adopted universal choice but senators did "nothing to expand eligibility for the largest single voucher program in the nation."

"The two-year budget proposed by the Indiana Senate Republicans today ignores the students and families in Indiana who

want educational freedom and choice," Wiley said in a statement. "...Adoption of the Senate budget plan would be a huge step backward for Hoosier students and a complete assault on Hoosier voters who support educational freedom and universal school choice."

Property taxes going to charter schools Mishler noted that while the education budget shrunk from 50% in the last biennium to 48% in both the House and Senate proposals, Medicaid expenses had increased from 15% to 17%.

As part of negotiations in previous sessions, senators agreed to implement House-proposed income tax cuts so long as economic fortunes held and lawmakers sent an additional \$1 billion to an outstanding debt obligation.

In their budget proposal, the House accelerated the tax cuts but didn't include \$1 billion for the Pre-1996 Teacher Retirement Fund. The Senate reverted back to the original tax cut plan and \$1 billion payment.

Spending on the healthcare assistance program would total \$7.5 billion in the budget and includes the federally required equalization between programs while maintaining a 90% reimbursement rate from the House proposal.

Senate Democrats signaled their support for

the Senate version of the budget over the House voucher expansion but were concerned about new funding language for charter schools.

That new language would allow eligible charter schools to receive a portion of property tax collections starting in 2024 but only incremental, or new, revenue. The base would still go to traditional schools.

"We know many of our school populations are in impoverished areas. They're struggling with assessed value and they still struggle with a variety of funding issues," Sen. Eddie Melton, D-Gary, said. "We do not support the House version... (but this) is a new model that hasn't been fully vetted and discussed."

The property tax could not be distributed to virtual, adult or distressed charter schools. For schools that qualify, the property taxes would eventually replace the charter school grants, which Mishler said would be phased out.

According to the budget presentation, the Charter and Innovation Network School Grants will decrease from \$1,250 per average daily membership (ADM) in fiscal year 2024 to \$937 in fiscal year 2025 - though the property taxes start in calendar year 2024.

Charters would receive an estimated \$313 per

student from property taxes in 2025 as the grants decrease.

Public health, mental health funding TBD Mishler said the Senate GOP plan also commits the same as the House budget - \$225 million - for public-private partnerships meant to increase public health services across the state. That's still only two-thirds of Gov. Eric Holcomb's ask for the statewide program, and less than half what the Governor's Public Health Commission originally proposed.

And while Senate Bill 1, which shores up the state's crisis response system, finally got an explicit amount of funding - \$35 million over two years - legislators still haven't come to an agreement on a phone fee for 988.

The hotline, designed to be a mental health counterpart to the public safety services under 911, would connect Hoosiers to resources that could include short-term crisis stabilization centers.

Federal law allows states to charge a phone fee up to \$1 monthly for 988 - though the highest state-implemented tax is \$0.27. Indiana already has a \$1 cell phone fee per month for 911 but hasn't set a dollar amount for 988.

"We agree; we didn't fully fund it. We just put some general fund dollars

and there's got to be something else in there," Mishler said. "But I think we need to decide - what is that going to be?"

Mishler said a fee could be implemented to supplement the fixed appropriation dedicated to mental health services.

Senators in the Appropriations Committee did not implement a cigarette tax increase, despite support from House Republicans and some senators.

Senate Republicans have long resisted increasing the state's cigarette tax, though all three other caucuses seem to approve of one. Melton said Thursday that increasing the tax could help fund mental health and public health priorities.

"We're going to continue to push that on the Senate floor and hopefully we'll come to the conclusion there," Melton said. "It's a piece of the puzzle. I think the cigarette tax increase in addition to the 988 solution... will fully address the issues."

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PEOPLE

From Page A1

is because they don't seem to have any opposition," he said. His concern about the fate of the nation prompted him to establish the American Cornerstone Institute [ACI]. Dr. Carson and the Institute believe that "now is the time to stand firmly in support of America's founding principles and pursue common sense solutions that challenge conventional groupthink. With independent research, grassroots outreach, and collaboration with state and local entities, faith-based groups, and private organizations, ACI will work to heal the divisiveness that plagues our nation's politics."

Among other initiatives, the Institute offers free online resources to counter leftist propaganda designed to undermine American history in an effort to recruit our youngest citizens such as the movement known as the Critical Race Theory. CRT is a progressive effort focused on teaching our kids a distorted version of our nation's founding. ACI says its Little Patriots Learning platform, for example, provides lessons, at-home activities, patriotic books, and sing-a-longs to teach children about our country's founding principles.

As Dr. Carson put it, we have all of "these 1619 people and CRT people who just want to take the bad stuff and they want to build everything around the bad stuff and say that that's who we really are."

How absurd is that? If America is really such a horrible place, why are all these people trying to get in here? And when they get here, wouldn't they call all their friends and relatives and say, 'don't come here, this is a horrible place.' No, you're getting just the opposite of that. And that should tell you quite a bit about America. So we just have to be willing to state the obvious, state the facts boldly. And you know what I find with the leftists is usually they don't have much of an argument and they resort to calling you names."

In conclusion, he pointed out that the American Cornerstone Institute is "not just a think tank, it's also a 'do tank.'" We do stuff because we can't just sit around and talk and think we really need to do things and create programs and mechanisms whereby people can get involved. And I think we all want to save our country. It was Benjamin Franklin who said after 1787, after the Constitutional convention, 'what do we have here, a monarchy or a republic?' And he said, 'a republic, if you can keep it.' We've kept it for over 240 years. We're as close to losing it now as we have ever been. But if it's going to be saved, it's going to be saved by 'we the people.' It's not going to be saved by the government. It's going to be saved by the people, armed with the Constitution."

PRESSURE

From Page A1

help ensure the most appropriate treatment should any problems arise.

2. Maintain a Healthy Weight

If you're overweight or obese, you're at increased risk of high blood pressure. Losing just 3-5% of your body weight can help improve your numbers. There are an abundance of plans and programs available that can assist with weight loss, and taking positive steps with a friend or family member may help with motivation.

3. Get Active

To maximize health benefits and help keep blood pressure in the normal range, the American Heart Association recommends adults get at least 150 minutes per week of moderate activity, 75 minutes of vigorous activity or a combination of the two. Try activities like brisk walking, swimming, bicycling or dancing. For example, the Get Down with Your Blood Pressure campaign uses music and dance to help remember the four easy steps to self-monitor blood pressure:

- Get It - grab your self-monitoring blood pressure (SMBP) device
- Slip It - slide the SMBP cuff up your arm
- Cuff It - wrap the cuff snugly, but not too tight
- Check It - check your blood pressure on the device

4. Eat Well

Making small, simple changes to your eating habits can go a long way toward keeping you and your family healthy. Eating fruits and vegetables, such as mangos, avocados and blueberries, can lower blood pressure over time. Other smart choices include nuts and seeds, whole grains, lean proteins and fish.

5. Reduce Alcohol and Tobacco Usage

Smoking compounds risk factors for heart disease, such as high blood pressure and diabetes, and the chemicals in tobacco smoke can harm your heart and blood vessels. Similarly, consuming alcohol excessively (more than two drinks per day) is associated with high blood pressure. Limiting alcohol

consumption and stopping smoking - or avoiding secondhand smoke - can help reduce your risk.

If you develop high blood pressure, work with a health care professional to manage it, and visit heart.org/hbpcontrol to find local blood pressure resources, step-by-step self-monitoring videos and more.

Monitoring Your Blood Pressure at Home

- Knowing how to correctly check your blood pressure is important, especially if your doctor recommends regular self-monitoring at home.

- Be still. Don't smoke, drink caffeine or exercise during the 30 minutes before measuring your blood pressure. Empty your bladder and take at least 5 minutes of quiet rest time before measuring.

- Sit correctly. Sit with your back straight and supported. Keep your feet flat on the floor and your legs uncrossed. Support your arm on a flat surface, such as a table, with your bicep at heart level. Place the bottom of the cuff directly above the bend of your elbow. Never take measurements over sleeves or other clothing.

- Measure at the same time every day. For greatest consistency, take readings at the same time daily, such as a set time in the morning and evening.
- Take multiple readings and record the results. Each time you measure, take 2-3 readings approximately 1 minute apart and record the results to share with your doctor.

This project is supported by cooperative agreements (CPIMP201227 and CPIMP201228) with the Office of Minority Health (OMH) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$14.6 million in partnership with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The contents do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by OMH/OASH/HHS or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit <https://www.minority-health.hhs.gov/>.

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VISIT

From Page A1

mended care plan can be challenging, according to Dr. J.B. Sobel, chief medical officer with Cigna Healthcare's Medicare business. There are multiple reasons why older patients can have difficulty following their provider's instructions - including managing multiple medications at different times of day - or trouble accessing or affording care.

Thankfully, there are some processes and resources that can help you faithfully follow your healthcare provider's advice.

Get organized. More than half of adults 65 and older take four or more prescription drugs, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. With more medications, it can be difficult to know what to take, when to take it, and in what dosage. A low-cost pill organizer, available at drug stores and retail outlets, can help you stay organized. You may also want to automate your medication by taking it at the same time every day if directions allow that. The key is to find a system that works for you and stick with it.

Communicate with your provider or pharmacist. If your medication doesn't seem to be working or is causing undesirable side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist about adjusting your dosage or switching to an alternative. Likewise, discuss any concerns about screenings or tests with your provider.

Having a good rapport with your doctor helps. Take notes at your appointment or bring a loved one with you to help with questions. And don't be afraid to ask if there's anything you don't understand.

Connect your providers. Make sure your various doctors share information. For example, if you have an unexpected hospital visit, notify your primary care provider so they can review any new medications or diagnoses from the hospital and help you fit them into your current care plan. This can also

help protect you from unnecessary or duplicate procedures.

Find alternative access to care. If you have difficulty getting around or live far from where care is rendered, there are programs to help. Your provider may offer virtual visits. You may be able to have prescriptions safely delivered to your home in a 90-day supply, perhaps at a lower cost, and with reminders for refills. If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, you may be eligible for rides to your provider or pharmacy at no extra cost. Learn more about Cigna Healthcare's Medicare Advantage plans at www.cigna.com/medicare.

Seek help with costs. "Extra Help" is a federal program providing prescription drug cost support to those who qualify. Many pharmaceutical manufacturers help customers afford medications. You could also ask your healthcare provider about generic medications, which typically cost less but are equally effective.

Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans pay for many preventive procedures with no extra cost to you.

"If keeping up with your health care feels overwhelming, please don't get discouraged," said Dr. Sobel, who oversees a team of clinicians that contact Cigna Healthcare's Medicare Advantage customers whose prescriptions have lapsed or not been refilled. "Seek help from a doctor, a pharmacy or a loved one. They want to help you. Keep in mind that it's easier to maintain good health than it is to recapture your health following a preventable crisis."

The information contained in this article is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health care provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition or treatment and before undertaking a new health care regimen.

Evaluating The Impact Of Generative AI: 28 Million Americans Could Be Affected

What kind of jobs will see the most disruption?

It's time to have a discussion about the impact of Generative AI, like ChatGPT and JasperAI, on jobs. Over the past few months, we've seen a rapid increase in the use of AI in various industries and sectors and there have been many discussions about the effect on education and learning. Now it's time to explore the implications for employment. By pulling data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and O*NET, we have calculated that 28 million Americans will be affected by generative AI this year, that is 18% of the U.S. workforce.

Generative AI allows us to create new content such as images, text, sound, music, and video. It can create output that has typically been associated with complex and creative tasks belonging to higher barrier-to-entry occupations.

Steven Peavey, Director of Strategy for Moser Application Services, has compiled the data and extrapolated the effects that might be coming our way. "We're still in the infancy of generative AI, so it's best not to overestimate its short-term effects while also not underestimating its long-term potential," said Steven. "Knowing who will be affected is easier to predict than how they will be affected."

It is likely that those who have more experience will be more resistant to change. Those most likely to experience changes are those with less power, influence, and experience. Most of these would fall under entry level. Those with mid to senior level roles may be more involved with overseeing those doing the work with

less focus on executing.

The report also predicts the most common types of change could be lateral transfers, voluntary resignations, changes to day-to-day processes and decisions about hiring. It is important for businesses and individuals alike to stay informed about how generative AI will continue to shape our labor market moving forward.

The report found that certain industries such as healthcare and retail were more likely to be unaffected due to their reliance on manual labor or customer service staff. Additionally, those who are employed in roles requiring higher cognitive skills such as marketing or writing may find themselves more impacted by generative AI, with the most affected group likely being 'Writers and Authors' subset group.

However, even if an industry doesn't appear vulnerable right now doesn't mean it won't be in the future with further advancements in technology. Companies should continue monitoring their industry landscape closely and understanding how they can use generative AI responsibly while maintaining good employment practices.

For now, these predictions serve as a reminder that we should all be mindful of how quickly technology can change our lives - both positively and negatively - so that we can prepare ourselves for whatever comes our way in the future.

There are many more predictions and conclusion in the full article on the Moser website. You can see the full article here: <https://www.moserit.com/impact-of-generative-ai-on-american-jobs>

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF FISHERS FISHERS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CASE VA-23-15
MEETING LOCATION UPDATE
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY SUBMIT COMMENTS BY GOING TO: https://townoffishers.formstack.com/forms/public_meeting_comment_form
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the **FISHERS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at the City of Fishers Pavilion Conference Room, 10 Municipal Drive, Fishers, IN 46038.**
REQUEST: At that hearing, the public will be invited to offer comments on the following request ("Proposal"): Case # VA-23-15 - Consideration of a Development Standards Variance from Figure 1.3 VC - Village Center of the City's Nickel Plate District Code to allow for a side setback of 60 feet.
LOCATION: 8705 MORGAN DR, FISHERS, IN 46038
 The case file about this project is available for public review in the office of the Department of Planning and Zoning, located at Fishers City Services Building, 3 Municipal Drive, Fishers, IN 46038. The meeting agenda with room location details and case related information will be posted on the City's website forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting specified above. If you have specific questions or want to provide written contacts to the case planner directly, please contact:
 City of Fishers Planning & Zoning Department
planning@fishers.in.us
 (317) 595-3155
www.fishers.in.us/notice
 Petitioner: Gradison Land Development Inc.
 TL20320 4/15 It hspaxlp

CITY OF FISHERS FISHERS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CASE VA-23-14
MEETING LOCATION UPDATE
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY SUBMIT COMMENTS BY GOING TO: https://townoffishers.formstack.com/forms/public_meeting_comment_form
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the **FISHERS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at the City of Fishers Pavilion Conference Room, 10 Municipal Drive, Fishers, IN 46038.**
REQUEST: At that hearing, the public will be invited to offer comments on the following request ("Proposal"): Case # VA-23-14 - Project Description - Consideration of three Development Standards Variances from Section 6.2.2 of the City's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to allow an accessory structure's maximum height to be 22' instead of 18' and to allow side and rear setbacks of 0' instead of 22'.
LOCATION: 11411 FOREST KNOLL CIR, FISHERS, IN 46037
 The case file about this project is available for public review in the office of the Department of Planning and Zoning, located at Fishers City Services Building, 3 Municipal Drive, Fishers, IN 46038. The meeting agenda with room location details and case related information will be posted on the City's website forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting specified above. If you have specific questions or want to provide written contacts to the case planner directly, please contact:
 City of Fishers Planning & Zoning Department
planning@fishers.in.us
 (317) 595-3155
www.fishers.in.us/notice
 Petitioner: Mark Demerly, on behalf of the homeowners
 TL20321 4/15 It hspaxlp

InSHAPE 5K Fun Run April 22 At Conner Prairie

Aspire Indiana Health will hold its first-ever InSHAPE 5k Fun Run & Walk on Saturday, April 22 at Conner Prairie. The event will raise funds and awareness for the nonprofit's InSHAPE program, which helps Hoosiers with mental illness improve their fitness and reach their health goals.

Participants will receive a comfy T-shirt, finisher medal and swag bag, and can choose between a 5k timed event or 1 mile fun run/walk. They can do both races for the same registration price if they wish. There will be post-race refreshments, pre-race warm-up group stretching, face painting and other fun activities for kids.

Registration fees, which will go to support the program, are \$33 for adults, \$15 for youths age 12 and under and kids 5 and under are free. A virtual option is also available for \$30.

To register, please visit www.AspireIndiana.org/InSHAPE.

The 6-year-old InSHAPE program is devoted to helping Hoosiers with mental illness work on improving their physical health and wellbeing. It's very common for people with behavioral health diagnoses to also struggle with excess weight, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and other health challenges.

The program pairs patients up with personal trainers who provide them with the tools, motivation



and support to succeed in their personal health goals. By implementing exercise and improving nutrition habits, InSHAPE helps people lose weight, improve cognitive functions, decrease depression and anxiety, improve self-esteem and decrease social isolation.

"Really it's about extending their life. We want to see them live long past what they're projected to," said program leader Jody Hall, noting that the life expectancy of people with mental illness is significantly lower than the rest of the population.

The InSHAPE 5k Fun Run & Walk will have a superhero theme, and kids - even grown-up ones - are encouraged to dress as their favorite character for the event. That's because everyone involved in InSHAPE, from the clients to the trainers to the supporters, are truly superheroes when it comes to helping others.

All proceeds of the race will go toward program participants to pay for exercise equipment, gym memberships, shoes and more.

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WEEKEND

In The Home

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Enhance Your Home's Style with Stone

FAMILY FEATURES

One essential step in planning a home renovation is choosing the right materials. Natural and textured walls continue to be trendy choices, and many building pros and homeowners are gravitating toward stone siding to add comfort, character and beauty.

Panelized stone siding offers the look and feel of natural stone and manufactured stone veneer, but in a panelized format that can be installed with screws. With a wide range of exterior and interior applications, panelized stone siding can complement almost any home style. On the exterior, in particular, stone siding can boost curb appeal and provide a multi-textured facade with a solid return on investment.

Although stone veneer, or manufactured stone, is commonly used on home exteriors, indoor applications are gaining popularity as homeowners are increasingly interested in bringing natural elements inside.

Given its design flexibility, ease of installation and affordability, the experts at Westlake Royal Building Products recommend manufactured stone siding as an ideal option for interior and exterior applications like these:

Siding

If you love the look of natural stone but want a more affordable option, panelized stone siding offers an authentic look and simple application with a cutting and installation process similar to traditional siding panels. Some homeowners choose to mix stone with other exterior materials to create a one-of-a-kind appearance. For example, adding manufactured stone siding alongside existing brick or vinyl siding can infuse visual texture, dimension and impact. Complementing colors can provide a more balanced, traditional look while contrasting colors present as modern and bold.

Entryways

Wrapping columns with panelized stone can make your home's entrance a focal point, adding curb appeal and creating a welcoming effect.

Accent Walls

Panelized stone siding can also be used to elongate the appearance of a wall while bringing texture and contrast into the home. Warmer tones can make the space more inviting and cozy while cooler hues can bring a modern, industrial feel.

Fireplaces

Manufactured stone siding makes it easy to give a fireplace a facelift or make it a focal point, changing the look and feel of a room. Available in a variety of colors, textures and shapes, it can elevate your living room's style and create a more inviting area.

An affordable option like Versetta Stone panelized stone siding from Westlake Royal Building Products provides the beauty of hand-laid stone with virtually undetectable joints and seams for world-class design featuring timeless colors and textures, natural shapes and hand-crafted details. It's a practical choice for experienced DIYers since there's no need for mortar. What's more, the tongue-and-groove interlocking system can be installed in any weather.

Learn how panelized stone siding can bring your vision to life at VersettaStone.com.



How Manufactured Stone Siding Stacks Up

If you have your heart set on a design that incorporates stone materials, you may be surprised to learn how manufactured stone siding outperforms some natural products.

Affordability – Manufactured stone siding resembles natural stone but for a fraction of the cost. Not only are natural stones more expensive than manufactured stone, but since they are heavier, they also cost more to transport.

Easy Installation – Manufactured stone siding is lighter than natural stone and is available in a familiar panelized format, making it easier and faster to install. Unlike natural stone, panelized stone siding doesn't require structural supports like footings or tie-ins. No specialty masonry tools are required.

Low Maintenance – Long lasting and durable, manufactured stone siding requires little maintenance after installation. Many panelized stone siding options are resistant to water, fire and extreme temperatures, standing up to years of weathering with little change in color.

Design Flexibility – Unlike real stone, manufactured stone siding allows more control over design factors like color consistency and texture. You can choose from a wide range of design styles, making it easy to infuse your personality into your home.



Strong, Stylish Spring Home Upgrades

5 renovation projects where brick takes center stage

FAMILY FEATURES

Springtime is a perfect opportunity for homeowners to begin planning renovations to enhance the interior and exterior of their living space. Because of its strong performance capabilities, low maintenance and design flexibility, brick is a popular building material choice when looking to improve or refresh your home in time for warm-weather hosting season.

Often selected for its functional benefits, brick is available in a wide array of colors, textures and sizes that can match varying design styles, from modern to traditional and almost everything between. If you're considering adding brick to your home's aesthetic, consider these five projects to tackle this spring from the experts at Glen-Gery, one of the largest brick and stone manufacturers in North America.

Basement or patio bar – As homeowners spend more time at home, they often look to maximize livable space. One way to take advantage of unused living space is building a basement or patio bar, which provides an area for entertaining. Using an exposed brick wall can help designate the bar area and separate it from the rest of the basement, or lining a bar counter with brick can create a rustic contrast against the bar's seating.



Fireplace – To change the look and feel of a room almost instantly, you can use brick to give a fireplace a facelift or make it a focal point of your home. Available in a variety of colors and textures, Glen-Gery's diverse, premium portfolio of more than 600 brick and stone products can elevate your living room's style in a big way and create a more inviting area to share with family and friends. An outdoor fireplace is another option for extending livable space in a cozy way that can be used throughout the year.

Accent wall – Create a statement in or outside your home with a brick accent wall. Accent walls can help bring color, texture and beauty to homes by breaking up the monotony of monochromatic color or decor, creating visual interest and dimension. While brick in a running bond pattern is expected, you can spice up rooms with an unexpected bond pattern like a stacked bond for modern appeal or herringbone for a rustic look.

Kitchen backsplash – One of the most overlooked areas of kitchen design is the backsplash. While its job is to protect your kitchen walls from the never-ending assault of

kitchen splatters, there's no reason it can't look good, too. Brick backsplashes can accommodate most home designs and styles thanks to the versatility of shapes, colors, finishes and sizes available.

Black or white glazed brick works well with more modern kitchens while irregular brick containing an abundance of texture and a messy mortar application can complete rustic farmhouse kitchens. An option like Glen-Gery's virtual design tool, Picture Perfect, can help you visualize projects in your home to see what fits your style and needs.

Brick skirt – For added curb appeal, consider adding a brick skirt around the foundation of your home. Given its resilient, durable and energy-efficient qualities, brick can help provide better insulation and protection while also adding visual appeal to the exterior of your home through texture, color and contrast. The skirting can also continue through to the front porch floor and steps, helping balance out the elevation of your home.

For more inspiration for your next home renovation project, visit glengery.com.

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