

➔ TODAY'S VERSE
Jeremiah 33:3 "Call unto me,
and I will answer thee, and
shew thee great and mighty
things, which thou knowest
not." (KJV)



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY
People who call our community their own.
What makes Leah Leach smile? "Books," said the 43-year-old Noblesville resident. "I love books, anything with tactile, paper and learning something new." She started the Gal's Guide Library in 2016, and the library became a reality in 2020. It houses the first women's history library in the United States. Bookshelves surrounded her in the Gal's Guide Library, located in a room on the second floor of the Nickel Plate Arts Campus in downtown Noblesville. "We have about 5,000 books in the collection now." How's the foot traffic? "We get regular traffic ... Whenever Nickel Plate is open, we are open as well. It's a small but mighty library to come and check." Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and by appointment Sunday-Tuesday. Who mans the library? "I'm in here most of the time. If I'm not, my glorious volunteer Barb is." Leach was most recently found participating in Fairyville at the Nickel Plate Arts Campus. Leach also does torn-paper art. And she hosts book signings. She has two kids, Samantha, a Noblesville High School student, and Kami, a Ball State University student, "and a wonderful husband named Josh who loves to manicure our lawn." What else? "My daytime gig is this, and I'm pretty much always here ... This is my passion and this is what I'm excited about. If I'm not here, I'm at home either painting or reading." When her daughters were younger, Leach was a filmmaker and part-time stay-at-home mom in between filming seasons. She retired from filmmaking in 2016. There is also a Gal's Guide podcast, too. "Otherwise, we're rockin' the library and having fun." For more about the Gal's Guide Library, visit galsguide.org.

And Another Thing...

- 1. Summer Reading**
Get ready to read All Together Now with Sheridan Public Library's Summer Reading Program! The program will run from May 31-July 15th for all ages! Wednesday and Thursday activity days will be held for all age groups. Participants that complete the program will earn a pizza party and an awesome prize pack from our sponsors. Prize tickets are new to the program this year. Tickets may be earned in Beanstack by collecting badges for reading and activities. Those tickets may be entered into drawings for grand prizes! For more information, please visit: <http://sheridan.lib.in.us/>. Register now on Beanstack (reading tracker): <https://sheridan.beanstack.org/reader365>. Thank you to our sponsors for Summer Reading 2023!
- 2. The Waterpark in Carmel to Open Memorial Day Weekend**
The Waterpark in Carmel, located at 1195 Central Park Dr. W, will open on Saturday, May 27 at 11 a.m. Splash into summer with fun for all ages and abilities on the FlowRider®, AquaClimb®, kiddie pool, lazy river, and adventure slides. The Waterpark will open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. from May 27 to August 6. Guests may purchase day passes in person at The Waterpark. Day passes are \$16 for adults (ages 16-64) and \$13 for youth and seniors (ages 3-15; ages 65+). Season passes are available in person or online at carmelclayparks.com.

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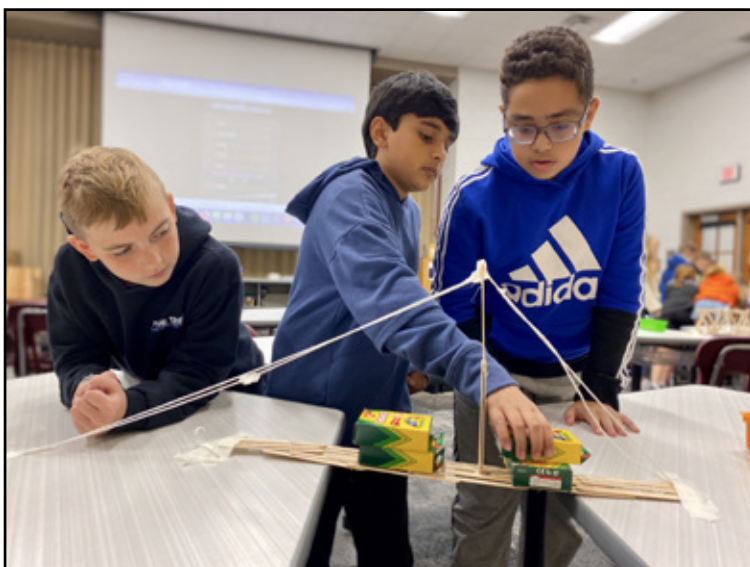
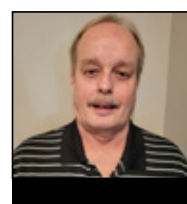


Photo courtesy of Noblesville Schools

Noblesville Schools Named Tops In Nation For STEM

Schools have been in top 1% nationally for sixth year in a row.
Noblesville Schools announced today that they have been nationally recognized as a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished District for providing broad access to transformative Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning opportunities for students.
They are one of only 18 school districts in the nation to receive the honor, putting them in an elite, top 1% group nationally.
All ten of the district's schools were also recognized as Distinguished Schools, with Noblesville High School and Noblesville East Middle School receiving the top national honor for the sixth year in a row.
In addition to dozens of traditional math and science courses, Noblesville Schools offers 17 different PLTW courses across all grade levels with students exploring robotics, biomedical, cybersecurity, aerospace engineering, construction, energy, weather and much more.
The Distinguished recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW STEM programs. To be eligible for the designation, schools had to offer a variety of PLTW STEM courses and have a significant portion of students participating in them, while students had to demonstrate mastery in the content and continuation in the programming.

Times Introduces New Columnist



RICK NOLAN
Looking In From Outside

My introduction to Greater Indianapolis was trips with my buddies to basketball, football and auto racing events.
We were all sports enthusiasts. Trips to Market Square Arena, Hoosier (RCA) Dome and IMS became our road trips of choice.
It always felt like Indy was hosting a major sporting event or attraction every weekend of the year. Interstate 74 was at our doorstep in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois so a trip here (170 approximate miles) was more often than not, hilarious and entertaining minus the hotel bill.
Yeah, Chicago was always on the to-do list but lost its appeal when \$2 bleacher tickets to Sox and Cubs games became a thing of the past along with a rise in cocktail (i.e. beer) prices.
Really, there wasn't much difference between a trip to Chicago or here but Indianapolis traffic had yet to reach its present day challenge as it can be. Finding a place to park wasn't much of a task yet and post-game entertainment was within easy walking distance and still is.
As life transpires, those days melt into the past as we all took on more responsibilities with marriage and families.
Life has interesting twists and turns. My son decided to attend college here and I was reintroduced to the area. He transitioned easily and fell in love with not only Central Indiana but his soon-to-be wife. Visits here became frequent and leaving became more heart tugging for my wife and I.
Although we had two daughters, all our kids were married, our son in Noblesville, one daughter in Illinois and the youngest in Minnesota.
I retired in my early sixties and my wife did a few years later after a corporate reorganization. We looked at each other one day and knew we needed and wanted a change.
Illinois was quickly becoming a disaster in many ways. Ridiculous taxes (taxes are half here), increased crime, roads that hadn't been fixed in years, businesses uprooting and relocating and vacant and boarded

➔ See RICK Page A5

Today Marks 5 Years Since NWMS Shooting



BETSY REASON
From The Editor's Desk...

It's a day we will never forget. May 25, 2018. Today is the five-year anniversary of the Noblesville West Middle School shooting that changed many of our

lives. It changed the way we think about life. It changed the way we do things.
A then seventh-grader, armed with two handguns, opened fire in his classroom, injuring a science teacher and a fellow classmate. Thankfully, both the teacher Jason Seaman and the now Noblesville High School senior Ella Whistler both survived.
The unthinkable tragedy left a community saddened but stronger as we picked up the pieces. For days, weeks and months and now, five years, we have been processing it all. Asking ourselves why and how it happened.
How we somehow missed the signs. Or saw the signs but didn't pay attention.
For the first year, we listened to and read every word by the news media, trying to understand and wrap our heads around it.
But yet we still don't really understand.
As parents, we hope and pray that we bring our kids up right. That they are kind, responsible, motivated and set high standards in their lives. And that when we explain to our kids the value of life, they get it.
I still remember that morning, five years ago, when I was sitting at my laptop computer, working from home.
It was 9:21 a.m., and my cell phone rang with the caller telling me that a large number of police vehicles were spotted driving into NWMS. More first responders than the caller had ever seen in one place. So it had to be something big. Plus, massive numbers of students were walking out the doors of the school and lining up outside.
I immediately telephoned Noblesville Police Department's non-emergency dispatch number to find out why police were there. The reply on the other end of the phone: "There's been a shooting."
My heart sank.
While we'd been hearing about more school shootings around the nation, we thought it could never happen in Noblesville.
I was and am still processing all of this. Wondering why and how this could happen. Wondering what went wrong in a

➔ See BETSY Page A5

The Daily Almanac

- Sunrise/Sunset**
RISE: 6:22 a.m.
SET: 9:06 p.m.
- High/Low Temperatures**
High: 71 °F
Low: 49 °F
- Today is...**
 - Geek Pride Day
 - National Wine Day
 - Towel Day
- What Happened On This Day**
 - 1979 Etan Patz disappears.
 - 1977 The first Star Wars film is released.
 - 1963 32 African countries form a coalition against white rule.
- Births On This Day**
 - 1803 Ralph Waldo Emerson
American poet, philosopher
 - 1976 Cillian Murphy
Irish/English actor
- Deaths On This Day**
 - 1934 Gustav Holst
English composer
 - 2005 Graham Kennedy
Australian actor

Wrapping Up Reader's Choice

Readers' Choice is wrapped up for another year, and once again, The Times' annual promotion to recognize your favorites in a multitude of categories was a huge success.
Back when our company was founded, the staff at The Times brought Hamilton County this fun and good-natured promotion that features local businesses, people, products and more and gives you, our readers, the opportunity to vote for your favorites. We often joke that this is like Chicago politics and encourage you to vote early and vote often.
You see, this has never been about the rigidity of the process. Instead, it is designed to be an absolutely fun and very positive way for our readers to cast a good light on their favorites. And oh, how you have responded!
We annually see ballots that number in the hundreds of thousands - so many in fact that we had to find a way to automate the counting process.

Want MORE?

The results for winners, runner ups and honorable mentions will be inside on A5!

➔ See WRAP Page A5

➔ INSIDE TODAY

- Service Directory.....A3
- EarthTalk.....A4
- Tim Timmons.....A4
- Indiana Facts & Fun.....A6
- Indiana News.....A7

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Water exercises are very helpful for people with back and joint pain. 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 thetimes24-7.com



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough."
-Mario Andretti

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

I'm not sure what I like the most, the race or all the traditions surrounding it.



➔ OBITUARIES

None



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

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

A Roman gladiator walks into a bar. He holds up two fingers and says, "Five beers, please."

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST
60/85
49/71
46/75
50/78
55/78
55/85
64/87
WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE

New Trade Showroom, Design Firm To Open At Indiana Design Center Open Gate Collective, Greyhunt Interiors To Debut

Interior Design firm, Open Gate Design is set to open a trade showroom, Open Gate Collective, on the second floor of the Indiana Design Center (IDC) this summer. The firm has a flagship retail and trade showroom in Anderson, IN; this will be its first trade-only location in the greater Indianapolis area. GreyHunt Interiors will also be expanding to the IDC with a design studio space on the second floor in addition to its original Virginia location.

Open Gate started as an interior design firm based in Anderson, IN with its network of residential clients in 2015 and has grown its offerings and brand through its Open Gate Collective initiative which launched in 2022 to serve the design community. Open Gate Collective assists designers and trade professionals by connecting them to brands and lines, representing 150+ vendor partners, through

an interior design showroom model. The Indiana Design Center showroom location will allow Open Gate Collective to broaden its footprint and ability to service designers in central Indiana and beyond.

"The design community can look forward to a high-level resource that is upscale, organized, stocked and feels good to bring their clients into for sourcing and have design meetings around curated vignettes," says Julie Ricker, Open Gate CEO. Showroom offerings will include fabric, furniture, wallpaper, accessories, custom upholstery, and rug lines.

GreyHunt Interiors is an award-winning interior design firm owned and led by Sallie Lord, whose passion for transforming interior spaces has driven her 20+ year career in the industry. Having proudly revitalized the homes and lives of countless clients over the years, Sallie

recently relocated from the Northern Virginia/DC Metro Area to Indianapolis to extend her services and offerings to the local market.

"I am truly excited for this opportunity to work with clients in the community and to get to know local talent here at the IDC and beyond," says Sallie Lord, founder of GreyHunt Interiors.

The addition of these two new businesses to the market reinforce the importance of and interest in specialized offerings and services in Indiana's design and building industry. "We are pleased to welcome these two new design-focused businesses to the Indianapolis market and to IDC. With these additions, our abilities to offer more design service selection in our area grows even stronger," says Melissa Averitt, Pedcor Companies senior vice president for sales and marketing.



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Sheridan Public Library June Events

Preschool:
 June 7, 14, 21, 28 | 11am Storytime (ages 3-6)
 June 7, 14, 21, 28 | 12pm Touch A Truck (open to the whole family)
 7- Sheridan EMS
 14- Sheridan Fire Dept.
 21- Sheridan Police Dept.
 28- Duke Energy
 June 8, 15, 22, 29 | 11am Parachute Play (ages 2-4)
Grades K-5:
 June 7 | 11am I Survived...Titanic with Chef Karen

June 14 | 11am Red Fox Presentation with Hamilton County Soil
 June 21 | 11am Magic Tree House: Vikings
 June 28 | 11am American Girl: Claudie with Quack Daddy
 Grades 6-12:
 June 8, 15, 22, 29 | 4pm Zombie Apocalypse Training
 8- Kits + Tools with JK Stewart
 15- Foods + Traps with JK Stewart
 22- Fire + Solar Ovens
 29- Trail Markers with JK Stewart
Adults:

June 7, 14, 21, 28 | 11am-1pm Knitting Club
 June 13, 27 | 1:30pm Euchre Club
 June 17 | 10am Public Listening Session: Community input for SPL
 June 19 | 6pm Pinners
 June 21 | 5:30pm Sheridan Readers Book Club: Book- Becoming Mrs. Lewis by Patti Henry
 June 22 | 6pm Taste of Julie + Julia- A book + movie discussion with Chef Karen
All Ages:
 June 9 | 6pm

Summer Concert Series: Mike + Joe Flowers with J+J Street Food Truck
 June 16 | 6pm Summer Concert Series: Kevin Stonerock with Guac Box Food Truck
 June 23 | 6pm Summer Concert Series: Bailey Smith with T'Days Jerk Food Truck
 June 30 | 6pm Summer Concert Series: The Ackermans with Daddios Food Truck
 For more information on programming and services, please visit: <https://sheridan.lib.in.us>

Goodrich's Bill To Fund Robotics Programs Around The State Signed Into Law

More Hoosier students will be able to explore the growing field of robotics thanks to a new law authored by State Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville). Goodrich said House Enrolled Act 1382 creates a grant program, which is supported annually with \$4 million in the state's new two-year budget, for schools to establish their own robotics teams. "The goal of this new law is to encourage more students to enter STEM careers and ultimately stay in Indiana," Goodrich said. "This is an important step toward ensuring young Hoosiers in schools large and small have the ability to explore the innovative and creative world of robotics." The Indiana Department of Education will manage the grant fund, which K-12 schools can utilize to create and develop competitive robotics programs. Grant dollars can be used to pay for a team mentor, supplies, competition costs, and to establish or maintain the

team. Goodrich said these grants will help programs provide hands-on learning experiences, foster community partnerships and highlight career opportunities through the use of adult mentors. These mentors will prioritize a connection to manufacturing and machinery skills. According to Goodrich, Indiana currently has about 3,000 students from 30% of school corporations in after-school robotics programs. He said this bill could help grow participation to 18,000 students representing 60% of school corporations around the state. He said his legislation was modeled after a similar program in Michigan that saw a 400% increase in student participation. House Enrolled Act 1382 will go into effect July 1. To follow other legislation signed into law by the governor, visit in.gov/gov/newsroom/2023-bill-watch/.

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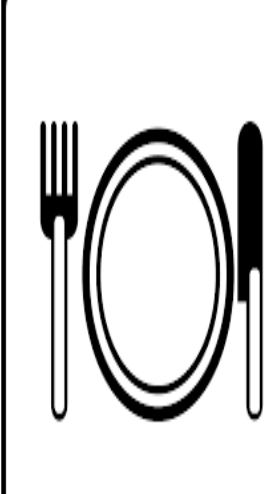
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A Salute to Prep Athletes, One Last Time



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

One doesn't need to look at a calendar to know spring is well under way. That means not too

long from now, caps and gowns will be the order of the day . . . and boys and girls who are on the cusp of becoming young men and women will don the uniform bearing a Miller, Shamrock, Husky, Blackhawk, Tiger, Royal, Greyhound, Trailblazer or Golden Eagle one final time. For some, daresay most, it marks the end of athletic careers that might've begun years ago. A few others might continue on the athletic path, either in college or some other avenue.

point.

Never again will they represent their high school. Many of us remember those days. They were long ago but feel far nearer. We recall the dramatic wins and losses on the field or the court. Perhaps more than anything though, we remember the camaraderie. We recollect – and miss – what seemed like endless times together. Long bus rides, unhappy coaches, reviled opponents, all of which were great irritations then . . . yet pleasant memories that bring a smile today.

At the time, it seemed endless. We know better now.

The energy of youth is replaced by the wisdom of age. As it should be.

So we salute the Lady Millers, Shamrocks, Huskies, Blackhawks, Tigers, Royals, Grey-

hounds, Trailblazers and Golden Eagles on the tennis courts, the softball diamonds and the track. We tip our caps to the NHS, WHS, HH, SHS, FHS, HSE, CHS, UHS and GHS boys from the golf course, the track and the baseball diamonds. Whether they have their last appearance as a high school athlete at sectional, or advance and survive for another week or three, their time is now.

We remember. They will, too.

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

Indiana Lottery To Send Expected \$362 Million Surplus Back To State

By Leslie Bonilla Muniz
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's lottery expects to send a whopping \$361.7 million to state coffers, up 4% from last year's payout but down from a pandemic-era record-high.

"As proven across multiple years, we will work hard to maximize revenue returns to the state and support our shared mission," said Donald Redic, interim chief operating officer for services provider IGT Indiana. He spoke at a Tuesday meeting of the State Lottery Commission.

IGT Indiana is the contract operator of the Hoosier Lottery, handling product development, marketing, sales and distribution services.

The lottery expects to make \$1.7 billion in sales by the end of the fiscal year, which ends June 30, according to Redic. That's up 1.6% compared to last year.

How much has the lottery sent back to the state?

- 2023: \$361.7 million*
- 2022: \$346.8 million
- 2021: \$375.5 million
- 2020: \$304.6 million
- 2019: \$312.2 million

*Projected amount for fiscal year ending June 30. Source: Indiana Lottery Commission annual reports

Scratch-offs made up the bulk of those sales at \$1.3 billion, but were down 4% from last year, he said. Draw games, in contrast, were just \$436 million of total sales but were up 21%.

After prize claims, lottery retail commissions and operating expenses, the lottery expects to net \$387.5 million — a 5% increase. That's above an agreed-upon minimum net

income, so IGT Indiana will not pay a penalty intended to make the state whole.

It's also above an incentive net income mark, above which the state and IGT Indiana split extra money. The operator expects to earn a \$19.4 million bonus this fiscal year.

Surplus money returned to the state goes toward retirement and pension funds for police, firefighters and teachers, as well as to lower the motor vehicle excise tax by as much as 50%.

Though gaming officials celebrated the year's high revenue and sales, they cautioned that three multi-state, billion-dollar jackpots — which boosted revenue — weren't stable elements for future budgeting and planning.

"You still don't know how the multi-state jackpot games are going to run [or] what big runs are going to happen," Executive Director Sarah Taylor told reporters after the meeting. "So it's important not to overestimate, because the state takes us into account for their budgeting."

"The big jackpots carried the day," commission chair William Zielke said during the meeting. "And I think as we go through the business plan here today, that gets to be a key issue for us, is to look at what the scratch-offs are going to do for us and what we're going to do with, quite frankly, an old product that has to be new and innovative."

IGT Indiana said it plans to focus on launching new games, using pop-culture and holiday themes to get "light" and lapsed players

participating more often, and so on, according to a presentation of the operator's 2024 business plan.

Another kind of innovation lottery — and other gaming — officials have for years examined is digital.

A bill legalizing online an online lottery and other gaming activities didn't get a hearing this year, but lottery officials said they spent the recent legislative session working on relationships.

"We used this session really to educate and inform members of the General Assembly about what we do here at the lottery, talking about those give-backs, talking about where we fit in," External Affairs Director Jared Bond said. He also spoke with industry representatives "to become better partners with our retailers."

Taylor told reporters that the lottery would continue to refrain from proactive lobbying on iLottery.

"They're the decision makers," she said of lawmakers. "We're here to provide information. We're always happy to answer questions. And if that changes, and we become more advocates, we're happy to engage with them to share the reasons why."

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Land Rights And Property Ownership Are Paramount In United States



Dear EarthTalk: What Is The "Right To Roam" And Why Is It Controversial In The United States?

The "right to roam" is a concept that allows people to access and enjoy natural areas, such as parks, forests and beaches, without being restricted by private property laws. In essence, it grants people the right to walk or hike freely in the countryside, and to camp, fish and pick berries, among other activities, without obtaining prior permission or paying fees. While this right is well-established in some countries like Scotland and Sweden, it is not a widespread concept in the United States, where the notion of private property is deeply ingrained.

Proponents of the right to roam argue that it promotes physical activity, environmental stewardship and mental health by encouraging people to spend more time outdoors. They also claim that it is a democratic right that allows everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status, to access and enjoy public lands. In addition, they argue that the right to roam can have positive economic effects by stimulating outdoor recreation

and tourism.

However, opponents argue that it undermines private property rights, reduces landowners' incentives to maintain their properties, and can lead to trespassing, vandalism and littering. They also claim that it can pose a threat to public safety by exposing people to dangerous terrain or wild animals.

While the right to roam is not enshrined in U.S. law, some states have passed laws that provide for limited forms of public access to private lands. For example, in some western states, such as Montana and Colorado, people can access certain types of public lands, such as rivers and streams, by crossing private lands without trespassing. Other states, such as Maine and Vermont, have passed "right-to-roam" laws that allow people to access certain types of private lands, such as coastal areas and abandoned railroad beds, for recreational purposes.

Despite these efforts, the right to roam remains controversial in the U.S., with many landowners opposing it as an infringement on their property rights. In some cases, disputes have arisen between landowners and outdoor enthusiasts, with some landowners posting "no trespassing" signs or even blocking access to public

lands. Advocates for the right to roam argue that such restrictions violate the public's right to access public lands and call for greater legal protections for outdoor recreation.

Indeed, the right to roam is a controversial concept in the U.S. that has generated debate between proponents of public access to natural areas and opponents who prioritize private property rights. While some states have taken steps to provide limited access to public lands, there is still a long way to go before the right to roam becomes a widely accepted and legally protected concept in the U.S.

CONTACTS: *This Land Is Our Land: Places in Nature Is Where Access to Nature Is a Basic Human Right, afar.com/magazine/this-land-is-our-land-places-in-europe-where-access-to-nature-is-a-basic-human; Visit Sweden: Freedom to Roam, visitsweden.com/what-to-do/nature-outdoors/nature/sustainable-and-rural-tourism/freedomtoroam/; UK Right to Roam Campaign, righttoroam.org.uk.*

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**CARMEL/CLAY BOARD OF PARKS & RECREATION
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Owner: Carmel/Clay Board of Parks & Recreation
1411 East 116th Street
Carmel, Indiana 46032

Project: River Heritage Park Forest Mitigation Project

Notice is hereby given that the Carmel/Clay Board of Parks and Recreation (the "Owner"), will receive sealed bids for the above referenced Project at the Board's Administrative Offices located at 1411 East 116th Street, Carmel Indiana 46032 on June 13, 2023 at 10:00 am local time, and as soon as practicable thereafter on the same date, the Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Conference Room of the Administrative Offices. The outside of the sealed envelope in which the Bid is enclosed, shall be clearly marked "BID - RIVER HERITAGE PARK FOREST MITIGATION PROJECT", and as otherwise set forth in the Bid Documents. Any Bid received after the designated time will be returned to the Bidder unopened.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference for discussion of the Project, the bidding requirements and other important matters will be held on May 30, 2023 at 2:00 pm local time at River Heritage Park; 11813 River Road. and, weather permitting, shall conclude with a visit to the location where the Work is to be performed. Prospective bidders are encouraged, but not required, to attend the pre-bid conference. For special accommodations needed by individuals with disabilities planning to attend the pre-bid conference or public bid opening meeting, please notify Michael Krosschell at (317) 414-7398 or krosschellm@weihe.net at least forty-eight (48) hours prior thereto.

In general, the Work for the Project consists of native plant restoration plantings, seeding, and tree protection fencing, all as set forth in the Contract Documents for the Project which, except for those items not included due to timing, size or other factors, have been assembled into a Project Manual and includes the Bid Documents. The Project Manual and any and all full size drawings may be examined at and obtained from, the office of Eastern Engineering Supply Company, 9901 Allisonville Road, Fishers, Indiana 46038; Phone: (317) 598-0661. The plan charge will be listed on the online plan room. Payment may be made by check, credit card, or cash. NO DEPOSITS ACCEPTED. Make checks payable to Eastern Engineering. All payments and costs of Contract Documents and related supplemental materials are non-refundable. Bidders shall assure that they have obtained complete sets, whether hard copy or electronic, of the Project Manual and drawings and shall assume the risk of any errors or omissions in Bids prepared in reliance on incomplete sets.

Bids must be submitted on the forms in the Project Manual, must contain the names of every person or company interested therein, and shall be accompanied by:

(1) Properly and completely executed Form 96 (revised 2013) prescribed by the Indiana State Board of Accounts which includes a financial statement, a statement of experience, a proposed plan or plans for performing the Work and the equipment the Bidder has available for the performance of the Work;

(2) Bid Bond in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total Bid amount, including any alternates, with a satisfactory corporate surety or by a certified check on a solvent bank in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the Bid. The Bid Bond or certified check shall be evidence of good faith that the successful Bidder will execute within ten (10) calendar days from the acceptance of the Bid, the Agreement as included in the Project Manual. The Bid Bond or certified check shall be made payable to Carmel/Clay Board of Parks & Recreation;

(3) A Non-Collusion Affidavit complying with the requirements of Ind. Code § 36-1-2.4.

Owner reserves the right to hold any or all Bids for a period of not more than sixty (60) days after the date on which the Bids are opened and, for such sixty (60) day period, all such Bids shall be in full force and effect. Any Bid may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled closing time for the receipt of Bids but no Bidder shall withdraw a Bid within the sixty (60) day period after opening of the Bids. All bid security of unsuccessful bidders will be returned by the Owner upon selection of the successful Bidder and execution of the Agreement, and provision of the required Performance Bond and Payment Bond.

In the event that the total amount of the contract awarded to the successful Contractor is \$300,000 or more, the successful Contractor must be qualified under either Ind. Code § 4-13.6-4 or Ind. Code § 8-23-10 before doing any work on the Project.

Pursuant to Ind. Code § 5-22-17-6, Owner reserves the right to specify in the contract with the successful bidder one or both of the following:

1. Early performance of the contract will result in increased compensation;
2. Completion of the contract after the termination or designated completion date(s) will result in a deduction from the compensation.

A Performance Bond and Payment Bond with good and sufficient surety, acceptable to the Owner and Architect/Engineer, shall be required in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the Agreement. The surety of the Bonds may not be released until one (1) year after the Owner's final settlement with the Contractor. Retainage will be as required by Ind. Code § 36-1-12 et seq.

All out-of-state entities must have a certificate of authority to do business in the State of Indiana. Application forms may be obtained by contacting the Secretary of State, State of Indiana, Statehouse, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

Owner reserves the right to (1) cancel this solicitation pursuant to Ind. Code § 5-22-18-2 and/or (2) reject any offers, in whole or in part as specified in the solicitation when Owner determines in accordance with applicable Indiana laws including but not limited to Ind. Code § 36-1-12-4, that such action is in the best interests of the Owner. Owner reserves the right to delay the opening of the Bids pursuant to Ind. Code § 36-1-12-4. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Owner reserves the right to waive any of the terms, conditions or provisions contained in this Notice to Bidders or the Bid Documents or any informality, irregularity or omission in the bid process or in any Bid which waiver is deemed in the Owner's discretion to be to the advantage of the Owner and which does not afford any Bidder a material competitive advantage over other Bidders. Except as specifically otherwise provided herein and as allowed by applicable Indiana law, a contract for the Project shall be awarded in accordance with this Notice to Bidders, Ind. Code § 5-16-13 et seq. and Ind. Code § 36-1-12 et seq., to the lowest responsible and responsive Bidder whose bid does not exceed the funds available for the Project. The Owner shall have the right to accept any Alternates in any order or combination or accept on the basis of the Base Bid alone, unless otherwise specifically provided in the Bidding Documents and to determine the lowest responsible and responsive Bidder on the basis of the sum of the Base Bid and Alternates accepted.

Questions regarding this Project should be directed to Michael Krosschell by email only at krosschellm@weihe.net.
Carmel/Clay Board of Parks & Recreation
Michael Klitzing, director

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WRAP From Page A1

This year, rather than unveil all the winners at one time like we have in the past, we are revealing several categories a day. Today's categories can be found inside and a quick list is also provided here.

When the final winners, runner-ups and honorable mentions are revealed, we

will compile all of them into one keepsake edition that will stay posted on our website for the entire year. Lastly, we encourage you to pay attention to the many businesses who are saying thank you with their ads. Without those supporters, local news and specifically your daily edition, wouldn't be here.

RICK From Page A1

up storefronts. This was not a major metro area but a municipality of just over 100,000. The future of hanging around looked bleak.

Minneapolis was never in contention. I won't even begin to get into the reasons and we already knew about our neighbor across the Illinois River which was also a hard no.

Two years ago we put the wheels in motion and got very lucky knowing a relative who was already here and wanting to sell. We jumped at the opportunity.

I get the fact that born and bred Hoosiers may not like what is happening concerning many things. Indianapolis isn't the safe city it used to be and the building boom and street repairs and re-alignments in Noblesville, Fishers and Carmel are big changes from the small rural feel areas they probably were.

Take it from an Illinois migrant who recently escaped a real disaster that the trade off will likely be better in most cases.

The northern suburbs of Indianapolis are rated as being some of the most appealing places to live not only in Indiana but the country. That's not meant to be a lecture but coming from someone who has lived the inverse.

By and large, No-

blesville has the best of everything, a quaint downtown, plenty of businesses to serve citizens in its backyard, lovely parks and area schools and facilities that are not even a thought in Illinois to say nothing of Fishers, Carmel or Zionsville.

Neighborhoods are quiet and friendly and no one bothers you unless you want to be. Best of all, the real Midwest is still in place here. For the most part I have found the majority of the population to be salt of the Earth folks that are grounded and have not forgotten where they come from.

It used to be that way in Illinois but not anymore.

It will always be human nature to be dissatisfied about something. Not a problem with that and let those in charge know your thoughts but remember life here can be pretty good and in reality still is.

I thank Noblesville for accepting my family. You didn't know who we were but so far you have treated us well.

Noblesville has become our forever home, a place we had never been before only two short years ago.

-Rick Nolan is retired and moved to Noblesville from Illinois. He has a background in the newspaper world and has worked in news, sports and business.

BETSY From Page A1

student's life that would set off such a chain of actions.

After our \$1.75 million school referendum passed within a year of the shooting, we added new safety staffing, safety technology tools, increased safety procedures, more mental health resources, including the hiring of two deans, one for each middle school, and increased mental health services.

Since the shooting, more parents' and students' eyes are open. They're paying more attention to their surroundings.

And we are glad that this horrific day is now five years behind us.

Earlier this week, I communicated with Noblesville Schools' district spokesperson Marnie Cooke, who shared that the district has not supported May 25 anniversary events since the one-year anniversary in 2019, and does not plan to support any future May 25 anniversary events. "Mental health experts advise against memorializing the shooting, as it creates renewed trauma and stress," she said the school was advised.

"It is common for anniversary dates of traumatic events to reactivate thoughts and feelings from the event, and our coun-

selling staff is prepared to support students with that if needed," she said.

The Noblesville Schools Education Foundation is administering financial assistance indefinitely through grants for student and staff counseling expenses related to the shooting," Cooke said.

Since 2018, Noblesville Schools has implemented 50 safety enhancements and more than 30 mental health enhancements thanks to referendum funding. For details, visit <https://www.noblesvilleschools.org/> and navigate to the "Safety" section.

As we still wonder why this happened five years ago, we hope and pray anything like this will never happen again, in our district, or in any other school.

My daughter was a Noblesville East Middle School sixth-grader, who happened to stay home from school sick the morning of this tragedy.

Every morning, when my now high school junior gets on the school bus, I say a little prayer.

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

Readers' Choice 2023 Results

Tattooing

- Winner:** Artistic Skin Design
Runner Up: Firefly Tattoo
Honorable Mentions: •Carmel Tattoo •Phong Tattoo •Atomic Tattoo •Mystic Images

- Teacher**
Winner: David Hartman
Runner Up: Rachel Dickover
Honorable Mentions: •Landy Lockwood •Bill Kenley •Darlene Patterson •Janine Krent •Angie Duvall •Dave Kimmel •Melissa Jones •Nina Lechner •Joe Akers •Kelli White

Thrift or Re-Sale Shop

- Winner:** St. Vincent de Paul
Runner Up: Simply Chic
Honorable Mentions: •Goodwill •Marilyn's Place
- Tire Store**
Winner: Discount Tire
Runner Up:

- Belle Tire
Honorable Mentions: •Best One (R&T) •Firestone (Noblesville) •Tire Barn

- Westfield Tire & Auto
Trash Service
Winner: Ray's Trash
Runner Up: Republic Services

- Honorable Mention:** Noblesville
Tree Service
Winner: Above & Beyond Tree Service
Runner Up: Dickie Small

- Honorable Mentions:** •Green Tree Service •Engle's
Trophy Shop
Winner: Logan Street Signs & Banners
Runner Up: AAA Trophy & Awards

- Honorable Mention:** Option 2Noblesville Trophies
Towing Service
Winner: Miller's Towing

- Runner Up:** Hamilton County Collision and Tow
Honorable Mentions: •Boggs

- Bannon & Son
•Automotive Specialist
•Paddock's Wrecker

Service Veterinarian

- Winner:** Hamilton Crossing
Runner Up: Noblesville Vet Clinic
Honorable Mentions: •Parkside Animal Hos-

- pital
•Janssens
•VIP Animal Clinic
•Herrmann Vet Clinic
•Parkside Animal Hos-

Animal Hospital

- Water Conditioning**
Winner: Aquasystems
Runner Up: Kinetic
Honorable Mentions: Echo Water Systems

Web Designer

- Winner Tie:** •Deep Blue Computers •Sharp Guys

Runner Up: Dan Neel of Sweet Briar

Media

- Honorable Mentions:** •Media fuel •Dan Neel of Sweet Briar Media
Well Drilling Business

- Winner:** Rutledge
Runner Up: Beechler

Window Replacement

- Winner:** Affordable Windows & Construction
Runner Up: Bee Windows
Honorable Mentions: •Mr. Window •Champion Window •Window World

- Winery**
Winner: Urban Wines
Runner Up: Blackhawk Winery

Honorable Mentions:

- Spencer Farm Winery
•Peace Water Winery
•Sugar Creek Winery
Youth Organization
Winner: Boys and Girls Club of Noblesville

Runner Up: Hamilton County 4-H

- Honorable Mentions:** •YMCA •Girls on the Run •Roundtrippers •Girls Scouts •Boy Scouts •Belfry Apprentice Players •The Point Theater

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Who knew Harrison County was so interstellar?

I ndiana

Facts Fun



31

Harrison

Number % Stumpers

1. How long ago did the meteorite strike in Harrison County? \geq
2. How old is Harrison County? \leq
3. How many people in the county do not live in Corydon? \geq
4. What is the population density of the county? \leq

Answers: 1. 160 Years 2. 211 Years 3. 36,242 People 4. 80 / sq. mi.

Did You Know?

- Harrison County was established in 1808 and named for William Henry Harrison.
- Corydon, the county seat, has a total population of 3,122 residents.
- In 1859 there was a major meteorite strike in the county.
- In 1863 the Battle of Corydon was fought, the only battle of the American Civil War to occur in Indiana.
- The county is 486.52 square miles and has a population of 39,364 residents.

Got Words?

Corydon was the state capital of Indiana until 1825. Why do you think the capital was later moved to Indianapolis?

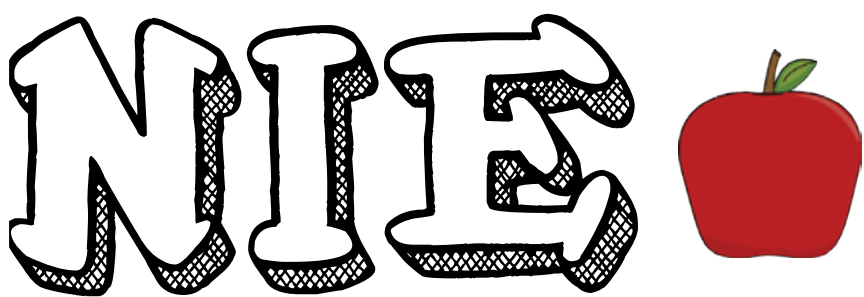
Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. ETTMIOEER
2. AROHSINR
3. OROCNYD
4. STEAT APACLIT
5. ICLIV WRA

Answers: 1. Meteorite 2. Harrison 3. Corydon 4. State Capital 5. Civil War

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Thursday, May 25, 2023

A7



Photo courtesy of Purdue Agricultural Communications photo

The Purdue-led Integrated Midwest Partnerships for Actionable Climate Tools and Training (IMPACT2) project will explore how farmers might diversify their crop production as a hedge against projected lower corn yields in the wake of climate change.

Purdue-Led USDA Project Aims To Double Impact Of Climate-Smart Corn Belt Agriculture



Purdue University is leading a \$1.5 million partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Midwest Climate Hub to help a highly diverse group of farmers and landowners in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa learn what practices will help them elude the worst effects of climate change.

The project, titled Integrated Midwest Partnerships for Actionable Climate Tools and Training (IMPACT2), is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Purdue's partners in the project are Iowa State University, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

IMPACT2 will complement the Purdue-led, USDA-funded \$10 million Diverse Corn Belt Project, which was launched in 2021. That project explores how diversifying crop production will make farms and farmers in the Midwest more resilient to the impacts of climate change and other challenges facing farming.

"Projections show that corn won't do as well in a changing climate," said IMPACT2 co-leader Linda Prokopy, professor and head of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture in Purdue's College of Agriculture. "It

doesn't yield as well as temperatures increase."

The changing climate also will bring more extreme weather. Midwest agriculture thus faces near- and long-term issues, said IMPACT2 co-leader Dennis Today, who directs USDA's Midwest Climate Hub. Adapting to the currently changing climate is the near-term issue.

"Agriculture can adapt, but we want to help adapt even more quickly to the changing conditions," Today said.

The long-term issue is to figure out how to limit further problems.

"We call that the mitigation part," he said. "Agriculture has an ability to sequester greenhouse gases to make itself further resilient to coming climate changes. How then do we prepare for, help mitigate and reduce some of the potential longer-term issues?"

A major project goal is addressing these issues by reaching and serving a widely diverse audience across the Corn Belt.

"Historically, the USDA and others working in agriculture have focused their efforts on conventional row-crop farmers, but there are numerous types of farmers out there that we need to work with, including urban farmers and small-scale horticultural farmers," Prokopy said.

These diverse audiences include long-time and beginning farmers who operate large or small farms devoted to corn, soybeans or vegetables.

"We're going to make sure that our materials work for the full gamut of farmers out there," Today said. "Even people who aren't farming but who are thinking, 'Maybe I can acquire

some land. What should I grow? How should I farm it?' We're trying to get to people early so as they're entering agriculture, they're doing the right things."

The IMPACT2 team will offer some scenario-based activities to these diverse stakeholders in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa to help them envision a different future.

"What does that look like? And what support from Extension do they need? What type of information do they need to help answer questions that those scenarios bring up?" Prokopy said.

The team aims to reach at least 2,000 stakeholders via an online portal and deliver training to 500 or more farmer producers and landowners.

Many of the Impact2 team worked together on the Useful to Usable (U2U) project from 2012 to 2018. The group includes a mix of social scientists, climatologists and experts from other fields.

"In the U2U project we developed decision-support tools for corn farmers to help them adapt to climate change," Prokopy said. As the team introduced the tools in public meetings, they also gathered data from the users about their likes and dislikes.

"That project was so successful, the tools are still being used," she said.

The Iowa State project co-leader, rural sociologist J. Arbuckle, conducts an annual survey of Iowa farmers.

"A lot of what motivates farmers is not economic in nature," Prokopy said. "Farmers are very much motivated by their values, by social norms, by culture. Without bringing

in social scientists, it's hard to understand those influences, which makes it hard to figure out how to communicate effectively."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln's IMPACT2 co-leaders Deb Bathke and Tonya Haigh and their colleagues at UNL's National Drought Mitigation Center have developed scenarios that help people prepare for climate extremes such as drought.

"We'll modify their drought scenarios looking more broadly at climate-change impacts," Prokopy said. "Precipitation is expected to increase in the Midwest, but timing and amounts are likely to change, which could lead to more regular spring planting delays and drier mid-summer issues."

Co-leading the project for University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign are Trent Ford, the Illinois state climatologist, and Duane Friend, state master naturalist and climate change specialist at Illinois Extension. And bringing additional expertise are Purdue co-leaders Beth Hall, Indiana state climatologist; Melissa Widhalm and Austin Pearson of the Midwest Regional Climate Center; and Aaron Thompson, associate professor of horticulture and landscape architecture. Project co-leaders from Purdue Extension are conservation agronomist Hans Schmitz and beginning farmers coordinator Amy Thompson.

"Amy's role will be helping us connect to the more diverse farmers that are harder for us to access," Prokopy said. "She has a lot of connections, experience and trust with that community. We're hoping to build on that."

Drivers Reminded To Buckle Up During Click It Or Ticket Campaign



The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) is urging people to buckle up ahead of the summer holidays.

Starting May 22, state and local law enforcement agencies are teaming together to increase patrols as part of the national "Click it or Ticket" high-visibility enforcement event. The overtime patrols are funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with grants administered by ICJI.

Officers will be out in full force leading up to the Memorial Day holiday to make sure drivers and passengers are buckled up and children are properly secured. Their goal is to reduce the number of traffic injuries and fatalities from lack of seat belt use.

Data from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) shows that unbuckled motorists make up almost 40% of all passenger vehicle deaths in the state. Since the "Click It or Ticket" initiative began more than 20 years ago, seat belt use has gone up over 30% in Indiana to 93%, which remains higher than the national average of 91.6%.

Despite making progress and advances in vehicle safety, in 2022, 236 unbuckled vehicle occupants lost their lives on Indiana roads – the third highest in the past decade. Young drivers, especially males, were the most likely to speed and the least likely to be buckled during a crash.

Nationally, there were 11,813 unbuckled vehicle occupants killed in crashes.

"These numbers are not just statistics, they represent real people and families that have been forever changed by the tragedy of a traffic crash," said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. "Many of the people we lost would still be alive today had they made the decision to buckle up. Seat belts make a difference. They save lives."

Research has repeatedly demonstrated the safety benefits of seat belts and the dangerous

consequences when people choose not to use them. Buckling up can reduce the risk of injury or death in a crash by up to 65%. Without a seat belt fastened, people can be ejected from a vehicle and killed, and that risk increases if the driver is speeding or impaired.

Tragically, vehicle collisions continue to be a leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 13, and NHTSA data shows that approximately 46% of all car seats are being used incorrectly. Parents and caregivers who do not buckle up are more likely to have kids who are improperly restrained.

"The loss of a child due to inadequate vehicle safety measures is a tragedy. However, it is also preventable," said Jim Bryan, ICJI Traffic Safety Director. "We owe it to our children to prioritize their safety and take every necessary precaution when it comes to their well-being."

Indiana law requires the driver and all passengers to buckle up. Children under age eight must be properly restrained in a child car seat or booster seat according to the child restraint system manufacturer's instructions.

During the campaign, participating law enforcement agencies will be taking a no-excuses approach to seat belt law enforcement, writing citations day and night. Drivers can be cited for lack of seat belt use, as well as for each unbuckled passenger under the age of 16.

The NHTSA reports that in 2021, 57% of passenger vehicle occupants killed at night (6 p.m. - 5:59 a.m.) were not wearing a seatbelt. That's why one focus of the campaign is nighttime enforcement.

"It doesn't matter what time of day it is, what type of vehicle you're driving or the type of road you're driving on, the best way to stay safe in case of a vehicle crash is to wear your seat belt," said McDonald.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to make sure children are in the right car seat and that it's used correctly and properly installed. Resources can be found at www.nhtsa.gov/TheRightSeat. To schedule an appointment with a certified car seat safety technician at one of Indiana's 100 fitting stations, visit on.in.gov/SafeKids.