

TODAY'S VERSE

Acts 2:38 Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY People who call our community their own.

What makes Janet Gilray smile? "Figuring out new ways to incorporate live music into daily life," said the Noblesville resident. She smiles at the support being given to Legacy Keepers Music, a non-profit she founded. People know the Hoosier-born singer and musician as the organizer behind the free "StringTime on the Square" summer concert series on the Hamilton County Courthouse lawn, but most don't realize she has been mixing business, music and special events ever since her college days in Fresno, Calif. Gilray (pictured above in this 2021 photo by Sally Wolf) got her start as a business and marketing major when she landed an internship with the president of the town's convention and visitors bureau. With that experience, she went on to preside over a non-profit cultural arts auxiliary affiliated with the city parks and rec and then established her own marketing firm to manage promotional events. "I have always enjoyed gatherings in a public square. All my life it seems, I've been organizing art and music festivals, rodeo events, promotions where people come for a good time. Now I've simplified my life by encouraging live music -- finding and hiring the musicians -- they play, and I kick back and smile!" StringTime on the Square's next free concert is an all-day Hamilton County Noblesville Township Music Festival, celebrating the Bicentennial, from noon to 8:15 p.m. Saturday at the Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville, teaturing musical entertainment all day, with a Slow Jam at 10 a.m. for players of all skills. Lawn chairs and blankets invited. Read more about the festival in the Betsy Reason column in the Thursday edition of The Times.



Noblesville Lions Club Inducts New Member



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Lions

On Wednesday evening the Noblesville Lions Club inducted Jeff Stutesman as a new member. Jeff was inducted by Lion Julia Kozicki and is sponsored by Steve Craig. As a new member, Jeff quickly saw all the activities the club is involved with, and the friendships that can be developed. In the photo, Lion Steve Craig, Lion Jeff Stutesman, and Lion Julia Kozicki



Photo courtesy of Conner Prairie

Grab your lawn chairs and blankets and pack a picnic for Conner Prairie's Star-Spangled Symphony on the Prairie 8 p.m. today through Monday with tickets available at indianapolissymphony.org

StringTime Music Fest,

Holiday Closures

With the 4th of July falling on a Tuesday, it will mean some odd schedules.

The Post Office will work on Monday, July 3, but be closed on Tuesday, July 4.

Banks are scheduled to be closed on Tuesday as are government offices.

The Noblesville Times will not publish on Tuesday, July 4. Our office will be closed that day as well. We will publish our Wednesday edition as normal.

The Times is also looking for clerical, office help. To apply, e-mail a resume to jobs@ thetimes24-7.com.

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset RISE: 6:20 a.m. SET: 9:22 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures High: 90 °F Low: 69 °F

Today is... • National Food Truck Day

National Meteor Day
National Organization

for Women Day

What Happened On This Day
1936 The novel "Gone with the Wind" is pub-

lished. • 1908 The Tunguska event leaves 2000 square km of Siberian forest flat-

tened and scorched.
1905 Albert Einstein submits a paper outlining his theory of special relativity.

Births On This Day • 1985 Michael Phelps American swimmer • 1966 Mike Tyson American boxer, actor

Deaths On This Day • 2001 Chet Atkins American musician, songwriter, producer

• **1984** Lillian Hellman American playwright

And Another Thing...

1. Gov. Holcomb statement regarding fallen Trooper Aaron Smith

Indiana State Trooper Aaron Smith was killed in the line of duty late Wednesday night. Trooper Smith was helping in an effort to stop a suspected stolen car when he was struck by the car. "Janet and I offer our deepest condolences to the wife, family and close friends of Trooper Aaron Smith. Trooper Smith lived and died a hero. His everlasting inspiration is a painful reminder of what the best among us sacrifice every day when they leave the house. I encourage every Hoosier so inclined to right now stop and shower Trooper Smith's bride with praver and be there for his fellow law enforcement members so shaken by this heartbreaking loss."

2. Lt. Gov. Crouch statement regarding fallen Trooper Aaron Smith

The following is a statement from Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch on the death of Indiana State Police officer Aaron Smith, who was tragically killed in the line of duty Wednesday night, June 28, 2023. "The Indiana State Police has faced yet another tragedy this year. My heart goes out to Officer Smith's wife and family. I will keep Superintendent Carter, all of the men and women of the Indiana State Police and officer Smith's family in my prayers."

Independence Weekend, Syd's Re-Opening, Flix At Forest Park Pool & More



Editor's Desk... celebrate the July 4 holiday weekend at the five-day

2023 Lights over Morse Lake Festival, 4 p.m. today through 10 p.m. Tuesday in Cicero, with an array of activities, food and craft vendors, carnival, pageant, 3-on-3 basketball, pickleball tournament, face painting, Barnyard Party Pals, Golf Cart Poker Run and Scavenger Hunt, Music in the Park, Car Show, United Family Wesleyan Church fish fry, Bingo, hot-air balloon rides, Bishops concert, Krista & the

Night Shift and Mikey Goode concert, Big 80's Band concert, cornhole tournament, kids talent show, Hamilton County Band, rain barrels silent auction and fireworks. For specific dates and times, visit lightsovermorselake. org

org 2.Enjoy live music with The Bishops from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. today at Wolfies Geist in Fishers.

3.Grab your lawn chairs and blankets and pack a picnic for Conner Prairie's Star-Spangled Symphony on the Prairie 8 p.m. today through Monday with tickets available at indianapolissymphony.org

4. Celebrate the grand re-opening of Syd's Fine Food on the Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville with Moontown Pickle Stompers performing 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. today.

5.Grab a float and watch a flick during Movie Nights at

See BETSY Page A5

HONEST HOOSIER

Sad to see you go June! Thanks for the rays of wonderful sunshine!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Getting up at the same time every day is very important to getting good sleep. 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.



Sheridan Public Library July Events

Preschool:

July 6 | 10:30am Storytime Smile with Dentist, Dr. Roy

July 12 | 11am Storytime-IDES (International Disaster Emergency Services) (ages 3-6) July 12 | 12pm Touch A Truck (open to the whole family) IDES

June 13 | 11am Parachute Play (ages 2-4) ***

Grades K-5:

July 6 | 10:30am Storytime Smile with Dentist, Dr. Roy

June 12 | 11am History Smashers: Underground Railroad: Bryan Glover with Roberts Settlement ***

Grades 6-12:

June 13 | 4pm Zombie Apocalypse Training Water Filtration: Hamilton County Soil + Water Districk ***

Adults:

July 5,12,19, 26 | 11am-1:30pm Knitting Club July 11, 25 | 1:30pm Euchre Club

July 19 | 5:30pm Sheridan Readers Book Club: Book- The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean

All Ages:

July 7 | 6pm Summer Concert Series: Ma Bell with Bigg Higg Food Truck July 14 | 6pm Summer Concert Series: Elizabeth Lee Trio with The Love Bug Food Truck

July 20 | 5:30pm Pizza Party for Summer Reading Completion (Choose 1 Day) July 21 | 11:30am Pizza Party for Summer Reading Completion (Choose 1 Day) July 21 | 6pm Bingo Night July 28 | 1pm End of Summer Splash (Family Event)

For more information on programming and services, please visit: https://sheridan. lib.in.us

TODAY'S QUOTE

"They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." -Benjamin Franklin

TODAY'S JOKE

Which columnists told the most jokes back in the day? Punsylvanians!

3 WTHR 4 7 DAY FORECAST						
66/90	69/ 90	70/88 Showers a storms	68/82	66/84 Mainly Sunny	67/88	70/ 86
орологија ТНО	- FRI	SAT			Ж. TUE	

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **TRACY and STEVEN LINE** for subscribing!



Ken Thompson.....A4

Business.....A6

Voices.....A7



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Westfield Library Foundation To Host Legacy Giving Seminar

Program to Educate Community on Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning Donations.

The Westfield Library Foundation will host a Legacy Giving Seminar for anyone interested in learning how they can support the Westfield Washington Public Library in their will, trust, or other estate plan. The event is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, July 19 at 5:30 p.m. at The Bridgewater Club in Westfield. "Designating the West-

field Library Foundation as a beneficiary in your will or trust is simple, costs you nothing now and creates a lasting legacy for our community," says Erin Downey, Executive Director for the Foundation. "This program will show those in attendance how to create a lasting legacy that ensures future generations are enriched by our community's greatest resource

of history, culture, and imagination."

Certified Financial Planner Michele Dole will be the event's keynote speaker. Dole, a nationally renowned expert in legacy giving, brings a wealth of experience in investments, trusts, estate planning, charitable planning, and nonprofits.

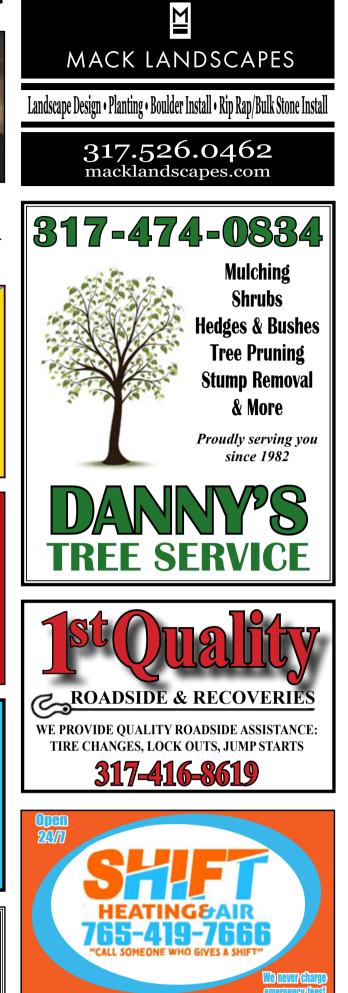
Space is limited for the seminar. If you're interested in signing up for this free event, please do so at



ERIN DOWNEY

the following link. https:// westfieldlibraryfoundation. dm.networkforgood.com/ forms/legacy-giving-event





ww.TheTimes24-7.

Never miss a public notice on legal proceedings! After it prints in your local newspaper, it goes online here: IndianaPublicNotices.com

In my

lifetime,

Purdue

athletic officials

have hired

11 football

One would

be elected to

coaches.

The Coaches That Lead Purdue Football And Bowl Predictions



KENNY THOMPSON Columnist

the College Football Hall of Fame. Several would have busts in a College Football Hall of Shame if there were such a place.

Therefore, many Boilermaker fans will be cautiously optimistic when Ryan Walters leads Purdue on to the Ross-Ade Stadium turf for the first time Sept. 2 against Fresno State.

Over the next two weeks, I'll take a look back at the most successful first-year coaches in Boilermaker history and those who struggled mightily.

Let's start with the seven most successful and coming in at No. 1 is the gold standard for rookie Boilermaker head coaches.

When Joe Tiller was introduced at a press conference inside Mackey Arena on Nov. 24, 1996, Purdue was coming off the most fallow period in its football history. Starting in 1982, when Leon Burtnett was promoted to replace Jim Young, Boilermaker football combined for a 54-107-5 record with one bowl appearance (a Peach Bowl loss to Virginia).

So naturally, there was a lot of skepticism when athletic director Morgan Burke hired Burtnett's former defensive coordinator, a guy who found an offensive system that turned Wyoming from an also ran into a 10-game winner in 1996. That equals the number

of 10-win seasons Purdue has had since 1887. "We're here to win a

championship. We've won in the past and we will win again in the future," Tiller said that day.

"We're not going to wait four years to figure this thing out. If I were to wait four more years to figure it out, I wouldn't hardly have any hair left."

It took Tiller less than four weeks to "figure this thing out."

After a here-we-goagain loss at Toledo in Tiller's debut, a national TV upset of No. 16 Notre Dame launched a six-game winning streak. In that span was an entertaining 59-43 victory at Minnesota and a 45-20 whipping of No. 24 Wisconsin in Ross-Ade.

But the game that defined the 1997 season was the stunning 22-21 victory against Michigan State and soon-to-be Alabama legendary coach Nick Saban.

Trailing 21-10 with two minutes to go, Purdue stunned the Spartans when Rosevelt Colvin returned a blocked field goal 62 yards for a touchdown. A recovered onside kick set up Edwin Watson's goahead 3-yard TD run.

Purdue would complete a 9-3 season with a 33-20 victory over Oklahoma State in the Alamo Bowl.

"My wife described it best," Tiller said. "She said, 'every Saturday was like Christmas.'"

Noble Kizer had a tough act to follow in 1930, replacing James Phelan after the Boilermakers went 8-0 and won the Big Ten Championship the year before.

Kizer nearly matched that undefeated season. A pair of one-point losses denied the Boilermakers (6-2) a repeat championship but a .750 winning percentage would be Kizer's worst during the next four seasons that produced two Big Ten championships.

When Kizer died at the age of 40 in 1940, Journal and Courier sports editor Gordon Graham wrote, "God rest the soul of the finest man I ever met in the world of sports."

Mal Elward replaced a seriously ill Kizer in 1937 and achieved a 4-3-1 record thanks to a 13-7 victory at No. 20 Indiana.

While not a "win one for the Gipper" speech, Kizer inspired the Boilermakers with a telephone call before they took the field.

"Tears were streaming down many faces as a great Purdue eleven took the field," Graham wrote. Poetic license, sure, but that was sports writing in the first half of the 20th century.

The tragic train wreck that killed 14 players and 17 persons in all cut short a 4-2 debut season for Oliver Cutts in 1903.

Cutts went 8-3 the following season before giving up coaching to practice law. He would return to Purdue in 1915 as athletic director.

Andy Smith flashed the brilliance that would lead to his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame during his first season in 1913. Lured away from Penn, where he went 30-10-3, Smith's Boilermakers tied for second in the Big Ten and went 4-1-2 overall.

After going 12-6-3 in West Lafayette, Smith departed for the University of California. From 1920 to 1924, Smith's Bears posted records of 9-0, 9-0-1, 9-0, 9-0-1 and 8-0-2 while winning four national championships.

As a member of the Army coaching staff that won three national championships between 1944 and 1946, Stu Holcomb was the choice of athletic director Red Mackey and president Frederick Hovde to replace Cecil Isbell in 1947.

While Holcomb had no one resembling Heisman Trophy winners Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis on the Purdue roster, he still managed to put together a 5-4 record. To his dismay, Holcomb discovered that a 16-14 loss at Indiana overshadowed a season that included a 14-7 upset of fifth-ranked Illinois.

Vowing never to lose to the Hoosiers again, Holcomb would win eight in a row to launch a span that saw the Old Oaken Bucket remain in West Lafayette from 1948 to 1962.

With apathy disguised as empty seats in Ross-Ade Stadium during the disastrous tenure of Darrell Hazell, new Purdue athletic director Mike Bobinski breathed life once again into Boilermaker football with his first major hire on Dec. 5, 2016. Jeff Brohm came to

West Lafayette coming off 12- and 10-win seasons at Western Kentucky. There were some who thought Brohm was committing career suicide. One Louisville columnist called Purdue "a coaches graveyard."

It didn't take three days for Purdue football to rise from the dead. Just four quarters.

Promising fans to make Boilermaker football "exciting to watch," Brohm wasted little time. An exciting debut, a 35-28 loss to No. 16 Louisville and Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson at Lucas Oil Stadium, encouraged a crowd of 45,633 to check out Purdue in its first night game under permanent lights at Ross-Ade Stadium against Ohio.

The Boilermakers slammed the Bobcats 44-21, then won convincingly at Missouri the following week. Purdue closed Brohm's debut season with victories at Iowa, vs. Indiana and against Arizona in the Foster Farms Bowl to finish 7-6.

Let's go bowling

Feeding the daily hunger for college football news, it's not surprising that one outlet, 247 Sports, has already put out its first bowl projections for the 2024 season.

How anyone can make a forecast when there's so many question marks about teams not named Georgia, Alabama, Michigan or Ohio State is difficult to fathom.

Surprisingly, 247 Sports has some faith in Ryan Walters and Purdue, slotting the Boilermakers in Detroit's Quick Lane Bowl against Western Michigan. "Winning six games

would be a big deal

for Ryan Walters at Purdue given what he has inherited. September could determine where this team stands under its new regime. There are winnable games in the first month and then there are games that could push Purdue to the next level nearing the midseason junction."

A3

The other two first-year Big Ten coaches also are projected to lead their teams to bowl games. Luke Fickell and Wisconsin get a New Year's Bowl nod against Tennessee in the Citrus Bowl. Nebraska and coach Matt Rhule are matched up against Mississippi State in the Gasparilla Bowl.

As for the usual Big Ten powers, Michigan and Ohio State somehow will both reach the College Football Playoff. The Wolverines are the four seed against No. 1 Georgia at the Sugar Bowl, while Ohio State is the 2 seed against Texas in the Rose Bowl. Also, Penn State draws Florida State in the Orange Bowl.

Other Big Ten bowl projections include Michigan State vs. Kansas State in the Guaranteed Rate Bowl, Iowa vs. Duke in the Pinstripe Bowl, Illinois vs. Pittsburgh in the Duke's Mayo Bowl, Maryland vs. Arkansas in the Music City Bowl and Minnesota against South Carolina in the ReliaQuest Bowl.

-Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.



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Lookin' Like A Hard Floor Night Change In Law Allowing



DICK WOLFSIE **Funny Bone**

in a bed and breakfast. My wife loves B&Bs so I was sure she would enjoy the evening.

It was

a local

art show

and stay

downtown

The owner offered to take us on a short tour of the historic building. We hauled luggage up the stairs and were led down the hall to our room. It was quaint and rustic with a porch that looked out on the downtown area. We were within walking distance to where we planned to have our anniversary dinner. All was perfect... until we saw the bed. It was not a king size bed; it was not a queen size bed. It was a double bed. The kind of bed many people sleep in...alone.

"Do you like the room? "asked the proprietor."

"I love it," said my wife, "but where is my husband going to sleep?" The woman winked

at me. "This is your romantic anniversary. I'm sure you will make it work.

"Even on our honeymoon, this wouldn't have worked," said my wife.

> Here's why. I have a few sleep issues. Most notably, I snore; I move around constantly, tossing and turning, flipping and flopping. Sometimes even screaming. People tell my wife she looks incredible for a woman in her early seventies. I then tell them she's only 40, but this is what happens when you've been sleep deprived your entire marriage.

> That night after a lovely dinner, we headed back to the B&B and prepared to turn in.

> "Which side of the bed should I take?" I asked my Mary Ellen.

"Underneath would probably be the best option.'

We pulled down the covers and that's when the excitement began, but not the excitement you might be thinking. At about 2 am, I was having a very scary dream and next thing I knew I had fallen out of bed. This awakened Mary Ellen who saw me all sprawled out on the floor and in a bit of pain.

"That's so sweet of you to sleep there. Now you won't be kicking me."

"I am not sleeping here. I fell out of bed" "That's terrible, maybe you should sleep in

the middle."

"It's a double bed. There is no middle when there are two people.

Let's go back to sleep." At 4 am, I fell out again. This time I had pulled the pillow off with me. Seeing me on the floor, Mary Ellen got out of bed and lovingly placed a blanket over me. And there I slept: tossing, turning, snoring.

In the morning, the lady at the desk was curious. "Some of the folks staying at the inn heard loud noises at 2 am and 4 am. Are you okay? I hope you guys didn't have a falling out. " "I'm fine," said Mary

Ellen. "It was only my husband who fell out."

We shared our adventure at the B&B with one of our friends. We told Cathy we enjoyed our stay and that next year we would return, but we were going to make different arrangements

"Are you going to ask for two separate beds?" asked Cathy.

"No," said Mary Ellen. "Two separate rooms."

- Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Times of Noblesville. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@ aol.com.



Minors In Restaurant Bar Areas

A longstanding Indiana law will be changing effective July 1 in an effort to expand family dining space in Hoosier restaurants. The law previously prohibited minors under 18 years of age from dining in the bar area of a restaurant. But on Saturday families will be able to dine with their minor children under age 18 in a bar area - but for the sole

purpose of consuming food.

"The law is still restrictive in that the minor child must be in the company of a parent, guardian or family member who is 21 years of age or older, seated at a table or booth, and the minor is there for dining only," said Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commissioner Jessica Allen. Minor children may

not be seated at the bar top, and the establishment must have a retail alcohol permit to allow family dining in a bar area. Bars and taverns that allow smoking may not allow any minors on the premises at any time.

Previously, the law allowed minors ages 18 to 20 seating in a bar area specifically for dining only. The amendment removes the age limit.



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Indiana Department Of Education Launches Next Phase Of Educator Supply And Demand Marketplace

Phase Two of Marketplace Provides Additional Recruitment Tool for Schools.

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) launched the second phase of a new statewide educator supply and demand marketplace, providing additional data to schools and the state to strengthen and support Indiana's educator pipeline. The marketplace, first launched in March 2022, was a key component of Governor Eric J. Holcomb's 2022 Next Level Agenda.

"When we first launched the educator marketplace last year, we were able to see – for the first time ever - real-time data on the most in-demand roles at Indiana schools," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. "By combining the previously released demand data with today's release of supply data, we are able to gain additional insights into the number and types of teachers entering the profession. We know the impact of teachers and how important it is to

attract, prepare and retain great teachers in our classrooms. This is just one key component in making this possible."

To help understand the supply-side of the educator pipeline, current and future job seekers will be able to create a candidate profile, which they can use to apply for open positions. This spring, IDOE worked with all 55 of the state's educator preparation programs to engage future educators in creating candidate profiles. These profiles are available to all schools that have opted into the full Applicant Tracking System (ATS) since its initial launch last year. To date, the majority of school corporations and charter schools have opted-in to use the full ATS. In aggregate, this statewide data provides insights into the size, geography and demographics of Indiana's incoming educator talent pipeline.

The launch of the second phase of the marketplace allows:

•schools to engage in strategic recruitment to find the best candidates

for their roles; •prospective teachers to access local career connections; and

•stakeholders to better understand and respond to the dynamics of the state's educator pipeline.

The educator supply and demand marketplace supports one of IDOE's top priority pillars, which is supporting educator talent, quality, and value. This includes one of the department's strategic priorities to elevate and support Indiana educators by improving guidance, support and accessible data for those recruiting, educating and mentoring rising educators.

Through the launch of the first phase of the supply and demand marketplace, focused on teacher demand, Indiana educators gained a onestop-shop for finding and applying for open positions, and schools gained a user-friendly, data-driven tool for recruiting talent in classroom and leadership roles. The platform replaced the outdated IDOE job board and is available to all Indiana schools at no cost.

UBETSY From

Forest Park Aquatic Center's 2023 Flix and Floats evenings on the giant LED video board, with the next movie at 8:15 p.m. today, featuring "Hook," Rated PG; 7:15 p.m. July 3, "Top Gun: Maverick," Rated PG-13; 8:15 p.m. July 14, "Field of Dreams," Rated PG; 8:15 p.m. Aug. 5, "Madagascar," Rated PG; 8:15 p.m. Aug. 12, "Cars," Rated G; 8:15 p.m. Aug. 19, "Remember the Titans," Rated PG; 7:15 p.m. Sept. 4, "Back to the Future," Rated PG, admission charged, but free to members, visit forestparkaquaticcenter.com

6.Enjoy a free movie night at 9 p.m. today in Cicero Christian Church yard by the outdoor shelter house, with free popcorn, water, hot dogs and snow cones.

7.Noblesville Farmers Market is open 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville. Fishers Farmers Market is open 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through the summer at Nickel Plate District Amphitheater in Fishers.

8. Bring your appetite to Cicero Kiwanis Club's annual July Breakfast, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Red Bridge Park in Cicero, with pancakes, sausages, fruit and drinks.

9.Shop at Sheridan Farmers & Artisan Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, July 1, 15 and 29, Aug. 12 and 26, at Biddle Park in Sheridan. 10.Beginners and

experienced players are invited to a Jam with a Slow Hand on the Square from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday on the Hamilton County Courthouse Square in the side yard of the Old Jail & Sheriff's Residence. Bring your string instrument and a lawn chair for some familiar bluegrass and folk tunes at a nice pace for beginners, young and old, experienced players looking for some fun and relaxation are welcome, too. Part of Legacy Keepers Music's Music Festival (below).

11.Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for Legacy Keepers Music's free All-Day Bicentennial Music Festival noon to 8:15 p.m. Saturday fea-& Friends (Noblesville High School students), Santiago Bap Trio, Limestone Nomad, Stampede String Band, Brad McCord, John Gilmore and Barrel Scrapers. The StringTime Music on the Square monthly series continues Aug. 5 with Stones Crossing and on Sept. 2 with Cornfields & Crossroads, both 6:30-

From Page A1

admission tickets at thebrickroom.cc. 15.Head to the 1836

Prairietown as the outdoor areas are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, during the 2023 season at Conner Prairie in Fishers. Join the citizens of Prairietown Saturday and Sunday and July 4 as they celebrate 60 years of American independence but also hear from other Prairietown folks who have questioned this holiday. Glorious Fourth Celebrations at 2 p.m., with presentation of a new 25-star flag, reading of the Declaration of Independence and singing, also watch two speeches that provide historical views on the July 4, enjoy a reenactment from historic White River Guard Militia, and celebrate Lenape culture and history at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. (The outdoor areas were closed Wednesday and Thursday due to air quality, but indoor areas open, so check www. connerprairie.org before you go.)

16. Forest Park Aquatic Center in Noblesville is open for the season, noon to 8 p.m. Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Sundays and noon to 7 p.m. weekdays, admission \$8 per person, concessions available. Morse Beach also open for the summer through Sept. 4. Pool membership includes movie nights (below), Tiny Tots Swim and Morse Beach admission.

17. Enjoy live music featuring Donny Coyle and Friends at 7 p.m. today, Steve Fulton on Saturday, Jason Salyers on July 7, Fast Cadillac (with Barry Dixon) July 8, The Dead Squirrels on July 14, Celtic Rain on July 22 at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

18.Travel to the countryside to hear live music with The 78's at 6:30 p.m. today at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville. Visit spencerfarmwinery.com

19. Visit Westfield Farmers Market from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays through the summer at Grand Junction Plaza in Westfield.

20. Come out for live music during Fishers Parks Department's Free Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in June and July at Nickel Plate District Amphitheater, featuring Karma, with fireworks to follow, July 4; Street Pennies, July 11; Groovesmash, July 18; and Hank Ruff, July 25. Lawn chairs and blankets welcome. Visit bring in their own food and drink, participate in a table-decorating contest and get access to separate VIP restroom options.

23.Cool Creek Park and Nature Center free Wednesday Campfires start at 7 p.m on the northside of Cool Creek Park in Westfield, with All-American Animals on July 5, Hoosier Owls on July 12, Baby! It's Wild Outside on July 17 and Really Dangerous Animals on July 26. Lawn chairs and blankets, extra marshmallows and bug spray encouraged.

24. Noblesville Parks and Recreation presents the free 2023 Summer Concert Series 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays in July: Groove Smash, July 6; The Toons, July 13; Hairbangers Ball, July 20, at Dillon Park in Noblesville. Lawn chairs and blankets invited. Concessions available.

25. Antique car owners and aficionados are invited to Noblesville Jim Dandy Restaurant's First Friday Cruise-in from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 7 at the eatery, featuring DJ Bumper playing classics.

26.Bring your lawn chair for Nickel Plate Arts' First Friday event from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. July 7 at Nickel Plate Arts in downtown Noblesville, with refreshments, cash bard, art exhibit, Noblesville Nostalgia exhibit celebrating the Bicentennial of Hamilton County and the City of Noblesville, live music from Bach 2 Rock Fishers.

27. Join Nickel Plate Arts' reception for Claudia Labin's "Sculptural Forms," 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 7 at Nickel Plate Arts Campus. The reception during July First Friday is free and open to the public, with most art available for purchase.

28.All veterans and friends of veterans are invited to a Military Veteran Celebration & Resource Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 8 at Noblesville Schools Community Center on Field Drive in Noblesville, featuring 60 vendors with free information on VA benefits, mental health, housing, employment, insurance, retirement, education and more. The Hamilton County Veter-ans Corp and the Hamilorp and the ton County County Bicentennial Commission are celebrating our military veteran community at this event. 29.Noblesville Parks and Recreation Department's free Concerts at the Commons will feature eight tribute bands 7-10 p.m. Saturdays: Crush (Bon Jovi tribute), July 8; No Fences (Garth Brooks tribute), July 15; Chicago Rewired (Chicago tribute), Aug. 12; Earth to Mars (Bruno Mars tribute), Aug. 26; American English (Beatles tribute) Sept. 9; Trippin Billies (Dave Matthews Band tribute), Sept. 23; all at Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville. **30.Hamilton County** 4-H Fair is July 20-23 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, and the Noblesville Street Dance is July 22 in downtown Noblesville.

Indiana State Fair Unveils Full Court Press For 2023 Basketball Theme Programming Plans

Celebrating the State that Grew the Game, presented by Pacers Sports & Entertainment.

18 Days of Celebrating Indiana Basketball.

The Indiana State Fair today announced 18 days full of basketball inspired entertainment plans in support of its 2023 theme of BASKETBALL, in partnership with Pacers Sports & Entertainment.

The 2023 theme was announced last winter on the basketball court at Governor Holcomb's residence along with representatives for the Indiana State Fair, Pacers Sports & Entertainment and more. At that time it was also revealed that the theme will be activated through multiple interactive experiences and exhibits paying homage to Indiana's rich basketball legacy. Today, the Indiana State Fair proudly unveiled plans for custom experiences guests can expect when they arrive at the 166th Indiana State Fair, including:

•Land of Legends:

Exhibit

Indiana's Basketball Legacy, in partnership with Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame

•Space Ham: An Augmented Reality Experience

•1951 Chevy, Gene Hackman's car from movie HOOSIERS on display

•18 Basketball Stories curated for 18 days of the Indiana State Fair •Celebrating the people, the places and the purpose of the Game! •The Evolution of the Hoosiers this summer at our beloved State Fair," said Rick Fuson, Pacers Sports & Entertainment Chief Executive Officer.

The Indiana State Fair is rooted in celebrating all things Indiana Agriculture, including the history of why the game of basketball grew here in Indiana. The game was affordable, and the playing season was based around the farmers' planting and harvest season in the late 1800s. After each harvest, farm kids could play basketball, and then when the season ended in March, they could go back to the fields for planting. Basketball also has a rich history at the Fairgrounds where the iconic Indiana Farmers Coliseum has played host to high school championships, the ABA Pacers, All-Star Games and more. Currently, the Indiana Farmers Coliseum is home of the Horizon League Basketball Championships and IUPUI Men's Basketball. The Indiana State Fairgrounds first opened in 1892 – the same year basketball was introduced in Indiana – two great Hoosier traditions that have stood the test of time.

•HOOPFEST Outdoor Amusement Park

•Including full size regulation court with tournaments, kids camps, coaches chats, etc

•Pacers Sports & Entertainment Immersive Game Exhibit •The 6th Man Exhibit: Agriculture & Basketball

•Hoosier Hardwood Photo Project: A Journey to Indiana's Historical High School Gyms

•From Trees to Tip-Off Attraction: Indiana Hardwoods & the Game •Chuck Taylor and

Indiana Basketball Exhibit with the Indiana Historical Society

•Cultural art installations celebrations basketball

•Including sneaker & custom Backboard Art installation

"Indiana is truly the state that grew the game, and we are excited to celebrate our unmatched basketball history with 8:15 p.m. 12. Central Indiana Vintage Vehicles invites car buffs to show off their vintage vehicles on the Courthouse Square during the weekly Saturday night Cruise-in. Lawn chairs and old-car conversations invited.

13.Enjoy an all-ages concert featuring The Bishops (featuring 1986 NHS grad Bryan Bishop) at Lights Over Morse Lake from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Hamilton North Public Library Pavilion in Cicero.

14. Check out the comedians at The Brick Room Comedy Club, featuring Improv Night with Old Saints and Jake Omen at 8 p.m. today at Ninth and Maple in downtown Noblesville, with \$10

http://www.npdamp.com/ 21.Bring your lawn chairs and find a place to watch the Noblesville Fourth of July Parade, themed "Past, Present & Future of Noblesville," featuring former Noblesville Mayors Mary Sue Rowland, Dennis Reddick and John Ditslear to serve as Parade Grand Marshals, stepping off at 4 p.m. from the Ivy Tech parking lot in Noblesville, traveling south on 17th Street, west on Logan Street, north on Ninth Street and east on Monument Street.

22.Head out to the Noblesville Fireworks Festival following the July 4 parade, beginning at 6 p.m., with food, fun and fireworks at 10 p.m. in Forest Park. Federal Hill Commons will also offer fireworks viewing with close parking nearby as an alternative to Forest Park. VIP table groups (\$160 per table) may

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times editor Betsy Reason at betsy@ thetimes24-7.com. For more Hamilton County Bicentennial events, visit www. hamcoturns200.com

IRS Sends Special Mailing To Taxpayers In Certain Disaster Areas

The Internal Revenue Service is sending a special follow-up mailing to taxpayers in several states affected by disasters to let them know that they have additional time to pay their taxes.

The IRS is taking this special step to help reassure taxpayers affected by disasters that they do have extra time to file and pay their taxes. This new mailing is going to residents in California and seven other states in designated disaster areas that received a CP14 notice from the IRS in late May and June. The earlier mailings are for taxpayers who have a balance due, and they are sent out as a legal requirement. While the notice received by taxpayers says they need to pay in 21 days, these taxpayers actually have until later this year to timely pay under the disaster declaration.

Given the large reach of these disaster declarations and partner feedback, the IRS took an additional step to do a follow-up mailing to let these taxpayers know they have more time. The mailings, known as a CP14CL, will occur during the next few weeks. The letters are in English and Spanish.

The IRS is working hard to improve our operations as part of our new Strategic Operating Plan," IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel. "We know our initial mailing caused confusion for taxpayers and tax professionals, and we worked quickly to send a follow-up reminder to help reassure people. This mailing reflects how we're trying to be more taxpayer-focused given the additional resources that we've been given under the Inflation Reduction Act.'

The notice going to affected people in eight states includes additional information to help taxpayers understand the disaster relief they've received.

"Since your address of record is located in a federally declared disaster area, the IRS has automatically granted you disaster relief," the notice reads. "This gives you an extension of time to file your tax returns as well as make your tax payment listed on the CP14 Notices. You do not need to contact us to get this extra time to pay."

The vast majority of impacted taxpayers (letter recipients) are in California, with smaller numbers of taxpayers scheduled to receive the follow-up letter in disaster areas in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The IRS has also updated the insert that will accompany upcoming CP14 balance-due notices to make it clearer that the payment date listed in the letter does not apply to those covered by a disaster declaration, and the disaster dates remain in effect. The plain language insert, which is in English and Spanish, includes a special QR code that takes people to the IRS.gov disaster page.



7 game season to be played on weekends

- NO GAMES played on Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 2nd/3rd)
 Weekday games may be scheduled based on interest or in
- the event of rainouts
- Single-elimination tournament played September 30th & October 1st

Where: Noblesville Babe Ruth Facility - Logan and Emmerson Fields Forest Park, Noblesville

Who: Everyone - 7th-8th Grade and 9th-12th Grade (based on 2023-2024 School Year Enrollment)

- 7th 8th Grade League
- 9th 12th Grade League
- * Note: Post HS players are not eligible for Fall Ball
- 2 Divisions in each league: Travel and Rec
- * **Note:** Travel Division will be limited to 4-6 teams in each league on a first-come, first served basis

Cost: \$80 per individual registration/ \$900 per full-roster team registration * **Note:** Credit card and processing fees apply and will be added at checkout

How Do I Register? www.noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.com

Registration Deadline: August 6th



EMAIL, news@thetimes24-7.com U.S. MAIL, 54 N. 9th St., Noblesville, IN 46060 ONLINE, www.thetimes24-7.com

Purdue University, High Alpha Partner To House Programs In Downtown Indianapolis

As part of Purdue University in Indianapolis, Executive Education programs from the Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business and some Purdue Innovates programs will be housed at High Alpha in the burgeoning Bottleworks District of Indianapolis. Thursday's (June 22) announcement builds on Purdue's commitment announced last week to expand the university's academic and research excellence to the state capital while investing in and partnering with the city to create new knowledge, build startups and connect talents with industry.

"Purdue University in Indianapolis is excited to have this new physical location and strategic partnership with High Alpha, the most amazing startup ecosystem in our state," said Purdue President Mung Chiang. "Multiple opportunities for Boilermakers will bloom in the Bottleworks District, starting with DSB Executive Education and Purdue Innovates programs."

Students and faculty in the Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business Executive Education programs and Purdue Innovates will have proximity to High Alpha and its portfolio companies, tapping into a wealth of experiential learning opportunities. With excellence at scale, the reimagined Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business positions Purdue to become a world leader in business education and a top 10 business school, with goals of bringing discoveries to the marketplace and scaling up innovations.

Those are also prime objectives for Purdue Innovates, which was formed in April in partnership with the Purdue Research Foundation. Building on world-renowned strengths in innovation by its faculty, staff, students and alumni, Purdue Innovates has created a comprehensive system to streamline access and strengthen support to both technology commercialization resources, such as intellectual property licensing and protection, and startup support resources, including programs and funds to launch, scale and invest in Purdue-connected startups in one cohesive structure. In Indianapolis, students and faculty from both programs will have opportunities for integration, collaborative research, experiential learning and participation in venture startups.



Photo courtesy of High Alpha

The High Alpha space in the Bottleworks District in downtown Indianapolis will house the Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business Executive Education programs and some Purdue Innovates programs, with the potential for other Purdue programs in West Lafayette and Indianapolis to take advantage of the

space. "Dynamic discovery and innovation is happening every day in Indianapolis, and High Alpha is at the heart of it," said Dan Hasler, chief operating officer of Purdue University in Indianapolis. "Connecting our Purdue University students and faculty to this space creates invaluable experiential learning opportunities that will make for education and research experiences that are truly unique."

Brooke Beier, senior vice president of Purdue Innovates, said, "This opportunity for an additional location in the heart of Indianapolis allows Purdue Innovates to leverage the vast Boilermaker network and tap into a vibrant ecosystem of research, resources and expertise. We can establish a strong pipeline of talent to and from the capital city while empowering innovators to transform intellectual property into thriving commercial ventures and positioning entrepreneurs for rapid advancement and success.' High Alpha is a leading venture studio that conceives, launches and scales next-generation business-to-business software. Founded in 2015 by tech veterans Scott Dorsey, Eric Tobias, Kristian Andersen and Mike Fitzgerald, the Indianapolis-based firm pioneered the venture studio model. Since its inception, High Alpha has built a world-class team of over 50 builders and operators, co-founded 40-plus startups,

backed over 80 founders, and is transforming the venture-building industry. The High Alpha space in the Bottleworks District serves not only partners like Purdue University and High Alpha's portfolio companies, but also the broader tech ecosystem of central Indiana.

"We are thrilled to expand our network of partnerships by welcoming Purdue University into the Bottleworks District," Andersen said. "Purdue is already a national leader in operating at the intersection of technology, education and entrepreneurship. We're confident this partnership will create even more opportunity for Purdue's students and alumni, High Alpha, and the entire city of Indianapolis." This move aligns Purdue University, a top 10 public university and one of the world's most innovative institutions, with High Alpha, a world-class venture builder. By creating space for Purdue programs at High Alpha headquarters, Purdue continues to fulfill its promise to significantly grow innovation and the tech-driven economy in central Indiana. Collaborations like this with High Alpha and the recent partnership renewal with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. show Purdue's commitment to advancing the frontiers of knowledge and cultivating the next generation of innovators and leaders by fostering environments where academia and industry converge.

Mercury Broadband To Invest \$2 Million In New Crawfordsville Service Center

Garrett Wiseman, Co-Founder and Chief Executive of Mercury Broadband announced today the company plans to offer state-ofthe-art Broadband Services to 17,000 residential households and businesses.

"We are excited to enter this new phase of expansion with the City of Crawfordsville and are looking forward to advancing broadband Internet to rural and under-served communities across Montgomery County and the State of Indiana," said Mr. Wiseman. "We are committed to providing affordable services and providing a positive impact in the communities we serve."

Mercury Broadband has entered into a purchase agreement for approximately five acres of property located on Industrial Boulevard in Crawfordsville, Indiana. The Service Center is to be approximately 12,000 square feet with office and warehouse space. As a part of the decision-making process, Mercury Broadband will seek a tax abatement incentive from the City of Crawfordsville for their development. Pending city approval of property tax abatement, construction on the new site is expected to be completed in mid-2024. Beginning in 2024, Mercury will establish a temporary facility while construction of the Service Center begins. Mercury is estimated to employ approximately 30 employees.

"We are excited to welcome Mercury Broadband to our community and are very pleased that they have chosen to locate their new service center in Crawfordsville. Mercury will be creating high-quality employment opportunities in the growing tech sector, while increasing connectivity options for residents and businesses in this region of Indiana," said Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton. "We've worked hard to attract Mercury to our community, and the types of jobs created by this investment fit perfectly within our strategy to further diversify the types of employment opportunities available locally."

Customers will be able to purchase services next year in the first and second quarters. Customers in the area are encouraged to visit the company website at www.mercurybroadband.com and follow Mercury Broadband on Facebook and Instagram for updates on the launch of services in these areas. You can also contact the company toll-free at 1-800-354-4915 for more information.

About Mercury Broadband Mercury Broadband is a leading provider of high-speed Internet and digital phone services for homes and businesses across select rural markets in the Midwest. The company was founded in Topeka, KS., after recognizing a need for broadband services in these underserved markets. A hybrid approach to serving these "last mile" customers was developed by extending high-capacity fiber optic networks with the range, reliability, and flexibility of carrier-class wireless technologies to provide next-generation services to customers.

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JD Power Ranks Erie Insurance #1 In Property Claims Satisfaction

According to the J.D. Power & Associates 2023 U.S. Property Claims Satisfaction Study released earlier this year, Erie Insurance has topped the list in customer satisfaction with Property Claims Experience. Derrick Clore, President of Clore Insurance Group with offices in Crawfordsville, Carmel and Brazil Indiana said "This is real affirmation of what we see and sav every day. When it comes to delivering on a promise, there is no better insurance carrier than Erie Derrick Clore Insurance. And, after all, isn't that what you're really buying with insurance, President, Clore Insurance a promise that the company will deliver in your time of need. We're proud



Derrick Clore

of Erie's competitive pricing and superior coverage options but this study proves they're the best at the most important part of the business, taking care of clients when it counts."





The Times of Noblesville Friday, June 30, 2023 A7 Ask Rusty – Working Widow Seeks to Maximize Social Security Benefits

Dear Rusty: I was widowed years ago and, when I approached age 60, I looked into Social Security survivor benefits based on my late husband's record. He started receiving Social Security shortly before he died at \$1,200 per month. My income at age 60 was \$42,000 and, since Social Security would keep \$1 for every \$2 above the limit (around \$15,000 at that time), I did not apply. Next year I will reach my full retirement age of 66¹/₂, but I plan to work until I am 70. Will I be able to receive full survivor benefits next year if I continue to work? I plan to switch to my own Social Security benefit at age 70, which will be higher than my husband received. Since

I am waiting to apply for survivor benefits, will there be an increase in the amount I receive? I am a municipal employee and when I retire, I will collect from the state retirement system. I paid into the state retirement system and also paid Social Security taxes, so will my state pension have any impact on my Social Security? *Signed: Still Working*

Dear Still Working: Congratulations on having an excellent strategy for maximizing your survivor benefit as well as your personal SS retirement benefit. Once you reach your full retirement age (FRA) next year, you are no longer subject to Social Security's "earnings test" and can collect Social Security benefits



ASK RUSTY Social Security Advisor

without those benefits being affected by your work earnings.

Your surviving spouse benefit will be more because you are waiting until your full retirement age to claim it. At your FRA you can claim your full survivor benefit from your deceased husband (without reduction) and collect only that while still allowing your

Social Security Matters by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

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.

personal SS retirement benefit to grow to maximum when you are 70. Then, at age 70, you can switch from your smaller survivor benefit to your maximum SS retirement benefit and collect that higher amount for the rest of your life. Essentially, your survivor benefit reaches maximum at your FRA and your personal SS retirement benefit

reaches maximum at age 70.

Note that you should apply for your benefits a couple of months before you wish them to start. For example, if you reach your FRA in May of next year you can apply for your survivor benefit in February or March, specifying that you wish your survivor benefit to begin in May 2024 at your full retirement age. Just be sure to emphasize that you are applying only for your survivor benefit and wish your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow by earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) until you are 70.

You cannot apply for your survivor benefit online, so you will need to call Social Security, at either the national number (1.800.772.1213) or your local Social Security office, to make an appointment to apply for your benefit as your husband's widow.

And to answer your last question, your state pension won't affect your monthly Social Security payments because you paid Social Security FICA payroll taxes from your municipal earnings.

Butch Says The Cost Of Having A Child Today Is CRAZY!



BUTCH DALE Columnist

My wife and I stopped in at Wal-Mart (our home away from home) in Lafayette this past weekend to pick up a few items, and as I proceeded to the grocery section, I noticed an older lady who was pushing her cart down the aisle ahead of me. Although she had her back to me, I recognized her... it was our former doctor's nurse Rosemary, who worked in Dr. Chester Waits' office in Lafayette for many years until he retired in 1986. Realizing that she likely would not recognize me since we had not seen each other for almost forty years, I introduced myself and called my wife over to see her, and the three of us caught up on the past. Rosemary told us she was now 98 years old. Her husband passed away five years ago at the age of 94, and they had been married 76 years before his passing! She appeared to be in excellent health, and she still lived by herself and even still drove her car. One of the things we talked about were the changes to the medical profession, and the associated costs of having a child. When our oldest son Neil was born in 1971, my wife was in labor for over thirty-one hours, and Dr. Waits had to call in a specialist to deliver him. The delivery

charge was \$50...that's right...FIFTY DOLLARS. With the three days she spent at Home Hospital, the total bill was \$565.

Three years later, in 1974, our daughter Shelle was born at the same hospital. Dr. Waits charged \$75, and with my wife spending three days in the hospital, the total bill was \$725. Our third child, Clark, was born in 1979. Dr. Waits again charged \$75, and the total bill, with a 3-day hospital stay ... \$865. Now ... fast forward to 1988. Yes, my wife and I were forty years old by then, but strange things can happen. She was pregnant again! Dr. Waits had retired two years earlier, so we had to find another doctor to deliver the baby. My wife was in labor only six hours, and Brett was born without any delivery complications. Our new doctor charged \$800, and the total bill, with my wife spending only two days in the hospital was...\$4400. Holy Cow! Yes, I had to go on the monthly payment plan, and by working overtime as a deputy sheriff as much as possible, had it paid off in a year. I searched the Internet to see how much it costs today to have a child. The total costs of delivery and hospital stay, with no complications, runs anywhere from \$11,000 to \$18,000...and sometimes as much as \$25,000... unbelievable! Although I realize we should have regular checkups, my wife and I very seldom go to a doctor unless it's an extreme emergency. We were both raised in the "good ol' days" when home remedies were common, and like a cou-

ple of idiots, we usually "doctor" ourselves. A few years ago, I test-fired a very old shotgun. The recoil caused my hand to slip, and the shotgun's hammer ripped open the flesh over my thumb joint, exposing the bone. Not good. But no problem. I poured hydrogen peroxide over the open gash, and held it closed while my wife SUPERGLUED it. Thankfully the wound healed in about two weeks. Of course it could have become infected and caused much worse problems, but I figured I saved about \$3000. I'm

Touching The Past In The Present



RANDALL FRANKS Southern Style Columns

Within our lives we often go through experiences that last a few years and pass into the annals of history.

During those years we often make friends and create family-like relationships that during those periods sustain and mean the world to us. up on old conversations and shared memories that only we might understand and were able to recall great people who are now gone but remain within our hearts and minds.

While many spend years in one place often working for the same employer, I have spent a lifetime creating short but meaningful experiences working with many amazing people through music entertainment and film and TV. With each opportunity I picked up a circle of friends and created bonds that sometimes amaze even me.

I can gather with someone from one circle laugh and talk about the common memories and personalities that rotated within it, then walk a few feet away talking with another old friend and do the same about another circle. rest somewhere in the sod reminded me that they still walk in my laughter, in my smiles and in my stories of them. They live as long as I do and someone else from the circle does, so we can encourage each other in those shared moments,

Life is a blessing. Its phases provide us benchmarks upon which we may build a chapter that allows us to grow. As the page is turned and a new chapter is headlined, we from time-to-time enjoy a flashback, but ultimately, it's our job to forge ahead, creating the energy for new circles of influence. Think upon this; one-day two old friends

a gambler...a DUMB gambler.

My father never went to a doctor in his life. Never had a prescription. Never even took an aspirin. He had a heart attack in the fall of 1990 and never told a soul. He then had a second heart attack in the spring of 1991, and died one month later at the age of 66. Evidently I have inherited some of his traits. If my folks would have had to pay very much when my four siblings and I were born, it is doubtful that we would even be here today.

You know...to be truthful I'm not even certain that my folks are my actual biological parents. Whenever I did something really stupid as a child, my Dad would inform me that possibly a buzzard had laid an egg on a stump, and the sun had hatched me out. Hmmmm....

John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 32 years, and is a wellknown artist and author of local history. Then one day it all ends and we move on to other frontiers with new worlds to conquer and new friends to make.

Our high school, college or military experiences are often this way, and when we graduate or are discharged we are catapulted out of those environs and those friendships forced to make a new field of play.

After that, these types of situations are more relevant to those people who have jobs that are often project based or simply enjoy moving from jobto-job.

In the last few days I have found myself taken back among friends who at one time were present, but life moved on and so did we.

It was amazing to me how we were able to pick It is fascinating to me how our minds can compartmentalize our lives so efficiently that we might do that even within the same room.

Though my recent years have limited my contact with those older circles, I found my spirit and my hope for the future reinvigorated based on those shared past moments.

They provided me a window to see into once who I was and whom I still am within.

The smiles, the laughs shared with the great people who once walked beside me and whom now get together to talk about old times. Will your name come up? Will something you did or said be shared with a smile?

Are you creating circles of influence that will last for ages? If not, maybe you should start. Today is a good day for it.

Randall Franks is best known for his role as "Officer Randy Goode" on TV's "In the Heat of the Night." *His latest 2019 # 1 CD* release, "Americana Youth of Southern Appalachia,' is by the Share America Foundation. He is a member of the Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame. His latest book is "A Badge or an Old Guitar: A Music City Murder Mystery." He is a syndicated columnist for http://randallfranks. com/ and can be reached at rfrankscatoosa@gmail.com.

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