

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Gus Richards smile? "My parents and my family," said the 13-year-old Noblesville resident, a seventh-grader at Our Lady of Grace Catholic School in Noblesville. The Hamilton County 4-H'er was found Sunday afternoon winning Champion in Pocket Pets Intermediate division after showing his turtle at the 4-H Pocket Pet Show during the County 4-H Fair in Noblesville. This was his first year showing in the 4-H Pocket Pets project, and he showed a turtle named Turtly. He has owned the turtle for four years. How long do turtles live? "They live up to 30-plus years," and he plans to have this turtle for a long time. Turtly is a red-eared slider and native across the United States and one of the most common turtles in zoos and as pets, he said. How much care does his turtle require? "Not much, you just have to feed them once every three days," said Gus, who feeds with turtle pellets and freeze-dried shrimp. He is the son of Jonathon and Britnee Richards and has two sisters, Iris, 3, and Mae, 9. Why 4-H? "I like 4-H because my dad did it when he was young, and I'm just inspired by that to do it." His dad, a 2003 Westfield High School grad, was a 10-year 4-H'er who showed livestock and poultry. Gus is a member of the Noblesville H&H 4-Club and is in his second year of 4-H. "If you are scared for 4-H, just go for it, and it's really fun," he said. Favorite Fair food? "The corn is the best." Favorite Fair event? "The (4-H Model) Tractor Pull," which he competed in on Monday morning. What else? "I'm going to the State Fair for (the 4-H) Rocketry (project). I built a rocket ... It has to be a nice rocket to get Champion." Read more about 4-H'er awards from the 2023 Hamilton County 4-H Fair in upcoming editions of The Times.

And Another Thing...

1. Intend Indiana Selects Four Trent Garrett Fellowship Recipients

Four aspiring real estate professionals have been selected to participate in Intend Indiana's two-year Trent Garrett Fellowship. The program will expose participants to professional development opportunities, industry-wide networking opportunities, and real-world examples of what it's like working in the real estate development and community development finance industries. Of those selected; Michael Grossniklaus was born in Kazakhstan and raised in Fishers. He recently earned his bachelor's in Urban Planning and Development from Ball State University where he served in several leadership positions. He is a member of the fraternity Phi Gamma Delta and held the positions of Apparel Chair and Awards Chair, and founded the DEI Chair position within his four-year college career.

2. Meeting Notice

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Council Finance Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at Big Woods Hazel Dell, 14741 Hazel Dell Xing, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of this meeting is for discussion of county finances.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

The Belfry Theatre Apprentice Players' summer youth production of "Willy Wonka Jr." features a cast of 60 kids on stage, opening tonight and continuing through Sunday at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville.

60 Kids In The Belfry's 'Willy Wonka Jr.' Show Us How To Use Our Imaginations



BETSY REASON
From The Editor's Desk...

she was quick to share her thoughts.

When I asked long-time theater director Nancy Lafferty why she chose "Willy Wonka Jr." for this summer's Belfry Theatre Apprentice Players youth production,

contains many fun characters," Lafferty said. "Willy Wonka Jr." is the "perfect" Apprentice Players show for young actors ages 5-18, she said. The musical opens tonight and continues through Sunday with a total five performances at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville. "The show encourages us to use our imaginations, it tells a great story of hope and everyday values that is relatable to audiences of all ages. It has a

Want TO GO?

What: Hamilton County Theatre Guild's The Belfry Theatre presents "Willy Wonka Jr." **When:** 7:30 p.m. today through Saturday and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. **Where:** The Ivy Tech Auditorium, 300 N. 17th St., Noblesville. **How much:** \$15, reserved seating only. **How to buy tickets:** Visit www.thebelfrytheatre.com **Who to call for tickets or information:** 317-773-1085.

It's a "magical show that

➔ See BETSY Page A5



Photo courtesy of HHYAP

Mary Ann Haymaker, Early Intervention Advocate for Hamilton Heights Youth Assistance Program, is pictured with Emily Pearson, President, Cicero Kiwanis. Members of the Cicero Kiwanis

Heights' Haymaker Updates Kiwanis

Mary Ann Haymaker, Hamilton Heights Youth Assistance Program (HHYAP) Early Intervention Advocate was the featured speaker at the Cicero Kiwanis Club on Saturday. She shared with the group an overview of the program and its impact at Heights.

HHYAP, now in its ninth year at Heights, is a tremendous lifeline to services for district families in need. As an Early Intervention Advocate, Haymaker coordinates services for the youth and families at Heights. She is the "go to" individual for connecting families to resources

for food, clothing, financial assistance, mental health counseling, medication management, parenting support and a little bit of everything in between.

The program is supported by a vast network of compassionate partners, and often work in tandem with other in-school advocates serving schools in Hamilton County. HHYAP serves children ages 3 to 17 1/2.

The program operates in all six public schools in Hamilton County and takes a holistic approach to coordinate the com-

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Unnoticed Invisible Neighbors



MARK HALL
The Timesheet

corn on the cob, the countless sweet treats like elephant ears, ice cream, and snow cones all made for a tough caloric experience. Thousands of us enjoyed meals prepared and served by charities, food trucks and civic organizations. The pageantry, presentations, exhibitions, animals, activities, and competitions all served to enhance the unique, high-energy nature of this year's fair.

Visiting this week's Hamilton County 4-H Fair, I couldn't escape the fantastic aroma of Hoosier fair food. The smell of the burgers, pork chops,

Yet, in the midst of all this bustle, just a few steps north of the "dunk a deputy" booth, there sits a lone yellow pantry. Hundreds walk by it every day as we experience the fun of the fair. And yet, concurrently, almost as if they were invisible, neighbors escape from the shadows, hide in plain sight and secure needed meals from that very pantry as it rests amid the

➔ See MARK Page A5

Preview Of August Hamilton County Bicentennial Events

The Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission would like to announce its lineup of grant-funded and community events for August 2023. Wayne Township, located in the eastern part of Hamilton County and home to places like Ruoff Music Center, Finch Creek Park, and the communities of Durbin and Clarksville, is being celebrated during August. You can see details and other events on our online calendar at www.hamco-turns200.com/events

- *** TRAVELING EXHIBIT July 29 - August 4 Noble Crossing Elementary School, Noblesville
- August 5 - 11 Legacy Images, Sheridan
- August 12 - 18 Clarksville Christian Church, Noblesville
- August 19 - 25 Janus Developmental Services, Noblesville
- August 26 - September 1 Hamilton East Public Library, Noblesville

*** NOBLESVILLE TOWNSHIP'S SIGNATURE EVENT: HAMILTON COUNTY FABRIC ARTS SHOW August 8-12, various times Noblesville Township Community Room S 8th Street, Noblesville FREE Join us as we celebrate the fabric arts, both old and new! Hosted in partnership with Nickel Plate Arts, this art show will showcase dozens of artists and

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➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you have diabetes, it's important to do aerobic AND weight training. 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

"What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family!" -Mother Teresa

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What's an advantage of old age? People think you have more patience. They don't understand that you just don't care.

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Anyone want to take any bets on when the first Halloween decorations come out in stores?



➔ OBITUARIES

None



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75/95 THU
75/97 FRI
75/94 SAT
70/92 SUN
68/89 MON
68/89 TUE



Photo courtesy of NFD

The graduating class included Alex Hancock, Devin DeBruhl, David Weinrich, and Alex Etherington.

Noblesville Fire Department Holds Graduation Ceremony For 4 Firefighters

Noblesville Fire Department (NFD) welcomed four new firefighters during a graduation ceremony Thursday afternoon at Noblesville Fire Station 71. The graduating class included Alex Hancock, Devin DeBruhl, David Weinrich, and Alex Etherington. Each of the firefighters has previous experience in the fire service which allowed them to complete a shorter six week recruit academy

focused on refreshing their skills and allowing the recruits time to acclimate to NFD fire ground procedures. The ceremony included the badge pinning by the graduates' family members and loved ones; remarks from Fire Chief Matt Mitchell; and the oath of office given by NFD Assistant Chief Uriah Eddingfield. Members of the Noblesville Fire Department Training Division oversaw the

recruit academy. "We would like to congratulate Alex, Devin, Dave, and Alex on completing the NFD recruit academy," said Fire Chief Matt Mitchell. "It takes courage to leave what you are familiar with and move to a new city and department. These four firefighters bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to NFD and we are excited to welcome them to the NFD family."

Training Camp + Chamber Experience

Bring Your Entire Team Get ready for the ultimate experience at Colts Training Camp with our exclusive tickets for an unforgettable morning of football excitement and networking at the Indiana Chamber Day at Colts Training Camp on Tuesday, August 1, from 9:30 to 11:30 am!

EVENT HOSTS

The event is hosted by the Indianapolis Colts and the Westfield Chamber of Commerce at Grand Park Sports Campus. Each ticket grants access to the Colts VIP tent on the south practice field at the coveted south end zone. Enjoy the action from the front row with a shaded seat, ensuring your comfort throughout the training camp session.

ABOUT THE EVENT

Rise and shine to a delectable breakfast buffet, perfectly complemented with a steaming cup of coffee for each guest. Savor the delicious flavors while you mingle with fellow business professionals, industry leaders, and football enthusiasts from across the region and Indiana.

Step into the world of football fever as the event unfolds in a Colts-branded tent strategically located next to the football field. Witness the players' impressive training maneuvers, hear the roaring cheers, and feel the adrenaline rush as you get closer to the gridiron action like never before!

Included with your Chamber Day ticket, you'll have the unique opportunity to explore Colts City, immersing yourself in the thrilling atmosphere of everything Colts-related.

Whether meeting fellow fans or engaging in exciting activities, Colts City is the place to be!

Reserve your spot now and bring the whole office. Click on the Register Now link below to secure an exclusive pass to the Indiana Chamber Day at Colts Training Camp! Take advantage of this golden opportunity to connect, learn, and experience the thrill of professional football.

RESERVE TODAY

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, August 1. This is your chance to combine business networking with football fandom in one extraordinary event!

Grab your tickets today and be part of the excitement! Space is limited, so act fast, and we'll see you there for an epic morning of football fun at Colts Training Camp!



Photo courtesy of Christ Lutheran Church

Hercamp Family

New Pastor Comes To Christ Lutheran Church

The Reverend Jacob Hercamp, was installed as Pastor at Christ Lutheran Church, Noblesville, on the 16th of July. Hercamp is a graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), receiving both his Masters of Divinity (M.Div, 2016) and Masters of Sacred Theology (STM, 2017). Prior to his call to Christ Lutheran Church, Hercamp served St. Peter Lutheran Church in La Grange, MO, for nearly six years.

Hercamp grew up in northern Jackson County,

attending Indiana University before CTSFW. While at seminary, he had the opportunity to study abroad at Westfield House (The House of Theological Studies for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England) in Cambridge, England. After returning from Cambridge, he married Emily. They have been married for nine years and the Lord has blessed the couple with three children.

Because of his love of theology, Hercamp is pursuing a PhD in Old

Testament through Midwestern Baptist Theology Seminary (MBTS), Kansas City. Hercamp enjoys teaching and preaching the Word of Christ, trusting that the Spirit will work as He has promised to do, creating faith in Christ Jesus, in the hearer (Rom 10:17). In his spare time, Pastor Hercamp enjoys taking advantage of the outdoors through hunting and fishing. He is also very excited to be back in "BIG Country," so he can watch and hear the games of his beloved Indiana Hoosiers.

Young Professionals Golf Outing Coming In September

Open to All Hamilton County YPs

Ladies and gentlemen, get ready to tee off with the Westfield Young Professional Board's very first Young Professional Golf Outing! Swing your way to success on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at the breathtaking Wood Wind Golf Club.

Whether you're an experienced pro or a newbie on the greens, this event is your chance to network with other young professionals, take in the scenic views, and compete for amazing prizes and, of course, the ultimate bragging rights. The outing is exclusively for young professionals aged 40 and under who live and/or work in Hamilton County.

About the Course

The Wood Wind Golf Club is the City of Westfield's only public golf course. Located in a charming country-style setting, Wood Wind Golf Club invites you to embark on a memorable day of golf with friends, associates, and family members.

Immerse yourself in the club's 18-hole championship golf course, designed to offer a challenging and beautiful experience. As you explore the course, you'll encounter scenic nature, providing a truly unique golfing experience at every hole. Wood Wind Golf Club offers a calm and relaxing course for any level of experience.

Golfer Information
Your ticket includes

a round of golf on the 18-hole championship golf course. Additionally, golfers have two-hour access to the practice range before the Golf Outing begins, two golf carts per foursome, a free Bloody Mary Bar, a box lunch to take with you on the course, and entry to the 19th Hole Reception, featuring an awards ceremony and scrumptious heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Get ready to receive exciting prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, longest drive, and closest to the pin. Hole sponsors are also giving away their amazing prizes at the reception.

Here are the 2023 golf packages available:

•Foursome Team - \$350 Member / \$400 Non-Member 4 players included; 2 golf carts

•Three Player Team - \$300 Member / \$350 Non-member 3 players included, plus 1 golfer assigned to the team; 2 golf carts

•Two Player Team - \$200 Member / \$250 Non-Member 2 players included, plus 2 golfers assigned to the team; 2 golf carts

•Individual Golfer - \$100 Member / \$150 Non-Member 1 player included; will be assigned to a team to create a foursome. Shared golf cart

Golf Outing Itinerary
•9 am - Golfer & Hole Sponsor Check-In Opens
•9 am - 11 am - Coffee & Donuts Welcome Table (Sponsor: Available)

•9 am - 10:30 am - Driving Range Open (Sponsor: Available)
•9 am - 10:30 am - Bloody Mary Bar (Sponsor: Indiana Members Credit Union)
•10:30 am - Golfer Check-In Closes
•10:40 am - YP Board & Westfield Chamber Welcome Remarks
•10:50 am - Golfers Depart for Holes
•11 am - 4 pm - Golf Outing at Wood Wind Golf Club; Shotgun Start
•4 pm - 5 pm - 19th Hole Reception (Sponsor: Available)

Sponsorship Opportunities

Check out the website to purchase a sponsorship opportunity on the Westfield Chamber website. Once we have received your payment a Chamber Staff Member will reach out to obtain a high-resolution version of your company's artwork. Arrival and set-up instructions will be sent the week prior to the event.

Volunteer at the Outing

We have an opportunity for the non-golfers in your office to participate. To pull off a successful Golf Outing, the Westfield Chamber needs more than two dozen volunteers on the day of the event. We will need help checking people in, help to marshal the sponsors to their holes, driving volunteers on the course, ground support across the course, 19th Hole Reception set up, and much more.

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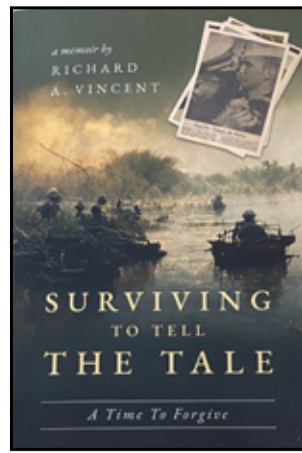
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Photos courtesy of Richard Vincent

Left; Richard Vincent today, Right; Vincent when he was in Special Forces in Vietnam, Far Right; Cover of Vincent's book.

Vietnam Veteran Survived To Tell The Tale



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

If Rick Vincent can write as well as he can talk, he's likely got a best-seller on his hands. And after a quick run through the 399-page paperback, it certainly appears that he can.

Vincent, a 1966 Noblesville High School graduate, recently completed a memoir that is currently available on Amazon, but will likely soon be in Barnes & Noble as well.

Surviving to Tell The Tale – A Time to Forgive, is a look back at a life full of hopes and dreams that were met, dashed and rose again from the ashes.

"I joined the military with the intention to not come home (from Vietnam)," he explained. "I wasn't interested in committing suicide, but (his family – mother and nine siblings) were hurting for money so much that I bought some insurance so there'd at least be enough for college for everyone."

It started quietly in a house between Clinton and Wayne streets, right beside what was the NHS baseball field. Vincent was one of 10 children in a Catholic family that would experience the untimely and early death of the father – leaving a widow and at least the older children to find a way to fend for themselves.

The book details an early start to a very successful career in photography, along with some fortunate alliances, and led to serving in the special forces with the U.S. Navy.

"The squadron I was in was classified for 35 years," Vincent explained. "I was 40, 50 years old before I could tell anyone what I had done."

And what he did is the stuff of legend. It's a fascinating read. One of his stories involves laying sensors around the perimeter of Khe Sanh – a battle that lasted for months in 1968 where thousands on both sides were killed and even more wounded. It was called the most vicious battle of the entire Vietnam war.

Years later, Vincent's

squad was given a Presidential Unit Citation, an honor reserved for extraordinary heroism in battle.

"Somebody said thank you finally," Vincent said quietly.

It was that experience, and others, that led Vincent to this book.

"I had good days and bad days after Vietnam," he said. "On the bad days I would just get drunk and stay drunk. I thought it was photography that was making me crazy. Of course now I know differently. Most of the problems I had (involved) nightmares. So I would get drunk. The alcohol took over. It took the middle part of my life."

Vincent talks openly about his struggles. "I was married several times. It always fell apart. I didn't realize how much the war had altered me. I just had a hard time coming home. I couldn't talk about it. You were just told to stuff it and keep it stuffed."

After everything was finally declassified, Vincent turned to writing.

"When I started, I didn't know how to write a book.

I didn't know how, so I just put everything in chronological order."

Vincent credits another author for their helping hand.

"I ran across a woman from Noblesville who had published novels with Simon & Schuster. I e-mailed her and offered to buy her breakfast. She read it and said 'I'll help you along the way.' She was a great help."

That woman was Noblesville's Susan Crandall, a best-selling, award-winning author.

"The purpose of the book was not to get published," he said. "The purpose was to write it as accurately as humanly possible for my children. (It) had the effect I was hoping it would."

-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 timmons@thetimes24-7.com.

American Red Cross Offers Heat Safety Tips

High temperatures are expected throughout much of the Indiana region in the next few days. For this reason, it is important to take precautions to avoid heat exhaustion or heat stroke. The American Red Cross offers steps you can take to help stay safe when the temperatures soar.

- Hot cars can be deadly. Never leave children or pets in your vehicle. The inside temperature of the car can quickly reach 120 degrees.

- Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol.

- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning, who spend much of their time alone or who are more likely to be affected by the heat.

- If you do not have air conditioning, seek relief from the heat during the warmest part of the day in places like schools, libraries, theaters, malls, etc.

- Avoid extreme temperature changes.

- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing. Avoid dark colors because they absorb the sun's rays.

- Slow down, stay indoors and avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest part of the day.

- Postpone outdoor games and activities.

- Take frequent breaks and use a buddy system when working outdoors.

- Check on animals frequently to ensure that they are not suffering from the heat. Make sure they have plenty of cool water and shade.

Excessive heat can lead to sunburn, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. If someone is experiencing heat cramps in the legs or abdomen, get them to a cooler place, have them rest, lightly stretch the affected muscle, and replenish their fluids with half a glass (about 4 ounces) of cool water every 15 minutes.

Heat Exhaustion

If someone is exhibiting signs of heat exhaustion (cool, moist, pale or flushed skin, heaving sweating, headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness and

exhaustion), move them to a cooler place, remove or loosen tight clothing and spray the person with water or apply cool, wet clothes or towels to the skin. Fan the person. If they are conscious, give small amounts of cool water to drink. Make sure the person drinks slowly. Watch for changes in condition. If the person refuses water, vomits or begins to lose consciousness, call 911.

Heat Stroke

Heat stroke usually occurs by ignoring the signals of heat exhaustion. Heat stroke develops when the body systems are overwhelmed by heat and begin to stop functioning. Signs include hot, red skin which may be dry or moist; changes in consciousness; vomiting and high body temperature. Call 911 immediately if someone shows signs of heat stroke. Move the person to a cooler place. Quickly cool the person's body by immersing them up to their neck in cold water if possible. Otherwise, douse or spray the person with cold water, or cover the person with cold, wet towels or bags of ice.

Risk Factors

Heat is the leading weather-related killer in the U.S. More than 600 people in this country die every year from heat-related illnesses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Some people are more at risk of developing a heat-related illness, including adults over 65, those with chronic medical conditions, people who work outside, infants and children, and athletes. Some may take medications that make the effects of extreme heat worse. People with heart disease, poor blood circulation, obesity and mental illness are also at risk for getting sick if the temperatures climb.

For additional extreme heat safety tips, please click here. You can also download the Red Cross Emergency App to receive full weather alerts in Spanish as well as English to track conditions with six different weather overlays.

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Senators Braun & Brown Introduce Senate Version Of American Food For American Schools Act

The bill would require American-made foods for school lunches.

Senator Mike Braun of Indiana and Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio introduced the American Food for American Schools Act, a bill to make sure American-made food is being served in school lunches, first introduced in the House by Congressman John Garamendi and Congressman Doug LaMalfa.

"Our school lunch programs should be supporting American agriculture rather than importing food: it's safer, healthier, and supports our economy rather than China's. I took the lead with Senator Brown to introduce the American Food for American Schools Act in the Senate because American kids should be eating American-grown food in our schools," said Senator Braun.

"The food our kids get at school should be American-produced food, that supports American jobs in our communities," said Senator Brown. "There's no reason for schools to buy food products from overseas, when they could get fresh fruits and vegetables from Ohio farmers, and when union bakers and confectioners and other workers make bread and snacks and canned foods here in Ohio. Our bill would require schools to buy American products for all in-school meals, and ensure American tax dollars support American jobs."

"Even in Northern Californian and Central Valley farming communities, some school districts use taxpayer dollars to buy imported foods. Some of those imported foods have been recalled due to safety concerns, when they could have been sourced locally in California," said Congressman Garamendi (D-CA). "That's why my American Food for American Schools Act would ensure that our schoolchildren are served nutritious, American-grown foods, produced under the strictest safety standards in the world."

"American dollars are for American-produced food. We produce some of the safest and most nutritious food for our families and children while creating American jobs. This bipartisan bill is plain common sense," said Congressman LaMalfa.

ENDORSEMENTS:
American Farm Bureau

Federation American Fruit and Vegetable Processors and Growers Coalition
Indiana Farm Bureau
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
North American Blueberry Council

QUOTES OF SUPPORT:

"The Teamsters are proud to endorse the American Food for American Schools Act. Food served at our nation's schools should be grown and processed here in the United States to support good American jobs and ensure the highest safety standards," said Teamsters General President Sean M. O'Brien. "We applaud Senators Brown and Braun for their leadership on this issue and look forward to working with them to enact this bill into law."

"Imports of canned fruits and vegetables are the greatest threat to our industry given lower labor and steel costs in other parts of the world," said Paul Palmy, CEO of Seneca Foods, speaking as a founding leader of the American Fruit & Vegetable Processors & Growers Coalition. "We applaud this effort to empower and support our schools, parents, and American businesses with common-sense, modernized Buy America policies."

"NFC strongly supports the American Food for American Schools Act, introduced today. This bill will strengthen the current 'Buy American' provisions in school nutrition programs and recognizes this simple truth—that the taxpayer money spent to ensure millions of schoolchildren across the country have access to nutritious meals in school should also help ensure the economic vitality of America's farmers and ranchers. I would also like to recognize Senator Braun's leadership on this issue and urge that this legislation be included in the upcoming farm bill." - Chuck Conner, President and CEO, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

"As a family farmer and parent, I want nothing more than for children and adults of all ages to have access to and enjoy the health benefits of the blueberries that are grown on my farm, and every farm across the Country. I applaud Senator Braun for introducing

The American Foods for American Schools Act and for his work to ensure that American dollars support America's schools, children, and farmers." - Pat Goin, Goin's Blueberry Lane, North Judson, Indiana, on behalf of the North American Blueberry Council.

BACKGROUND:

•This bill would provide robust structure to the National School Lunch Program's (NSLP) Buy America language. It would codify limited exceptions to the requirement—only granting waivers when domestic commodities or products are not reasonably available in sufficient quality or quantities. If a waiver is received, schools must notify parents that American food is not being provided. Waivers can only be granted for up to 5 percent of the total annual commercial food costs of a school food authority within each food component.

•The bill requires USDA to publish information about the adoption of the Buy America requirement—including both a list of granted waivers and of foreign products purchased without a waiver. This information would serve as a "market" for domestic producers to challenge the waiver or enter the market with domestic content.

•In order to streamline the "Buy America" contracting process, the bill would impose Buy American contract requirements for school food procurement. This will lighten the load of School Food Authorities, who may currently have issues creating or demanding language in contract negotiations. If an SFA is provided illegal products in breach of the contract (as in a last minute substitution), the school would have safe harbor. USDA would have authority to seek reimbursement from commercial food suppliers for illegal foreign-sourced products that violate Buy America contract language. These funds would finance USDA's Buy American Procurement Training Program.

•Finally, the bill would subject other USDA school feeding programs (afterschool snacks, summer food service, child and adult care food, special milk, and school breakfast) to the Buy America requirement, which currently only applies to the NSLP.

Young Supports Bill To Protect Access To AM Radio For Hoosiers

U.S. Senator Todd Young, a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, cosponsored the bipartisan AM for Every Vehicle Act. This bill would guarantee the ongoing availability of AM broadcast in new vehicles without any additional costs to the consumer.

"AM radio plays a vital role in preserving public safety across Indiana. By delivering important weather updates, local news, and emergency and

disaster response information, this bill will ensure Hoosiers – especially those in the most rural areas – continue to have access to this critical communication tool," said Senator Young.

The AM for Every Vehicle Act would:

•Direct the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to issue a rule that requires automakers to maintain AM broadcast radio in their vehicles without a separate or additional payment, fee, or surcharge;

•Require any automaker that sells vehicles without access to AM broadcast radio before the effective date of the NHTSA regulation to clearly disclose to consumers that the vehicle lacks access to AM broadcast radio; and

•Direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study whether alternative communication systems could fully replicate the reach and effectiveness of AM broadcast radio for alerting the public to emergencies.

PREVIEWS From Page A1

techniques for different fabric arts. Noblesville Township's Signature Event is so big we had to squeeze it into August instead of July! Check out heirlooms and new pieces and vote for your favorite. Tuesday - Thursday: 12-5 p.m., Friday: 12-7 p.m., and Saturday: 12-5 p.m. with awards ceremony.

TASTE OF HISTORY: FINDING YOUR FARMING ANCESTOR

August 12, 11 a.m. Hamilton East Public Library - Noblesville Library Plaza, Noblesville

FREE
In the 1820s, 72% of the American workforce was engaged in "farm occupations." Join the

staff of Hamilton East Public Library's Indiana Room to learn more about the sources available to research your farming ancestors by looking at a local farm family. Discover historic farming traditions in Wayne Township and take a taste of Hamilton County today as we sample a small harvest from a local farm. Sign up on the library website.

WAYNE TOWNSHIP'S SIGNATURE EVENT:

FARMING PAST AND PRESENT
August 13, 2-5 p.m. Clarksville Christian Church
Lehr Street, Noblesville
FREE
To start the event, join

lifelong farmers Donald and David Zeller at 2:30 p.m. or 4 p.m. as they explain how farming in Wayne Township has changed over the decades. This will include show and tell of artifacts. Inside the church, see history displays about Clarksville and surrounding areas. Outside the church, experience the Hamilton Southeastern Schools FFA "touch a truck" area with old tractors alongside new Reynolds farm equipment and old Ford trucks and Model T's alongside new trucks. Free refreshments will be provided at the church, with the Wayne/Fall Creek Lions Club providing food for sale.

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Is Climate Migration Already Happening?

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk:
What exactly is “climate migration” and is it already happening?

As discussions of the climate crisis begin to shift from future tense to present, ‘climate migration’ has become a growing concern. But what is it? The question is stickier than one might think. By its simplest definition, the phrase refers to the voluntary or involuntary movement of people from one place to another due to adverse ecological conditions, usually caused by global warming. Conditions can include natural disasters, gradual desertification, rising sea levels or crop-destroying insect migration, to name a few.

And therein lies the stickiness. For one, how can we be certain that adverse environmental conditions have been caused by climate change? To be certain, we would have to refer to the relatively new science of extreme event attribution, which is often inconclusive. Then, to call someone a ‘climate migrant’, the climatic conditions would have to be the principal motivation for their upheaval. Most often, it is a mixture of things that cause a person to pull up roots and move, and environmental factors are hard to separate from the rest: Climate change can also increase poverty, crime

and political instability. Another legally important issue is the term ‘migrant’. If the new turbulence of the environment is what forces people to move, wouldn’t it be best to call them climate ‘refugees’? That way the upheaved population would have greater protection, like access to legal services and planned relocation, although at the moment, the Refugee Act of 1951 does not cover climate displacement. The importance of definition and terminology is pivotal when it comes to the law, as well as recognition from host countries. Calling them refugees instead of migrants will, as the Council on Foreign Relations has said, “also be a signal from wealthier countries, which are most responsible for planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions, that there is a global responsibility to help those harmed by climate change.”

And the situation could hardly be more urgent. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has determined that natural disasters alone force an annual average of 21.5 million people from their homes across the globe. In one study conducted by The New York Times, ProPublica and the Pulitzer Center, an extreme scenario could see “more than 30 million migrants [...] head toward the U.S. border over the course of the next 30 years.” Climate displacement

has begun, and will only increase with the coming years.

The statistics are dire, and the consequences potentially catastrophic, but host countries have the opportunity to twist the best out of a bad situation. Climate displacement could fix economic problems associated with aging populations, and fill holes in the job market. Gaia Vince of The Guardian predicts that “cities from Munich to Buffalo will begin competing with each other to attract migrants.” So, yes, climate migration is happening now, and will increase with the warming and ecological disasters coming our way. Legal protection and clearer definitions are needed, but it’s not all gloom. Climate migrants don’t only spell disaster, they also spell opportunity for those countries wise enough to see it.

CONTACTS

- The century of climate migration: why we need to plan for the great upheaval
 - Climate Change Is Fueling Migration. Do Climate Migrants Have Legal Protections?
 - Show Me The Proof: Is Climate Change Definitely Causing Extreme Weather?
- EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 non-profit EarthTalk. See more at <https://lemagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

BETSY

From Page A1



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Grandpa Joe (played by Ehren Knerr of Noblesville) and Charlie Bucket (Greta Schaefer of Fishers) finally get some one-on-one time with Willy Wonka (Jay Potts of Indianapolis) in The Belfry Theatre Apprentice Players youth production of “Willy Wonka Jr.,” which opens tonight and continues through Sunday at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Augustus Gloop (Kyle Gibbons of Fishers) and Mrs. Gloop (Ellie Seago of Noblesville) are among the families who find a Golden Ticket and win a visit to Willy Wonka’s chocolate factory in The Belfry Theatre Apprentice Players’ “Willy Wonka Jr.,” today through Sunday at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville.



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Mrs. Bucket (Addie McMillan of Noblesville) gives a hug to son Charlie Bucket (Greta Schaefer of Fishers) while having conversation with Grandma Georgina (Estia Wallace of Noblesville), Grandma Josephina (Bucky Ohning of Noblesville) and Grandpa Joe (Ehren Knerr of Noblesville.) in The Belfry Theatre Apprentice Players’ “Willy Wonka Jr.,” today through Sunday at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville.

happy ending and we all cheer at the end,” she said.

Lafferty has directed theater productions for 50 years. “And while this has been perhaps the most difficult directing challenge I have had, it has been one of the most rewarding directing experiences of my life,” she said.

Part of the challenge was wrangling possibly the largest children’s cast in Belfry history.

To manage a cast of 60 kids, and the age range of the cast, she divided rehearsal time into groups, so that no cast members would be sitting around with nothing to do at rehearsals. Younger cast members rehearsed just twice a week for one hour a night the first several weeks. “They did a great job with that schedule,” she said.

To manage the large cast size, Lafferty has three stage managers, a set crew of four and nine parent volunteers for each show. Up in the tech booth, it takes five people to operate the lights and sound.

Having 60 kids in the cast also means there are lots of parent volunteers, who “have been amazing to work with,” she said. Six of the cast members’ dads built three “very intriguing” set pieces, which are really “cool.” There is a Wonka tower, a hopper for a squirrel scene and a rotating Bucket Shack. “Be sure to watch for the bubbles,” Lafferty said.

What about creating costumes for 60 kids? “As you can imagine, costuming so many cast members was a huge task,” she said.

Meet the Cast

Willy Wonka: Jay Potts, Indianapolis; and Gracelynn Hyman, Fishers
 Charlie: Greta Schaefer, Fishers
 Grandpa Joe: Ehren Knerr, Noblesville
 Mr. Bucket: Ben Ohning, Noblesville
 Mrs. Bucket: Addie McMillan, Noblesville
 Mr. Salt: Drake Lockwood, Noblesville
 Veruca: Avareigh Dillon, Indianapolis
 Mike Teavee: Blake Valentine, Noblesville
 Ms. Teavee: Morgan Trowbridge, Noblesville
 Violet: Olivia Cook, Fishers
 Mrs. Beauregarde: Claire Shonkwiler, Westfield
 Augustus Gloop: Kyle Gibbons, Fishers
 Mrs. Gloop: Ellie Seago, Noblesville
 Phineous Trout: Mia Gordon, Noblesville
 Grandpa George: Nolan Campbell, Noblesville
 Grandma Georgina: Estia Wallace, Noblesville
 Grandma Josephina: Bucky Ohning, Noblesville
 Matilda: Ellie Long, Indianapolis
 James: Micaiah Brown, Noblesville
ENSEMBLE
 Brantley Zieles, Westfield; Kai Schaefer, Fishers; Brooke Cropper, Noblesville; Oliver Maudlin, Noblesville; Camryn Oukada, Noblesville; Adalyn Dillon, Indianapolis; Quenton Coston, Noblesville; Coraline Coston, Noblesville; Mia Anderson, Westfield; Kai Korolyov, Noblesville; Lily Thomas, Fishers; Emma Morgan, Noblesville; Anna Morgan, Noblesville; Nolan Fisher, Fortville; Ethan Fisher, Fortville; Lexianne Duvall, Noblesville; McKenna Koehler, Noblesville; Liliana Santos, Noblesville; Cora Foster, Noblesville; Noelle Jarniac, Indianapolis; Kennedy Kelm, Noblesville; Catie Steele, Noblesville; Katelynn King, Fishers; Vincent Lomellin, Noblesville; Mackey Brose, Westfield; Donnie Wedmore, Cicero; Chloe Oukada, Noblesville; Avery Kite, Noblesville; Kaley Kite, Noblesville; Aria Lockwood, Noblesville; Emmalin Fisher, Fortville; Jayna Wallace, Noblesville; Marlee Callahan, Noblesville; Emily Greenlee, Noblesville; Elena Shonkwiler, Westfield; Charlotte Jamriska, Fishers; Sadie Ohning, Noblesville; Charley Center, Indianapolis; Austin Mitchell, Noblesville; and Dallas Mitchell, Noblesville.

Meet the Crew

Director: Nancy Lafferty, McCordsville
 Assistant Director/Stage Manager: Kristin Buchanan-Schwanke, Indianapolis
 Student Assistant Director: Lily Trueblood, Indianapolis
 Stage Manager: Kim O’Mara, Indianapolis
 Student Stage Manager, Kellyn Johnson, Fishers
 Choreographer: Katelyn King, Fishers
 Music Director: Denise Johnson, Indianapolis
 Set Designer: Stephen Matters, Beech Grove.
 Set Construction: Ian Marshall-Fisher, Indianapolis; Kevin Callahan, Noblesville; Matthew Knerr, Noblesville; Matt Steele, Noblesville; Tony Schaefer, Fishers; Tony Gordon, Noblesville; Alec Gordon, Noblesville; Matt Fisher, Fortville; and Lily Trueblood and Katelyn King.
 Costumes, Norma Floyd, Noblesville; Gail Sanders, Indianapolis; Amy Kienitz, Fishers; Phyllis Hyman, Fishers; Kellie Callahan, Fishers; Melissa Coston, Noblesville; Marcie Hankins, McCordsville.
 Props and Set Decoration: Mychal Prochnow, Brownsburg.
 Tech Director: Beck Buchanan-Schwanke, Indianapolis
 Lighting Designer: Eric Matters, New Palestine
 Lighting Operators: Aaron Matthew, Fishers, and Cameron Dowling, Anderson
 Sound Designer: Geoff Lynch, Noblesville
 Sound Operators: Lukas Bradford, Fishers; Drew Benedetto, Noblesville.
 Stage Crew: Audrey McGovern, Fishers; Grace Weaver, Noblesville

“Led by Norma Floyd, her team has done a fantastic job of gathering the most colorful colors you can imagine. When those Oompa-Loompas take the stage, you will feel like you are looking at a rainbow.”

The Belfry was fortunate to be the recipient of many of the set pieces, set decorations and props, which were donated last summer after the Stone Soup Children’s Musical Theater production of “Willy Wonka Jr.,” which was directed by Joey Murello (the daughter of the late Connie-Murello-Todd, who directed 14 Apprentice Players productions.) And just wait until you see the gates to the Wonka factory that Stone Soup gifted The Belfry, that are “impressive and so fun to have,” Lafferty said. “Kudos to Amber Harvey (of Noblesville), who created most of those items.”

And thanks to EnPointe Indiana Ballet, in Noblesville, for partnering with The Belfry Theatre and providing space for two days of auditions at the beginning of June as well as five weeks of rehearsal space before moving into Ivy Tech the last two weeks of rehearsals.

When Lafferty was a high school teacher, she had a paid staff to help assist with large-scale musicals featuring upwards of 50 students on stage. And the rehearsals, choreography, set design

and construction extended far longer than the seven weeks that her “stage crew had to put the production together for Willy Wonka Jr.”

Although retired from teaching school, Lafferty, who is also a pastor, chooses to direct community theater because she loves it. “I’m not really sure people ever really understand the challenges inherent in community theater productions, where no one is paid, and everyone has busy lives. It is always the love of the theater, the value of performing arts and the joy that it gives us, that inspires us to take on the task of a community theater production. Additionally, when we consider the value of a youth production, the joy is exponential, as we pass the torch and ensure that theater will continue to thrive in our state, in our country, and in our world.”

For the first time in the history of The Belfry, in its 58th season, seating is not general admission and is reserved. All tickets are \$15. Reserve your seats at www.thebelfrytheatre.com

—Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times Editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com. Betsy’s 17-year-old daughter, Addie, auditioned and was cast as Charlie Bucket’s mom, Mrs. Bucket, in this show.

MARK

From Page A1

excitement of the fair a mere few feet away.

I can’t prove it, being neither a physicist nor a magician, but I swear pantry shoppers must be invisible. How else can we explain the hundreds of items, unnoticed, being reduced to a few dozen in a matter of days? Unseen neighbors swiftly stop by, some donating, most taking a few necessary meals to get by. Hunger in central Indiana rarely manifests itself in emaciated bodies or visible signs of malnutrition. Hunger here in our neck of the woods is a silent invisible struggle that often goes unnoticed, causing those suffering to remain invisible to a majority of the population.

Realizing (seeing) the issue of hunger is a great first step to addressing it. The hungry in central Indiana are not invisible. They are our co-workers, coaches, peers, bosses, cousins, grandparents, delivery drivers, plumbers, programmers, and architects. Hunger knows no socioeconomic boundaries and it’s only invisible to those among us who are unwilling to see it. Information and communication begin to solve the challenge. In twenty years of food charity work I’ve often heard “we don’t have a food resource problem; we have a communication and food distribution problem.” Be encouraged, help a neighbor, together we can be part of the solution.

Greenie, last month’s guest columnist, made his way to a dinner table a mere three days after his article was published. As he left, he asked me to remind those that read this column to know that his sacrifice was not in vain, his cause was noble and that he hopes to be remembered not merely as a can of Green Beans from Canada, but as an example for all of us that together we are making differences in the lives of

many of our neighbors. With over 44,000 food challenged neighbors in Hamilton County, www.Feedingteam.org is a registered 501C3 not for profit organization that provides outdoor 24x7x365 no questions asked free food pantries throughout the county. The pantries exist, to meet the food insecurity needs of GAP families, neighbors that may not qualify for public assistance and could use a few meals before payday. The pantries serve as many food-challenged neighbors as possible, and our hearts are with those that, like my family, could not always make ends meet.

Thank you for supporting the pantries. We love serving with so many neighbors across Hamilton County. In future columns we will share more stories about how your generosity served neighbors in times of need. The face of hunger in Hamilton County is not what you may think.

In practical terms this straightforward way to help neighbors is having a real impact on lives, families, and our communities. Thank you. A few meals can change the course of a person’s life. A can of green beans means so much more when you have nothing to feed your kids. Would you like to get involved? Volunteer opportunities are available. We are evaluating new pantry locations. If you think you have a potential area location, please contact us. www.feedingteam.org facts – 54 pantries, over 10,000 meals in June 2023, over thirty volunteer families. Mark & Lisa Hall are the Founders of The Feeding Team. They may be reached at lisa@feedingteam.org and mark@feedingteam.org or 317-832-1123.

—Mark Hall is a successful businessman, husband, father and grandfather. He is serving his first term on the Hamilton County Council.

KIWANIS

From Page A1

munity’s vast array of talents, services, and resources to help youth and empower parents and caregivers. The Early Intervention Advocates in each community work under the appointment of Judge Paul Felix, and Hamilton County Circuit Court Judge Michael Casati, Hamilton County Superior Court 1.

Hamilton County Youth Assistance is a private/public partnership involving its Board Members, Hamilton County in Westfield, Noblesville, Fishers, Carmel, Hamilton Heights, and Sheridan communities. For more information about Youth Assistance Programs in Hamilton County, go to: www.youthassistance.org About Cicero Kiwanis. The Cicero Chapter of the Kiwanis International as a part of a non-profit global organization with members who are dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. In the greater Cicero-area community, the Cicero Kiwanis provide scholarships to local high school students, support local schools through donations to various programs and manpower, provide food and assistance to local food pantries, support families and individuals in need or in crisis and help the community-at-large through donations to Riley’s Children’s Hospital. Weekly meetings begin at 7:30 a.m. on Saturdays at the Red Bridge Community Park Building in Cicero.



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1. What percentage of people live in Vernon? \geq
2. How old is Jennings County? \leq
3. How many live in the county, but not in Vernon? \geq
4. What is the population density of the county? \leq

Answers: 1. About 1 percent 2. 202 Years 3. 28207 People 4. 1,298/sq. mi. \div

Did You Know?

- Jennings County was formed in 1817
- It was named for the first Governor of Indiana and a nine-term congressman, Jonathan Jennings. Jennings was governor when the county was organized
- The Vernon Historic District is on the National Register of Historic Places and is the site of many firsts in the state.
- The population in 2010 was 28,525 with 318 residing in the county seat, Vernon
- According to the 2010 census, the county has a total area of 28,525 square miles (939.9 km²)

Got Words?

There are multiple wildlife refuges, parks and forests in the county. How might those factor into the culture and other elements of the community?

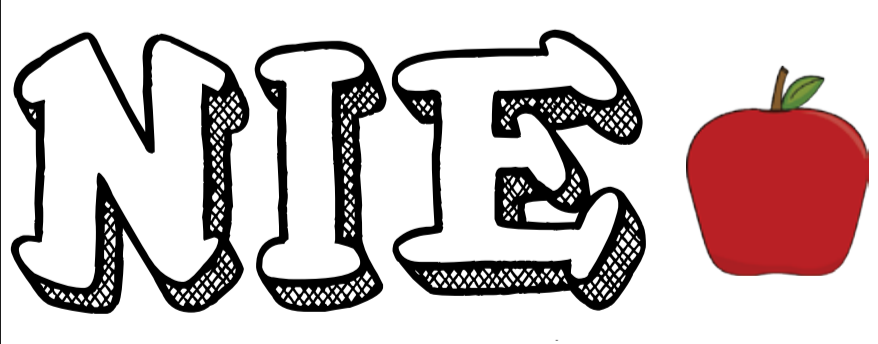
Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. NNGINJES
2. NONVRE
3. VOGNREOR
4. HSTIORIC
5. FSTIRS

Answers: 1. Jennings 2. Vernon 3. Governor 4. Historic 5. Firsts

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Thursday, July 27, 2023

A7

Attorney General Todd Rokita And Team Take Strong Actions Against Robocallers As Part Of National Sweep

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita and his team have continued a months-long crackdown against illegal robocallers responsible for billions of calls nationally and tens of millions to Hoosiers.

As part of this effort, Rokita's team has collaborated with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and other law enforcement partners nationwide — including attorneys general from all 50 states and the District of Columbia — in a national sweep the FTC has dubbed "Operation Stop Scam Calls."

"All Hoosiers, my wife and I included, hate these unwanted automated calls that disturb our peace and interrupt our routines," Rokita said. "But these calls are more than mere annoyances. Quite often, they're part of elaborate scams aimed at stealing people's money and identities. We're working to stop these criminal acts and hold perpetrators accountable."

The national sweep targets telemarketers and the companies that hire them — as well as lead generators who deceptively collect and provide consumers' telephone numbers to robocallers. These deceptive lead generators falsely represent that consumers have consented to receive calls.

Operation Stop Scam Calls also targets Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service providers who facilitate tens of billions of illegal robocalls every year, which often originate overseas.

Over past months, Rokita's team has taken the following actions:

- In April of 2023, Attorney General Rokita's team finalized settlements with Startel Communication LLC, Wanda Hall, and Rapid Eagle Inc. — doing business as VoIP Essential Inc. These companies allegedly helped robocallers make over 4.8 million phone calls to Hoosiers and hundreds of millions of calls to other states across the United States. The alleged robocalls included a variety of scams, including IRS and Social Security Administration imposter scams, legal action or arrest scams, Apple support scams, and Amazon subscription scams. The settlements included civil penalties and injunctive terms. Rapid Eagle Inc. LLC agreed to follow state and federal laws on telephone privacy and pay \$150,000 to the State of Indiana. Startel Communication LLC and Wanda Hall agreed to leave the robocalling and telecom industry forever.

- In March of 2022, Attorney General Rokita's team settled with Piratel LLC — a California telecommunications company whose clients included the aforementioned Startel Communication LLC. The settlement resolved allegations that Piratel LLC had accepted money to essentially "look the other way" rather than act upon its knowledge that Startel facilitated robocalls. Piratel LLC agreed to follow state and federal laws on telephone privacy and pay \$150,000 to the State of Indiana.

- In April of 2023, Attorney General Rokita's team settled with Greg Sheppard doing business as Connected Leads out of Chicago, Illinois for allegedly sending at least seven robocalls sent to Hoosiers on the Indiana Do Not Call List. The settlement included a judgment of \$30,000 and other injunctive terms.

- In August of 2022, Attorney General Rokita announced that his team was leading The Anti-Robocall Multistate Litigation Task Force. The Task Force is a 51-state-member collective, led by the Attorneys General of Indiana, North Carolina, and Ohio, which is focused on actively investigating and pursuing enforcement actions against various entities — currently, VoIP providers — in the robocall ecosystem that are identified as being responsible for significant volumes of illegal and fraudulent robocall traffic routed into and across the country.

- On behalf of the Anti-Robocall Multistate Litigation Task Force, Attorney General Rokita's team in November of 2022 filed a petition to enforce a Civil Investigative Demand issued earlier that year to One Eye LLC. In May of 2023, the court ordered that One Eye LLC, its ownership group, and its successive company One Owl Telecom Inc. stop transmitting calls to: 1) phone numbers on the National Do Not Call Registry; 2) phone numbers on the Indiana Do Not Call List 3) phone numbers with an Indiana Area Code; and 4) Indiana residents.

- Co-leading a 49-attorney-general coalition, Attorney General Rokita filed a civil lawsuit in May of 2023 against Michael D. Lansky LLC — doing business as Avid Telecom — and others alleging violations of various state and federal telephone privacy and telemarketing laws. The complaint alleges that Avid Telecom sent or transmitted more than 7.5 billion calls to telephone numbers on the National Do Not Call Registry. This was the first enforcement action that arose out of the investigative efforts of the 51-member Anti-Robocall Multistate Litigation Task Force. As of July 2023, the case remained pending.

- Attorney General Rokita and his team, along with six other states, prepare for trial in August of 2023 against Health Advisors of America Inc., Michael T. Smith and Scott Shapiro for their alleged role in one of the United States' largest robocalling schemes. The complaint alleges defendants made 25 million calls to Hoosiers in 2019 and 2020, which included more than 13.5 million calls to people whose numbers were on the Do Not Call Registry and 5 million calls to Hoosiers on the Indiana Do Not Call List. In March of 2023, the Attorney General settled with John Spiller and Jakob Mears.

- "Collaboration is a key component in investigating and prosecuting illegal robocallers," Rokita said. "We will continue working with state and federal partners to combat this criminal activity and achieve positive outcomes for Hoosiers."

- "This type of traveler feedback reinforces that we have the best people and the best airport experience in the world," said Indianapolis Airport Authority Executive Director Mario Rodriguez. "Our commitment to a customer-service driven, people-first culture truly makes the Indy airport a world-class operation."

- The annual World's Best Awards survey asks Travel + Leisure readers to rate their travel experiences from around the world — helping to identify the top hotels, airports, airlines, and more. Nearly 165,000 Travel + Leisure readers completed the 2023 survey, which the magazine says is an increase of nearly 25 percent over pre-pandemic voting levels.

- In the survey, travelers were asked to rate airports based on access, check-in/security, restaurants/bars, shopping and design. For each characteristic, travelers chose a rating of excellent, above average, below average or

- poor with the final scores representing the averages of these responses. The Indianapolis International Airport came in second on the list, receiving a reader score of 81.10, an improvement from last year's ranking when the Indy airport was ranked third.

Travel + Leisure Readers Pick Indy Airport As One Of The World's Best

- The Indianapolis International Airport has once again made the list of Travel + Leisure's top airports, with thousands of readers ranking it as a top favorite domestic airport in the magazine's 2023 World's Best Awards.

- Travel + Leisure readers pick their Top 10 Favorite Domestic Airports based on efficiency and safety, along with convenience and easy-to-navigate terminals — and the Indy airport has been named among that prestigious list for eight years in a row.

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Duke Energy Gives \$170,000 In Grants To Support Indiana Communities Devasted By Storms



The Duke Energy Foundation is awarding \$170,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations providing support for those impacted by devastating storms that moved across Indiana in late June and early July.

"When disaster strikes, nonprofit organizations play a vital role in helping families and communities get back on their feet," said Stan Pinegar, president of Duke Energy Indiana. "We know that the road to recovery will be a long one for those in hard-hit areas, and we're committed to supporting our customers and communities in the days and weeks ahead as they rebuild."

The grants will support a wide array of assistance programs for individuals and families in need, as

well as ongoing restoration efforts including clearing debris and fixing damaged infrastructure.

"The storms that moved through our area earlier this month created hardships for many of our neighbors," said Randy Rogers, president and CEO of United Way of Monroe County. "United Way's primary role in times of disaster is in long-term recovery. With the support of Duke Energy, we are stepping up to deliver critical relief and assistance to those who need it most."

The following organizations will receive grants:

- American Red Cross of Indiana (Statewide) — \$50,000

- The American Red Cross of Indiana delivered immediate relief to

communities impacted by the storms, including standing up respite centers, which offered a break from the heat as well as a place for residents to charge their phones and devices and obtain water and snacks.

- Salvation Army Indiana Division (Statewide) — \$50,000

The grant funds will be used to provide families with practical items like food, supplies and housing, in addition to emotional support to help navigate through the effects of the storm.

- United Way of Monroe County (Monroe County) — \$30,000

United Way of Monroe County is standing up a program to provide basic needs support for local residents impacted by the storms. The organization will work with partner agencies to distribute resources to underserved residents, as well as provide support for services at area nonprofits.

- Clay County Emergency Food Pantry (Clay

County) — \$10,000

The grant funds will be used to supply food for local residents in need.

- Putnam County Community Foundation (Putnam County) — \$10,000

The grant funds will support the creation of a countywide emergency food fund, as well as efforts to repair damage to local parks and replace trees that were harmed or destroyed by the storms.

- Rediscover Clinton (Vermillion County) — \$10,000

Following storm damage in Clinton, funds will go toward efforts to maintain a vibrant, healthy community — including beautification work and community events.

- Terre Haute Parks Department (Vigo County) — \$10,000

The grant funds will be used to restore the Larrison Pavilion in Deming Park, which was severely damaged by the storms. In addition, the funding will be used to support countywide park restoration and cleanup efforts.

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