

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Greg Conner smile? "My kids and a packed Forest Park Aquatic Center on a hot sunny summer day," said the 40-year-old Noblesville resident, who was found at the Aquatic Center. He is thrilled about the expanded season of the Flix and Float family movie nights at the pool, with a total nine movies being shown this summer. The next movie night is 8:15 p.m. today (Saturday), featuring "Madagascar," Rated PG. The pool stays open later for guests to watch movies poolside on an LED video board that's visible in the daylight. The video board was installed for the 2022 season and allows movies to begin much earlier than in the past. Conner is president of the board of directors for Friends of Central Pool, a non-profit that operates the pool and consists of dedicated volunteers like Conner. He was born and raised in Noblesville and graduated in 2001 from Noblesville High School and in 2005 from Purdue University. He was a competitive swimmer in high school. "Growing up in Noblesville, my summers were spent at the Forest Park Aquatic Center, training and competing as a member of the Noblesville Swim Club." He met his wife, Lisa, at Purdue, where she attended on a swimming scholarship. At Purdue, he was involved in student government, wrote sports for the Purdue Exponent and was a member of Theta Chi fraternity. He and Lisa have four kids, Blake, Bryce, Drew and Nora. After tonight, remainder of the Flix and Float season includes: "Cars," Rated G, 8:15 p.m. Aug. 12; "Remember the Titans," Rated PG, 8:15 p.m. Aug. 19; and "Back to the Future," Rated PG, 7:15 p.m. Sept. 4. Admission is free to members or \$5 movie wristbands at the gate.

And Another Thing...

1. Shop For A Cause And Have A Fun Night Out At Something Splendid

Downtown Westfield Association is inviting everyone to help do good by joining them for a special Give Back Night Event! Shop for gifts, build your own gift box or spoil yourself at the amazing local boutique. Sip a glass of wine from their in-house wine bar, partake in charcuterie treats and enjoy live music. Something Splendid is donating 15% of sales back to DWA during the event. The event is scheduled to August 10 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

2. Make Plans To Join The Chamber On September 14!

We all know business gets done on the golf course! Birdies & Brews has been a catalyst for local businesses for 8 years. Building relationships, conducting business, and connecting with partners is best done with a 7 iron in one hand and a cold beverage in the other. Birdies & Brews features businesses at every tee box with fun activities and giveaways. Every 3rd hole has the addition of breweries & distilleries offering tastings and samples! Between the on course games, give away items, and friendly faces.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

50¢ WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM



Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty - I'm A Veteran. How Do I Get My Extra Social Security?

Dear Rusty: As a military veteran, I was told that the final amount of my Social Security should be a little higher as a reward for military service. If so, I have two questions: 1. How much is the boost? 2. How can I know that amount has been applied? Signed: Unsure



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Dear Unsure: We receive questions about this fairly often from our military veterans. I want to first thank you for your service to our country and then assure you that, as a military veteran myself, I have thoroughly investigated this subject - the so-called "Special Extra Credit for Military Service," which is widely misunderstood. Although someone suggested that your Social Security benefit "is supposed to be a little higher" because you are a military veteran, allow me to share how this somewhat obscure rule actually works.

Any extra money for military veterans does not come in the form of a special "boost" to their Social Security benefit because of their military

service; instead, certain older veterans receive extra credit to their earnings for the years they served. Those extra earnings are applied only to those who served in specific years, as additional dollars added to their actual earnings record for their service-years. The amount added to the veteran's true service-year earnings varies a bit depending on which years you served. For example, if you served between 1957 - 1977, your actual earnings for each service-year would be increased by \$300 for each full quarter you had active duty pay to a maximum of \$1200 additional earnings per service-year. The credit is computed a bit differently for those who served between 1978 - 2001, but the

maximum annual earnings credit for those service years is the same - \$1,200. And, for clarity, those who served before 1957 get extra earnings credit under an entirely different formula, and those who served after 2001 receive no extra credits for their military service years.

So how might this affect your Social Security benefit? Well, when your benefit is claimed, Social Security reviews your lifetime earnings record, inflates each actual annual amount to equal today's dollar equivalent, and selects the highest earning 35 years from your lifetime record to calculate your "Primary Insurance

➔ See RUSTY Page A5

Michael Carmichael, Founder Of The Check A Vet Website, Says The VA Is Understating Veteran Suicides

By John Grimaldi

A recent study by America's Warrior Partnership found that veterans were committing suicide at an alarming rate of 44 a day, more than twice the Veterans Administration's estimate of 17 suicides a day. It's the reason retired Chief Warrant Officer Michael Carmichael, a 26-year vet, himself, founded the online initiative called Check A Vet. Carmichael joined Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens for a discussion of veteran suicides on Weber's Better For America podcast recently.

Rebecca asked Carmichael, why Check A Vet? As he put it, "I like to think that I had the faith and confidence in my commanders and the men that I was so humbly afforded the opportunity to lead. But as I got out, I really lost my sense of identity because I was no longer in that formation. I lost my sense of purpose because I was no longer in the meetings making decisions and shaping the future. By starting Check A Vet I wanted to surround veterans with a team, a base of support at the grassroots that involves neighbors friends, family members, and coworkers. Two-thirds of your viewers

are somebody with veterans in their lives. That's actually the targeted demographic of Check A Vet, to put these veterans on your team and also educate yourself on the subtle signs and symptoms; the risk and protective factors of veteran suicide."

Carmichael went on to explain that "if you Google how many veterans have ended their lives by suicide since 9/11, what you're going to find is the number of 30,177. Not only is that dated, it refers only to 9/11-era veterans. So, I looked and looked for a number that the VA had published. And after about 18 months of looking, I found the number buried in the appendix. The number itself isn't listed, but all of the years are listed. And when you add up the numbers in that spreadsheet, what you get is 127,560. Why isn't that in their executive summary? If I'm in charge of something, the first thing I'm going to do is to find my problem. Well, there are lots of issues with the VA's number. Aside from it not being published, there was a study by the American Warrior Partnership [AWP], that found the VA's numbers are actually underreported by a factor of 2.4 times greater than previously reported

Dispelling Common Misconceptions About Hospice Care

(StatePoint) Hospice is intended to provide comfort and support to patients at the end of their life so that they can experience their remaining time in the best ways possible. Experts say that unfortunately, misconceptions about hospice often lead people to make uninformed decisions at a critical, complex juncture in their lives.

"There is often an idea that hospice equates to giving up. But hospice is actually about taking control," says Paul Mastropa, president and chief executive officer of Interim HealthCare Inc. "It's the job of the hospice team to understand what a patient's goals for end-of-life care are, and help them live that last trajectory of their life the way they want to."

To help patients, their caregivers and family members, and those in the healthcare industry better understand the services and benefits hospice provides, Interim HealthCare is dispelling some of the most common misconceptions: Myth: Hospice means giving up.

Fact: The primary goal of hospice is delivering comfort, support and specialized medical care to those ready to forgo curative treatment. Research

➔ See JOHN Page A5

➔ See HOSPICE Page A5

➔ See BETSY Page A2

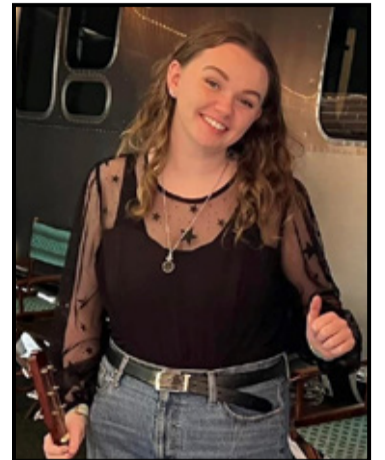


Photo courtesy of Spenser Johns

Spenser Johns, whose stage name is simply "Spenser" and will perform tonight at Legacy Keepers Music's StringTime on the Square, is making a name for herself in music near and far.

'23 Westfield Grad, Making Name For Herself in Music, To Play On Square



BETSY REASON
From The Editor's Desk...

Tonight's feature act at Stringtime on the Square's Hamilton County Courthouse Concert has been singing her whole life. As a youngster, Spenser Johns

was obsessed with singer-songwriter Taylor Swift and would always karaoke her songs at home. She asked for a pink guitar and while it was difficult to find one, received one for her sixth birthday.

"Everything was a microphone for Spenser," her mom Dawn Johns said. She used hairbrushes, remotes and phones.

At Westfield Middle School, Spenser played clarinet in sixth grade, then switched to percussion in seventh grade.

That school year, she performed her first open mic in Alley's Alehouse at Pinheads in Fishers, singing along to karaoke tracks. "I dared her to do the open mic," recalled her mom, who played euchre there on Thursdays, which was also Niko's Open Mic night. "One night, she surprised me and went up. She was planning for the following week on the way

Want TO GO?

What: Legacy Keepers Music's StringTime on the Square summer music series.
When: 6:30 p.m.-8:15 p.m. Saturday.
Where: West side of Hamilton County Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville.
How much: Free. Donations accepted.
What else: Bring lawn chairs or blankets.

➔ INSIDE TODAY

Service Directory.....A5
Home.....A6
Travel.....A7

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

I never heard of Jason Aldean before all this stuff about his song.



➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Not wearing a seatbelt because you think they're dangerous? Ask emergency personnel why nearly 100% of them wear theirs. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"If we worked on the assumption that what is accepted as true really is true, then there would be little hope for advance."
-Orville and Wilbur Wright

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What's a spy do when she's cold?
Goes undercover!

➔ OBITUARIES

None

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **KERWIN & CHERYL KAUFMAN** for subscribing!



7 DAY FORECAST
67/90 HUMID HEAT, BLIGHT CHANCE
70/90 HUMID HEAT, BLIGHT CHANCE
70/90 MUGGY, STORMS LIKELY SOME REVERE
70/82 A.P. STORMS, P.M. SUN
63/82 LESS HUMID
62/84 RAINY, SUNNY
64/84 CHANCE OF P.M. STORMS
FRI SAT SUN MON TUE WED THU

BETSY From Page A1

the following week on the way home."

Spenser, who taught herself the ukulele in seventh grade and then guitar in eighth grade, started writing songs and was invited to perform her first actual paid gig at Alley's in eighth grade, in 2019, as opener for Open Mic night.

She auditioned her junior year at Westfield High School and received a callback for "The Voice." But being that she was going into her senior year, "it was difficult to decide if that was a good choice," her mom said. "She decided to stay focused on school." Throughout her school career, she had all A's.

This spring, she was winner of Noblesville Main Street's 2023 Noblesville's Got Talent and earned a spot on the Noblesville Street Dance Stage in July, and also won Carmelfest Has Talent on Independence Day weekend.

Tonight, the 2023 Westfield High School graduate, who simply goes by the stage name, "Spenser," will be the feature act at 6:30 p.m. at Legacy Keepers Music's StringTime on the Square free music series on the Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville.

Her gigs consist of a wide range of songs, including a few originals, plus songs by Amy Winehouse, Brittany, Fleetwood Mac, Journey, Olivia Rodrigo, Eagles' "Hotel California", Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean," Carly Simon, Gloria Gaynor, Conan Gray and Goo Goo Dolls. Tonight's performance at Stringtime on the Square will be more country, Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton and Taylor Swift songs.

Spenser's parents, Dennis Johns played trumpet fifth grade through high school (Union County High School in Liberty, Ind.), and Dawn (Burch

Johns played flute for a super short time and then violin sixth through ninth grades. "She did not get any of the talent from us," said Spenser's mom, a 1989 Carmel High School graduate." Spenser has two siblings, one who played trumpet in high school marching band.

When Spenser was younger, she went through Artistic Enterprises talent agency, and with her siblings were featured in various commercials, for Marsh, MCL Cafeteria, Community Hospital and others that weren't as local. While in elementary school, she did a promo for Disney Singing and Storytelling Belle doll. "That one and the Marsh commercial were 12-hour shoots," her mom said.

For a short period of time, before her freshman year, her family moved out of state, to Texas, where she became interested in theater (with a small role in "Mama Mia!") and participated in her school's talent show.

In 2020, during Covid, and when everybody in the nation went into quarantine, she started writing songs again with her guitar to pass the time. Then her family moved back to Indiana.

Spenser and her mom traveled to Nashville, Tenn., to see their friend, young singer/songwriter Sadie Fine, perform at the Listening Room Cafe. While there, they met the owners of Charlotte Avenue Entertainment, sent them Spenser's music, and they liked her. "This led to them inviting me to record two of my original songs 'Six Minutes in Georgia' and 'Burden'" at Omni Sound Studio in Nashville, Tenn.," said Spenser, who also performed a gig at the Moxy Hotel and a writers round while in Nashville.

"Ever since, I've kept writing and performing," Spenser said.

At Westfield High

School, she was active in Battle of the Bands and American Pie concert (performing "November Rain," singing "Separate Ways" and drumming for "This One's for the Girls") and played a small role in the school's "The Wizard of Oz" musical. She also did Rock Band and Steel Pans at the high school. While she continued to play open mics and do gigs, she mainly focused on school the past two years.

While during her junior year, she auditioned for "The Voice" and received a call back," which was "so cool and surreal," her senior year, she auditioned for "America's Got Talent" in an open virtual call (and didn't hear back) and also had the opportunity to open for the punk band, The Day After at the Hoosier Dome with her former band D!Vots, "which was an amazing experience," she said.

This summer, after graduation, she was invited to perform in the 30th annual Master Musicians Festival in Somerset, Ky. in the Young Singer Songwriter round. "I got to meet so many cool artists," she said.

Upcoming, she'll perform at Urban Vines Winery & Brewery in Westfield, Rush on Main Street in Zionsville and in September in the Water Lantern Festival in Lexington, Ky.

"I'm continuing my music journey and am hoping to make a career out of it," said the teen, who plans to attend IUPUI majoring in business and minoring in music production. Over the summer, she completed two Ivy Tech online college classes, Music Theory and Calculus, and scored A's in both. She puts her money away from gigs to pay for college.

Also, performing tonight during StringTime on the Square, is opener 12-year-old yodeler Azalia David-



SPENSER JOHNS

son, who was second-place winner in Noblesville's Got Talent. She performed in April with Riders in the Sky at the Brown County Playhouse in Nashville, Ind. (Riders in the Sky performed the soundtrack for "Toy Story 2" and "Monsters Inc.") and won the 2022 Youth Talent Contest at the 2022 Indiana State Fair. Tonight, she will sing her prize-winning tune, "He Taught Me To Yodel."

Noblesville High School senior Addie McMillan, who won Grand Champion at the Hamilton County 4-H Fair Talent Show in July, qualifying her for the Indiana State Fair, will sing The National Anthem at tonight's concert tonight and will emcee the youth portion of the show.

Stones Crossing will headline the concert at 7 p.m. Mark Graham has been singing with daughters, Shalynn and Amanda for their whole lives, in church and at home. For 30 years, he's played with various bands, and then one day got a chance to perform with his son-in-law, Billy Adams. Not long after that, Mark Graham quit his other groups to focus on the family band, exclusively. Stones Crossing will play a variety of gospel, bluegrass, country and soft rock. And Girlray said, don't be surprised if the band adds a little bit of Elvis.

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



Photo courtesy of Meredith Frye

Spenser Johns performs during opening of the punk band, The Day After, at the Hoosier Dome music venue.



Photo courtesy of Westfield High School Rocks Media

Spenser Johns, a 2023 Westfield High School graduate, performs during the school's American Pie concert her senior year.

<p>ALL AROUND David Ellsworth 765-568-3285 HANDYMAN</p>	DRYWALL
	PRESSURE WASHING
	INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING
	FENCING
	CLEAN OUTS

NOBLESVILLE BABE RUTH BASEBALL **2023 Fall Ball Season**

When: August 12th/13th - September 23rd/24th, 2023
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

David Farms
Tipton, IN

We are a family owned & operated farm

- No Antibiotics
- No Steroids
- No Hormones
- Grain Fed

\$2.70 a pound hanging weight
We are the cheapest around!

FROM OUR FARM TO YOUR FAMILY

Gary David **Austin David**
765-434-2960 **765-434-9501**

Check us out on Facebook

Free Estimates • Free Inspections

ROOFING GUTTERS

Locally Owned & Operated

WALKER & SON'S CONSTRUCTION, LLC
317-798-8192

317-474-0884

Mulching • Shrubs • Hedges & Bushes
Tree Pruning Stump Removal & More
Proudly serving you since 1982

DANNY'S TREE SERVICE

MY SENIORS LOVE ME
A Cleaning Service for Seniors

Weekly • Bi-Weekly • Monthly
Others Are Welcome

Call Robin
(317) 900-0147

DOWN YONDER CAMPGROUND

Minutes from Dale Hollow State Park

Annual RV Lots & Cabin Rentals

Call Cliff Carley at 317-502-6999 for information & reservations

138 Hegira Road • Burkesville, KY 42717
www.DownYonderCampLLC.com FB: DownYonderCampground

30 years in business Fully Insured

SWINFORD'S TREE SERVICE

317-281-8360

TREE TRIMMING • REMOVAL • STUMP GRINDING

STOUT HEATING & COOLING

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALL
VETERAN OWNED & OPERATED

24 HOUR SERVICE 317-281-2657
StoutHeatingandCooling@gmail.com

Learn More About WYAP And Its Purpose!

Join the Westfield Young Professionals on Tuesday, August 8 from 8:00 am to 9:00 am at The Bridgewater Club for an exciting networking event featuring Early Intervention Advocate, Megan Contreras and Communications Coordinator, Kristina Logan from Westfield Youth Assistance Program.

Megan Contreras moved with her family as a child to Westfield, IN in 1994 where she attended Westfield's first "new" elementary school, Shamrock Springs. She grew up in Westfield, graduating from WHS and later attended Butler University for her Bachelor's Degree and Marian University for her Master's in Education.

Prior to becoming an advocate, Megan was an educator within WWS and Zionsville Schools and also taught in both IPS and Greenfield while

completing her Master's funded by AmeriCorps. She was a stay-at-home mom briefly and happened upon the opportunity to work with WYAP, and her role as an advocate simply fits like a glove! She values her community greatly and loved the relationship piece about teaching the most, so working with youth holistically was a great fit. "Being able to work with the entire family unit and rally around each individual youth, is my life's work; I'm so grateful that I get to do this each day, and I wholly believe in the impact of our program."

Megan's primary duties include supporting the youth on her caseload to ensure that their individual plan needs are met/continuously supported; ensuring the mentoring and tutoring programming run smoothly; participating in volunteer board efforts and fundraising efforts.

Each day is different, with new, unexpected tasks & that's the name of the game! It's a joy! Megan resides in Westfield with her husband and daughter.

Kristina Logan just celebrated one year as the Communications Coordinator for Westfield Youth Assistance Program. She is a graduate of Duquesne University (Bachelor of Arts in Communications) and Northeastern University (Masters of Science in Music Industry Leadership). Kristina spent two years living in Seoul, South Korea, working as an English teacher. She loves to travel and experience new cultures and food and has lived in 3 countries and 6 states.

Register now for the August YP Coffee & Networking Event and take the first step towards learning how you can get involved or support WYAP.

Coffee And Color-Coded Ballots: Hoosier Elections Chief Includes Guatemala On His Travel Tour

By Leslie Bonilla Muniz
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Ten Hoosiers stood in Guatemala City, Guatemala on a Sunday in late June, watching streams of people socialize, drink coffee and listen to music. It was June 25: Election Day.

Led by Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales, who immigrated from Guatemala in 1999, the team had traveled to observe how the country puts on its elections — an "educational opportunity" that cost about \$20,000. "I made it a goal at the start of my administration to lead a bipartisan delegation of county clerks to be International Election Observers," Morales, a Republican, said in a news release at the time. "... I'm very passionate about putting Indiana on the international stage while providing Hoosiers a front row seat to see the world."

What's on the agenda — and the budget Morales, three of his office's staff members, four bipartisan county clerks and two nonpartisan technical compliance experts met with Guatemala's deputy secretary of state and the U.S. ambassador to that country during their visit, June 23-26.

And they spoke with local election officials, poll workers and voters on Election Day as they traipsed about nearly a dozen polling locations. Morales' expenses were paid "from private funding," according to office spokeswoman Lindsey Eaton, who was on the trip.

The expedition cost about \$22,300 for the other nine Hoosiers, including airfare, documentation, ground transportation, hotel accommodations, logistics and travel agency fees. "The majority of the trip was funded from federal grants designated for educational activities," Eaton wrote in an email. She emphasized that the grant dollars were used only on the nine delegation participants and "none" on Morales.

The office initially declined to provide cost information, eventually taking weeks to do so. ***

Taking notes
Guatemala is a young

democracy, and is sometimes considered a fragile one. Its elections — including those in June — regularly come under scrutiny, as Al Jazeera details.

But members of the delegation said observing elections there still had value.

"Just because somebody is new at doing something doesn't mean that they have nothing to show, or nothing to teach somebody that's been doing elections for (a long time)," Starke County Clerk Bernadette Manuel, a Republican, told the Capital Chronicle.

"Just being outside of our borders is eye-opening, and the welcomeness that we received from the Guatemalan population was amazing," Manuel added.

Chad Kinsella co-directs Ball State University's Voting System Technical Oversight Program — which works closely with Morales' office — was also on the delegation.

He and Manuel observed a wide array of differences: namely that, in the highly Catholic country, elections are held on Sunday, the day of rest.

"People were able to come because of that the significance of that day; typically, you don't do anything," noted Kinsella, a Catholic himself.

As voters waited, they munched on cookies and sipped coffee — the "best in the world," Kinsella enthused — available by the polling locations. And they chatted as music played in the background.

One university polling location, Manuel recalled, hosted a live band, and afterward, a bell choir.

"It's more upbeat," Manuel said. "They're not as uptight, you know, simply come in, business, leave. It's more of a social event."

Voters went to assigned tables at each location, handed over their identifications for administrators to match against election records, and proceeded to mark up five ballots color-coded for different elections. Each ballot went into its correspondingly colored slot, in a practice helpful to illiterate voters.

"I thought that was a good implementation that would be fairly easy for Indiana to make to help safeguard our elections as

well," Manuel said.

Voters left with one dyed fingertip each to prevent double-voting. ***

Changes coming?
Don't expect live bands at your local polling location anytime soon.

"I don't think my commissioners would approve that very well," Manuel said, laughing.

But she's been thinking, since the trip, of ways to bring in music and make the voting experience more "welcoming" in her county. It just won't include radio, as candidates often advertise over the airwaves, and could be electioneering if piped into the voting booths.

"I think if we — not really relaxed for rules, that's not what I want to say at all — but relax (the atmosphere) a little bit and ... celebrate our right to be able to vote, I think would open the doors and not feel as stuffy or as closed off," Manuel said.

Six months into his tenure, Morales has already traveled to all of Indiana's 92 counties. But he may lead more such trips abroad.

"I hope this is just the start of several more educational opportunities I can help guide," he said in the June statement.

But it was likely a unique experience for Morales, who is a naturalized U.S. citizen from Guatemala.

Kinsella said the team repeatedly encountered everyday Guatemalans who knew of Morales, and even followed him on social media.

They checked — "And it was like, yeah, oh my gosh, she is following us on Twitter!" Kinsella recalled. "... They thought they were just being nice."

Guatemalans next head to a runoff election this month between the two top presidential candidates, and federal officials are keeping watch.

- Indiana Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Indiana Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Follow Indiana Capital Chronicle on facebook.com/IndianaCapitalChronicle and twitter.com/INCapChronicle

Consumer Alert: Products Recalled In July

Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers of important consumer protection concerns for products recalled in July. This is the time to take advantage of opportunities available for those who purchased these recalled items.

"The summer is coming to an end and kids are spending their final days outside before returning to school," Rokita said. "You shouldn't have to worry if your bicycle or jungle gym are defective or could cause you or your family harm. If you purchased one of the recalled products, stop using it immediately and pursue resolution from the manufacturer immediately."

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission,

the following consumer products were recalled in July:

- Sky Wheels from Soft Play
- Yamaha Personal Transportation Vehicles from Yamaha
- Model Year 2023 Yamaha Golf Car, PTV and Umax from Yamaha Golf Car Company
- woom ORIGINAL Kids' Bicycles from woom Bikes USA
- Residential 300 Series Snow Blowers from Husqvarna
- VRURC portable chargers from VRURC
- Frigidaire Gas Laundry Centers from Electrolux Group
- Gas-fired hot water residential boilers from ECR International
- Timberline Solar Energy Shingles from GAF Energy
- Showrunner II

Consoles, with included wireless phone chargers, sold with fitness equipment from True Fitness

- Pottery Barn Kids Penny Convertible Cribs from Pottery Barn Kids
- CUPKIN Double-Walled Stainless Steel Children's Cups from Soojimus
- Superlight Rocks from Salewa USA

If you believe you recently purchased a recalled product, stop using it, and check its recall notice. Then, follow the notice's instructions, including where to return the product or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.

To view recalls issued prior to July, visit the Consumer Protection Safety Commission website.

Dreaming of a new home?

find it here!
the times

got stuff?

sell it in the classifieds.

317.770.7777

Discover fine local dining
Dine In Downtown

Noblesville Lions Donate \$15,000 From Irv Heath Endowment



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Lions

On Aug 3rd the Noblesville Lions donated \$15,000 to the B&G Club of Noblesville. This money came from an endowment given the local Lions Club when Irv Heath passed away. Irv Heath served in the Noblesville Lions Club for over 70 years. Irv also was one of the Founders of the local B&G Club, and served on its Board of Directors for 41 years. The B&G Club plans to use the money for a new Irv Heath Amphitheater at Camp Crosser. Pictured above; (Holding check) Becky Terry, B&G Club Executive Director, and Lion Julia Kozicki, Lions 25-D District Governor. Nine additional Noblesville Lions attended and offered congratulations to Ms. Terry.

Westfield: A Period Of Growth And Progress

By Dave Mueller

Westfield, A Period of Growth and Progress is a new book that captures the history of Westfield from 1998 - 2023. This book has over 200 pages, 100 color photos, and 40-chapter authors. It is important to capture our history for generations to come. Chapters include (Westfield's First Mayor) by Andy Cook, (Westfield's Schools) by Dr. Mark Keen, (Youth Assistance) by Judge Steven Nations, (Westfield is a Caring and Serving Community) about Open Doors Food Pantry, Student Impact, Heart and Soul Free Clinic, Baby Box, Lions Club, Kiwanis, and Rotary, and. Eric Lohe writes about Westfield churches, Robert Beauchamp on Restaurant Row, and Sheryl Sollars writes about the history of the Westfield libraries. Steve Henke writes about the development of Grand Park and his two golf clubs in Westfield and Diane Peyton tells the history of the Westfield Historical Society. These are few of the interesting chapters and contributors contained in this historical book.

In order to include the future sponsors for this book we need to find those people, companies, or organizations that would like to make a donation to its cause. I'm happy to say that we now have \$13,400 committed. This is about a third of the total cost of this project. Levels



Graphic courtesy of City of Westfield

Cover of the new book.

of sponsorship to be printed on the front inside of the book are: \$10,000 (includes 20 books), \$5,000 (10 books), \$2,500 (5 books), \$1,000 (3 books). Pre-sale: 10 books at \$30 each. The book is scheduled to sell for \$40 each.

All sales will go to support Westfield organizations and sponsorships will cover the cost for the printing and allow all profit from your sponsorship to contribute to the various Westfield not-for-profits like Westfield Chamber of Commerce Student Scholarship, Westfield Youth Assistance, Open Doors, Heart and Soul, and Student Impact.

We hope to have the book printed in late August, 2023. There are 43 chapters and authors and an estimated 200 - 250 pages. There are over 100 pictures. Your sponsorship is important to pay for this important Westfield book and advertise your company's name to thousands of people for years to come, but it is more important to capture our history for future generations.

Buy. Sell. Rent. Lease.



THE TIMES classifieds.

The Times SERVICE DIRECTORY

FUNERAL SERVICES

BUSSELL FAMILY FUNERALS
Serving Hamilton County and surrounding areas
BussellFamilyFunerals.com

Donna Bussell
Owner/Director
1621 E. Greyhound Pass
Carmel, IN 46032
317-587-2001

Traditional Services
Affordable Cremation
Pre-Planning
Hersberger Bozell FUNERAL HOME
3020 North Main Street
Lapel, Indiana 46053
765-336-8383
www.hersbergerbozell.com

Indiana Funeral Care
indianafuneralcare.com
Indianapolis
(317) 636-6464
8151 Allisonville Rd.
Indianapolis
Greenwood
(317) 348-1570
2433 E Main St.
Greenwood



FEATURED BUSINESS

Indiana Funeral Care
indianafuneralcare.com

Indianapolis
(317) 636-6464
8151 Allisonville Rd.
Indianapolis
Greenwood
(317) 348-1570
2433 E Main St.
Greenwood

HOME SERVICES



Contact our advertising department at 765-361-0100 ext. 1 to be included in our next Service Directory.

RESTAURANTS

Jim Dandy Restaurant
Since 1964
Online Ordering is HERE!
Visit our new website at www.jdrest.com to order now!
Sign up for our email list to receive weekly deals and specials!
Monday - Saturday 6:30 AM - 9 PM
Sunday 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM
2301 E. Conner
Noblesville
317-773-3288

Rent a Man Tree Service
Fully Insured
Veteran & Senior Discounts
765-757-1713
Big or Small
We Cut Them All

317-502-6999
Flower Mound Roofer
Roof Repair & Replacement Contractor
DISCOUNT ROOFING

MOWING LANDSCAPING STORM CLEAN UP SNOW REMOVAL

(317) 908-9458

Never miss a public notice on legal proceedings! After it prints in your local newspaper, it goes online:
IndianaPublicNotices.com • TheTimes24-7.com

HOSPICE From Page A1

has shown that a person who spends time on hospice has a greater quality of life at the end of their life. And while the goal is not to prolong life, there are statistics that show that hospice gives patients more time compared to patients who had the same disease trajectory and didn't receive hospice.

Myth: Hospice is only appropriate for the last few days of life.

Fact: Hospice can actually last for months, and entering hospice sooner rather than later translates to fewer hospitalizations, better symptom relief and greater comfort.

Myth: You must give up all your medications.

Fact: While the hospice care team will make recommendations about which medications are still beneficial to a patient at their stage of illness, patients and families get the final say.

Myth: Hospice is a place.

Fact: Hospice can entail in-patient care, but more typically, services are delivered wherever a patient calls home. The nurse, social worker, spiritual care provider, aide and other members of the hospice care team meet the patient where they are, be that in a residential home, an assisted living community or in another institutional setting.

Myth: Hospice is only for patients with specific diseases.

Fact: Anyone with a life-limiting chronic disease, from congestive heart failure to pulmonary disease to Alzheimer's, can choose hospice.

Myth: Hospice ends

when the patient dies.

Fact: Hospice providers often offer support to those who have lost a loved one. In the case of Interim HealthCare, bereavement services are offered for 13 months.

Myth: Hospice work is draining.

Fact: When done right, hospice work can be extremely rewarding. Hospice care workers help patients and families find peace of mind, and reach a place of acceptance during a complicated and emotional time in their lives. Hospice workers believe in the mission of providing compassionate, patient-centric medical care and support to those at the end of their life, and they're given a voice in the individualized care they provide.

The hospice market is the second-fastest growing healthcare segment nationwide, according to Bank of America research, which translates to a growing number of job opportunities. Hospice providers are currently recruiting candidates just starting out in their career and those looking to make a change. To learn more, visit [careers.interimhealthcare.com](https://www.interimhealthcare.com).

For more information about hospice care services for yourself or a family member, visit <https://www.interimhealthcare.com/services/hospice/>.

"Although people don't always feel comfortable talking about end-of-life care, having these conversations can ensure one's final days are peaceful and fulfilling," says Mas-trapa.

RUSTY From Page A1

Amount" or "PIA" (your PIA is the amount you are entitled to at full retirement age). If your military service-years are among the 35 years used to compute your PIA when you claim, then the "Special Extra Credit for Military Service" will result in a somewhat higher PIA (a slightly higher monthly SS benefit). If the highest earning 35 years in your lifetime record do not include your military-service-years, then those extra credits added to your earnings for your military-service-years will have no effect on your Social Security benefit (because using those service-years would result in a lower benefit). How Social Security applies those special extra credits to your service-year earnings also varies depending on when you served. Those who served before 1968 needed to show their DD-214 to get the extra credits, but those who served in between 1968 - 2001 were automatically given the extra credits based on their military

service records.

So, if your military service was between 1968 and 2001, your earnings during the years you served were automatically increased by SS to reflect your "special extra" earnings and - if those years are among the highest of the 35 years used to compute your SS benefit - you are now receiving the extra benefit amount you're entitled to from those credits. If you have at least 35 years over your lifetime where you earned more than your pay while serving in the military, your current benefit is more than it would be if your military service years were included. If you have questions about your earnings during your military service years, you may wish to obtain a copy of your lifetime earnings history from Social Security to review those amounts (easiest way to get your lifetime earnings history is via your personal "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

JOHN From Page A1

[by the Department of Veterans Affairs]. They contracted Duke University and the University of Alabama to collect the data and analyze it. So by looking at small communities, counties, and states, collectively, they found that 2.4 was a conservative underreporting of that number. So we just went from 30,177 to 127,560, all the way up

to 308,000."

The major findings of the AWP report, known as Operation Deep Dive™, show that:

- States undercount FSM [former service member] deaths at a combined error rate of 25%
- There was a 37% greater suicide rate than reported by VA for years 2014-2018.

Dreaming of a new home?

find it here!
thetimes

The Times
Public Notices Deadline:
11:00 a.m.
2 Business Days Prior to Publication
legals@thetimes24-7.com
Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline
May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee
In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement

www.TheTimes24-7.com

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

WEEKEND

In The Home

A6

Weekend, August 5-6, 2023

TIM TIMMONS, Publisher @ JOE LARUE, Vice-President of Readership @ MELISSA MEME, Account Executive @ BETH HEDGE, Business Manager

BUS SAFETY TIPS

for Back-to-School Season



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

FAMILY FEATURES

Another school year means millions of children across the United States will begin and end each day with a bus ride. The way many kids ride to school today, however, is the same as it was 25 years ago – in diesel school buses, which have been shown to be harmful to children’s health, the community and the climate.

Investments are being made to clean up the nation’s school bus fleet, like the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Clean School Bus Program, which will provide \$5 billion over five years to help replace existing buses with low- and zero-emission models. One alternative energy source, propane, is an environmentally friendly and affordable option that can be implemented today to provide a better tomorrow for more students. The low-carbon emissions energy source is abundantly available and can work in tandem with other energy sources, including electric, to move the nation’s school bus fleet further down the path to zero emissions and ensure every child has a safe, clean, healthy ride to school.

In addition to speaking to your children’s school district officials about alternative school bus solutions, there are lessons parents can teach their

children about how to remain safe before, during and after their daily trips on school buses. Consider these tips from the experts at the National Association of Pupil Transportation.

Before the Bus Arrives

- Ensure backpacks are packed securely so papers and other items don’t scatter as the bus approaches.
- Create a morning routine that puts kids at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pickup time. This helps avoid a last-minute rush, when safety lessons are easily forgotten, and ensures kids are safely in place for boarding.
- Encourage children to wear bright, contrasting colors so they can be seen easier by drivers.
- Instruct children to walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, advise them to stay out of the street, walk single-file, face traffic and stay as close to the edge of the road as possible.
- Walk young children to the bus stop or encourage kids to walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see.
- If kids must cross a street, driveway or alley, remind them to stop and look both ways before crossing.

- Verify the bus stop location offers good visibility for the bus driver; if changes are needed, talk with nearby homeowners or school district officials to implement changes. Never let kids wait in a house or car, where the driver may miss seeing them approach the bus.
- Remind children the bus stop is not a playground. Balls or other toys can roll into the street and horseplay could result in someone falling into the path of oncoming traffic.
- Instruct children to stay at least three steps away from the road and allow the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching it.

On the Bus Ride

- When boarding the bus, items can get bumped and dropped. Caution children that before picking anything up, they should talk to the driver and follow instructions to safely retrieve their possessions.
- Teach safe riding habits: Stay seated with head, hands and feet inside at all times; keep bags and books out of the aisle and remain seated until the bus stops moving.

- Instruct children to never throw things on the bus or out the windows and to never play with or block emergency exits.
- Remind kids that loud noises are off limits so they don’t distract the driver. That includes cellphones and other electronic devices; instruct children to put them on mute or use headphones.

Leaving the Bus

- Remind children to look before stepping off the bus. If they must cross the street, teach them to do so in front of the bus by taking five big steps (approximately 10 feet) away from the front of the bus, looking up and waiting for the driver to signal it’s safe.
- For parents who meet their kids at the bus, eliminate the risk of your children darting across the street by waiting on the side of the street where they exit the bus.
- Make the bus ride part of your daily “how was school?” discussion. Encourage kids to talk about the things they see and hear on the bus so you can discuss appropriate behaviors and, if necessary, report any concerns to school administrators.

Benefits of Propane Buses

Every day, 1.3 million children in the United States ride to school in 22,000 propane-powered school buses, which are currently in use by more than 1,000 school districts across 48 states. Alternative fuels, such as propane, offer multiple benefits for school districts and students alike because propane buses reduce harmful emissions, save money and provide a safer ride for students.

Student Health

Propane reduces harmful nitrogen oxide emissions by up to 94% compared to diesel and emits near-zero particulate matter emissions. Both emissions, which can be found in the cloud of smoke emitted from the tailpipes of diesel buses, are known triggers for asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory problems, according to the EPA.

Reliability

Propane has a range of 400 miles and the performance needed to drive long distances without stopping to recharge or refuel.

Cost Savings

While propane and electric are both options for clean student transportation that also reduce the harm to air quality, the cost is not equal. On average, an electric school bus costs \$375,000, meaning districts can purchase three propane-powered buses (which are only \$6,000 more expensive than diesel buses) for the price of one electric bus. In fact, a study from the World LP Gas Association found the cost savings of getting rid of all diesel buses and replacing them with propane would save enough money to hire 23,000 teachers due to lower long-term fuel and maintenance costs.

Find more information and learn how to talk to school district officials about adopting clean school buses at BetterOurBuses.com.



WEEKEND

Travel *or stay!* and Play

A7

Weekend, August 5, 2023

TIM TIMMONS, Publisher □ JOE LARUE, Vice-President of Readership □ MELISSA MEME, Account Executive □ BETH HEDGE, Business Manager

ISO Announces Opening Night Gala, Sept. 23 With Joshua Bell

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra welcomes back Indiana Living Legend and Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell along with the ISO's fourth Music Director John Nelson for the 2023 Opening Night Gala. For an unforgettable experience at this premier event of the fall season in Indianapolis, dinner packages are available through the ISO Box Office at 317-639-4300. Single tickets for the concert are also available to the public at the Box Office or via the ISO's website.

Join the ISO as we welcome back superstar Hoosier violinist Joshua Bell performing Bruch's passionate First Violin Concerto. Former ISO Music Director John Nelson leads a program that includes Mendelssohn's joyful "Italian" Symphony. Soprano Larisa Martínez, who performed with Andrea Bocelli and the ISO in 2022 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, brings her stunning operatic talent to the Hilbert Circle Theatre stage for Mendelssohn's *Ah, ritorna, eta dell'oro*.

"The ISO is thrilled to welcome Joshua Bell to celebrate the ISO's 2023 Opening Night Gala and share his iconic talent with our community. We are also eager for this exciting collaboration featuring John Nelson, the ISO's former music director. This tremendous event is a fitting way to begin a new ISO season offering life-changing musical experiences through the stunning work of our world-class orchestra and brilliant guest artists," said James M. Johnson, CEO.

The Gala is the ISO's largest fundraising event of the year and is featured as part of the IU Health Plans Classical Series presented by the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation. The Gala concert takes place at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at the historic Hilbert Circle Theatre in downtown Indianapolis. The performance is followed by the Opening Night Gala dinner to celebrate the start of the fall season at the Indiana Roof Ballroom, 140 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, at 8:00 p.m.

Performance begins at 6:30 p.m., September 23, 2023, at Hilbert Circle Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Reception and dinner is held at the Indiana Roof Ballroom, 140 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis. Tickets are available now. Patrons

may buy concert tickets only, or a package for the concert and dinner. Proceeds from the reception and dinner support ISO programs and purchases may be tax deductible, in part. For information regarding the policies of the Hilbert Circle Theatre, please visit the ISO website.

About Joshua Bell

With a career spanning almost four decades, GRAMMY® Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell is one of the most celebrated artists of his era. Having performed with virtually every major orchestra in the world, Bell continues to maintain engagements as soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, conductor and Music Director of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields.

Bell's highlights in the 2022-23 season included leading the Academy of St Martin in the Fields on tour in South America to Sao Paulo, Bogotá, and Montevideo as well in Europe, in Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Denmark, and the United Kingdom. Joshua appears in guest performances with the Berlin Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France, Sofia Philharmonic, Franz Schubert Filharmonia as well as a European tour with pianist Peter Dugan. This season in the U.S., Bell will perform alongside the New York Philharmonic, as well as the San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Houston, Baltimore, and New Jersey Symphony Orchestras.

Born in Bloomington, Indiana, Bell began the violin at age four, and at age twelve, began studies with his mentor, Josef Goldberg. At age 14, Bell debuted with Riccardo Muti and the Philadelphia Orchestra, and made his Carnegie Hall debut at age 17 with the St. Louis Symphony. At age 18, Bell signed with his first label, London Decca, and received the Avery Fisher Career Grant. In the years following, Bell has been named 2010 "Instrumentalist of the Year" by Musical America, a 2007 "Young Global Leader" by the World Economic Forum, nominated for six GRAMMY® awards, and received the 2007 Avery Fisher Prize. He has also received the 2003 Indiana Governor's Arts Award and a Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 1991 from the Jacobs School of Music. In 2000, he was named an "Indiana Living Legend."

Bell performs on the 1713 Huberman Stradi-

varius violin.

About John Nelson

John Nelson served as the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's Music Director from 1976 to 1987. He is recognized worldwide as one of America's most eminent conductors, as well as the leading living interpreter of the music of Hector Berlioz. In 2018, Nelson stole headlines the world over by way of outstanding critical reception to his complete recording of Berlioz's *Les Troyens*. Recorded for Warner Classics/Erato with the Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg, the recording met with universal acclaim. To mark the 150th anniversary of Berlioz's death, Nelson led a performance of Berlioz's *Requiem* (2019)—in London's iconic St. Paul's Cathedral.

The 2022-2023 season saw Nelson conduct Handel's *Messiah* at Coventry Cathedral and lead a star-studded performance of Bizet's *Carmen* at the Royal Albert Hall, London (joined by Joyce DiDonato and the Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg). Additionally, he performed and recorded both Mozart's *Requiem* (Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne), and Berlioz's *Lélio & Symphonie fantastique* (Royal Danish Orchestra).

Over a career spanning some five decades, Nelson has conducted the world's leading orchestras and ensembles in North America, Europe, and Asia, including the orchestras of Boston, Los Angeles, New York, Montréal, London Philharmonic, London Symphony, Madrid Symphony RTVE, Orchestre de Paris, China Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, and many more. Nelson studied at the Juilliard School in New York, where he received the Irving Berlin Conducting Prize. Over the course of his career, he has served as Music Director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Opera Theater of St. Louis, the Caramoor Music Festival in New York and the Orchestre de chambre de Paris.

About Larisa Martínez

Puerto Rican opera singer Larisa Martínez has been praised and sought after for her "smoky soprano" (Opera News), gracing many of the world's top opera and concert stages, including recent debuts as a soloist at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden, and the

Hollywood Bowl.

This season, Larisa makes her debuts with the Colorado Symphony and Indianapolis Symphony, as well as at the Verbier Festival, performing "Voice and the Violin" with violinist Joshua Bell, a program that explores repertoire ranging from classical art song and opera, to musical theater, to a series of selections by Puerto Rican and Spanish composers. Over the last two years, "Voice and the Violin" has been presented at the Brevard Music Center, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Chautauqua Amphitheater, with the Hawaii Symphony, and at the Ravinia Festival, among others.

Larisa's recent roles include *Violetta* in *La Traviata*, conducted by Eugene Kohn (Wichita Grand Opera), *Sophie* alongside tenor Piotr Beczala in *Werther* (Culturarte), and *Maria* in *West Side Story* conducted by Lawrence Foster with tenor Michael Fabiano (Festival Napa Valley). In 2019, Larisa made her Kennedy Center debut in recital and Carnegie Hall Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage debut, singing Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* with the Athens Philharmonic under the baton of Yiannis Hadjiloizou. In 2020, she appeared with the Grand Rapids Symphony, performing Heitor Villa-Lobos' *Flor-esta do Amazonas*. Other concert appearances include Mahler's *Symphony No. 4* and Mozart's *Requiem* in D minor and *Voci di Domani*, presented by Renata Scotto and recorded by Euroclassics in Rome.

About the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, at home and thriving in the heart of Indianapolis, offers an exceptional artistic and musical experience. The orchestra is open to all and dedicated to creating an inclusive and innovative experiential environment that is inspiring, educational, and welcoming. The ISO celebrates historically beloved performances while engaging audiences by introducing new voices through programming including the IU Health Plans Classical Series, the Printing Partners Pops Series, Kroger Symphony on the Prairie, the holiday traditions of AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration, and the popular Film Series presented by Bank of America. For more information, visit indianapolisymphony.org.

Find Adventure And Fun In The Natural State

(StatePoint) Love hiking in the great outdoors? Enjoy authentic, local cuisine? Get a thrill hurtling down mountain biking trails? Whatever sort of adventure you're craving, Arkansas, also known as "The Natural State," is a great destination to consider.

"With wide-open landscapes, an abundance of natural resources, and friendly hospitality, an Arkansas trip is unlike any other," says Shealyn Sowers, chief of communications, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism.

As Sowers points out, Arkansas is known as The Natural State for a reason. Hiking, floating, fishing, hunting and cycling are just a few of the many outdoor activity options available, along with golf, ATVing and even hang gliding. You can even take a backcountry aviation adventure and literally camp next door to your plane.

Arkansas is home to some of the best mountain biking trails on the planet, not to mention the first national river (Buffalo National River) and the first unit in the National Park System (Hot Springs National Park).

If your choice of adventure is more urban than outdoors, check out Bentonville, which is home to one of the finest American art museums in the nation, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. The capital city of Little Rock offers art and museums, along with unique dining and cultural experiences. New this year, the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts recently reopened in Little Rock following an almost four-year renovation and reimagining. The museum's art collection spans

the 1300s to present day, with 14,000 works.

What else does Arkansas offer?

You can dig for diamonds and keep what you find at Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro.

Four one of only two purse museums in the world at ESSE Purse Museum in Little Rock.

And enjoy James Beard Award-winning cuisine at Jones Bar-B-Q Diner in Marianna and Lassis Inn in Little Rock.

Arkansas also celebrates its native sons Johnny Cash and Bill Clinton, and you can visit sites that recognize their contributions to American culture and history. In Dyess, tour the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home and in Little Rock, explore the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum.

You'll also find plenty of inexpensive family activities, including in Arkansas State Parks, which are completely free to enter. This year marks the 100-year anniversary of the founding of Arkansas State Parks, and you can find activities and events commemorating the occasion throughout the year. Pick up your free passport at an Arkansas State Park visitor center and begin recording your travels. All 52 state parks are free to enter and offer diverse experiences. Whether you're a history buff, love to hike, paddle, bike, wildlife watch, fish, kick back and relax, or all of the above, there is a state park for you.

For more trip ideas and inspiration, visit www.arkansas.com.

"There's no doubt you'll find plenty to do in The Natural State," says Sowers. "We can't wait to see you!"

Dreaming of a new home?

find it here!
 thetimes

Buy. Sell. Rent. Lease.



THE TIMES classifieds.

got stuff?

sell it in the classifieds.

317.770.7777