

☛ TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 12:1 "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." (NASB)



☛ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Barry Dixon smile? "Old cars," said the Noblesville resident, a 1981 graduate of Noblesville High School. He met '89 NHS grad Michelle Menchaca Dixon when he was 29 and she was 21. They were married a year later in 1993. They own a 1955 Cadillac and are the second owners of the car, which has a 331 V8 engine and manual transmission. The Cadillac was in good condition when they purchased it, and it only needed light restoration, Dixon said. The car has the original 331 Cadillac motor. He started the Lucky Teter Rebel Run Car and Vintage Motorcycle Show. Dixon, a Freemason of more than 20 years, founded the car show to help out the Noblesville Masonic Lodge's Angel Fund. Originally started in the parking lot of the Noblesville bowling alley, the show's move to Forest Park changed themes after Barry discovered that Lucky Teter was also a Freemason. Barry plays in two bands, upright bass with Big Wally & the Homewreckers, a rockabilly band; and electric bass in Fast Cadillac, a classic-rock band, that will play at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 8 at the Courthouse Cruise-in at Lebanon and Oct. 7 during the Noblesville VFW Battle of the Band. This year's Lucky 13th annual Lucky Teter Rebel Run car show is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday at Forest Park with National Anthem and presentation of the flag at noon. The community is invited as participants and spectators. Best things in life? "Family, cars, music and my wife."

And Another Thing...

1. Grand Opening, Ribbon-Cutting, & Open House

Join Chamber Partners and Community Leaders on Wednesday, September 20, for a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at American Bank of Freedom in Westfield. American Bank of Freedom invites the community to their open house held from 10am - 4pm with the ribbon-cutting happening at 10:30am. Stop by this new Westfield Branch to get some refreshments, take a look at the new space, and have a chance to win \$500! We can't wait to see you there! This event is open to all the Chamber's Partners, Members, and the public. Advanced registration is not required.

2. You're Invited to Join Us!

On Thursday, November 9th, 2023, at the Hotel Carmichael in Carmel, the 2nd annual Spotlight on Art will take place benefiting children from the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, Children's TherAplay, and Prevail. Award-winning artists will be commissioning their work at the event with shopping, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres included in the \$50 ticket price. The 15+ artists in attendance are generously donating back 50% of every purchase to support the three youth-serving organizations. With a bit of support from many, it's possible to enrich the lives of the amazing kids in our community and help their dreams come true. To learn more about Spotlight on Art, please contact Esther Lakes at evangaarden@msn.com or visit the event website below.

3. LANE RESTRICTION- 146th Street

Please be advised, beginning on or after Friday, September 1, 2023 between the hours of 12AM and 5AM, 146th Street from Allisonville Road to a point approximately 1,300' west of Allisonville Road will be under lane restrictions. The westbound lanes will be restricted for moving construction equipment. Please drive with extreme caution through this construction zone and help keep our workers safe during this restriction.

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First Lady Jill Biden Discusses Student Mental Health Needs During Westfield High School Visit

By Casey Smith
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Biden spent two hours at the school, talking with students and staff about ways to bolster mental health resources.

Students' mental health was top-of-mind Wednesday for First Lady Jill Biden, who traveled to Westfield High School to speak with students and counselors.

Biden visited the suburban public school just north of Indianapolis alongside U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy.

Their two-hour stay included a presentation from students in the school's student mental health club. The First Lady and Murthy also participated in a roundtable discussion with



Photo courtesy of Casey Smith and Indiana Capital Chronicle

First Lady Jill Biden and U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy talk about mental health with students during a visit to Westfield High School on Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023.

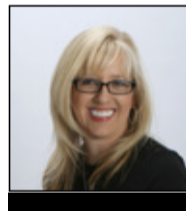
☛ See CASEY Page A6



Photo courtesy of Sally Wolfe

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for Legacy Keepers Music's StringTime Music on the Square monthly series, which winds down with the final show on 6:30-8:15 p.m. Saturday with Cornfields & Crossroads band on the Hamilton County Courthouse Square. Among the band members is Dan Wethington of Noblesville (left).

Labor Day Weekend Offers First Friday, Car Shows, More



BETSY REASON
From The Editor's Desk...

It's First Friday and Labor Day weekend, so there are many things to do.

Jim Dandy Cruise-in and Noblesville Main Street's Chocolate Trail are tonight. Lucky Teter Rebel Run Car and Motorcycle Show is Saturday, along with Legacy Keepers Music's StringTime on the Square with Cornfields & Crossroads band, Center Stage Vintage Guitar Swap Meet, Jennie DeVoe concert at Coxhall Gardens, Red Bridge Park Car Show on Labor Day and final weekend for Forest Park Aquatic Center with the last Flix and Floats evening on Monday.

Read all of the details for events in and around Noblesville with our list of 25 things to do this weekend and beyond:

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

2. Noblesville Main Street's First Friday 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today will feature the annual Chocolate Trail while shopping in downtown Noblesville. Trail travels to downtown merchants.

3. Shop 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays at Noblesville Farmers Market at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville. Fishers Farmers Market is open 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through the summer at Nickel Plate District Amphitheater in Fishers. Final Kids Day is Sept. 16.

4. The Lucky 13th annual Lucky Teter Rebel Run Car and Motorcycle Show is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Forest Park in Noblesville. This open show is for all cars and vintage motorcycles. This show is on the grass with lots of shade and is in honor of the late Noblesville resident Earl "Lucky" Teter, who with his Hell Drivers were nationally known daredevils from the 1930s and early 1940s. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with awards at 3 p.m., a \$10 entry fee with dash plaques to the first 200 entries. DJ Rocket Jockys will rock with classic oldies and rockabilly music. Food available. Sponsored by Noblesville Masonic Lodge

☛ See BETSY Page A6



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Myka Parra, 8, a then third-grader at White River Elementary, poses for a photo with her aunt Katie Richey of Noblesville, as Noblesville High School Leo Club adviser John Smith holds a chicken during the 2022 NHS Leo Club "Chicken Selfies" fundraiser. The Leo Club will again offer "Chicken Selfies" at tonight's Millers' home football game against Fishers Tigers. Leo Club members and NHS sophomores Renee Small (back from left), Alanna Puckett and Elizabeth Cecil volunteer at the 2022 booth.

NHS Leo Club Will Offer "Chicken Selfies,"

The Noblesville High School Leo Club is offering "Chicken Selfies" at tonight's NHS varsity home football game at Beaver Stadium.

For a small donation, fans at tonight's Miller football game against Fishers Tigers will have the opportunity to pose for a photo with a chicken.

The Leos will combine the "Chicken Selfies" with a bake sale that will have Leo members donating baked items such as cookies, cupcakes, pretzels, brownies, cake sticks and more.

Even Leo adviser John Smith, NHS art teacher, might be making his chocolate oatmeal cookies.

"The money we make doing those ventures help us do a good job filling used book bags, which the club is also collecting," Smith said.

Leo Club members will fill the bags with items, such as bottled water, hand warmers, personal items and more, and will be donated to St. Vincent dePaul in Noblesville and are in-turn taken to homeless people in downtown Indianapolis.

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:14 a.m.
SET: 8:21 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 82 °F
Low: 53 °F



Today is...

- College Colors Day
- National Chianti Day
- Pink Cadillac Day



What Happened On This Day

- **1985** The Wreck of the sunk ship Titanic is found in the North Atlantic Ocean. A French-American expedition group found the wreck, which sunk on 14 April 1912 on her first voyage from Southampton, UK, to New York City, U.S.
- **1952** Life magazine publishes parts of the Old Man And The Sea. One of American author Ernest Hemingway's best-known works, the novel tells the story of an old man and his fishing misadventures. Within a few days of the publication of the excerpt, 5 million copies of the magazine had been sold.
- **1914** Passenger Pigeons become extinct. Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon known to man, died at the Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati, Ohio effectively making Passenger Pigeons extinct.



Births On This Day

- **1957** Gloria Estefan Cuban/American singer-songwriter, actress
- **1946** Roh Moo-hyun South Korean politician, 16th President of South Korea

Deaths On This Day

- **2013** Tommy Morrison American boxer
- **1947** Frederick Russell Burnham American soldier, adventurer

☛ INSIDE TODAY

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☛ HONEST HOOSIER

Here's a tip of the seed corn cap to Frank McKinney, creator of the wonderful Kin Hubbard! Frank was born on this date in 1868.



☛ TODAY'S QUOTE

"Ah, September! You are the doorway to the season that awakens my soul ... but I must confess that I love you only because you are a prelude to my beloved October."
-Peggy Toney Horton

☛ TODAY'S JOKE

Is it true that some bears start hibernating in September? They don't want to be Octo-bears!

☛ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Men over 35 without heart risk factors and women over 45 with risk factors should have their lipids checked. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



☛ OBITUARIES

None

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



Noblesville Diversity Coalition Hosting County's First Inclusive Leadership Summit

Senior-level business and community leaders from throughout Hamilton County will convene at Conner Prairie on Sept. 27 to gain critical insights, practical tools, and effective strategies for building diverse, inclusive organizations.

The first-of-its-kind event, hosted by the Noblesville Diversity Coalition, includes a dynamic combination of expert insight, group exercises, and powerful conversations designed to get to the heart of the challenges facing leaders today.

"Hamilton County is becoming more multicultural, multigenerational, and diverse," said NDC Board President Dana Randall. "These interrelated shifts are influencing business priorities and reshaping the capabilities required of leaders."

Travis Brown, the CEO of Indianapolis-based Mojo Up Marketing + Media, will get the day started with a keynote address before leading attendees through a full schedule of speakers and breakout sessions focused on the six traits of Deloitte's Inclusive Leadership Framework: curiosity, courage, cognizance, cultural awareness, collaboration, and commitment.

A panel discussion over lunch will feature Jimmie McMillian of Penske, Angela Acrey of Trane

Technologies, and Judah Holland of Navient. Other speakers include Andrea Mazzocco of Deloitte, Andrew Adeniyi of AAA Solutions, Andrew Bradford of Conner Prairie, Emma Vosicky of GenderNexus, Amy Waninger of Lead at Any Level, and Sonal Sheth Zawahri of Tru You LLC.

Lead event sponsors are Duke Energy, the Crosser Family Foundation, and Hamilton County Community Foundation. Other sponsors include Hamilton County Tourism Inc., Advancing Noblesville Chamber Foundation, Deloitte, Mojo Up, and Alongside Consulting Co.

The Inclusive Leadership Summit will allow participants to better understand and respond to the challenges of operating in one of the fastest growing counties in Indiana. Leading effectively across differences helps organizations better reflect their diverse communities, attract and retain top talent, and stay competitive within an increasingly complex environment.

Studies show that when leaders cultivate a diverse and inclusive workplace, the organization will be rewarded with better decisions, creative collaboration, motivated and engaged employees, and improved individual, team, and organizational performance.

New School Year Starts Off With Motivation



DEREK ARROWOOD
Guest Column

There's nothing quite like the start of a new school year. Our buildings are filled with energy, enthusiasm, and many reminders about why we do what we do. It's the kids! Their smiles, laughter and curiosity motivate us to work hard and are the reason we are here.

Speaking of working hard, representatives from HHES and HHMS recently had an opportunity to collaborate at a K-8 Ford Next Generation Learning conference in Indianapolis to learn how to better align experiences and learning programming with high school graduation pathways. Heights is participating in the Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) journey. Ford NGL is a nationally recognized network that promotes innovative high school transformation to reimagine the high school experience for

every student.

Our leaders are working with the Central Indiana Education Service Center (CIESC) as part of professional development that supports the Ford NGL framework. Since professional development is a critical and integral part of the Ford NGL framework implementation, establishing high expectations for the certification model and identifying the right candidates to participate is key for success utilizing this model.

In the weeks ahead, we will be working with several community partners and stakeholders to develop a "Portrait of a Graduate" that will reflect the expectations our community desires for our students who graduate from HHHS. This is a unique opportunity for our district to partner with Ford NGL, CIESC, and six other school districts from across Indiana to provide our students with transformative and relevant career-based PK through grade 12 learning experiences.

I am excited to share that our solar panel project wrapped up last month and is fully operational. Hamilton Heights High School now includes a 680 kW AC, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic PV system. Hamilton Heights Middle School has a 520 kW AC, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic PV system, and Hamilton Heights Elementary School features a 400 kW AC, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic PV system.

The new solar array systems, designed by CSO Architects and R. E. Dimond and Associates, will generate energy for our three school buildings and reduce costs for the foreseeable future. In fact, our first electric bill reflected a reduction in usage from the grid and we expect this trend to continue. The project is a testament to the leadership and vision at Heights. Solar is a smart choice for our district and community. It will help us to reduce energy costs, protect against rising energy costs, and help the environment

by combating greenhouse emissions while saving and even making a little money if we overproduce.

Our Marching Huskies recently participated at the ISSMA Festival Marching contest in Kokomo. They brought home the Gold and an award for Visual Distinction! Congratulations! This year's Hamilton Heights Alumni Association's All School Reunion is set for September 16 at the Student Activity Center. Social hour begins at noon followed by lunch at 1 p.m. Please join us at this year's Athletic Hall of Fame (AHOF) Induction Ceremony beginning at noon on Saturday, September 23 at the high school gymnasium. Proceeds support the AHOF program.

Thank you for your involvement and support as we keep the positive momentum of a new school year going strong. #WeAreHuskies

- Dr. Derek Arrowood is the Superintendent of the Hamilton Heights School Corporation.

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As summer winds down, the housing market is still red hot!

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8675 Luann Street Noblesville • \$294,900 SOLD!
Cute as a button and neat as a pin! This adorable brick home offers 4 BR/2 BA and is move-in ready. No HOA, large lot, & close to parks, golf courses, & downtown Noblesville. BLC#21931520

18507 Idlewind Court Westfield • \$1,499,000 PENDING
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Purdue Football And Where It Stacks Up With Big Ten West Division Rivals



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

What does the Purdue football team have in common with the rest of its Big Ten Conference West Division rivals

in 2023?

Texas transfer quarterback Hudson Card is one of seven new starting quarterbacks in the division.

Six, like Card, are transfers and the seventh is Minnesota's Athan Kaliakmanis.

Card is one of eight new starters, if this week's two-deep roster is to be believed, for the reigning West Division champions. Look back at any successful Purdue season and an outstanding quarterback is at the helm. Dale Samuels. Len Dawson. Bob Griese. Mike Phipps. Mark Herrmann. Jim Everett. Drew Brees. Kyle Orton. Aidan O'Connell.

Therefore, it's reasonable to conclude that as Card goes, so goes Purdue in 2023. Card made a good first impression with his teammates, who gave the redshirt junior the most votes for team captains.

"He could have easily come in with an ego, having come from Texas and the success he had there," first-year coach Ryan Walters told BTN. "He immediately garnered the respect of his teammates. He's got an uber-talented arm.

"I think what is underrated about his skill set is his ability to extend plays and move the chains with his feet. He's very athletic. He's a very poised individual and an even better person."

Card will be protected by an offensive line that will have two transfers at left and right guard, Preston Nichols (UNLV) and Jalen Grant (Bowling Green). Senior center Gus Hartwig is still recovering from a knee injury late in the 2022 season and is not expected to play in Saturday's opener against Fresno State. Replacing Hartwig will be either Josh Kaltenberger, who took over for Hartwig last season or Colorado transfer Austin Johnson. Tackles Marcus Mbow and Mahamane Moussa are returning starters.

Hopes are high that

sophomore Devin Mockobee will be Purdue's first 1,000-yard rusher since Kory Sheets in 2008.

Mockobee almost reached that milestone last season (968 yards, 9 TDs) and would have if former coach Jeff Brohm hadn't waited until almost midseason to give the former walkon extended action.

There's experienced depth behind Mockobee with senior Tyrone Tracy and former Carmel standout Dylan Downing.

With Purdue running a variation of the late Mike Leach's Air Raid offense, coached by Leach's former Texas Tech prodigy Graham Harrell, it will be curious to see who – if anybody – claims the No. 1 receiver role that has been filled in recent years by All-Americans Rondale Moore, David Bell and Charlie Jones.

Tight end Garrett Miller could be that man coming off a torn ACL that cost him the 2022 season. But Miller wasn't listed in the two-deeps released Monday.

If not Miller, then maybe veteran T.J. Sheffield, speedster Deion Burks or former four-star recruits Abdur-Rahman Yaseen and Mershawn Rice.

The defense will have a new look as well, taking the principles from Walters' Big Ten-leading unit at Illinois. Three large interior linemen to hopeful slow opposing running games. Two outside linebackers to pressure the quarterback. Either one or two inside linebackers against the run and four/five defensive backs for pass coverage.

Four transfers and freshman safety Dillon Thieman (Westfield) are listed as starters by Walters. Joining former Carmel star Cole Brevard up front are Malik Langham (Vanderbilt) and Isaiah Nichols (Arkansas).

The secondary will have a blend of veterans (safeties Cam Allen, Sanoussi Kane) and transfer cornerbacks Markevious Brown (Mississippi) and Marquis Wilson (Penn State).

Budding star Nic Scourton (formerly Nic Caraway) and Kydran Jenkins (four sacks in 2022) head a potentially deep outside linebacker group. Returning starter O.C. Brothers

and Yann Karlaftis, the younger brother of Kansas City Chiefs defensive end George Karlaftis, are slated to start at inside linebacker.

Such was the need for depth after losing five NFL players and a handful of transfers that departed with Brohm, Purdue raided the NCAA transfer portal for a total of 19 additions. Seven are listed as No. 2 on the depth chart (QB Bennett Meredith, WR Jayden Dixon-Veal, C Austin Johnson, RG Luke Griffin, RT Ben Farrell, DL Jeffrey M'Ba and CB Botros Alisandro) along with freshman outside linebacker Will Heldt of Carmel and cornerback Derrick Rogers Jr.

"We've got a lot of veteran guys but they haven't had a lot of experience playing with each other," Walters told BTN. "We attacked the transfer portal after spring ball to fill some roster spots to field a championship-level roster. I feel we've done that."

Former Oklahoma State transfer Ben Freehill takes over for the most accurate kicker in Purdue history, Mitchell Fineran. Australian punter Jack Ansell is back for his junior season.

The schedule, which on paper looks intimidating with Michigan and Ohio State joining Indiana as the East Division crossover opponents, also could allow Walters to get off to a good start. Four of the first five games are at Ross-Ade Stadium surrounding a Week 2 trip to Virginia Tech.

"We've got to come out of the gate ready to roll," Walters told BTN. "We can't be figuring things on the fly. I think we are fortunate that four of our first five opponents are at home. We can try to build some confidence and some momentum in front of your home crowd. It's the Big Ten. As a competitor you want to play against the best and see where you stack up."

Where does Purdue stack up in a Big Ten West that doesn't have an obvious favorite? Your guess is as good as mine but here goes:

1. **Wisconsin (9-3, 6-3 Big Ten)** – It's a big risk to vary from a system that has worked since the 1990s but the Badgers decided to see if Luke Fickell can take them where he led Cincinnati two years ago



Photo courtesy of Kenny Thompson

Ryan Walters from the Big Ten Conference.

– into the College Football Playoffs.

Even though it too will be running an Air Raid offense with new coordinator Phil Longo, Wisconsin still has an outstanding running back in Braelon Allen (1,242 yards, 11 TDs). New quarterback Tanner Mordecai threw for 3,524 yards and 33 TDs last season at SMU.

The Badgers get a slight edge from a schedule that could easily see a 6-0 start and two favorable East Division matchups with Rutgers and Indiana. Ohio State also has to come to Madison.

2. **Iowa (8-4, 6-3)** – "The drive to 325" will be hanging over the Hawkeyes all season. Will Kirk Ferentz, who uses the punt as an offensive weapon, loosen up the offense enough to give his offensive coordinator son Brian a realistic chance of keeping his job by averaging a contract-mandated 25 points a game along with a minimum of seven victories?

It will help to have Michigan transfer Cade McNamara at quarterback. If McNamara comes close to his 2021 numbers (2,576 yards, 15 TDs), both Ferentzes will have job security for another year.

3. **Illinois (8-4, 5-4)** –

Like Hudson Card, Mississippi transfer Luke Almyer is hoping to get the opportunity to prove why he was one of the most highly recruited quarterbacks in the 2021 high school class.

Unfortunately, Almyer won't have All-Big Ten running back Chase Brown to take the pressure off the offense. Isaiah Williams could be one of the top Big Ten wide receivers who don't reside in Columbus, Ohio.

Illinois has a talented front seven defensively but the secondary took a big hit with three defensive backs going in the first three rounds of the 2023 NFL Draft.

Getting Penn State, Wisconsin and Nebraska in Champaign is an opportunity for the Fighting Illini to contend once again. The Big Ten opener against the Nittany Lions and a trip to Purdue on Sept. 30 likely will make or break Illinois' title hopes.

4. **Purdue (6-6, 4-5)** – A 3-2 start, at least, will be a must with a difficult October (at Iowa, vs. Ohio State, at Nebraska, at Michigan) to follow. Home games with Minnesota and Indiana, with a trip to decimated Northwestern in between, could be the difference between spending the holidays in Detroit

or going home.

5. **Minnesota (6-6, 4-5)** – The offense will be a near total rebuild but Athan Kaliakmanis (946 yards, 3 TDs as a freshman) doesn't take over at quarterback without some experience behind the departed Tanner Morgan.

Developing a pass rush, a weakness for the Gophers a year ago, will be a must if they expect to approach nine wins for the third consecutive season. The Aug. 31 opener against Nebraska could set the tone for the season.

6. **Nebraska (5-7, 2-7)** – First-year coach Matt Rhule turned Temple and Baylor into winners but his first season at each school ended with 2-10 and 1-11 records.

It won't be that bad with the Cornhuskers, but it may be asking a lot from Georgia Tech transfer Jeff Sims to bring back memories of 1990s Nebraska offenses. Sims does have the pedigree as a running threat, rushing for over 1,100 yards in three seasons with the Yellow Jackets. Running back Anthony Grant could reach 1,000 yards after falling just short (915) a year ago.

The defense has its top three tacklers back: linebacker Luke Riemer and defensive backs Myles Farmer and Isaac Gifford.

7. **Northwestern (2-10, 0-9)** – The outlook wasn't promising for the Wildcats before the hazing scandal cost Pat Fitzgerald his job.

Northwestern hasn't been the same since defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz's retirement following the 2020 season. The Wildcats have gone from allowing 16 points and 341 yards a game in 2020 to 29 points and 429 yards in 2021 to 28 points and 374 yards a game last season.

Quarterback Ben Bryant comes in from Cincinnati, having passed for 2,732 yards and 21 touchdowns. Bryant led the Bearcats to a 9-2 record before suffering a season-ending injury. Unfortunately, he won't be surrounded by the same weapons he had in Cincinnati.

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



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Dick's Main Squeeze



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

I love all kinds of juice. But don't confuse me with the guy on TV several years ago who at 85 years old was hawking some juicer contraption. He said that because he drinks fresh squeezed juice every day, he fathered triplets. This would not be a motivating factor for me to drink juice when I become an octogenarian. In fact, I'm going to lay off the juice when I turn 78. I'm not taking any chances. And even though Mary Ellen will be 74 at that point, I'm taking the V-8 away from her also.

Here are some fruit juice conundrums...

1. Why is there no raisin juice? There is prune juice, which is from dried up plums. Why not raisin juice? Just dried up grapes. Sounds good.
2. Why is there no plum juice? If you can get juice out of a prune, you sure can squeeze it out of a plum.
3. How come apple juice has 100% Vitamin C, but on the apple cider label it says there is no Vitamin C. Where did the Vitamin C go? Let's get it

back.

4. If vegetables are fat free, why is vegetable oil 100% fat? I've been asking that question for 40 years and still haven't gotten an answer I like.
5. How come there is no cantaloupe juice? Cantaloupes are just waiting to be squeezed. They are full of juice. It's cruel and inhumane, like not milking a cow.
6. Does white grape juice stain like blue grape juice, but you just can't see the stain? (This will keep you up all night, so don't think about it too much.)
7. Why does orange juice in a can taste like grapefruit juice? Trust me, it does.
8. Why can't I get grape juice with pulp?
- 9: Some orange juice has no pulp. I like pulp. What did they do with the pulp? I wouldn't mind buying some extra pulp. I'd put it in my grape juice.
10. How did lemonade become such a hit? Who handled the PR for limeade, anyway? By the way, why is a Lemon Shakeup at the Fair \$9.00. If you filled up your car tank with that lemonade it would cost about \$500.00.
11. If the orange juice I buy is 100% juice, then what is concentrate? 500%

juice?

12. You can buy fresh orange juice and fresh grapefruit juice. But not fresh grape juice. Of course, you can buy grape juice in a frozen concentrate. So, why not wine from frozen concentrate? Shark Tank here I come.
- 13: There is no banana juice. You can't squeeze juice out of a banana. But there's almond milk? Go figure.
- 14: Guava and mango. Those fruits make two great juices. I'm told that one is a good remedy for constipation, the other for diarrhea. I forget which is which. I better figure that out before we go to Mexico this winter.
- 15: There's a lot of talk about acai juice, but I won't order something I'm not sure how to pronounce. That's why I've never had a gyro or aioli. I haven't said anything blackberry juice. I actually know a little secret about the effects of blackberry juice on men. But I'm not telling. You'd have to squeeze it out of me.

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

Noblesville Residents Get Up-Close Look At Pleasant Street Progress

Raffle winners receive behind-the-scenes tour of Pleasant Street Job Site. Two raffle winners who attended the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce Taste of Business received the first behind-the-scenes Reimagine Pleasant Street job site tour. Construction managers from USI Consultants and CHA Consulting led the tour to highlight the progress underway on the Reimagine Pleasant Street project. Notable project milestones included the paving of two new roundabouts on Eighth Street, the setting of the foundations for the new Reimagine Pleasant Street Bridge over the White River Bridge, and the installation of a pedestrian tunnel for the Midland Trace and Riverwalk trails to cross underneath Pleasant Street. "Reimagine Pleasant Street has been my top infrastructure priority as mayor, and it was exciting to show the incredible progress we've made to these community resi-

dents," Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen said. "Community involvement has been a key component from the beginning of this project, and I look forward to the project being complete and open for all to enjoy." Four participants included Noblesville residents Kathy Hines and her husband Jim, who were selected as the raffle winners during the Taste of Business event. "It was fascinating to see everything that has been completed so far, and we look forward to continuing to watch the progress made on this project," said Kathy, a resident of Noblesville for 37 years. "The investment in Reimagine Pleasant Street will enhance our community for generations by making it more accessible for people to walk, bike, or drive through Noblesville to their favorite restaurants and shops." The Hines were joined by Hamilton County Commissioner Steve Dillinger and Director of Adminis-

tration Lee Buckingham and community partners Hamilton County Tourism, Nickel Plate Arts, the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce and Hamilton County Historian David Heighway. "It's absolutely amazing the progress that's being made," Dillinger said. "It was great to highlight where the City is with the road and where the County is with the bridge. We're still on schedule for the bridge to be built next year and it's under budget, so we're very happy with the progress." When complete, Reimagine Pleasant Street will provide a critical east-west connection for the city of Noblesville, which is expected to alleviate traffic on SR 32 through the city's urban core. The new connection will provide an alternate route for people in Hamilton County to access downtown Noblesville from SR 37 and SR 32. For more information on the project, visit www.reimaginepleasantst.com.

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BETSY From Page A1

Noblesville Masonic Lodge with proceeds to benefit the Noblesville Masonic Angel Fund. Lucky 13th annual Lucky Teter Rebel Run black T-shirts available.

5. Grab your lawn chairs and blankets and pack a picnic for Conner Prairie's Symphony on the Prairie, which continues every weekend through the summer. This weekend features Aeromoth: The Ultimate Aeromoth Tribute, tonight; Pyromania: The Def Leppard Experience, Saturday, with tickets at indianapolisymphony.org. Earlier in the day, head to the 1836 Prairietown as the outdoor areas are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, during the 2023 season at Conner Prairie in Fishers. Jupiter Flights Balloon Festival is Sept. 8-10 with more than 40 balloons filling the sky. A Bicentennial Marker will be unveiled at 11 a.m. Sept. 9 in Clowes Commons, showcasing history of Delaware and Fall Creek townships, plus architectural tour of Conner House. Also, now through Sept. 10, enjoy Conner Prairie's sunflower field for a picture-perfect experience.

6. Center Stage Vintage Guitar Swap Meet is noon to 6 p.m. Saturday at the store on South 10th Street in Noblesville, featuring used, vintage, new or project instruments, live auctioneer Fast Freddy can sell your gear on site 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., live music provided by Roger Bash (1-2 p.m.) on outside stage, The Long Arm (3-4 p.m.) and Naptown Hepcats (4 p.m.-?). Come buy, sell, trade, listen, gawk or auction off your music equipment. Interested vendors must RSVP to the shop prior to show at 317-371-8956. BBQ will be offered by Petals & Pollen.

7. Central Indiana Vintage Vehicles car club invites car buffs to show off their vintage vehicles on the Courthouse Square during the weekly Saturday night Cruise-in. Lawn chairs and old-car conversations invited.

8. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for Legacy Keepers Music's StringTime Music on the Square monthly series, which winds down with the final show on 6:30-8:15 p.m. Saturday with Cornfields & Crossroads band on the Hamilton County Courthouse Square.

9. Travel to the countryside to hear live music with Steve Fulton at 6:30 p.m. today. The Pope and Guitariou Show at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jamie Owens on Sept. 8. The Molter Brothers, Sept. 9 at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville. Visit spencerfarmwinery.com.

10. Enjoy live music featuring Sam King on Saturday, Oktoberfest on Sept. 8-9, Jason Salyers on Sept. 15, Celtic Rain on Sept. 22 at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

11. Enjoy live music featuring Dead Squirrels on Saturday, Craig Thurston on Sept. 7, John Gilmore on Sept. 9, at Grindstone Public House in Noblesville.

12. Hamilton County Parks & Recreation presents free Concerts in the Centerpiece 2023 featuring Jennie DeVoe from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday and Dean Martina on Sept. 10, both at Coxhall Gardens in Carmel.

13. The 2023 Murphy's Pubhouse Labor Day Weekend Car Show is 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday at Murphy's Pubhouse in Fishers.

14. The 32nd annual Red Bridge Park (Labor Day) Car Show is 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday at Red Bridge Park in Cicero, an event by Cicero Friends of the Park. This open show is for all makes and years, including motorcycles and rat rods. Top 30 awards as picked by judges and sponsors. A \$15 registration day of show, with proceeds to benefit Cicero Parks. Plenty of parking. Dash plaques to the first 150 entries. Craft show. Food onsite features breakfast of donuts, coffee and biscuits and gravy, lunch of pork chops, hot dogs, brats and more.

15. Grab a float and watch a flick during Movie Nights at Forest Park Aquatic Center's 2023 Flix and Floats evenings on the giant LED video board, with the final movie of the season at 7:15 p.m. Monday, "Back to the Future," Rated PG, admission

charged, but free to members, visit forestparkaquaticcenter.com. Pool is open through Labor Day with \$8 daily admission.

16. Noblesville Parks Federal hill movies, presented by Logan Street Signs & Banners feature "Turning Red" (Rated PG, 100 minutes) on Sept. 8 and "Top Gun Maverick" (Rated PG-13, 131 minutes) on Sept. 15.

17. Join the annual Brian Clauson Strut 2 Save lives on Sept. 10 with a start to the day with a one-mile walk with your canine, with registration at 10 a.m. and walk at 11 a.m. Also, food, beverages and booths.

18. Kruzin 4 Kids car show is 10:30 a.m. Sept. 9 at Noblesville American Legion Post No. 45. Besides cars, there are raffle items, 50/50, food and live entertainment.

19. Artmobilia is 11 a.m. Sept. 9, in downtown Carmel and features a distinct gathering of recognized artists, 500 collector cars and automotive enthusiasts showcased on the streets of the Carmel Arts & Design District. The show boasts one of the most eclectic gatherings of original, period-correct cars, including Supercar, exotic, sports car, classic, racers, historically preserved and more. Register or join mailing list at artmobilia.org.

20. Noblesville Main Street's free Music & All That Jazz series, sponsored by Gordon Insurance, features live music, Moon-town Pickle Stompers, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sept. 9; and Cohen-Rutkowski Project, Oct. 14, on the Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville.

21. Noblesville Parks and Recreation Department's free Concerts at the Commons will feature tribute bands 7-10 p.m. Saturdays: American English (Beatles tribute) Sept. 9; and Trippin Billies (Dave Matthews Band tribute) on Sept. 12, at the amphitheater at Federal Hill.

22. Carmel comedian Dave Dugan will be on stage at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 9 at The Remnant in Arcadia, with all seats \$20 or \$35 per couple. Dugan's show will also feature music from Disagreeable band. Reserve seats by calling 317-773-8899 or email Bob Foster at bobfoster9804@comcast.net.

23. Tour historic buildings on and around the Square during Noblesville Main Street's Upstairs Downtown at 5 p.m. Sept. 15. Buy a combo ticket for Upstairs Downtown and the Noblesville Preservation Alliance's Home Tour at www.preservationhall.org. NPA's 36th annual Historic Home Tour is Sept. 16 in Old Town Noblesville, featuring the Noblesville and Hamilton County Bicentennial, homes built during Noblesville's Gas Boom (1887-1907) on the northwest side of Old Town Noblesville, on Logan and Conner streets, with tickets and tour information at www.preservationhall.org. Buy a combo ticket for Upstairs Downtown and the Home Tour.

24. The 14th annual Noblesville Brewfest is 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 16 at Forest Park in Noblesville

25. Wear your best derby-style hat and enjoy dinner, cocktails and an auction during Dinner on the Bridge of Flowers fundraiser benefitting Noblesville Bridge of Flowers and Noblesville Main Street from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sept. 16 on Logan Street's Bridge of Flowers in downtown Noblesville, featuring music by Edward Zlaty and his GM Horns Big Band. The night is dedicated to beautifying the historic downtown Noblesville. Cocktails at 5 p.m., dinner and remarks by Bridge of Flowers founder Dick Gordon at 6 pm. and live and silent auctions at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$525 for a table of eight. Sponsorships start at \$1,000. For tickets, sponsorships and to make donations, visit noblesville-bridgeofflowers.com

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com. For Hamilton County Bicentennial events, visit www.hamcoturns200.com. Mark your calendar for 1-5 p.m. Dec. 3 for a Bicentennial Bash for the community at Ivy Tech.

CASEY From Page A1

Westfield administrators to discuss how the school — and Indiana, overall — are taking advantage of federal dollars to support students' mental health needs.

"There is resilience in finding a way out of darkness, through treatment, through community, through storytelling, and holding our hands to pull others through. And families and educators are working to support them every step of the way," Biden said while speaking before a group of Westfield students and staff. "I think that you can feel that there is a sense that people can share their stories and get help. That's what's happening here."

Federal funding in action

The visit came one year after President Joe Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), marking the most sweeping and significant gun legislation to become law in decades.

The legislation also included historic levels of funding to address youth mental health. Close to \$2 billion was earmarked for the U.S. Department of Education to create safer, more "inclusive" learning environments for students and hire and train more mental health professionals for schools.

Through the BSCA, Indiana has so far received over \$14 million in Stronger Connections grant funding.

Some of that funding is already being used by the Westfield school district to make available on-site outpatient mental health services to students.

"Never underestimate your power to help, to hope, to heal," Jill Biden told students on Wednesday. "You're shining a light in the darkness, helping so many find their way through."

"It's okay not to be okay — you are not alone," she continued. "You shouldn't have to face the rough edges of life, of this world, by yourself. There are people around you, educators and peers, who want to listen and who are there to support you."

Ongoing student mental health needs

Mental health resources for Hoosier students are in increasing demand.

In a 2021 advisory report, Murthy, the U.S. Surgeon General, said a "widespread" mental health care crisis was already affecting children, adolescents, and young adults — and it was only accelerated by the pandemic.

More recently, in May, Murthy released another advisory, warning about the potential effects social media use has on youth mental health, such as symptoms of depression and anxiety.

Murthy reiterated those concerns Wednesday, saying it will take "nothing short of a movement" to properly address the country's ongoing mental health concerns.

"I worry about what the future holds for all of our children, given the crisis that we're seeing, and I know this is personal for so many of us," he said, emphasizing that the youth mental health crisis in America "represents

the defining public health challenge of our time."

"The bottom line is, there's a lot that has happened, but there's also a lot more to do. And I know we all feel the urgency to do more," he added. "We will not stop our efforts until every child who needs care can get it, until we've actually addressed the underlying root causes of what's driving this mental health crisis."

In Indiana, suicide is the second leading cause of death for teens. In 2021, one out of every three Hoosier students from 7th to 12th grade reported experiencing persistent sadness and hopelessness, according to the Indiana Youth Institute. One out of seven students made a plan to commit suicide.

But challenges persist within schools to address students' needs.

Indiana's student-to-counselor ratio is currently the highest in the country, with schools employing just 1,494 counselors statewide for more than 1 million students. Compared to the national average, that's 286 more students per counselor.

Even last year's ratio of 475 students per counselor put Indiana far above the American School Counselor Association's recommendation of 250-to-1.

Westfield High School employs eight counselors to serve a school population of about 2,800 — equal to roughly 350 counselors per student. Through grant funds and a partnership with St. Vincent, the school also provides on-campus access to licensed behavioral health therapists.

Even so, highschoolers who spoke with Jill Biden on Wednesday said added support is needed for LGBTQ+ students and to provide more mental health communication training for teachers. Others said they want the Biden administration to address the proliferation of content posted to social media promoting negativity and encouraging eating disorders.

Students in the school's mental health club, called Robbie's Hope, said they're trying to fill existing gaps, working to make scholarships available to students who need help paying for various therapies and mental health services.

The school group is specifically focusing this academic year on mental well-being among student athletes. That includes targeted resources for over-training, anxiety, burnout, seasonal depression and eating habits.

"All of us have struggled with mental health, personally, at some point," said Westfield senior Analiese Emigh, who spoke with Biden Wednesday. "None of us want other students to feel alone, or like they don't matter."

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Noblesville Plan Commission Noblesville, Indiana

The Noblesville Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on application LEGP 00064-2023 on the 18th day of September, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Building, 16 South 10th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060. The application submitted by the Church Church Hittle + Antrim requests a change of zoning from SR (Suburban Residential) to R1 (Low Density Single Residential) for approximately 3 acres located at 5263 East 156th Street all within Noblesville Township, Hamilton County, Indiana.

Written suggestions or objections relative to the applications above may be filed with the Department of Planning and Development, at or before such meeting and will be heard by the Noblesville Plan Commission. Interested persons desiring to present their views, either in writing or verbally, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place. These hearings may be continued from time to time as found necessary by the Noblesville Plan Commission.

A copy of the proposal is on file in the Department of Planning and Development located at 16 South 10th Street, Suite 150 in City Hall for examination before the meeting during business hours between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday – Friday. A copy of the proposal will appear on the web page at www.cityofnoblesville.org/agendas, Plan Commission – September 18, 2023 prior to the meeting date.

NOBLESVILLE PLAN COMMISSION
Caleb P. Gutshall, Secretary

TL20688 9/1 1t hspaxlp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Noblesville Plan Commission Noblesville, Indiana

The Noblesville Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on application LEGP 00094-2023 on the 18th day of September, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Building, 16 South 10th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060. The application submitted by the City of Noblesville Planning Department requests a change of land use category from Industrial Office to Commercial/Office for approximately 32 acres located on the south side of 141st Street approximately 1300 feet east of Olio Road all within the City of Noblesville, Noblesville Township, Hamilton County, Indiana.

Written suggestions or objections relative to the applications above may be filed with the Department of Planning and Development, at or before such meeting and will be heard by the Noblesville Plan Commission. Interested persons desiring to present their views, either in writing or verbally, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place. These hearings may be continued from time to time as found necessary by the Noblesville Plan Commission.

A copy of the proposal is on file in the Department of Planning and Development located at 16 South 10th Street, Suite 150 in City Hall for examination before the meeting during business hours between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday – Friday. A copy of the proposal will appear on the web page at www.cityofnoblesville.org/agendas, Plan Commission – September 18, 2023 prior to the meeting date.

NOBLESVILLE PLAN COMMISSION
Caleb P. Gutshall, Secretary

TL20689 9/1 1t hspaxlp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Noblesville Plan Commission Noblesville, Indiana

The Noblesville Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on application LEGP 00039-2023 on the 18th day of September, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Building, 16 South 10th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060. The application submitted by the City of Noblesville Planning Department is regarding amendments to Article 4, Article 8, and Appendix B of the Unified Development Ordinance for changes to the filing dates and deadlines requirements regarding Boards and Commissions all within the City of Noblesville, Noblesville Township, Hamilton County, Indiana.

Written suggestions or objections relative to the applications above may be filed with the Department of Planning and Development, at or before such meeting and will be heard by the Noblesville Plan Commission. Interested persons desiring to present their views, either in writing or verbally, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place. These hearings may be continued from time to time as found necessary by the Noblesville Plan Commission.

A copy of the proposal is on file in the Department of Planning and Development located at 16 South 10th Street, Suite 150 in City Hall for examination before the meeting during business hours between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday – Friday. A copy of the proposal will appear on the web page at www.cityofnoblesville.org/agendas, Plan Commission – September 18, 2023 prior to the meeting date.

NOBLESVILLE PLAN COMMISSION
Caleb P. Gutshall, Secretary

TL20690 9/1 1t hspaxlp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Noblesville Plan Commission Noblesville, Indiana

The Noblesville Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Application No. LEGP 0088-2023 and LEGP 0089-2023 on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Building, 16 South 10th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060. The application submitted by Whitecroft Farms, Inc., KreaageroH Incorporated, and Robert L. Bowen and Corby D. Thompson (Owners) and Pulte Homes of Indiana, LLC (Applicant) is for a change of zoning from R1 Single-Family Residential, R1/PD Single-Family Residential Planned Development, A2(S) County Zoning District, to R4 Single/Two Family Residential, R5 Multi-Family Residential, and PB Planned Business and the adoption of a Preliminary Plan including waivers and conditions for approximately 603 acres to be known as "Finch Creek Planned Development" for property located north of E. 156th Street, east of Boden Road, south of E. 166th Street, and west of Olio Road, within the zoning jurisdiction of the City of Noblesville, Hamilton County, Indiana.

Written suggestions or objections relative to the applications above may be filed with the Department of Planning and Development, at or before such meeting and will be heard by the Noblesville Plan Commission. Interested persons desiring to present their views, either in writing or verbally, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place. This hearing may be continued from time to time as found necessary by the Plan Commission.

Copies of the proposals are on file in the Department of Planning and Development located at 16 S. 10th Street for examination before the meeting during business hours between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday – Friday. A copy of the staff report will appear on the web page at www.cityofnoblesville.org/agendas, Plan Commission – September 18, 2023 prior to the meeting date.

NOBLESVILLE PLAN COMMISSION
Caleb P. Gutshall, Secretary

TL20686 9/1 1t hspaxlp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Noblesville Plan Commission Noblesville, Indiana

The Noblesville Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Application No. LEGP 0087-2023 on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Building, 16 South 10th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060. The application submitted by Mundy Drive 14575 LLC (Owners) and CVS Health (Applicant) is for an amendment to an adopted Preliminary Plan including waivers regarding setbacks and landscaping for property located at 14575 Mundy Drive, within the zoning jurisdiction of the City of Noblesville, Hamilton County, Indiana.

Written suggestions or objections relative to the applications above may be filed with the Department of Planning and Development, at or before such meeting and will be heard by the Noblesville Plan Commission. Interested persons desiring to present their views, either in writing or verbally, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place. This hearing may be continued from time to time as found necessary by the Plan Commission.

Copies of the proposals are on file in the Department of Planning and Development located at 16 S. 10th Street for examination before the meeting during business hours between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday – Friday. A copy of the staff report will appear on the web page at www.cityofnoblesville.org/agendas, Plan Commission – September 18, 2023 prior to the meeting date.

NOBLESVILLE PLAN COMMISSION
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A Long Time Ago In A Sports Department Far Away . . .



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

If newsrooms are the brains and guts of a newspaper, then sports departments are surely the heart and soul. Over the decades, some of the best writing has graced sports columns – just one newspaper vagabond's opinion. From Grantland Rice and Red Smith back in the day to Jim Murray, Bob Ryan, Frank DeFord and countless others, some of the best prose ever were printed on the pages in the sports section.

Recently, longtime Lafayette Journal & Courier sports editor and current columnist for your favorite Montgomery County daily Ken Thompson highlighted some of the sports writers from that particular paper. Anyone who has followed Purdue for long probably has read some of the scribes Thompson mentioned.

The J&C used to be one of Indiana's outstanding newspapers. If the current owners don't completely destroy it, it could rise to greatness once again. Whether it does or not though, if a history were to be written, Thompson's name would stand tall.

One thing Thompson didn't do – couldn't really – was write about his place there. It took a little prodding, but he graciously agreed to answer a few questions. I hope you enjoy reading about him as much as I did.

Q. When did you know you wanted to do this for a living?

I figured out by age 13 that I was not an athlete and certainly not good enough to play football, basketball or baseball for Lafayette Jeff but sports was my passion. While I wasn't a varsity athlete in high school, I will always thank Jeff High School for the opportunities it provided me with the student newspaper and student-run radio station WJEF (91.9 on your FM dial, as the promo used to say). On The Booster, I teamed up with Jeff Bonny, who went on to a long professional newspaper career at Kankakee, Ill. At WJEF, I performed all sorts of duties (newscaster, disc jockey, statistician for football and basketball games and an occasional shot at analysis on basketball games). Our instructor, Mr. William Fraser (Fraser as in eraser, he would remind people), taught me a lot about being a professional.

Just after graduating

from Jeff, I inquired with publisher Martha DePoy at the Lafayette Leader to see if she was interested in having someone cover Jeff football, basketball and baseball while I was going to Purdue. I had an "in" with Mrs. DePoy because my mother had done some advertising work for her and was one of the people who came up with the "Home Buyers Guide," a publication that provided pictures and descriptions of houses available in the Lafayette area.

I was with the Leader for about a year or so when I decided to see if a niche publication, Sport Spirit, needed anyone to cover high school sports. That is where I met photographer Frank Oliver, beginning a professional relationship that lasted decades through the J&C. Frank played a key role in allowing me to meet my wife, agreeing to take pictures of me in a flattering setting at Happy Hollow Park in West Lafayette. Those pictures ended up on a dating website and prompted my future wife to contact me.

When the Spirit went under financially just before my junior year at Purdue, I not only returned to the Lafayette Leader but I also decided to attend a callout for writers from The Exponent. In two short years, I rose to sports editor at The Exponent and forged relationships that endure to this day. I was fortunate enough to attend the Big Ten Championship football game last season with several of my Exponent friends.

I briefly returned to the Leader before joining the Journal and Courier in August 1984 just as the newspaper was converting to morning publication.

Q. You competed against the J&C at the Lafayette Leader. What was that like?

I was perhaps naive in the sense that I never thought of the J&C as competition. The Leader was a weekly newspaper with a niche audience. I wasn't going to be breaking any news. What I did was just be present at Jeff games and a few practices when my classwork allowed. I thank coaches Dave Knott, Don Lostutter and Mark Strader for treating me just as well as they did a J&C reporter.

Q. Did you read the J&C growing up?

Not really. My dad, and grandpa Thompson, subscribed to the Indianapolis Star. I would read the J&C at the Jeff library every day but my early sportswriting influences were from the Star: Bob Collins, John Bansch and Bill Benner. I also was a fan of Tom Keating.

I became immersed in the sportswriting history of the J&C during my days at Purdue. I was

fortunate enough to interview Marion Crawley not long before he died. I went to athletic director Joe Heath, my Economics teacher at Jeff, to ask about any records in the school's possession. To my surprise, there was very little. So, I took it upon myself to research Lafayette Jeff basketball history. I started with the Crawley era (1942-1967) and spent countless hours reading microfilm at the main Purdue library and the Tippecanoe County library during the summer. Next thing I know, I've got a record of every Jeff basketball game from 1911 to 1982. At the same time, I compiled the scoring totals - and in a couple of cases - rebounding totals for that period. I gave Mr. Heath one copy and kept one for myself. With the assistance of John Harrell's website, I've kept up with the season records ever since.

That research allowed me to become very familiar with Gordon Graham and his writing style. Very pro-Purdue and Lafayette Jeff (his alma maters) but also demonstrating a broad knowledge of sports.

Q. Who were your favorite writers?

My dad was a West Lafayette High School graduate and he always talked about the two greatest athletes to come out of there in his lifetime: Bob Friend and Bob Kriebel. My dad lived close by the Kriebel home and he always held a high opinion of Bob. As it turns out, Bob Kriebel was one of my journalism instructors at Purdue and he prepared me for what was necessary to get my foot in the door at the J&C.

Another of life's coincidences: my dad and Jeff Washburn's father, Sonny, were employed by Fairfield Manufacturing in Lafayette. I always enjoyed "Wash's" writing, especially when he would become "The Swami" and make his weekly predictions on high school football and basketball games.

Q. When you went to work there, what was it like being with Washburn and others?

As shy as I am in my personal life, I felt like I belonged with Wash, Tom Kubat and Bob Scott. I had to swallow some pride and accept the lowest entry job into the sports department: a part-time agate clerk and occasional high school writer. I was determined to show them I belonged. I kept my mouth shut, put my head down and did everything asked of me, eventually becoming the sports editor. There were so many people who helped me along the way: Paula Waltz (the first female sportswriter in J&C history), Chuck Wineland (who created the girls high school sports beat

at the J&C), news editor Frank Koontz, plus Wash, Tom Kubat and Bob Scott.

I also met Jim Stafford, who like me was a part-time agate clerk. Over the next 30-plus years, the two of us did everything we could to maintain the standards of the Journal and Courier when our corporate bosses could care less about communities like Lafayette.

During our heyday as a sports staff, I never thought any newspaper in Indiana (including the Star) had the depth of talent and the drive to cover Greater Lafayette more thoroughly. We had two young men who went on to successful careers at the Cincinnati Enquirer (Mark Curmutte and Michael Perry), a desk chief who went on to become an executive at the CBS station in Chicago and creator of "the weather word" for the Chicago Sun-Times (John Dodge). In time, we added Mike Carmin to cover Purdue women's basketball with the same emphasis we put on men's basketball. This is on top of having Washburn and Kubat forging a strong reputation with our readers.

Q. Who were your favorites to read?

I was an avid reader of The Sporting News and Sport Magazine in my teenage years. I absorbed every MLB team report. Dick Young's column was a must-read every week. I also enjoyed Dick Schapp's work, especially with the books he co-wrote with Green Bay Packers Hall of Famer Jerry Kramer. And like just about everybody else who had cable TV, the Sportswriters on TV show was a must watch with Bill Gleason, Bill Jauss, Rick Telander and Ben Bentley.

Q. As the sports editor, you sent a lot of people on Purdue assignments. Is there one specific event you sent someone and now regret not at least going along for a sidebar or something?

My only regret was not taking the opportunity to go to Assembly Hall in Bloomington in 2018. I've been to the Indiana campus for football but never basketball. Since Gannett was putting so much emphasis on digital and getting stories up as fast as possible, I came to the conclusion that it would be best for our readers if I stayed back in Lafayette and readied the game story for immediate publication.

Fortunately, I was able to make every home football game including the Ohio State game in 2018. I was supposed to get to the OSU locker room and get a sidebar but even 30 minutes after the game, the crowd was just too heavy to get even close to the locker room.

Q. Did you have relationships (more than the basics we have from talking in press conferences) with any Purdue coaches that bring back good memories? Bad?

I'll start with Leon Burnett. In 1983, I was sports editor of The Exponent but he treated me with the same respect and courtesy he gave Jeff Washburn and other reporters covering Purdue. I was sorry things didn't work out in the long run. That brings us to Fred Akers, who worried about the wrong things. The only time I ever spoke to him was when he requested I not be so negative toward his team. Look at his record at Purdue and other than the 1988 win at Ohio State there wasn't much to be positive about. It was a meeting Akers set up with our sports editor at the time, and I almost felt like I was being set up as the bad guy when I wasn't even the beat writer.

Gene Keady and Matt Painter have been great to work with on a professional level. Keady will answer just about any question except when I inquired about the terms of his new contract. I cannot remember why I had to talk with him that day instead of Jeff Washburn. If Keady liked you, you were "pardner!" to him. Painter has always made a point to stop and say hello when I've been at scrimmages or weekly media gatherings. I am still trying to grasp that his favorite music is rap. I chuckle when I think about attending a scrimmage in Mackey Arena and Fall Out Boy's "Uma Thurman" is coming out of the speakers.

Q. Sports departments were called the "toy department" for a long time. Agree or disagree with the assessment?

Emphatically, no! This was a real pet peeve among many of my co-workers. Jim Stafford used to say half-jokingly that if the newsroom got pizza on election night, where's our pizza for every Friday and Saturday night in the fall? Purdue sports, high school sports, numerous phone calls taking box scores and giving out scores, staff spread out covering five or six games. I retain the belief that you could put Tom Kubat, Jeff Washburn or any of our other full-time writers on newsside and the quality would not drop off. In many cases, I cannot say the same for news reporters trying their hand at sports.

Q. What is the biggest memory that sticks out from your time at the J&C?

It's difficult to pick one. I still remember my first night, assigned to cover a McCutcheon football game in September 1984. Nothing memorable about the game but

it felt good to have Jeff Washburn saying "welcome aboard." Being elevated from part-time to full-time when John Millman came on as sports editor in 1987 is another. Another is the night I witnessed a living eulogy for Washburn during a Lafayette Jeff football game in 2017. The game was terrible; the Bronchos won 70-0 over Muncie Central. But seeing so many people come up to "Wash" in the Jeff press box and tell him how much he meant to them and thanking him for his years of writing positively about the youth of Lafayette was touching.

One other I'd like to mention: the last football game of the 2009 high school season. I was covering Clinton Prairie at Central Catholic. The Knights were one year away from going on a run of four consecutive Class A state championships. It was 54-0 at halftime but the rules at the time required both coaches to agree to a running clock in the second half. The Clinton Prairie coach declined to agree to the running clock. This put Central Catholic in a no-win situation because it did not have a large roster at the time and IHSAA rules only allowed five quarters a week for junior varsity and freshman players. It ended up 96-0 but a sign of things to come was a freshman running back named Danny Anthrop sprinting away from tacklers for a 34-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter. He became one of the greatest high school football players in Tippecanoe County history and would become a starting wide receiver at Purdue.

Q. Is there anything that this did not touch on that you want to make sure is included?

Even though my tenure at the Journal and Courier ended for reasons out of my control (the decline of print journalism and the budget cuts that followed), I spent 35 years doing the job I always wanted. A lot of people can't say that.

Something new happened every day inside that small newsroom in downtown Lafayette (and later on the east side of Lafayette). So many people who I was fortunate enough to work alongside.

I've been fortunate to continue my love of sportswriting through The Paper and The Times. I am grateful to your readers for their support.

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Wednesdays in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com.