TODAY'S VERSE

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ



► FACES of HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own

What makes John "Wayne" Jones smile? "I like being around the car, and good people," said the 83-year-old Noblesville resident, who stood beside his 1951 Ford two-door sedan at the Last Blast Open Car Show in August at the Indiana State Fair. He also showed his car last weekend at the 13th annual Lucky Teter Rebel Run Car and Motorcycle Show at Forest Park in Noblesville. "I bought it in 1956 when I was 16 years old. This was my first car," he said, smiling of his 67-year relationship with his car. Why he's kept the car all of these years? The Arsenal Tech High School grad said, "It's memories. It brings back high school days for me." "I started working on it in high school. And I got out of high school in '58, I put the engine in it, which is a 1951 Chrysler Hemi. And I've been working on it ever since." Jones said, "I've been driving it 67 years." He bought the 6-cylinder car for \$500. "It was a stock twodoor sedan," he said. He started the work in 1957 and customized it by 1960. "I had gotten married (to wife Pat), so the car sat for the next 13 years. I had two girls. I kept it in the garage ... In 1974, I got it out and started working on it, and painted it. I drove it that way until 1980. And I decided to crop the top down 4-1/2 inches. So I cut the top off, lowered the top down. He did the work all himself. That summer, in 1980, he painted the car. The car is painted Candy Brandywine with Candy Blue Flames. Jones put a five-speed with a clutch in the car. He's shown the car all over the Midwest. "I started in the late '70s, and by the mid '80s, I'd gone to everywhere in the Midwest, including Kansas twice, driving." There's no power steering. "And it's loose, not like rack-and-pinion ... You've got to be ready for the road." How's the car ride? "It rides stiff and rough." For list of car shows and other events this weekend, read the Betsy Reason column in today's edition

And Another Thing...

of The Times.

1.Drinks & Appetizers at West Fork Whiskey

Join us at West Fork Whiskey on Tuesday, September 19 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm for an exciting happy hour event hosted by the Westfield Young Professionals. West Fork Whiskey Co. is a "Boldly Indiana Whiskey Distillery". As three Indiana natives, they brought West Fork Whiskey Co. to life to share their interpretation of America's native spirit with the world. They create sippable, smooth whiskeys -- always 100% Indiana from grain to glass. They toast to hard work and uncompromising dedication by paying respect to one of the best grain-producing states in America. The best part is that West Fork Whiskey Co. serves more than just whiskey, and their restaurant, The Mash House, has the perfect compliments to your drinks -- appetizers. So, join us for a fun night out at our September YP Happy Hour!

2. You're Invited!

Join Chamber Partners and Community Leaders on Thursday. September 7 for a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at VIO Med Spa in Carmel. VIO Med Spa is an all-inclusive, high quality, top-rated med spa now open in Carmel, IN. Looking your best empowers, creates confidence, and builds self-esteem. At VIO Med Spa our goal is to help our guests feel amazing and look great. This event is open to all the Chamber's Partners. Members, and the public. Advanced registration is not required

3. LANE RESTRICTIONS 146th Street and **Allisonville Road Project**

Hamilton County, Indiana - Please be advised, beginning on or after Wednesday, September 6, through Monday, September 11, lane restrictions will be in place between the hours of 9am and 3pm. They are as follows: Wednesday, September 6: Single lane restrictions for eastbound and westbound 146th Street for removal of overhead signal heads and grinding pavement markings. Thursday, September 7: Single lane restrictions for eastbound and westbound 146th Street to complete the grinding pavement markings. Friday, September 8: Westbound lane restriction in the right-hand lane for a concrete pour. Monday, September 11: Westbound lane restriction in the right-hand lane for equipment demobilization

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA



Photo courtesy of the City of Noblesville

City of Noblesville officials joined Indiana Joint Replacement Institute and the Skillman Corpora-

Indiana Joint Replacement Institute Breaks Ground As First New Tenant Of Innovation Mile

586 acres along I-69 in Noblesville will foster advanced technology companies, the region's economic future

City of Noblesville officials joined Indiana Joint Replacement Institute and the Skillman Corporation to break ground on a \$28 million, 40,000-squarefoot surgery center facility and medical office building dedicated to hip and knee replacements. The building will be located at the corner of 141st Street and Olio Road in Noblesville as part of Innovation Mile.

Indiana Joint Replacement Institute will be the first new building within Innovation Mile,

a dynamic business and technology hub of approximately 600 acres that will serve as an anchor for revolutionary thinking and a gateway for innovation, leveraging long-term growth opportunities and catalyzing reinvestment in the City of Noblesville.

This is a major milestone for Innovation Mile as we welcome Dr. Meneghini and Indiana Joint Replacement Institute as our first tenant," said Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen. "Today's groundbreaking is an early step in our

Photo courtesy of Conner Prairie

American Legion, Artmobilia in

Carmel, Music & All That Jazz

with Moontown Pickle Stompers

on the Square, Beatles tribute at

Federal Hill Commons, comedi-

an Dave Dugan at The Remnant in Arcadia, Oktoberfest at Pri-

events in and around Noblesville

Festival is today through Sunday

filling the sky at Conner Prairie

in Fishers. Tonight and Saturday

See BETSY Page A5

meval Brewing and more.

Read all of the details for

with our list of 20 things to do

this weekend and beyond:
1. Jupiter Flights Balloon

with more than 40 balloons

Jupiter Flights Balloon Festival is today through Sunday with

treats, bounce houses and a balloon race that will kick off a

Fishers. Tonight and Saturday night, enjoy live music, seasonal

balloon glow. On Saturday and Sunday morning, watch balloon

competitions. Also, through Sunday, enjoy Conner Prairie's sun-

Movies, Concerts, Car Shows, Comedy

more than 40 balloons filling the sky at Conner Prairie in

Balloon Fest, Strut 2 Save Lives,

flower field for a picture-perfect experience.

weekend is

crazy busy

with things

to do: Free

Movies in the

Park, Jupiter

loon Festival

and Sunflow-

ers at Con-

ner Prairie,

Strut 2 Save

Lives Walk

at Dillon

Brian Clauson

Flights Bal-

efforts to create an anchor for innovation in our community, which will have an impact on Hoosier patients for generations.

The Indiana Joint Replacement Institute is a statewide orthopaedic enterprise founded and led by Dr. Michael Meneghini and continues an 18-year tradition of elite hip and knee replacement care for Hoosier patients across

See GROUND Page A5



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Susie Swenson shows a bound book with birth records

Hamilton County **Marks Bicentennial** With Digitization Of **Vital Records**

Birth, Death, Marriage, and Divorce Records Date **Back Nearly 200 Years**

As Hamilton County proudly commemorates its Bicentennial Anniversary, it also celebrates the preservation of nearly two centuries' worth of vital records. The Hamilton County Health Department and the County Clerk's office are charged with the safekeeping of hundreds of thousands of important documents – some dating back to the 19th century when Hamilton

County became a county. These records are like time capsules, allowing us to glimpse the lives of those who came before us," says Kathy Williams, County Clerk, and co-chair of the Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission. "They remind us of the struggles, triumphs, and enduring spirit that have defined our community for two centuries."

See RECORDS Page A5



Sunrise/Sunset RISE: 7:20 a.m. SET: 8:09 p.m.



High/Low **Temperatures** High: 75 °F Low: 60 °F



Today is... • International Literacy Day

 Star Trek Day • Virgin Mary Day



What Happened On This Day

- **2015** The Late Show with Stephen Colbert Makes its Debut. The comedian was a correspondent for the Daily Show and the host of the Colbert Report on Comedy Central before he took over David Letterman as the host of The Late Show on CBS.
- **1974** President Ford Pardons Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, the 38th President of the United States. issued Proclamation 4311, which pardoned his predecessor Richard Nixon for any crimes he may have committed in his role as the U.S. President.
- 1966 Star Trek Makes its Television Debut. The popular science fiction television series created by Gene Roddenberry was about the adventures of the crew of starship USS Enterprise. The starship was commanded by Captain James T. Kirk.





Births On This Day

• **1932** Patsy Cline American singer-songwriter, pianist

• 1925 Peter Sellers English film actor, comedian, singer

Deaths On This Day • 2022 Queen Elizabeth II • 2006 Peter Brock Australian race car driver

INSIDE TODAY

Park, Dean Martini concert at

Coxhall Gardens, Kruzin 4 Kids Car Show at the Noblesville

BETSY

REASON

Editor's Desk...

From The

Dick Wolfsie	.A4
Ken Thompson	.A3
Business	.A7
Voices	.A8

HONEST HOOSIER

How did national politics stoop this low?



🗢 TODAY'S QUOTE

"I play to win, whether during practice or a real game." -Michael Jordan

OBITUARIES **Shawn Edward Messenger** Thomas C. English

The Times appreciates all our customers

Today, we'd like to personally thank

TRACY and STEVEN LINE

for subscribing!

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Research shows smokers are actually happiest when they are trying to quit. 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 JOKE

Why didn't dinosaurs eat clowns? Because they taste funny.





PAGE TWO FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

○ OBITUARIES

Shawn Edward Messenger

December 27, 1962, Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Shawn Edward Messenger, age 60, of Noblesville, Indiana, passed away on Tuesday evening, August 29, 2023, at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. Born December 27, 1962, in Noblesville, Indiana, he was the son of John E. and Jeraldine "Jeri" Messenger, both of whom survive him.

was the son of John E. and Jeraldine
"Jeri" Messenger, both of whom
survive him.
Shawn was a 1981 graduate of
Noblesville High School. Early in his
career he went to work for Marsh Grocery Stores before
making the move to auto sales. He got his feet wet with
a few different dealerships in the area, including Hare
Chevrolet, before finding himself at Andy Mohr Buick
in Fishers, Indiana. Always wanting to better his sales
numbers and become a more effective manager, Shawn

attended the NADA Dealer Academy. This helped prepare him with the tools he needed for his current position

as a Sales Manager for Andy Mohr. Shawn lived life on his own terms; he was a free spirit who loved the freedom to do what he wanted, when he wanted, and in whichever manner he chose to do it. He loved going to concerts and was fortunate to do it at a time when some of the best touring bands were still on the road. His most memorable shows were Kid Rock, KISS, and Led Zepplin. As much as he enjoyed the energy of being at a show, he was equally excited to just float around on a boat, without a care in the world. Sometimes sports would catch his interest, especially when it came to the Colts, the Pacers, and NASCAR (but not so much after Jeff Gordon retired). The one thing that could always focus his attention was his family. There was nobody on the planet who loved being a dad (and later a grandpa) more than Shawn. He had a gift for being able to "reach" young people, allowing him to be both a father figure and mentor to so many, outside of his own family. You can learn a lot from family, and one of the lessons Shawn took to heart was how to cook. He became the resident Grill Master, learning the tricks of the trade from his brother Jeff, who just happened to be

a professional chef.
Shawn is survived by his parents, John E. and Jeraldine "Jeri" Messenger of Noblesville; 2 sons, Korey Messenger of Noblesville, and Derek Messenger of Westfield; grandson, Karson Messenger; sisters, Deborah L. Craig of Cookeville, Tennessee, and Linda K. Riffey of Noblesville; step-sisters, Beth Green, and Kelli Green-Klingerman; step-brother, Garry Green; niece, Callie J. Craig; and nephews, Ryan Messenger, James Messenger, Dustin Messenger, Travis Riffey, and Josh Riffey

He was preceded in death by 2 brothers, Kevin L. Messenger and Jeffrey A. Messenger; and by his paternal grandparents, Lee and Maple Messenger.

Services will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, September 9, 2023, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th Street, Sheridan, Indiana, with visitation from 11:00 am until the time of service. Burial will follow at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan. Rev. V.J. Stover will be officiating.



Thomas C. English

December 30, 2023, Friday, September 1, 2023

Thomas C. English, age 89, of Sheridan, Indiana, passed away on Friday, September 1, 2023 at Riverview Hospital in Noblesville, Indiana. Born December 30, 1933, in Noblesville, Indiana, he was the son of the late Tony Oscar and Mary Kathryn (Clover) English.

Tom grew up in Sheridan where he graduated with the Class of 1952 from Sheridan High School. After graduation, he attended Indiana University Indianapolis Extension Center (later to become IUPUI) until he joined the Army in April of 1956. He served his country as an Army medic and was stationed in Germany where he found time to explore several parts of Europe.

Upon discharge from the Army in February of 1958, he returned to Indiana where he continued his education at Butler University. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy in 1961. Upon graduation, he began his lifelong career as a pharmacist. His journey began at Elliott's Pharmacy in Sheridan, where he served the community until the mid-1980s. He went on to work for Kroger, and eventually Marsh Pharmacy, until he made the decision to retire at the young age of 83. He took great pride in his work, caring for his patients throughout his career the only way he knew how... as a trusted and learned friend. The friendships that he formed with his patients and coworkers were dear to him and sustained him until the end.

Tom loved his family dearly and especially looked forward to the annual Indy 500 family get-togethers. He had fond memories of his parents' restaurant and from that grew his love of cooking for others. One was never hungry in Tom's house. He was an avid gardener and produced beautiful vegetables. More than anything, Tom enjoyed taking long car rides with his "lovely bride" Jean. He was known to drive out of state to eat a good cheeseburger or just to explore.

Tom is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jean English; daughters, Carrie Elizabeth Sutton (Joe) of Sheridan, and Emily Anne Snell (Steve) of Lebanon; brother, John D. "Tim" English (Anita) of Fishers, and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Tony Oscar and Mary Kathryn (Clover) English, sisters, Kathryn Ellen English, Georgia Ann Edie, and Mary Jane Robb; and brother, Charles E. "Chuck" English.

Private family services are being planned. Tom will be laid to rest at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan, Indiana. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kercheval Funeral Home of Sheridan.

Thanks for reading The Times!



Photo courtesy of Hamilton Heights Schools

Hamilton Heights High School August Coffee Bean Award recipients (I-r): Taylor Morrison, Angelina McMillen, Hunter Powell. Sam Harpham, and James Zachary. Congratulations! Courtesy photo.

HHHS August Coffee Bean Award Recipients Named

Hamilton Heights High School would like to recognize the following students who were named as Coffee Bean Award recipients for the month of August. They include Sam Harpham, Angelina McMillen, Taylor Morrison, Hunter Powell, and James Zachary.

The name and award, inspired by The Coffee Bean, a book written by Jon Gordon and Damon West, delivers a simple, yet powerful message on positive change. All students nominated receive a certificate of recognition. At the end of the month, the names

of the students who were nominated during the month are included in a drawing where the first five- to-seven names drawn are called down to the office to enjoy a hot chocolate or coffee and a donut.

The monthly award objective is to encourage

more acts of kindness, positivity, school spirit, and help foster a closer sense of community at the high school. Students and staff can nominate students. Nomination forms can be downloaded at https://www.hhschuskies.org/domain/82.

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spot from

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State was

Westfield

the play of

ing loss

Purdue football's

Boilers Have Some Bright Spots In Otherwise Season-Opening Loss



KENNY THOMPSON Columnist

graduate Dillon Thieneman.

In his first collegiate game, the safety played so well that the Big Ten Conference honored Thieneman as its Freshman of the Week.

Thieneman recorded a team-high 10 solo tackles and his fourth-quarter interception resulted in a go-ahead touchdown. Thieneman is just the third Purdue true freshman to intercept a pass in their debut, joining James Dunnigan in 1999 against UCF and Josh Hayes vs. Eastern Kentucky in 2016.

Thieneman also is the first defensive Boilermaker to earn Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors since cornerback Frankie Williams in 2012

liams in 2012.

"I was very, very pleased and excited for him, but I wasn't surprised," first-year coach Ryan Walters said Tuesday. "The beautiful thing about football is that it doesn't matter how old you are. He has deserved his spot on the roster and his spot on the depth chart."

It didn't go unnoticed by at least one media member that Thieneman plays 15-20 yards off the line of scrimmage.

"That depth allows him to see the quarterback, allows him to see things kind of unfolding in front of him to be able to put him in position to go make plays," Walters said.

Football notes

Calling the new Purdue football staff "a great mix of experience and young

and hungry to prove themselves," Football Scoop has rated Ryan Walters' assistants the fifth most impressive new staff of 2023.

Author Doug Samuels' praise begins with the addition of offensive coordinator Graham Harrell.

"The ability to grab Graham Harrell from West Virginia could prove to be the most impressive coordinator hire of the entire off season in college football, in my opinion.

"Purdue teams that have been able to win 8 games or more in a season have both been led by offensive-minded head coaches (Joe Tiller and Jeff Brohm), so Purdue going outside of that trend to land one of the most impressive defensive coordinators in college football as their new leader meant that the offensive coordinator hire was absolutely critical.

"In Harrell, the Boilermakers land someone that has called games on big stages, and at a blue-blood program like USC. His philosophy will allow them to maximize the talent on the roster, as there will be some schematic carryover from what Brohm was doing, and will allow them to continue to recruit and develop playmakers on the perimeter and vertical threats, similar to what that they've been churning out the last few years.'

But it's the defense that provides the biggest challenge to this staff. Samuels sees Fresno State, Wisconsin and Ohio State at home, plus Michigan and Nebraska on the road as games that will hinge on the Boilermakers' defensive talents.

"Walters and (defensive coordinator Kevin) Kane were able to engineer a quick turnaround defensively at Illinois, and whether they'll be able to do the same with the Black



and Gold I see being the biggest challenge ahead for the program.

The good news is that, in addition to Kane, Walters was able to bring in veteran defensive line coach Brick Haley to mentor the defensive front. With experience at LSU and Texas and in the NFL with the Bears on his resume, Haley infuses some incredible experience on the defensive side of the ball."

Samuels also called former Illinois assistant Cory Patterson as the "most intriguing hire." Patterson is credited for coaching running back Chase Brown into an All-American last

Wisconsin (2nd) and Nebraska (4th) were the other Big Ten staffs ranked by Football Scoop. ...

Purdue quarterback
Hudson Card ranked 43rd
among The Athletic's
Top 100 athletes from the
college football transfer
portal. Card was the eighth
overall quarterback on the
list, which was topped by
overall No. 1 Sam Hartman of Notre Dame. Big
Ten rivals Tanner Mordecai of Wisconsin (7th)
and Jeff Sims of Nebraska
(36th) were listed ahead of
Card.

"Card may be one of the transfer QBs in this cycle who benefits most from a change in scenery," The Athletic analysis stated.
"The 6-foot-2, 210-pound redshirt junior is ready to

Photo courtesy of Purdue Athletics fully prove what he can do. He won the starting job at Texas going into 2021 but couldn't hold on to it.

"Card got back on the field early last season when Quinn Ewers was knocked out of the Alabama game and played well despite an ankle injury, throwing for 899 yards with six touchdowns and one interception during his four-game stretch as starter. He has quickly won over his new team and was voted a team captain heading into coach Ryan Walters' debut season."

Great expectations

The return of National Player of the Year Zach Edey will once again keep Purdue in the college basketball spotlight according to The Athletic's CJ Moore and Sam Vecenie, who rank the Boilermakers fourth in their preseason rankings.

Kansas, Marquette and Duke are slotted ahead of Purdue. The Boilermakers are among four Big Ten Conference teams in The Athletic's Top 25, joined by Michigan State (6th), Illinois (14th) and Wisconsin (15th).

"This team is built similarly to a year ago with just slightly more depth. Everything once again will revolve around Zach Edey, but it looks like Matt Painter might diversify his offense with some more ball-screen action,"

The Athletic duo's analysis states. "Purdue needs to move Edey around when teams bracket him in the post like Fairleigh Dickinson did. Painter said two years ago that he preferred to be different and run far fewer ball screens than the rest of college basketball.

"The Boilermakers

ranked 316th in ball-screen usage last year, but that number could tick up if you want to read into how they played on their foreign tour, which was without Edey. Braden Smith, who looks like he's added some muscle, worked out of a lot of ball screens in the middle of the floor and usually made the right read — he had 42 assists and only seven turnovers in four games. (In Purdue's final game on the tour, we counted 29 ball screens. That's more than we're used to seeing from Painter's offense.) Smith, who had seven turnovers in the shocking first-round NCAA Tournament loss to FDU, will also benefit from the addition of a secondary handler in grad transfer Lance Jones.

"The key for Purdue will be making perimeter shots. It's a lot harder to pull off the kind of defensive plan FDU used if the Boilermakers make the open jumpers that the attention around Edey creates. They need a good year from Fletcher Loyer, who shot just 32.6 percent from 3 as a freshman but has the potential to shoot way better than that number."

Oddly, The Athletic lists "continuity" among Marquette's strengths while not listing it among Purdue's assets. All five starters return and six of the top eight scorers. In today's transfer portal word, it's difficult to be more stable than those facts.

To the surprise of absolutely no one in college basketball, Edey was se-



DILLON THIENEMAN

lected preseason National Player of the Year by Blue Ribbon Yearbook.

Not since UCLA's Bill Walton in 1971-72 and 1972-73 has anyone been a consensus, back-to-back National Player of the Year.

Walton's Bruins won national championships in both seasons.

Jamie Shaw of On3.com lists Purdue among the 10 schools he believes can win the national championship.

"The last top overall seed to get ousted by a 16-seed in round one, Virginia, went on to win it all next year," Shaw writes. "This team also adds top 100 freshman wing Myles Colvin. Will this be the year Matt Painter shakes his college basketball post-season stigma?"

The other schools on Shaw's list, in alphabetical order: Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Duke, Houston, Kansas, Kentucky, Miami and Michigan State.

Purdue fans are also anticipating a memorable season, snatching up all 9,000 available season tickets for the third consecutive season. Purdue athletic officials state the renewal rate approached 99 percent. Single-game and multi-game ticket packages are still available.

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



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Structuring The Perfect Password



DICK WOLFSIE Funny Bone

concerned about all the identity theft and is urging me to change my passwords. I'm

Ellen is

extremely

the worst at thinking of new passwords and worse at remembering them and even worse at recalling where I hid them. I don't think things could get much worser.

Many of the words I create to log in are what a website might call "weak passwords." I've been accused of having a lot of things: a weak chin, a weak stomach, even being weak in the knees. But having weak passwords? The nerve!

I thought I used some pretty nifty ones in the past. For example, I once used Joy1959 for my ATM account. Joy was my first girlfriend back in those days. I knew this was a very good password because even Joy didn't know she was my girlfriend.

If it's been a while since you changed your passwords, the sites will now give you specific directions:

- It shouldn't be a word in the dictionary
- It shouldn't be personal data
- It shouldn't be a pet's
- It shouldn't be a person's name

• It shouldn't be a past

addressAnd everyone knows

you had a crush on Joy
Then they warn:
BE SURE YOU CAN
REMEMBER YOUR
PASSWORD. If you must
write it down:

- •Don't write it on your
- •Don't put it in a com-
- puter file
 •Don't put it on a stick
- Don't put it on a sticky noteJust memorize it, okay

They don't like old passwords you have previously used, but I tried to revive JOY1959. It rejected it not only because it was WEAK, but because someone else was using it. I always suspected there was another guy back in those days. Now I have the proof.

Then I tried my birth-day. A big red flag came up and the prompt flashed: VERY WEAK, claiming it was too easy to figure that out. I think I look younger than my age, so this really annoyed me. Also, no one has remembered my birth-day in 25 years so I wasn't real concerned about that information getting out.

I tried putting in BOB, who's my best friend, but they just hated that. The prompt said: YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING.

No, I needed a strong password, so I put in HERCULES. It was rejected as WEAK. Then I tried SAMPSON. This time, VERY WEAK. I don't think the people at their mythology. But it did answer the age-old ques-

tion of who was stronger.
At one point I was so frustrated that I couldn't come up with a simple acceptable password, I just ran my fingers haphazardly across the keyboard.

VERY STRONG, said the prompt. PLEASE REMEMBER TO WRITE YOUR NEW PASS-WORD DOWN. Write it down? I had no idea what I typed. Was it KKDFJHG%\$ or was it YQWOKW?0&

I finally found a password that was acceptable. It was deemed VERY STRONG. Then the Website asked me a series of personal questions so that they could prove it was me if I forgot the word.

What was the name of your first girlfriend? (Joy. Wait, now I'm thinking it was Judy)

name. (It was Bob, but lately he has ticked me off)

A strong fictional cha

Your best friend's

A strong fictional character (Wait, wait, don't tell me: Mighty Mouse)

Here's my new password: J&U*HY*&^-JG%^JOY. I'm giving it to you just in case I can't remember it. Please put it in a safe place.

- 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.





Thanks for reading The Times!



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O BETSY

From Page A1

night, enjoy live music, seasonal treats, bounce houses and a balloon race that will kick off a balloon glow. On Saturday and Sunday morning, watch balloon competitions. Tickets for the third annual balloon event are \$12 for members and \$24 for nonmembers (special rate for Access members) and also include corn maze, tubing hills and opportunity to meet balloon pilots. Also, head to the 1836 Prairietown as the outdoor areas are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, during the 2023 season. A Bicentennial Marker will be unveiled at 11 a.m. Saturday in Clowes Commons, showcasing history of Delaware and Fall Creek townships, plus architectural tour of Conner House. Also, through Sunday, enjoy Conner Prairie's sunflower field for a picture-perfect experience. The 40th annual Headless Horseman program tickets are also now on sale for Oct. 5-29.

2. Travel to the countryside to hear live music with Jamie Owens tonight; The Molter Brothers on Saturday; Cookie Decorating & Wine on Sept. 13; The Booze Hounds on Sept. 15; Hamilton County RISE Fest at 1 p.m. Sept. 16 featuring Preset 57 at 1 p.m., Altered Vision at 2 p.m., Audio Hyjinx at 3 p.m., Board Meeting at 4 p.m., The Interim Project at 5 p.m. Rhino Down at 6 p.m. and Naptown Hepcats at 7:15 p.m., Infinity at 8:30 p.m., with food, silent auction, raffle, live music, proceeds and donations benefit Heart and Soul Clinic in Westfield, Children's Theraplay in Carmel, HopeAnchor & Crew in Noblesville and **Hamilton County Veterans** Corp in Fishers, with free admission. Lawn chairs and blankets invited, at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville. Visit spencerfarmwinery.com.

3. Enjoy live music featuring the fourth annual Oktoberfest 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. today and noon to 11 p.m. Saturday (Beer Barrel Boys 6-9 p.m.); Jason Salyers on Sept. 15, Celtic Rain on Sept. 22 at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

4. Noblesville Parks Federal Hill Movies in the Park, presented by Logan Street Signs & Banners feature "Turning Red" (Rated PG, 100 minute dusk tonight and "Top

DEEP CLEANS

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Gun Maverick (Rated PG-13, 131 minutes) on Sept. 15, free, lawn chairs and blankets invited.

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

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

7. Artmobilia is 11 a.m. Saturday 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. More information at artomobilia.

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

9. Enjoy live music featuring John Gilmore on Saturday, Disagreeable on Sept. 16, Craig Thurston on Sept. 21, Jeff Brown on Sept. 23, Jason and Robin on Sept. 30 at Grindstone Public House in Nobles-

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

11. Noblesville Parks and Recreation Department's free Concerts at the Commons will feature tribute bands: American English (Beatles tribute) 7-10 p.m. Saturday; and Trippin Billies (Dave Matthews Band tribute) on Sept. 23 at the

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12. Carmel comedian Dave Dugan will be on stage at 7:30 p.m. Saturday 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.

13. Join the annual Brian Clauson Strut 2 Save lives on Sunday 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.

14. Hamilton County Parks & Recreation presents free Concerts in the Centerpiece 2023 featuring Dean Martini 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Rodney Stepp on Sept. 17 and Dream Slice on Sept. 24 at Coxhall Gardens in Carmel.

15.Grab your lawn chair and find a place to watch the Noblesville High School Homecoming Parade which begins at 4 p.m. Sept. 15 and travels west on Logan Street and north on Ninth Street through downtown Noblesville. The NHS Millers vs. Zionsville Eagles Homecoming football game will kick off at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at Beaver Field.

16. Join the first "N" Zone Noblesville High School Homecoming Tailgate Party during the Homecoming Football Game on Sept. 15 under a tent next to Tailgate Town at Beaver Stadium. Admission is \$10 at the door. Featuring burgers from Ford's Garage. Funds raised support Noblesville Schools Education Foundation.

17. Tour historic buildings on and around the Square during Noblesville Main Street's Upstairs Downtown at 5 p.m. Sept. 15 and Noblesville Preservation Alliance's 36th annual Historic Home Tour 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 16. Buy a combo ticket for Upstairs Downtown and the NPA's Home Tour at www.preservationhall. org. NPÅ's Historic Home Tour in Old Town Noblesville features 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

preservationhall.org, Buy a combo ticket for Upstairs Downtown and the Home Tour.

18.Explore nature and history in new ways during Conner Prairie's Free Admission Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 16 at the Fishers living history museum. Free admission made possible by Hamilton County Community Foundation.

19. The 14th annual Noblesville Brewfest is 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 16 at Forest Park in Noblesville, with all proceeds to benefit Forest Park Aquatic Center. Brewfest is put on by Friends of Central Pool, which partnered with the City of Noblesville in 1997 to save the pool from demolition. Advance sale tickets are \$40 through Sept. 11, \$45 Sept. 12-15 and \$55 day of event, with designated drivers admitted free. For tickets, go to NoblesvilleBrewfest on Facebook.

20. 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 noblesvillebridgeofflowers.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. Also, Noblesville Cultural Arts Commission presents Noblesville Shakespeare in the Park featuring "As You Like It," 8:30 p.m. Sept. 27-30 at Federal Hill

ORECORDS

All persons born in Hamilton County after 1882 have written birth and death certificates on file with the Health Department. Hamilton County did not require birth and death records prior to that time. Records between 1882 and 1968 were handwritten in bound books that are now kept in

fire-proof safes. "These books are treasure troves of information," says Susie Swenson, Vital Records Clerk at the Health Department. 'For example, we know by looking at them that the primary causes of death in the 1800's were Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Typhoid Fever. These diseases are all but non-existent because of the advent of vaccinations, improved living conditions, and antibiotics.

The Health Department has successfully digitized birth and death records as far back as 1920. It is working diligently to digitize the rest. So too, is the Clerk's Office, the official record-keeper for all county-level court cases, as well as documents related to immigration, marriage, divorce, estates, wills, and criminal records.

"These records are the living threads that connect us to our past," says Williams. "For example, we

From Page A1

know Jacob Winter and Elizabeth Cotlin were the first couple in Hamilton County issued a marriage license. They were married by a Justice of the Peace on June 9, 1843."

While the hand-written bounded books aren't open to the public, requests can be made to both agencies for copies of the records they contain.

Anyone needing a copy of a birth or death record, must complete the application below. Hamilton County Birth and Death certificates are issued Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hamilton County Health Department. https:// www.hamiltoncounty. in.gov/255/Vital-Records

Anyone needing documents related to immigration, marriage, divorce, expungements, estates, wills, and criminal records, should complete the form at this link. https://hamiltoncountyindiana-forms.app. transform.civicplus.com/ forms/22600

Preserving our history is not just a duty, but a privilege," Williams adds. "We are proud to be the keepers of such valuable information and will do all we can to ensure our residents have access to these records for hundreds of years to come."

ORECORDS From Page A1

the State of Indiana. Currently, the practice has two locations in Indiana, Terre Haute (opened August 2022) and Fort Wayne (opened October 2022) and will be opening a third location in Naples, FL in October. The flagship facility will be in Noblesville when this project is completed in early 2025.

Today is an exciting

day for Indiana Joint Replacement Institute. Our vision to bring innovative hip and knee care across the State of Indiana is being fully recognized with the development of our flagship facility and the partnerships with the City of Noblesville and Skillman Corporation. Our flagship facility located within the City of Noblesville's Innovation Mile has been designed to promote innovation and advance

hip and knee replacement

care through research, education, and advocacy. By providing an elite experience with superior outcomes, we help patients return to their highest level of function, quality of life, and happiness," said Dr. Michael Meneghini, CEO of Indiana Joint Replacement Institute.

The Noblesville facility includes an ambulatory surgery center with four operating rooms, a hip and knee orthopedic clinic with 20 exam rooms, physical therapy, x-ray, a research gait lab and an education and research conference center.

As previously announced in July, Innovation Mile also will be home to the Noblesville Event Center, a 3,400-seat arena that will be the future site of the Indiana Pacers G League franchise.





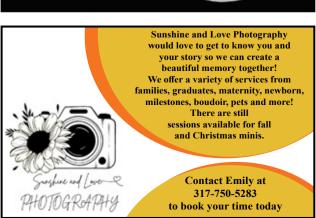
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Friday, September 8, 2023

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BBB Tip: Avoid Bogus Bargains At Going Out Of Business Sales

When brightly colored signs with prominent letters shout "Going Out of Business Sale," "Total Liquidation," or "Everything Must Go!" you might think you are about to get the deal of a lifetime. But you should shop cautiously for several reasons – even when merchandise is deeply discounted. The following tips will help you avoid common pitfalls and get the best deals.

Make sure the deals are real. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, and The Great Resignation drove many retailers out of business. What's bad for businesses often means sales for shoppers, but before you jump on deals, make sure you aren't falling for a con. BBB Scam Tracker has gotten many reports about online "going-out-of-business" sales that either don't exist or don't live up to the hype.

Frustrated shoppers report to BBB Scam Tracker that the products they receive are much worse quality than what was shown online. For example, one victim ordered \$250 worth of "designer" clothes from a New York-based store. Instead, they received low quality items shipped from overseas. "What was supposed to be cotton and/or linen was the worst quality polyester," they told BBB. "The clothes, in general, were nowhere close to the advertised quality on the website images. Definitely NOT the quality I paid for."

Other times, scammers never intend to send you anything at all. They steal your credit card information when you are prompted to pay. These phony sites can also download malware onto your computer and give scammers access to your personal information, passwords, and more.

Avoid fake sale scams with these tips:

Always check a company's reputation on BBB. org before doing business with them. Look beyond the letter grade rating to read the customer reviews and details of complaints to get an idea of what past customers have experienced. You may decide the great prices they advertise may not be worth the potential problems that could arise.

According to the BBB Code of Advertising, liquidation and going out of business sales are considered "emergency" or "distress" sales. Businesses may only advertise this kind of sale if they are actually going out of business. In addition, they have a limited time period to offer such deals. BBB's code states, "If such sales exceed ninety (90) days, advertisers must be prepared to substantiate that the offering is indeed a valid emergency or distress sale." If you notice a business in your area advertising a "going out of business" or "liquidation" sale for months without ever closing, be wary. It could be a shady sales practice. Some businesses use these terms dishonestly to draw in customers and pressure them to buy, often by implying limited access to certain merchandise or a small window of time to purchase.

Know where you shop. Be wary of purchasing items from online retailers with whom you are unfamiliar. Even if you are on the website of a reputable company, double-check the web address before you purchase to be sure scammers haven't redirected you to an imitation site.

Look for a secure connection and a privacy policy. Before you enter your personal information on any website, check for a secure connection. To do this, ensure the URL begins with "https://" and includes a lock icon on the purchase page. HTTPS ensures that users' internet experience is secure as they use their computers to browse the web. The lack of a privacy policy is also a red flag.

Use your credit card. Paying with a credit card gives you the advantage of being able to dispute fraudulent charges. This is the safest payment method for purchasing items online. Be warned, however, that your credit card company may not keep this up indefinitely. If you routinely shop at shady websites, they may

refuse to return your money. Even in legitimate goingout-of-business sales, some businesses hire third-party liquidators to help them get the most money possible from their remaining merchandise. After all, the business owner is still responsible for paying off any outstanding bills they owe, even after their business closes. Third-party liquidators often mark merchandise up first and then offer a small discount in the first week or two of the sale. This offers a better return to the business owner, but consumers may unwittingly end up paying more than the original price of the product, even though the seller claims it is discounted. To avoid falling into this trap, shop around. Compare prices at other stores to ensure the "discounted" item you plan to purchase is cheaper than the normal price.

Think about returns and warranties. If you have not received goods or services you have already paid for, all may not be lost. BBB has these tips to help you toward resolution:

Collect receipts, proofs of purchase, and other documents such as warranties and manuals. These materials will help you prepare for your request

for a resolution. Check with the bank or credit card you used to make the purchase(s) at the now-closed company. You may be able to dispute the transaction(s) due to failure to receive goods or services. Credit cards offer more consumer protections on purchases than debit cards, so it's generally better to shop with a credit card, particularly for big-ticket items.

Try to contact the company to complete the transaction or resolve the issue. Some closed companies will offer an email, website, or phone number to contact for more information. Check with your BBB to see if they have information about the company, or search for the company on BBB.org. If the business has a physical

address, check for a notice posted with information on where to turn for help. Also, look at the company's website and social media presence for information.

If the company has not filed for bankruptcy, the business is still obligated to fulfill your order for goods, services, or a refund. Closing a business doesn't relieve the owner of that responsibility. While it can be time-consuming and expensive, a consumer may take the company to court.

For returns: if you have a warranty for an item you bought at the store, look into whether the manufacturer or the store issued the warranty. If the manufacturer issues the warranty, it will most likely honor it. When a company goes out of business, its warranties and services often die unless other agreements have been made

If you have unused gift cards for a closed business, bankruptcy filings will likely determine if and how they can be used or claimed.

Use up gift cards and pay with a credit card. Gift cards might seem like the perfect present for a hard-to-shop-for friend or family member, but they are not without drawbacks. When a store goes out of business, gift cards do, too. With the announcement of Bed Bath and Beyond's bankruptcy and David's Bridal, this issue is back on shoppers' minds. The Federal Trade Commission's decision in 2010 declared that gift cards couldn't expire for at least five years. These regulations differ by province in Canada. However, the situation changes when a business declares bankruptcy. If you miss the deadline to redeem a gift card, you can file a claim for the card's value. However, these claims are processed behind the company's major creditors. So if you see news about a company preparing to file for bankruptcy, use your gift cards immediately.

Don't make impulsive decisions. Going out-of-business sales aims to get merchandise out the door fast. Advertisers use a sense of urgency and scarcity to pressure consumers into buying things they may not need simply because the price is too good to pass up.

Use good judgment. When shopping going out of business sales, don't be too hasty. Ensure that the deals are real before making a purchase.

Check to make sure the business and products are legit. Ensure you are getting a good deal on a product that isn't defective.

Be cautious. Going out of business sales can be a great way to save money on products you need, but always proceed with caution.

For more information and to learn how to protect yourself, Google "BBB 10 Steps to Avoid Scams". If you spot a scam, whether you have lost money or not, report it to BBB's Scam Tracker at BBB. org/ScamTracker and the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Your story can help protect consumers from similar scams.

Solar Energy Innovator Launches US Headquarters, Manufacturing In Indiana

Bila Solar, a solar energy startup, launched Tuesday, announced plans to establish its U.S. headquarters and a state-ofthe-art solar module manufacturing facility in Indianapolis, creating more than 240 new jobs in the coming years.

"Indiana's entrepreneurial ecosystem is strong, and we're excited to welcome Bila Solar to our growing network of innovators advancing products that power the world," said Governor Eric J. Holcomb. "With Bila's new Indianapolis manufacturing operation, Indiana's skilled workforce will be making solar energy more accessible and powering our growing clean energy sector to new heights."

Bila Solar will invest more than \$35 million in its new headquarters and manufacturing facility, renovating and equipping an existing 150,000-square-foot space just south of downtown Indianapolis at 1249 S. White River Parkway East Drive. The new factory, which is expected to begin production in the summer of 2024, will produce a yearly capacity of one gigawatt (GW) of innovative glassless, frameless solar modules – an output akin to crafting around 5,000 high-capacity modules daily. Bila's debut product will increase opportunities for solar power where traditional glass modules cannot be used, accelerating the transition to clean energy.

"We are thrilled to begin the Bila Solar journey in Indianapolis," said Mick McDaniel, vice president and U.S. general manager of Bila Solar. "We're bringing to the U.S. market ultralight modules that go where traditional solar panels can't go. In Indianapolis, we found a central urban location, a diverse workforce and an entrepreneurial spirit – ideal for our out-ofthe-box approach to making clean energy attainable for all."

Bila's new operations will help power Indiana's clean energy storage and production industry, which ranks No. 4 in the U.S. for the most clean energy capacity in development by Canary Media.

The company's debut product is a lightweight solar module that combines the reliability and high efficiency of crystalline silicon solar cells with the lightness of specialty designed and patented aerospace composites. Weighing just 30% of regular glass panels and 95% slimmer, these modules can be employed in various challenging applications, including low load-bearing commercial and industrial roofs, waterproof membrane roofs, integration into vehicles for solar power and off-grid energy utilization.

"We are excited to welcome Bila Solar to Indianapolis," said Mayor Joe Hogsett. "This partnership not only bolsters our shared commitment to power greener solutions, but also underscores the importance of good-paying jobs in Indianapolis neighborhoods. Just recently, Indianapolis was ranked one of the top cities in the Midwest to launch a startup, and Bila Solar's \$35 million investment and creation of 240 new jobs in Indianapolis is a testament to that."

Pending approval of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) board of directors, the IEDC will commit an investment in Bila Solar of up to \$4.2 million in the form of incentive-based tax credits and up to \$300,000 in workforce training grants, based on the company's investment and job creation plans. The IEDC will also commit an investment of up to \$2 million in Hoosier Business Investment tax credits and up to \$200,000 in Manufacturing Readiness Grants, which are designed to help companies invest in smart manufacturing and new technologies. These tax credits are performance-based, meaning the company is eligible to claim incentives once Hoosiers are hired. The city of Indianapolis will offer additional incentives.

About Bila Solar

Bila Solar is an innovative solar energy company that manufactures groundbreaking solutions to transform and power the world, driving evolution in the renewable energy sector. The company's flagship product – ultralight solar modules – transcends traditional limitations by enabling installations on low load-bearing roofs and curved surfaces, locations where traditional solar modules can't go.

Based in Singapore, the company's U.S. headquarters is located in Indianapolis, Ind. Learn more at bilasolar.com, LinkedIn, YouTube and Twitter: @BilaSolar and Threads @ BilaSolar.

About IEDC The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) leads the state of Indiana's economic development efforts, helping businesses launch, grow and locate in the state. Governed by a 15-member board chaired by Governor Eric J. Holcomb, the IEDC manages many initiatives, including performance-based tax credits, workforce training grants, innovation and entrepreneurship resources, public infrastructure assistance, and talent attraction and retention efforts. For more information about the IEDC, visit iedc.in.gov.



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The Times of Noblesville Friday, September 8, 2023

Biden, Trump And World Issues, Fervor Or Fever?



GLENN MOLLETTE Guest Columnist

Every day in America we hear the names of Biden and Trump mentioned on various news television or radio stations. We daily hear about the struggles of Ukraine and Russia. Border security, illegal immigrants, inner city issues and China are almost daily themes.

How could we ever get through a day in America without hearing these ongoing names, themes and issues? It doesn't seem like we can especially if we daily watch the national news.

Many of us don't want to live with our heads in the sand thinking the world is a cozy place with everyone living in unity. Most of us understand the world has problems and political personalities that we either admire or abhor or can't live without. However, most of us have our breaking point

when it comes to the daily fodder of political jockeying, mudslinging and media grids committed to swaying how you are supposed to feel about different candidates or world problems.

Recently I attended my high school senior class reunion and thoroughly enjoyed the gathering of old classmates. We caught up on old times, old ballgames, previous teachers and administrators as well as how life is going today. We remembered those who are already deceased and heard some funny stories and jokes. We shared food together and enjoyed small talk, laughs and some hugs. The line often repeated throughout the evening was, "You sure are looking good." This was an honest compliment for the most part because old friends always look good. An old classmate or someone who shared years of school history with you is typically a welcomed

sight. I couldn't help but noticing as the evening wound down that I didn't hear anybody wanting to argue about politics or political candidates. I didn't hear anyone worried that China might invade Taiwan. There wasn't discussion about our border or America's

growing homeless crisis. Our two plus hours was spent simply enjoying each other, reminiscing and having a few laughs. A lot of good admiring words where shared between people making for an enjoyable evening. We had a two-hour successful gathering that didn't involve the top news stories of the week or the bad stuff that we hear about

every day. Taking a break of from all of the mainstream daily tensions that divide many of us would be a novel idea for all of us. Take a break from it all, at least occasionally. Just focus on kindness, friendship, helping people and

being good to each other. You'll have ample opportunity to express your frustrations when you vote or when you decide to watch a political debate. There are plenty of those coming. If you start feeling like you are an indifferent and detached from reality, then you can always turn on the evening news to have your fervor or fever reignited.

UncommSense, the Spiritual Chocolate series, Grandpa's Store, Minister's Guidebook insights from a fellow minister. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.

We Lack Only The Will To Fix Immigration



MARK FRANKE **Guest Columnist**

Immigration may be a difficult problem but that does not preclude a solution — that is, assuming there is the political will to affect such a solution.

The political morass is beyond my comprehension or ability to navigate. That frees me to think unencumbered for possible solutions. Fortunately, I hang out with a group of friends who like to focus on what can be done rather than what can't. Several weeks ago we spent a couple of hours trying to arrive at a workable and reasonable proposal to solve this

mess. Any proposal would balance the following set of criteria: recognizing America's heritage as a nation of immigrants; realistically assessing our social network's ability to absorb a given level of immigration; meeting the needs of the American economy for entry level and professional workers; and ensuring entry only of those who have been qualified.

That should be easy enough.

At some point in the discussion, one of our group suggested metaphorically constructing a high wall with a wide gate. What he was envisioning was an immigration control process that minimized the illegal entries while expeditiously processing the legal ones. A brilliant trope, in my opinion, but then the devil is always in the details.

The group was not shy about offering details for consideration.

One member, who clearly had given much thought to this, offered a comprehensive package of proposals. The foundation for his system-in-waiting is an

e-verify process that would require employers to access before hiring any new workers. Records for all legal workers, both citizens and visa-holders, would be accessible for instant lookup. Employers would be required to verify the worker before hiring and, as this is a government program, be subject to significant fines for non-compliance.

One objection sure to come is the inclusion of citizens in this database. The privacy choir is sure to be heard on this. While understandable, employers already have access to confidential employee information for the purpose of reporting income and tax withholding. It is the age of Big Brother — remember that started in 1984 — and this system just won't work without all workers in it. Confidentiality protections can be built and enforced.

I think the genius of this idea is a restricted amnesty provision for current illegal workers to apply for inclusion in this system without a risk of legal repercussions. Rather than calling this the politically charged name "amnesty," I prefer labeling it an "armistice." It is time we all admit the reality of the current state of affairs and consider a practical and achievable fix for all those "undocumented' workers who are contributing to our economy.

Note that this would set a hard deadline for compliance. After that date those not registered would be subject to immediate deportation. This will work if the guarantee to those who register is credible. It requires trust, something in short supply today.

The economy's need for more workers can be addressed by new immigrant workers who desire to come to America for job opportunities. A more efficient system for approval and placement is essential. There are too many entry-level jobs as well as skilled and professional positions not being filled by citizens. The "Help Wanted" signs are everywhere.

The system must also

accommodate those temporary workers who have no desire for citizenship or permanent residence. Seasonal farm workers fall into this category. Work visas should be liberally and expeditiously granted to these workers. Entry and exit records would assure compliance.

Beyond this new verification system, there are some other immigration issues which must be addressed. The path to citizenship should be reassessed and perhaps shortened for those who have been here for years, gainfully employed and with no criminal record.

The proposed package is not without controversial provisions, such eliminating automatic citizenship to any baby born within our borders. I don't' know if this is a problem in reality or only in theory. The Center for Immigration Studies, self-proclaimed as "low-immigration, pro-immigrant," estimates about one in 12 U. S. births are to illegal immigrants. The center concedes that this might be an under-count.

But here is the problem with eliminating this right to citizenship: the Fourteenth Amendment. Given our toxic political scene, it is hard to conceive of any constitutional amendment that could get two-thirds support in Congress and then be ratified by three-quarters of the states. Flogging this dead horse will only be a distraction from the achievable aspects of this package.

Then there is the issue of offering government benefits to illegal immigrants. The data on the cost of this is confounded by too many studies seeming to prove what the sponsors want proved.

Can it work? We think so. Can it pass? Probably not, at least in the alternate reality that exists in the halls of Congress. But somebody needs to do something, and soon.

Mark Franke, M.B.A., an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review and its book reviewer, is formerly an associate vice-chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.



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