

# The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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## ➤ TODAY'S VERSE

Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.



## ➤ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Ka'Lena Cuevas smile? "Only the worst cliches come to mind when trying to answer this question, but it reminds me of one of my favorite Shakespeare plays: 'The robbed that smiles, steals something from the thief,'" said the Fishers resident, who is often found producing local community theater productions. On Monday, she earned Encore Association's award for Best Production of a Drama for Main Street Productions' "August: Osage County," directed by Brent Wooldridge, at Basile Westfield Playhouse, during the 54th annual Encore Awards at The Toby Theatre in Indianapolis. In 2022, she earned Encore Association's 2022 Awards for Best Production of a Comedy for the playhouse's "Rumors" and Best Production of a Drama for the Playhouse's "Mice and Men." Before that, she earned Best Production of a Comedy for the Playhouse's 2019 "Lie, Cheat and Genueflect." She recently was producer of Main Street Productions' "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," directed by Andrea Odle. She was also recently co-producer with Joni Corbett of Noblesville Cultural Arts Commission's Noblesville Shakespeare in the Park comedy, "As You Like It," in September. Cuevas, who recently gave birth to a baby boy, was born and raised in New York City (Chelsea, Manhattan) and when she was a teenager moved with her family to Oahu, Hawaii, until she left for college, "which is what brought me here (to Indiana)," said Cuevas, who graduated from DePauw University. After finishing grad school on the East Coast, she moved to Indianapolis, then Fishers. Why theater? "I've always loved theater. My parents would take my siblings and me to Broadway and Off-Broadway shows growing up in NYC, and I still remember those," said Cuevas, who took acting and playwriting classes in college and majored in English. Read more about the Encore Awards in the Betsy Reason column in today's edition of The Times.

## And Another Thing...

### 1. Gray Road Open!

Drivers in southern Hamilton County are surely pleased that Gray Road is once again open. The Hamilton County Highway Department advised that on Wednesday of this week, Gray Road - between 106th and 96th streets - reopened. The road had been closed for work on a bridge there.

### 2. An abundance of 'twin-dergarteners'

"While the first day of kindergarten can sometimes be anxiety-inducing for young children, having a built-in buddy along on the first day of school is one of the benefits for these incoming twin-dergarteners," says The Colonial School District in Montgomery County, PA. The District made the remark in announcing that 17 sets of twins were starting kindergarten in the 2023-24 school year. As one kindergarten teacher in area put it: "I have been a kindergarten teacher for 20 years. Usually, there's maybe a couple sets of twins, if that."



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

**Rob Lawson of Noblesville received an Encore Award for Best Cameo in a Drama in Main Street Productions' "August: Osage County" at Basile Westfield Playhouse on Monday night during the Encore Association's 54th annual Encore Awards at The Toby Theatre in Indianapolis. "You know, I've wanted one of these for a long, long time," Lawson said during his acceptance speech. The play earned 10 Encore Awards.**



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

**Main Street Productions in Westfield received two Encore awards for "The Curious Savage," directed by Nancy Lafferty: Best Major Supporting Actress in a Comedy, Phoebe Aldridge (above middle with Tanya Haas and Ian Montgomery); and Best Ensemble in a Drama, The Residents during the Encore Association's 54th annual Encore Awards on Monday night.**

## Local Theaters Earn 25 Encore Awards



**BETSY REASON**  
From The Editor's Desk...

Well, I didn't win the Encore Awards Best Production of a Drama for The Belfry Theatre's "Rehearsal for Murder."

But I wasn't expecting to win. Many,

many talented folks received about 70 awards presented to the best of the best in community theater on Monday night during the 54th annual Encore Awards.

Also, my daughter was one of two recipients of the annual Jean Cones Memorial Scholarship, a monetary amount annually given at the Encore Awards to a deserving youth age 18 and younger and who will use the money for a theater opportunity; Now back to the winners.

I was up against five other nominees in my category, with the Best Production of a Drama awarded to Main Street Pro-

ductions' Ka'Lena Cuevas of Fishers, producer of "August: Osage County."

Main Street Productions, which presents all shows at Basile Westfield Playhouse, earned a total 17 Encore Awards, mostly for "August: Osage County," which received 10 Encore Awards, that also included: Best Director of a Drama, Brent Wooldridge; Best Lead Actress in a Drama, Molly Bellner; Best Major Supporting Actor in a Drama, Jim LaMonte (tie); Best Cameo in a Drama, Rob Lawson; Best Set Design of a Drama, Ron Roessler; Best Set Decoration of a Drama, Ian Marshall-Fisher and Pam Jensen; Best Lighting Design for a Drama, Eric Matters; and Best Light Board Operator for a Drama, Aaron Ploof; Best Props for a Play, Pam Jensen.

Westfield received four Encore awards for "Spitfire Grill:" Best Major Supporting Actor in a Musical, Scott Fleshood; Best Sound Design for a Musical,

➔ See BETSY Page A6

## HHSC Celebrates Principals As Part Of National Principals Month

October marks the celebration of a special group of leaders in our community - our school principals. These dedicated individuals play a pivotal role in shaping our students' futures and the trajectory of our education system.



JULIE GRIFFEY



KEN WATSON

This month-long celebration is an opportunity to recognize and thank our principals for their unwavering dedication, exceptional leadership, and remarkable impact on student success.

We are taking the opportunity to share an up-close look at the extraordinary individuals serving at the helm of Hamilton Heights Elementary School. Thank you Julie Griffey, Principal and Ken Watson Assistant Principal for setting high expectations for our students and educators. In your roles you have shaped the conditions for our teachers and students to learn and succeed. We are forever grateful for your impact

➔ See HHSC Page A6

## New Contract For Noblesville Teachers Aims To Keep District Competitive

Noblesville Schools announced Tuesday that they have settled on a new two-year contract with the Noblesville Teachers' Forum.

The agreement aims to keep Noblesville Schools competitive as the teacher shortage and salary increases by area districts continue to make recruiting and retaining top academic talent a challenge. Over the life of the contract, Noblesville teachers will see an increase to \$48,000/year for starting salary and sizeable increases for veteran teachers.

"Competitive compensation is a top priority," said Dr. Daniel G. Hile, superintendent of Noblesville Schools. "Despite historic increases in recent years, our salaries have continued to lag others in the area as those districts have also made significant increases in their compensation. Teachers are at the heart of what we do, and we cannot provide the best academic outcomes for our students

➔ See CONTRACT Page A6

## The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 8:08 a.m.  
SET: 6:54 p.m.



**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 77 °F  
Low: 62 °F



Today is...

- National Pumpkin Day
- Vote Early Day
- National Mule Day

**What Happened On This Day**

- 2001 Patriot Act Comes into Effect in the US. Signed into law by President George W. Bush as a result of the September 11, 2001, attacks, the act is formally known as Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001.

- 1984 First Infant to Receive an Organ From Another Species. Born on October 14, 1984, with a rare congenital heart defect, Baby Fae received a heart from a baboon. The surgery was performed by Dr. Leonard L. Bailey at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California.

- 1863 The Football (Soccer) Association is Formed. The world's oldest governing football body was created at the Freemasons' Tavern in London. The foundation was instrumental in creating and formalizing rules of the game.



**Births On This Day**

- 1973 Seth MacFarlane American animator, voice actor, singer
- 1947 Hillary Clinton American politician, 67th United States Secretary of State, 44th First Lady of the United States

**Deaths On This Day**

- 1902 Elizabeth Cady Stanton American activist
- 899 Alfred the Great English king

## ➤ INSIDE TODAY

- Service Directory.....A4
- EarthTalk.....A4
- Tim Timmons.....A4
- Indiana Facts & Fun.....A7

## ➤ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Are you a "shoveler?" - put down your fork in between bites of food and chew your food thoroughly. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at thetimes24-7.com



## ➤ HONEST HOOSIER

I think for Halloween I'm going to trick or treat as former Colts QB Andrew Luck. That means I can get the neighborhood gang ready to go out and decide at the last minute to go off on my own.



## ➤ TODAY'S QUOTE

"On Halloween, the parents sent their kids out looking like me."  
-Rodney Dangerfield

## ➤ TODAY'S JOKE

What did Frankenstein say when he woke up from his nap?  
I had a shocking dream.

## ➤ OBITUARIES

None



The Times appreciates all our customers.  
Today, we'd like to personally thank  
**WILLIAM LYNCH**  
for subscribing!

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

61/77 CLOUDY WED	62/77 PARTLY CLOUDY THU	65/78 PARTLY SUNNY FRI	62/70 RAIN BECOMES THUNDER SAT	56/65 WET SUN	43/50 CLEARING MILD COLD MON	29/47 CHILLY HALLOWEEN TUE
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## City Of Fishers Opens Nominations For 2024 Inclusion & Accessibility Awards

Residents & businesses encouraged to nominate community members for Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability's annual awards

Fishers community members and employers are invited to submit nominations for the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability's 2024 Inclusion and Accessibility Awards beginning on Wednesday, November 1 through Friday, December 8.

The awards will be presented at the 2024 March Disability Awareness Month kickoff event on March 1, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at Launch Fishers Huston Theater (12175 Visionary Way, Fishers). The annual March Disability Awareness Month celebration, hosted by the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability, will feature a series of special events and initiatives throughout the city to be announced early next year.

"Every year, the Fishers community showcases its dedication to building an inclusive environment where every individual can thrive. These awards not only celebrate those who work tirelessly toward inclusion and accessibility, but also serve as inspiration for others," said Cecilia Coble, co-chair of the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability. "Whether it's an individual breaking barriers or a business fostering opportunities, every nomination tells a story of resilience, determination, and unity. We invite our community members and employers to tell these stories to highlight the spirit of Fishers."

2024 award categories include:

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### Life Without Limits Award

The recipient of the Life Without Limits Award is an individual with physical and/or intellectual disabilities who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the community of Fishers by promoting inclusion, independence, and eliminating barriers. Contributions of community life include art, culture, athletics, workplace,

education, leadership, and service.

Previous winners include Zach Curtis in 2023 and Carter Gordan in 2022.

\*\*\*

### Cornerstone Employer Award

The Cornerstone Employer Award is given to an individual, business, or organization in the Fishers community who has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to providing inclusion, career training, employment, and/or advancement opportunities to persons with disabilities.

Previous winners include Hampton Inn Fishers in 2023 and June Barnes & Rod Sutherland of Geist Elementary School in 2022.

\*\*\*

### 2024 Accessibility Award

The Accessibility Award recognizes an individual, business, or organization in the Fishers community that has made exceptional contributions to advocate and/or eliminate barriers in aspects of community life to ensure persons with disabilities can access and participate in programs, activities, and events.

Previous winners include the Tsimerakis Family in 2023 and Tom Rich in 2022.

The Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability was established in 2017 to bring together businesses, organizations, residents with disabilities, and various stakeholders to establish priorities and strategies to address the various challenges and needs facing the disability community. Their goal is to promote inclusion and accessibility and to strive to make Fishers a community where people with physical and intellectual disabilities can live life without limits.

To learn more about the awards and submit a nomination, visit fishers.in.us/DisabilityAwareness.

## Bipartisan Leaders Unite To Champion Carmel Schools Referendum

In a remarkable display of bipartisanship and community commitment, Stephanie Flittner, a dedicated Republican, and Nicki McNally, a passionate Democrat, have united their efforts to lead the Carmel School Referendum, known as the 'Yes for CCS' Political Action Committee (PAC).

Their shared vision transcends political boundaries and underscores the importance of coming together for Carmel Clay Schools.

Flittner and McNally initially bonded during the school board races when they discovered a common perspective: that politics has no place in schools. McNally emphasizes, "I'm all about moderation; I don't care if someone is a Democrat or Republican. I just like people who are reasonable. Let the experts do their jobs."

Flittner adds, "when the referendum came up, it made sense to work together to essentially just show that politics really has no place in the schools, that we all want the best for our kids. Strong schools are not a party issue - they are a community issue. Beyond party lines, we united for the district's children's educational future, showing that politics shouldn't overshadow the general community's best interests."

Both Flittner and McNally share a fervent belief in Carmel's future. They understand that Carmel Clay Schools are the foundation of the community and an indispensable part of its ongoing success.

The two leaders are at the helm of the "Yes for CCS" PAC because they view it as a bipartisan endeavor that impacts every Carmel resident. They recognize that a quality education not only benefits our children but also directly influences property values and the

overall quality of life.

Both women have personal stake in the future of Carmel Clay Schools with their children both having time left in Carmel Schools.

McNally reflects on what a 'No' vote on the referendum could mean: "Thinking about what my son's education could look like with no referendum. It would just be a totally different experience than his brothers and sisters. I don't want him to lose out on opportunities. This is too important to let it slide. I don't want my son to have a 'less than' education compared to my other children."

In her own words, Nicki McNally adds, "Schools should not be politicized. Kids should not be politicized. Politicians should not run our schools. Schools should not be a political battleground."

Flittner and McNally invite all Carmel residents to be part of this crucial movement.

With the referendum date fast approaching, it's essential to remember that these funds do not impose a new tax burden but rather renew the existing rate that has been in place since 2017. Nearly 20% of the annual budget for salaries, benefits, and educational programming relies on these funds. A "No" vote would necessitate slashing almost \$24 million from the budget, resulting in reduced teaching staff, larger class sizes, and a compromised quality of education.

The health of Carmel's property values is intimately connected to the quality of our schools. A "Yes" vote guarantees the sustainability of high-quality education, benefiting our children and maintaining property values.

Mark your calendars and make your voice heard on November 7th.

## Sheridan Public Library November Events

Babies + Toddlers:  
November 7,14,21,28  
at 11am Baby Time (0-18mos)

November 2,9,16,30  
at 11am Discovery Time (18-36mos)

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### Preschool:

November 1,8, 15 at 11am Mindful Movements (ages 2-6)

November 3,10,17 at 11am Story Time (ages 3-6)

November 29 at 11am Parachute Play (ages 2-6)

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### Grades K-5:

November 7,14,21,28 at 3pm Lego Club

November 9 at 1pm Homeschool Meetup

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### Grades 6-12:

November 2,9,16,30 at 4pm Rippers

November 9 at 1pm Homeschool Meetup

November 15 at 3:30pm Charades by TAB (Teen Advisory Board)

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### Adults:

November 1,8,15,29 at 11am Needle Crafters

November 1 at 6pm Friends Meeting

November 7 at 3pm

Adult Bingo  
November 3,10,17 at 11am Chair Yoga

November 15 at 5:30pm Sheridan Readers Book Club: Band of Sisters by Lauren Willig

November 16 at 6pm Genealogy Introduction presented by Sheridan Historical Society

November 20 at 6pm Pinner's

November 30 at 6pm Sugar Scrub Class

\*\*\*

All Ages:  
Month of November - Grateful Read Beanstack Challenge

November 2 at 6pm Wits + Wagers Game Show (Trivia)

November 8 at 6pm Family Science Night

\*Registration required  
November 17 at 6pm Bingo Night, Free Event

November 18 at 9am-1pm Puzzle Swap

SPL will close at 5:30pm on November 22nd and will be closed

November 23 and 24th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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

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## Holiday Preview Sip + Shop At Carmel City Center

Join the Shops at Carmel City Center on Saturday, November 4 from 2-6 p.m. for a Holiday Preview Shopping Event! Visitors can kick-start their holiday shopping with the locally owned merchants at Carmel City Center while sipping on wine and Peppermint White Russians at four of the participating Shops. Shoppers can also enjoy holiday carols by students from Carmel High School's Select Sound. Members of Select Sound will be caroling around the Center during the event from 2-5 p.m.

Complimentary wine tastings and Peppermint White Russians will be available at Addendum, Baseline Social, Forever Gallery and Hey Little Diddle Child along with some light hors d'oeuvres at select Shops. Participating Shops will have special holiday promotions.

**14 Districts:** Buy 1 item get 2nd item half off, buy 2 items receive 3rd item free. \*Discount taken on lesser value items.

**317Home:** Enter to win a \$50 gift card with any purchase during the event.

Addendum MacKenzie-Childs: Purchase 4 Nora Fleming minis and receive a 5th mini for free. Enjoy 20% off Stony Clover patches with the purchase of a bag.

**Addendum:** Receive a gift (valued at \$99) with any \$250 Juliska purchase. Receive a free gift with a \$250 Michael Aram purchase.

**Afterglow Market:** Buy any 2 items and get a 3rd item half off OR buy any 3 items and get a 4th item free.

**Hey Little Diddle Child:** Shop the Rylee+Cru pop-up event in Hey Little Diddle Child. Matching Rylee+Cru Mom clothing XS-XL and

select Rylee+Cru children sizes birth up to 10-12 years old.

**Kits & Kaboodle Classic Toys:** Stop in and enjoy a fun handprint ornament event from 2-6 p.m. Ornaments are \$15 each.

**Lily & Sparrow Boutique:** Enjoy 15% off your purchase of \$100 or more.

**Little Tulip Tree:** Enjoy special in-store pink prices during the event.

**Linden Tree Gifts:** Enjoy the Happy Everything Holiday Party event! Receive a free attachment with the purchase of a base plus 20% off all Happy Everything items.

**Uplift Intimate Apparel:** Enjoy the Montelle Trunk Show and be entered to win a \$50 gift certificate. During the Trunk Show, with every \$150 purchase of the Montelle brands, receive a beautiful Modal chemise while supplies last.

**Lineout Aesthetics Boutique:** Enjoy 15% off any aesthetic service for the month of November. (Located in MY SALON Suite)

During the event, visitors can enter to win a \$75 gift certificate at HerMD, Lily & Sparrow Boutique and Out of the Blue Polish Pottery when they visit those shops.

Mark your calendars! Carmel City Center will host another holiday Sip & Shop event on Saturday, December 2nd from 12 to 3 p.m.

Carmel City Center is located at the southwest corner of City Center Drive and Rangeline Road. Parking is available along the street and surface parking is available on plaza level (accessible from City Center Drive) and in the underground garage (accessible from Range Line Road as well as City Center Drive) and in the Veterans Way

## Noblesville Employees Participate In HCHD 'Stop the Bleed' Training

City of Noblesville employees from the Street, Planning, Utilities, Parks, and Engineering Departments recently participated in "Stop the Bleed" training through the Hamilton County Health Department. The city also acquired "Stop the Bleed" kits through an initiative grant from the Hamilton County Health Department.

"We are grateful to the Hamilton County Health Department for awarding the City of Noblesville 'Stop the Bleed' kits and providing life-saving

bleeding control techniques to aid in a variety of situations," said Noblesville Human Resources Director Holly Ramon. "Keeping city employees trained and prepared for emergency situations is critical for resident and employee safety. This training can also be applicable in their day-to-day lives and could be the difference in saving a life."

The "Stop the Bleed" program was created by the American College of Surgeons. Participants learn how to provide direct pressure

to a bleeding wound, how to pack a bleeding wound, and how to apply a tourniquet – providing confidence to jump into action in situations where seconds matter. This type of training is important for city employees whose responsibilities throughout the community can at times encounter risks and hazards that involve the need for assistance.

"A 'Stop the Bleed' course is something everyone should consider taking because it provides the tools to handle an emergency

and potentially save someone's life. You never know if you are at work, home, or in the car when you may need to use the skills learned in the course to save a person from bleeding to death," Hamilton County Health Department Health Education Specialist Jim Ginder said.

For more information about "Stop the Bleed" and other programs/training offered by the Hamilton County Health Department, visit [www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/254/Health-Department](http://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/254/Health-Department).

## Songbook Foundation Announces New Board Members

Four new members have been elected to the Board of Directors for the nonprofit Great American Songbook Foundation. Board members serve three-year terms on a volunteer basis.

Andy Marx of Los Angeles is an award-winning writer and photographer whose work has appeared in The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Variety and other leading

publications. He is the grandson of comedy legend Groucho Marx as well as renowned songwriter Gus Kahn, whose papers are housed in the Songbook Library & Archives.

Victoria Purvis of Carmel is the Director of Corporate Treasury for Group 1001, having previously worked at Whirlpool and Price Waterhouse Coopers. The Carmel High School and

University of Alabama graduate holds an MBA from Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Management.

Tony Robertson of Carmel is the CFO of Texas-based Onsite Health Diagnostics and owner of Midwest Venture Group, an investor in small businesses. He holds an MBA in Business Strategy and Entrepreneurship from Indiana University.

David Stirsman of Carmel is an attorney, real estate developer and co-owner of Salon 01 in Carmel. He and his wife, Micki, are longtime supporters of the Songbook Foundation and the affiliated Center for the Performing Arts.

The board's current officers are Karen Kelsey, chair; Don Gottwald, vice chair; Rollin M. Dick, treasurer; and Troy Payner, M.D., secretary.

## BBB Tip: Shop Safe And Shop Smart This Holiday Season

The 2023 holiday shopping season promises to be an unpredictable one. High inflation rates and increased prices of consumer goods are already throwing a wrench into holiday shopping. Electronics, toys, and other products will be (or already are) in short supply, and retailers are struggling to staff up as the shopping season nears.

Just like in 2022, people plan to start their holiday shopping early. Watch out for deals well before Black Friday sales. Retailers are also expecting to see even more people shopping online.

Product shortages and increased online shopping will likely result in more online purchase scams this year. These scams accounted for nearly a third of all scams reported to BBB Scam Tracker in 2022, according to the 2022 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report. Shortages are likely to make purchase scams even more common as desperate shoppers turn to shady websites in hopes

of finding this year's must-have gift.

BBB recommends the following tips to "Shop Safe, Shop Smart" this holiday season:

Research before you buy. Use BBB.org and shopper reviews to do your homework before paying.

If the deal looks too good to be true, it probably is. The price was the top motivating factor for people who made a purchase and lost money. Don't shop on price alone.

Beware of fake websites: Check the URL, watch for bad grammar, research the age of the domain, and search for contact information.

Professional photos do not mean it's a real offer. Respondents reported that website photos motivated them to engage with scammers, especially for pets/pet supplies, clothing/accessories, and vehicles.

Make sure the website is secure. Look for the "HTTPS" in the URL (the extra s is for "secure") and a small lock icon on the address

bar. Never enter payment or personal information into a website with only "HTTP" – it is NOT secure.

Be careful purchasing sought-after products, especially during the holiday season. The risk of online purchase scams rises during the holidays because more people are making online purchases, and scammers offer the most popular products for the season at great prices.

Beware of making quick purchases while scrolling through social media. Scammers have access to tools they need to learn about your buying behaviors, offering exactly what you want at enticingly low prices.

Look for the BBB seal. BBB Accredited Businesses pledge to uphold the BBB Standards for Trust and to deal fairly with consumers. If a business displays a BBB seal, verify it by going to BBB.org.

Use secure and traceable transactions and payment methods. According to BBB's research, those who paid with a credit card


were less likely to lose money. Be cautious when using digital wallet apps, prepaid money cards, or other non-traditional payment methods.

Shipment tracking information can be faked. Look closely to make sure it is a legitimate business. Avoid clicking on the tracking link; go to the shipper's website and type in the code to see if it is real.

Report unsatisfactory purchase experiences to BBB. If you are unhappy with a purchase, file a complaint at BBB.org/complaints. If you never got what you paid for, consider reporting it to BBB Scam Tracker to help other consumers avoid being scammed.

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.

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# Large-Scale Solar: Are We Doing Enough?



**Dear EarthTalk:** What are we doing to promote and advance the kind of large-scale development of solar and other renewables needed to transition away from fossil fuels?

We may not have any time to waste in our effort to wean ourselves off fossil fuels. Getting the United States to a place where our electricity needs can be met by renewables is going to take concerted effort on the part of a multitude of public and private entities.

According to the trade group, Solar Energy Industries Association, utility scale solar projects are few and far between in the U.S. right now, but represents the fastest growing sector of the domestic energy market. SEIA reports that there are more than 37,000 megawatts (MW) of utility-scale solar projects currently up and running across the country, and another 112,000 MW are under development.

According to the energy research firm Woods Mackenzie, converting the entire U.S. power grid to 100 percent renewable energy over the next 10 years—just in time to possibly avert cataclysmic climate change—is technologically and logistically possible, but would cost something like \$4.5 trillion. While that is a lot of money, how much money

is too much when it comes to saving humanity and the rest of the living planet's inhabitants?

And without some kind of vision or roadmap, there's no way we can make the transition quickly enough to save ourselves. That's why six large solar developers, land conservation and environmental groups, tribal entities, agricultural interests, community groups and investors came together in October 2023 to commit to furthering the build-out of large-scale solar infrastructure across the U.S. While it may seem like bad business for competitors to work together, the challenge is great enough that they all can benefit, especially if we can transition quickly. A rising tide lifts all boats.

This recent agreement reinforces efforts already underway at the local and regional levels across the country. The federal government's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has been working with large-scale farms from coast-to-coast in an effort to pair solar installations with agriculture—so called agrivoltaics—creating energy and providing space for crops, grazing and native habitats under and between photovoltaic panels. NREL is partnering with researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to investigate how to optimize both crop production and the generation of renewable

energy to maximize farm profitability while helping transition the nation away from fossil fuels.

Meanwhile, municipal, county and state governments across the U.S. are showing increased interest in implementing large-scale solar projects in their own locales. To this end, the American Planning Association recently published its free guidebook, Solar@Scale, designed to help local government practitioners—including planners, economic development professionals, local government managers and elected and appointed officials—make decisions that improve large-scale solar development outcomes that result in the creation of local jobs and power while boosting energy security and reducing communities' carbon footprints.

*-CONTACTS: Solar Dialogue Agreement: <https://woods.stanford.edu/research/solar-landconservation/>; Utility-Scale Solar, <https://www.seia.org/initiatives/utility-scale-solar-power/>; Solar@Scale, <https://www.planning.org/publications/document/9222548/>; Agrivoltaics, <https://www.nrel.gov/solar/market-research-analysis/agrivoltaics.html>.*

*EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 non-profit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).*

# Duke Energy Provides Donation For Legacy Walk

Roberts Settlement Imagine Black Pioneers fundraising campaign received \$10,000 from Duke Energy for its Legacy Walk exhibit, a self-guided outdoor experience that will tell the story of Indiana's Black pioneers who settled in northern Hamilton County in the 1830s.

"This exhibit will be a place to learn and reflect on the Black pioneers who settled in northern Hamilton County before the Civil War and are part of the rich heritage and extraordinary history of our county and the state," said Mark LaBarr, Duke Energy Manager, Gov-

ernment & Community Relations.

When complete in mid-2024, visitors will be greeted by the State of Indiana Historical Marker and "Morning Light," a dazzling entry feature symbolizing exploration, discovery, opportunity, and ownership. Beyond, the legacy walk meanders through four separate interpretive-themed stations dedicated to Roots & Migration, Progress & Perseverance, Faith & Education, and Legacy & Footprints. Each station includes a title monolith, a bench, and a graphic reader rail with interpretive content.

Structures are fabricated from Corten-style steel and faux stone. It is intended that the Roberts Settlement Legacy Walk as well as the surrounding grounds are open to the public to enjoy as an inspirational spot to enjoy and embrace the rich history of Hamilton County, Indiana.

"We are extremely grateful to have corporate partners like Duke Energy who support the historical significance of our family's legacy to Hamilton County enabling us to share our story," said LaVella Hyter, President of the Roberts Settlement Board of Directors.

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# Bubba 'Celebrates' Halloween



**TIM TIMMONS**  
Two Cents

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In the spirit of the season, we are sharing a popular Timmons column about his

friend Bubba and Halloween.

Got to admit, I'm not crazy about the recent turn to cooler weather. As I get older I really like warm weather. I hate to admit that - the part about getting older, I mean.

I especially dislike cold temps at Halloween. It's fun to watch kids, young and old, get into the spirit (no pun intended) of the season. Cold and crappy weather tend to put a lid on the fun, know what I mean?

At least that's what I was thinking sitting in our beautiful downtown Noblesville offices on the courthouse square when the phone snapped me back to attention.

"The Times, Timmons."

"This here's the operator. Would you accept a ghoul to goblin collect call from Sammy Terry?"

This here? Ghoul to goblin? Sammy Terry? This could only be . . . "Hello Bubba."

For folks who don't know Bubba Castiron, he introduced himself a few years ago and turns up every now and then. He's not a bad guy but he would lose a debate with a bar of soap.

"Aww heck, Timmons. How'd you know it was me? I figured this being Halloween and all I'd get you with the fake operator gag."

"Nice try, Bubba but I don't even know if they do collect calls any more. And besides, Bob Carter passed away a few years ago."

"Bob who?"

"Carter. Bob Carter, Bubba. He was Sammy Terry."

"No, no, no, no," Bubba yelled. "Sammy Terry was Sammy Terry! I grew up watching him every week on Channel 4. Don't be telling me that he was named Bob. I know a real ghoul when I see one."

Sometimes it's just easier to not argue with Bubba.

"Listen Bubba, I'm kind

of busy here. What can I do for you?"

"Well sir, seeing hows this here's the season for Halloween, I thought I'd tell you what happened to me this weekend because it's the spookiest, downright scariest thing I ever done seen in my entire life."

I didn't say anything. At this point Bubba was going to tell me some cockamamie story whether I wanted to hear it or not. I figured I'd just get this over with asap.

"Timmons, you there?"

"Yes, Bubba. Tell me what happened."

"Well, I was out somewhere in the middle of nowhere, I think we were going toward Clare. Shoot, I'm not sure. But ol' Bessie died again and-"

"Old Bessie?"

"My F-75."

"F-75?"

"Well yeah. It's a real old Ford and I figured it was made way before the F-150s so I've always called it a F-75."

Sigh. "Go on, Bubba."

"Well, it was just a pouring down. I mean the kind of rain where you can't see more than a few feet in front of you. If it was raining any harder, Noah wudda come out of retirement. But Bessie wasn't going nowhere and I done forgot my cell phone back at the house so I knew I was going to have to walk. So I climbed out and started walking. I hadn't got very far when I saw this car coming toward me, real slow like. I was so excited and it was raining so danged hard that I didn't even bother trying to flag it down, I just ran around the side and jumped in! But Timmons, guess what I saw?"

"No idea."

"Timmons, there wasn't nobody in that car and the engine wasn't even turned on."

"So you just thought the car was moving then Bubba. You already said that you couldn't see very well."

"I know, but I swear that it was, and anyways, as soon as I was in it started going forward again."

"Bubba, I think you're mistaken."

"Timmons, I swear to you! This car just started creeping forward, real slow like. I sat there soaking wet and I wasn't sure if I was shivering

from fear or the cold. But that wasn't the worst part. Just ahead was a curve in the road and a bridge over the White River. And the car was headed straight for the front edge just before where the bridge started and I was sure we were going to roll off into some pretty rough water."

Although you never know how to take Bubba, he sure did seem like this experience had left him shaken.

"As strange as all that was though, that wasn't even the worst part! Just when I thought we were going into the drink, this hand appears out of nowhere and turns the wheel! I swear it did, Timmons!"

There was no doubt that Bubba saw something.

"So what'd you do, Bubba?"

"I jumped out, that's what I did. I didn't care how hard it was raining. I bailed and ran like a greyhound! And I got to this farmhouse and pounded on the door and these kind folks was good enough to let me in and let me call Elvis to come pick me up. As soon as I hung up I was going to tell these folks the story when there came a banging on the door."

At that moment someone knocked on my door and I about jumped out of my seat! I motioned that I was on the phone because I had to find out what happened next.

"Well, there's these two guys just as soaking wet as I was and they started to ask something when the one guy spies me and turns to his buddy. 'Look John, there's the moron who jumped in our car when we were pushing it.'"

And with that Bubba let out a howl and started laughing hysterically.

"I got you, didn't I Timmons! I got you!"

I could still hear him laughing as I slammed the phone down.

*-Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically in The Times. Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns The Noblesville Times. He is also a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at timmons@thetimes24-7.com.*



Photo courtesy of the office of Brian Buchanan

**State Sen. Brian Buchanan chairs the final 2023 meeting of the Interim Study Committee at the Statehouse on Pension Management Oversight on Tuesday, Oct. 24.**

## Pension Management Oversight Committee Holds Final Meeting Of 2023

The Interim Study Committee on Pension Management Oversight approved a report during the committee's final meeting of 2023 Tuesday, Oct. 24, said State Sen. Brian Buchanan, chair of the committee.

In preparation for 2026-2027 state budget, the committee studied cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increases for retirees who participate in the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) and the fiscal impacts of these increases

to state and local units of government.

"The Indiana pension system is reputable for being strong and reliable, and the General Assembly is committed to guaranteeing retirees' hard-earned money is managed responsibly," Buchanan said. "I believe this report and its recommendations will not only maintain INPRS' strength but helps the system better manage public employees' retirement money."

The report recommends

the General Assembly consider legislation that would provide an annual 13th check for public employees who retire before a yet-to-be-determined date and an annual COLA for those who retire after that date. Both recommendations are subject to the budget process.

The committee also recommends legislation be introduced that would require the Indiana State Police to maintain a reserve account to pay postretirement benefits.

## Fatal 2 Car Crash On State Road 37

A 44-year-old Noblesville woman was killed in a two-car crash Monday morning on State Road 37, north of Noblesville.

Nicole R. Townley, 44, died after being taken by ground ambulance to Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. According to police, Townley was driving a 2016 Kia Soul northbound on 37. They said it appears the car crossed into the southbound lane

where the road transitions from a 4-lane divided highway into a 2-lane highway. The Kia collided head-on with a 2006 Dodge Charger that was driven by Kristine S. Tishner, 39, of Noblesville. Tishner was transported by air ambulance to Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis with non-life-threatening injuries.

The crash occurred around 8 a.m. and south-

bound traffic was diverted onto Promise Road and northbound traffic onto 191st Street while investigators collected evidence and investigated the crash. Those road closures / lane restrictions were in place until 11:30 a.m. The NPD Crash Reconstruction Unit was summoned to the scene to investigate the crash.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

## Meet Multimedia Artist Quincy Owens

"My hobby is my passion and my passion is my hobby. I wake up to do my art every day."

The Omnibus Show is a new podcast hosted by Dave Gibbs "for people who love interviews of interesting and accomplished people, and who are life learners." Today's episode of The Omnibus Show will feature multimedia artist, Quincy Owens.

This is a Podcast you won't want to miss as Owens lets us into a more personal side to his art and why he wanted to become an artist in the first place. He is a Multimedia Artist doing commissions, corporate, public art, residential, and more. He is also a partner with Owens and Crawley, alongside Luke Crawley, a math and science teacher at University High School, with whom he does multimedia art.

Owens had humble beginnings, growing up in rural Indiana, then going on for a bachelor's degree in fine arts at the University of Indianapolis. Learn how he began his career in ceramics,

and how his five children 'helped him' to change direction. Hear about the homage he paid his father through art.

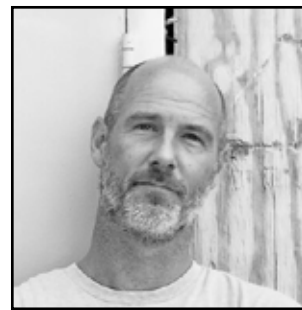
Owens discusses his TEDx talk that he gave at Indiana University.

Owens explains feelings as he searched for his 'place' in the art world, which let him to switch to a kind of art called monoprinting. He states, he is a 'painter without a brush'. This form of tactile art has helped him develop into the artist he is today.

Owens reflects on his influences, his art process, and his productivity.

Locally, Owens is responsible for the sculpture in Carmel, IN entitled Sail. Owens talks about other works he has done including a light show at Newfield's last Christmas (which he will do again this year), sculptures in Cincinnati, Covington, KY, Denver, Washington, D.C., and more.

Coming up on October 30 will be Jamie Hopwood, General Manager of Hotel Carmichael, a



QUINCY OWENS

Marriott Autograph Collection hotel in Carmel, Indiana. The 122-room hotel, located at One Carmichael Square, is owned by CCC Boutique Hotel, LLC and managed by Coury Hospitality of Kansas City, Missouri.

Hopwood came to Hotel Carmichael in 2020 with twenty-five years of hospitality experience. Hopwood was general manager of high-end boutique hotels in Beaver Creek, Colorado for Rock Resorts and Vail Resorts Lodging. In addition to his general manager roles, Hopwood was vice-president of operations for Arbor Lodging and spent ten years with White Lodging and another seven years with Marriott International.

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**BETSY** From Page A1

Rob Stokes; Best Light Board Operator for a Musical, James H. Williams; and Best Male Singer, Scott Fleshood.

Westfield received two Encore awards for "The Curious Savage," directed by Nancy Lafferty: Best Major Supporting Actress in a Comedy, Phoebe Aldridge; and Best Ensemble in a Drama, The Residents.

Westfield received one award for "Mothers and Sons," directed by Jim LaMonte: Best Performer Under the Age of 18 in a Drama, Tyler Acquaviva.

Rising Star Awards for Main Street Productions were awarded to youth performers Teddy Epstein and Rachel Bush for "The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood," which the cast performed an excerpt from on stage at the Encore Awards.

Hamilton County Theatre Guild's The Belfry Theatre received five Encore Awards.

"The Great Gatsby," directed by Andrea Odle, earned three Encore Awards: Best Major Supporting Actress in a Drama, Jessica Hawkins; and Best Costumes for a Drama, Addie Taylor and Judy McGroarty; and Judges Special, for the silent character tableaux created by the actors at the opening of the show. (The forethought and creativity put forth set a mood for the audience which extended throughout the performance.)

"The Sound of Music," directed by Evan Elliott, received two Encore Awards: Best Major Supporting Actress in a Musical, Susan Boilek Smith; and Best Female Singer (tie), Ellen Vander Missen.

Rising Star Awards went to Belfry youth performers Ben Ohning, and Gracelynn Hyman and Greta Schaefer (tie) for their work in "Willy Wonka Jr.," which the

cast performed an excerpt from on stage at the Encore Awards.

A Jean Cones Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Addison McMillan, 17, Noblesville, to be used exclusively for classes, private lessons or workshops in the performing arts. Addison has been cast or crew in more than a dozen Belfry shows since she was 5.

Carmel Community Players earned three Encore Awards.

Two Encore Awards were presented for "Murder on the Orient Express," directed by Lori Raffel: Best Minor Supporting Actress in a Play, Viviana Quinones Farbre; and Best Stage Manager of a Play, Samantha Kelly and Chloe Vann.

CCP earned a Judges Special award for "Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas," directed by Kate Hinman, for the running gag/storyline featuring poinsettias at the punchline. At intermission, a live poinsettia plant was given to an audience member whose ballot had a special mark on it. The audience loved it.

Rising Star Awards went to CCP youth performers Nick Lanzer and Rachel Bush for their work in "Godspell," which was performed by the cast at the Encore Awards.

The Encore Association is comprised of 11 nonprofessional, nonprofit community theaters. A committee of judges view productions and select nominees.

Congratulations to all winners and nominees. The 55th annual Encore Awards will be Oct. 21, 2024.

*-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times Editor Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes24-7.com).*



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Two Encore Association Awards were presented Monday for Carmel Community Players' "Murder on the Orient Express," directed by Lori Raffel: Best Minor Supporting Actress in a Play, Viviana Quinones Farbre; and Best Stage Manager of a Play, Samantha Kelly and Chloe Vann.



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

The Belfry Theatre's "The Sound of Music," directed by Evan Elliott of Noblesville, received two Encore Awards on Monday night, Best Major Supporting Actress in a Musical, Susan Boilek Smith (right); and Best Female Singer (tie), Ellen Vander Missen (left).

relax & enjoy

**THE TIMES**



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Brent Wooldridge received an Encore Award for Best Director of a Drama in Main Street Productions' "August: Osage County" at Basile Westfield Playhouse on Monday night during the Encore Association's 54th annual Encore Awards in Indianapolis.



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Jim LaMonte (left) earned Best Major Supporting Actor in a Drama for Main Street Productions' "August: Osage County" at Basile Westfield Playhouse, during the 54th annual Encore Awards in Indianapolis.



Photo courtesy of Andrea Odle

The Belfry Theatre's "The Great Gatsby," directed by Andrea Odle of Noblesville, earned three Encore Association Awards Monday night at the 54th annual Encore Awards: Best Major Supporting Actress in a Drama, Jessica Hawkins; and Best Costumes for a Drama, Addie Taylor and Judy McGroarty; and Judges Special, for the silent character tableaux created by the actors at the opening of the show. The forethought and creativity put forth set a mood for the audience which extended throughout the performance, according to the judges



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Ka'Lena Cuevas of Fishers won Best Producer of a Drama for "August:Osage County," among 10 Encore Awards for the play, staged by Main Street Productions at Basile Westfield Playhouse, and awarded Monday night at the 54th annual Encore Awards.

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**HHSC** From Page A1

at #ThankAPrincipal #WeAreHuskies

\*\*\*

Julie Griffey, Principal, Hamilton Heights Elementary School

Q: Why did you want to become a principal or assistant principal?

A: I loved being a classroom teacher. There is no greater thing than teaching a student to read or emotionally regulate at school. I stepped out of the classroom role to coach classroom teachers and lead professional development for administrator learning. Then, I caught the big picture bug of seeing the power of a large group growing together to create better student outcomes! That led me to becoming an assistant principal and later a principal. Every day I get to grow my servant leadership with students, parents, teachers, and community. I am proud that I was raised as a Husky and get to make a difference in my community.

Q: What is your end goal in your role?

A: To help our Hamilton Heights Little Huskies become the very best version of themselves both academically and socially-emotionally as they prepare for middle school and high school. To support my HHES staff in helping students learn and grow.

Q: What are some of the other hats you wear in your role that people may not know?

A: I will wear any hat that my students, teachers, and parents need me to wear. I also facilitate the New Teacher Learning Academy for our New Teachers across all 3 buildings. I love making connections with our newest Huskies!

Q: What gets you motivated and out of bed each day?

A: Knowing that I will have opportunities to help my HHES students and staff. My role is special because I get to see all the amazing things staff is doing to help HHES students be successful.

Q: What is at least one attribute that makes you successful in your role?

A: My passion for believing that all students can learn and knowing that is just does not happen in the same way or time for all students. Also, my time as a class-

room teacher. 14 years on the front lines. I love that I get the opportunity to build into the community that I grew up in every day!

\*\*\*

Ken Watson, Assistant Principal, Hamilton Heights Elementary School

Q: Why did you want to become an assistant principal?

A: After teaching for 18 years at Hamilton Heights Elementary in grades 1, 2, 3, and 4, I was looking for a new experience and a new challenge. I knew I wanted to continue to work with students and help them continue to learn and grow. When I heard that we were going to have an opening for an elementary assistant principal I jumped at the opportunity to apply for the position. The past 13 years as an administrator has given me many opportunities to work with our staff to help make the elementary an awesome place for students.

Q: What is your end goal in your role?

A: One of my goals was to bring continuity and consistency to the administration position at the elementary school. As with any endeavor, my end goal was to leave Hamilton Heights Elementary School in a better place than it was when I found it.

Q: What are some of the other hats you wear in your role that people may not know?

A: I'm an assistant principal but I'm also a friend, father, coach, cheerleader, referee, and counselor. I've coached several sports and athletes over the years. Even though I no longer coach here at HHSC, I'm currently coaching my son's 17u travel baseball team.

Q: What gets you motivated and out of bed each day?

A: I'm excited by all the wonderful things going on at Hamilton Heights Elementary School. I love the interactions that I get to have with students, parents, and staff.

Q: What is at least one attribute that makes you successful in your role?

A: I'm pretty good with my organization and time management skills. I'm also pretty good at giving hugs!

**CONTRACT** From Page A1

without recruiting and retaining the best educators."

In 2018, the community approved the use of referendum funds specifically earmarked to address the growing pay disparity between Noblesville teachers and those in surrounding districts. In addition to teacher compensation, referendum dollars are also being used for significant safety and mental health enhancements throughout the district.

Per state law, the district could not begin bargaining the contract with teachers until this fall, but salary increases will be retroactive to July

27, 2023.

In addition to the salary increases, the new contract also offers a new paid dependent leave for parents, holds benefit costs steady, and enhances savings for retirement.

The agreement covers the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

Teachers ratified the contract on September 27 and the Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees approved it at their October 24 meeting.

Noblesville Schools employs approximately 750 teachers and is the largest employer in Noblesville with over 1,800 total staff members.

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**Number** %  
**Stumpers**

1. If the entire county is 423.25 square miles, then what percentage of land does Lebanon inhabit?
2. How old is Boone County?
3. What percentage of the total population is made up of Lebanon residents?
4. How many schools are located in the county? How old is Boone County?

Answers: 1. About 3.7% 2. 138 years 3. About 28.4% 4. 3 schools

**Did You Know?**

- Boone County was founded on April 1, 1880 and was named after Daniel Boone.
- Lebanon, the county seat, has an estimated population of 16,098 and is 15.64 square miles.
- Boone County contains Western Boone, Lebanon and Zionsville Community Schools.
- Abraham Lincoln's funeral train passed through the county in Zionsville, Whitestown, Lebanon, Hazelrigg and Thorntown.
- The county is formed by twelve townships and overall is estimated to have a population of 56,640.

**Got Words?**

Jamestown experienced three significant fires between 1876 to 1883 which caused considerable damage, yet each time the residents were resilient in reconstructing their community. How do you think natural disasters impact Indiana socially, environmentally and economically?

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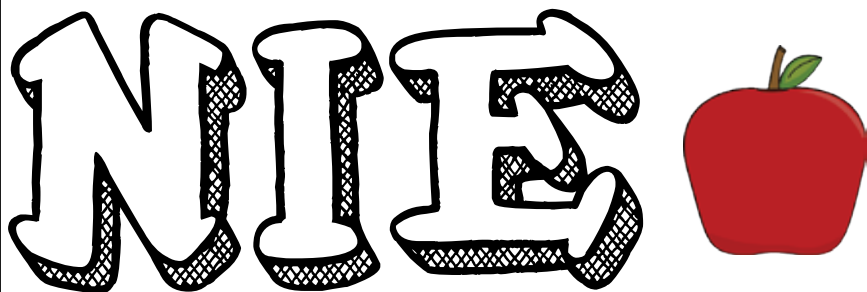
**Word Scrambler**

Unscramble the words below!

1. OEONB TYUOCN
2. SEIFR
3. NNALBEO
4. SPSONITWH
5. SOMJEWATN

Answers: 1. Boone County 2. Fires 3. A Lebanon 4. Township 5. Jamestown

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# THURSDAY

## Indiana *the* **Strong**

Thursday, October 26, 2023

A8

### Spacecraft Metals Left In The Wake Of Humanity's Path To The Stars



The Space Age is leaving fingerprints on one of the most remote parts of the planet — the stratosphere — which has potential implications for climate, the ozone layer and the continued habitability of Earth.

Using tools hitched to the nose cone of their research planes and sampling more than 11 miles above the planet's surface, researchers have discovered significant amounts of metals in aerosols in the atmosphere, likely from increasingly frequent launches and returns of spacecraft and satellites.

That mass of metal is changing atmospheric chemistry in ways that may impact Earth's atmosphere and ozone layer.

"We are finding this human-made material in what we consider a pristine area of the atmosphere," said Dan Cziczko, one of a team of scientists who published a study on these results in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "And if something is changing in the stratosphere — this stable region of the atmosphere — that deserves a closer look." Cziczko, professor and head of the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences in Purdue's College of Science, is



Photo courtesy of Purdue University

**Dan Cziczko, professor and head of the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences in Purdue's College of Science, was part of the research team that discovered significant amounts of metals in aerosols in the atmosphere, likely from increasingly frequent launches and returns of spacecraft and satellites. Data was collected more than 11 miles above the planet's surface using sampling tools hitched to the nose cone of research planes.**

an expert in atmospheric science who has spent decades studying this rarefied region.

Led by Dan Murphy, an adjunct professor in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences and a researcher at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the team detected more than 20 elements in ratios that mirror those used in spacecraft alloys. They found that the mass of lithium, aluminum, copper and lead from spacecraft reentry far exceeded those metals found in natural cosmic dust. Nearly 10% of large sulfuric acid particles — the particles that help protect and buffer the ozone layer — contained aluminum and other spacecraft metals.

Scientists estimate that as many as 50,000

more satellites may reach orbit by 2030. The team calculates that means that, in the next few decades, up to half of stratospheric sulfuric acid particles would contain metals from reentry. What effect that could have on the atmosphere, the ozone layer and life on Earth is yet to be understood.

Scientists have long suspected that spacecraft and satellites were changing the upper atmosphere, but studying the stratosphere, where we don't live and even the highest flights enter only briefly, is challenging.

As part of NASA's Airborne Science Program, Murphy and his group fly a WB-57 airplane to sample the atmosphere 11.8 miles (19 km) above the ground in Alaska, where circumpolar clouds tend to form. Similar

measurements were made by Cziczko and his group from an ER-2 aircraft over the continental United States. Both groups use instruments hitched to the nose cone to ensure that only the freshest, most undisturbed air is sampled.

The sheltering sky Like the view of the unruffled surface of the ocean, the stratosphere appears untroubled — at least to human eyes. Life and civilization take place mostly on the planet's surface and in the troposphere, the atmosphere's very lowest layer. The stratosphere is a surprisingly stable and seemingly serene layer of the atmosphere.

The stratosphere is also the realm of the ozone layer: that gaseous marvel that acts as a global tent to shield the planet and all

life on it from the searing, scorching rays of ultraviolet radiation. Without the ozone layer, life would likely never have arisen on Earth. And without it, life is unlikely to be able to continue.

The last decades have been eventful for the stratosphere. The ozone layer came under threat from chlorofluorocarbons in the 1980s, and only coordinated, sustained global efforts of governments and corporations have begun to bear fruit in repairing and replenishing it.

"Shooting stars streak through the atmosphere," Cziczko said. "Often, the meteor burns up in the atmosphere and doesn't even become a meteorite and reach the planet. So the material it was made from stays in the atmosphere in the form of ions. They form very hot gas, which starts to cool and condense as molecules and fall into the stratosphere. The molecules find each other and knit together and form what we call meteorite smoke. Scientists recently started noticing that the chemical fingerprint of these meteoritic particles was starting to change, which made us ask, 'Well, what changed?'"

Because meteorite composition hasn't changed. But the number of spacecraft has."

What goes up Spacecraft launches, and returns, were once international events. The launches of Sputnik and the Mercury missions were front-page news. Now, a quickening tide of innovation and loosening regulation means that dozens of countries and corporations are able to launch satellites and

spacecraft into orbit. All those satellites have to be sent up on rockets — and most of that material, eventually, comes back down.

Like the wakes of great ships trolling through the ocean, rockets leave behind them a trail of metals that may change the atmosphere in ways scientists don't yet understand.

"Just to get things into orbit, you need all this fuel and a huge body to support the payload," Cziczko said. "There are so many rockets going up and coming back and so many satellites falling back through the atmosphere that it's starting to show up in the stratosphere as these aerosol particles."

Of course, shooting stars were the first space-delivery system. Meteorites fall through the atmosphere every day. The heat and friction of the atmosphere peel material off them, just as they do off human-made artifacts. However, while hundreds of meteors enter the Earth's atmosphere every day, they are increasingly being rivaled by the mass of metals that comprise the tons of Falcon, Ariane and Soyuz rockets that boost spacecraft into space and return again to Earth's surface.

"Changes to the atmosphere can be difficult to study and complex to understand," Cziczko said. "But what this research shows us is that the impact of human occupation and human spaceflight on the planet may be significant — perhaps more significant than we have yet imagined. Understanding our planet is one of the most urgent research priorities there is."

### Indiana Sees Promising College-Going, Enrollment And Completion Data

After more than a decade of declines, Indiana's college-going rate and overall college enrollment are starting to turn around. The college-going rate for high school graduates from the class of 2021 pursuing some form of postsecondary education held steady at 53 percent. Additionally, this fall, Indiana colleges and universities saw nearly 5,000 more students enroll, a two-percent increase in enrollment. More students are completing their degree programs with the state seeing a nearly 9 percent increase in on-time completion over five years.

**Indiana's college-going rate holds steady at 53 percent**

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education's most recent data show that 53 percent of the high school graduating class of 2021 enrolled in college immediately following graduation. This includes students who pursued less than a one-year certificate up through a four-year degree.

"Last year, the Commission sounded the alarm on Indiana's falling college-going rate," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "This made clear that thought-

ful, robust action must be taken to reverse the present trend. The Commission, with support from partners in education, business, community- and faith-based organizations, philanthropy and government began advocating for and implementing ground-breaking policies and programs that directly impact the affordability of higher education in Indiana. The flattening of the college-going rate, coupled with 2023 enrollment data, is encouraging. The Commission remains laser-focused on closing persistent gaps."

21st Century Scholars continue to enroll in college at higher rates than their non-Scholar, low-income peers (81 percent compared to 30 percent).

Roughly 43 percent of Hispanic or Latino high school graduates enrolled in college in 2021, followed closely by 45 percent of Black students compared to 55 percent of White students.

Men continue to go to college at a lower rate than women with 46 percent of men enrolling in college compared to 60 percent of women.

The Commission publishes interactive dashboards for users to view historical data by county,

school corporation, institutions, gender, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status and more. View Indiana's 2023 college-going data at [che.in.gov/readiness](https://che.in.gov/readiness). Graphics for college-going data are available here.

**Higher education is a great value in Indiana** Higher education in Indiana is ranked in the top 10 nationally for providing the best value.

- Indiana ranks first in the Midwest and fifth in the nation in providing need-based financial aid.

- The state's four-year institutions are sixth best in the nation at holding the line in tuition and mandatory fees over the past decade.

"These rankings combined with the newly implemented policy and programmatic changes make me hopeful for the future of our state," said Lowery. "I am bullish on the prospects for rapid improvements to Indiana's college-going rate to ensure more Hoosier students can access the opportunities that education and training beyond high school provide leading to better outcomes for individuals, for employers, for communities and for our state."

Indiana sees largest year-over-year college enrollment increase since

2010

College enrollment increased by nearly 5,000 students, or two percent, compared to the fall 2022 school year making 2023 the first year enrollment in Indiana has increased in the past 13 years.

Over 244,000 students, both undergraduate and graduate, enrolled in one of Indiana's public higher education institutions during the fall 2023 school year.

- Enrollment at state-wide public institutions increased by nearly 5,000 students from fall 2022.

- Resident enrollment increased by nearly two percent.

- At the undergraduate level, enrollment improved by nearly three percent from fall 2022 while graduate enrollment declined by less than one percent.

- Both four- and two-year institutions experienced a year-over-year increase in enrollment.

"After an historic investment in education from Indiana's General Assembly, this is promising news for the future of students and a glimpse at how the state's college-going rate will be impacted," said Lowery. "Critical policy changes such as the 35-percent increase to the Frank O'Bannon Grant

made the cost of higher education even more affordable to Hoosier students and families this fall. The Commission is looking forward to seeing the impact additional policies including 21st Century Scholars automatic enrollment, revised Outcomes-Based Performance Funding formula, aggressive expansion of the Indiana College Core and Indiana Pre-Admissions: Your Path to College will have on the state's college-going rate and enrollment in the coming years."

The full fall 2023 census enrollment summary can be found at <https://www.in.gov/che/data-and-research/reports-and-analyses/>.

**More students are completing a degree or credential**

Also, there have been marked improvements in Indiana's college completion rates over the past five years at both two- and four-year campuses. On-time completion rates have increased by nearly 6 percentage points at four-year campuses and 9.3 percentage points at two-year campuses. Extended-time completion rates (within six years for any degree type) have had similar improvements.

- Nearly 70 percent of

all students graduated in an extended timeframe. This is an over 8-percent-age-point increase in five years.

- Over 80 percent of students at a four-year main campus graduated within six years.

- Nearly 3 out of 4 students (73 percent) at any four-year campus graduated within six years.

- Extended-time graduation rates at two-year campuses are up over 11 percentage points in five years.

"Indiana's revised Outcomes-Based Performance Funding formula continues to encourage institutions to keep their foot on the gas of improving college completions," said Lowery. "It is encouraging to see improvements in both on-time and extended-time completion rates, but more can be done to ensure all students finish their degree program of choice. Automatically enrolling 21st Century Scholars allows the Commission and its partners to shift its focus from one of enrollment to one of college and career success. Additionally, the Commission is pleased to receive support from the State Budget Committee to embed success coaches in higher education institutions around the state."