

The Times of Noblesville presents...

Iceland's Magical Northern Lights



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Please refer to
booking #1232517

Hosted by Dick Wolfsie

March 18 - 24, 2025

TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Hamilton Happenings

The Westfield Chamber has an invitation for the Aug. 15 luncheon at The Bridgewater Club to learn more about five local non-profits, how they are impacting our community and what you can do to get involved! Please join in for what is to be an inspirational afternoon. The Chamber said it hopes to educate members and guests on the dynamic organizations that serve Westfield and Hamilton County. For more information, visit westfieldchamberindy.com

Three Things You Should Know

1 The evidence is clear: distracted driving is dangerous, and seatbelts save lives. With the help of sponsor GEICO, the Indiana Department of Transportation announced the addition of the Buckle Up Phone Down logo on its fleet of Hoosier Helper Safety Service Patrol vehicles to increase awareness of this important initiative. Buckle Up Phone Down tackles two of the most impactful actions drivers and passengers can take – wearing a seatbelt and putting the phone down behind the wheel. Indiana enacted its Hands-Free Law in 2020, which prohibits drivers from holding mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets, in their hands while driving.

2 SeaWorld San Antonio has been busy dealing with a Baby Boom recently. So far this year they've had a newborn spotted harbor seal, a California sea lion and an endangered radiated tortoise (named for the yellow lined patterns on their shells). Most recently, a 36-year-old white-sided dolphin gave birth to a 20 pound calf and a 24-year-old Beluga Whale gave birth to a 130-pound, four-foot-long calf.

3 It was easy for Jeffrey the goat to make his getaway in Kansas City. After all, he is a mountain goat. They found him hiding 80 feet off the ground under a roadway and rescuers managed to get a rope around him. But Jeffrey didn't surrender. Instead, he tried to escape by jumping from ledge to ledge. He finally fell to the ground, landing on padding provided by local firefighters.

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Sheridan, Heights Shine at State Fair



Photo courtesy of Andy Duvall



Photo courtesy of Nicholas Shotwell

Sheridan High School Marching Blackhawks perform last Friday at Indiana State Fair Band Day.

Hamilton Heights High School Marching Huskies perform last Friday at Indiana State Fair Band Day.

By Betsy Reason
betsy@thetimes24-7.com

Sheridan High School Marching Blackhawks are celebrating their awards from last Friday's Indiana State Fair Band Day.

Sheridan Marching Blackhawks placed 17th out of 37 high school bands and third place in Class A (25 or fewer playing members.) (In 2023, the Blackhawks placed second in Class A and also earned 17th of 37 competing bands.) Sheridan and Hamilton Heights Marching Huskies were the only two bands from Hamilton County competing this year at Band Day.

"Placing 17th is both wonderful and disappointing because the Top 16 bands compete again in the night show," Sheridan Blackhawks band director Libby Doublestein said. "We've placed 17th three times now in the past 10 years, and there are always mixed emotions that come along with it."

She said, "However, making

the night show is never our main goal. We truly believe that our priority is to create an educational experience, to promote excellence in musical performance and citizenship, and foster positive personal connections. Secondly, we should be having fun. Otherwise, we're doing it wrong. The competition aspect is certainly important, but it isn't the main focus."

Despite competing at 3:36 p.m. on Band Day, the Marching Blackhawks began their day much earlier.

"We started State Fair Band Day with stretches and a brief rehearsal on our practice field before loading up and heading to the Fairgrounds," Doublestein said. "We're used to having a performance time early in the day, so it was great to be able to spend some time warming up in our own space."

Veteran students



Photo courtesy of Andy Duvall

Sheridan High School Marching Blackhawk color guard member Pearl Henderson, rifle; Bella Bowman, piccolo; and Zoey Tuite, alto saxophone, perform last Friday afternoon at Indiana State Fair Band Day.



Photo courtesy of Nicholas Shotwell

Hamilton Heights High School Marching Huskies' drummers perform last Friday at Indiana State Fair Band Day.

distributed notes of encouragement on the bus ride, which is a long-standing tradition.

While the Marching

➔ See BANDPage A3

Keep Your Eye on Founding Principles



ANDREA NEAL
Guest Columnist

If only George Washington could see us now ... what would he say?

"Didn't I warn you that political parties are a bad idea?"

"Have you forgotten my advice about avoiding foreign entanglements?"

"Just look at your credit cards. \$34 trillion in outstanding debt. Apparently you ignored that part of my Farewell Address that urged you to pay your bills quickly so as not to burden the next generation."

Yet here we are – so politically divided that an assassination attempt of our former president surprised almost no one.

So entangled in global affairs – we've committed 175 billion dollars in Ukraine related aid and, according to the Stacker newswire, are involved in more than a dozen shadows wars from Afghanistan to Yemen.

My latest check of the national debt clock put it at 34.9 trillion and counting. We have burdened the next generation beyond anything George Washington could have imagined.

What would Washington and our other founding fathers have to say?

➔ See ANDREA Page A5

Movies in Park, Veterans Ride, Jazz on Square, Bon Jovi Tribute



BETSY REASON
Columnist

Enjoy Movies in the Park at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville, join the American Legions Riders' Support Ride, bring a lawn chair to Music and All That Jazz on the Courthouse Square, or bring your blankets to experience a Bon Jovi tribute night at Federal Hill. Find these and more happenings in The Times' list of 20 things to do this weekend and beyond:

➔ See BETSY Page A7

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Kindness is contagious – surround yourself with giving people.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. As a peacemaker the lawyer has superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough." Abraham Lincoln

TODAY'S JOKE

Speaking of the boss and school days – he told the teacher he couldn't turn in his homework because he ate it. "Why in the world did you eat your homework," she asked. "Because I don't have a dog." (See what we have to live with!)

OBITUARIES

Sally Ann Lindsey

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OUR GENERATION with the Times

Melissa Shaw's interview with Alison Voss from American Family Insurance

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OBITUARY

Sally Ann Lindsey

March 9, 1950 - July 25, 2024

Sally Ann Lindsey, 74, of Noblesville, passed away July 25, 2024. She was born March 9, 1950, in Lafayette Indiana, the daughter of the late Howard M. and Jean M. (Largent) Chenoweth. She married Theron Curtis Lindsey on June 3, 1978.



Sally received her bachelor's degree from Marian College. She worked as a Medical Technologist for over 30 years, and later became licensed as a Financial Paraplanner. She was member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, where she sang in the choir.

Sally loved traveling to new places, loved nature and listening to the birds. She was particularly loving of cats, dogs, butterflies and hummingbirds. Spotting a car with a dog enjoying a ride always brought a smile. Nature programs were always on TV in the evening. Jeopardy was also a favorite, where she often knew the answers, but not as quickly as the contestants. Sally was an avid reader and very much enjoyed mysteries on PBS.

She is survived by her loving husband of 46 years, Curt Lindsey; brother, Michael (Melody) Chenoweth; five sisters, Linda (Michael) Kennedy, Terry (Mike) Simons, Mary (Mark) Lorell, Rita (Dave) Peterson, and Amy (Terry) Trader; and several nieces and nephews. Sally had a great number of loving friends, and will be missed by all.

A Celebration of Life service will be at 3:00 p.m. Monday, August 26, 2024, at Flanner Buchanan - Hamilton Memorial Park (Prairie Waters), 4180 Westfield Road. A memorial gathering will immediately follow the services from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to Gleaners Food Bank or Marian University. Online condolences may be shared by visiting www.flannerbuchanan.com.

Spartz Gains More Endorsements

Congresswoman Victoria Spartz received two additional endorsements for her campaign for re-election to Indiana's 5th District.



Congresswoman Victoria Spartz

Indiana Farm Bureau's PAC endorsed Victoria Spartz for re-election to Congress INFB President Randy Kron said, "The goal of our PACs is to back candidates who are willing to listen and engage in issues impacting agriculture. We rely on public officials who will advocate on behalf of Hoosier agriculture and serve as our voice at the Statehouse and in Washington, D.C."

"As a family farmer I am extremely proud to have the endorsement of the Farm Bureau," Spartz said. "As always, I will stand up for Hoosier farmers and their families who feed America while navigating the endless bureaucracy that Washington keeps building."

Spartz is the only Indiana House Member to be given an "A" rating by the National Taxpayers Union.

The National Taxpayers Union (NTU) released its 2023 Congressional ratings and gave Spartz an "A" rating and the "Taxpayers Friend Award". She was the only member of the Indiana House delegation to receive the award for last year.

"NTU believes a score qualifying for a grade of "A" indicates the member is one of the strongest supporters of responsible tax and spending policies."

"The Biden-Harris Administration has been a disaster for taxpayers in America and the reckless spending is sending us toward a fiscal cliff and looming recession," Spartz said. "I will continue fighting for lower taxes, and serious and meaningful reforms in the federal spending. We must get the deficit under control and the establishment of both parties keeps failing us."

Spartz has also been endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

"NFIB is the voice of small and independent business owners who are the backbone of the American economy and I am honored to get their endorsement," Spartz said.

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839 PEBBLE BROOK PLACE
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 This charming home on Pebble Brook Golf Course sits on just over half an acre at the end of a cul-de-sac. 4BR, 2BA, 2 half BA, 3-car garage, finished basement.
 Listed at \$629,900

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7158 SUMMER OAK DRIVE
 NOBLESVILLE
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NEW LISTING!

120 NAKOMIS STREET
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 Listed at \$149,900

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18877 PRAIRIE CROSSING DRIVE
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SOLD!

102 PIN OAK COURT
 NOBLESVILLE
 Custom-built brick ranch with finished basement, sits on a wooded, tree-lined lot, with 3BR, 2BA. Updated kitchen.
 Listed at \$343,900

SOLD!

6939 TROPHY LANE
 NOBLESVILLE
 Carefree living in popular Willow Lake. 2BR, 2.5BA, huge great room with fireplace. sunroom overlooks deck and pond.
 Listed at \$354,900

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↓ BAND

From Page A1

Blackhawks were prepared for rain in the weather forecast, “thankfully it held off ‘til just after preliminaries ended,” she said. “It was quite hot, so having the band wear sleeveless shirts as part of their uniform was a huge positive.”

Prior to taking the field, the students gathered in a circle and quietly sang “Amazing Grace,” another “long-standing tradition which is quite emotional for everyone,” Doublestein said. “After shedding some tears, we refocused and prepared to perform.”

Theme of the Blackhawks’ competition show at the State Fair was “The Passion Within,” featuring music of the same name written by Key Poulan.

“This show’s music appealed to us because of the emotion it evokes, about life and love. We also chose this music because it’s challenging yet attainable and pushes our students to grow as musicians,” Doublestein said just days before the competition.

“The students put it all out on the field for the performance, showing the crowd what they worked so hard on all summer,” she said Sunday after the competition. “Their energy during the show felt electric. Afterward, we took our instruments and equipment back to the bus and after a brief rain show -- which felt amazing -- went back to the field for awards.”

Doublestein said the students spent a few hours enjoying the Fair, then the band headed home to unload the trailers and do the final dismissal.

“We had 10 ‘super seniors’ out of 30 total students this summer, so saying ‘bye for now’ to all of them, as well as saying ‘goodbye to the season’ was particularly emotional,” she said.

“It was a very special season for our band family,” Doublestein said.

The Marching Blackhawks will perform the competition show during halftime of the first home football game on Aug. 23, which will officially end the marching band season.

Hamilton Heights Marching Huskies placed 20th at Band Day, the same placement as the 2023 season.

“We felt good about

our efforts and had few regrets. That’s all we ask from our kids, regardless of the outcome,” said Mark M. Snelson, director of bands for Hamilton Heights School Corp., who is proud of the Huskies band program.

The Marching Huskies competed with their “Mad Science” theme at 9:27 a.m. last Friday. For band students, costumes were the orange patterned lightweight tops that were originally purchased for indoor percussion and also used last summer. The color guard wore a traditional uniform with white lab coats over top with goggles “to help tie together the theme.

“We had an interesting day, to say the least,” Snelson said. “We started off thinking we were going to be early before coming to an abrupt halt. Our bus broke down as we were traveling down State Road 37. Thankfully, we have awesome students, parents and transportation staff. Our equipment trucks and some parents traveled ahead to unload and set up camp while the kids waited patiently on the bus. Forty minutes later, a new bus arrived with a couple of our transportation team members. They helped facilitate a safe bus switch and we were back on the road again.”

He went on sharing their story.

“Once we arrived, parents had things ready, and we had plenty of time to get the kids ready for their performance,” Snelson said.

Because of weather and track conditions, he said, “We weren’t sure if we were going to be allowed to march. But for a second time, things worked out and the competition began. Our kids took the field for only the second time in recent history and came through with our best effort of the season.”

“Although our students may have been disappointed with our 20th-place finish, we saw much growth and success we can all be very proud of and build off of in the future.”

The 2023 competition was the first time in school history that Hamilton Heights competed at Indiana State Fair Band Day, winning Best Percussion in Class AA. This year, half of the band members were first-year band students, and the color guard was a new component.



Photo courtesy of Andy Duvall

Sheridan High School Marching Blackhawks perform last Friday at Indiana State Fair Band Day. The band earned third place in Class A category and 17th place overall.



Photo courtesy of Andy Duvall

Sheridan High School Marching Blackhawks’perform last Friday at Indiana State Fair Band Day.



Photo courtesy of Andy Duvall

Sheridan High School Marching Blackhawks, Ava McLean, tenor saxophone; Zoey Tuite (background), alto saxophone; and Milton Kelshaw, tenor drums; perform last Friday afternoon at Indiana State Fair Band Day.



Photo courtesy of Andy Duvall

Sheridan High School Marching Blackhawk Doug Earley, on bass drum stack, performs with the band last Friday afternoon at Indiana State Fair Band Day.



Photo courtesy of Nicholas Shotwell

Hamilton Heights High School Marching Huskies color guard performs last Friday at Indiana State Fair Band Day.



Photo courtesy of Nicholas Shotwell

Hamilton Heights High School Marching Huskies band member Sam Van Hook performs with the band last Friday at Indiana State Fair Band Day.

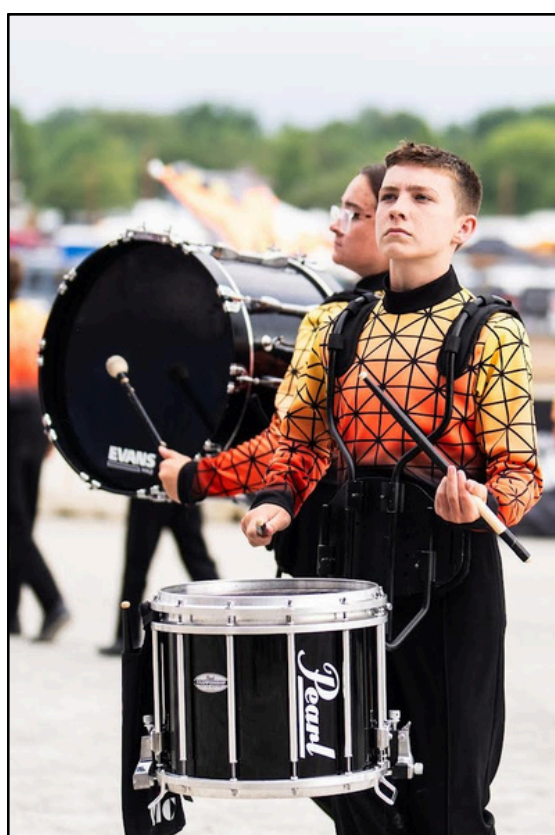


Photo courtesy of Nicholas Shotwell

Hamilton Heights High School Marching Huskies drummer Jack Powell performs with the band last Friday at Indiana State Fair Band Day.



Photo courtesy of Nicholas Shotwell

Hamilton Heights High School Marching Huskies’ color guard member Cayleigh Wood performs with the band last Friday at Indiana State Fair Band Day.

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After NCAA Change, Let's Run Through History of Boiler Walkons



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

are among the most unexpected Purdue success stories during my 45-year sportswriting career.

Both began their collegiate careers as non-scholarship players, more commonly known as walkons. By the time they departed West Lafayette, Rowinski and O'Connell were not only on scholarship but good enough to play professionally.

There's a distinct possibility the walkon will go the way of the 10-team Big Ten Conference if the House vs. NCAA settlement agreement is approved by the Northern District Court of California.

The settlement sets firm roster limits for every NCAA sanctioned sport and would permit each school to offer scholarships up to that limit. For example, major college football was mandated to allow 85 scholarships but could have another 35 walkons on the roster.

House sets college football's roster limit at 105. The agreement also permits football to offer partial scholarships for the first time, but the days of 120-man rosters are over for now.

Not every school will issue 105 full football scholarships. If there were an extra 20 scholarship players at Purdue, and all from within the state of Indiana, the tuition bill to the athletic department would approach \$200,000 a year.

Men's basketball scholarship limit/roster cap will increase to 15 from 13. Using the Boilermakers' 2024 national runner-up squad as an example, half of their four walkons would not have

been on the team had the settlement been in effect a year ago.

Here's a quick breakdown of how the proposed settlement affects the other sports sponsored by the Purdue Athletic Department.

- Women's basketball remains at 15
- Baseball 34 (up from 11.7 scholarships)
- Softball 25 (up from 12)
- Women's volleyball 18 (up from 12)
- Wrestling 30 (up from 9.9)
- Men's cross country 17 (up from 12.6)
- Women's cross country 17 (down from 18)
- Men's golf 9 (up from 4.5)
- Women's golf 9 (up from 6)
- Men's track and field 45 (up from 12.6)
- Women's track and field 45 (up from 18)
- Women's soccer 28 (up from 14)
- Men's swimming / diving 30 (up from 9.9)
- Women's swimming / diving 30 (up from 14)
- Men's tennis 10 (up from 4.5)
- Women's tennis 10 (up from 8)

For those thinking Purdue may have to eliminate sports, it's got a thin cushion to work with since the NCAA mandates a minimum of 16 sponsored sports for FBS schools. The earliest the new roster limit/scholarships rules would go into effect would be the 2025-26 school year.

Until then, let's celebrate the walkon by looking back at notable non-scholarship football and men's basketball players at Purdue.

Mike Augustyniak – Turned down by Indiana, Ball State, Indiana State and Saint Joseph's College, the fullback from Leo would start for Purdue in the Peach and Bluebonnet bowls. Augustyniak then spent three seasons with the New

York Jets.

Rick Brunner – Told he was too small (5-8, 145 pounds) to play high school football, Brunner beat the odds by first walking on, then earning a scholarship from Purdue as one of its best wide receivers of the 1980s. After football, Brunner became a police officer in Boynton Beach, Fla. Suffering from depression, Brunner took his life on Jan. 29, 1994.

Lamar Conard – Questions about his speed led to no major offers for Conard during his senior year at Elkhart Central. Conard walked on at Purdue, where in 1997 he became the first walkon given a scholarship by coach Joe Tiller. Conard became a three-year starter at cornerback and is now back at his alma mater as running backs coach under Ryan Walters.

Nick Hardwick – The future 11-year Pro Bowl center for the San Diego Chargers didn't play football at Lawrence North. But Hardwick's wrestling skills came in handy when, inspired by Drew Brees and the 2000 Boilermakers, he decided to walk on in 2001. By his senior year in 2003, Hardwick developed into a second-team All-Big Ten center and was taken in the third round of the 2004 NFL Draft by the Chargers.

Zander Horvath – Indiana wanted the Mishawaka Marian graduate to play linebacker as a preferred walkon. Purdue offered a chance to remain at running back. To the Hoosiers' regret, Horvath rushed for nearly 1,200 yards at Purdue and played one season for the Los Angeles Chargers after being selected in the seventh round.

Mark Jackson – To get Purdue coaches' attention as a freshman walkon wide receiver from Terre Haute South, Jackson dove for every poorly thrown football even though the Boilermakers were

practicing on artificial turf. Trainer Denny Miller gave Jackson the nickname "Turf" from all the burns the receiver accumulated on his knees. As a fifth-year senior in 1985, Jackson caught 43 passes for 732 yards and five touchdowns. The Denver Broncos selected Jackson in the sixth round of the 1986 NFL Draft, and he would play nine seasons with three Super Bowl appearances.

Devin Mockobee – The first act of Ryan Walters as Purdue head coach was to give the running back a scholarship. Mockobee earned that grant by rushing for 968 yards and nine touchdowns as a redshirt freshman. He repaid Walters' faith in 2024 with 807 yards and six touchdowns. This fall, Mockobee will seek to become Purdue's first 1,000-yard rusher since Kory Sheets in 2008.

Seth Morales – There would never have been "Brees to Morales" in 2000 against Ohio State had the fleet wide receiver not decided to take a shot at Big Ten football after a season at Butler. Coach Joe Tiller tried to discourage Morales, who insisted on being given a chance. After watching Morales in practice, Tiller came to the conclusion that "maybe he'll be a better player than we thought he would be." Earning a scholarship before the 2000 season, Morales started every game for the Big Ten champs.

Aidan O'Connell – The quarterback rose from seventh on the depth chart to a two-time second-team All-Big Ten selection who led the Boilermakers to a memorable Music City Bowl win against Tennessee and the 2022 Big Ten West Division title. O'Connell started 10 games for the Las Vegas Raiders in 2023 after being drafted in the fourth round.

Jermaine Ross – Recruited to Purdue on a track scholarship, Ross decided to walk on the football team as a wide receiver for coach Fred Akers in 1990. The Jeffersonville native became a two-year starter who parlayed his breakout senior season (31

receptions, 493 yards, 3 TDs) into a five-year NFL career, mostly with the Rams.

Kevin Sumlin – Told he was too small (6-1, 178) to play linebacker in the Big Ten, Sumlin was driven to prove his skeptics wrong. As a redshirt freshman in 1983, Sumlin led Purdue with 91 tackles. When he graduated, Sumlin's 375 total tackles placed him among the top 10 in school history.

Jacob Thieneman – The eldest of the three Thieneman brothers to play at Purdue, Jacob had to wait two seasons to get on the field after walking on. As a redshirt junior in 2017, Jacob started all 13 games at strong safety. His interception in the final moments ensured a victory against Arizona in the Foster Farms Bowl. A shoulder injury and a staph infection during his senior season opened the door for his brother, Brennan, to receive more playing time. Despite the setbacks, Jacob earned a tryout with the New York Giants.

Brennan Thieneman – Three starts during his sophomore season in 2018 was a prelude to a breakout junior season. Now on scholarship, Brennan started eight games at safety. He started all six games during the abbreviated COVID season in 2020.

Let's give honorable mention to comedian Jim Gaffigan, who after graduating from Chesterton High School walked on in the mid-1980s for one season before transferring to Georgetown to earn a business degree.

While performing at Purdue in 2007, Gaffigan recalled his brief Big Ten football career.

"I have so many fond memories from Purdue," Gaffigan is quoted as saying by Fox Sports. "Most seem to involve walking. I walked onto the football team and walked away after I didn't like getting my head bashed in. I remember walking to some classes that were, for some reason, at 7 a.m., walking to Hardee's at 11:30 at night, finally buying a bike, and then walking after it fell apart after two days."

Go Boilers."

Rowinski was one of three notable walkons with the Purdue men's basketball program over the past 40-plus years. The 6-8, muscular center came to Purdue as a student but answered a call to try out for coach Lee Rose's "Renegade" squad that would serve as a practice opponent for the varsity. Given a scholarship by Gene Keady, Rowinski gained national attention during the 1983-84 season by helping the Boilermakers win an unexpected Big Ten championship.

Rowinski was selected the Big Ten's Most Valuable Player after averaging 15 points and 6.7 rebounds. He was drafted by the Utah Jazz and spent parts of three NBA seasons with Detroit, Philadelphia and Miami.

The Purdue basketball staff had no idea who Willie Deane was when the guard came to West Lafayette from Boston College in 1999 after his father was transferred to Fort Wayne by General Electric.

After making the team as a walkon, Deane had a breakout performance in a 72-69 upset of No. 1 Arizona in the 2000 John Wooden Classic at Indianapolis. He scored 16 points, including the final four that sealed the victory.

Deane earned first-team All-Big Ten honors in 2003 and left Purdue ranked 26th on the career scoring list with 1,328 points. Deane played professional basketball overseas until 2018.

Grady Eifert followed in the footsteps of his father, Greg, who was a starting forward for the 1984 Big Ten champions. It took Grady only one season to earn a scholarship, and he eventually started all 36 games for the 2019 Elite Eight squad.

Eifert is now part of former Purdue assistant Micah Shrewsbury's staff at Notre Dame.

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

Thank you for reading The Times



2024
Fall Ball Season

When: August 17th/18th - October 5th/6th, 2024
 • 7 game season to be played on weekends
 • Weekday games may be scheduled based on interest or in the event of rainouts
 • Single-elimination tournament played the weekend of Oct. 5 & 6

Where: Noblesville Babe Ruth Facility - Logan and Emmerson Fields Forest Park, Noblesville

Who: Everyone - 7th-8th Grade and 9th-12th Grade (based on 2024-2025 School Year Enrollment)
 • 7th - 8th Grade Rec League
 • 9th - 12th Grade Rec League
 * **Note:** Post HS players are not eligible for Fall Ball
 • There is no Travel Division for the 2024 Fall Ball season

Cost: \$90 per individual registration (plus processing fee applied at checkout)
 * **Note:** Registration does not include jersey or hat. Teams are free to choose their own jerseys/hats (if desired), but the cost is not included with the registration fee.

How Do I Register?

www.noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.com

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Catch Casey every Monday in The Times!

↓ ANDREA From Page A1

That was the question — and premise — behind the publication: *Indiana Mandate, A Return to Founding Principles, An Agenda for the 2020s*. I worked on this book with Craig Ladwig, executive director of the *Indiana Policy Review Foundation*, with the intention of examining current issues — local, state and national — from the lens of the founding generation. With the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence right around the corner, we hoped to get people talking about the many ways this country has strayed from the principles of limited government, rule of law, individual rights and economic freedom that have been the foundation of our country since 1776. And we asked the question: Can we return to those founding principles before it's too late?

What is the evidence that the United States — in many ways — has lost its way? Consider the following: On a global index of economic freedom, the United States ranks 25th — trailing such countries as Lithuania, Cyprus, Chile and the United Arab Emirates. The 2024 Index, conducted by the Heritage Foundation, looked at economic policies and conditions in 184 sovereign countries from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, and ranked the countries on a 100-point scale. It found that the average global score for economic freedom is the lowest it has been since 2001 — at 58.6.

What's notable is the continuing decline of the United States, whose score dropped to 70.1, its lowest level ever in the 30-year history of the Index. According to Heritage, the primary reason for a decline in economic freedom here is excessive government spending, which has resulted in mounting deficit and debt burdens. These threaten the quality of life of our children and grandchildren. Placing in the top three in the ranking are Singapore, Switzerland and Ireland.

Political freedom is likewise on the decline globally and in the United States. A ranking conducted annually by Freedom House looks at political rights and civil liberties on a 100-point scale. The organization reports that "Global freedom declined for the 18th consecutive year in 2023. The scope and scale of deterioration were extensive, affecting one-fifth of the world's population. Almost everywhere, the downturn in rights was driven by attacks on pluralism — the peaceful coexistence of people with different political ideas, religions or

ethnic identities — that harmed elections and sowed violence."

The United States registered a score of 83, down from 86 prior to the pandemic, and behind such countries as Uruguay, the Bahamas, Slovenia and Portugal. Now, Freedom House has a bit of a left-wing ideological bias, so I disagree with them on the culprits behind the U.S. decline but I certainly agree that our political freedom is under attack. Political division and discord in this country have resulted in suppression of views, especially of conservatives and Christians, an increase in political violence, and concern for election integrity. And the Justice Department has been weaponized for political purposes.

What can we do about these trends?

The Indiana Policy Review believes the place to start is educating ourselves. We the people and our elected officials need to understand what the issues are and how we can apply founding principles to them. And some of these issues are complicated.

We started by picking 75 topics that are of concern today and researching what if anything the founders might have said about them. In some cases, there is clear and convincing evidence of what they thought. On some issues, we had to extrapolate. And in some, we stretched a bit in order to include them. It was a fascinating exercise and one I think all policy minded people should do before staking out a position on anything. After establishing the founders' views, we offered context and data for the issue in today's times. And whenever possible we suggested actions steps policymakers should take to take into consideration founding principles.

Let me share some examples.

Let's start with the economy, which voters consistently indicate is a top issue heading into the 2024 elections. On many of the economic issues on which Republicans and Democrats disagree, the founders' philosophy is indisputable. They opposed excessive taxation.

While their primary concern in the revolutionary era was taxation without representation, they understood that government should tax only for urgent need. George Washington wrote, "... towards the payment of debts there must be revenue ... to have revenue there must be taxes ... (and) ... no taxes can be devised which are not more or less

inconvenient and unpleasant." Today, the combined rate of federal, state and local taxes on the average middle class wage earner is approaching 50 percent ... talk about unpleasant. As Craig Ladwig noted, that's a rate that would make even King George blush. The solution is self-evident. Government must spend less in order to tax less. The public has to demand discipline from our elected representatives.

The founders were firm in their support of property rights. Thomas Jefferson borrowed heavily from John Locke's second treatise in which Locke said that even in a state of nature, where no government exists, "No one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions." Jefferson's wording transformed Locke's thought into "life liberty and happiness," suggesting that happiness and property are related. George Washington said, "Freedom and property are inseparable. You can't have one without the other."

The founders warned against incurring government debt that couldn't be paid off quickly. Washington referred to it as "ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear."

The founders opposed earmarks — those bills that direct tax dollars to specific projects in lawmakers home districts. James Monroe said federal money should be limited to "great national works only, since if it were unlimited it would be liable to abuse and might be productive of evil." Did you know that in January 2021 Congress brought back earmarks after a decade long moratorium? In 2023, Congress passed 7,396 earmarks costing \$26 billion. Notably and worthy of kudos, Indiana ranked near the bottom in pork per capita at \$5.70. Alaska ranked at the top at \$668. Some would contend Indiana's congressional representatives are failing to get Indiana its fair share. But this should not be a competition to fleece the taxpayers. The only solution: Ban earmarks altogether.

In sharp contrast to the national government, Indiana's lawmakers are conscientious about spending and debt, our constitution places limits on debt, and our laws protecting private property are commendable. However, there are threats aplenty at the state level to our fiscal freedom. Economic development policies, as one example, distort market forces by

picking winners and losers. This was one of the few issues on which the Republican gubernatorial candidates actually disagreed in the primary campaigns.

Economic development sounds worthy. The stated purpose of the Indiana Economic Development Commission and related municipal and regional agencies is to grow the economy and create good paying jobs. Their chief strategy, however, is to offer tax relief or subsidies to certain types of business ventures — from hotels to convention centers. We taxpayers fund all sorts of things that benefit some but not all — such as Lucas Oil Stadium where the Indianapolis Colts play. Indianapolis taxpayers are right now helping to finance the new Signia by Hilton Hotel downtown because the project couldn't get loans from the private sector.

The example that you all are familiar with and that has been in the news is the LEAP (Lebanon Innovation District). At first blush, it sounds fantastic. It's been billed as the economy of the future. 9,000-plus acres with advanced manufacturing, ag-bio science, defense, high tech logistics. The IEDC, which by the way is a quasi-public agency that receives minimal legislative review, has committed almost a billion dollars in tax dollars to it.

The case can be made — and was strongly made by Eric Doden and Brad Chambers in the GOP primary — that this will benefit Indiana's economy, employ thousands, lead to technological advances etc. But what would the Founders say about it?

I think they'd object. The First Congress rejected a bill to loan money to a glassmaker as unconstitutional favoritism. In a debate during the second congress, South Carolina Rep. Hugh Williamson opposed a bill to pay a bounty to New England cod fishermen because it sought to — "gratify one part of the union by oppressing the other."

We hear the term crony capitalism thrown around a lot. It's something we need to be concerned about because it limits economic freedom. The founders would point out that crony capitalism caused the Boston Tea Party. Colonists objected to the Tea Act of 1773 because it granted the East India Company a monopoly on tea exported to the colonies, exempted the company from the export tax and guaranteed it a "drawback" or (refund) of duties owed on surplus quantities of tea in its possession.

The tea act benefited some at the expense of all.

Let's move from the economy to election integrity. If the *Indiana Policy Review* were to prioritize one issue above all others in "Indiana Mandate," it would be election integrity. If we cannot trust the accuracy and fairness of our electoral process, our republic is sunk.

The latest survey I could find on this was CNN's from August 2023, when 69 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning voters questioned the legitimacy of Joe Biden's election. That's a lot of "election deniers." Many in the Republican Party are saying the only solution is to beat the Democrats at their own game — to do everything possible to maximize early voting and mail-in ballots so the GOP's lead can't be eroded by "middle of the night" vote-counting shenanigans. Elon Musk just committed 45 million-dollars a month to a political action committee that will focus on early voting efforts.

What would the founders say?

The earliest elections occurred by voice vote or paper ballot, and — as today — fraud was a concern. Candidates greeted voters at the polls, often offering food and drink to opponents as well as supporters. Elections in the early republic sometimes lasted two or three days to accommodate those traveling long distances to the courthouse. The idea of month-long early voting periods or mail-in ballots, however, would defy the founders' understanding of "election day" as a patriotic and social affair that brought citizens together for what Samuel Adams called "one of the most solemn trusts in human society."

Absentee and early voting are modern inventions. Absentee voting began during the Civil War so soldiers could participate in the 1864 presidential election, but it wasn't until 1921 that a state — Louisiana — enacted the first absentee law. California was the first state to offer absentee voting for any reason in the 1970s, and Texas offered early in-person voting starting in the late 1980s.

This trend continued and accelerated during the Covid pandemic. In 2016, two in five ballots cast for the general election were early, absentee or by mail. In 2020, 43 states allowed early voting with windows ranging from a few days to almost 50. In Indiana, early voting starts 28 days prior to the election.

Early voting sounds democratic but creates a huge risk of fraud and ballot damage, misplacement or accidental destruction. As observed by political commentator Deroy Murdock, "Making early ballots disappear from overwhelmingly Democratic or Republican precincts could throw elections. Even if nothing inappropriate happens, as ballots gather dust, they generate suspicions of monkey business, especially in skin-tight races. Such doubts corrode confidence in institutions and officials."

Early voting is changing the fundamental nature of campaigning, making it more expensive and thus more likely to benefit incumbents, who have budgets, staff and tactical ability to conduct get-out-the-early-vote efforts. Further, early voting changes the very nature of the election season. From Labor Day until early November, candidates have the opportunity to appeal to the people, and citizens have the opportunity to debate. According to constitutional law professors Eugene Kontorovich and John McGinnis, "The integrity of that space is broken when some citizens cast their ballots as early as 46 days before the election, as some states allow. A lot can happen in those 46 days. Early voters are, in essence, asked a different set of questions from later ones; they are voting with a different set of facts."

Indiana can be a leader here. Under the Elections Clause of the Constitution, state legislatures hold the power to determine time, place and manner of federal as well as state elections. Any effort to address the chaotic hodgepodge of voting rules and procedures that exist around the country needs to begin at the state level.

Indiana lawmakers could and should return to single-day voting on Election Day, expand voting day hours (6 a.m. to 9 p.m.), increase the number of polling sites and continue to offer absentee ballots to Hoosiers with legitimate reasons they cannot vote in person at the polls. Indiana has the opportunity to create a model law that restores the integrity of Election Day but preserves the opportunity for all eligible citizens to vote.

At the federal level, we should make Election Day the most important national holiday, rivaling Memorial Day and the Fourth of July.

➡ See ANDREA Page A6

↓ ANDREA From Page A5

Countries that do this have higher voter participation rates than the United States.

Turning to education, another issue that continues to be at the top of voter priority lists. Here's what is absolutely clear: The Founders were not worried about college or career readiness, which are the obsession of politicians and business leaders today. They saw the primary purpose of education as "civic" — as unifying, as essential to character development. They understood that the ability to read, write and think is essential if citizens are to take part in representative democracy.

That thought was written into the Declaration by Thomas Jefferson: Governments "derive their just powers from the consent of the governed," and it was assumed education made that consent possible. It was never suggested that the government order students to attend certain schools, and the wording in subsequent state constitutions made clear that the establishment of public schools was for regions where schools had not yet been established.

The Founders considered civic education essential to continued good government. In his Farewell Address, George Washington said, "A primary object should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic what species of knowledge can be equally important? And what duty more pressing than communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of our country."

At that we have failed abysmally. We laugh when the late-night comedians air "man on the street" interviews showing just how ignorant Americans are of their history. I watched one on Prager U's channel the other morning conducted at the National Mall. When was the Declaration of Independence signed? 1904. To what political party did Lincoln belong? Democratic. In a recent Annenberg survey, less than half of Americans were able to name all three branches of government.

To our great detriment, we have lost the Founders understanding — that the new country would remain free only if people were education in good government and history — and we need to get that understanding back.

As a side note, the Founders were all-in on phonics. Noah

Webster, best known as the author of the dictionary, noted that "every child in America ... should read books that furnish him with ideas that will be useful to him in life and practice." Webster's "blue-backed spellers," used during the 18th and 19th centuries, taught children to spell and read by learning explicitly the relationship between letters and sounds. The Indiana General Assembly has been trying to get "science of reading" back into the schools, but it hasn't been easy because of resistance from the education schools and teachers unions.

Moving on to the administrative state, the bureaucracy, the swamp. The Founders would be aghast at where power lies in our country today — it lies with executive branch agencies and employees. They would surely be in favor of Vivek Ramaswamy's proposal to cut the federal workforce by 75 percent.

The Founders created a system of checks and balances with separation of powers to ensure no one branch overpowered the others. Their writings, however, make clear that they considered the legislative branch the most important because it was elected by the people. It's horrifying to report that executive branch agencies enact more policies each year than Congress itself.

In 2023, the Biden administration issued 3,018 regulations with the force of law, compared with 65 laws passed by Congress during the same period. This directly relates to the economic freedom rankings I mentioned earlier. The National Association of Manufacturers reports that the cost to the economy of regulatory compliance exceeded 3 trillion dollars in 2022. For a typical U.S. business, regulations cost about 19 percent of payroll expenditures. This system has been decades in the making and will take time to solve, but Congress can start with a simple accountability measure. Require lawmakers to vote all major rules into law. Congress should feel empowered in this regard by the Supreme Court's recent, welcome decision to overturn the Chevron precedent, which had essentially allowed federal agencies to interpret the laws they administer with almost no oversight.

Let me finish by sharing a few of things that surprised and delighted me about the Founders.

As you might imagine "Indiana Mandate" does not buy into the

validity of climate change. The Founders would not have supported President Biden's effort to shut down coal plants or to phase out fossil fuels; they would have agreed with the philosophy of energy independence as a matter of national security.

That said, they liked trees, and would probably approve of tree-planting and tree conservation as the best method of carbon capture, which reduces air pollution.

British historian Andrea Wulf, in her book "Founding Gardeners," credits James Madison, the father of the Constitution, with being a forefather of the American environmental movement. "Madison feared that if society lived off nature at the current rate it would eventually destroy it and that man had to return to nature what man took from it," Wulf writes. Notably, Madison's residence in Montpelier, Va., maintained hundreds of acres of untamed forest, which he saw as a treasured asset. The fourth president demonstrated his affinity for forests into retirement when he protested unnecessary logging in an 1818 address to the Agricultural Society of Albermarle County, admonishing farmers for "the injudicious and excessive destruction of timber and fire wood."

The Founders would not have supported subsidies of electric vehicles, but they probably would have been fascinated by the technology. They were noted tinkerers, Ben Franklin's experiments with lightning being just one example.

For that reason, they might think ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence are pretty cool — but surely they would worry about their use in K-12 classrooms before students acquire the necessary skills of reading, writing and critical thinking.

Finally, an issue of great importance to the next generations. They would tell the Indiana legislature: Do not follow the crowd. Do not legalize marijuana. They would tell the Biden administration: Treat fentanyl as a public health emergency. Dr. Benjamin Rush, founding father and founder of the first medical school in the United States, warned his colleagues that overconsumption of distilled spirits negatively affected industry, health and morals. His then novel theories about alcoholism and addiction have all been proved correct by subsequent research.

The founders of our

country knew what they were doing when they created the United States of America. They had insight into almost every issue confronting us today. We talk in "Indiana Mandate" about such diverse issues as the autism epidemic, vaccine mandates, Midwest exceptionalism, term limits, wind power and abortion.

Our country is on the verge of squandering a great inheritance. Let us honor the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by reclaiming their wisdom, their political philosophy, and their founding principles.

Andrea Neal is former editorial page editor of *The Indianapolis Star*, now a history teacher and the author of three books, including "Road Trip: A Pocket History of Indiana" and "Pence: The Path to Power." This essay has been adapted from a talk she is giving to Indiana groups preparing for the upcoming anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.



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↓ BETSY

From Page A1

1. Noblesville 17th annual Movies in the Park, sponsored by Logan Street Banners, features a free movie each Friday at dusk at Federal Hill Commons: "Barbie," Rated PG-13, tonight; "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire," Rated PG-13, Aug. 16; "Trolls Band Together," Rated PG, Aug. 23; "Elemental," Rated PG, Sept. 6; "Transformers: Rise of the Beast," Rated PG-13, Sept. 16, with light concessions, plus more info at noblesvilleparks.org

2. Attend the Indiana State Fair through Aug. 18 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, with entertainment, family fun park, livestock barns and buildings, Pioneer Village, Tap Room, animals, 4-H exhibits, food, free stage and more, and info with locals in the youth talent show this Saturday at indianastatefair.com.

3. Enjoy live music with Benjamin Watson tonight, Nora Reese on Saturday, Ciara Haskett on Aug. 16, Bomar & Ritter on Aug. 17, Marrielle Sellars on Aug. 23, Grape Harvest Festival at 3 p.m. Aug. 24 at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville.

4. Noblesville Farmers Market is open for the season 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays with live entertainment, through Oct. 12 at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville. Special days include Kids Day on Saturday and Sept. 14; and Art Day Sept. 7; and Dog Day with parade, costume contest, pet portraits, agility demos, adoptions and more also on Sept. 7.

5. Join the American Legion Riders' Veterans Support Ride benefiting Indy Honor Flight this Saturday, with registration (\$20 for

riders, \$10 for passengers, any vehicles invited to join) and breakfast at 9 a.m. at Noblesville American Legion Post 45, with kickstands up at 11 a.m., for a ride that will travel to Yorktown American Legion, with food for a free will donation, then to Kirkland American Legion and return to Noblesville American Legion for live auction and raffle, deejay Charlie McMillan and food of pork sandwiches for \$5. Indy Honor Flight honors veterans for their service with a free day trip to see memorials built in their honor in Washington, D.C., with priority to oldest.

6. Grab a lawn chair and experience Noblesville Main Street's Music & All That Jazz with concerts 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday with NHS Combo with Peter Luttrull, Sept. 14 with Moontown Pickle Stompers and Oct. 12 with David Hartman Band on the Courthouse Square.

7. Enjoy free Concerts at the Commons at Federal Hill Commons 7-10 p.m. Saturdays featuring: Crush (Bon Jovi tribute), Saturday; Tennessee Whiskey (Chris Stapleton tribute), Aug. 24; Hi Fidelity ('80s rock), Sept. 14; and Chicago Rewired (Chicago tribute), Sept. 28.

8. Enjoy live music with Hill and Oaks on Saturday, Donny Coyle on Aug. 16, John Beatrice Band on Aug. 17, Craig Thurston on Aug. 23. Open Mic Night for solo acoustic acts with sound provided 7-9 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday at Primeval Brewing Co., in downtown Noblesville.

9. Vintage, antique and custom cars, trucks, bikes and tanks are welcome at Noblesville NAPA's first Car Show 8

a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 17 at the NAPA parking lot at 3501 Conner St., Noblesville, with \$10 entry fee for vehicles, and free to spectators, featuring partner Fast Lane Auto Mentoring, with room for pop-up canopies with show on the grass.

10. Enjoy Forest Park Aquatic Center's 2024 Flix and Floats nights movies on the giant LED video board at 8:15 p.m. Aug. 17, "TMNT: Mutant Mayhem," Rated PG. Plus, Ripfest Diving (club) offers free diving lessons noon to 2 p.m. Sundays in the diving pool. Plus the pool is open daily through Labor Day.

11. Experience Alice in Wonderland's enchanting journey down the rabbit hole in this classic 1937 radio show, live on stage thanks to Noblesville Preservation Alliance's Radio Theater, featuring the radio reenactment of the Columbia Broadcasting System presentation of "Alice in Wonderland," Aug. 15-18 at NPA's Preservation Hall on Logan Street in Old Towne Noblesville, with \$10 tickets in advance at noblesvillepreservation.org and \$12 at the door. "The original broadcast was in 1937 and the show is just as good now as then," said Dennis Smith, director and producer of NPA's radio shows and who has worked in radio for more than 40 years.

12. Enjoy live theater at Carmel Community Players' final show of the 2023-24 season, "Woman in Black," a theatrical thriller by Stephen Malatraf based on the novel by Susan Hill, for seven performances Aug. 16-25 at The Cat in Carmel, with tickets at www.carmelplayers.org

13. Aviation enthusiasts

can see home-built, restored and military aircraft during a Noblesville chapter Experimental Aircraft Association pancake breakfast and fly-in, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Aug. 17 at Noblesville Airport. Admission is free to fly-in. Pancake breakfast is pay at the door with proceeds to benefit Young Eagles going to Experimental Aircraft Association Academy in Oshkosh, Wis.

14. Shop at the ninth annual Red Geranium Artisan Market 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 17 at the First Presbyterian Church in Noblesville, featuring 60 unique, handmade and one-of-a-kind artisan and food vendors inside and open-air behind the historic church. Free parking at City Hall at 10th and Maple and sidestreets, family and dog friendly, live music, bake sale, Smokey Blue food truck and Stacco House by Mammamia gelato, booth rental supports church. Live music features Molly Jones on harp, 9 a.m.; Julia Keller-Welter on viola, 10 a.m.; Rhythm and Cues Cloggers, 11 a.m.; Robin and Jennifer Ruffato vocal contemporary Christian and classics, noon; Emily Ann and Kelly Thompson Celtic and American old-time, folk, bluegrass and country, 1-2:30 p.m. Vendor info at fpc-noblesville.org

15. Bring blankets and lawn chairs while experiencing the Hamilton County Community Band's free Summer Concert Series, 6:30 p.m. Aug. 18 at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville.

16. Take a road trip to Tipton Park Concert Series featuring 90 Proof on Aug. 24 and 45 RPM on Sept. 21.

17. Save the date for the Front Porch Music

Festival on Logan Street from 1-7 p.m. Aug. 24 in downtown Noblesville.

18. Stop by the Noblesville Parks & Recreation Department office at Forest Park Inn weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for a pet treat and a photo of your leashed pet. And play miniature golf at Tom Thumb course at Forest Park next to the carousel.

19. Come out for the fourth annual Salsa on the Square from 6-11 p.m. Aug. 30 featuring food trucks, cocktail garden, intro salsa lesson from Latin Expressions, music by DJ Mambo Sound, with drinks available at partners Noble Coffee & Tea and Primeval Brewing, and food available at 9th Street Bistro and Fillers Co.,

Platanos Venezuelan Food and Latin Griller. This event is by Noblesville Main Street, City of Noblesville and Noblesville Street Department. Tickets will go on sale soon for this age 21-and-older Logan Street downtown event.

20. Shine up your vehicle for the 14th annual Lucky Teter Rebel Run Car & Vintage Market 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 31 at Forest Park in Noblesville.

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times Editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com. For a complete list of all Hamilton County events, go to VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Eve

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