



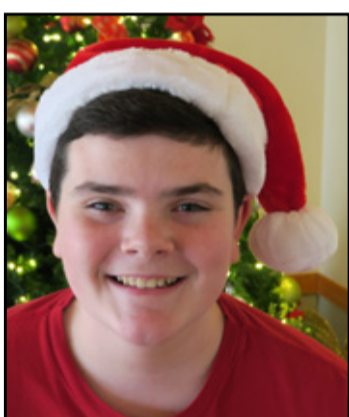
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TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 12:14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Nate Cook smile? "I like seeing all of the kids happy with Santa Claus," said the then 13-year-old, a then eighth-grader at Noblesville East Middle School. He was found in December 2017 at Tri Kappa's Breakfast with Santa at Forest Park. "I was Santa's helper, and I also helped out with the crafts that the kids made." Nate said, "I did this because I just really like it, and my (Tri Kappa) mom also helps out with it. I thought it would be fun to do it with her." Today's feature is a look back at one of The Times' previous Faces of Hamilton County. He is the son of Matt and Lynn Cook. Moffett Craig and Nate's mom started the breakfast when Nate was 1. A Boy Scout, he was involved in Student Council and played the alto saxophone and the clarinet in Jazz Band and Band at Noblesville High School, where he graduated in 2022. He has two brothers, Ryan and John. What else? "I try to make people smile." Moffett is reviving Mrs. Claus this holiday season and will be telling stories, singing songs and leading dances and crafts during a Fun with Mrs. Claus event at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Adriene's Flowers & Gifts in Noblesville, with reservations at (317) 773-6065.

And Another Thing...

1. Road Closure

Starting sometime next week, the Hamilton County Highway Department will begin bridge wearing surface replacement work within East Haven and Lochaven. This work will involve traffic restrictions or road closures along Midland Lane between Hazel Dell Road and Catlin Lane, Midland Lane between Cherry Tree Road and Strathaven Road, and Kippford Street between Carrick Road and Cherry Tree Road. Work will be finish one bridge location at a time to minimize disruptions to nearby residents. These closures and restrictions will be between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

2. Holiday Crafts

In the wide variety of art-class offerings from Fishers Parks, you have the opportunity to learn from local and regional makers and artists! With a full slate of hands-on art programming and workshops in our Maker Labs and Maker Playground at the Fishers Parks HQ (8100 E. 106th St.), there is something for anyone - from stained glass and eco-dying to home decor and woodworking and more, for both kids and adults. Below are a few of the holiday-themed courses offered in the coming days. Visit playfishers.com to see the full list of activities offered.

Marbling Ornament & Custom Card Workshop

5, 6 or 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9  
Choose from 3 different times for this all-ages workshop hosted by Sewful Cheryl and make your own marbled ornaments and custom holiday cards!

Holiday Wreath Workshop

6-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12  
Dress up your door for the winter season with fresh, winter greenery. This two-hour class at the Fishers AgriPark will walk you through creating a beautiful wreath for your home using unique bundles of a variety of fir, pine and spruce trees.

Head to playfishers.com/655/Art-Classes-Workshops to register for these activities.

# The TIMES

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Photo provided by Carmel Community Players

The cast of Carmel Community Players holiday production, "Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas!" features Kevin Shadle (back, from left), Tom Riddle, Matt Trgovac; and Joy Ried (front left) and Tonya Rave. The show opens Friday at The Cat in Carmel.

## CCP Holiday Play Director Reminiscences of Childhood Christmases, Theater, Music



BETSY REASON  
The Times Editor

Kate Hinman's love for Christmas, storytelling and theater all began when she was a kid and stepped on the stage at age 6.

"My love for the holidays comes from my family. My mom loved all holidays and decorated for all of them," said Hinman, who has several family heirlooms for the season, including nativity pieces and an angel on her Christmas tree that were given to her at age 6.

"It is these things as well as being with my theater family that makes the holidays special,"

said Hinman, of Westfield, who happened into directing Carmel Community Players' holiday show, "Uh-Oh! Here Comes Christmas," a collection of stories, songs and vignettes, which opens Friday and continues with performances through Dec. 18 at The Cat in Carmel.

She hopes lots of patrons will come see the show to "hear the stories, feel the feels, rediscover your part in our community, families and world."

Hinman hadn't thought about

See BETSY Page A5

## County Probation Services Applauds Growth of Wall of Change Honorees

The Hamilton County Courts' Department of Probation Services celebrated five individuals on Nov. 16 at its annual Wall of Change Celebration in the Jury Assembly Room at the Government & Judicial Building in Noblesville. The department nominates individuals who have made meaningful, positive changes to their lives while on probation.

"A lot of people hear about probation when someone has violated their terms," says Paul McGriff, Assistant Director of the Department of Probation Services. "But the vast majority of people complete probation and there are many making big, difficult changes to better their lives and their community."

See CHANGE Page A5

## County Prosecutor Lee Buckingham Earns Honors from Indiana Prosecutors

During the 2022 Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC) Winter Conference, Hamilton County Prosecuting Attorney D. Lee Buckingham II received the Steve Johnson Award from the IPAC Board of Directors. Presented to him during a ceremony on Monday night, the award celebrates Prosecutor Buckingham's twelve years as an elected prosecutor, sixteen years as a deputy prosecutor and countless hours dedicated to helping IPAC in many facets, including as a member of its Legislative and Executive Committees.

"I am honored to have served under Lee's leadership and vision," said Andre Miksha, Buckingham's chief deputy of twelve years. "Lee consistently approached the work of a prosecutor and countless hours dedicated to helping IPAC in many facets, including as a member of its Legislative and Executive Committees."

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See BUCKINGHAM Page A5

### INSIDE TODAY

- Obituaries.....A2
- Tim Timmons.....A2
- Meeting Notice.....A2
- Service Directory.....A4
- Classifieds.....A4
- Indiana Facts & Fun.....A7
- Indiana News.....A8, A9

### OBITUARIES

- Jacqueline L. Andrews
- Neal L. Apley
- Richard Allen 'Dick' McCarty



### TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you want to get more exercise, consider getting a dog and walk it regularly. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



### HONEST HOOSIER

17 Hamilton County shopping days until Christmas. How about a membership in all our local museums, Chambers and



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

### TODAY'S QUOTE

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet The words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

### TODAY'S JOKE

What did Mary Poppins want from Santa? Supercalifragilisticexpialidocioushoes!

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

THU 24/38 SOME SUN CHILLY	FRI 30/50 CLOUDY & WINDY BREEZY	SAT 41/38 BACK TO CHILLY	SUN 25/40 SUN & CLOUDS	MON 25/45 LATE DAY RAIN	TUE 40/48 HIGHER AND DRIER	WED 24/40 SUN & CLOUDS
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## ➔ OBITUARIES

### Jacqueline L. Andrews

September 11, 1948-December 2, 2022

Jacqueline L. Andrews, 74, of Carmel, passed away on Friday, Dec. 2, 2022 at her home.

She was born on Sept. 11, 1948 to the late Jack and Naomi (Kaufman) Ackerman in Lexington, Kentucky.

Mrs. Andrews worked as a loan officer for American Fund. She was the first woman accepted into the American Society of Arms Collectors. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the White River Chorus. In her younger years, she enjoyed ice skating, fencing, tennis and world traveling. Mrs. Andrews loved making jewelry, was very active, outgoing and made friends easily. She was beloved by her grandchildren and was known as Gummy Bear Grandma.

Survivors include her 3 daughters Julie Andrews (John Cox), Meghan (Chris) Hooke and Missy (Randy) Santiano; grandchildren Nora, Ian, Andrew, Alex, Gabe and Ben; and sister Bette Ackerman.

Visitation is scheduled to run from 1-3 p.m., with services scheduled for 3 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Rd., Noblesville. Craig Wood will officiate. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Online condolences may be made at [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

### Neal L. Apley

September 7, 1942-December 5, 2022

Neal L. Apley, 80, of Fishers, passed away quietly at his home on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022.

He was born on Sept. 7, 1942 to the late Neal and Elizabeth (Brass) Apley in Indianapolis.

Mr. Apley proudly served his country in the United States Army. He worked for 40 years as a tool maker for International Harvester. He enjoyed restoring his 1936 Ford Tudor and his 1955 Olds Delta 88.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years Linda L. (Carver) Apley; 3 children Mark, Terry and Melissa; and 5 grandchildren Bailey, Shelby, Caleb, Justin and Conner.

Visitation is scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Rd., in Fishers. Pastor Danny Davis will officiate. Burial will be at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens in Indianapolis.

Online condolences may be made at [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

### Richard Allen 'Dick' McCarty

January 30, 1950-December 3, 2022

Richard Allen 'Dick' McCarty, 72, a lifelong resident of Sheridan, passed away peacefully at his home on Dec. 3, 2022.

He was born on Jan. 30, 1950, to the late Kenneth L. and Patricia A. (Goodknight) McCarty, in Lebanon, Indiana.

Mr. McCarty graduated from Sheridan High School, Class of 1968. Throughout his lifetime, he worked a few different jobs. After high school, he worked as a driver and mill operator for Wallace Grain. He started McCarty Construction Company, as he loved working with his hands and building things and enjoyed making many families happy. Mr. McCarty's mother Pat oversaw Crown View Cemetery; since he liked serving people, he started to open and close graves for his mother at the cemetery. Mr. McCarty spent the last few years working for Kroger in their meat department as a butcher.

When he was not working, he could be found pulling his camper to different campgrounds spending time with his family; the last four years he and his wife Belinda decided to park their camper permanently at Old Mill Run in Thorntown. The two looked forward to their trips to as "Dick would say" Amish Country where the two of them would walk around the shops and appreciate the craftsmanship in their work. Mr. McCarty also loved to fish and take his grandchildren fishing and yes, he taught them how to tell fish tales. When he was at home, he enjoyed taking care of his chickens and gathering eggs. One of his favorite joys and calling was serving the Town of Sheridan, where he served his community as a Volunteer Fireman for over 40 years. He worked his way through the ranks as a volunteer finally becoming Fire Chief over the volunteers and he had earned the respect of the other volunteers he commanded.

Mr. McCarty's family will always remember him as being quick-witted, comical and fun loving man who taught his family many life lessons. It is only fitting how he met and fell in love with his wife, Belinda, after being set up on a blind date. They married on Sept. 4, 1970, and the two of them have been at each other's side for the last 52 years. His family will greatly miss him.

Survivors include his wife Belinda (Bryan) McCarty; 2 children Bryan (Tone) McCarty and Robin (Richard) Beesley; 7 grandchildren Emma (Elijah) Thiess, Nicholas Beesley, Erik McCarty, Espen McCarty, Ashleigh Beesley, Edmund McCarty and Elliot McCarty; and 2 great-granddaughters Evelyn Thiess and Emberly Thiess.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother John McCarty.

Funeral services are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, at 12 p.m., noon at Christ Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church located at 6070 N. 900 E. Sheridan, where family and friends are scheduled to gather from 10 a.m. until the time of services. Burial will follow at Spencer Cemetery. Pastor Tim McClymonds will be officiating Dick's service.

Memorial donations may be made to Christ Covenant OPC 6070 N. 900 E. Sheridan, IN 46069; or the Sheridan Fire Department 506 S. Main St. Sheridan, IN 46069.

Everyone is invited to sign the online guestbook, leave a condolence or share a memory at [fisherfunerals.com](http://fisherfunerals.com).

Fisher Family Funeral Services is honored to serve the McCarty Family



### TIM TIMMONS

Two Cents

Let me repeat something I wrote earlier. Jet lag is real.

As of this writing, we have been home a little less than 24 hours. The clock and bright daylight tell me it's mid-afternoon, but my body tells me it's time for bed. In addition, my wife and I both feel like death eating a brick, a line I'm borrowing from an old friend. Don't know if it's that wonderful recirculated air we spent 14 hours breathing on Delta yesterday or what, but I'd have to start feeling a whole lot better before I could even say I feel worse.

Know what I mean? Anyways, this is my next-to-last scribbling on the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. And this one won't focus so much on any one aspect, but instead will offer a bunch of quick hits on a whole lot of tidbits. So without further ado, let's go.

**ONE QUESTION** we asked was why so many stories from the bible occurred inland? The Mediterranean is a beautiful area and we wondered why very few stories originated from there? The tour guide smiled and said things weren't a lot different back then. The rich lived on the coast and everyone else lived inland. Hmm, the more things change the more they stay the same!

**IF YOU THINK** we have a lot of roundabouts in Indiana . . . what's the old saying . . . you ain't seen nothing yet. There are roundabouts EVERYWHERE. And believe

me when I tell you that drivers have no fear. If we drove that way over here road rage would be worse. MUCH worse.

**SPEAKING OF** driving, tour bus drivers (of which there are many in the Holy Land) can park tour buses in spots a Smart car would have trouble with.

**WE ALL** know from bible school how Jesus and his disciples traveled from village to village, almost completely on foot. Now that I've seen the hills, the rocks, the mountains that they had to go through, over and around . . . well, "impressive" is an understatement.

**WE SPENT** very little time in Tel Aviv, but I was surprised by the lack of smokers there. Not sure why I expected more, but there was little to no evidence. However, when we went to the markets in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, it was hard to find someone not smoking.

**ANOTHER SURPRISE** was how small the Jordan was. The White River is bigger.

**WHEN WE** were up north in Tiberias on the banks of the Sea of Galilee, the tour guide told us that the sunrise over the sea and mountains would be spectacular. So the next morning, I waited on the deck watching . . . and watching . . . and in a little bit got a blanket because it was chilly. We were on the 8th floor of our hotel and I watched the street lights blink off as the sky began to lighten. The street sweeper looked small from that high up. The sky was a pale blue with hints of yellow and orange to the east. The smell from the eucalyptus trees was fresh and inviting. The closer the clock ticked to 6:15, the more the hills behind us began to take on definition. And then the big moment arrived, and the sun peeked

over the horizon – DIRECTLY BEHIND THE HOTEL to our east.

**FOOD?** I found I like falafels – even after I found out what was in them. Basically, these are deep-fried balls (they look like hushpuppies) made from chickpeas and beans, all ground up. I also fell in love with schnitzel – a thinly sliced boneless chicken that's breaded. Yeah, I ate about as healthy there as I do here. Oh, and the stuffed tomato they served at breakfast . . . wow!

**FOR HOLLYWOOD** fans, we went by the cemetery where the final scene from Schindler's List was filmed.

**WHEN WE** were walking through Jerusalem and went from sites of the Last Supper, the trial of Jesus, the crucifixion, the place where Abraham was going to sacrifice his son, the rising of Jesus on the third day and more, it begged the question: Is there one spot on earth that witnessed so many things of epic proportion in such close proximity?

**JERUSALEM IS** a city of just under 900,000. Just south of there is smaller Bethlehem with its population of around 75,000. These two cities used to be miles apart, but Jerusalem has grown to the south and Bethlehem has grown to the north and now it's hard to tell when you leave one and go into the other? Sound familiar Noblesville and Fishers?

**NOT SURE** about politics over there, but there was a definite anti-Russian sentiment in regard to the war on Ukraine. One bumper sticker read: Putin Khuylo. Being the intrepid journalist I am, I dove into learning what that meant (I googled it) and found out it has something to do with comparing the Russian leader to a body part.

**ALONG THOSE** lines, we asked our tour guide if missile strikes were of concern. He said they had not had any in a while and didn't think we needed to worry . . . unless Russia's aim is really off that day.

**THE CHURCH** of the Holy Sepulcher is maintained by six churches and represents nearly 2 billion people – almost a third of the world's people. The six are the Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholics, the church in Egypt, Armenians, Ethiopian Christians and Syrian Orthodox.

**AND WHILE** we are talking about Ethiopia, our tour guide said he is of the belief that the Ark of the Covenant may well be in Ethiopia in a church.

**THE WEATHER** was wonderful. I wore shorts on all the days that modest wear was not required. Temps were mostly in the 60s and 70s.

**WHILE EATING** lunch at an outdoor market (we almost always ate lunch at outdoor markets) we heard a frantic woman screaming, and then another. The cause? A little boy had wandered away and his parents (I assume) could not find him. Suddenly, another woman came running up dragging what looked to be a 4- or 5-year-old by the hand. The boy, who looked scared to death, started crying as his mom rushed in and swooped him up. No interpreter was needed. Any parent watching could tell she was ready to hug him to death and then fan his little bottom.

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

# Odds and Ends From Israel Trip

## ISP Superintendent Doug Carter Visits with County Parks and Recreation Staff

Indiana State Police Superintendent Doug Carter stopped by Hamilton County Park's Administrative Office in Noblesville for a brief visit during which mutual appreciation was expressed by members of both government agencies.

During the visit, parks staff learned that Superintendent Carter enjoyed spending time, when his demanding schedule allows, recreating and recharging in Hamilton County parks - his favorite being Strawtown Koteewi Park, where he said he could be found on occasion taking in the park's scenic lake, and

peaceful grounds and trails.

Before parting, HCPR parks leadership and staff thanked Superintendent Carter for his exemplary service and the public safety he and the dedicated Indiana State Police professionals work tirelessly to provide the citizens of Hamilton County and Indiana.

To learn more about Hamilton County Parks and Recreation visit [MyHamiltonCountyParks.com](http://MyHamiltonCountyParks.com), call (317) 770-4400 or follow Hamilton County Parks on Facebook.

For additional details about the Indiana State Police, visit [in.gov/](http://in.gov/)



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Parks & Rec

**ISP Superintendent Doug Carter (left) stands with Hamilton County Parks and Recreation staff members during his recent visit.**

isp/ or to receive the latest public information from the law enforcement agency,

follow them on Facebook at [facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064696688402](http://facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064696688402)

## ➔ Meeting Notice

### Hamilton County E911 Executive Board

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) the Hamilton County E911 Executive Board will

be meeting on Monday, Dec. 12, 2022 at 8 a.m. The meeting is held in the Mayor's Conference Room in Noblesville City Hall, 16 South 10th St., Noblesville. The discussion will be regarding E911 operations.

relax & enjoy

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# Spartz's Patents for Humanity Act Passes House, Heads to President's Desk for Signature

This week, H.R. 5796, the 'Patents for Humanity Act of 2021', led by U.S. Representative Victoria Spartz (R-IN) and Leader-Elect Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), passed the U.S. House of Representatives on a bipartisan basis. The bill will now head to President Biden's desk to be signed into law.

"I am proud to co-lead H.R. 5796, the Patents for Humanity Act, which passed the House this week," said Rep. Spartz. "This bill cuts red tape and streamlines regulations to promote innovation."

"The framers of our constitution and the founders of our great country understood that

society would benefit if we incentivize creativity and innovation. That's why Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution gives Congress the power to create a robust intellectual property system to promote the progress of science and useful arts. The Patents for Humanity Act builds on this principle in practice by helping creators fast-track innovations that better our global community through the patent process," said Rep. Jeffries. "I thank Senators Leahy and Grassley as well as Rep. Spartz for their leadership and partnership on getting this important legislation



Rep. Victoria Spartz

to President Biden."

If enacted, this legislation would help creators fast-track innovations for the benefit of our global community by streamlining the patent process and cutting existing bureaucratic red tape at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

## Beware! 'Tis the Season for Puppy Scams



The Better Business Bureau urges consumers to exercise caution this holiday season when purchasing a pet online. BBB Scam TrackerSM reports indicate that consumers who purchase pets without seeing them in person, use hard-to-track payment methods like Zelle and accept extra charges like shipping insurance or special cages are at substantial risk of being scammed. Because purchasing a pet can be such an emotionally charged experience, BBB urges consumers to be on high alert for scams.

So far this year, pet scams in North America appear to be on the decline, even as losses exceed \$1 million and are expected to approach \$2 million. That total is down by a third since the peak of more than \$3 million

during the pandemic in 2020-2021, according to BBB Scam Tracker. Pet scams historically make up a quarter of all online shopping frauds reported to BBB and are on track to be about 18 percent this year. As reports decline, however, average monetary losses are climbing, with an average loss of \$850 in 2022, up 60 percent since 2017. BBB has tracked this swindle since 2017 when it issued an in-depth study, Puppy Scams: How Fake Online Pet Sellers Steal from Unsuspecting Pet Buyers.

### BBB tips for researching puppy sellers:

- See pets in person before paying any money.
- Try to set up a video call to view the animal.
- Conduct a reverse image search on photos attached to ads.
- Research the breed to figure out the average market price.
- Check out a local animal shelter for pets to meet in person before adopting.

### Who to contact if you are the victim of a puppy scam:

- **Better Business Bureau** - BBB Scam Tracker (bbb.org/scamtracker) to report fraud online.

- **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** - reportfraud.ftc.gov to file a complaint online or call (877) FTC-Help.

- **Your credit card issuer** - report the incident if you shared your credit card number, even if you did not complete the transaction. Monitor your statements and if you suspect fraud, ask for a refund. It is not guaranteed, but many credit card companies will grant one.
- **Petscams.com** - petscams.com/report-pet-scam-websites tracks complaints, catalogues puppy scammers and endeavors to get fraudulent pet sales websites taken down.

**About BBB Serving Central Indiana:**  
The Better Business Bureau has empowered people to find businesses, brands and charities they can trust for over 110 years. In 2021, people turned to BBB more than 200 million times for BBB Business Profiles on 6.3 million businesses and Charity Reports on 25,000 charities, free at BBB.org. Local, independent BBBs can be found across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, including BBB Serving Central Indiana, which was founded in 1916 and serves 46 counties.

## State Launches Suits Against TikTok to Protect Children, Combat Threats from China

Indiana has launched two separate lawsuits against TikTok — both related to what the state says is false claims made by the company about its video-sharing app of the same name.

"The TikTok app is a malicious and menacing threat unleashed on unsuspecting Indiana consumers by a Chinese company that knows full well the harms it inflicts on users," Indiana Attorney General Rokita said. "With this pair of lawsuits, we hope to force TikTok to stop its false, deceptive and misleading practices, which violate Indiana law."

The first lawsuit alleges that TikTok has lured children onto the platform through a variety of misleading representations indicating



Rep. Victoria Spartz

that the app contains only "infrequent/mild" sexual content, profanity, or drug references — when in reality the app is rife with extreme examples of such material. An essential part of TikTok's business model is presenting the application as safe and appropriate for children ages 13 to 17.

The second lawsuit asserts that TikTok has reams of highly

sensitive data and personal information about Indiana consumers and has deceived those consumers to believe that this information is protected from the Chinese government and Communist Party.

"In multiple ways, TikTok represents a clear and present danger to Hoosiers that is hiding in plain sight in their own pockets," Rokita said. "At the very least, the company owes consumers the truth about the age-appropriateness of its content and the insecurity of the data it collects on users. We hope these lawsuits force TikTok to come clean and change its ways."

Rokita is seeking emergency injunctive relief and civil penalties against the company.

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# Hoosier Midterm Turnout Drops 20%; Marion County Near the Bottom

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

Electorate engagement wasn't as high as hoped, with just 41% of Indiana's registered voters going to the polls for last month's midterm elections — a nearly 20% drop in turnout from the 2018 midterms.

Indiana Election Division data shows Hoosier voters performed the worst in Decatur, Tippecanoe and Marion counties, with turnout rates of 24%, 32% and 34%, respectively. They did best in Crawford, Spencer and Union counties, at 51% turnout for all three.

It's the latest data point

in a long-running trend of low turnout when compared to the rest of the country.

"There are some states, historically, that have high turnout and some that have low turnout. And Indiana is one that turnout has been historically on the lower side ... and 2022 was a bit lower than usual," said Chad Kinsella, an associate professor of political science at Ball State University. He also directs the Bowen Center for Public Affairs.

But midterm turnout has been lower before. While 51% of registered voters cast a ballot in 2018, just 30% did so in 2014,

according to the Election Division.

**Who voted where?**

Kinsella said that age, income and education are the biggest factors in explaining turnout — with older, wealthier and more educated people being more likely to vote.

"Older people live out in those rural counties and they tend to vote more often," he said. "... A lot of those people with money are going to live outside of the city limits."

That can also influence geographic trends.

Indiana's most rural counties generally fared better than their urban counterparts in Election

Division voter statistics, when matched against one Purdue University study.

And that's born out in Kinsella's own research: In precinct-level Delaware County data, he said, turnout was lower near Muncie and higher in suburban and rural areas.

**Hoosier voting culture**  
Less measurable is Indiana's civic culture.

But a sense of duty to vote appears stronger among rural Americans, said Michael Wolf, political science professor and department chair at Purdue University Fort Wayne. He cited University of Notre Dame research.

"There's this very communal sense and very socialized duty to vote that ends up coming through, whereas a lot of times in suburban and urban areas, a lot of voter turnout is often driven by competition," Wolf said.

Duty is constant, but motivation can change every election.

Wolf said he's seen the theory play out in his own university, which hosts a mix of students from urban, suburban and rural backgrounds. One student in 2020 coordinated a weekend trip home with hometown friends to vote early together.

"To think that they

were coming from all different colleges around to come up and vote at the same time, kind of indicates, in his own words, just that that was what the community expected," Wolf said. "So that's what they did."

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**BETSY** From Page A1



Photo provided by Carmel Community Players

**Tom Riddle (from left), Kevin Shadle, Joy Ried, Tonya Rave and Matt Trgovac rehearse for Carmel Community Players holiday production, "Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas!" which opens Friday at The Cat in Carmel.**

doing a holiday show, although she loves doing theater this time of the year. But then she answered a callout for a CCP director for the holiday slot on Facebook.

"I love Robert Fulghum's work and asked for a script. After the third vignette, I was hooked and asked to direct it," she said.

The play features 15 holiday stories from the international best-selling author of "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" in storytelling and song. The show takes a funny, heartwarming look at the struggle to find the spirit of the holidays amidst all of the commercialism, stress and chaos.

"Uh-Oh! Here Comes Christmas" is "not a play in the standard presentation of a single theme, but it is individual stories told about real people in real situations that all of us can relate to," Hinman said.

Each vignette is a story taken from Fulghum's writings. "It brings everyone, audience, cast, crew, ushers ... all into a spirit of 'we are all in this together,'" she said. "I think the most important factor is there is no 'fourth wall.' The actors are speaking

with, not to, the audience. In essence, the audience becomes part of the story as they relate.

Hinman said her first experience with Fulghum was his book, "Everything I Learned..." She owns several of his books "but one common thread is, 'I feel his genuine point of view about life's experiences.'" She encourages everyone to read his books.

The cast is three men and two women, ages 30s to 70s: Phil, Kevin Shadle; Peggy, Tonya Rave; Dawn, Joy Ried; Nick, Tom Riddle; and Rusty, Matt Trgovac.

"From our first rehearsal, bonding started and has continued to strengthen. I think a lot of that has to do with the very structure of the show and the genuine relationships of those characters within Mr. Fulgam's stories," Hinman said.

Directing the show has been fun, she said, also having the show's assistant director Jeremy Ried's wife, Joy, in the cast. They have brought their four children, ages 2-9, to all of the rehearsals, and their 9-year-old is working as backstage crew. "I love it when theater is a family affair," she said.

The set, creatively built by Charlie Hanover, is simple and doesn't detract from the storytelling, "which is the star," Hinman said, although the set allows places for entrances, is a barrier between the audience and the "behind-the-scenes" work yet suggests the time of year.

CCP rehearsed in its warehouse, where the set and decor were stored, then moved to The Cat on Sunday before this week's opening. "This was a new experience for me," said Hinman, who had help from a lot of seasoned crew.

Hinman's love of show business stems back from her childhood, when she first stepped on stage at age 6 to learn tap dancing. Then in the fourth grade, she took up the flute.

"Then in high school, I found drama, and a theater nerd was born," she said.

She became a techie as her first paid job was as a lighting tech in her high school auditorium which was also the civic auditorium as was the home of the local community theater group, outside programs and entertainment. "If I remember correctly, minimum wage in 1975 was something like \$2.25

**Want TO GO?**

**What:** Carmel Community Players presents "Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas!" The collection of stories written by Robert Fulghum and directed by Kate Hinman of Westfield.

**When:** Opens at 7:30 p.m. Friday and continues at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 15, 16, 17 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday and Dec. 18.

**Where:** The Cat, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel.

**How much:** \$18, adults; \$16, students and ages 62 and older.

**Tickets:** [carmelplayers.org](http://carmelplayers.org) or (317) 815-9387.

an hour." She continued doing theater in college and some years later got back into it after a brief hiatus. "Theater has given me much, including my husband, Martin, who I met when he showed up in 1986 when I was director of 'The Fantasticks.' He got the role of the girl's father. We did theater around central Indiana for our nearly 26 years together before his passing," she said.

Hinman was raised in Peru, Ind., where she grew up in the Peru Circus with her alter ego, Patches the Clown. By day, she's a social worker in the medical field, celebrating 40 years in June 2023. She graduated from Ball State University in 1982 and 1994, and moved in 2014 to Westfield, home of Main Street Productions at Basile Westfield Playhouse, where she is deeply involved.

"The joy of life makes me smile," Hinman said. "I have so many people I call my family and friends, and I feel blessings and good fortune on a daily basis. And one constant joy has been theater."

Contact Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes24-7.com).

**CHANGE** From Page A1



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County

**Rob Bartlett stands with his probation officer after being honored on the Wall of Change.**



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County

**Garrett Steele stands with his probation officer after being honored on the Wall of Change.**

Their accomplishments deserve to be celebrated."

Rob Bartlett and Garrett Steele were among those honored for their achievements. Steele started using drugs when he was just 14 years old and a freshman at Noblesville High School. He has spent his entire adult life in and out of prison and living on the streets. Steele has 16 felony convictions - all related to drugs and alcohol. He is now sober and teaching others about the dangers of addiction.

"A lot of people end up in the system and don't get the help they need," Steele says. "Addiction is more than just a physical disorder. It's also in the heart. So, if you ever see someone suffering, extend a hand. Listen to them. Love on them. That may be all the motivation they need to start turning their lives around."

"While on probation I have seen Garrett succeed in his career as a car sales-

man and find a passion for ministry," says Heather Grinstead, the probation officer who nominated Garrett for the Wall of Change.

"He is committed to maintaining his sobriety long term and is motivated to strengthen his personal relationships and offer a hand up to those who need it."

Twelve individuals have now received the Wall of Change Award. Everyone awarded with the honor has a plaque hanging in the lobby of the Department of Probation Services. "At least two of this year's award recipients mentioned seeing the Wall of Change and wanting to be on it someday," McGriff adds.

"When we started the program, we really just wanted to honor those who made the 180-degree change in their lives. So, it's really cool to find out now that those plaques are inspiring others to make the change."

**BUCKINGHAM** From Page A1

ecutor with unsurpassed integrity and humility; he has been a model for us all," Miksha continued.

The Johnson Award was created in 2014 and named after former IPAC Executive Director Steve Johnson, who served as IPAC's leader for 14 years and spent his entire 38-year career at IPAC. The Johnson Award is given to individuals who demonstrate the same level of professional dedication and excellence as Steve Johnson. An award is based on sustained periods of outstanding support or service to an individual prosecutor or IPAC.

Prosecutor Buckingham also closes 2022 as the President of the Association of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys. He will be succeeded by Rodney Cummings, the Prosecuting Attorney of Madison County.

**About the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council:**

IPAC is a non-partisan, independent state judicial



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County

**Hamilton County Prosecutor Lee Buckingham II (right) stands with his successor as President of the Association of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys, Rodney Cummings, after receiving the Steve Johnson Award from IPAC for professional dedication and excellence.**

branch agency that supports Indiana's 91 prosecuting attorneys and their chief deputies. It is governed by a 10-member board of directors of elected prosecuting attorneys.

IPAC assists prosecuting attorneys in the preparation

of manuals, legal research and training seminars. It serves as a liaison to local, state, and federal agencies, study commissions, and community groups in an effort to support law enforcement and promote the fair administration of justice.

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# I ndiana

# F & acts un



# 13 Crawford

## Number % ÷ Stumpers

1. What percentage of the county is made up of water?  $\geq$
2. How many years of floods did English experience before relocating?  $\leq$
3. What percentage of individuals in the county reside in English?  $\geq$
4. How old is Crawford County?  $\leq$

Answers: 1. About 1% 2. 31 Years 3. About 5.9% 4. 200 Years

## Did You Know?

- Crawford County has a total population of 10,713 individuals.
- The county was founded by William H. Crawford in 1818.
- English, the county seat, was destroyed by six floods from 1959 to 1990, so the town was relocated.
- The total amount of land in the county is 308.72 square miles with 3.08 square miles being water.
- English has an estimated population of 632 people.

## Got Words?

The Camp Fork, a stream in Crawford County, has destroyed much of the land for several years. Along with this, the county seat had to be relocated because of six destructive floods. What do you think are benefits and drawbacks of having small and large bodies of water in small towns?

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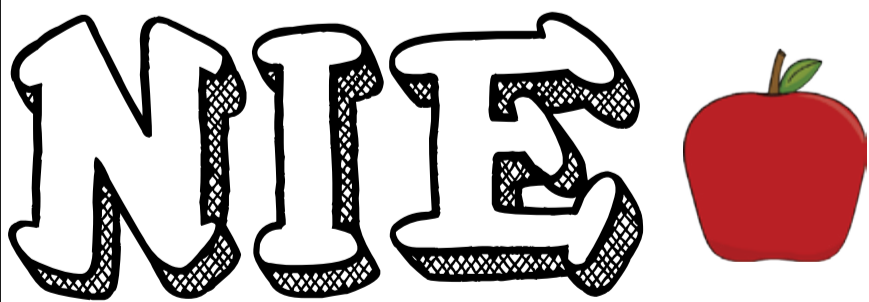
## Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. HSNIEGL
2. GNLFD00I
3. CRFRWDOA OUCYTN
4. ATRWE
5. MACP KORF

Answers: 1. English 2. Flooding 3. Crawford County 4. Water 5. Camp Fork

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# Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022

A7

## This Solar System Rocks

Michelle Thompson is a geologist. But while “geo” means earth, she studies things that are decidedly unearthy, or at least extraterrestrial: the moon and asteroids.

“I study space weathering: how space environments affect tiny mineral particles on planetary surfaces,” said Thompson, an assistant professor in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences in Purdue University’s College of Science. “We can learn so much from those minuscule samples; we can learn about the evolution of planets and moons — including our own. More broadly, we study these tiny samples and can extrapolate the history of the solar system.”

**Moon shot**

As humans gear up to go back to the moon, scientists are keenly aware that the last human to leave a footprint on the lunar surface departed 50 years ago, when Apollo 17 began its journey home on December 14, 1972.

The astronauts on the surface during that trip, Purdue alumnus Eugene Cernan and Harrison “Jack” Schmitt, collected moon rocks and dust that scientists, including Thompson, are just now beginning to analyze through the Apollo Next Generation Sample Analysis Program.

“It’s amazing, it’s surreal, to be standing in a lab at Purdue analyzing moon dust collected by another Purdue alum — the last person to walk on the moon,” Thompson said.

The research is possible only because much of the more than 840 pounds of moon rocks and dust has been kept sacrosanct for nearly half a century. Now scientists believe they have even better tools that are more sensitive, allowing them to comprehensively study the samples and answer questions that were impossible to explore 50 years ago.

Thompson is an expert

in the way rocks interact with and change due to their exposure to the vacuum of space — a phenomenon called space weathering. Analyzing the chemistry of moon rocks and moon dust can tell her about the environment, evolution and history of the moon.

A lunar core sample, a small column of moon dust extracted from the lunar surface by Cernan and Schmitt, the first and only geologist ever to walk on the moon, gives Thompson and her lab those insights. It comes from a part of the moon that may have experienced an avalanche, providing even deeper insight into the distribution of minerals and the chemistry of the moon and the processes that shape its surface. Thompson is hoping that her research team will be able to understand what the moon’s surface was like before and after the avalanche, gaining greater knowledge of how its soil, or regolith, has developed over time.

“When these samples were collected, when men walked on the moon, I hadn’t even been born,” Thompson said. “This sample has been on Earth longer than I have. It has been sitting in storage, kept pristine, waiting for scientists to analyze it since it was returned. Scientists now have tools and technologies that the original generation of astronauts could only dream of. So now it’s our turn to follow in their footsteps and study the moon rocks they brought back.”

Future moon missions — including Artemis — will bring back new samples, and new techniques will continue to shed light on the moon for geologists like Thompson.

Time capsules from space

It is counterintuitive, but one of the best ways to study how Earth formed is by looking at rocks that come from almost anywhere else.

“Asteroids are windows into the very early solar system; they’re relics,” Thompson said. “They are time machines that show us what the building blocks were for the early solar system, what the building blocks were for life on Earth. Studying these asteroids gives us the recipe for the early solar system and what early organic molecules may have seeded life on Earth.”

Millions of meteorites and thousands of asteroids, including the Lafayette meteorite, a rocky body discovered at Purdue that is actually a broken-off piece of Mars, have hit Earth. However, studying those, while interesting, can’t answer the same questions as asteroids from space can.

Even a short interaction with Earth’s atmosphere, biosphere and minerals contaminates meteorites and asteroids and makes them harder to study. To get pristine material and determine the history of these space rocks, and the solar system’s history, scientists need to intercept rocks — asteroids — in space. Scientists can study the asteroid and determine where it formed in the solar system, what other bodies it might have come into contact with (or come from), and what its evolution may have been like.

In her lab right now, Thompson has tiny fragments of one of the first asteroids ever sampled in space and ferried to terrestrial laboratories: the asteroid Ryugu, sampled by the Japanese spacecraft Hayabusa2 during the first mission to operate rovers on an asteroid. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency launched the mission in 2014. The spacecraft reached Ryugu in 2018 and deployed its rovers. In 2019 it fired what was essentially an anti-tank missile at the surface of the asteroid to collect subsurface samples. Those samples landed on Earth in 2020 and were made available to

NASA scientists, including Thompson. Studying asteroids, and comparing and contrasting them with the surface of the moon, gives scientists a better understanding of the origins and diversity of bodies in the solar system.

**Tiger team**

Next year, the adventure gets even bigger. Thompson is part of the “tiger team” — an elite squad of experts — in meteorite studies for NASA’s mission OSIRIS-REx to the asteroid Bennu. NASA deployed a tiger team to bring the Apollo 13 crew home. OSIRIS-REx (or the Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer) will bring rock samples, not beleaguered astronauts, to Earth. The samples will land in Utah and then be flown to secure clean labs in Texas. Thompson will be among the first humans — and the first woman — to study the pieces of Bennu. She and the four other members of the tiger team will have 72 hours to study the asteroid sample and prepare a preliminary report for NASA.

OSIRIS-REx used two different techniques to collect samples from the asteroid. A sort of robot vacuum sucked in a lot of the material from the surface — likely far more than 60 grams, which was the minimum the scientists hoped for.

The second method involved gently and passively collecting samples at the surface.

“When the spacecraft touched the surface of the asteroid, it landed on these small circular pads, a lot like Velcro, which trapped material right at the surface of the asteroid,” said Thompson. “We call them contact pads. The little motes of dust, the dust particles, are stuck in the Velcro. We’re studying those tiny dust particles. All the stuff I’m interested in is surface processes, what’s happening to the very top material.”

## Purdue Research Buzzing About Construction Lessons Taken From Bees, Honeycombs

Purdue University engineers and entomologists are making some sweet discoveries about how honeybees build and structure their honeycombs, which could lead to new fabrication techniques taken from the buzzing builders.

Nikhilesh Chawla, the Ransburg Professor of Materials Engineering at Purdue, is one of the first to utilize four-dimensional (4D) imaging to delve further into the complexities of the honeycomb. The imaging allows a time-lapse view of the bees’ work without cutting into their home.

The innovative view of the bees’ construction found techniques that could eventually translate into new concepts for structural materials or additive manufacturing for the construction industry. Chawla said some of the junctions between the honeycomb cells were created using less material, with the resulting porous connections resembling Swiss cheese.

“It’s a lesson in materials utilization that could lend itself to new ideas and practices in structures,” Chawla said. “Their honeycombs are still perfectly fine. From that perspective, humans may not actually need as much material in some areas that are not quite as important from a structural point of view.”

Honeycombs are the self-built, multifunctional homes for honeybees, providing a place to store food and serving as a nursery for eggs and larvae in addition to shelter. Made from wax produced by the bees, the hexagonal cells are easily recognized.

Chawla’s work shows how humans can draw important lessons from the plant and animal world in a discipline called biomimicry, which investigates naturally occurring materials and behaviors and draws inspiration to design new products, systems and buildings. Chawla said there are aspects of honeycombs already used in several applications, from construction and structural materials to shoes.

The Purdue research team is made up of Chawla; Brock Harpur, assistant professor of entomology in the College of Agriculture; and Rahul Franklin, a graduate research assistant

in materials engineering. Their work was published in the journal *Advanced Materials*.

Chawla said people don’t truly understand how bees make the honeycombs. For example, most theorize the honeycomb chambers start as cylinders and then are molded by the bees into the well-known hexagonal shape.

But a sophisticated three-dimensional (3D) X-ray microscopy technique combined with a time lapse provided an unprecedented means of studying and quantifying the honeycomb’s microstructure.

The resulting 4D imaging showed chambers are built with panels. Research also found bees go to great lengths to strengthen the honeycomb structure by first creating a vertical spine for support and then building the hexagon cells out horizontally.

“Over time, they continue to make the spine thicker because they understand there is more weight from the wax on it, and they need that backbone to be strong and rigid before they can add more and more of these cells growing outwardly,” Chawla said.

Chawla’s overall research focuses on four-dimensional materials science. The approach — called tomography — uses nondestructive X-rays to add time as a fourth dimension to 3D measurements and analyses. The 4D approach is important in examining structural evolution, including deformation and corrosion that take place over time.

Learning from honeybees is just the first step in the Purdue team’s biomimicry research. Successfully applying those lessons with tools like 3D printing is next. Chawla said there are plans to build honeycombs of different sizes and even different shapes and evaluate their durability with compression tests.

In addition to honeybees, Chawla’s biomimicry research involves looking at the porous cellular structure of cacti and how fluids are moved up and down throughout the plant.

“It’s just a lot of fun to work with these kinds of natural materials because you just never know what you’re going to find,” he said.

## Indy Airport Once Again Hosts Santa’s Holiday Practice Run

The Indianapolis International Airport (IND) was once again the site of Santa’s holiday practice run, as he arrived riding on a firetruck and hurried across the tarmac to greet more than 1,000 Hoosier families and children gathered in the Indy airport’s Civic Plaza.

After two years of battling a global pandemic, families from across Central Indiana welcomed the return of the beloved and long-time tradition of meeting Santa as he launched his holiday practice run from Indianapolis.

“This is where the holiday season gets started,” said Indianapolis Airport Authority Executive Director Mario Rodriguez.

“Santa knows Hoosiers are the most hospitable in

the nation, and with IND being the best airport in North America, Indianapolis is at the top of his nice list.”

The afternoon was filled with good cheer, as attendees of the sold-out event had their photos taken with Santa, created ornaments, wrapped care packages to benefit Indiana USO military families, met Nutcracker ballerinas from Indianapolis Ballet, wrote letters to Santa, and participated in other free, festive activities.

Throughout the holiday season, passengers will be able to enjoy the decorations throughout the terminal or snap a photo next to the – NDY sign – with the holiday tree providing a festive backdrop – as travelers

take off for their holiday travels.

In the coming days, IAA will be announcing additional holiday entertainment open to the public and travelers throughout December.

**About the Indianapolis Airport Authority:**

The Indianapolis Airport Authority owns and operates Indiana’s largest airport system in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. In addition to the Indianapolis International Airport (IND), its facilities include the Downtown Heliport, Eagle Creek Airpark, Hendricks County Airport-Gordon Graham Field, Indianapolis Regional Airport and Metropolitan Airport.

IND generates a \$7.5 billion total annual eco-

nom ic impact for Central Indiana – without relying on state or local taxes to fund operations. More than 11,000 people work at the airport each day, and 22,600 area jobs have a connection to the airport.

In 2021, IND served more than 7.1 million business and leisure travelers. IND is consistently ranked, year after year, as the best airport in North America and the nation, based on ease of use, passenger amenities, customer service, local retail offerings and public art. The airport is home of the world’s second largest FedEx operation and the nation’s eighth-largest cargo facility.

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# THURSDAY

## Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022

A8

## Get Ready Now to File Your 2022 Federal Income Tax Return

The Internal Revenue Service today encouraged taxpayers to take simple steps before the end of the year to make filing their 2022 federal tax return easier. With a little advance preparation, a preview of tax changes and convenient online tools, taxpayers can approach the upcoming tax season with confidence.

Filers can visit the Get Ready webpage at [IRS.gov/getready](https://www.irs.gov/getready) to find guidance on what's new and what to consider when filing a 2022 tax return. They can also find helpful information on organizing tax records and a list of online tools and resources.

Get Ready by gathering tax records

When filers have all their tax documentation gathered and organized, they're in the best position to file an accurate return and avoid processing or refund delays or receiving IRS letters. Now's a good time for taxpayers to consider financial transactions that occurred in 2022, if they're taxable and how they should be reported.

The IRS encourages taxpayers to develop an electronic or paper record-keeping system to store tax-related information in one place for easy access. Taxpayers should keep copies of filed tax returns and their supporting documents for at least three years.

Before January, taxpayers should confirm that their employer, bank and other payers have their current mailing address and email address to ensure they receive their year-end financial statements. Typically, year-end forms start arriving by mail or are available online in mid-to-late January. Taxpayers should carefully review each income statement for accuracy and contact the issuer to correct information that needs to be updated.

Get Ready for what's new for Tax Year 2022

With the end of the year approaching, time is running out to take advantage of the Tax Withholding Estimator on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov). This online tool is designed to help taxpayers determine the right amount of tax to have withheld from their paycheck. Some people may have life changes like getting married or divorced, welcoming a child or taking on a second job. Other taxpayers may need to consider estimated tax payments due to non-wage income from unemployment, self-employment, annuity income or even digital assets. The last quarterly payment for 2022 is due on Jan. 17, 2023. The Tax Withholding Estimator on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) can help wage earners determine if there is a need to adjust their withholding, consider additional tax payments, or submit a new W-4 form to their employer to avoid an unexpected tax bill when they file.

As taxpayers gather tax

records, they should remember that most income is taxable. This includes unemployment income, refund interest and income from the gig economy and digital assets.

Taxpayers should report the income they earned, including from part-time work, side jobs or the sale of goods. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 lowered the reporting threshold for third-party networks that process payments for those doing business. Prior to 2022, Form 1099-K was issued for third-party payment network transactions only if the total number of transactions exceeded 200 for the year and the aggregate amount of these transactions exceeded \$20,000. Now a single transaction exceeding \$600 can trigger a 1099-K. The lower information reporting threshold and the summary of income on Form 1099-K enables taxpayers to more easily track the amounts received. Remember, money received through third-party payment applications from friends and relatives as personal gifts or reimbursements for personal expenses is not taxable. Those who receive a 1099-K reflecting income they didn't earn should call the issuer. The IRS cannot correct it.

Credit amounts also change each year like the Child Tax Credit (CTC), Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Dependent Care Credit. Taxpayers can use the Interactive Tax Assistant on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) to determine their eligibility for tax credits. Some taxpayers may qualify this year for the expanded eligibility for the Premium Tax Credit, while others may qualify for a Clean Vehicle Credit through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

Refunds may be smaller in 2023. Taxpayers will not receive an additional stimulus payment with a 2023 tax refund because there were no Economic Impact Payments for 2022. In addition, taxpayers who don't itemize and take the standard deduction, won't be able to deduct their charitable contributions.

The IRS cautions taxpayers not to rely on receiving a 2022 federal tax refund by a certain date, especially when making major purchases or paying bills. Some returns may require additional review and may take longer. For example, the IRS and its partners in the tax industry, continue to strengthen security reviews to protect against identity theft. Additionally, refunds for people claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) can't be issued before mid-February. The law requires the IRS to hold the entire refund – not just the portion associated with EITC or ACTC. This law helps ensure taxpayers receive the refund they're

due by giving the IRS time to detect and prevent fraud.

For taxpayers who are still waiting for confirmation that last year's tax return processed, or for a tax year 2021 refund or stimulus payment to process, their patience is appreciated. As of Nov. 11, 2022, the IRS had 3.7 million unprocessed individual returns received this year. These include tax year 2021 returns and late filed prior year returns. Of these, 1.7 million returns require error correction or other special handling, and 2 million are paper returns waiting to be reviewed and processed. They also had 900,000 unprocessed Forms 1040-X for amended tax returns. The IRS is processing these amended returns in the order received and the current timeframe can be more than 20 weeks. Taxpayers should continue to check Where's My Amended Return? for the most up-to-date processing status available.

Renew expiring tax ID numbers

Taxpayers should ensure their Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) hasn't expired before filing a 2022 tax return. Those who need to file a tax return, should submit a Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number now, to renew their ITIN. Taxpayers who fail to renew an ITIN before filing a tax return next year could face a delayed refund and may be ineligible for certain tax credits. Applying now will help avoid the rush as well as refund and processing delays in 2023.

Bookmark the following tools on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov)

Online tools are easy to use and available to taxpayers 24 hours a day. They provide key information about tax accounts and a convenient way to pay taxes. [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) provides information in many languages and enhanced services for people with disabilities, including the Accessibility Helpline. Taxpayers who need accessibility assistance may call 833-690-0598. Taxpayers should use [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) as their first and primary resource for accurate tax information.

Let Us Help You page. The Let Us Help You page on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) has links to information and resources on a wide range of topics.

Online Account. An IRS online account lets taxpayers securely access their personal tax information, including tax return transcripts, payment history, certain notices, prior year adjusted gross income and power of attorney information. Filers can log in to verify if their name and address is correct. They should notify IRS if their address has changed. They must notify the Social Security Administration of a legal name change to avoid a delay in processing their tax return.

IRS Free File. Almost everyone can file electronically for free on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov)/freefile or with the IRS2Go app. The IRS Free File program, available only through [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov), offers brand-name tax preparation software packages at no cost. The software does all the work of finding deductions, credits and exemptions for filers. It's free for those who qualify. Some Free File packages offer free state tax return preparation. Those who are comfortable preparing their own taxes can use Free File Fillable Forms, regardless of their income, to file their tax return either online or by mail.

Find a tax professional. The Choosing a Tax Professional page on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) has a wealth of information to help filers choose a tax professional. In addition, the Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications can help taxpayers find preparers in their area who hold professional credentials recognized by the IRS, or who hold an Annual Filing Season Program Record of Completion.

Interactive Tax Assistant. The Interactive Tax Assistant is a tool that provides answers to many tax questions. It can determine if a type of income is taxable and eligibility to claim certain credits or deductions. It also provides answers for general questions, such as determining filing requirement, filing status or eligibility to claim a dependent.

Where's My Refund? Taxpayers can use the Where's My Refund? tool to check the status of their refund. Current year refund information is typically available online within 24 hours after the IRS receives an e-filed tax return. A paper return status can take up to four weeks to appear after it is mailed. The Where's My Refund? tool updates once every 24 hours, usually overnight, so filers only need to check once a day.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals.

Get refunds fast with Direct Deposit

Taxpayers should prepare to file electronically and choose Direct Deposit for their tax refund – it's the fastest and safest way to file and get a refund. Even when filing a paper return, choosing a direct deposit refund can save time. For those who do not have a bank account, the FDIC website offers information to help people open an account online.

Taxpayers can download Publication 5349, Tax Preparation is for Everyone, for more information to help them get ready to file.

## Indiana Wins Court Battle Defending Dignity of Life

Indiana won another court battle this week defending the dignity of life.

This time, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita and his team secured a decision in the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals upholding — for the second time — an Indiana law requiring medical facilities to bury or cremate fetal remains following abortions.

"The bodies of unborn babies are more than mere medical waste to be tossed out with trash," Rokita said. "They are human beings who deserve the dignity of cremation or burial. The appellate court's decision is a win for basic decency."

In 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld this same law against a challenge claiming that it violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

In the latest case, former abortion patients who preserved their fetal remains claimed the law requiring burial or cremation violates the First Amendment's free speech and free exercise clauses.

"Given the Supreme Court's earlier decision upholding this very law, we were perplexed that the U.S. district court somehow found the plaintiffs'



Attorney General Todd Rokita

arguments persuasive," said Indiana Solicitor General Thomas M. Fisher. "The appeals court provided a fast — and much-needed — course correction."

The appeals court refuted the notion that Indiana's burial-or-cremation requirement jeopardizes anyone's First Amendment liberties.

"A moral objection to one potential implication of the way medical providers handle fetal remains," the court's opinion states, "is some distance from a contention that the state compels any woman to violate her own religious tenets."

The court issued a summary reversal without full briefing or oral argument — disposing the entire case based on Indiana's motion to stay the injunction.

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