

TODAY'S VERSE

Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Aili McGill smile? "Being surrounded by creativity," said the 39-year-old Noblesville resident, the executive director of 10 years for Nickel Plate Arts campus in downtown Noblesville. McGill is a newlywed, married to professional illustrator and comic book artist Stuart Sayger. Today's feature is a look back at one of The Times' previous Faces of Hamilton County. McGill has been preparing for months for Welcome to Fairyville, which is now here, with activities continuing today and Saturday at the Nickel Plate Arts campus and throughout downtown Noblesville. Fairy houses made by local groups and individuals of all ages will be on display on a Fairyville Trail. Fairy-inspired vendor wares will be sold on the Courthouse Square. At various locations around downtown, Fairyville After Dark will occur tonight. Nickel Plate Express Fairy Caboose will pick up passengers Saturday, and take them to Fairyville. And kids can join a tea during four sessions on Saturday at the Birdie Gallery. Also, watch for the Fairyville Parade from Nickel Plate Arts to the Courthouse. Read more details in the Betsy Reason column in today's edition of The Times and at nickplatearts.org.

And Another Thing...

1. Revenue forecast has Lt. Gov. Crouch optimistic for mental health funding

The recent news that state revenue is \$1.5 billion ahead of projections has Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch smiling about what that means for Hoosiers' mental health. "In January, I testified in front of the Senate Appropriations Committee on behalf of Senate Bill 1. If passed and fully funded, SB 1 will take the biggest step this state has taken in addressing mental health and addiction issues in Indiana. Today's strong revenue forecast not only re-affirms Indiana's position as a leader in fiscal responsibility, but it should allow the general assembly to properly invest in the quality of life for all Hoosier families. This includes mental health and addiction services, safe and affordable housing and other programs that will greatly improve the lives of Hoosiers."

2. Sharing the wealth

Oregon State Police could have charged Colin Davis McCarthy with littering when he was caught tossing wads of cash out the window while driving on Interstate 5 near the city of Eugene, OR recently. Traffic came to a screeching halt and drivers behind him got out of their cars and scooped up as many of the estimated 2,000 hundred dollar bills as they could get their hands on. The cops said they searched the roadway for leftover cash but they couldn't find any. Nonetheless, the next day would-be treasure-hunters could be seen searching the area for any leftover bills. McCarthy is said to have told the police that he and his family were "doing well and wanted to bless others with gifts of money."

3. A not-so-cheesy sandwich

Most of us wouldn't even think of paying a couple of hundred dollars for a grilled cheese sandwich no matter how hungry we might be. But, just in case you crave what some call a "cheese toastie," the New York City eatery, Serendipity 3, can accommodate you with Chef Joe Calderone's Quintessential Grilled Cheese sandwich for a mere \$214. The folks at the Guinness Book of World Records call it the most expensive sandwich on the planet. It's bread is made with Dom Perignon Champagne, white truffle butter, rare caciocavallo podolico cheese that goes for about \$50, give or take a buck or two, and after it's toasted to a tempting golden brown it is actually gilded with edible 23-karat gold. Enjoy!

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

50¢ WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM



Photo courtesy of Nickel Plate Arts

Experience the free 11th annual Welcome to Fairyville events, today and Saturday in Noblesville Cultural Arts District beginning at Nickel Plate Arts Campus as fairies take over downtown Noblesville.



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Actors Chrissy Crawley, as Percy Talbott, and Katelyn Maudlin, as Shelby Thorpe, rehearse for Main Street Productions' "The Spitfire Grill," a musical, directed by Noblesville's Brenna Whitaker, on stage through Sunday at Basile Westfield Playhouse with tickets at westfieldplayhouse.org.

Noblesville Transforms Into Fairyville, Plus Comedy, Live Theater, Church Rummage Sale, Wildflower Walk, More



BETSY REASON From The Editor's Desk...

Fairyville takes over downtown Noblesville today and Saturday with tons of activities of-

ferred, plus live music, comedy, theater, historical celebrations, train rides and more are among the plenty of things to do this weekend and beyond. Here's our Times' list of 25 things to do.

1. Experience the free 11th annual Welcome to Fairyville events, now through Saturday in Noblesville Cultural Arts Dis-

trict beginning at Nickel Plate Arts Campus as fairies take over downtown Noblesville. Fairy houses made by local groups and individuals of all ages will be on display on a Fairyville Trail today and Saturday. Fairy-inspired vendor wares will be sold 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday on the Courthouse Square. At various locations around downtown, an adult-oriented experience, presented by Martin & Martin Insurance, will include face and body effects painting, acrobatics and fire performing, Celtic music and dancing and more, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. today during Fairyville After Dark, in its second year. Visit the Fairyville Trail to see the Fairy Home Show, meet the

citizens of Fairyville, take part in various magic shows, live musical performances and Earth Day activities. Nickel Plate Express Fairy Caboose will pick up passengers every 30 minutes, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, and take them to Fairyville, at \$17 per person. Join Sleeping Beauty and her fairy friends for a tea party at 10 a.m., noon, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday at the Hamilton County Artists' Association Birdie Gallery with \$15 tickets at nickplatearts.org. Fairyville Parade, sponsored by Noblesville Trustee Office, is at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday from Nickel Plate Arts to the Courthouse.

2. Come see a traveling exhibit while learning about our Hamilton County Bicentennial

themes, through today at Hazel Dell Elementary in Noblesville, April 22-28 at Hamilton Heights Elementary in Arcadia and April 29-May 5 at Jackson Township Trustee Office in Arcadia.

3. Meet local author of "Crossroads: A Suspense Novel," Rhonda Parker Taylor,

3. Meet local author of "Crossroads: A Suspense Novel," Rhonda Parker Taylor,

3. Meet local author of "Crossroads: A Suspense Novel," Rhonda Parker Taylor,

See BETSY Page A5



Sunrise/Sunset RISE: 6:55 a.m. SET: 8:29 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures HIGH: 60 °F LOW: 52 °F

Today is...

- Big Word Day
• Kindergarten Day
• Thank You For Libraries Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1992 The first exoplanets are discovered.
• 1934 The Surgeon's photo, allegedly showing the Loch Ness Monster, is published in the Daily Mail.
• 1509 Henry VIII is crowned King of England.

Births On This Day

- 1959 Robert Smith English singer-songwriter, guitarist
• 1926 Queen Elizabeth II

Deaths On This Day

- 2016 Prince American singer-songwriter, guitarist, producer, actor
• 1910 Mark Twain American author

An Invite From Todd Clevenger To Help Make A Difference

"I don't have enough time and volunteer schedules are too inflexible."

"As the Membership Chair for the Cicero Kiwanis Club, this is the most common reason I hear from people for not volunteering," said Todd Clevenger. "Between family life and work, it can seem like there's barely enough time to fit in a social life, let alone volunteer. But the truth is, we are not asking you to volunteer every day or even every week. We are asking you to invest your skills and passion into our community by helping kids who most need your guidance, mentoring, and friendship."

New members are the lifeblood of every organization. They bring new ideas, increase the organization's person power, foster organizational growth, prevent member burn out, and take over leadership roles when members leave.

"To be honest, we've struggled with membership over the years. The demands of a family, a job, and social life can interfere with the best of intentions to help others. Yet more kids than ever before need our help," said Clevenger, who knows firsthand the incredible value the Cicero Kiwanis Club brings to the community.

Since the late '70s, members



TODD CLEVENGER

of the Cicero Kiwanis Club truly believe they are making a difference in the world

in their community and in the lives of children. And they believe everyone can benefit from helping others. "I too am busy and have my hands full, but I make the time. I make the time because I care about kids and our community. I believe in the Kiwanis mission and that if we care enough, we can make difference. I make the time because I am passionate enough to stop wishing someone would do something for the children who need it most within our community and well, do something," explained Clevenger.

The Cicero Kiwanis Club will hold an open house on Saturday, April 29, beginning with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Red Bridge Park Community Building. Cicero Kiwanis is taking this opportunity to showcase its club, services, and the difference it makes locally. It is also looking to bring on new mem-

See TODD Page A5

Westfield Welcome Announces Jams At The Junction Concert Series



Westfield Welcome announces the inaugural Jams at the Junction concert series for the Summer of 2023 on select Fridays from June through September. Festivities will take place at Grand Junction Plaza (225 S. Union Street) on the Great Lawn. All concerts are free and open to the public.

"We've been asked over and over if we are going to host concerts at Grand Junction Plaza, and we are excited to be able to deliver a great line-up of shows this season. We can't wait to see families and friends gathering to make these concerts a new tradition," said Kayla Arnold, Director of Westfield Welcome. A lineup of performances includes:

See JAMS Page A5

INSIDE TODAY

- Dick Wolfsie.....A3
Ken Thompson.....A3
Capital Chronicle.....A4
Business.....A6
Voices.....A7

HONEST HOOSIER

Henry VIII ascended to the throne on this Date in 1509. Let the marriages begin!



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Collecting more taxes than is absolutely necessary is legalized robbery."

-Calvin Coolidge

TODAY'S JOKE

What do planets like to read? Comet books.

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Women should wait three weeks to resume birth control pills after having a baby and six weeks after having a cesarean section.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



OBITUARIES

NONE

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank LINDA K. SUSK for subscribing!



Indiana School District and University Named Recipients of U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Honors

Award Honors Schools, Districts, and Postsecondary Institutions for Reducing Environmental Impact and Costs, Improving Health and Wellness, Offering Effective Sustainability Education.

The U.S. Department of Education today announced the 2023 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, District Sustainability Awardees, and Postsecondary Sustainability Awardees.

In Indiana, the Carmel Clay Schools in Carmel were named a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Awardee. Purdue University in Lafayette was honored as a Postsecondary Sustainability Awardee.

Across the country, 26 schools, 11 districts, and four postsecondary institutions are being honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education. The honorees were named from a pool of candidates nominated by 18 states. Notably, two-thirds of this year's honorees are located in disadvantaged communities.

In addition, one state education official is recognized with the Director's Award. This year, it is Alexandria Roe of the University of Wisconsin System.

"The challenges posed both by the pandemic and by climate change have driven home the importance of modernizing school facilities, embracing sustainability, prioritizing health and wellness, and improving learning conditions for students, especially in underserved communities," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "Our 2023 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools have raised the bar for sustainable practices, energy efficiency, health and wellness, and hands-on learning experiences that enhance students' problem-solving skills and foster a sense of environmental stewardship and civic responsibility. I want to congratulate the educators, school leaders, students, families, and advocates engaged in this work for showing the nation that any school in any community can strive to be a green school, and in doing so, empower the next generation to build a healthier, more equitable, and more sustainable nation."

The list of all selected schools, districts, colleges, and universities, as well as their nomination packages, can be found here. A report with highlights on the 41 honorees can be found here. Eligibility, including the "Three Pillars" of the award, can be found here. More information on the federal recognition award

is here. Resources for all schools to move toward the three Pillars can be found here. (Please note that the honoree links above will go live at 1 p.m. ET Thursday.)

In related infrastructure and sustainability news, in the recent omnibus appropriations bill, the Department was authorized funding to administer two programs related to school infrastructure that will address sustainable schools practices. These are: 1) a state capacity building program that will bolster several of the lowest capacity states in school facilities to, in turn, support their highest-need school districts; and 2) a national technical assistance center for school infrastructure that will support high-need districts across the nation. In both of these programs, healthy, safe, sustainable, 21st century school facilities and grounds that support high quality learning will be guiding tenants.

In addition, the Department is engaging the non- and for-profit private sector by leading an infrastructure and sustainability challenge, encouraging partners to make commitments to supporting healthy, sustainable, equitable school infrastructure, environmental education, and bold environmental justice and climate goals in schools that the Department will then promote in order to inspire additional commitments.

Indiana Sheriffs' Youth Ranch To Help 'Drive' Safer ATV Riding Among Teens

Kids account for more than one in five all-terrain vehicle deaths each year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Latest statistics show more than 700 total deaths nationwide and an estimated 100,000 emergency department-treated injuries annually. Indiana ranks consistently among the top 20 states for ATV deaths.

That's why instructors at the nonprofit Indiana Sheriffs' Youth Ranch will this summer help "drive" statewide safety efforts among students. ISYR will kick-start Safer ATV Riding classes during free, specialized leadership camps for future law enforcement officers and firefighters.

"Public safety's most effective way of addressing ATV tragedies is to prevent them before they occur," says Vigo County Sheriff John Plasse, ISYR president. "Through Shaffstall, Inc., an authorized Polaris, Inc. dealer in Salem, Ind., our sheriffs and deputies have acquired safety equipment, videos and printed materials to help support fact-based training prior to the teens' fun-filled riding experience across our 62-

acre training retreat." Through past support from the Clark County Sheriff's Office and the Indiana Sheriffs' Association, plus new support from Polaris Inc. and Shaffstall, Inc., the Youth Ranch was able to purchase a fleet of five 196 cc Polaris Phoenix 200s equipped with helmets, safety tethers, speed governors and whip flags, said John Jones, owner of John Jones Auto Group and ISYR treasurer.

Participating students will be required to follow guidelines taught in the Safer ATV Riding classes, said former Clark County Sheriff Jamey Noel, vice president of ISYR:

- Review safety videos and printed materials before riding.
- Become familiar with all controls, especially brakes.
- Utilize safety equipment - lights, flags, gear, etc.
- Review the terrain, particularly hills and wooded areas.
- Be well rested and alert.
- Refuse to use alcohol or drugs.
- Wear a helmet, long pants, closed shoes or

boots at all times.

- Add arm and knee pads whenever possible.
- Ride at safe distances from other ATVs.
- Never outride your capabilities.
- Use added caution on pavement and wet or slick surfaces.
- Ride defensively.

ISYR's free weeklong Sheriff & Police, Fire & EMS Explorer Academies will begin this summer with a special pilot program involving West Central Indiana counties, said Cass County Sheriff Ed Schroder, ISYR secretary.

Applications for the July camps will be available after May 1 through participating schools and public safety agencies in Clay, Greene, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo counties. Next year, ISYR hopes increased funding and expanded accommodations will allow the Explorer Academies to be offered to students statewide, Schroder added.

To donate, volunteer or receive information, write to ISYR, 5325 N. State Road 59, Brazil, IN 47834, email ScottMinier@yahoo.com or call 317-460-4242.

Attorney General Todd Rokita Encourages Hoosiers To Participate In Spring Cleaning On Drug Take Back Day

Attorney General Todd Rokita is encouraging Hoosiers to drop off their expired, unused, and unnecessary medications to disposal sites across the state as part of National Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 22.

"It's vital we do everything possible to protect Hoosier families," Attorney General Rokita said. "Old medications lying around the house are a serious threat and create an avoidable risk to our children, friends, and family members. Please join us

in cleaning out the medicine cabinet this week to join the fight against drug addiction and overdose."

Team members from the Office of the Attorney General are partnering with state and local law enforcement at collection sites around the state Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22.

Some of those sites include:

April 21: Government Center North at Capitol Police Desk located at 100 N Senate Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46204 from 11

a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 22: Valparaiso Police and Fire Departments located at 355 S Washington St., Valparaiso, IN from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Find a location near you at <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday#collection-locator>. Staff operating the drop-off sites will ensure the safe disposal of medications, including drugs in liquid and pill form.

Needles, new or used, WILL NOT be accepted for disposal. This service is free and anonymous with no questions asked.

Business recovery center opening Friday in Johnson County.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest disaster loans to businesses and residents in Indiana following the announcement of a Presidential disaster declaration due to damages from severe storms, straight-line winds and tornadoes from March 31 to April 1.

The disaster declaration covers Allen, Benton, Clinton, Grant, Howard, Johnson, Lake, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Sullivan and White counties in Indiana, which are eligible for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in the following adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs): Adams, Bartholomew, Blackford, Boone, Brown, Carroll, Cass, Clay, De Kalb, Delaware, Greene, Hamilton, Hendricks, Huntington, Jackson, Jasper, Knox,

Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Miami, Montgomery, Newton, Noble, Porter, Pulaski, Putnam, Shelby, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Vigo, Wabash, Warren, Wells and Whitley in Indiana.

Businesses and private nonprofit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. These centers are designed for businesses and not individual homeowners.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed personal property.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is June 14, 2023. The deadline to return economic injury applications is Jan. 15, 2024. Apply online

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website and should apply under SBA declaration # 17881.

Business Recovery Center

A Business Recovery Center (BRC) will open at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 21, at the Grace Assembly of God Church in Johnson County. SBA Customer Service Representatives at the center will assist business owners and residents in filling out a disaster loan application, accept documents for existing applications and provide updates on an application's status. The center will operate as indicated below until further notice:

Grace of Assembly of God Church
6822 North US 31
Whiteland, IN 46184

Hours:
Monday to Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Starting: Saturday, April 28
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

TheTimes24-7.com

19344 Morrison Way
Noblesville • \$434,900

SOLD!



Charming 4 BR, 2.5 BA home in popular Pottery Woods. Hardwood throughout main level, family room with fireplace, kitchen with center island, new granite, finished basement, fenced parklike backyard, 3-car garage and so much more. BLC#21905032

7076 Willowleaf Court
Noblesville • \$345,900

NEW LISTING!



Lovely home in Willow Lake neighborhood, home is pristine and overlooks pond, w/2BR and 2 full BA, den, sunroom, 2-sided gas fireplace, kitchen w/pantry, solid surfaces and all appliances stay. BLC#21915325

7123 Burlat Lane
Noblesville • \$359,900

SOLD!



Over 3,000 square feet of living space in this beautiful home in Cherry Tree Meadows featuring 4 BR/2.5 BA office and loft. LVP Hardwoods on main level, fenced backyard with large deck. New roof! BLC#21902247

Call Peggy 317.439.3258
or Jennifer 317.695.6032

**Your house
could be here!
Give us a call.**

Spring is in the air
and it's a great time to
buy or sell!

Speak to Deak!



Jennifer

Peggy

The Deaklyne Team
REALTORS®

Talk to Tucker

F.C. TUCKER COMPANY

Speak to Deak.com

317.439.3258 Peggy or
317.695.6032 Jennifer

Automatic 21st Century Scholar Enrollment, Military Income Tax Exemption Bills Head To Governor

By Casey Smith
Indiana Capital Chronicle

A bill that would automatically enroll eligible Hoosier students into Indiana's 21st Century Scholars Program — a statewide grant program that funds lower income student attendance at two- and four-year schools — advanced to the governor Wednesday in an 89-1 House vote.

Rep. J.D. Prescott, R-Union City, was the only no vote.

This bill requires the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) to work with the state education department to identify kids who qualify for the program, and then notify students and parents about their eligibility. Students must agree to participate in 21st Century Scholars and can opt out at any time.

"This has turned out to be an extremely important bill. 21st Century Scholars was known with some folks, but not maybe hitting a lot of the students throughout the state — particularly in low income areas — that were not knowledgeable about this," said Rep. Sheila Klinker, D-Lafayette. "But now, at least more students are learning about it and having the opportunity to take advantage of college education, where in other circumstances in the past, they've not been able to afford that."

GOP Rep. Bob Behning, of Indianapolis, added that the bill "is a great step forward" to ensuring that all Hoosiers have the opportunity to earn "some sort of degree or credential."

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb included CHE's auto-enrollment goal in his 2023 legislative agenda. Administration officials said earlier that year that auto-enrollment shouldn't be a cost to the state for six to seven years.

A separate bill that exempts Hoosier military members from paying income taxes is also on its way to the governor's desk.

The final draft of the measure increases the active duty military income tax deduction from its current \$5,000 cap to a full exemption. It further makes reservists and members of the Indiana National Guard eligible for the same exemption.

Currently, active duty National Guard and reserve members are exempt from the individual income tax.

House Bill 1034 originally proposed a phased-in approach, with full tax exemption not taking effect until 2027. The bill headed to the governor takes full effect July 1, however.

What's the best way to teach financial literacy?

Meanwhile, state lawmakers are debating what to do with a bill mandating that students complete

additional financial literacy requirements to graduate.

In contention is whether schools should have to offer a stand-alone course, or if financial literacy curriculum can be incorporated into existing courses, like algebra.

As currently drafted, Senate Bill 35 would require all Hoosier students — beginning with the Class of 2028 — to take a separate personal finance course before they graduate from high school.

The course would center around life skills like opening a bank account, applying for loans, managing debt, investing for retirement and filling out tax returns.

Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, said during a conference committee meeting on Wednesday that she supports the move to require an additional class. A former educator, Rogers recalled teaching a business class to high school students and the "importance" of getting kids knowledgeable about loans, insurance and retirement savings.

"These are things that I think — we're preparing students for the future. And what better opportunity do we have for schools to prepare kids for the future?" she said of the bill. "And that's why I think we need to have a standalone class, so that we can teach all these different elements

and prepare kids — regardless if they are going into work, getting a credential or going to college — every single person needs all these items."

Bill author Sen. Mike Gaskill, R-Pendleton, noted that a provision in the bill would allow the personal finance course, if taken as a standalone class, to qualify as a mathematics credit for alternative high school diplomas.

But Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, said he thinks school districts should be allowed to decide how to implement the curriculum.

"I think we want to give some latitude, some freedom, to the local school districts to design a program that's responding to our legislation, and it's not necessary for us to have a separate course," he said.

Rep. Tonya Pfaff, D-Terre Haute, cautioned too that "kids already struggle to get through their schedules right now, and to get all the requirements that we keep putting on them."

"I just worry about the requirement — making it just another mandate without removing anything at all," she said.

Lawmakers have previously pointed to "concerning" statistics that show a lack of financial literacy in Indiana, including data showing that 87% of teenagers in the United

States have admitted to not understanding their finances. Additionally, 74% of teenagers don't feel confident in their financial knowledge.

Representatives from the Indiana Association of School Principals, the Indiana Credit Union League, the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development, the Indiana Bankers Association and the Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association and others indicated they supported the bill as it is.

Discussions continue on health care proposal. A health care cost savings bill also underwent another transformation Wednesday, the latest in a long line of amendments to a bill filed to tackle high health care costs and inaccessibility in Indiana.

"The whole point of this was to make it a little bit easier to access health care," author Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, said Wednesday.

The bill still includes language that would allow for provisional credentialing, which allows a health care practitioner to begin working and get paid sooner. Initially, it would have barred insurers from requiring prior authorization for a series of select procedures and prescriptions but that language was scaled down to a pilot for state employees.

A House amendment added a requirement for insurers to cover wearable cardioverter defibrillators. However, lawmakers opted on Wednesday to exempt Medicaid, which eliminated the bill's fiscal. Brown said she believed Medicaid already covered the device.

Rep. Joanna King, R-Middlebury, thanked Brown for introducing the bill, which King sponsored on the House side.

"I think that this is a good start to doing a deep dive and providing better health care costs for Hoosiers and that's what this bill is all about," King said. I think for my caucus, one of the most important components was the prior authorization... (making) that even bigger with a broader scope — maybe in the next session — I think that would be something we should be able to do."

Indiana Capital Chronicle reporter Whitney Downard contributed reporting.

- Indiana Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Indiana Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Follow Indiana Capital Chronicle on facebook.com/IndianaCapitalChronicle and twitter.com/INCapChronicle

Lawmakers Get Unexpected \$1.5B For Budget In Latest Forecast

By Whitney Downard
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The General Assembly will have another \$1.5 billion under the latest forecast to incorporate in the two-year budget before session ends in just ten days.

"Indiana is doing great, investments are showing the fruits of our labor," said Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton. "It gives more flexibility and we'll find a spot to land."

Sen. Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, urged caution — noting continued increases projected under Medicaid as the rate of economic growth slows from the record-breaking pace of recent years.

"We're just fortunate to be in (this) position," Mishler said. "I'd rather be in that position than some of the other states that don't have those opportunities."

Several other states have reported far gloomier revenue forecasts for the coming years, including a \$24 billion budget deficit in California and a \$900 million deficit in Alaska.

The bulk of the updated revenue in Indiana comes from better-than-expected tax collections, specifically corporate tax returns.

The last-minute influx of money bears several similarities to the extra \$2 billion lawmakers learned

about in an April forecast during the final days of the budget-writing session in 2021. In that year, legislators resisted increasing education funding to bolster teacher salaries until the very last version of the budget.

What could change with the new forecast?

In particular, Mishler said that Senate Bill 1 was guaranteed to see an increase in funding to shore up the comprehensive mental health crisis system under 988. Whether that would include a line item or a monthly phone fee remains unclear.

"We'll talk after this meeting about the cigarette tax, 988 (phone fees). Different things have been thrown out but this does add another option," Mishler said.

Federal law allows states to impose up to a \$1 fee on cell phone bills to fund 988, which mirrors the current \$1 fee Indiana charges for 911 call centers. The system hinges on three components: someone to call, someone to respond and somewhere to go.

In recent days, House Republicans and Senate Democrats have also proposed increasing the cigarette tax and dedicating those funds to improving Indiana's lagging health metrics.

But Senate Bill 4, which allocates more funding to local public health departments, likely won't be as lucky.

"That's more than just the funding; I think you have a lot of members who have some issues with the bill itself," Mishler said. "That'll be a tougher one, probably, to increase the funding."

Committee hearings on the latter bill stretched for hours and included misinformation on vaccines, COVID-19 and more. Indiana's public health spending is some of the lowest in the nation but opponents maintained that the bill would erode local control.

Weren't the House and Senate versions pretty different?

But where the two budget architects will meet in the final budget hasn't yet been determined — and the \$1.5 billion adds a new wrinkle to the negotiations.

Thompson and his caucus included an expansive increase in funding for vouchers combined with accelerated income tax cuts while senators prioritized paying down debt obligations and padding the state's reserves.

With the support of House Speaker Todd Huston, a longtime proponent of expanding vouchers, the House budget included

\$1.1 billion to subsidize private education for families making up to \$220,000 annually. Senators, on the other hand, kept the cap at \$154,000 for a family of four.

The House opted to roll funding for textbooks and extracurricular materials into K-12 tuition support while Mishler and his caucus created a new line item.

"(Vouchers are) always an ongoing discussion... you ask the same question every year and it's the same as it has been in the past," Mishler said. "The number one (outstanding) is always education issues."

The two versions of the budget also diverged when it came to reserve funding. The House had just over \$1 billion in reserves, split across several accounts, while the Senate tripled that to \$3.2 billion.

However, the Medicaid forecast, also updated on Wednesday, also had some increases — partially due to the "Great Unwinding" of continuous Medicaid coverage. That pandemic-era provision barred state governments from dropping anyone from coverage but also enhanced the federal payment.

In a typical year, the federal government covers 65% of Medicaid costs but under the public emer-

gency and continuous coverage they covered 71.2% of costs — meaning Indiana will lose that extra funding.

Additionally, an analysis of Medicaid reimbursement rates, as called for repeatedly by members of the General Assembly this year, will require more monies and increasing ongoing obligations. Health care providers maintain that they must overcharge commercial insurance payers to make up for the shortfall from government insurance coverage.

Another issue yet to be decided: potential property tax relief, as proposed by Thompson in various measures.

"We've got some ideas but we'll find out in the next couple of days," Thompson said.

Across the aisle, Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, said the windfall should be directed in ways that could help Hoosiers but shared his doubt that Republicans would act. Early this week, Democrats noted that neither spending plan for education kept up with inflation.

"After today's positive forecast, I expect we'll see a renewed effort by House Republicans to enact a vast expansion of private school vouchers, accounting tricks to tuck away this surplus and limited interest

in providing homeowners with meaningful property tax relief. Put plainly, there's no long-term strategy on the part of Republican lawmakers," DeLaney said in a statement.

Rather than pouring continued funds into economic development in a bid to compete with the "powerhouses" of Texas and New York when attracting businesses, DeLaney proposed shifting the attention to education.

"Let's get back to doing what Indiana does best — supporting our great colleges, universities and schools. We can lower tuition, help families and limit student debt," DeLaney said.

Legislators must finish drafting the budget before April 29, when they are due to sine die. Following the forecast, members will continue to finalize details behind closed doors before introducing the final version and approving it next week.

- Indiana Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Indiana Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Follow Indiana Capital Chronicle on facebook.com/IndianaCapitalChronicle and twitter.com/INCapChronicle



Life without local news is like
hearing crickets

STOP LISTENING
TO CRICKETS

The
TIMES
Serving Noblesville & Hamilton County



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

770-7777

BETSY From Page A1

during a book signing at 6 p.m. today at Barnes & Noble in Noblesville, with book recommended by Golden Globe-nominated American actress author Mariel Hemingway, with more info at rhondaparker-taylor.com

4. Carmel Community Players presents "True West," by Sam Shepard, directed by Eric Bryant, opening tonight and continuing through April 30 at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville, with tickets at carmelplayers.org or 317-815-9387.

5. Check out the comedians at The Brick Room Comedy Club, featuring Nate Robinson, Jeff Toy and Don Mason at 8 p.m. today, and Zach Wycuff, Stephen Taylor and John Freitag at 8 p.m. Saturday with \$10 admission tickets at thebrickroom.cc.

6. Go out to the countryside for the live music of Kris Huntley tonight and The Ackermans on Saturday night, Jennifer Mlott on April 28, Brad Kleinschmidt on April 29, and a Strawberry Music Festival at noon May 27, at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville.

7. Treasures can be yours at a huge rummage sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville at 1207 Conner St., with proceeds to go to a variety of charitable organizations supported by the church.

8. Head to the 1836 Prairietown as the outdoor areas are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, during the 2023 season at Conner Prairie in Fishers.

9. Today's Day at Red Bridge Park in Cicero will offer dedication of new historical signage about Cicero's Red Bridge, a day of festivities, showing of the Ball State University PBS Special, "Now Entering Cicero," and outdoor showing of a Hoosier Hot Shots movie, plus local music and fun.

10. Enjoy live music at Grindstone Public House in Noblesville, featuring Jeff Brown on Saturday night; Matt Record on April 27, Jason and Robin on April 29 at the downtown Noblesville restaurant.

11. Join a Teter Wildflower Walk 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday with guided walks at 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., at Teter Organic Farm, 10980 E. 221st St., Noblesville.

12. Attend the Noblesville High School Rooftop Coffee House featuring the best performances of NHS performing arts students, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday on the roof at NHS, with free admission, enter gate 40 off of Field Drive.

13. Ages 2-5 can partake 2 to 3 p.m. April 27 for "Wiggling Worms at Work," with dirt pudding, with fee and registration at noblesvilleparks.org or by calling 317-776-6350.

14. Enjoy a night of live music by Luis Aldrey, food, wine, bourbon and a silent auction while raising money for Same as U, a nonprofit that helps adults with developmental disabilities by providing continuing education, recreational and social life skills in a college-like setting, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. April 27 at The Nesst of Noblesville. Tickets are \$75 plus tax and gratuity and may be purchased by emailing justin@thesnestofnoblesville.com. For more information, call 317-445-2702 or visit sameasu.org

15. Hamilton County Theatre Guild's The Belfry Theatre presents "Crimes of the Heart," directed by Jen Otterman of Noblesville, April 28-May 7 at Arts for Lawrence's Theater at the Fort in Indianapolis, with tickets at 317-773-1085 and at www.thebelfrytheatre.com.

16. Enjoy a free Spring Wildflower Walk 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. April 29 at Blatchley Nature Study Club, 125 Boulder Drive, Noblesville.

17. Board the Nickel Plate Express for the Peony Brunch Express at 10 a.m. April 29 for a 90-minute ride with brunch by Andy's Housepitality, leaving Hobbs Station at Forest Park Depot in Noblesville.

18. Support the Noblesville Babe Ruth by attending a Noblesville Kiwanis Sunrisers Pancake & Sausage Breakfast 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. April 29 at Forest

Park Inn in Noblesville, with \$5 tickets at the door.

19. Enjoy the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Loyalty Day Celebration on April 29 at the Ralph Lehr VFW Post 6246 in Noblesville, with a block party, vendors, kids activities and entertainment, with bands through the day featuring Craig Thurston, Fast Cadillac and Tone Lab Society.

20. Celebrate the 50th reunion of the Noblesville High School class of 1973 at the NHS Alumni Banquet at 5 p.m. April 29 at NHS, at \$22 per person, with reservations by calling Peggy (Baldwin) Beaver at 317-372-2674 or email bvhrhut@aol.com; or Janice Robinson at 317-773-3425 or bbop1950@yahoo.com, by Saturday.

21. Enjoy the music of 2022 International Singers-Songwriters Association Entertainer of the Year Jennifer Mlott at 3 p.m. May 5 at Parks Place Pub in Fishers.

22. Noblesville Farmers Market opening day is 8 a.m. to noon May 6 at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville.

23. Pre-1960 car owners are invited to display their cars at a free antique car show on May 6, organized by Sheridan Historical Society, in conjunction with the Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission, at Veterans Park, 99 S. Main St., Sheridan, where public spectators are welcome to view and vote on their favorites. Cars should be model year 1960 or earlier and be in mostly original condition. At 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., the local Model T Car Club will put on a demonstration of how to assemble a Model T in record time. Lawn chairs and picnicking are invited, plus food will be available for sale. For information, call Ron Stone at (317) 758-5170 or email rmstone@ndwave.com.

24. Underdog Theatre presents "Second Chances," a play that follows life on Mars long before life existed on Earth, at 7 p.m. May 5 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. May 6 at Noblesville First United Methodist Church.

25. Noblesville Chamber of Commerce's "The Taste of Business-Made in Noblesville" is 4 to 7:30 p.m. May 10 at Embassy Suites by Hilton in Noblesville.

26. Join the Street Party on May 6 during the Porch Street Music Fest, featuring the Moontown Pickle Stompers at 8 p.m. and special guests Ghosts on Maple at 6:30 p.m., on 13th Street between Hannibal and Division streets in Old Town Noblesville.

27. Enjoy music, adult beverages and a good time while supporting Noblesville Youth Assistance Program, during Music for Millers from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. May 6 at Wolfies Waterfront Grill in Noblesville, for ages 21 and older, featuring all-request Dueling Pianos, and \$25 tickets, on the Noblesville Youth Assistance Program Facebook page.

28. En Pointe Indiana Ballet in Noblesville presents "The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland" at 7 p.m. May 12 and 2 p.m. May 13 at Reardon Auditorium in Anderson with tickets starting at \$10. Also, join Alice and her friends for high tea 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at \$25 per guest. Visit enpointeindiana.com

29. Charity Ride for American Veteran Riders Association is at 8:30 a.m. May 20 beginning at the Ralph Lehr VFW Post 6246.

30. Hamilton County Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale is 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 20 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville.

Save the date: The Attic Theatre's production of "Shrek The Musical" is on stage June 1-3 at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville.

Save the date: Noblesville Lions Club's annual Pork Chop Festival, with pork chops, chicken and hot dogs, on June 2 with pancakes the morning of June 3 on the Courthouse Square.

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com.

TODD From Page A1

bers to join the club to bring more benefit to the surrounding communities and success of its mission.

"Members are the heartbeat of Kiwanis," said Emily Pearson, a long-time member and current club president. "The passion of our members is what helps the club lend support to area programs, projects and other organizations that bring new hope to children in our communities as well as helping future generations reach their full potential."

Clevenger agrees, "our open house is our chance to share the many good things the Cicero Kiwanis Club is doing for our communities." This year, the featured speaker is a young man who has been involved in Kiwanis since elementary school and has continued his Kiwanis journey through college. "His story is inspiring and a testament to why we do

what we do as Kiwanis members."

Each year, the Cicero Kiwanis Club provides scholarships to graduating seniors from Hamilton Heights. In addition, it supports school clubs, the Hamilton Heights Education Foundation, and programs like the Angel Tree, King's Treasure, and Riley Children's Hospital Research to name a few.

If you have any questions regarding the open house event on Saturday, April 29 and/or to RSVP email: cicerokiwanis@gmail.com. Anyone who wants to learn more about the Cicero Kiwanis Club but is

unable to attend this event is encouraged to visit the group's Facebook page at [Facebook.com/Cicero-Kiwanis](https://www.facebook.com/Cicero-Kiwanis).

I look forward to seeing you and I think you'll see why "Kids Need Kiwanis and Kiwanis Needs You."

JAMS From Page A1

•June 2: Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band featuring Kassey King at 6 p.m.

This is the Westfield Washington Township event for the Hamilton County Bicentennial

•June 9: Toy Factory
•July 14: Living Proof
•July 21: Jambox
•August 25: Six Figures
•September 1: Jai Baker Band

•September 8: Flying Toasters

Each concert starts with music at 7 p.m., kid-friendly activities, and select food trucks begin at 6:30 p.m. Families are encouraged to bring blankets and enjoy the evening outside.

Free Shuttle and Parking

Due to the anticipated popularity of the Friday evening concerts, a

free shuttle service will operate during the event. The shuttle will pick up and drop off attendees at Christ United Methodist Church (318 N. Union Street), near Park Street and Poplar Street, and Grand Junction Plaza (225 S. Union Street) from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Public parking for the event is also available in the parking lot at the southwest corner of Poplar Street and Park Street and in designated on-street spots.

Thank you to Duke Energy for their Community Sponsorship. Other sponsorships are available for the concert series. Please contact Kayla Arnold, Director of Westfield Welcome, at karnold@westfield.in.gov for more information.

Event information can be found here: [westfield-welcome.com/events](https://www.westfield-welcome.com/events).

Dreaming of a new home?



find it here! [thetimes](https://www.thetimes.com)

relax & enjoy



THE TIMES

Event information can be found here: [westfield-welcome.com/events](https://www.westfield-welcome.com/events).

Buy. Sell. Rent. Lease.



THE TIMES classifieds.

got stuff?

sell it in the classifieds.

317.770.7777

The Times

Public Notices Deadline:
11:00 a.m.

2 Business Days Prior to Publication

legals@thetimes24-7.com

Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline
May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee
In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement

Discover

fine local dining

Dine In Downtown

need a **job?**

Find one in the classifieds.

317.770.7777

TheTimes24-7.com

FRIDAY Business Notes and NEWS DAY

Friday, April 21, 2023

A6

EMAIL, news@thetimes24-7.com U.S. MAIL, 54 N. 9th St., Noblesville, IN 46060 ONLINE, www.thetimes24-7.com

Purdue University In Indianapolis' IAC Creates Significant Savings For Indiana Businesses



Energy cost is a major concern for industry. It may not be a stressor for manufacturing giants, which have the budget and personnel to handle their own energy assessments. But what about the small- and medium-sized business owners in Indiana who run the bakery down the street or your favorite local brewery?

Purdue University in Indianapolis professor Jie Chen, his colleagues and students at the university's Industrial Assessment Center are working to put Indiana small- to medium-sized business owners' minds at ease when it comes to energy expenditures.

Thanks to an ongoing grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, the IAC at Purdue University in Indianapolis has trained an energy efficiency workforce to perform over 170 energy audits on small- to medium-sized Indiana busi-

nesses since 2011. Under the leadership of engineering faculty with energy audit credentials, a team of highly skilled students conduct energy assessments, which result in comprehensive reports given to each manufacturer with recommendations for improving energy efficiency, reducing waste and increasing productivity. The reports provide energy efficiency recommendations, identify potential savings with detailed calculations, estimate implementation costs and compute payback times.

"Big companies have the capability to hire people strictly to work on energy, but many small to medium-sized enterprises don't have those resources," said Chen, IAC director and chair of mechanical and energy engineering at Purdue University in Indianapolis. "The small and medium-sized manufacturers and commercial buildings use a lot of energy, so the IAC outlines the opportunities for those Indiana businesses to save."

While each individual manufacturer determines what changes are implemented, the center's post-assessment surveys have determined the implementation rate of the recommendations has reached more than 50%, a mark that holds major significance in a small-business climate, where profit margins can be notoriously thin. Dating to the center's creation, recommen-

dations from the IAC team have accounted for a total of more than \$20 million in energy cost savings for Indiana businesses.

"The IAC team did a tremendous job with its energy assessment," said Mary Gordon, director of operations for Electro-Spec Inc. in Franklin, Indiana. "Dr. Chen and his students compiled a comprehensive report that was extremely helpful to our business in identifying ways for us to save both energy and money."

Ted Funk, Electro-Spec's facilities manager, said, "The IAC's ability to make creative and rational decisions on energy savings opportunities based on the data they examined was outstanding."

The decadelong impact of the IAC on small- to medium-sized Indiana enterprises was initially launched by \$1.3 million in DOE funding to establish the center. The IAC has earned two renewal awards since then and was recently granted \$100,000 per year over a four-year period to expand its energy assessments to include small- to medium-sized commercial buildings in a 150-mile radius around Indianapolis. Total funding for the center, which was recognized by the Department of Energy as the "exemplar" of the 37 such centers on college campuses across the country, is just shy of \$5 million.

10 Fast-Start Tips To Help Job Seekers Launch A Career, Get Noticed And Achieve Early Success

Recent college graduates preparing to enter the workforce as well as anyone returning to work following military service, child-rearing or a pandemic-related furlough will find an abundance of wisdom in *Fast-Starting a Career of Consequence: Practical Christ-Centered Advice for Entering or Re-entering the Workforce*, the new book from former president of New York Life Insurance Company Fred Sievert.

"I believe you have achieved a 'career of consequence' if you have identified your calling and your passion, you have identified your spiritual gifts, and you're using those in the workplace," Sievert said during a recent interview.

In the book, Sievert shares five biblical principles chosen to help individuals create a strong foundation for fulfillment in their careers. Then, he elaborates on 10 practical and proven strategies that individuals can implement immediately to gain visibility and early success as they enter the workforce for the first time, move to a new company or re-enter the workforce after a period of absence.

"The advice applies equally well to small or large corporations and to entrepreneurial ventures," he said, adding, "The book was inspired by a request for advice from my daughter on how to be identified as a high potential employee and advance her career as she languished in an entry-level position at her large global company. The advice proved to be very effective

as she was rapidly promoted into positions with greater levels of responsibility."

Chapters explore universal career-relevant topics such as: Demonstrating Commitment; Embracing the Company's Vision and Mission; Developing Cultural and Organizational Awareness; Understanding the Financial Underpinnings of the Business; Demonstrating Strategic Thinking Capability; Over-preparing for Every Meeting; Making Every Presentation a Command Performance; and Balancing Faith, Family and Career.

Sievert drew upon his unique combination of experiences as a Christian executive, a mentor and a college instructor to develop a book packed with practical Christ-centered advice for those wishing to add a spiritual dimension to career pursuits.

"During my career, and afterward, I mentored many young employees and executives — at least 10 of whom went on to become presidents or CEOs of their organizations," Sievert explained.

Ultimately, Sievert hopes to show others the value of nurturing a symbiotic relationship between faith and career.

"Since most of us will spend more than half of our waking hours at work, I really felt it was important to talk about ways in which you can bring and follow biblical principles in the workplace, and at the same time, get some really valuable business tips from a guy who's been there," he added.

Buy. Sell. Rent. Lease.



THE TIMES classifieds.

Never miss a public notice on legal proceedings!
After it prints in your local newspaper, it goes online:

IndianaPublicNotices.com

TheTimes24-7.com

Life without local news is like
hearing crickets

**STOP LISTENING
TO CRICKETS**



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

770-7777

Voice of our PEOPLE

Bouncing Around Like A Pinball . . .



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

Scattershooting while wondering what a jam session with John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, T-Bone Walker and Big Bill Broonzy might sound like . . .

A SPECIAL thanks to County Clerk Karyn Douglas for not making this reporter feel like the idiot he is when he asked a question about early voting for the primary. Karyn kindly reminded me that without contest races

there's no primary. There will be a General Election in the fall though. If we have a nicer elected official in the county, I'm not sure who it is.

A LOT OF you have asked about our friends over at the Journal-Review – and the recent news about them both selling their damaged building and dropping their Monday edition. Truth to tell, they didn't consult with us. So I can't share with you what they are doing to compensate subscribers who paid more than \$160 for six days and are now getting five. I also don't know if the new owners of the building are going to repair the wall that fell in or what. All I do know is that The Paper of Montgomery County is the only media entity that offers seven editions a week – and those seven will cost less than \$35 for the remainder of this year!

Just saying.

OH, ONE more note on the

other guys . . . they continue to say the Journal-Review has served the community since 1841. They just never mention the fact that there was no such thing as the Journal-Review in 1841. According to the good folks at Wikipedia, the current Journal-Review "was founded in 1929 as an independent daily from the merger of the Journal and the Review." The connection to 1841 probably refers to the beginning of The New Review, a paper that later became the Crawfordsville Review. It competed against the Daily Argus until those papers merged in 1900 and became the Daily News-Review. Around 1886 the Daily Dispatch was founded. It looks like it merged with the Daily Journal and a few decades later, in 1929, Foster Fudge became the owner of the Crawfordsville Journal and Review.

Not to be a stickler, but hey, facts are facts.

AS MY PAL Honest

Hoosier might say, here's a big tip of the seed corn cap to Shannon Hudson for the series she put together on the history of the Lincoln School for Colored Children. It is great to know the history of such an important part of Montgomery County's past. Thank YOU, Shannon!

DID YOU HEAR that some automakers have stopped putting radios that get AM stations in their cars. A news clip I read said that AM radio is going the way of 8-tracks, cassettes and CDs in automobiles.

SORRY TO dip into the sports world, but count me as definitely not one of the fans of the pitch clock in baseball. For those who aren't into baseball, the pros have decided that games take too long and have instituted a clock to force pitcher and batter to speed things up. I get the idea that younger generations don't have much patience,

but the "timeless" aspect is part of what makes baseball, well, baseball. After family and faith, there are few things better than sitting in the warm sun under a gorgeous blue sky and watching a baseball game. Why does everything have to change?

SOME FOLKS asked where I came up with "scattershooting" that occasionally leads these rambles. Well, I didn't. The late great Robert Joseph Collins used that in some of his columns in the Indianapolis Star – the Star back when it was a great newspaper and part of the Pulliam family. I use the phrase today in tribute to one of Hoosierland's all-time great sports editors.

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

Ask Rusty – What Can I Earn In My First Year Collecting Social Security?

Dear Rusty: My 62nd birthday is in late August of this year. I would like to start collecting Social Security, but after reading about the need to keep my earnings less than \$21,240 in the first year it doesn't seem fair to those who have birthdays later in the year. I will have earned a lot by the end of August. Or am I missing the part where the year starts from the day you retire? Or is it a fiscal year? Please elaborate?
Signed: Looking Ahead

Dear Looking Ahead: Born in late August, your first month of eligibility for Social Security will be September (you must be 62 for an entire month

to be eligible for SS benefits). If you start your benefits in September, for the months of September through December 2023 you'll have a monthly earnings limit of \$1,770. If you exceed that limit in any of those 4 months, you won't be eligible for SS benefits in any month that the \$1770 monthly limit is exceeded. If you exceed the monthly limit in all of those months, you won't be entitled to any benefits in 2023, unless using the annual earnings limit formula to determine your penalty would result in a lesser amount.

The penalty for exceeding the annual limit is \$1 for every \$2 you are over the 2023 limit and, if using that formula



ASK RUSTY
Social Security Advisor

yields a penalty which is less than for exceeding the 2023 monthly limit for September – December, they will use the annual limit instead of the monthly limit to compute your penalty. Thus, your annual earnings earned before September will only count if using the annual limit will result

Social Security Matters by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

in less of a penalty than using the monthly limit for the months after your benefits start. If you plan to retire from working before September, then there will be no penalty for exceeding the annual earnings limit prior to that, but if you continue to work full time there will likely be a penalty

which will cause Social Security to take away some of your benefits. Starting in 2024, only the annual earnings limit (which will be a bit more than the 2023 annual limit) will apply to you. Generally, if you continue working full time and will significantly exceed the annual earnings

limit, it may be wise to reconsider claiming your Social Security until your income is below or closer to the annual limit each year, or until you reach your full retirement age after which the earnings limit no longer applies. And if you do claim early and exceed the earnings limit, and if you have benefits taken away for some number of months to satisfy the penalty, you'll get time-credit for those months after year reach your full retirement age. That credit will, essentially, move your claim date forward by the number of months you didn't get SS benefits, increasing your benefit amount accordingly after your full retirement age.

Buy. Sell. Rent. Lease.



THE TIMES classifieds.

www.TheTimes24-7.com