

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Walt Thacker smile? "Having a good day," said the 67-year-old Carmel resident, an artist and board member of Hamilton County Artists' Association. He was found painting a picture at the HCAA's 2021 Art Fair on the Square at the Hamilton County Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville and most recently on Friday night at HCAA's "Artistic Blooms" art opening, where original artwork was on display with a flower theme. The display is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, May 13 and 20. Thacker is an oil painter and has belonged to HCAA for about 10 years. "I paint what makes me feel good." As a kid, he always liked to draw, and he took lessons in school. Thacker was born in Sullivan, Ind., south of Terre Haute, and his family moved to Indianapolis when he was 6 months old. He graduated in 1973 from Pike High School, where he majored in art. "It certainly didn't lead anywhere," he said. He owned a Pepperidge Farm business that he operated for nine years, then bought a Mikesell's snack food business closer to home, for 23 years. Now, he works as a self-employed courier. "I like being out and about." When he was 36, he started painting consistently and has painted about 300 pieces. He is married to wife, Kris, and has a stepson, Erich; son, Paul; daughter, Mary, and two grandchildren, Hudson and Miles. "I had four brothers, and we all were artistic." He was showcased in the White River Canoe project and Carmel water barrels and was a nominee for Artist of the Year for Nickel Plate Arts.

And Another Few Things...

1. ROAD CLOSURE – Bridge No. 22 – 196th Street west of Joliet Road

Please be advised, beginning on or after Monday, May 15, W. 196th Street between Joliet Road and the Hamilton / Boone County Line Road will be closed to all thru traffic for bridge repair work. The estimated project completion date is Monday, June 5, after a 21-day closure. The hard closure is approximately 800' west of Joliet Road. Local traffic will continue to have access to their homes, while thru traffic is asked to utilize the posted detour route of Joliet Road, 186th Street, and County Line Road.

2. River Heritage Park Rededication Ceremony Postponed Due to Weather

Due to weather conditions, today's rededication ceremony at River Heritage Park will be postponed to a later date. For updates, visit carmelclayparks.com or follow Carmel Clay Parks on social.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Photo courtesy of Jessica Pearson

Jessica Pearson of Noblesville today releases her first book, "Imagining the Darkness," a memoir, based on the abuse she experienced as a child as well as her journey to healing.

Noblesville Woman Shares Story Of Childhood Abuse, Writes Book On Her Journey



BETSY REASON
From The Editor's Desk...

Jessica Pearson shares her story of abuse that she experienced as a child and the raw recounting of the effects of that abuse, as well as her journey to healing, in her first book,

"Imagining the Darkness," released today.

"The book is a love letter to myself and anyone who has suffered at the hands of someone who was supposed to protect you," the Old Town Noblesville woman said.

Growing up, she experienced everything from simple joy to violence, neglect and despair.

Born in Florida and raised in Georgia, she lived in a small Appalachian community where people did not air their dirty laundry, and "when you suspected something bad was happening, people would rather look the other way than help," she said. "This applied to everyone from teachers to police officers. If I wanted to be saved, I had to do it myself."

The road she has traveled has been a challenging one, and she knew that she couldn't be the only person who has experienced such things.

➔ See BETSY Page A6

Chuck Goodrich Tosses Hat In Ring For Indiana's 5th

Chuck Goodrich, President and CEO of Gaylor Electric, formally announced his candidacy for United States Congress in Indiana's 5th District recently. Goodrich is currently a state representative serving Indiana House District 29. In his time at the statehouse, Representative Goodrich has earned a reputation as an outspoken conservative and thoughtful leader on key issues.

"There is a need for people in DC who understand what it takes to run and build a business, who have met the pressures of meeting weekly payrolls, dealt with rising healthcare costs, lived with workforce development chal-

lenges, like immigration and inflation, and have first-hand experience on the cumbersome impact of regulations and taxes," Goodrich said in a press release. "I understand these challenges, and I want to bring my perspective, a conservative perspective, to the conversation."

Goodrich made his announcement to a packed room at the Mill Top Banquet &



CHUCK GOODRICH

➔ See CHUCK Page A6

Noblesville, Pacers Sports & Entertainment Announce New G League Partnership

The City of Noblesville announced a transformational partnership with Pacers Sports & Entertainment to bring the Mad Ants, the company's affiliate in the NBA G League, to Noblesville. THE NBA G League is the second most prominent men's basketball league in the world, behind only the NBA.

To accommodate the move, Noblesville plans to build a new 3,400 seat, 85,000-square-foot arena on the east side of the city.

"We are excited to welcome Pacers Sports & Entertainment to Noblesville along with the players, coaches and staff of the G League team," Mayor Chris Jensen said. "The Pacers are an iconic brand with deep roots in central Indiana. Partnering with such an impactful organization opens numerous opportunities for our community and drives forward our efforts for a larger sports and entertainment district with enhanced partnerships."

The new arena is anticipated to open during the 2024-2025 season, and the team would play at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in the interim. City and team officials are working through due diligence steps with local partners and plan to build the arena at Finch Creek Park near the Mojo Up Sports Complex, which generates nearly 1 million visits per year. The city expects to draw 65,000 fans annually to Noblesville and Finch Creek just for games, which is already the second most visited area in Hamilton County for sports visitors.

"We are working with the Pacers and other partners on programming options for the arena on days it is not used by the Pacers. The facility would be available for events like IHSAA tournaments and competitions, concerts, conferences, corporate events and graduations," Jensen said. "Further steps are being taken to finalize development and programming partners, which may also incorporate additional project features and recreational amenities."

The franchise will remain the Mad Ants through the 2023-2024 season. A new mascot will be unveiled prior to the 2024-2025 season and Mad Ants, a name with a special tie to Fort Wayne, will be retired.

"The G League is world-class basketball, and PS&E is proud to bring that to Noblesville as we strengthen our basketball operations and enhance player development in one of the state's most vibrant and growing communities," Pacers Sports &

➔ See SPORTS Page A6

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:33 a.m.
SET: 8:47 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures
High: 72 °F
Low: 57 °F

Today is...

- Lag B'omer
- National Teacher Day
- National Moscato Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1997 Pete Peterson becomes the first U.S. ambassador to visit Vietnam after the end of the war.
- 1969 Carlos Lamarca begins his fight against Brazil's military dictatorship.
- 1960 The first birth control pill is approved.

Births On This Day

- 1949 Billy Joel American singer-songwriter, pianist
- 1800 John Brown American activist

Deaths On This Day

- 2012 Vidal Sassoon English/American hairdresser
- 1805 Friedrich Schiller German poet, playwright, historian

Fishers Police Department Citizen Survey



As part of their ongoing accreditation process through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), the Fishers Police Department is conducting the annual citizen survey. The survey addresses specific questions regarding previous citizen contacts with our police department as well as perceptions of safety in our neighborhoods and business areas.

It is the goal of the Fishers Police Department to achieve and maintain the highest level of quality service for our residents and visitors. Input from the citizens of Fishers is essential in the Fishers Police Department's continued effort to promote effective police services and protection to all members of the community.

This survey will be open until June 1, 2023. Complete the online survey by clicking this link, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SNXLFJ7>

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➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Just for the record, I don't need politicians, athletes or famous people teaching me about morals, thank you very much. I turn to my clergy and Bible for that.



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"Be like a duck. Calm on the surface but always paddling like the dickens underneath."
-Michael Caine

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Exercise is one of the best ways to treat stress. 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

Stephen M. Squirlock Sr.

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



3 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

62/78 STORMY START & FINISH	57/72 SUNNY, CHANCE RAIN	47/75 SUNNY, PLEASANT	52/80 WARMING	63/82 SUNNY, PARTLY CLOUDY	67/80 SUNNY, PARTLY CLOUDY	63/78 SUNNY, PARTLY CLOUDY
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

➔ OBITUARIES

Stephen M. Squirlock Sr.
April 8, 1948, Friday, May 5, 2023

Stephen M. Squirlock Sr., 75, of Noblesville, passed away on Friday, May 5, 2023 at his home. He was born on April 8, 1948 to Paul and Elizabeth (Semonich) Squirlock in Newark, New Jersey.



Stephen attended Valparaiso University where he was a member of Sigma Pi fraternity, and received a bachelor's degree from Bradley University. He worked as an insurance commercial underwriter. Stephen was a 35-year recipient of a heart transplant. He was an avid Colts fan, enjoyed wrestling, and loved pets.

Stephen is survived by his wife, Kathy Squirlock; son, Stephen M. Squirlock Jr.; daughter, Melissa (CJ) O'Leck; and his sister, Karen (Richard) Martinez.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Paul Squirlock.

Private family services will be held.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Heart Association, PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692 (www.heart.org).

Condolences: www.randallroberts.com

➔ Letters

Writer Appalled at Controversy Over Library

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Noblesville, and a person who is very concerned about protecting the minds of children, I'm appalled at the controversy and vilification of the Library Committee's chairwoman.

Using lies and inflammatory words such as "banning books" is a serious position to take.

Separating books in a library, is what libraries do. There are Childrens sections, Fiction sections, Non-Fiction, Historical and so on.

In the Children's section, books with topics appropriate for their ages are separated so that Kindergartners who aren't reading can find picture books they can enjoy.

Kindergartners do not have books that have pages of words they don't yet understand. You won't find a detailed book of instructions by Henry Ford on how you can build a car.

Why does anyone want a Kindergartner to find a book with pictures showing sexual behavior in the library? That creates an unsafe environment for children.

So, why the fuss? Why vilify a servant of the No-

blesville schools who is the chairwoman of the Library Committee?

Child safety - safety for their minds- is needed.

There is no banning of books involved. It is the separation of age appropriate books by topic.

It's what libraries DO.

All the negative press is a very sad day for our town. To think people, even those who do know the truth, but chose to champion this agenda of our day, that is speeding down the dangerous path of not protecting our children's minds and bodies, to think people actually believe our children do not need protection from explicit books about sexual behaviors in our libraries is shocking and disturbing.

Separation to an area away from the childrens usual section is not banning. It's good sense. It's a measure of protection for the children without banning books.

Mrs Aldering must be awarded a medal for her courage and wisdom on behalf of her work to protect children in Noblesville Libraries.

Mrs. J. Yvonne Irish
Noblesville

Art Blooms At Local Gallery



Photo courtesy of Patty MacInnis

Hamilton County Artists' Association's Walt Thacker and Sherry Cartwright enjoy the charcuterie table of refreshments as the open house and artists' reception got started on Friday night at the HCAA "Artistic Blooms" exhibit. About 60 guests attended, "so it was a good night," said Noblesville's Patty MacInnis, a HCAA artist. Guests took home free daffodils, provided by Little Petal Farm of Noblesville. There are 63 floral paintings by 33 artists on exhibit during the month of May, with the Art Center being open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, May 13 and 20, at the gallery, 195 S. Fifth St., Noblesville. The popular vote for People's Choice award on Friday night was won by John Dierdorf with his painting of "Spring Showers."

Register Early For The 2023 NWIMCA Golf Outing

Enjoy a VIP-day of great golfing, networking, and fun.

Sponsorships and four-somes are now available for the popular Northwest Indiana Mason Contractors Association's (NWIMCA) annual golf outing. The premier event fills up quickly each year, and attendees are advised to register early to reserve their spots. This one outing you'll definitely not want to miss, as it's packed with great networking opportunities with local business leaders, awesome gifts, and fun rounds of golf.

Thanks to the generosity of the NWIMCA Golf Committee, the price-per-foursome is less than what the course typically charges for rounds of golf. That adds up to great savings and outstanding avenues to make new business contacts out on the course.

Each golfer will receive an incredible golfer gift upon arrival and will be treated to tasty food and drinks throughout the day.

Door prizes are abundant and there will be a chance to win a 50/50 raffle.

Multiple sponsorship levels are available, each featuring high-visibility promotional offerings for companies. Much more detail on the available packages can be found online by clicking here.

When: Thursday, August 24th
Registration: 9:30AM
Shotgun Start: 11AM

Where: White Hawk Country Club 1001 White Hawk Dr, Crown Point, IN 46307
Register at: <https://www.nwimca.org/golf-outing>

Foursome Package: \$500

Sponsorship Tiers:
Beverage Cart Sponsor with Foursome (\$1,200, Only two available)
Platinum Sponsor with Foursome (\$1,000)
Gold Sponsor with Foursome (\$800)
Silver Sponsor with Foursome (\$650)
Tent-At-Hole Sponsor (\$600, Only four available)
Hole Sponsor (\$300)

More Than 11,000 Student Loan Borrowers In Indiana Approved For Public Service Loan Forgiveness

PSLF highlighted as Public Service Recognition Week begins.

Today, to mark Public Service Recognition Week, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) announced it has approved nearly 616,000 borrowers nationwide for approximately \$42 billion in Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) since October 2021.

PSLF covers public employees—such as teachers, firefighters, and members of law enforcement, as well as those who work for a non-profit organization—in a variety of fields by forgiving the remaining federal student loan balance for those who make the required 120 qualifying monthly payments.

In fact, PSLF is making an incredible difference for public servants in Indiana:

Between October 2021 and May 2023, the Department has approved more than 11,000 borrowers in Indiana for more than \$717 million in loan forgiveness under temporary changes the Biden-Harris Administration made to the PSLF Program. That's

more than \$64,000 per borrower!

While hundreds of thousands of Indiana borrowers already have benefited from PSLF, more will benefit as the program continues.

Public Service Recognition Week celebrates individuals who serve the United States and local communities as employees of federal, state, local, or tribal government.

Recent Improvements to the PSLF Application Process

•In addition to record approvals, the Department is also announcing that for the first time, borrowers can now sign and submit their PSLF forms digitally and closely track their status through the process.

•These significant changes to the PSLF application process create a faster, more straightforward, and more transparent process for borrowers.

•The changes also improve the experience for public service employers, who now can confirm a borrower's employment digitally via DocuSign.

relax & enjoy

THE TIMES

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Allen County Judge Denies Indiana's Preliminary Injunction Request In TikTok Lawsuit

By Casey Smith
Indiana Capital Chronicle

An Indiana judge on Thursday denied the state's motion for a preliminary injunction in its lawsuit against TikTok and parent company ByteDance. Allen County Superior Court Judge Craig Bobay said in his ruling that the state hasn't "shown a reasonable likelihood of success on the merits at trial" and "is not likely to prevail in its attempt to enjoin the defendants from making the complained-of representation" regarding the app.

Bobay additionally said the court lacks jurisdiction over TikTok and its parent company, meaning the state is not entitled to an injunction.

The next hearing in the case is scheduled for June 6 in Allen Superior Court. The state can appeal the decision.

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita filed a pair of lawsuits in December against TikTok and its owner, Chinese company ByteDance. They are the first state suits against the company.

Rokita claims the social app misleads its consumers about the level of inappropriate videos that are viewable by children, and that it collects "reams" of sensitive data on consumers. He also alleges that TikTok encourages

kids to commit vandalism. "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," Rokita said in an earlier statement. Too young for TikTok? Attorneys for both parties appeared in court March 3 for a hearing on the state's motion for preliminary injunction.

The state sought to prohibit TikTok from engaging in "illegal and deceptive consumer practices" in its Apple App Store description. They alleged that TikTok improperly cites its content as "infrequent" or "mild" when referring to videos on the app that contain profanity, crude humor, mature or suggestive themes, alcohol, tobacco, drug use and sexual content or nudity, according to court filings.

The attorney general's office said the app should instead be described as containing "frequent" or "intense" depictions of such content, which would increase the minimum age restriction to download the app to 17 years old. Currently, TikTok's age rating is designated for users 12 years old.

They pointed to the Google Play and Microsoft stores, where TikTok has a "T for

Teen" rating. During the hearing, the court heard from five witnesses about whether the app's practices inflict harm. Indianapolis clinical psychologist Dr. Megan O'Bryan — one of three witnesses for the state — said she was concerned about "hypersexualized" social media content. The psychologist explained that teenagers' frontal lobes are not yet developed, so they have less ability to regulate their usage of the app, and persistent usage can lead to significant exposure to "hypersexualized videos." She cautioned that TikTok can normalize sexualized videos and lead teen girls to create such content. That could lead teen boys to move on to view pornography, she added. Also testifying for the state, University of Southern California professor Jon-Patrick Allem referred to his study of 194 TikTok videos, which found that almost 70% of the videos had a "neutral" sentiment toward substance use. Another 25% were "positive" toward substance abuse, and about 6% of the videos were "negative" toward substance use. Statistics and research expert Charles Cowan — a witness for TikTok — pushed back on Allem's study, however, saying his methodology was biased

and contained mathematical errors. Tracy Elizabeth, TikTok's head of family safety and development health, added that the vast majority of content on TikTok is "safe, affirming, healthy, and suitable for users of all ages," court documents show. The app uses human and artificial intelligence moderators to identify violations of its Community Guidelines, including depictions of nudity and sexual intercourse. Elizabeth said that between July and September 2022, 110 million videos were removed from the platform for policy violations, although 11 million of those videos had been viewed prior to removal. In his ruling, Bobay found the state failed to prove TikTok made false or deceptive representations. "The Court concludes that TikTok operating an online service that is available in Indiana and all other states is not sufficient to establish specific jurisdiction, when it is being sued over responses made to the App Store's questionnaire," Bobay wrote. The court agreed with TikTok that terms like "mild" or "intense" used to describe the frequency of certain content are "subjective." "The Court concludes that the State has failed

to establish that TikTok made a false or otherwise deceptive representation when it identified the relevant content categories as 'infrequent' in response to the App Store's question regarding their 'level of frequency'," Bobay continued. "The State has not carried its burden to show the falsity of TikTok's representation that the content categories appear 'infrequently,' especially when comparing the relatively small amount of allegedly suspect content to all of the content appearing on TikTok." Bobay's order noted, too, that Indiana consumers download the app for free, so there is no consumer transaction for gaining access to TikTok. He said it's not clear if the state's Deceptive Consumer Sales Act (DCSA) covers free apps. "If the Indiana legislature wants the DCSA to apply to such a common activity as downloading free apps, it can easily do so by amending the definition of 'consumer transaction' to include the act of downloading a free app," the judge wrote. Background on the lawsuit Rokita maintains that TikTok sends sexualized or other adult content to young users despite claiming it's appropriate for teens. The app's algorithm "serves up abundant

content depicting alcohol, tobacco and drugs; sexual content, nudity and suggestive themes; and intense profanity. TikTok promotes this content regardless of a user's age, which means that it is available to users registered with ages as young as 13," the suit claims. The complaint contrasts TikTok's U.S. app with its Chinese counterpart, Douyin, which requires users to verify their real names and use the app for 40 minutes or less if they're under 14. "An essential part of TikTok's business model is presenting the application as safe and appropriate for children ages 13 to 17," Rokita's office said. If TikTok were honest about how much drug, alcohol and sexual content appears on the platform, it wouldn't qualify for a "teen" rating in app stores, and far fewer young people would use it, the suit contends.

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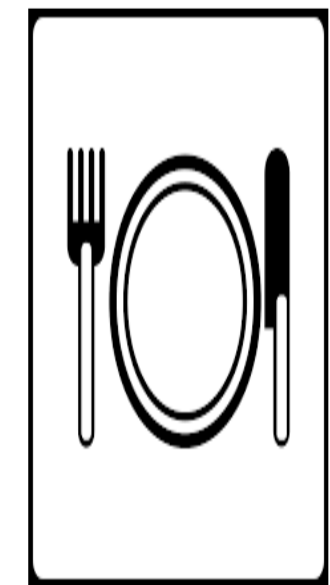
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Photos courtesy of Honda



Photos courtesy of Subaru

All-New Honda Accord & Subaru Crosstrek Immigrate To Indiana

Honda recently celebrated forty years of building the Accord at its plant in Marysville, Ohio – the first domestic assembly plant for the automaker. By 2025, the just-redesigned Accord will transfer to Greensburg, Indiana as Honda refocuses Ohio operations on EVs. Similarly, Subaru has long built models like the Outback, Legacy, Impreza, and Ascent in Lafayette. For 2024, the Impreza migrates back to Japan while the all-new Crosstrek takes its place. It's all good news for Indiana.

2023 Honda Accord Sport Hybrid
 “The all-new 11th-generation Accord is essential to our lineup as a critical driver of brand loyalty, and with hybrid models representing 50% of sales, a key part of Honda’s electrification strategy,” said Mamadou Diallo, vice president of Auto Sales, American Honda Motor Co., Inc. “This is our best Accord ever, a true benchmark

in its class, offering an unbeatable combination of style, efficiency, performance and connectivity.”

I recently had a chance to drive an Accord Hybrid Sport nearly 600 miles over Interstates and hilly two-lane backroads between Indianapolis and southern Kentucky. Like every Honda, the Accord feels like deep in its soul live a couple of racing engineers striving for excellence.

The latest hybrid provides a sportier driving experience whether taking the kids to class or carving up tight two-lane roads through bourbon country. Combined with a 2.0-liter Atkinson cycle four-cylinder engine, the system produces 204 horsepower and 247 lb.-ft. of torque. That’s adequate if not stellar, but the continuously variable transmission was programmed to feel more like a traditional geared automatic. Fuel economy is rated a stellar 46/41-MPG city/highway.

I enjoyed driving it

very much. Eco, Normal, and Sport modes adjusted throttle responsiveness to my mood, but the tight suspension, quick steering, and 19” alloy wheels gave confidence to have some fun. Adaptive cruise, automatic emergency braking, blind spot warning, lane keep assist, and rear cross traffic alert kept me safe.

You may never guess the advanced powertrain by looking at the Accord Sport. Its sleek understated shape is handsome, if not especially glitzy. Inside, the feel is more Civic Sport with a thick leather-wrapped steering wheel, firm supportive seats, and clear gauge cluster. A strip of mesh plastic hides the dash air vents. Tap into Apple CarPlay- and Android Auto-connected devices through a super simple touchscreen. Using navigation and streaming music was super easy. Soft-touch materials, aluminum pedals, and leather shift knob amp the premium feel.

The Honda Accord Sport Hybrid starts at

just \$31,895, making it very competitive with the Toyota Camry Hybrid, Hyundai Sonata Hybrid, and Ford Escape Hybrid.

Preview - 2024 Subaru Crosstrek Wilderness

The first two generations of the compact Subaru Crosstrek crossover were built in Japan while the compact Impreza on which it’s based was built in Lafayette. As the U.S. market migrates from cars to crossovers, it makes sense to build the Crosstrek here and send the Impreza packing. Beginning with 2024 models, Crosstreks with the 2.5-liter engine will be built in Indiana. That includes the new Wilderness edition I recently previewed in California.

For those not in the know, Wilderness is Subaru’s most adventurous trim. That means more exuberant style with aggressive black body cladding, black mesh grille, and 17” matte black wheels wearing Yokohama GEOLANDAR tires. An upgraded suspension

allows 9.3” of ground clearance. Copper accents identify tow and mounting points.

Differentiating the Wilderness interior are vegan leather seats, copper trim, and LEDs under the tailgate for loading bikes and camping gear after sunset. Luxuries include dual-zone auto climate control, Harman Kardon audio, power moonroof, heated seats, wireless Apple/Android connectivity, and wireless phone charger.

Fortifying off-road capability is a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine, delivering 182 horsepower and 178 lb.-ft. of torque, to tow up to 3,500 lbs. Standard X-Mode configures the standard all-wheel-drive system for conditions like snow and mud plus hill descent control for easing down steep inclines. Out on the road, a new three-camera EyeSight system enhances adaptive cruise, automatic emergency braking, and lane keep assist.

This car makes so much sense one has



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

to wonder why it took so long for Subaru to offer a Crosstrek Wilderness because its short wheelbase and narrower track make it perfect for serious trails. It’s also the kind of car, like the 1970s GL/DL, on which Subaru built its reputation in America. No matter, it’s a pretty smart choice because this little crossover is sure to be in hot demand with a base price of \$31,995.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @ [AutoCasey](https://www.youtube.com/@AutoCasey).

Dominant Indiana GOP Taking Aim At Big Cities



BRIAN HOWEY
Howey Political Report

Indiana Democrats will be facing an existential election this November. Already purged from rural areas and many small to medium-sized cities, holding no Statehouse constitutional offices, only two of 11 federal offices, and with superminority status in the General Assembly, the party has been relegated to the state’s big cities and college towns.

Now, Republicans will be taking aim at Indiana’s biggest two cities, Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, where incumbent Democrats fit the description of “embattled.”

In Indianapolis, self-funding Republican mayoral nominee Jefferson Shreve will take on two-term Democrat Mayor Joe Hogsett, who dispatched state Rep. Robin Shackelford, 58%-

38% on Tuesday. The fact that 42% of Democrats didn’t vote for the mayor has Hoosier Republicans licking their chops. They point to Republican Greg Ballard’s 2007 upset for Mayor Bart Peterson as a historic parallel as well as Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s primary loss in February, largely based on the crime issue.

Shreve spent more than \$2 million after filing his candidacy right at the filing deadline last February. He described Indianapolis as a “jewel” of a city that has been damaged by a rampant murder rate, high crime and a lack of cops. Shreve said his candidacy was “not a business decision; this is a decision from the heart. I’m running for mayor as a Republican and it’s gonna be tough. We live in a Democratic city. I’m not fooling myself, I understand the challenge. In my heart, I am convinced I can bring something better and bolder than what we have today.”

Indiana Republican Chairman Kyle Hupfer said, “We’re looking forward to partnering with Jefferson and his team over the next few months and helping to deliver much-needed change in

Indianapolis.”

Democratic Party Vice Chair and Marion County Democratic Chairwoman Myla Eldridge said, “Jefferson Shreve’s message is already falling short. After spending more than \$2 million on Trump-style ads promoting his right-wing agenda, less than 30,000 Republican ballots were cast on Election Day compared to a historic 45,000 Democratic ballots. Jefferson’s platform may resonate with hardcore conservatives, but it’s clear Indianapolis voters aren’t interested.”

In Fort Wayne, four-term Democrat Mayor Tom Henry will face the only Republican ever to beat him. That occurred in 2003 when Republican Tom Didier upset him by 172 votes to win the city council seat Henry had held for 20 years. Henry recovered, winning the mayor’s office in 2007.

On Tuesday, Henry easily dispatched a little-known Democrat challenger, Jorge Fernandez, with 78% of the vote. It’s his first public test since being arrested on a DUI last October. He pleaded guilty in November.

Councilman Didier, who defeated Councilman Jason

Arp 64-33% on Tuesday in the GOP primary, smells blood in the water. “Now I’ve got to get checkmate, I feel very confident,” Didier told the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette. “I really believe the voters are ready for a change.”

Henry said his family and the Didiers have known each other for a long time and expects a donnybrook. “I think it’ll be a very lively campaign,” he said. “Aggressive, but in a positive way.”

Indiana Democrats have other potential challenges. They have seen the GOP encroach in areas where it once dominated, including southern Lake County and St. Joseph County, where all three county commissioners are Republican.

South Bend Mayor James Mueller defeated Councilman Henry Davis Jr. with 68%. South Bend Tribune columnist Jack Colwell explained, “Davis had to top 30% to show he had any significant impact. He just reached that. But he fell short of the 40% that would have signaled Mueller was vulnerable for a possible fall upset by Republican challenger Desmond Upchurch.”

In Anderson, Democrat

Mayor Thomas Broderick defeated Councilman Rodney Chamberlain by a mere 32 votes and faces Republican Jon Bell, who won his primary by just four votes. Republican Kevin Smith won the Anderson mayor’s office twice, in 2003 and 2011, before Broderick defeated him in 2015.

Indiana Democrat Chairwoman Mike Schmuhl said after the November 2022 elections, “Indiana Democrats laid the groundwork in 2021 and 2022, and now it’s time to crisscross our state even more, build up our party from the grassroots, elect city leaders in 2023.”

There may be some opportunities for Democrats as well.

There will be an open seat in Evansville, where Republican Mayor Lloyd Winnecke is retiring. He and his wife, Carol McClintock, recruited and helped newcomer Natalie Rascher win a decisive primary against Vanderburgh County Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave by 1,500 votes. Rascher will face Democrat Stephanie Terry in November. Democrats control seven of nine Evansville Council seats.

Another open seat comes in Carmel. Republican

Mayor Jim Brainard did not seek another term. Councilwoman Sue Finkam won the three-way race with 36% of the vote and will face Democrat Miles Nelson in November. “We knew we had to be scrappy and tough and resilient and not back down from a fight,” Finkam said. “They underestimated us at every turn.”

Nelson told a gathering of 150 Democrats, “As we move toward the November election, I’m ready to continue engaging voters in our city on how we build an administration that’s responsive to their needs, transparent about our spending and priorities.”

In Terre Haute, Republican Mayor Duke Bennett is seeking a record-tying fifth term and will face Democrat Brandon Sakbun, who upset Tom Goodwin on Tuesday with 54%. Goodwin, running as an independent in 2019, came within 213 votes of upsetting Bennett.

-The columnist is managing editor of *Howey Politics Indiana/State Affairs* at [StateAffairs.com/pro/Indiana](https://www.stateaffairs.com/pro/Indiana). Find Howey on Facebook and Twitter @[hwypol](https://twitter.com/hwypol).

“Taking Pictures” Leaflets Three...Let It Be!



CARRIE GLASSON
The Postscript

I like taking photos when I'm out of the country. Photographing things in Mexico is effortless. I'll never understand the nuances of every festival or ritual, but I can enjoy the pageantry and the color and the incredible effort and artistry that goes into creating so much beauty. Then I come back up north and look at the mud. It's a big change. The skies were overcast for the first five days after my return from Mexico. The temperatures were unseasonably low. There was some rain. There might even have been some snow, if you count the white, pellet-like things that dotted the sidewalk. Maybe it was sleet. Maybe it doesn't matter. "What is this?" I asked an innocent passerby. He shook his head disapprovingly. "I have no idea." And I realized that I was terribly spoiled. Taking pictures in Mexico took no skill at all. I decided I needed to start taking pictures right here at home. The first day was not a great success. The sun stayed stubbornly behind a cloud. The few blooms that were out had been nipped by the frost. I took a photo of some branches against the gray sky and a carved stone pillar covered in green lichen. The lichen was vivid green after sleeping all winter. The lichen seemed about as happy as lichen can be, and so I figured I could make more of an effort. The next day I happened upon some crocuses forcing their way through the muddy soil. The crocus is not a showy flower, but their sheer numbers were amazing. I found a handful of daffodils blooming in a spot where they caught the occasional bit of sunshine.

The third day was colder than ever. I headed out the door for my walk and turned right around, went inside and put on warmer clothes. The sky was dark in the middle of the afternoon. I photographed a hydrangea, left over from the previous year, bleached and brittle, shaking in the chill wind.

I wanted to photograph one of the oldest houses in the neighborhood through the fence, but a row of garbage cans was in the way. I contorted into a strange position, and a woman walking by looked at me curiously. "I'm trying to take pictures," I told her, "even on the gloomy days."

"Well, this is a good house to photograph when it's gloomy!" she replied. The house looked menacing under the heavy clouds.

On Sunday, I went to church. A new pastor had been hired while I was in Mexico, and he preached a good sermon. The choir was especially strong. And, sometime in the middle of the service, a little bit of sun crept out. I looked up and saw the stained glass.

"Oh, look," I thought. "Finally, some color."

After the service, I climbed the wooden stairs to the balcony, and I looked through the vibrant stained glass. It was all the color I had been missing since coming back from Mexico.

And I felt a lot better. I'm not sure if the new minister would approve, but those windows did more for my soul than his sermon and the beautiful music put together. Those windows gave a sermon of their own. Those windows lifted my spirits and made me remember how much unseen beauty there is—all the time.

They reminded me that it's not what I'm looking at that matters—it's what I'm looking through. Looking through eyes trained to see beauty, I see beauty everywhere.

I left the church, thanking the windows on my way out.

Till next time,
Carrie

- Carrie Classon is a freelance writer and author and lives in New Mexico. Her columns appear each week.



JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.
Hamilton Health

It appears that consistent warm weather has finally arrived in Indiana and people are finally able to get out to commune with nature. This will probably result in a lot of rashes showing up in doctors' offices. Most of the rashes we see in the summer are caused by poison ivy, one of three plants in Indiana that are members of the genus Toxicodendron. This genus also includes poison sumac and poison oak.

The physical appearance of the poison ivy plant is highly variable, though it always has leaves in sets of three (see illustration). A memory aid from my Boy Scout days lets me recall what it looks like – "leaflets three let it be." However, not all leaves of three are poison ivy, and other plants, like Virginia Creeper, can have a similar appearance.

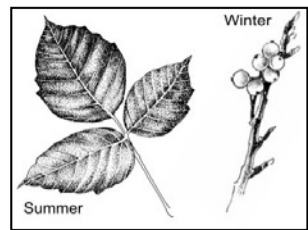
The rash of poison ivy, like most contact rashes, is caused by the reaction

of the immune system to the plant's oil on the skin. When dealing with poison ivy, sumac or oak, it causes a typical rash, known as "rhus dermatitis."

In the case of poison ivy, oak and sumac, the offending chemical is the plant resin urushiol. This resin can be found on any part of the plant, including the leaves, stems, roots, and berries. Even if the plant is dead, or the leaves have fallen off, urushiol can remain active for up to five years. Urushiol is also found in mangos and the shells of cashew nuts.

To develop rhus dermatitis, you must be sensitized to urushiol. This means you have to have had a prior exposure to the resin to activate your immune system. The typical rash then develops on subsequent exposures. Between 15 to 30 percent of people require numerous repeated exposures to urushiol before they have any reaction at all. It's interesting to note that Native Americans, who have lived around these plants for centuries, react the least of any race.

The initial rash usually occurs 24 to 48 hours after exposure to urushiol. It appears as redness with blisters, usually found in a line where the plant brushed the skin. Areas of skin covered with clothing are generally spared unless the victim transfers the oil from clothing to skin



that was covered (important health tip to males – if you've been handling plants, always wash your hands with soap and water before urinating).

People often have the misconception that fluid from the blisters can spread the rash. However, once the resin is washed off the skin with soap and water, the rash can no longer spread. People often wonder if it's not contagious, why does the rash seem to spread? This depends on the amount of resin the skin is exposed to. If an area is exposed to a large amount of urushiol, it will break out sooner after contact. Areas that get a smaller dose may not break out for up to two weeks after the exposure. Someone might also be getting repeated exposures from clothing or tools they were using or even from pets that might have the resin on their fur. The entire course of the rash may last up to a month or so if left untreated.

Treatment of rhus dermatitis is based on the severity of the rash. If you know you have touched poison ivy, wash the area of contact immediately

with lots of soap and warm water. Minor rashes usually respond well to cool compresses and either topical or oral diphenhydramine (Benadryl®). Over the counter 1% hydrocortisone cream applied three to four times a day can also speed resolution, though you should not use it around the eyes or mouth, areas of the body that have thin skin, and very sparingly on children.

More severe cases may require a trip to the doctor. We usually prescribe a steroid cream, ointment, or sometimes steroid pills. Pills are usually prescribed if the rash is found on the face or around the eyes. Occasionally scratching the rash may cause a secondary bacterial skin infection. If this happens your health care provider may also prescribe antibiotics.

As always, an ounce of prevention beats a trip to the doctor. Know what the plant looks like. When you're in an area with possible poison ivy, wear long sleeves, pants, and gloves. Avoid rubbing your skin with clothing or gloves that have come into contact with vegetation. Take a hot soapy shower or bath as soon as possible. Wash your clothing in hot water as well.

- Dr. John Roberts is a retired member of the Franciscan Physician Network specializing in Family Medicine.

Indiana Chamber Releases Top 12 List Of Most Impactful New Laws

The 2023 Indiana General Assembly session saw big policy wins for the state's economic development efforts, employers and the Hoosier workforce and talent pipeline, says Indiana Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Kevin Brinegar.

To tout those "big scores," the state's largest small business advocacy organization has just issued its Top 12 list of most impactful new or soon-to-be state laws.

Economic Development/Technology

House Bill 1001 – State Budget (economic development matters): Includes \$500 million to fund a second round of Gov. Holcomb's Regional Economic Development and Leadership Initiative (READI) that focuses on quality of place and building up local/regional communities. Allocates \$500 million to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) to help the agency close big deals. Doubles the appropriation (to \$40 million) for the Manufacturing Readiness Grant to assist manufacturers modernize their technology as well as designates \$150 million for the site acquisition revolving fund to attract significant projects/employers.

Brinegar: "On the economic development front, the Governor and IEDC were big winners, and we were very supportive of their proposals. These IEDC funds will give economic development officials more tools at their disposal as they compete with other states for job-creating expansions and new investments in transformative projects."

Senate Bill 5 – Consumer Data Protection: Establishes a new article in the Indiana Code concerning consumer data protection, to take effect January 1, 2026. Sets forth exemptions from the bill's requirements concerning the responsibilities of controllers of consumers' personal data, and the rights of Indiana consumers with respect to their personal and sensitive data (e.g., correct or delete data held by a controller, obtain copy of the data, etc.).

Brinegar: "This is a big win for Indiana as it can now signal the state's expectations for managing data to those here and to prospective companies and residents."

Education/Workforce

House Bill 1001 – State Budget (childcare via Senate Bill 186): Establishes an employer tax credit for

businesses that subsidize/support childcare opportunities for employees in their communities.

Brinegar: "This is an important step in a much-needed strategy aimed at leveraging public dollars to spur additional private sector investment that addresses childcare accessibility and affordability gaps."

House Bill 1002 – Career Advising Grant Program: Contains a number of provisions aimed at expanding work-based learning opportunities, making high school graduation requirements more relevant to real-world expectations and creating funding flexibility (through the creation of career scholarship accounts) to help students to complete on-the-job training and postsecondary credentials.

Brinegar: "This measure has the potential to be transformative for students and employers, as the components will provide a more relevant secondary education that better prepares Hoosier students for the realities and opportunities of today's workforce."

House Bill 1449 – Twenty-First Century Scholars Program Enrollment: Provides that the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the Department of Education will identify income-eligible students for automatic enrollment in the 21st Century Scholars program.

Brinegar: "It's imperative that Indiana provides a pathway for thousands more Hoosier students, especially those from low-income households and challenging circumstances, to earn postsecondary credentials. This move was critical to that happening."

Senate Bill 167 – FAFSA: Requires high school seniors to complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) unless the student opts out with the consent of a parent, principal or school counselor.

Brinegar: "This will dramatically increase access to student financial aid and is expected to strengthen Indiana's talent pipeline and reverse a troubling decline in postsecondary participation rates."

Energy/Environment

HB 1007 – Creates Energy Plan for Indiana: Provides that when the state makes decisions concerning Indiana's electric generation resource mix, energy infrastructure and electric service, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) must consider the following attributes of electric utility service: reliability, affordability, resiliency,

stability and environmental sustainability.

Brinegar: "The last energy plan for Indiana was created in 2006. The Indiana Chamber has been advocating for a statewide energy plan for several years and this new effort will help guide Indiana's energy makeup moving forward and provide certainty for the business community."

Senate Bill 155 – IDEM Matters: Requires the Environmental Rules Board to adopt rules raising two Title V operating permit program fees, increasing the annual fee for a Part 70 permit to \$6,100 and the annual fee for a federally enforceable state operating permit to \$6,100 for five years.

Brinegar: "This legislation was needed so that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) can keep its authority over air permitting. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sent a warning letter to IDEM in October 2022 threatening to take over the Title V program in the future. Thankfully, that – and any increased delays and costs to businesses and manufacturers as a result – now will not happen."

Health Care

Senate Bill 1 – Behavioral Health Matters: Puts a framework in place to help combat the growing mental health crisis affecting Hoosiers, including a timeline to apply for federal Medicaid reimbursement and the establishment and maintenance of the 9-8-8 crisis response center and toll-free help line.

Brinegar: "Mental health concerns cost Indiana employers \$885 million annually in lost productivity and they cost the state \$708 million per year in direct health care costs. We applaud the Indiana General Assembly for passing this bill, which will offer support for Hoosiers with mental health challenges."

Senate Bill 4 – Public Health Commission: Implements certain changes recommended by the Governor's Public Health Commission and to improve Indiana's woeful public health rankings. Notably, it provides local health departments the option to receive more funding if they agree to certain conditions that will help them raise their local health metrics.

Brinegar: "This bill represents a critical step to improving the quality of life in Indiana's rural communities. Attracting talent in rural Indiana has long been a challenge for employers. The highly skilled employees that are needed throughout Indiana want thriving,

healthy communities to live, work and raise a family.

Taxation/Public Finance

House Bill 1005 – Housing: Creates a program and \$75 million fund called the Residential Housing Infrastructure Assistance Program and Fund. Local governments can apply for loans from the fund to pay for infrastructure projects related to residential housing development. The bill also sets guidelines on how the money in the fund should be distributed, with 70% going to municipalities with a population of less than 50,000 and 30% going to other local governments.

Brinegar: "Housing needs have impeded economic development in many areas. This bill will provide an ability to assist in needed residential development to accommodate potential employees for employers considering local investment."

Senate Bill 2 – Taxation of Pass-Through Entities: Allows certain types of businesses known as "pass-through entities" (such as partnerships and S corporations) to elect to pay federal taxes at the entity level based on each owner's share of adjusted gross income.

Brinegar: "This bill, the first passed in the 2023 session, allowed for more than a half-million business owners eligible for this tax relief to have certainty as they prepared to file their 2022 returns. The associated federal tax relief is estimated to exceed \$100 million and will not impact state revenues."

Senate Bill 419 – State Tax Matters: Makes a variety of tax-related changes that are beneficial to the business community.

Brinegar: "Two changes are of particular significance and will aid in innovation and in workforce attraction. First, businesses can now claim immediate research and development (R&D) expensing for state tax purposes. The remote worker provision – via the 30-day safe harbor provision – will make things easier for employers and their out-of-state workers. If remote workers are physically in Indiana for 30 days or less, then there's no state tax filing that needs to be made, and the business doesn't have to do any kind of withholding. This is an important step to make Indiana favorable to out-of-state remote workers and will help the state mitigate the projected losses to its workforce over the next decade (due in large part to Baby Boomers retiring)."

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THE TIMES

BETSY From Page A1

"I decided to share my story to help others feel empowered to speak their truth and find their own version of healing," said Pearson, who journaled as a kid and has written short stories and poetry for fun.

She began writing in blog format on a website she created, hecallsmebird.com. "I am a dirty bird Atlanta Falcons fan," the Brandon, Fla., native, who grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Georgia, wrote in her first blog and also shared that her family had a dirty joke for everything, again calling herself a "dirty bird."

Pearson, who finds solace in writing, began recounting stories that stuck out in her childhood and quickly realized that she had so much to say. One after another, stories poured out of her, especially after she lost her mom to an eight-year battle with cancer in 2020. She wrote as a therapeutic release valve and shared with close friends. Very soon, she realized that her writings could become a human experience story in a book that she would write.

"There were many chapters that left me sitting at my computer in tears, unable to continue," said Pearson, who found writing to be liberating.

"I don't have to hold onto my pain. I can let it go," Pearson said.

She searched for a creative-writing coach and an editor, having a few brainstorming sessions with the coach, then creating an outline with her editor. They worked together through several comprehensive edits before "digitally high-fiving each other on a completed manuscript." Being that she wanted to be in the driver's seat of the creative process of designing her book cover and other details, she landed with BookBaby Publishing, a company that helped with formatting, design and distribution in a matter of months.

"I am so proud," Pearson said of her book, which will be available beginning today at all major retailers, including Barnes and Noble and Amazon. She plans to attend the Los Angeles Times' author fair in 2024 and any local author fairs here. Plus, she would love to see her book in the local libraries.

She said readers' re-

sponses from the ebook, which was released ahead of the release date, has been overwhelmingly positive. While she knows that her story has the potential to impact others, she said, "there is always that initial fear of what people will think when they read the ugly bits."

Pearson has made it her life's mission to be a continuous work in progress. She began working at age 14 as a server in her hometown. She moved to Noblesville in 2010 and was one of the first people hired to open Rosie's Cafe on the Square, where she worked for four years and made many dear friends.

Today, she is married to former elementary-school teacher turned Realtor Jason Pearson, and they have three children, Grace, Alexi and Trevor, and two dogs, June and Betty. She has a job she loves as a full-time project coordinator for TMG Construction Management, teaches pop-up yoga classes at The Lacy Arts Building in downtown Noblesville, is president of Noblesville High School's show choir parent organization (daughter Alexi is in New Dimension show choir) and, being a music fanatic, helps her husband put on a front porch music festival on Logan Street in Old Town Noblesville. (This year's music fest is planned for Aug. 26.)

Her goal isn't to become the next best-selling author, but if that happens, she wouldn't be upset.

She said, "We have to understand the only way to heal is to bring the monsters hiding in the dark out into the light."

Pearson takes advantage of every single day. "Writing gives me the ability to live up to my fullest potential because it frees me from the pain of my past and has helped me see that the future is absolutely mine."

She said, "Watching all of the goodness that I see here makes me smile. Knowing that I have survived and am now thriving makes me smile. I am very fortunate."

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. The Times Editor Betsy Reason can be reached at betsy@thetimes24-7.com.

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SPORTS From Page A1

Entertainment CEO Rick Fuson said. "We are excited about the way this partnership fits into the bold vision for economic development Mayor Jensen has laid out, and we can't wait to continue growing our NBA and G League fan base right here in Hamilton County."

At the Noblesville Common Council meeting on May 9, a 10-year partnership agreement between the City of Noblesville and Pacers Sports & Entertainment will be presented. The agreement includes \$5 million in cash investment from PS&E, which will also lead an effort to secure another \$5 million in naming rights and signage over those 10 years, as well as \$36.5 million from the city in building the arena.

"We welcome the new partnership with the Pacers," said Noblesville Common Council President Aaron Smith. "The administration and council have made proactive,

smart investments to assist with the financing of this partnership. We are excited to continue the strategic growth on the east side of our city and provide a new attraction for our residents and guests."

Featuring 30 teams — 28 with one-to-one affiliations with NBA franchises — the G League offers elite professional basketball at an affordable price in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere.

"Fifty-four percent of NBA players have G League experience. Noblesville will compete in 27 media markets in 21 other states, plus Mexico and Canada," Jensen said. "Noblesville also has a proud history of being a basketball community, including 1998 Mr. Basketball Tom Coverdale and the 2022 Millers Girls Basketball State Champions. Adding our partnership with the Pacers only cements us as a destination for basketball and youth sports."

Spending on specific local projects climbed to \$536 million in Indiana's newest two-year budget, which Gov. Eric Holcomb signed into law Thursday. Such earmarks, routed through the State Budget Agency, have risen steeply in recent budget cycles — up from just \$18 million in 2015.

The SBA is always allocated money for leases, like for airports and stadiums. But it also handles money allotted to an increasingly wide range of outside projects and organizations. The latest budget funds a sporting facility, economic development initiatives, an expansive nature park, orthopedic workforce retention efforts and more.

Asked about this year's earmarks, House Speaker Todd Huston told the Capital Chronicle, "I'm not sure there's any more than usual. There were just some unique one-time investments that could be made to support economic development and different projects. Again, one-time opportunities."

Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, acknowledged an increase in "one-time spending," ascribing it to larger-than-expected revenue increases in 2021 and 2022. Thompson chairs the House's powerful budget-writing committee; Senate counterpart Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, didn't return a request for comment.

Thompson said the projects that won earmarks were "the most workable at this stage in time," and were chosen to "help those communities out and help them advance."

Sports leaders hope to compete for more events. Among the largest earmarks is an \$89-million item for an amateur sports facility on the IUPUI campus in downtown Indianapolis. Those involved said it's a bid to keep the state's capital competitive in the event-hosting business — and an offering to residents.

"That's really important for us as we look forward to the next 25 years of: how do we continue to stay competitive in the sports landscape?" Indiana Sports Corp. President Patrick Talty told the Capital Chronicle. "Investments such as these make Indiana a positive place for that sports competition."

The facility could function like the massive natatorium already on the campus, Talty said. It's the country's largest indoor pool and has hosted numerous Olympic trials, and it's open to both university and public use.

This space could host events, and could serve as practice facilities for larger competitions, he said. The pre-pandemic study that identified the need for such a place recommended a capacity of several thousand seats.

Talty said he'd like the

facility up in the next 3-5 years, but that what actually goes into the structure will determine the timeline.

"We would definitely like it before a decade ... We'd love to go after some events to try to put in there," he said.

Economic development to the north. The budget also sets aside \$30 million for the Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission. That is in addition to the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative, better known as READI, that northeast Indiana could share in.

Lawmakers created the commission in 2021 to boost three elements with which the region and state have struggled, Chair Ron Turpin said: population, education and income.

"READI is really bricks and mortar, you know, getting buildings built," Turpin said. "It doesn't foster as much strategic collaborations to address the three challenges."

The commission funded the creation of a strategic plan itself, looping about 20 investors into the project, he said. The five-year plan suggests multiple strategies: relocation incentives, family-friendly amenities, business succession planning, up-skilling, help for first-time homebuyers and more.

Now, it's time to implement. Turpin thanked lawmakers for "giving us the opportunity to prove out what we're saying could happen." He hoped that approach could serve as a beta for the rest of the state.

The budget also earmarks \$30 million for an expansion of the Indiana Enterprise Center in St. Joseph County. The massive 7,200-acre industrial development already hosts numerous companies.

The Northern Indiana Regional Development Authority, which is behind the project, declined to comment.

Neglected land to massive nature park. Money is going to Southern Indiana as well, with \$37.5 million set aside for the 400-acre Origin Park on the Ohio River.

"If I were to walk you through down here, especially in the early days, all you would have seen were junkyards and landfills. Basically, everybody had turned their back," said Vern Eswine, president of The Marketing Company. The company runs communications for the River Heritage Conservancy, the group behind the park.

"We're trying to reclaim land that has been forgotten and make it useful for the public," Eswine said.

Park leaders hope to bring in residents and tourists, boosting the area's economy, quality of place, and talent attraction and retention efforts.

Plans include forests and meadows, walking paths, an event center and more. A lawn with space for picnics and sledding competitions alike is set to go over a sealed former construction landfill, according to the website. A boat launch has already opened, with trails opening soon, Eswine said.

But the appropriation will go toward a \$75 million Outdoor Adventure Center, featuring climbing walls, zip lines, food, and more — and space for Olympic qualifiers and international competitions. Park leaders say the center is a key feature: the park's revenue generator.

"This strategic investment made by the State of Indiana will allow us to create a revenue stream that will keep the park conservancy functioning for decades to come, and for the park to operate on a world-class level to deliver unparalleled experiences to millions of Hoosiers and out-of-state visitors that will pass through its gates annually," conservancy board chair Kent Lanum said in a statement.

CHUCK From Page A1

Conference Center in Noblesville. Goodrich thanked those gathered and gave credit for his conservative Midwestern values of hard work, humbleness, and grit to his parents and mentors he met in business.

"Work ethic defines how I was brought up, how I have taught my children to live, and what I bring to my business and public service every day," he said. "I will take that same work ethic to DC."

Goodrich also shared a historical quote that he believes is important given our current state of politics. "All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

Goodrich also said, "There is a need for people in DC who understand what it takes to run and build a business, who have met the pressures of meeting weekly payrolls, dealt with rising health-care costs, lived with

workforce development challenges, like immigration and inflation, and have first-hand experience on the cumbersome impact of regulations and taxes. I understand these challenges, and I want to bring my perspective, a conservative perspective, to the conversation."

He is a graduate of Purdue University and has built a career at Gaylor Electric, an Indiana-based company, for the last 28 years. Goodrich began as an intern and worked his way up through the organization and eventually bought the company in 2014. Gaylor Electric now has eight Indiana offices, and has grown to include offices in Charlotte, Nashville, Huntsville and Tampa. He has been married to wife Trisha for 30 years. They have four grown children and recently became grandparents. Goodrich lives in Noblesville.

Budget Earmarks Top \$500 Million

of Management and Budget Director Cris Johnston said in an email.

He noted that the state's transportation department won't get a chunk because it has its own funding and process for highway maintenance.

Lawmakers also set aside \$26 million for "airport improvements." Aviation Indiana's Bart Geisler said he hoped the money would go toward projects that the Federal Aviation Administration doesn't typically fund, like fuel farms, terminals, hangars and more.

Other earmarks include \$75 million for residential housing infrastructure assistance, \$5 million apiece for the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and a judicial building, \$1.9 million for conservation of the Busseron Creek, \$1 million for a study of erosion by Lake Michigan, and \$400,000 for the Multi Agency Academic Cooperative's firefighter regional training.

Over the past five budget cycles, lawmakers have also consistently allotted funds for water infrastructure help — \$40 million this year — and the Indiana Motorsports Commission at \$14 million.

But those were often the bulk of the earmarks. Lawmakers put about \$57 million into specific local projects in 2021's budget, although they also set aside \$550 million for a general "capital reserve account." That account, though, focused on state-owned building projects.

The 2019 budget contained about \$208 million in earmarks, the 2017 budget \$44 million and the 2015 budget about \$18 million.

Thompson, the Ways and Means Committee chair, said future budgets might not look like this cycle's. Recent revenue forecasts predict slower growth in the coming years, he said.

"At that point, there won't be the dollars to have as many one-time projects," he told the Capital Chronicle. "Can't say there won't still be some, but probably not to the degree as in this budget. It's somewhat unique to have that amount of one-time potential spending; that likely won't be there in the future."

Still, Thompson said, he was "pleased with the process" this year.

"Indiana is going in the right direction," he added. "It's definitely going in the right direction."

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TUESDAY

Health and WELLNESS

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

A8

What You Need to Know About Cholesterol

Stay in control to help prevent heart disease, heart attack and stroke

FAMILY FEATURES

Understanding and improving cholesterol is important for people of all ages, including children and teens. Maintaining healthy cholesterol levels can help keep your heart healthy and lower your chances of getting heart disease or having a stroke.

High cholesterol usually has no symptoms. In fact, about 38% of adults in the United States are diagnosed with high cholesterol, according to the American Heart Association. Understanding what cholesterol is, the role it plays, when to get screened and how to manage it are important aspects of protecting your overall health and prevent a heart attack or stroke.

Understanding Cholesterol

A waxy, fat-like substance created by the liver and consumed from meat, poultry and dairy products, cholesterol isn't inherently bad for you. In fact, your body needs it to build cells and make vitamins and other hormones. However, too much cholesterol circulating in the blood can pose a problem.

The two types of cholesterol are low-density lipoprotein (LDL), which is considered "bad," and high-density lipoprotein (HDL), which can be thought of as "good" cholesterol. Too much of the "bad" kind, or not enough of the "good," increases the risk of cholesterol slowly building up in the inner walls of the arteries that feed the heart and brain.

Cholesterol can join with other substances to form a thick, hard deposit on the inside of the arteries called plaque. This can narrow the arteries and make them less flexible – a condition known as atherosclerosis. If a blood clot forms, it may be more likely to get stuck in one of these narrowed arteries, resulting in a heart attack or stroke.

Understanding Risk

Your body naturally produces all the LDL it needs. An unhealthy lifestyle can make your body produce more LDL than required. Behaviors that may negatively affect your cholesterol levels include lack of physical activity, obesity, eating an unhealthy diet and smoking or exposure to tobacco smoke.

In addition to unhealthy habits, which are the cause of high LDL cholesterol for most people, some people inherit genes from their parents or grandparents – called familial hypercholesterolemia (FH) – that cause them to have too much cholesterol and can lead to premature atherosclerotic heart disease. If you have a family history of FH or problems related to high cholesterol, it's important to get your levels checked.

Getting Cholesterol Checked

Adults age 20 and older should have their cholesterol and other traditional risk factors checked every 4-6 years as long as their risk remains low. After age 40, your health care professional will use an equation to calculate your 10-year risk of heart attack or stroke. People with cardiovascular disease, and those at elevated risk, may need their cholesterol and other risk factors assessed more often.



Photos courtesy of Getty Images

Managing Cholesterol

If you have high cholesterol, understanding your risk for heart disease and stroke is one of the most important things you can do, along with taking steps to lower your cholesterol.

Often, simply changing certain behaviors can help bring your numbers into line. Eating a heart-healthy diet that emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean or plant-based protein, fish and nuts while limiting red and processed meats, sodium and sugar-sweetened foods and beverages is one of the best ways to lower your cholesterol. While grocery shopping, look for the American Heart Association's Heart-Check mark to help identify foods that can be part of an overall healthy eating pattern.

Other lifestyle changes include losing weight, quitting smoking and becoming more physically active, as a sedentary lifestyle can lower HDL. To help lower both cholesterol and high blood pressure, experts recommend at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise a week, such as walking, biking or swimming.

For some people, lifestyle changes may prevent or manage unhealthy cholesterol levels. For others, medication may also be needed. Work with your doctor to develop a treatment plan that's right for you. If medication is required, be sure to take it as prescribed.

Controlling your cholesterol may be easier than you think. Learn more about managing your cholesterol at heart.org/cholesterol.



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TUESDAY

In The Kitchen

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

A7

Fresh Summer Flavors Fit for the Patio



Chipotle Chicken Flatbreads

FAMILY FEATURES

Gatherings in the summer sun are all about easy, convenient recipes combined with the joy warm weather brings. Spend those special occasions with those you love most and make this summer one to remember with flatbreads, sliders and sweet treats for all to share.

Keeping cooking simple means more time on the patio or in the backyard engaging with guests, and these Chipotle Chicken Flatbreads, Chicken Shawarma Sliders and Lemon Cheesecake with Fruit let home chefs skip complicated kitchen duties without skimping on flavor.

Visit Culinary.net to find more simple summer recipes to share with loved ones.

Summery Flatbreads for Family and Friends

When dining outdoors with family, friends and neighbors, there are few things better than a tasty dish the whole family can enjoy like these Chipotle Chicken Flatbreads.

Perfect for al fresco entertaining when served alongside a fresh salad, they're simple to make and allow guests to personalize with preferred toppings before popping in the oven. As a colorful and fresh dish, it's an ideal meal for get-togethers on the patio.

For more summer recipe ideas, visit Culinary.net.

Chipotle Chicken Flatbreads

Recipe adapted from butteryourbiscuit.com

- 2 flatbreads
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 clove garlic, diced
- 4 chicken tenders, cooked and cubed
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, quartered
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup ranch dressing
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chipotle seasoning
- 2 tablespoons cilantro leaves, chopped

Preheat oven to 375 F.

Place parchment paper on baking sheet and add flatbreads. Sprinkle cheese on flatbreads. Top with garlic, chicken and tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Bake 16 minutes until cheese is melted.

In small bowl, mix ranch and chipotle seasoning.

Drizzle ranch dressing on flatbreads and sprinkle with cilantro leaves.



Chicken Shawarma Sliders

Shareable Sliders for a Nutritious Summer Meal

Fresh, mouthwatering foods hot off the grill are a sure sign of summer fun. Hosting sunny get-togethers this year can be made easy when you show off your grilling skills with a simple, nutritious and flavorful recipe.

These Chicken Shawarma Sliders are a delicious example of how to grill healthy summer meals without forgoing favorite flavors. They're part of a curated 12-recipe collection of healthy, balanced dishes from the snacking experts at family-owned Fresh Cravings, known for its chilled salsas, hummus and other dips, which teamed up with eMeals, America's leading provider of meal plans.

"These sliders are a fantastic – and healthy – option for your next gathering," said eMeals Senior Nutrition Writer and Editor Rachel West, RD. "The marinade uses a mix of pantry-friendly dried herbs and fresh garlic to give the lean grilled chicken breast some oomph. The lettuce and red onion add cool crispness and crunch to the sandwiches while Fresh Cravings' creamy, flavor-packed hummus gets some nutritional bonus points by providing a dose of protein and fiber."

Find the entire recipe collection by visiting emeals.com/campaign/Fresh-Cravings-Healthy-Eats.

Chicken Shawarma Sliders

Recipe courtesy of eMeals Registered Dietitian Rachel West

Prep time: 25 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 tablespoon smoked paprika
- 1/2 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1/2 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 package (12) slider buns
- 1 container (17 ounces) Fresh Cravings Honey Jalapeno Hummus
- 1 package (8 ounces) shredded lettuce
- 1/2 small red onion, sliced

In zip-top plastic bag, use meat mallet or heel of hand to pound chicken to even thickness. Cut into 2-inch pieces and place in large bowl. Add oil, garlic, paprika, cumin, coriander, salt and cayenne; toss.

Cover chicken and chill 8 hours, or up to 2 days.

Preheat grill or grill pan to medium-high heat. Grill chicken 4-5 minutes per side, or until done.

Serve chicken on buns with hummus, lettuce and onion.



Lemon Cheesecake with Fruit

Unforgettable Fruity Flavor

Summertime often brings cravings for fresh fruits that add a hint of sweetness to warm-weather gatherings. Serving up a delicious dessert for family and guests starts with favorite produce in this Lemon Cheesecake with Fruit.

The touch of tangy tartness is enough to bring loved ones to the dessert table even after a filling meal as fresh lemon juice in the cheesecake base is complemented perfectly when topped with orange slices and raspberries. Garnished with mint leaves, this brightly colored treat is even sweeter when shared with loved ones.

Find more sweet summer desserts at Culinary.net.

Lemon Cheesecake with Fruit

Servings: 6-8

- 1 1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup butter, melted

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 orange, peeled and separated
- 8 raspberries
- 3 mint leaves, for garnish

Preheat oven to 350 F.

In medium bowl, combine graham cracker crumbs, sugar and melted butter. Press firmly into 9-inch springform pan.

In large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in sweetened condensed milk until smooth. Add eggs, fresh lemon juice and vanilla extract; mix until combined.

Pour into pan. Bake 50-55 minutes, or until center springs back when lightly pressed.

Chill in refrigerator until completely cooled. Arrange orange slices around border of cake and place raspberries in middle. Top with mint leaves.

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