

**TODAY'S VERSE**  
Romans 12:1 "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." (NASB)



**FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY**  
People who call our community their own.

What makes AnnaMarie Belt smile? "I love seeing all of the little kids' costumes and seeing them get really happy when they get their treat," said the 16-year-old Carmel resident, a Carmel High School junior, who was dressed as Belle from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." She helped lead the Cake Walk, one of the many activities at the Hamilton County Junior Leaders' annual Halloween Carnival, Haunted House and Hayride on Oct. 3 at the 4-H Fairgrounds. Why 4-H? "It's a family thing. My mom and my aunts were in 4-H, and my grandma, Donna Jones, is the person who ran the O.V. Winks now that's being torn down." It's her ninth year in 4-H and she's a member of Carmel 4 C's 4-H Club. She is the daughter of James and Lucinda Belt. Her favorite 4-H project? "Microwave." Best achievement at the 4-H Fair? "Winning Champion in Microwave last year, making a two-layered cake, an almond cake with raspberry icing." Why 4-H? "It is so much fun. You get to meet lots of friends, you get leadership opportunities and do projects that help you when you grow up." Favorite event for Junior Leaders? "This is one of my favorite events. But I also help with Mini 4-H. I'm one of the many Mini 4-H coordinators, and I love working at the Shack at the 4-H Fair." Enrollment is now open to join Hamilton County 4-H for the 2024 year, now through Jan. 15, with the theme, "Let's Have S'More Fun." Enroll in 4-H and earn a s'more kit. Stop by the 4-H Office in the Exhibition Center at the 4-H Fairgrounds 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Enroll online at <https://in.4Honline.com>. For more about upcoming Halloween activities, read the Betsy Reason column in today's edition of The Times.

**And Another Few Things...**

**1. SBA Assisted Financing**

The Basics and What's New. We are honored to host SBA Division Manager, Ted Kraizer as the October coffee speaker on Wednesday, October 25 from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. Ted will be speaking about the basics Small Business Administration Assisted Financing as well as what is new in the field. Join us to learn about new SBA lending parameters geared to enhance business acquisitions and family business transitions. With more than 30 years of industry and senior management experience in banking, accounting, and credit, Kraizer is well known in the St. Louis business community. Prior to joining the Bank, he served as a Chief Lending Officer at another financial institution in addition to having established two of the most successful Small Business Administration (SBA) Lending Departments in the regional market. A native St. Louisian, Kraizer earned a Bachelor of Accounting from University of Missouri - St. Louis, and he is CPA certified.

# The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Visit Noblesville High School Theatre's Trunk or Treat night 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday in the parking lot at Noblesville High School, where high school theater students and their families played host to the event in 2022 (above) for all little ghosts and goblins.

## Plenty Of Scary Fun For Ghosts, Goblins



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

Hey ghosts and goblins, it's only a week until Halloween. And we have lots of fun things to keep you busy, including several trunk-or-treat events.

Here's our list of 20 things to do leading up to Halloween:

1. Bring canned food donations and enjoy crafts, games, story and treats during a "Trick or Eat" Halloween Food Drive from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. today at Delaware Township Trustee Office in Fishers. Dress in costume. All ages welcome.
2. Take a hayride to the pumpkin patch at Russell Farms in Noblesville, open daily through Oct. 31 also with corn maze, petting zoo, miniature golf, kids activities, bounce houses, pedal tractors, country store and more. Admission is \$12.50-\$15. For schedule, visit <https://www.russell-farms.com>
3. Join Carmel Runners Club Halloween Run and Walk at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Bier Brewery Carmel, plus vote on various runs or walks.
4. Come out for annual Trunk-or-Treat event from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Green Valley Church of Christ in Noblesville. Bring a bucket or bag for candy.
5. Test your Halloween knowledge during Halloween Trivia night at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Pinheads and Alley's Alehouse in Fishers, with prizes to win and free to play.
6. The Conner Prairie Headless Horseman will ride for only four more nights, Thursday through Sunday in Fishers. Tickets for the 40th annual festival are available online and nightly, however, hayrides to see the Headless Horseman are more difficult to come by. Guests can stroll the Trail of

Terror in the cornfield, enjoy the Magnificent Midway, Barrel Train Rides, Sleepy Hollow Marionette Show by Stephens Puppets, hear fortune telling and live music performances, watch a magic show, enjoy food, and more. Reserve hayride times and buy admission tickets in advance at [connerprairie.org](http://connerprairie.org).

7. Enjoy Halloween Trunk or Treat at 5 p.m. Friday at Heritage Woods of Noblesville.

8. Ultimate Halloween Hits aficionados will want to attend Halloween Music Bingo at 7 p.m. Friday at Pinheads and Alley's Alehouse in Fishers. Prizes to win and free to play, with all ages welcome.

9. Come out to Grand Junction Plaza in Westfield for "Halloweentown" Movies in the Plaza at 7:30 p.m. Friday with free entertainment

10. Dare to take the fourth annual Cicero Haunted Trail on Friday and Saturday at Red Bridge Park, with kid-friendly hours 4:30-7:15 p.m. and frightening hours 7:30-10 p.m. All proceeds benefit Cicero Parks. Take the trolley, which stops at The Boathouse, corner of Jackson and Washington, corner of Jackson and Pearl, Easy park and walk in downtown Cicero.

11. Dare to enter Prime Car Wash in Fishers, which has been transformed into a Tunnel of Terror, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday for \$20 per carload.

12. Board the Nickel Plate Express for Trick or Treat on the Rails vintage 1956 train at 2 p.m. Saturday. Embark on a 65-minute journey down the historic Nickel Plate Road while dressed in your Halloween costume. Children can collect candy from a few special characters during the ride. Tickets include a pumpkin donut and fresh apple cider. Visit [www.nickelplateexpress.com](http://www.nickelplateexpress.com).

13. Celebrate Halloween 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the

➔ See BETSY Page A6

## Hamilton County Launches Total Solar Eclipse Website

Hamilton County has launched a website to provide residents and visitors with information about the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. The website offers a wealth of information on eclipse-related events, safety guidelines, and prime viewing locations, all aimed at ensuring a memorable and safe experience for all.

The 2024 Solar Eclipse website, hosted on the official Hamilton County website, can be accessed at <https://hamiltoncounty.in.gov/Eclipse>. It provides a detailed calendar of viewing locations, including two eclipse-related events hosted by the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department. It also outlines essential safety tips and will provide updates from county agencies like the Highway Department, Emergency Management, 911 Communications, the Health Department, and the Sheriff's Office.

County officials are excited about the prospect of Hamilton County being a prime destination for eclipse enthusiasts in 2024. "This is literally a once in a lifetime event," says Tammy Sander, communications director for Hamilton County. "The last time Hamilton County was in the path of totality during a solar eclipse was well over 200 years ago and it won't be in the path of totality again for another 300 years. We're hopeful this website will serve as a one-stop source of information, making it easy for residents and visitors alike to plan for this memorable experience."

## Attorney General's Office Goes After Fishers Man

Attorney General Todd Rokita and his team obtained a temporary restraining order and appointment of a receiver for assets linked to an alleged illegal Ponzi scheme operated by a Hamilton County man and several alleged out-of-state accomplices.

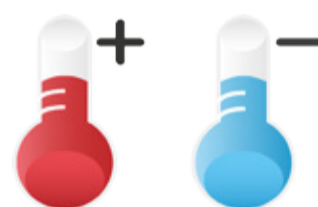
Last week's evidentiary hearing occurred after Rokita's team moved quickly to file a lawsuit against Darrin W. Blaine — a Fishers resident and Harvard Law School graduate — and others accused of defrauding multiple Indiana victims of nearly \$1 million.

"It's sickening to see alleged criminal manipulators maliciously abuse the trust of hard-working Hoosiers and swindle their hard-earned money for personal gain," Rokita said. "While other law enforcement agencies press criminal charges, we work to hold financially accountable all those who have violated Indiana Securities laws, recover assets

➔ See SCHEME Page A6

## The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 8:06 a.m.  
SET: 6:57 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures  
High: 63 °F  
Low: 46 °F



**Today is...**

- Black Thursday
- United Nations Day
- World Polio Day



**What Happened On This Day**

- 2007 China Launches Chang'e 1. It was the first spacecraft of China's Lunar Exploration Program, which is responsible for sending unmanned robotic space probes to the Moon and the lunar orbit in order to better understand Earth's largest natural satellite. The space probe crashed into the lunar surface on March 2, 2009, after orbiting the Moon for over a year.
- 1945 United Nations founded. The U.N. charter was ratified by the then 5 permanent members and 46 member states.
- 1926 Last performance of Houdini. The world famous escape artist performed for the last time at the Garrick Theater in Detroit, Michigan.



**Births On This Day**

- 1962 Dave Blaney American race car driver
- 51 Domitian Roman Emperor

**Deaths On This Day**

- 2005 Rosa Parks American activist
- 1972 Jackie Robinson American baseball player

### INSIDE TODAY

- Obituaries.....A2
- Service Directory.....A3
- Casey Williams.....A3
- Brian Howey.....A4
- Carrie Classon.....A4
- Earth Talk.....A4
- Health.....A7
- Kitchen.....A8

### HONEST HOOSIER

How come I get penalized by Uncle Sam if I don't pay for my insurance but folks coming into the country - sometimes illegally - get it for free?



### TODAY'S QUOTE

"Ghosts, like ladies, never speak till spoke to." -Richard Harris Barham

### TODAY'S JOKE

Which type of pants do ghosts wear to trick or treat? Boo jeans.

### TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Catch your kids being good and praise them. 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](http://www.thetimes24-7.com).



### OBITUARIES

None

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



13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

53/78 WINDY, WARMER	61/76 50% CHANCE OF SHOWERS	61/76 RAINY, COOLER	64/77 SHOWERS LIKELY	62/70 SHOWERS LIKELY	60/65 SHOWERS LIKELY	47/55 TOTAL CLOUDS
TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON

## GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" Seminar On Thursday, Nov. 16

When you're grieving the death of a family member or friend, you may dread the holiday season. Thoughts of social gatherings, family traditions and obligations leave you anxious and overwhelmed. Have you lost a loved one or know someone that will find it difficult to face the coming holidays? Our GriefShare Surviving the Holidays seminar, held Thursday, November 16, 2023 in Wesley Hall of Noblesville First United Methodist Church (Enter Door #7) from 7-9 p.m., is open to anyone who is experiencing grief after the loss of a loved one. Our program offers practical, actionable strategies for making it through the holiday season. At this two-hour seminar, you'll view a video featuring advice from people in grief

who've faced the holidays after their loss. Facilitators that have experienced grief-filled holidays, will lead us in discussion of how to manage all holidays and special dates in your life now.

To learn more information about GriefShare-Surviving the Holidays, contact Coleen Albright, coleen.albright58@gmail.com or contact the church office - 317-773-2500 located at 2051 Monument St. in Noblesville.

Our program is free and no registration is necessary. Invite your family, friends and neighbors that are struggling through grief. All attendees will receive a Holiday Survival Guide filled with practical tips, encouraging words, journaling ideas, and exercises for daily help through the holiday season.

## Carmel School Referendum Gains Momentum With Major Endorsements And Bipartisan Backing

Yes for CCS PAC is proud to announce a series of significant endorsements of the Carmel Clay Schools Operating Referendum from key organizations and community leaders, affirming the crucial importance of the upcoming referendum.

The referendum question will be on the upcoming November 7 General Election ballot.

The Carmel Clay School District Operating Referendum, has received endorsements from the following:

**OneZone Chamber:** The business community recognizes that strong schools are the backbone of a thriving city. The One-Zone Chamber recognizes the positive impact of Carmel Clay Schools on the local economy, one of the top reasons businesses decide to call Carmel home. "It is our duty to be informed and engaged in the future of our schools and city. This referendum affects everyone in our community, from quality education, to motivating and keeping teachers, to keeping Carmel a desirable city," said OneZone Chamber President, Jack Russell.

**Both Carmel Mayoral Candidates -** In a testament to the bipartisan nature of this issue, both mayoral candidates, Democrat Miles Nelson and Republican Sue Finkam, have committed their support to the referendum.

**The Carmel Education Foundation:** An organization dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for our students, the Carmel Education Foundation recognizes that this referendum is pivotal to maintaining the high-quality educational experiences that students deserve.

**Carmel City Council:** The Carmel City Council has unanimously passed a resolution in support of the referendum. This united stance emphasizes the importance of securing adequate funding for Carmel schools to sustain educational excellence.

High-quality schools attract families to live in Carmel, directly contributing to the city's high property values. A drop in education quality could jeopardize this synergy, potentially leading to lower property values.

### The Importance of the Referendum:

This referendum is not a new tax; it is a renewal of the existing referendum at the same rate that has been in place since 2017. The funds provided by the operating referendum make up nearly 20% of the annual education budget for salaries, benefits, and educational programming. Without these funds, almost \$25 million would have to be cut from the budget. The only way to do this is to cut teachers - resulting in larger class sizes, cuts to educational programming, and a lower quality of education for children. Furthermore, Carmel's property values are closely tied to the quality of schools. A drop in educational quality could lead to lower property values, affecting everyone in the community.

### Get Informed and Make a Difference:

"Yes for CCS" Co-Chair, Nicki McNally, underlined the significance of these endorsements, saying, "These endorsements speak to the widespread recognition of the pivotal role our schools play in our community. This referendum is not about politics; it's about ensuring a prosperous future for Carmel. Vote YES on November 7."

The Operating referendum renewal ensures that Carmel continues to have the lowest school tax rate in Hamilton County while maintaining the exceptional quality of education that has become synonymous with the Carmel community.

For more information about the "Yes for CCS" referendum, please visit [www.YesForCCS.org](http://www.YesForCCS.org).

# Preview Of November Hamilton County Bicentennial Events

The Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission would like to announce its lineup of grant-funded and community events for November 2023. Clay Township, located in the southwestern part of Hamilton County and home to the city of Carmel, is being celebrated during November. You can see details and other events on our online calendar at [www.hamcoturns200.com/events](http://www.hamcoturns200.com/events)

Clay Township's Signature Event:

### A RETROSPECTIVE OF CARMEL

November 12, 1-4 p.m.  
Carmel Clay Public Library  
East Main Street, Carmel  
FREE

The Carmel Clay Historical Society and Carmel Clay Public Library invite you to enjoy a family-friendly afternoon gathering to share memories of Clay Township. A special program from 2-3p includes speakers, musicians, and family activities that teach about the rich history of Clay Township and Carmel. Plus, exhibits on display will remain in the library throughout November 2023.

### VINTAGE MAPS OF CARMEL

November  
Various Locations  
FREE  
Clay Township Representatives are working together on an artistic map of Clay Township's farms and homesteads during the early 20th century. Filled with historic information and visuals, these maps are a keepsake and will be available for free during November. Check our online calendar for more information on where to find the map.

### PRESERVING HISTORY AT COXHALL GARDENS

November 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Coxhall Gardens  
Towne Road, Carmel  
FREE

Join Hamilton County Parks and Recreation for a day of celebrating the historical heritage of Coxhall Gardens. Learn about the 1865 Italianate Brick House once belonging to the John Williams family and what the Hamilton County Parks Department is doing to help preserve this important piece of Hamilton County history. Archaeologists from the

University of Indianapolis will be onsite conducting public excavations of the Williams family lawn. Additionally, the beautiful Coxhall Mansion will be open for tours.

### CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 175TH ANNIVERSARY

November 5, 4-7 p.m.  
Carmel United Methodist Church  
South Rangeline Road, Carmel  
FREE  
Join the Carmel United Methodist Church as they celebrate the 175th anniversary of the congregation. Current and past church leaders will talk about the congregation's history, and a fried chicken pitch-in dinner will begin at 5p. Historic displays and tours of the church at 4:30 will be available as visitors learn about the buildings that this church has called home over time, and the people who worshipped there.

### HOME PLACE HISTORIC HOME TOUR

November 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Home Place, Carmel  
FREE  
Join the Greater Home Place Neighborhood Asso-

ciation for a historic home tour. Begin your tour at any one of 3 homes, then receive a map and list of additional points of interest:

- The Edwards "House on the Hill" (originally the Hamer-Combs House), 1201 E. 106th St
- The McShane house, 10000 Westfield Blvd.
- The Setter house, part of the farm which was sold to create the Lexington Farms subdivision

### DON'T FORGET: BICENTENNIAL BASH

December 3, 1-5 p.m.  
IvyTech Hamilton County  
North 17th Street, Noblesville  
FREE  
The Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission is inviting you to a party that celebrates our Hamilton County community and all the things we have accomplished during the year! Join us for food from local vendors, family-friendly activities and games, free giveaways and door prizes, a highlight reel from the year, and more as we wrap up 2023. Get your free ticket from the link on the homepage of our website: [www.hamcoturns200.com](http://www.hamcoturns200.com)

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Thanks for reading The Times!

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Photos courtesy of Toyota

# 2023 Simply Put, Toyota Prius Is Beautiful

It's sleek, fuel efficient, advanced beyond belief, and imminently practical, but absolutely nobody would call the Toyota Prius beautiful. Until now. Looking for ways to keep the hybrid Prius relevant in an EV world dominated by Tesla, designers went back to their clay models and design programs to create a Prius that looks like a Lamborghini sedan. That, and it's even better at being a Prius. Check our 2023 Limited edition for proof.

All that, and it still looks like a Prius with the slope nose and high hatch profile that's become familiar. But, it's so much more flaunting voluptuous fenders filled with 19" wheels, wings that separate the headlamps, and character lines that twist lower sills and rise into the sculptural bodysides. Sharp creates add tension to rear fenders too. Contrasting black roof panels and wide taillamps with drawn corners add interest. Like

an Italian supercar, you just want to stand and stare at all intricacies of the Prius' design. Environmentalists and family men deserve beauty too.

It's like riding in a sci-fi concept car from the 1980s, but much more practical. Flatscreen gauges are set far back beneath the windshield and a wide dash top screen for infotainment are as in Toyota's bZ4X electric crossover, but a high console with flick-wrist gear selector lends a sportier feel. You feel like you're down inside this car. Sof-Tex vegan leather seats are both comfortable and easy to wipe clean, but are heated/ventilated in front and heated in back.

Our Limited adds luxuries like JBL audio, twin-panel glass roof, and heated steering wheel. Connect devices wirelessly with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Charge phones wirelessly too. Safety is enhanced by auto-

### 2023 Toyota Prius Limited Five-passenger, FWD Sedan

Powertrain: 2.0-liter I4, Li-ion batteries  
Output: 194hp (combined)  
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind  
Wheels f/r: 19"/19" alloy  
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc  
0-60 mph: 7.2s.  
Fuel economy: 52/52 mpg city/hwy  
Assembly: Aichi, Japan  
Base/as-tested price: \$27,450/\$38,019

matic emergency braking, lane keep assist, blind spot warning, and safe exit assist that keeps passengers from stepping into traffic. Owners will want for little.

Beneath that sexy bodywork is a hybrid system employing a 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine,

### LIKES

- Sculptural style
- Hybrid MPG's
- Cossetting interior

lithium-ion batteries, and regenerative braking to deliver a peppy 194 horsepower and 52/52-MPG city/highway. That's about 70 more horsepower than the previous generation. Beyond fuel economy to embarrass earlier models, it zips from 0-60 mph in 7.2 seconds. Step up to the plug-in version for 44 miles all-electric range and 0-60 in 6.6 seconds. It's got lithium to match its looks.

All comparisons to Lamborghini end with the car's handling, but the lower and wider stance makes this the best-handling Prius ever. Weight from the batteries is low in the chassis for the best balance, enhanced by a four-wheel independent suspension. Electric power

### DISLIKES

- Non-opening sunroof
- Vague steering
- Whiny transmission

steering can feel vague, but I suspect almost nobody buys a Prius for a spirited weekend drive through the country. It's much happier whisking through city streets and slugging down Interstates on holiday, but it won't embarrass itself in the twisties either.

You no longer have to be a computer programmer, environmentalist, or frugal grandma to own a Prius (though, you'd be smart to buy one if you are). It's become a car that art teachers, travelers, and automotive enthusiasts can also embrace. You may buy it because it's beautiful, but will fall in love with the easy technology, roomy trunk, and stupid ridiculous fuel economy – all without



**CASEY WILLIAMS**  
Auto Reviews

a plug (unless you want one, because there's a Prius with that too).

So, what does this science-soaked art project cost? The base Prius starts at \$27,450, but came to \$38,019 all-in. Compare that to the Honda Accord Hybrid, Hyundai Elantra Hybrid, and Kia Niro Hybrid.

Storm Forward!

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

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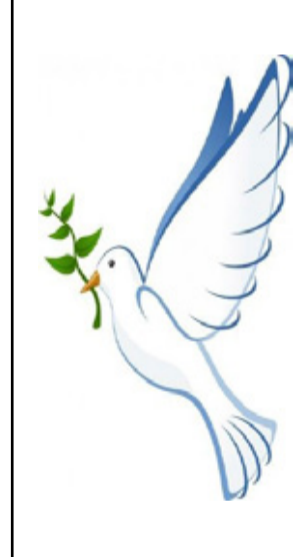
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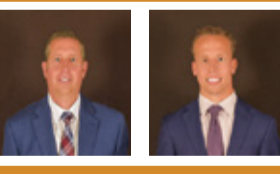
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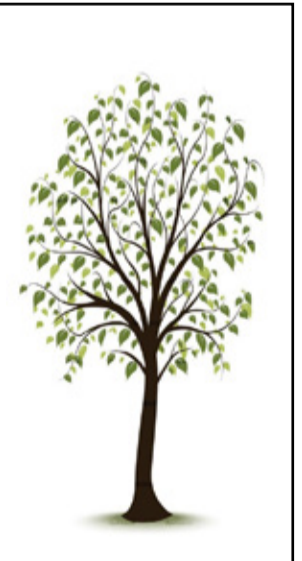
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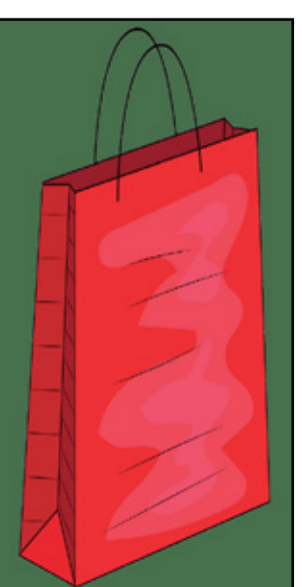


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## Noblesville And Carmel Lions Clubs Assist Gleaners



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Lions

On Thursday, Oct 19th, Noblesville (NLC) and Carmel (CLC) Lions worked with Gleaners to distribute food to families in need. This was done at the HC Fairgrounds in Noblesville. In photo from left - Lions Matt Best (CLC), Ed Shea (NLC), Jerry Baker (NLC), Gary Chastain (NLC), Jeff Kozicki (NLC), Bill Ryan (CLC), David Marsh (NLC), Bob Yunker (CLC), Joe Connerley (NLC), Ron Williamson (NLC), Lane Simms (CLC), and Steve Shaw (NLC)

## Actors Theatre Of Indiana Announces Legacy Gift From Christel DeHaan

Actors Theatre of Indiana, Inc. (ATI) is proud to announce that it has received a major Legacy Gift of \$687,000 from Christel DeHaan that will help the professional theatre company thrive in the future! Funds will be used to establish a new ATI endowment fund managed by the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

The late Christel DeHaan recognized the value in promoting and investing in the arts and was a fan of the "Broadway in Your Backyard" presented by ATI. For many years, the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation supported ATI with generous operating grants. She informed board members of the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation that, upon her death, "it is my intent that Legacy Gifts be granted to organizations whose artistic talents merit support and with whom special relationships

existed." The Foundation closed in 2023 and corpus assets were divided up to designated organizations through Legacy Gifts.

"It is such an honor to be one of the select group of Legacy Gift recipients," said Jim Reilly, Executive Director of ATI. "ATI has for years yearned to establish an endowment fund but we did not have the opportunity to do so. This fund helps ensure the financial sustainability of ATI, the only professional theatre company in Carmel and Hamilton County and helps us tell the story of our strong programming and creativity to other funders, both current and future."

The ATI Board-Designated Endowment Fund has been created and is managed by the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

As a result of this substantial gift, ATI productions will be permanently changed to "Actors Theatre of

Indiana with Artistic Support from Christel DeHaan presents..." In addition, ATI is changing its logo to acknowledge "Artistic Support Provided by Christel DeHaan" in the text. For more information on Christel DeHaan's legacy of philanthropy and the ATI endowment fund, go to [www.atistage.org](http://www.atistage.org).

Founded in 2005, ATI is an Actors Equity professional company offering "Broadway in Your Backyard." For each mainstage show, a Talk Back is held with actors, director and the audience. ATI also produces special shows, both indoors and outdoors and on location, throughout the season. In addition, ATI runs a Theatre LAB series, which is unique to Central Indiana. It is a mission-driven project that enables professional playwrights to showcase their unproduced plays in front of a live audience at the Carmel Clay Public Library.

## FSSA Announces \$25 Million Grant To Address Working Hoosiers' Child Care Needs

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning today announced the Employer-Sponsored Child Care Fund, part of Gov. Eric J. Holcomb's 2023 Next Level Agenda, to mobilize employers and communities to create or expand child care offerings that address the needs of working Hoosiers.

"Employers know firsthand the critical needs of their employees, and are best positioned to partner in their communities to create child care solutions that will help build and retain their workforce," Gov. Holcomb said. "This targeted grant program will boost Indiana's economy and most importantly empower the state's youngest learners with the tools they need to be successful in the years to come."

The \$25 million program, a partnership with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, uses a portion of the state's remaining federal relief funds from the COVID-19 pandemic and is part of the state's broader efforts to strengthen the early care and education sector, providing support for today's workforce and investing in tomorrow's. The program is also supported by the Indiana Manufacturers Association.

Grant funding can be used to support employees' child care needs in a variety of ways, including sponsoring dependent care assistance plans, providing on-site or near-site child care or offering child care tuition benefits. Grants of up to \$750,000 will be awarded.

"Families will benefit from more convenient child care options in their communities, giving

children the opportunity to learn, grow and develop alongside their peers," said Courtney Penn, OECOSL director. "This grant will give parents more opportunities to learn, grow and develop in their careers as well."

To be eligible, employers must be located in Indiana and either a business or corporation employing 20 or more employees, a group of employers with 20 or more employees or a community-based nonprofit applying on behalf of a group of local employers with a combined total of 20 or more employees. Employers must also be willing to contribute 10% of the total amount requested and be able to implement solutions within the first year of the program.

Applications will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. ET Nov. 22.

## DNR To Stage Arbor Day Poster Contest For Fifth Grade Students

Indiana schools are encouraged to have their fifth grade students participate in an Arbor Day poster contest, helping students learn more about the important role of trees in the state's urban and forest communities.

The contest, which is designed to help students discover and foster their understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the trees around them, is sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Forestry, through its Community and Urban Forestry (CUF) and Project Learning Tree programs.

The contest theme is "Oak Trees: Superheroes

of the Forest."

All Indiana schools and homeschooling families/co-ops are eligible to participate by submitting their winning poster to the statewide contest by March 1. One poster will be accepted per school. Entries must be scanned and sent to [urbanforestry@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:urbanforestry@dnr.IN.gov).

The student who creates the winning poster will receive a gift card, a book that will help continue their exploration of trees, and an Indiana native tree planting at their school. The winning student's teacher will receive a kit of educational materials to support their class's further engagement with Indiana trees, forests, and

forestry, as well as a full scholarship to the Natural Resources Teacher Institute. Entries may also be featured on DNR social media.

Participating teachers are encouraged to engage with the contest theme in their classrooms to help inspire their students' artwork. Teaching resources and standard alignments are provided on the contest webpage, along with full submission instructions, contest rules, and prizes at [dnr.IN.gov/forestry/programs/community-and-urban-forestry/arbor-day-poster-contest](http://dnr.IN.gov/forestry/programs/community-and-urban-forestry/arbor-day-poster-contest).

Please contact CUF staff with questions at 317-234-6741 or [urbanforestry@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:urbanforestry@dnr.IN.gov).

## City of Fishers Removes Language Barriers With New Translation Service

City launches innovative interpretation tool available in over 350 languages

The City of Fishers has partnered with Propio Language Services to provide inclusive, top-tier multi-lingual customer service to its more than 100,000 residents. Propio is an innovative language service that offers instant access to interpreters for over 350 languages through Video Remote Interpreting and Over-the-Phone Interpreting Services, as well as document translation.

Fishers' latest effort to enhance inclusivity allows all residents to access City resources, including Public Safety, Fishers Health Department and City Court information, easily and securely.

The City's new translation and interpretation services include:

Over-the-Phone Interpreting (OPI), where city employees can conference in a Propio representative to determine the language and connect the resident directly with an interpreter in their preferred language.

Video Remote Interpreting (VRI), allowing residents to connect with an interpreter by video when doing business in person at the City Services Building (3 Municipal Drive) and the Fishers Health Department Clinic

(8937 Technology Drive). This technology is also being rolled out to public safety teams working in the field.

Fast and accurate document translation and localization services for documents and digital content for internal use.

"We are proud to introduce our new language translation and interpretation service, reflecting the diverse cultures that make up our growing city," said Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness. "This initiative underscores our commitment to supporting everyone and ensures that every resident has an equal opportunity to engage with the City of Fishers."

For faster service, Spanish-speaking individuals can access over-the-phone interpretation services by calling 317-595-3111 and selecting option 2. They will be connected to a Propio representative who will inquire about the nature of their call to ensure accurate and efficient routing. Additionally, Propio will provide real-time translation for any prerecorded messages, ensuring clarity as callers navigate to the appropriate department. Should there be a need to leave a message or

facilitate a return call, Propio will continue to offer their translation expertise to bridge the communication gap.

During business hours, visitors and callers to the City Services Building (3 Municipal Drive) can use these services in two ways: a kiosk for video translation services in over 350 languages, including American Sign Language (ASL) or by calling the City of Fishers customer service line at 317-595-3111 and requesting translation services via phone or video chat. This technology ensures a seamless communication between City staff, the resident, and the translator, fostering efficient transactions and clear resolution of inquiries.

Founded in 1998, Propio Language Services is an industry leader in over-the-phone interpretation, video remote interpretation, in-person interpretation, and document translation services. Propio offers superior interpreter quality and technology-oriented solutions to clients, driving the highest value in the industry. Visit [Propio-LS.com](http://Propio-LS.com) to learn more.

Learn more about the City's translation services at [fishers.in.us/Residents](http://fishers.in.us/Residents).

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# Norovirus; Gut-Wrenching Details



**JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.**  
Montgomery  
Medicine

Stomach flu has been making the rounds lately. I have to start by dispelling a common misconception people have that all types

of “flu” are the same. “Stomach flu” is not caused by the same viruses that cause respiratory illnesses. Flu shots, given this time of year to help prevent respiratory influenza, will not help protect you from viruses affecting the gastrointestinal tract.

Noroviruses are the number one cause of acute viral gastroenteritis in the United States with an estimated 21 million cases per year. These annual infections lead to 70,000 hospitalizations and 800 deaths. The name norovirus is derived from a virus that was first identified as the cause of an outbreak of illness in a school in Norwalk, Ohio in 1968.

Noroviruses are a very sturdy group of viruses, able to withstand freezing and temperatures as high as 140 degrees Fahrenheit. They can survive steaming when cooking shellfish, and are even

resistant to the levels of chlorine found in municipal drinking water.

Typical symptoms of norovirus infection include the sudden onset of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain/cramping. Diarrhea is particularly common in children. These symptoms can lead to dehydration, especially in the young and elderly.

Noroviruses are the most common pathogen responsible for outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness on cruise ships. The viruses are highly contagious and also spread rapidly in close quarters such as day cares, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and restaurants. The vomit and diarrhea of norovirus sufferers can contain billions of viruses. Ingesting as few as 100 of these viruses can result in illness.

The virus is spread through exposure to the vomit and stool of an infected person and also through contact with contaminated surfaces or clothing/linens. Contaminated food (particularly shellfish) and water can also cause infection. Spread of the virus in schools and daycares is particularly common through shared toys, books, and utensils.

Infected persons who prepare food also are a common source of outbreaks.

The incubation period from exposure to symptoms is between 24 and 48 hours. Most people are ill for one to two days, but they are contagious from the time they fall ill until at least three days after their symptoms subside and sometimes up to two weeks later. It is therefore very important to keep children out of school for at least three days following their improvement and for anyone doing food preparation to avoid work for that time period as well.

Treatment of norovirus infection is symptomatic – avoid dehydration and take medication for fever. Usually water is adequate the first day or so, but if the illness persists, we usually recommend taking an oral rehydration solution like Pedialyte®. A simple recipe for rehydration solution is to add two level teaspoons of salt and eight heaping teaspoons of sugar to a two-liter bottle of water. Intake should be monitored, especially in children, who should take small sips rather than allowing them to gulp the fluid down.

The key to reducing the spread of norovirus is proper hygiene, particu-

larly hand washing (which we all should be doing anyway). Anyone who has norovirus-like symptoms or is taking care of someone with suspected illness should wash their hands regularly for 20 seconds using warm water & soap. This is especially important after using the toilet or changing diapers as well as prior to preparing food. Vegetables, fruits, and shellfish should be thoroughly washed before cooking.

Any surfaces or items that have been in contact with an infected person should be cleaned with bleach water made by mixing one-part bleach with nine-parts water. The solution should be left in place for 10 – 20 minutes. Clothing or linens that have been in contact with an infected person should be washed in hot water for the maximum cycle length and dried in a dryer.

Most people get over norovirus illness without complications. If a person appears dehydrated, lethargic, or complains of severe abdominal pain, he or she should contact their medical provider.

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

## Letters

### Former Mayoral Candidate Bemoans ‘Progress’

Dear Editor,  
I applaud the residents around Cherry Tree Road for their effort to take their fight against the gravel pit to the courts, but I’d like to remind all that there is a much more efficient and cost-effective way to change things. The BZA (which voted for the gravel pit) is an appointed board and the mayor has three of those appointments, a majority. The board reflects the policies of the current administration, so hold your elected official accountable.

If you don’t like the current policy the remedy is to elect someone with a better one. As it turns out, there’s a municipal election in just a few weeks. Alas, no one is running against the mayor. What a blown opportunity! You can bet if the mayor had an opponent in this election it is unlikely he would have risked such an unpopular decision. Officials lose elections over decisions like this, but there has to be an opponent.

Four years ago I ran to

prevent this kind of thing from happening but there was no crisis like this at the time and total turnout was just 14 percent of registered voters. The mayor won with less than 7 percent of registered voters, a minority of those who voted. Unfortunately, that’s what happens when you stop paying attention. People get elected with very few votes, (in that case, fewer than 3,000 in a city with nearly 45,000 registered) and those who have a vested interest in the outcome have an outsized impact. It’s been that way in Noblesville for a long time.

We might as well get used to it. We’re stuck with these policies for at least another four years, so the courts are probably your best bet. Good luck with it. This election is a lost cause but maybe this episode will inspire someone else to step up in the future who prioritizes established neighborhoods over new development or so called “progress.”  
Mike Corbett  
Noblesville

### Winter Is Coming: Get The House Ready

#### EARTHTALK

**Dear EarthTalk:** With colder weather on the way, what are some cheap and easy ways to winterize my house that will save energy?

If your home is cold and drafty in the winter, you owe it to yourself and your family to do something about it. And by making a few small upgrades—some of which you can do yourself — you’ll also save energy and money.

The first line of defense against the cold coming in is to check for drafts around windows, doors and any other openings. When you find drafts, seal them with weatherstripping or caulk. Place door sweeps or draft stoppers at the bottom of exterior doors to prevent cold air from seeping in. If you have single-pane windows, consider using window film or adding insulating window panels. Even heavy curtains can help.

Another important element of keeping your home warm and cozy in winter is insulation. The North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA) estimates that some 90 percent of U.S. homes are under-insulated, wasting energy and money and decreasing our comfort.

“If all U.S. homes were fitted with insulation based on the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC),” says Boston University environmental health researcher Jonathan Levy, “residential electricity use nationwide would drop by about five percent and natural gas use by more than 10 percent.”

It’s hard to know how much insulation coats your house—and where it is in your walls and roof—if you didn’t build it. But certain telltale signs may mean you need more. If you feel drafts even through windows and doors that are well sealed, the cold air may be coming

through the walls in spots where there is little or no insulation. Another sign of too little or inadequate insulation is when different rooms in the house are colder than others. Getting an inspection from a local reputable insulation installer is a great way to get started taking care of this common and easily fixed problem. While you’re at it, get a look at your roof to make sure you aren’t missing any roof tiles, which can also let cold air in and heated air out. If you can’t climb up there yourself easily, get a roofing contractor to give you a free inspection, and make sure they take pictures to back up their reporting to you.

Another way to boost the heat and efficiency of your heating system, whether you have an oil or gas burning furnace, electric baseboard or anything in between, is to get it serviced by a HVAC professional who can fine tune it and alert you to any problems in the system.

There are lots of other ways to warm things up in your home this winter without breaking the bank. If you have ceiling fans, switch them to the reverse (clockwise) direction to help circulate warm air that rises to the ceiling. If you don’t already have one, get a programmable thermostat and use it to lower the temperature when you’re not at home or overnight when you’re asleep.

*-CONTACTS: Fall and Winter Energy-Saving Tips, <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/fall-and-winter-energy-saving-tips>, 11 Ways To Winterize Your Home On A Budget, <https://www.bobvila.com/slideshow/11-ways-to-winterize-your-home-on-a-budget-10169>.*

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

# Celebrating Halloween In Other Ways



**CARRIE CLASSON**  
The Postscript

I have always loved Halloween, and I love it now more than ever.

I love to get in costume and have

fun with other people in costume. People seem freer when they are dressed in different clothes. They seem to have a little more fun. I like the challenge of making or putting together elaborate costumes but, as the years passed, I’ve done less and less of it. Costume parties seem to be less common, and I don’t spend time in bars, so the opportunity to celebrate the holiday has diminished.

Then I started going to Mexico, and all that changed.

Halloween is celebrated there, but it is a more somber affair, with beautiful “ofrendas” dedicated to the dead in homes, in the parks and in the cemeteries. It is a tradition that

brings the dead closer to the living through remembrances and photos and collections of the things and the people the dead loved, all gathered together in their honor.

And then there is a party.

After Halloween, the Day of the Dead is celebrated, followed by All Souls Day, and each has its own significance, and its own traditions, which vary from one community to another. But what is, in the U.S., a short evening’s activity celebrated primarily by children is a much bigger deal, a celebration that goes on for most of the week, involving people of all ages. The celebrations mix a reverence for the dead and a joy for life in a way I find breathtaking.

So my husband, Peter, and I will be celebrating Halloween this year. Peter, it should be noted, is not as big on the whole “getting into costume thing” as I am.

“What will I wear?” he asks, with obvious skepti-

cism.

He worries he will look silly. He is sure he will be uncomfortable. But I have gotten Peter a costume (a fabulous costume, if I say so myself!), and he says he is going to wear it. He knows it is important to me and he genuinely enjoys the celebration and so, this year, he will be a part of it—even if that might not be his first choice.

But, because we will be celebrating in Mexico, I want to observe the other part of the holiday as well.

Last week, we celebrated my mother’s birthday with my parents and sister and my father’s only sister, Joanne, and her husband. We got to talking about my father’s mother. Joanne was telling the story we all knew about how my grandma wore elegant purple suede boots in her late 80s and thought—because of her cataracts—they were brown. No one thought a thing of it, because my grandma was always a stylish dresser, and we thought those

purple boots were snazzy. But when my grandma found out, she took Joanne to task.

“Why didn’t you tell me I was wearing purple boots?” she demanded.

My grandma wore a bright fuchsia raincoat to her husband’s funeral. I honestly don’t think any of us were to blame.

But it is a wonderful story, a great remembrance of my grandma, who lived to be 100 years old and gave us so many good memories. I love the idea of a day—or the better part of a week—set aside to tell stories like that and to keep the memory of my grandma, and so many others we have loved so much, alive.

And then we do will exactly what my grandma would have liked best. We will get all dressed up and have a big party.

Till next time,  
Carrie

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

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## BETSY

From Page A1

Nickel Plate District Amphitheater during a Boo Bash with live music and entertainment, food trucks, games and activities for kids. Costumes encouraged.

14. Visit Noblesville High School Theatre's Trunk or Treat night 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday in the parking lot at Noblesville High School, where high school theater students will play host to this evening for all little ghosts and goblins.

15. Visit First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville's free Trunk-or-Treat event 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday in the church parking lot. Kids are encouraged to wear costumes and enjoy trunk-or-treating and a make-n-take craft, music, movie and a brown bag hotdog dinner.

16. Several local musicians will perform their favorite murder ballads for your Halloween enjoyment when Noblesville Preservation Alliance presents "Murder in Noblesville" at 7 p.m. Saturday at NPA's Preservation Hall. Musicians include: John Gilmore, Gary Wasson, Mike Stewart, Molly Milton, Jamie Dumas, Tim Fike, Zoe Majors and Steve VandeWater. Tickets are \$10 at the door or online at preservationhall.org

17. Come for trick-or-treating or decorate your trunk and bring candy to share during Noblesville First United Methodist Church's annual Trunk or Treat event 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at the

church. Prizes for the most creative trunks. Sign up to decorate your trunk, volunteer or donate candy at NoblesvilleFirst.com/trunk

18. Enjoy Halloween Bingo and wear your best costume at 8:30 p.m. Oct. 31 at the Noblesville Moose Lodge.

19. Noblesville American Legion Riders Post 45 invites community to its third annual trunk-or-treat 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 31 in the parking lot of the new Legion at 273 S. 8th St., Noblesville. Community invited to check out the Legion's new building. The Legion always has plenty of candy leftover that the Legion sends to troops via the Noblesville Police Department. The kids always enjoy trunk or treating with the motorcycles. Public welcome.

20. Join a Halloween Westfield Ghost Walk 8 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. Oct. 31 in downtown Westfield. Tour filled with stories of ghosts of the Underground Railroad and those who helped them escape mixed with modern day gangsters and mischief. Reservations required at fareharbor.com

*-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times Editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com. Official Trick-or-Treat hours on Oct. 31: 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Noblesville; 5-8 p.m. Arcadia, Carmel and Westfield; 6-8 p.m. Cicero, Fishers and Sheridan.*

## SCHEME

From Page A1

they have wrongfully obtained, and secure restitution for victims."

Blaine allegedly presented himself to investors as a seller of securities — though he was not registered with the Indiana Securities Division. He allegedly bilked eight Indiana investors of approximately \$680,000 and allegedly using the investors' funds for his own personal lifestyle expenses.

He was arrested on Oct. 12 and charged by the Hamilton County prosecutor with six felony counts of securities violations, one felony count of money laundering and one felony count of corrupt business influence.

Rokita's lawsuit — brought on behalf of Indiana Securities Commissioner Marie Castetter — focuses on alleged violations of the Indiana Uniform Securities Act.

The lawsuit asks a Hamilton County court — among other things — to immediately freeze assets representing the ill-gotten gains, set up a receiver for assets controlled by the defendants, and require defendants to make restitution to victims.

Other defendants include companies through which Blaine allegedly carried out his crimes, Akamai Physics Inc. (API) and Porrima Photonix Inc. (PPI). They also include

Allen R. Geiger and Marguerite Kimball-King. These defendants are all based in New Mexico.

This case originated with complaints to the Indiana Securities Division, which then began investigating. Other state and local agencies, in Indiana and New Mexico, also participated in the investigation. Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales oversees the Indiana Securities Division.

"The financial investors in this case placed their hard-earned money into the hands of someone whom they thought they could trust," Morales said. "Instead, the victims' money fell into the hands of a bad actor who used the investors' funds for personal use. Our office will continue to seek justice for these Hoosier investors and hopefully restore some trust back to the victims."

On Thursday, the Hamilton Superior Court appointed James Ammeen as receiver and set an injunction hearing for 9 a.m. Nov. 28.

Rokita thanked his team for their work on this case, specifically Deputy Attorneys General Jill Haddad, Blake Erickson and Hannah Deters of the Administrative and Regulatory Enforcement Litigation Section (Litigation Division).

## Noblesville Masons Clean Up Their Adopted Street



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Masons

Last Saturday morning, the Masons of Noblesville Lodge No. 57 gathered, for the second time this year, for their street clean up with participating Masons, Mark Winemiller, Jake, Kyle Moser, Rob Grimes, Chris Hurlock (chairman), Ron Williamson, Gene Beck and Kris Cummings (behind the camera). The Masons several years ago joined the Noblesville Adopt-A-Street program, which assists the Noblesville Street Department in keeping their city beautiful. The Masons do clean up on their adopted street twice a year during their long term commitment, which is Hague Rd. from 196th Street to Carrigan Road in Noblesville. A sign with their organization's name is posted in their area on Hague Road just South of Noblesville West Middle School Bus Garage.

## Replacing Income Tax With Sales Tax Hike Would Cost Poor Hoosiers More, Experts Say

Axing Indiana's individual income tax and replacing just half the revenue with a sales tax hike would cost the state's poorest residents an additional \$62 and hand the top 1% of earners a \$30,000 tax cut, a think tank told state lawmakers Friday.

Instead of "seeking deep cuts to the income tax or even getting rid of it altogether," Indiana should make its tax system less regressive and make "meaningful investments in (its) future," Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy analyst Neva Butkus said. The organization leans liberal.

Indiana leaders — and political candidates — hope to slash or scrap the income tax.

That's the driving force behind the State and Local Tax Review Task Force. But its members heard no full-throated support for the proposal on Friday, even as national experts from across the ideological spectrum offered competing advice on what to do instead.

Conservative think tanks recommended that the Indiana General Assembly cut the income tax according to a recently approved schedule, and — with "caution" — make further cuts only if lawmakers broaden the sales tax base and see higher-than-expected collections. "We currently don't see a proper way to replace \$8 billion dollars, at least in the short run. It's definitely not possible," said Tax Foundation analyst Andrey Yushkov.

### Reducing regressiveness

Low- and middle-income Hoosiers already pay more of what they earn in state and local taxes than high-earners, according to Butkus: the poorest 20% pay almost 13%, while the top 1% pay nearly 7%.

She called the state's tax system "deeply regressive," meaning that lower-income residents contribute larger shares of their income toward government services.

"Increasingly regressive state and local tax systems have contributed to a sobering level of inequality in both income and wealth across the nation," Butkus said.

She argued that the income tax provides "some balance" because it's a percentage of what a taxpayer earns — particularly when the tax has higher rates for higher earners. Indiana has a flat tax.

In contrast, Butkus said,

sales taxes cost a larger percentage of low-earners' income.

In an analysis conducted by her organization, axing the state's \$8 billion annual income taxing and half-replacing it with an increase in the sales tax — from 7% to 9.5% — would cost poor Hoosiers more money and save rich residents thousands.

In that scenario, the poorest 20% would pay 0.4% more of their lower incomes than under the current tax system, while the richest 5% would save about 2% of their higher incomes.

Butkus pushed lawmakers to close corporate tax loopholes — though she didn't identify specific ones — and to create refundable tax credits for families. She also advocated for graduated income taxes and estate or inheritance structures, which are likely non-starters for the Republican-led Indiana General Assembly.

Wesley Tharpe, a senior adviser for state tax policy at the left-leaning Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, told the task force that a "stable" income tax could support a fiscally responsible approach to state finances, and warned that sharp cuts could instead hurt its efforts.

Recent income tax cuts mean Indiana is expected to forego about \$900 million annually, Tharpe said — about what the state spends on the Department of Child Services.

He presented data showing little correlation between no- and low-income tax states and per-capita income growth, and between cuts and state gross domestic product growth.

And while lawmakers have fixated on Indiana's relatively high sales tax rate — 7% ties it with two other states behind only California — Tharpe argued that it's not a main driver of migration. People mainly move in or out to take a job, get closer to family, or experience milder winters, he said, alongside housing and cost-of-living concerns.

Others, however, said that taxes are one of the few factors actually within policymakers' control.

**Broadening the base**  
For former Rep. Tim Brown, who once led the powerful Ways and Means Committee, taxes are a way to change behavior.

"What are the three states that are losing people from their population last year?"

Brown asked his former colleagues. "California, New York and Illinois. They have a high taxation and a high cost-of-living environment. So people are moving out."

Illinois residents buy their cigarettes in Indiana, but Hoosiers may buy theirs in Kentucky for the same reason, he added.

Brown said the General Assembly should expand its sales tax to cover more categories, but drop the rate.

National experts echoed the idea — and made several other suggestions.

"Indiana has done a lot of things quite well over the past couple of decades and is really a leader on tax reform, but states that stand still for too long risk was falling behind," said Tax Foundation analyst Kathleen Loughead.

Indiana's sales tax breadth was 38% in 2021, above the national median but with room for improvement, Loughead said. Breadth represents the share of the state's economy as measured by state personal income.

"That's actually better than each of Indiana's neighbors," she said. "But it's still significantly narrower than under an ideal sales tax structure where all final personal consumption would be taxed."

Groceries are exempt from sales taxes, for example.

Loughead asserted that this attempt to shield poor grocery-shoppers from regressive taxes still applies to high-income shoppers, losing the state money without "gaining any socially desirable impacts." If the tax base were broadened to include groceries and a large number of personal services — but the tax rate were lowered — poorer Hoosiers could benefit, she said.

The foundation also suggested that Indiana swap local income taxes for local sales taxes — an idea Brown recommended against — or at least limit local income tax growth. Without changes, the analysts cautioned, local units of government could keep raising rates when the state lowered its own and Hoosiers wouldn't actually see a decrease in payments owed.

The group made a variety of other proposals: indexing the individual income tax's relatively low standard deduction to inflation, increasing or indexing the property tax's de minimis exemption, reducing the

corporate income tax, letting businesses deduct the full costs of certain investments and more.

The conservative-leaning American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) also warned lawmakers away from over-spending, over-reliance on federal funds and over-reliance on volatile revenue sources. Chief Economist and Executive Vice President of Policy Jonathan Williams claimed the most unstable is the corporate income tax followed by the individual income tax — with retail sales taxes the most reliable of the major three revenue sources.

### More meetings to go

Task force chair Travis Holdman, a Republican from Markle, urged "moderation."

"If we remove the individual income tax, we're going to have to have a replacement source for that revenue," Holdman told reporters. He said hiking the income tax to 9.5%, as in Butkus' modeled scenario, "is not going to work."

Lawmakers are "taking a look at" making additional partial cuts, Holdman added.

And he said that while the task force has so far focused on cutting taxes, it can also look at spending.

In Washington State's "priorities of government approach," leaders analyzed the state's needs versus its wants, then matched priorities up to a tax system that could generate the needed revenue, ALEC's Williams said.

The two-year task force meets next in November. It's expected to feature testimony from the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute, Indiana-based Policy Analytics, and the conservative, Washington, D.C.-based Americans for Tax Reform. The nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency is set to present an analysis on the income tax elimination proposal.

Policy recommendations are due to the General Assembly ahead of the 2025 budget-writing session.

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# TUESDAY

## Health and WELLNESS

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

A7

### 5 Ways to Support Dogs' Health as They Age

FAMILY FEATURES

While you may look at your dogs and see the same little puppies you brought home years ago, the reality is they age the same way people do, and if you count in "dog years," sometimes even faster. The aging process for dogs can mean graying whiskers and less ball chasing, but it may also mean adjusting to changing health needs.

As dogs approach their late adult and senior years, it's important to adapt the ways they're cared for so they can enjoy happy and healthy lives. To fully support your dog's lives as they age, consider this advice from the pet experts at Zesty Paws.

#### Enjoy Enrichment and Exercise

Whether your furry friends prefer a friendly game of fetch or a long walk around the neighborhood, exercise is key for dogs of all ages. As dogs mature, some of the high-energy bursts may fade, but continuing with low-impact exercises can help them stay in shape both physically and mentally.

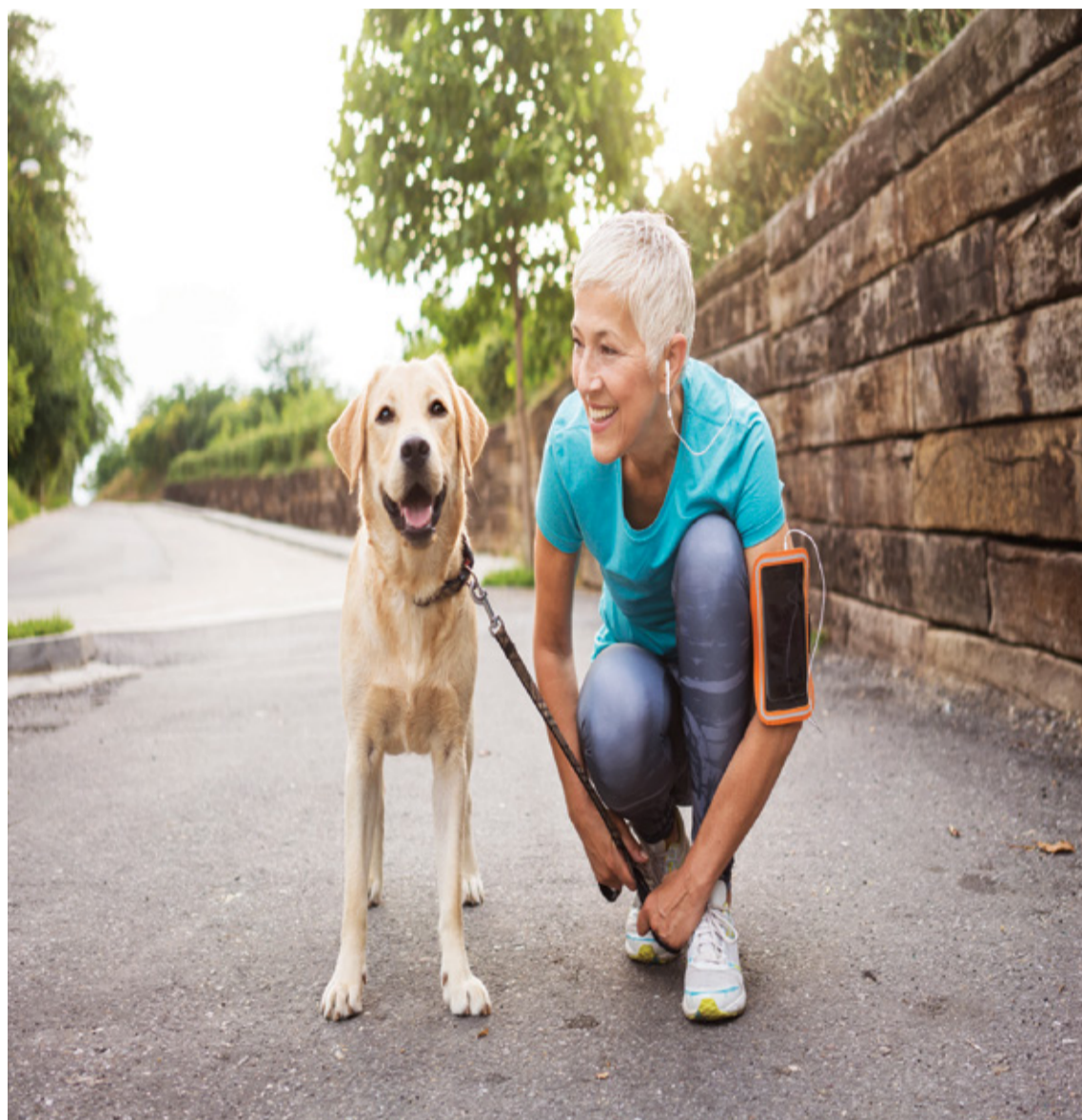


Photo courtesy of Getty Images

heart, skeletal and muscle health. This innovative system of supplementation offers pet parents a fun and unique way to support their dog's golden years.

#### Adapt Your Dogs' Diets to Match Life Stages

A healthy and balanced diet is important for dogs of all ages. With that in mind, there are subtle nuances at different life stages that call for ingredients and food blends to match dietary needs. For example, puppies typically require foods with more protein and fats to help fuel their growth.

Adult dogs may need food that is more focused on addressing issues like gut health, weight control, dental hygiene and other needs. Then, as pets mature into their senior years, you may need to consider foods with added support for their hips and joints or a lower-calorie diet to help alleviate weight concerns due to decreased activity.

#### Be Diligent About Regular Vet Appointments

While pet parents already know the importance of

keeping up with routine veterinarian visits, these check-ins with a health professional can take on increased significance for aging pets.

It's recommended to schedule regular appointments with your vet so he or she can conduct physical examinations to monitor your pet's well-being, and this time also provides an opportunity for you to discuss any changes you've noticed in your pet's routines. Just like you, your adult dogs should have a complete examination at least once a year.

#### Stick to Routines

Just as you have certain things you do each day, like brushing your teeth and making your morning coffee, dogs can also benefit from having their own routines. Whether it's a morning walk or weekly bathing, having a routine can reinforce previous training for adult dogs and help them continue to learn new behaviors.

Routines based on exercise, enrichment, training and grooming can help ease the tension of other life changes such as travel, moving or new house guests and allow dogs to feel more confident and comfortable. For these aging pets, having and maintaining a routine can also be helpful for consistency and reducing nervousness.

To learn more ways to support your pet's health and well-being, visit [ZestyPaws.com](http://ZestyPaws.com).

Stay active by walking to support joint health and mobility and keep regular grooming appointments to support healthy skin and coat. Don't forget enrichment activities to help stimulate their minds, too. Try hiding food or treats in puzzles or toys, or schedule play dates with other dogs so they can get active and socialize.

#### Explore the Benefits of Functional Pet Supplements

Dogs, just like humans, have a molecule in their bodies called nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD+), which supports cellular function, energy and repair mechanisms. NAD+ levels naturally decline throughout the aging process, but to help negate these effects and support cellular health regeneration in dogs, Zesty Paws created a supplement to support healthy aging for dogs.

Powered by Niagen to help reinvigorate cellular energy, the Healthy Aging NAD+ Precursor system brings a little of their puppyhood back through support of normal cellular, metabolic, brain and



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# Make Every Meal Celebration Worthy



### Fresh Snack Board

- 1/3 pound Prosciutto di Parma
- 1 apple, sliced
- 1 handful pecans, walnuts or almonds
- 1/2 cup pomegranate seeds
- 1/2 cup fig jam
- 1/2 pound sharp cheddar cheese, sliced crackers

On charcuterie board or platter, arrange prosciutto, apple slices, nuts, pomegranate seeds, fig jam and cheddar cheese slices. Serve with crackers.

### FAMILY FEATURES

Family reunions, birthday celebrations and holiday gatherings all bring loved ones together for special occasions that call for delicious meals and snacks. To help elevate entertaining in your household, make hosting a cinch with quick, shareable recipes.

Pizza, for example, is a nearly universally beloved dish ideal for sharing. This version is simple, fresh and perfect for entertaining guests or just for a night in with fresh mozzarella, Prosciutto di Parma and fresh basil.

For savory seasonal flavor, look no further than Sweet Potato Rounds topped with fried sage leaves, goat cheese and prosciutto.

When guests arrive, greet them with easy hors d'oeuvres that balance wellness with indulgence like this Crudites Platter or Fresh Snack Board.

To help ensure the freshest of ingredients in these tasty appetizers, look for the "Parma Crown" on packages of Prosciutto di Parma, which you can find pre-packaged or available for slicing at many gourmet deli counters and specialty food stores. Containing no additives, preservatives or hormones, Parma ham contains no additives, preservatives or hormones and is 100% natural. Aged twice as long as many other options, it creates a depth of flavor that's delicate and sweet-savory with a buttery texture.

Find more easy appetizers perfect for entertaining at [parmacrown.com](http://parmacrown.com).

### Sweet Potato Rounds

Yield: 16-20 rounds

- 2 medium sweet potatoes
- 2 teaspoons olive oil salt, to taste
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 bunch fresh sage, stems removed
- 4 ounces goat cheese
- 8 slices Prosciutto di Parma, halved

Preheat oven to 425 F. Line baking sheet with foil or parchment paper. Peel and slice sweet potatoes into 1/2-inch rounds. In medium bowl, toss sweet potatoes with oil and lightly season with salt, to taste. Arrange rounds in single layer on prepared pan; bake until sweet pota-

atoes are lightly browned and tender, about 20 minutes, flipping halfway through.

In small skillet over medium heat, bring butter to simmer. Add half the sage leaves. Cook until crispy, 2-3 minutes. Remove to paper towel and season lightly with salt, to taste. Repeat with remaining sage leaves. Reserve 2 teaspoons butter. In small food processor, combine goat cheese and reserved butter; whirl until smooth.

To make rounds, remove goat cheese to plastic zip-top bag. Cut off one corner and pipe small dollops of cheese onto each round. Top with half slice prosciutto and one crispy sage leaf.



### Prosciutto Pizza

Yield: 8 slices

- Olive oil
- flour
- 1 container (16 ounces) store-bought pizza dough
- 1/4 cup tomato sauce
- 4 ounces fresh mozzarella, cubed
- 5 slices Prosciutto di Parma
- 6 fresh basil leaves

Remove dough from refrigerator and let sit at room temperature at least 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 500 F. Grease baking sheet with olive oil.

Roll out pizza dough onto floured work surface to form oblong shape about 16 inches long and 12 inches wide. Remove to oiled baking sheet and stretch out edges to fill length of baking sheet.

Bake 4 minutes. Remove from oven and evenly spread tomato sauce over surface, leaving 1/2 inch from edges bare. Dot with mozzarella. Bake until edges are golden and mozzarella is bubbling, about 12 minutes.

Drape prosciutto over mozzarella. Garnish with fresh basil.



### Crudites Platter

Toppings:

- 8 asparagus water
- 2 soft-boiled eggs
- 5 baby carrots, halved lengthwise
- 4 radishes with tops, halved lengthwise
- 1 head little gem lettuce, quartered
- 6-8 slices Prosciutto di Parma

Dip:

- 2 teaspoons white miso
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon water
- 1/2 cup full-fat Greek yogurt
- 2 tablespoons chopped herbs (dill, tarragon or parsley)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- fresh black pepper, to taste

To make platter: Trim asparagus. To blanch, bring pot of water to boil and place asparagus in pot 2-3 minutes. While asparagus is cooking, fill large bowl with ice water. After 3 minutes, plunge asparagus in ice bath and let cool.

To soft-boil eggs, bring pot of water to boil. Gently place room temperature eggs in water and simmer 3-4 minutes. Remove eggs with slotted spoon and cool under running water.

Serve asparagus and eggs alongside baby carrots, radishes and little gem lettuce. Drape prosciutto slices over some vegetables and between others.

To make dip: In small bowl, whisk miso, lemon juice and water until smooth. Add yogurt, herbs and salt. Season gener-

