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**TODAY'S VERSE**  
Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.



**FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY**

People who call our community their own.

What makes Savannah McClure smile? "Ballet," said the Noblesville High School senior. She has been studying ballet for 16 years and was found in 2021 dancing the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in White River Ballet Co.'s production of "The Nutcracker" at NHS Auditorium. Why does she enjoy ballet? "I just love the ability to be so many different cool characters and to be able to tell your story through your dance," she had said. At NHS, she enjoys performing in the NHS Singers mixed varsity show choir and currently is playing the lead role of Ella (Cinderella) in NHS Choral Department's fall musical, Rodgers + Hammerstein's "Cinderella," the Broadway version, opening tonight and continuing through Saturday with four performances, including a matinee with ASL interpreters at 2 p.m. Saturday, at NHS. As a senior, she is so excited to take her final bow on the NHS musical stage as Ella. In previous years, she could be seen in "Chicago" (as June) and "Mrs. Packard" (as Mrs. Packard) at NHS. Savannah's community theater credits include "Hello, Dolly!" (as Dolly) and "The Sound of Music" (as Maria), both with Stone Soup Children's Musical Theater. Additionally, she had her Summer Stock Stage debut as Sheila Bryant in "A Chorus Line" this past summer. She thanks her friends and family for believing in all of her dreams and hopes everyone enjoys "Cinderella." Read more about the "Cinderella" musical in the Betsy Reason column in The Times.

**And Another Thing...**

**1. NPT Night Lights kicks off December 1!**

Head downtown as Fishers Parks lights up the night on the Nickel Plate Trail to celebrate the coming winter and holiday season! Through the month of December, enjoy NPT Night Lights, a light display along the downtown portion of the Nickel Plate Trail, presented by Centier Bank! Come out from 6 to 8 p.m. December 1, 2, or 3 as the trail gets activated with food, music, photo opps, and more! Plan a night downtown with friends or family to start your holiday festivities for free! Access to the Nickel Plate Trail is always free, and no registration or RSVP is required for NPT Night Lights. Lights will turn on dusk nightly through the end of December.

**2. Santa's Mailbox starts the day after Thanksgiving!**

Beginning Friday, November 24, and running through Friday, December 15, drop off your letters to Santa in the special mailboxes at the following locations: Nickel Plate Trail (near 116th Street & Switch Plaza at the swings), Ambassador House at Heritage Park (10598 Eller Road) Santa's elves and the Fishers Parks team will make sure your letter gets to Santa, and you'll receive a letter in return from the big man himself! Don't forget to include a return address on your letter. Can't drop off your letter in person? Email Santa through Friday, December 22, at [santa@fishers.in.us](mailto:santa@fishers.in.us)!

# The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

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## Noblesville Fire Department Responds To Business Fire



Photo courtesy of the Noblesville Fire Department

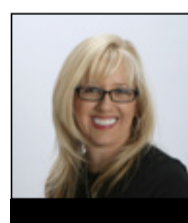
**Noblesville Fire Department responded to a business fire at IDI Composites International on 7th Street. Upon arriving fire units could see smoke coming from the building and determined that the fire was "working". Apparently the fire started in a 26-gallon drum located in a storage area around 11 a.m. on Tuesday November 14. The fire was contained to the room of origin and NFD crews were able to extinguish the fire a short time later. There are no reported injuries of firefighters or civilians. Due to the potentially hazardous materials onsite, the firefighters were cautious and mitigated the limited dangers. The Hamilton County Emergency Management and Indiana Department of Environmental Management also responded to the fire to assist the NFD. The cause of the fire is under investigation.**



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

**While there will be lots of "lasts" this high school senior year, time will stand still this week as daughter, Addie (right), takes to the Noblesville High School stage in the role of Gabrielle, the stepsister of Cinderella (played by Savannah McClure (left) as Ella) in Rodgers + Hammerstein's "Cinderella," Thursday through Saturday at NHS.**

## 'Cinderella' Musical Among Year Of "Lasts" For Daughter



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

Byes on the "last" day before moving on to middle school. And then at the "last" show choir performance of eighth grade at Noblesville East Middle

I remember our daughter's last day of elementary school, when fifth-graders were treated to Kona Ice, and students and teachers alike were shedding tears as they said their good-byes on the "last" day before moving on to middle school.

School, students were sad because it was the "last" performance together before moving on to high school.

This week will mark another "last" as our daughter, now a Noblesville High School senior, will perform in her "last" school musical on the NHS Auditorium stage.

Since auditions for NHS's "Cinderella" musical in August, she has been memorizing lines, rehearsing songs, learning ballroom dancing and enjoying the camaraderie that comes with weeks of spending every day

See BETSY Page A5

## Hamilton County Awards Grants To Nearly Two Dozen Not-For-Profits

\$864,000 Earmarked for Services to Help Those Most in Need

The Hamilton County Commissioners and Councilors have awarded 23 not-for-profits with more than \$864,000 in support for 2024. These funds are in addition to contract services already provided to the County by organizations like Janus, the Humane Society for Hamilton County, and Cherish Center.



SUE MAKI

"The County is proud to be able to support many of our not-for-profit organizations," says Sue Maki, Hamilton County Councilor. "While we could not fund all organizations or always fund to the amount requested, we do believe we used the taxpayers' money to make the greatest impact on Hamilton County residents."

The grant program is intended to furnish funding to organizations that provide services in furtherance of County goals and without whom the County would need to develop such programming.

The largest grant, \$180,000, was awarded to Prevail, Inc. to

See GRANTS Page A5

**INSIDE TODAY**

- Service Directory.....A4
- EarthTalk.....A4
- Tim Timmons .....A4
- Indiana Facts & Fun.....A7

**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Keep up-to-date on vaccines that are recommended for your age group. 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 [thetimes24-7.com](http://thetimes24-7.com)



**HONEST HOOSIER**

Veteran's Day is Saturday. Know a veteran? Say thank you!



**TODAY'S QUOTE**

In celebration of our beginning our 20th year as a media company, we're sharing some famous quotations about newspapers this month. "I'd love to rise from the grave every ten years or so and go buy a few newspapers." -Luis Bunuel

**TODAY'S JOKE**

What's the difference between a publisher and a gorilla? It's been definitively proven that gorillas can communicate with humans.

**OBITUARIES**

None



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



## The Daily Almanac

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 7:32 a.m.  
SET: 5:32 p.m.



**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 68 °F  
Low: 39 °F



**Today is...**

- International Day for Tolerance
- National Fast Food Day
- World Philosophy Day



**What Happened On This Day**

- 2001 Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone released. The film version of the popular book by the same name written by author J. K. Rowling starred Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter and followed Potter's first year at Hogwarts, a school for magic.
- 1965 Soviets launch Venera 3. Part of the Venera program, it was the first space probe to land on another planet - Venus. Unfortunately, due to technical issues, it was not able to send any data back to Earth. The first space probe to send data from another planet to Earth was Venera 7.
- 1940 Warsaw ghetto sealed. The largest Jewish ghetto in Nazi-occupied Poland, the Warsaw ghetto, was created in October 1940 by a German decree.



**Births On This Day**

- 1952 Shigeru Miyamoto Japanese video game designer, created Mario, The Legend of Zelda
- 42 Tiberius Roman Emperor

**Deaths On This Day**

- 2006 Milton Friedman American economist, Nobel Prize laureate
- 1960 Clark Gable American actor

**3 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST**

|                         |                         |                       |                           |                |                        |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 34/67<br>SUNNY AND WILD | 39/68<br>SUNNY AND WILD | 50/55<br>LOOKING DEEP | 29/49<br>BREEZY AND CHILL | 31/54<br>SUNNY | 34/50<br>BREEZY CLOUDY | 46/54<br>POSSIBLY RAINY |
| WED                     | THU                     | FRI                   | SAT                       | SUN            | MON                    | TUE                     |

## Holiday Season Kicks Off Festive Fun In Fishers Next Week

Celebrate the season with holiday events, light displays, & offerings for all ages.

Next week marks the launch of the holiday season in Fishers featuring a festive lineup of events filled with holiday cheer, local traditions and ways to give back.

From a holiday light display along the downtown portion of the Nickel Plate Trail, to the beloved tradition of Fishers Parks' Santa's Mailbox and the popular A Merry Prairie Holiday at Conner Prairie, there is a wide variety of Fishers holiday events and activities for residents of all ages.

The seasonal lineup includes:

### Santa's Mailbox

Friday, November 24 - Friday, December 15

Nickel Plate Trail (near the 116th Street intersection at the swings) and the Ambassador House (10598 Eller Road)

Free

Drop off your letters to Santa in the special mailboxes located on the Nickel Plate Trail and Ambassador House. Include your address and you'll receive a reply from St. Nick! Can't drop off in person? Email Santa through Friday, December 22 at [santa@fishers.in.us](mailto:santa@fishers.in.us). Learn more at [playfishers.com](http://playfishers.com).

\*\*\*

### Conner Prairie's A Merry Prairie Holiday

Thursdays through Sundays November 24 - December 17 & Thursday through Friday December 21 - 22

Conner Prairie (13400 Allisonville Road)

Tickets required

Experience the joy and magic of the holiday season on the prairie! Conner Prairie's Merry Prairie Holiday presents the prairie you know and love in a whole new light. Learn more and purchase tickets at [ConnerPrairie.org](http://ConnerPrairie.org).

\*\*\*

### Shop Fishers: Holiday Series

Saturday, November 25 - Saturday, December 31

Free

Explore and discover local shops and restaurants that make our community special. Join the celebration and support the city's small businesses this holiday season while enjoying special deals and discounts. Learn more at [thisisfishers.com/Shop-Fishers](http://thisisfishers.com/Shop-Fishers).

\*\*\*

### Hamilton East Public Library's Season of Giving

Throughout December Hamilton East Public Library (5 Municipal Drive, Fishers)

Free

Give back this season with the Hamilton East Public Library with several opportunities to donate and give, including winter apparel donation drives and holiday gift-making classes. Learn more about these opportunities to celebrate the holidays through giving back at [hepl.lib.in.us](http://hepl.lib.in.us).

\*\*\*

### December StoryWalk

Throughout December Holland Park (1 Park Drive, Fishers)

Free

Take an adventure with

your little ones in the great outdoors with a free, self-guided reading hike. Check out this month's book, *A Thing Called Snow*, at Holland Park. Learn more at [playfishers.com/Storywalk](http://playfishers.com/Storywalk).

\*\*\*

### Fishers Holiday Lights Map

Throughout December Around Fishers Free

Looking for the best holiday light displays around Fishers? Grab some hot cocoa and hop in the car to enjoy the festive displays from fellow residents using the digital Fishers Holiday Lights Map. Is your house decked out for the holidays? Help spread holiday cheer and show off your display by adding your house to the map. Learn more at [ThisIsFishers.com/FishersLights](http://ThisIsFishers.com/FishersLights).

\*\*\*

### NPT Night Lights presented by Centier Bank

Free holiday light display open daily in December

Food trucks & music: December 1 - 3 | 6 - 8 p.m.

Downtown portion of the Nickel Plate Trail (near 116th Street)

Free  
Through the month of December, check out the free light display open daily at dusk along the downtown portion of the Nickel Plate Trail, presented by Centier Bank. Enjoy live music and food trucks along the trail December 1 through 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. Learn more at [playfishers.com/NPTNightLights](http://playfishers.com/NPTNightLights).

\*\*\*

### Angel of Hope Candlelight Ceremony

Wednesday, December 6 | 6:15 - 7 p.m.  
Heritage Park (10598 Eller Road)

Free  
Fishers Parks Foundation hosts the fourth annual Angel of Hope Candlelight Ceremony to remember lost children. The Ambassador House will be open at 6:15 p.m. with a candlelight procession to the Angel of Hope Memorial Garden and the reading of names at 7 p.m. Learn more at [fishersparks.org](http://fishersparks.org).

\*\*\*

### Cookies with Characters

Saturday, December 16 & Sunday December 17 | Various Times

Ambassador House  
Registration Required, \$15/person for residents, \$22.50/person for nonresidents

Fishers Parks hosts a unique character experience complete with games, crafts, cookie decorating and more. All parents and children must register to attend at [playfishers.com](http://playfishers.com).

\*\*\*

### Christmas Tree Recycling

Tuesday, December 26 - Thursday, February 1  
Brooks School Park (11780 Brooks School Road, Fishers), Cumberland Park (10580 Cumberland Road, Fishers), Holland Park

Free  
Fishers offers a free Christmas Tree Recycling program, where residents can drop off bare, live trees at three park locations around the city

## Cicero Man Sentenced To 30 Years in Federal Prison After Sexually Exploiting Children He Lured By Offering Vape Pens On Snapchat

Jacob Glenn, 26, of Cicero, Indiana, has been sentenced to 30 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of a child.

According to court documents, Jacob Glenn used Snapchat to communicate with girls between 13- and 15-years-old, falsely claiming to be a teen boy and offering to purchase nicotine or vape pens in exchange for sex. Glenn's Snapchat username, "theplugfogshyde" was intended to indicate that he could obtain vape pens for others he met online.

On two occasions in 2021, Glenn coerced and enticed a girl between 12- and 15-years-old, to sneak out of her home after midnight to get vapes from him, including on Christmas Eve. Glenn picked the child up and drove her to a nearby truck stop where he told her that he would not accept cash for the vapes. Instead, Glenn stated that they could work out a "deal" where she could pay him with sex. Glenn picked up the same child again on January 17, 2022, and coerced and enticed her to engage in sex acts in exchange for vape pens. He used his phone to record the sexual conduct he engaged in with the child and instructed her to not tell anyone about his abuse. Glenn later used Snapchat to send a copy of the child sexual abuse video to two other minor girls.

Glenn engaged in a

similar course of criminal conduct with another minor girl he met on Snapchat between December 2021 and January 2022. The second victim was less than 14-years-old. On January 9, 2022, after a conversation via Snapchat, Glenn picked the second victim up near her home, drove her to a nearby truck stop, and engaged in sexual conduct in exchange for vape pens. Glenn also attempted to convince a child who was a friend of the second victim to engage in sex in exchange for vapes, but they did not meet in person.

A law enforcement review of Glenn's Snapchat account found conversations between Glenn and multiple other girls between thirteen and fifteen years old. In some of these conversations, Glenn offered nicotine or alcohol in exchange for sex or nude images.

Glenn has a history of engaging in unlawful sex acts with children. In October 2020, Glenn engaged in sex with a girl who was between 14- and 15-years-old. Glenn was 23-years-old at the time. On October 19, 2020, Glenn was arrested and charged in Madison County for crimes related to this abuse. Glenn admitted to law enforcement that he engaged in sexual intercourse with a 14-year-old girl on multiple occasions, and that he knew her true age during at least some of the time he was engaging in sex acts with the child.

Glenn was out on bond for these charges at the time he exploited the two children in December 2021 and January 2022.

"These heinous crimes are one of a family's worst nightmares. The sad truth is that applications like Snapchat not always safe spaces, they are often hunting grounds for predators who seek gratification from their sexual abuse of our children," said Zachary A. Myers, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana "The federal prison sentence imposed here ensures that the public will be protected from this criminal for decades to come. Other online predators should take notice that the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, including the FBI, IMPD, and our federal prosecutors, will work tirelessly to hold them accountable and make our children safer from abuse."

The FBI and IMPD investigated this case with valuable assistance provided by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, the Madison County Sheriff's Department and the Chesterfield Police Department. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Court Judge James P. Hanlon. Judge Hanlon also ordered that Glenn be supervised by the U.S. Probation Office for life following his release from federal prison.

U.S. Attorney Myers thanked Assistant United States Attorney Kyle

Sawa, who prosecuted this case.

This investigation was conducted by the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, a multi-agency task force led by the Indiana State Police, charged with the prevention, interdiction, investigation, and prosecution of individuals who use the Internet to exploit children. The Indiana ICAC seeks to combat crimes against children through the Internet by vigorously investigating and prosecuting offenders. The task force aims to educate children and parents on Internet safety and responsibility through community outreach. Each year, Indiana ICAC investigators evaluate thousands of tips, investigate hundreds of cases, and rescue dozens of children from ongoing sexual abuse. Visit <https://www.in.gov/isp/icactf/> to learn more about their efforts.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

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# Gaming Commission Left Off Budget Committee Agenda Dealing With Fines And Fees

By Whitney Downard  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Agencies critical to the ongoing operations of state government justified their fees before the State Budget Committee Tuesday but one voice was notably absent: the Indiana Gaming Commission (IGC).

"I don't know if anybody else noticed it but I did," Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis, said as the meeting concluded. "I'm very concerned about it."

One lawmaker, Sen. Chris Garten, R-Charlestown, appears to be spearheading questions regarding the gaming commission's actions as part of his overall approach to limit agency power to impose fees, fines and penalties.

Rep. Jeff Thompson, chair of the Ways and Means Committee, told Porter there were a few lingering questions about the IGC and he expected they would be included on the December agenda.

Should the agency not be included in that, it won't be able to impose fines, fees or penalties because it's on a shortlist

of agencies that need to have those approved by Dec. 31.

But Sen. Ryan Mishler, who helms the Senate Appropriations Committee, said it was only part of the process.

"There were just some questions that haven't been answered that we've asked and so we feel we want those questions answered first before we move forward," Mishler, R-Mishawaka, said.

"... I think they've very simple questions that the legislature should know. When we give an agency ... the ability to create fines and fees, I think that means that they should explain to us what the process is."

"I think people are going to make more out of it than what it is," he continued.

\*\*\*

### Background on rule-making, fines and fees

In the 2023 session, lawmakers sharply limited the rule-making authority of the state's agencies with the power to impose fines. Not only did such departments need to publicly post fee schedules, but they needed such fines to be

approved by the State Budget Committee.

A few agencies were singled out for "expedited" review, due before Dec. 31 of this year but only the gaming commission was excluded from the November committee:

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)
- The Office of Environmental Adjudication
- The Natural Resources Commission
- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- The Indiana Gaming Commission, and
- The Indiana Horse Racing Commission

The rest of the agencies with the power to impose fees, roughly 30 others, have until July 1 to meet before the committee.

Some of those were also on the November agenda.

The ten agencies presented nearly 50 fees, ranging from penalties for violating animal quarantines to teacher licensure exam fees, from oversize truck fees to civil penalties for air violations.

Throughout the

meeting, Garten repeatedly asked agencies to justify increases and explain their process for determining amounts.

In the 2023 session, Garten sponsored the House legislation requiring the budget committee's approval, leading a meeting earlier this month on an update of that bill's actions.

"Our intent was to put checks and balances in place to make sure Indiana, regardless of what party is in power, never legislates like Washington (D.C.) through the level of authoritative rule-making and executive authority," Garten said on Nov. 1.

\*\*\*

### Back to the Indiana Gaming Commission

In that vein, Garten's office emailed major gaming players and stakeholders under the Indiana Gaming Commission asking them to share their experiences directly — and anonymously — with him.

"Senator Garten has been in regular communication with the (IGC) regarding its proposed new rules

which seeks to establish a regulatory fine schedule. The Senator has repeatedly relayed his concerns, based on direct input from operators, to the IGC. In response, the IGC has said they are not hearing the same concerns from operators," said an email from his office, obtained by the Indiana Capital Chronicle.

The email said discussions between Garten and the IGC were "at an impasse" and hearing from stakeholders directly would be the way "to move toward a productive outcome."

The anonymity would allow operators to speak candidly, the email said.

Garten said he was unavailable for an interview after Tuesday's meeting.

The timing comes at an inauspicious moment for the gaming industry, as observed during the meeting by Democratic Rep. Ed DeLaney, of Indianapolis.

"This is not a good time for us to have unanswered questions about the gaming commission," DeLaney said.

Last week, former GOP Rep. Sean Eberhart

agreed to plead guilty to a felony charge related to his lawmaker conduct, specifically for pushing through a lucrative gaming bill in exchange for a high-paying job.

Mishler emphasized that nothing about the exclusion of the Indiana Gaming Commission on Tuesday should be read as doubting the agency's abilities.

"That's not what this is; this is strictly to their process of fines and fees. We're not restricting how they operate and we're not questioning that," Mishler said. "We're only addressing the fines and fees and our questions are — strictly — to the gaming commission on that process and not anything else on how they operate."

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## BBB Tip: Shopping For Sports Team Merchandise? Research The Business First

When shopping for team jersey or other sports memorabilia, watch out for fakes. Scammers know that authentic game-used and/or autographed items can fetch big bucks – especially for items commemorating big games. When shopping online, it can be hard to trust that a seller or product is genuine. Follow these tips when buying sports memorabilia:

1. “Game-used” items are highly sought after. Buyers prize items that saw action on the court or field as valuable parts of sports history. Consumers should be aware that there is a significant difference between “game-used” and “game-issued.” For example, a game-issued jersey was designed for the player to wear, but it may not actually have been worn. There’s nothing wrong with selling that game-issued item—unless the seller scuffs it up and tries to pass it off as game-used for a higher price.

2. Autographs are even trickier. With the use of autopen, manufacturers can reproduce ink signatures hundreds of times. Again, there’s nothing wrong with selling autopen-signed items as long as they’re not misrepresented as personally signed by the player and priced accordingly. Buyers also need to watch out for online listings that describe items as “hand-signed” without specifying whose hand-signed it. That could be technically correct but still highly misleading.

3. Outright forgeries can be the hardest to spot, and this issue has plagued collectors for decades. If you don’t have time to become an autograph authentication expert but still want to make purchases, here are some steps you can take.

How the scam works - an example:

Victims of this scam typically find fake sports merchandise through a social media ad or a quick web search. These online scam stores have great photos and cheap prices, making them look believable. Victims report that, at first, the purchase seems normal. The site charges their credit card and sends a confirmation email. However, weeks pass, and the jersey never arrives. The anticipation of having a keepsake of a favorite team is suddenly dashed when the victim tries to contact customer service. They quickly find that neither the company nor the product exists.

One disappointed fan reported the following to BBB Scam Tracker: “This company advertised selling collector’s items of sports merchandise in special boxes. Each box was supposed to have a certain number of team-related items like a jersey, signed football or mini helmet, etc. I paid 69.99 for the top box of Chicago Bears items. What I actually got was a cheap no-brand jersey, an NFL keychain, and a face mask. I went to the website to ensure I didn’t misread anything, and the site was not work-

ing. We did not expect to be scammed out of items and not get what we paid for.”

How to avoid sports merchandise scams:

1. Be wary of deals that seem too good to be true. If the price of an item, collectible or not, is significantly less than what it is on other well-known retailers’ sites, this is a red flag that it might be a scam.

2. Research the company before you purchase. If the company is unfamiliar, check BBB.org to see if they have a BBB Business Profile or BBB Scam Tracker to see if anyone else has reported them as a scam. Look for contact information on the website, such as a phone number or brick-and-mortar address, as well as a robust social media presence to help determine if the company indeed does exist.

3. Never wire money or use a prepaid debit card as payment. Scammers often request both payment types, and once the money is gone, there is no way to get the money back. Instead, make online purchases with a credit card and only on secure (https) websites.

4. Double-check COAs: Certificates of authenticity (COAs) are the norm for memorabilia purchases, especially for costly items—so it’s likely that scammers will try to provide fake ones. A valid COA should state the qualifications and complete contact information of the issuer. Before you trust a COA, ensure it contains full and correct details on who issued it, and then make sure they’re a legitimate and reputable authority. If investing in a less expensive purchase that is not offered with a COA, the buyer should still request a written representation from the seller about the authenticity and origin of the item. It is also essential to establish and get a written statement about the item’s physical condition before you purchase it.

5. Take extra care at charity auctions: Some scammers target charities by providing “donations” of fake memorabilia. When considering a bid for an item at a charity auction, be vigilant and watch out for suspicious price valuations and shady authentications. When in doubt about an item, consider donating to the charity rather than an auction purchase.

6. Seek a money-back guarantee: If possible, work with a dealer who can guarantee a full refund of your purchase if you ever discover it’s a fraud. Check all terms and conditions of the sale, especially limitations, before buying the item.

For more information and to learn how to protect yourself, Google “BBB 10 Steps to Avoid Scams”. If you spot a scam, whether you have lost money or not, report it to BBB’s Scam Tracker at [BBB.org/ScamTracker](https://www.bbb.org/ScamTracker) and the FTC at [Report-Fraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov). Your story can help protect consumers from similar scams.

## Hoosiers Can Expect Lower Prices This Thanksgiving Compared To Last Year

Hoosiers will find some relief when it comes to purchasing ingredients for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner this year. Indiana Farm Bureau’s annual Thanksgiving market basket survey shows that Hoosier shoppers can expect to spend approximately 10% less at the grocery store than in 2022. According to this year’s pricing survey, Hoosiers are paying an average of \$54.64 for a Thanksgiving dinner for 10 people, or \$5.46 per person. Indiana’s market basket price also is approximately 11% lower, 66 cents less, than the U.S. average price of \$6.12 per person.

According to INFB Chief Economist Todd Davis, the main driver of the decrease is the lower cost of the turkey. This year, shoppers can expect to pay approximately \$1.38 per pound for a whole turkey, or \$22.11 for a 16-pound bird, which is a decrease of about 21% from 2022. This is largely due to the dramatic reduction in avian influenza cases and a recovery of the turkey population in the United States, specifically the Midwest, which produces the most turkeys.

“The Midwest region had the least expensive market basket at an average price of \$58.66,” said Dr. Davis. “Three out of the five top turkey-producing states are located in the Midwest, with Indiana ranking fourth. The concentration of turkey production in this region provides lower processing and marketing costs, which gets the turkey from the farm to the hands of the consumer efficiently.”

Even though there has been a decrease in the cost of a Thanksgiving meal since last year, Hoosiers are paying 28% more than they were four years ago, which mirrors the U.S. average cost. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics states the food-at-home consumer price index from January through October 2023, a measure of price changes at the grocery store, increased 4.9% year-over-year. For perspective, food-at-home annual costs for 2022 increased 11.4%.

“Even though the rate of inflation is not as extreme as last year, the cumulative effect of food inflation is still very much present,”

continued Dr. Davis.

“This includes the collective impact of labor, fuel, packaging and transportation costs, all of which are costs beyond the farm gate.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, just 14 cents of every retail food dollar can be attributed to farm production, after accounting for input costs. Using this figure, the farmer’s share of this \$54.64 market basket would be less than \$8. The rest is for food processing, packaging, transportation, wholesale and retail distribution, and food service preparation.

Additionally, droughts over the last few years have affected crops’ ability to grow, which drives up prices, in addition to high supply costs.

“It’s been a difficult few years for farmers in terms of high input costs and getting what we need to produce food, fuel and fiber for the world,” said Isabella Chism, INFB 2nd vice president. “And the amount farmers are being paid hasn’t covered the increase of their input expenses.”

“But Hoosier farmers continue to find ways to streamline their operations and decrease costs of production, and we are glad to see that this Thanksgiving will be a bit more affordable for consumers compared to last year.”

The total market basket price of \$54.64 includes a 16-pound turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls, peas, a carrot and celery veggie tray, whole milk, cranberries, whipping cream, ingredients for pumpkin pie and miscellaneous baking items.

Over half of the items in the market basket are less expensive for Hoosiers than last year, most notably the turkey, whipping cream and cranberries. There were some items that increased in price. The largest percentage price increase was for pumpkin pie filling mix and frozen peas.

Only pumpkin pie filling, sweet potatoes, a veggie tray and cranberries are more expensive in Indiana this year than they are nationally. All other items on the shopping list came in equal to or less than the national average, most notably the turkey, whole milk and pie shells.

## Tire Pollution: Scourge of Road Traffic, Regardless Of Drivetrain

### EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What kinds of pollution do automobile tires cause?

Tire wear pollution was in the news recently after a group of Native American tribes in the Pacific Northwest asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate a possible link between tire pollution and declining populations of wild coho salmon there. The tribes blame the chemical 6PPD, which has been used in motor vehicle tires for over six decades to make them more durable. It is also widely used in other rubber products such as footwear, synthetic turf and playgrounds. While it might make rubber stronger, 6PPD can react with ozone pollution in the air to form a by-product called 6PPD-quinone. Stormwater runoff containing 6PPD-quinone inevitably runs off into streams and other water bodies during rain, when aquatic organisms are exposed to it. Concentrations of 6PPD-quinone in storm water in the Pacific Northwest were found to be lethal to coho salmon after only a few hours of exposure.

6PPD isn’t the only bad stuff coming off tires. Another is microplastics, also used to strengthen the rubber in tires but linked to a wide range of toxic effects that can make their way up the food chain to our dinner plates. Another major consequence of tire wear and tear is the release of airborne pollutants. When tires roll over roads, they generate friction, which leads to the production of tiny particles and chemical compounds that can become airborne. These pollutants can include fine particulate matter (PM2.5), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Particulate matter from tire wear is an especially concerning pollutant because it can be inhaled by humans and animals, causing respiratory problems and other issues. Fine particulate matter can also contribute to the formation of smog and haze, reducing air quality in urban

areas. VOCs and PAHs emitted from tire wear can react with other pollutants in the atmosphere to create ground-level ozone, a key component of smog. Ground-level ozone is harmful to human health and can cause respiratory issues, especially in vulnerable populations, such as children and the elderly.

Tire wear and tear also pollutes water, and not only in salmon habitat. When it rains, the water washes tire particles into stormwater drains and eventually into rivers, lakes, and oceans. The runoff can contain not only microplastics but also a variety of chemicals used in tire manufacturing and those generated during tire wear. These chemicals may include heavy metals, such as zinc and cadmium, which can have toxic effects on aquatic life and disrupt ecosystems. Furthermore, the leaching of chemicals from tires into water bodies can lead to long-term contamination of aquatic environments.

Tiremakers are working on more durable and eco-friendly tire materials that emit fewer pollutants. To wit, low rolling resistance tires can help improve fuel efficiency and reduce both tire wear and associated pollution. Meanwhile, we can all help by getting maintaining our vehicles regularly and making sure the tires are inflated to recommended levels. Getting out of our cars altogether and walking, biking and taking public transit are also great ways to reduce reliance on cars and all the environmental evils they cause.

*CONTACTS: After Salmon Deaths, EPA Takes Aim at Toxic Chemical Issuing from Car Tires, <https://e360.yale.edu/digest/epa-tire-chemical-salmon-6ppd>; Road Hazard: Evidence Mounts on Toxic Pollution from Tires, <https://e360.yale.edu/features/tire-pollution-toxic-chemicals>; Can tires turn green? <https://cen.acs.org/environment/sustainable-tire-market/101/i17>.*

*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).*

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# A New Character Joins The Cast?



**TIM TIMMONS**  
Two Cents

One of the great things about my line of work is people. I get to work with, and meet, all sorts of folks. Some are fascinating characters, some become life-long friends, some not so much. Regardless, I consider myself blessed and fortunate to have come across so many of you.

Good, bad or indifferent, there have been a few who stick out. John Hammer comes to mind. Ditto with Bubba Castiron and his pals, Elvis, Gumball, Tater, Big Country and Bambi. And I can't forget sports prognosticator the Bubbling Caldron, the guy who shoots straight from the hip every day, Honest Hoosier, and my favorite sleuth HAM – the Hamilton Answer Man.

As my lovely wife told me, I just seem to attract a certain type. I told her thanks for the compliment. Her look suggested maybe that's not how she meant it.

Anywho, they all might've been topped last week when a woman came up to me outside the coffee shop. I had just grabbed a cup of hot black coffee – none of that frilly foo-foo crap for me – and was checking email on my phone while I walked back to the office.

"You're that newspaper guy, right?" a raspy voice asked.

I looked up and saw a woman who could have been anywhere from 45 to 65. She had really dark hair that maybe wasn't her original color. It was chilly out and she had on slacks, a loose sweater and a light jacket. Her oversized sunglasses did not hide that she was wearing a bit too much makeup and her eyebrows were heavily penciled in and gave her a look between surprise and exasperation. She held a cigarette in one hand and a purse in the other. Truth to tell, she could have stepped out of a time machine from 1965.

"I am," I replied. "Tim Timmons." And I held out my hand.

"Patina," she said with a firm grasp. Even if I hadn't seen the cigarette, her voice and the mixture of heavy perfume and stale smell of smoke would've given her away. "Patina Woody. Nice to meet you."

Like I said, I'm lucky in that I get to meet a lot of nice folks – and someone stopping me and telling me they like my columns isn't all that unusual.

"Do you write for the newspaper," she asked.

So much for my columns.

"I do," I said. "How did you know I was with the newspaper though?"

"Your shirt," she said

pointing to the paper's logo. "Kind of a give-away, don't you think?"

Oh. "Listen," she went on, "I've got an idea that I'd like to get to someone. Know how we can make that happen?"

"It depends," I answered. "What's it about?"

"I heard the debate in the House the other day on more aid for Israel," she started. "And I liked the idea that they were going to take money out of the IRS and send it to Israel."

She paused to cough, a deep, jarring cough.

"First off, I don't like the IRS – no one does," she continued. "But more than that I really liked the idea that instead of printing more useless money on paper, that they were not going to spend more – just reallocate."

I had to agree. That was one of the first positive things I had heard out of our government in some time.

"That got me to thinking," she said, blowing a thick cloud of smoke over her shoulder. "Why not create a cabinet position that is the secretary of waste? The job would be to find ways to not just cut spending, but if money has to be spent, take it away from some bloated department somewhere . . . just like they did with the IRS."

It's a great idea, I thought. It also has no

chance of success.

"Tell you what, Pat, I –" "Patina," she snapped. "Sorry?"

"Patina. My name is Patina. I don't go by Pat."

"Oh, I apologize. Listen, I think it's a great idea, but you have to know it'll never happen, right?"

"That's the trouble with the world today," she said between puffs. "We find the answers and then we toss them aside because we say the hired hands in Washington will never go along. If we keep doing that, then nothing will ever change. We need to tell them what the right answers are and then hold them accountable when they go back to business as usual in the swamp."

What could I say? She was right. "Listen newspaper guy, if you want to know how to fix this quit talking to them. Ask a woman. They know how to get things done."

She walked away. I really do meet the most interesting people.

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

# Governor Holcomb Declares Nov. 15 America Recycles Day

Governor Eric J. Holcomb issued a proclamation declaring Nov. 15 America Recycles Day in Indiana. In partnership with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the proclamation recognizes America Recycles Day, which is the only nationally recognized day in the U.S. reminding us of the importance of recycling. The day provides an educational platform to raise awareness about the value of reducing, reusing and recycling – recognizing the economic, environmental, and social benefits of recycling and promoting a circular economy.

More than half of Indiana's waste goes to landfills or incinerators instead of being recycled. Amer-

ica Recycles Day serves to remind Hoosiers to increase recycling efforts and commit to reducing waste, making recycling an everyday habit, and buying recycled products.

Recycling is growing in Indiana. The statewide recycling rate was 12% in 2015 and increased to 20% in 2022. Additionally, Indiana diverted more than 1 million tons of commodity recyclables (glass, metals, paper, plastics) from landfills in 2022. Paper and cardboard represented the largest amount of material diverted, followed by glass.

To learn more about recycling in Indiana, visit [recycle.IN.gov](http://recycle.IN.gov). More information about America Recycles Day can be found at [americarecyclesday.org](http://americarecyclesday.org).

## BETSY From Page A1

after school together to turn all of their hard work into a show. The musical will be on stage for four performances, opening tonight and continuing through Saturday at NHS Auditorium.

This school year will mark a lot of lasts.

On July 31, she had her "last" first day of school. And in October, she had her "last" fall break of high school.

On Oct. 29, she had her "last" night of Headless Horseman as a Conner Prairie youth volunteer with all of her youth volunteer friends. Tears were shed with those friends.

Tonight, my daughter will have her "last" opening night of her "last" high school musical. And Saturday will have her "last" closing night, with a lot of laughs and tears in between.

Next week, she'll have her "last" opening night of Merry Prairie as a Conner Prairie youth volunteer. And in December will be her "last" night of Merry Prairie as a youth volunteer.

In December, will be her "last" NHS holiday concert on the NHS stage.

There will be basketball games to watch and lots of things to do during her "last" school year.

Just after the new year, her "last" NHS Singers choir competition will begin with a whirlwind of competitions before her "last" competition in late March, followed by her "last" spring break of high school.

This will be her "last" year as a NHS thespian officer. Her "last" year to be on the NHS Broadcast News. Her "last" year in NHS Singers mixed varsity show choir.

It will be her "last" year -- her 10th -- to be a Hamilton County 4-H'er.

There will be many "lasts" this school year. But even though there will be tears of sadness, there will be tears of joy. For as this high school chapter ends, another chapter in life begins. We can't wait to see what happens next.

But for now, this week, time will stand still as our daughter takes the NHS stage. We are so proud and can't wait to see her shine as Ella's stepsister, Gabrielle. Addie, you make the impossible possible. And break a leg! (That's theater talk for "Good luck.")

*-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times Editor Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes24-7.com).*

# Duke Energy Offers More Than \$425,000 In Energy Bill Assistance To Help Hoosier Families Facing Financial Hardship

To help lower energy costs for low-income families this winter, Duke Energy Indiana is making more than \$425,000 in financial aid available to eligible customers through the company's Share the Light Fund®.

"The assistance we offer through the Share the Light Fund will help community members who may struggle to pay their electric bills as the temperatures dip," said Stan Pinegar, president of Duke

Energy Indiana. "Customers with past-due utility bills or in need of ongoing assistance can take advantage of these funds to get the help they need."

Duke Energy works in partnership with the Indiana Community Action Association to distribute funds to qualifying customers to pay energy bills, deposits and reconnection/connection charges.

"As the weather gets colder, the cost of heating a home and keeping

the lights on can become a significant burden for families who are already struggling to make ends meet," said Ed Gerardot, executive director of the Indiana Community Action Agency. "These funds can provide much-needed relief for our neighbors in need, helping ensure they can stay warm through the winter."

Eligibility for the Share the Light Fund is based on income, family size and the availability of

resources. Customers can receive up to a \$300 credit annually on their account. Individuals should contact their local community action agency to see if they are eligible. Click here to find a listing of service providers by county.

Duke Energy offers a number of other tools and resources to help customers take control of their energy use and save money. To learn more about these programs, visit [duke-energy.com/HereToHelp](http://duke-energy.com/HereToHelp).

## GRANTS

From Page A1

help provide crisis intervention and support services for survivors of crime and abuse. PrimeLife Enrichment and Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County, agencies that provide programs and services to support senior citizens, have each been awarded \$100,000. And \$99,000 was awarded to Good Samaritan Network, a network of nonprofits in Hamilton County serving the needs of at-risk and underserved Hamilton County residents. A complete list of recipients is below.

"The County Council and County Commissioners are proud to support these community not-for-profit partners in a mean-

ingful way," Maki says. "We are fortunate that we have these professionally run organizations serving our citizens in need."

Grant applications for not-for-profit funding in 2025 will be due June 3, 2024. Awards are provided based on application score and funding available. Complete information, including eligibility criteria, can be found on the application. <https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/1682/Non-profit-Grant-Application>

- Prevail: \$180,000
- PrimeLife Enrichment: \$100,000
- Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County: \$100,000
- Good Samaritan Net-

- work of Hamilton County: \$99,000
- Trinity Free Clinic: \$53,230
- Family Promise of Hamilton County: \$47,250
- The Cooper House: \$45,000
- Heart & Soul Clinic: \$36,000
- Indiana Center for the Prevention of Youth Abuse & Suicide: \$30,000
- Ignite Transform: \$25,000
- HOPE Family Care Center: \$20,000
- Teter Organic Farm: \$15,499
- Meals on Wheels: \$15,000
- Low Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic: \$15,000
- Same As U Inc.: \$14,000

- Carmel Education Foundation (Mental Health Initiative): \$10,000
- Hamilton Heights Education Foundation (Mental Health Initiative): \$10,000
- Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation (Mental Health): \$10,000
- Noblesville Schools Education Foundation (Mental Health): \$10,000
- Sheridan Education Foundation (Mental Health Initiative): \$10,000
- Westfield Education Foundation (Mental Health Initiative): \$10,000
- Connor Prairie Museum: \$7,500
- Healthier Hamilton County Systems of Care: \$2,450

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**HAMILTON COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING NOTICE**

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Redevelopment Commission will meet on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom located in the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana 46060.

*TL20968 11/16 1t hspaxlp*

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HONEST HOOSIER



The Mighty Wabash River flows through Cass County. Mighty good fishin' in those parts!

# I ndiana

# Facts Fun



## Number $\%$ Stumpers

1. What is the county's population per square mile?
1. How many towns does the county have?
3. What percentage of the county is made up of Logansport?
4. How old is Cass County?

Answers: 1. 93.9 per square mile 2. 7 towns 3. About 2.57% 4. 189 years

## Did You Know?

- Cass County was founded in 1829 and named after General Lewis Cass.
- As of 2010 the county had a population of 38,966 individuals and was 414.85 square miles.
- Logansport, the county seat, is home to the oldest high school mascot in Indiana, Felix the Cat.
- Cass County has one city, Logansport, and seven towns.
- Logansport is 10.68 square miles and has a diverse transportation history.

## Got Words?

Cass County was named in honor of General Lewis Cass who was crucial in generating treaties with Native Americans for land. How do you think General Cass's role played a part in the formation of Cass County and the lifestyles of it's residents.

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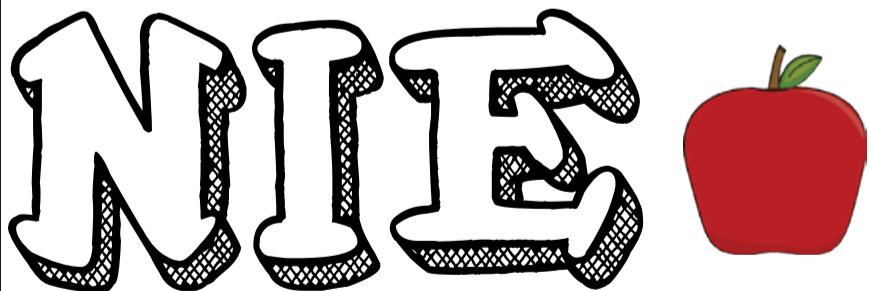
## Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. NGELEAR CSAS
2. GRLNPSOATO
3. LEIFX
4. STTIOPATRNOARN
5. ASCS YCTNUO

Answers: 1. General Cass 2. Logansport 3. Felix 4. Transportation 5. Cass County

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