

The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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TODAY'S VERSE

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

Hamilton Happenings

Live east of Noblesville near the Pennington Road and Middletown Avenue area? Then you might be interested in a public information meeting the Hamilton County Highway Department has scheduled. The topic will be to discuss replacing a small structure in the area. The meeting is set for Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. in the commissioners' courtroom in the County Government and Judicial Center. Any and all interested parties are welcome to attend and ask questions about the proposed design and plans.

Three Things You Should Know

1 Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita partnered with several states in defending Second Amendment liberties against what he called radical efforts to restrict civilian access to legally manufactured ammunition. On Jan. 9, Democratic attorneys general sent a letter to the White House demanding an "investigation" into a specific ammunition manufacturer — Lake City Army Ammunition Plant — in order "to ensure that military-grade and military-subsidized ammunition stays out of civilian hands." In their own letter to the White House, Attorney General Rokita and several joining states pledged "to take any and every action necessary to defend our citizens' Second Amendment rights."

2 Indiana educators are encouraged to apply for the 2024 Natural Resources Teacher Institute, June 24-28 at the Forestry Training Center at Morgan-Monroe State Forest. This week-long immersive professional development program will provide educators with the knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively teach their students about forest ecology, research, and management in Indiana. There is no cost to participants, and meals and housing are also provided. Participants will earn 30+ Professional Growth Points. Learn more at dnr.IN.gov/forestry/programs/education/nrti.

3 Young thespians, heads up! Beef & Boards has a casting call for The King and I and The Wizard of Oz. Auditions for children ages 5-18 are open to children who are physically and ethnically diverse. Children must be able to sing and move well. Auditions are by appointment only, and audition requests can be made online at beefandboards.com. No phone calls, please. Auditions take place Feb. 17. Callbacks are the next day. For more information, visit on Sunday, Feb. 18, at a time to be announced. No alternate dates/times are available currently. For more information, visit <https://beefandboards.net/auditions/audition-menu.html>

British Comedy Opens Tonight



Photos courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Rylee Odle (Roscoe Crabbe) of Noblesville loves to do comedy and is part of a family of Odles involved in The Belfry Theatre's "One Man, Two Guvnors," a comedy opening tonight at The Switch Theatre in Fishers. Her mom, Andrea Odle is director and set designer, her dad, Mason Odle, is in the cast and sister, Lexi Odle, is producer. For tickets, visit www.thebelfrytheatre.com.

➔ More photos inside on Page A2



Mason Odle (from left) and daughter, Rylee Odle, both of Noblesville, Josh Rooks of Indianapolis, Laura Wertz of Noblesville and Bella Lazarides of McCordsville are featured in a scene from The Belfry Theatre's "One Man, Two Guvnors"



Eric Bowman of Noblesville (as Charlie "Charlie the Duck" Clench) (who got his start acting at The Belfry) and Laura Wertz of Noblesville (as Harriet Dangle) (and who says "this cast is super weird") rehearse a scene.

The Feeding Team: A History Lesson



MARK HALL
Guest Columnist

Like any company, city, state, church or charity, Feeding Team has a history. This month we are telling our story. How did the Feeding Team come to be?

Jump in the way back time machine with me for a few minutes and let's head back in time to 1986. Gas cost .93 cents a gallon on average, eggs were .87 cents a dozen, the median price of a home was about \$76,000, Ronald Reagan was our president and reactor number four of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded in a devastating accident. Meanwhile, living in a three-bedroom ranch home in the southern tip of Noblesville Indiana was a young married couple raising two daughters. Like most of our contemporaries these were the beginnings of our salad days. With seven years of wedded bliss behind us we had the world by the tail, until we didn't. You see what we didn't know was that the world can be a very tough place when you are struggling to make a life, when you're struggling to make a living.

Both of us worked. We did not know anything about public assistance, food pantries, trustees or for that matter what to do when everything we did simply was not enough. What we knew in our self-reliance was that when something went bump in the night, we would simply power through. Like most people in their twenties in the 1980s we took things day by day. Life was a great blessing and when times got tough, we'd get tougher. Until effort wasn't enough. Looking back on it now, we didn't realize how close to the line we were living. What we experienced, like many families, was a struggle to make ends meet when something didn't go according to plan. We lived one dentist bill, one blown tire, one unexpected annual premium away from not knowing how we'd feed ourselves and our two, later three daughters. We were what is today referred to as a GAP family. These are our neighbors who make too much money to qualify for any form of public assistance BUT, who don't make enough money to not become food insecure when something goes wrong. In short, there were more meals than I'd like to admit that featured Kroger cost cutter beef stew as the entrée and a baked potato as the side dish. During the next three plus decades, supporting food charities was always at the front of the list of our charity support. As we opened our first business in 1993, donating to support families that were food challenged was part of our annual mission. For years, along with our employees, we would support Shepherd Community Center on the

➔ See MARK Page A3

Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – Will my WEP Reduction Go Away if I Continue Working?



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters
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Dear Rusty:
I'm 63 years old and have not yet started my Social Security. I now work for the State of Illinois and will draw a pension from that state's university system. I don't pay into Social Security from this position and, as a result, my Social Security payment will be reduced. But I have also worked elsewhere and contributed to Social Security for 26 years.

If I retire from the state university and begin drawing my reduced Social Security payment, and then work in a different job which does contribute to SS, will the reduction to my Social Security payment ever be eliminated? Or will I be permanently stuck with the smaller Social Security payment?
Signed: Curious Educator

➔ See RUSTY Page A2

Identity Theft Awareness Week Good Reminder for Seniors

This week was Identity Theft Awareness Week, and Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is encouraging all Hoosiers to beware of cyber criminals and how to protect their personal information. "We rely heavily on technology these days, and

➔ See IDENTITY Page A4

Romance Scam Tricks Victims Into Laundering Money

Better Business Bureau
With Valentine's Day looming, romance is in the air. If you seek love via a dating app, watch for scammers who only love your money. Scammers

➔ See SCAM Page A4

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Instead of sitting down and watching the tube after a meal, take a 20-minute walk.

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"The groundhog is like most other prophets. It delivers its prediction and then disappears."
Bill Vaughn

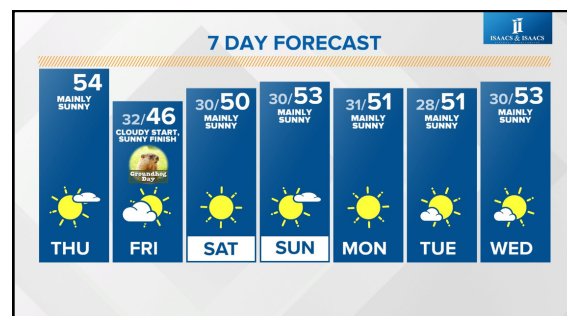
TODAY'S JOKE

What'd the groundhog in France see?
His chateau!

OBITUARIES

None

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



Judge Andrew Bloch to be Honored with Robing Ceremony

Judge Andrew Bloch will be honored with a robing ceremony on Wednesday at 4 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse in Noblesville. Bloch was recently appointed to the Hamilton County Circuit Court bench by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, after serving as a magistrate judge in Hamilton County Circuit and Superior Courts since 2019. Bloch fills the vacated seat of Judge Paul Felix who was appointed to the Indiana Court of Appeals last summer. "I am grateful for the trust placed in me by Governor Holcomb," Bloch said. "As I take on this new role, I am eager to contribute to the continued excellence of our legal system and to serve the good people of Hamilton County. I look forward to the journey ahead." Prior to his tenure as a magistrate, Bloch worked as an attorney at Cross Pennamped Woolsey & Glazier, specializing in family law and appellate law. He is also an active member of the Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum. Bloch is a proud alumnus of Xavier University, where he earned his undergraduate degree, and the Indiana University McKinney School of Law, where he obtained his Juris Doctor.



Mason Odle (as Francis Henshall) and Bailey Hunt (as Stanley Stubbers) rehearse.



Photos courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Nikki Lynch of Noblesville "is absolutely chuffed to be playing the role of Dolly" in this production of The Belfry Theatre's "One Man, Two Guvnors" British comedy, opening tonight and continuing through Feb. 11 at The Switch Theatre in Fishers.

↓ RUSTY From Page A1

Dear Curious: A rule called the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) will apply to your Social Security benefit because your IL state pension was earned without paying into the Social Security program. The basic rule is that anyone with a pension earned without contributing to Social Security, and who is also entitled to Social Security benefits, is subject to WEP, which reduces that person's Social Security retirement benefit. It's a law enacted many years ago to equalize how SS benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries. However, the WEP rules also provide relief for those who have only a small non-covered pension, and for those who have separately contributed to Social Security for a lot of years. For example:

- The WEP reduction to your SS benefit cannot be more than 50% of your non-covered (IL) pension
- The WEP reduction is smaller for each year over 20 years contributing to Social Security from substantial earnings
- WEP does not apply to those who have at least 30 years contributing to SS from substantial earnings

Although you could retire at 63 and collect your pension from the university and also collect your WEP-reduced Social Security, you have something else to consider if you take another job which pays into Social Security. Social Security has an annual "earnings test" for those who collect benefits before their full retirement age (FRA). The earnings test limits how much you can earn while collecting early SS before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, you will lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. If your work earnings substantially exceed the earnings limit, you would likely be temporarily ineligible to receive Social Security benefits. FYI, the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 67.

Without knowing your expected income from a new job, I can't say how much of your SS you would be able to receive, but you can use this as a guide: Social Security will take away benefits equal to half of what you exceed the annual earnings limit by, and they typically recover by withholding future benefits. If 12 months or more of benefits are withheld, you will be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits until your earnings are less, or you reach your full retirement age (the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your FRA). So, depending on your expected annual work earnings, you may wish to defer claiming your Social Security until you either earn less or reach 67 years of age. If you already have 26 years contributing to Social Security from "substantial earnings," your WEP reduction will already be mitigated, and any additional years of substantial earnings from which SS payroll taxes are deducted will result in an even smaller WEP reduction. If you can achieve 30 years of SS contributions from substantial work earnings, WEP will no longer apply. So, you may not be "stuck with" the WEP reduction permanently, but you will need to contact Social Security to request that your WEP reduction amount be reviewed in light of any additional years of SS-covered earnings (this should be done after you submit your income taxes each year you have additional SS-covered earnings).

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Hamilton County Artists' Association to Feature 6 New Members During February

Hamilton County Artists' Association has juried in six new members and will be showcasing those members at their gallery at 5th in Cherry streets in Noblesville throughout the month of February. A special First Friday reception will be held for this exhibit this evening from 6-8 p.m. and will feature work by the six new members, as well as live music by local musician Naomi Ober.

- The six new members of HCAA are:
- Susan Cook
 - Laura McCormick
 - Amanda Russo
 - Liz Hamstra
 - Jeff Pass
 - Michael White

These six artists submitted their work for review by HCAA's jury committee, which is made up of members who hold key art degrees or professional artistic accomplishments. The selected new artist members showed excellence in painting, drawing, photography, and/or sculpture. They will now be eligible to participate in all HCAA member exhibits and events in the future. HCAA convenes its jury committee up to four times a year. Anyone interested in becoming a member of HCAA can visit www.hcaa-in.org/membership

Spartz Back for Round Two of Town Halls



Rep. Victoria Spartz (IN-05) announced her second series of 2024 town halls to provide updates on her work in Washington D.C. and hear directly from her constituents on the issues important for them:

Madison County
 Thursday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 InerG Impact Center
 2629 Lindberg Rd.
 Anderson

Tipton County
 Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Tipton County Foundation
 1020 W. Jefferson Street

Howard County
 Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Kokomo Public Library
 220 N. Union Street



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NEWS

THE TIMES

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MARK From Page A1

near East side of Indianapolis with donations for food, volunteer hours preparing and serving meals and doing what we could to support families each holiday season with meals. Jump back in the time machine and journey ahead with me to 2019. These same two formerly food challenged parents are praying through what they are to do headed into 2020 and cannot escape the embedded need to do something in their local area. After living in Hamilton County for thirty-three years we knew what was supposed to happen. We knew we were to turn our attention to our local neighbors here in Hamilton County. But what to do? Enter Jay Height, the Executive Director of Shepherd Community Center. Understanding where we were being led to put the effort, he tells us about these outdoor pantries modelled after the small book lending libraries. He sent us an article from the Courier Journal in Louisville. An article that describes in detail how the Nazarene church has forty of these outdoor no questions asked food pantries deployed all around Bullitt County Kentucky. Two phone calls later and we have the materials list and plans in our email. Boom, The Feeding Team is born.

Taking that model, we added our business as a funding source and launched the first six pantries in the middle of the pandemic. All we had to give neighbors was Gatorade and microwave popcorn. It didn't matter, we were beginning, and hungry neighbors were starting to get food that they desperately needed. Today fifty-eight pantries are in service with a plan to launch another dozen. Now you know our story. Now you know where Feeding Team came from. If you feel led to help, please join us in our mission to provide meals to hungry neighbors. With over 47,000 food challenged neighbors in Hamilton County, www.Feedingteam.org is a registered 501C3 not for profit organization that provides outdoor 24x7x365 no questions asked, free food pantries throughout the county. The pantries exist, to meet the food insecurity needs of GAP families, neighbors that may not qualify for public assistance and could use a few meals before payday. The pantries serve as many food-challenged neighbors as possible, and our hearts are with those that, like my family, could not always make ends meet. Thank you for supporting the pantries. We love serving with so many neighbors across Hamilton County. In future columns we will

share more stories about how your generosity served neighbors in times of need. The face of hunger in Hamilton County is not what you may think. In practical terms this straightforward way to help neighbors is having a real impact on lives, families, and our communities. Thank you. A few meals can change the course of a person's life. A can of green beans means so much more when you have nothing to feed your kids. Would you like to get involved? Volunteer opportunities are available. We are evaluating new pantry locations. If you think you have a potential area location, please contact us. www.feedingteam.org facts - 58 pantries, over 10,000 meals in September 2023, over thirty volunteer families. Mark & Lisa Hall are the Founders of The Feeding Team. They may be reached at lisa@feedingteam.org and mark@feedingteam.org or 317-832-1123.

Mark Hall is a Hamilton County Councilman and the Founder and CEO of TLX, Talent Logistix. Feeding Families outdoor Free Food pantries is the corporate charity of his company. Mark and his wife founded the food charity program the team after living with food insecurity as a young married couple with kids.

Recorders Announce Effort to Crack Down on Property Fraud

With the increasing threat of mortgage fraud and identity theft, Hamilton County Recorder Trini Beaver and the Recorders Association of Indiana are urging residents to take advantage of the FREE Property Fraud Protection available to them. Over 72,000 Hoosiers have already signed up for this crucial service, providing an early warning system for property owners to detect and address potentially fraudulent activities. "Your property is likely the most significant investment you'll ever

make, and we want to help you safeguard it," Beaver says. "By signing up for property fraud protection, you are taking a proactive step to stay ahead of criminals who prey on property owners." The Recorder's Association of Indiana recently launched a public awareness campaign to educate residents across the state about the importance of Property Fraud Protection and encourage them to take advantage of the free service offered

by county Recorders. Property Fraud Protection acts as an early warning system, allowing property owners to take appropriate actions promptly if suspicious activity is detected. It also ensures that recorded documents are legitimate and provides individuals with notifications confirming that their documents have been properly recorded. To sign up or learn more about this valuable service, residents are encouraged to visit <https://watch.doxpop.com/property/>.

Noblesville Lions Remember Our Seniors



Photo courtesy Noblesville Lions

At a recent Lions meeting the Noblesville Lions spent time filling out cards as a Valentine gift for local seniors in nursing homes. Gesture was meant as a thanks and remembrance to those who may, or may not, hear from family at that time. The cards will be distributed sometime before Valentines Day. Three members busy filling out cards were, from left, Lions John Terhune, Steve Stage and Gene Beck.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Project: Hamilton County Special Projects 2024
Bid Package: 04 Jail Campus Façade Repairs
Scope of work: Miscellaneous exterior masonry repairs/cleaning throughout the Hamilton County campus.
Contractor Bids: Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Hamilton County, Indiana, during its regularly scheduled meeting in the Commissioners' Courtroom will receive sealed bids for items as listed below. These sealed bids must be forwarded by registered mail or delivered in person to the Hamilton County Auditor, located in the basement of the historic courthouse at 33 North 9th Street, Suite L21, Noblesville, Indiana 46060 prior to 11:30 a.m. on February 23rd, 2024. After 11:30 a.m. bids may be delivered to the Commissioners' Courtroom up to the time of the noticed bid opening. All bids will be opened and read aloud beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23rd, 2024.
Project Information: To request project documents (drawings, scope of work, etc.), please email HamiltonCountyBids@skender.com and access will be provided.
Subcontractor walkthrough: Contact Mitch Imler (317-417-2712 or HamiltonCountyBids@skender.com) to schedule.
Questions: All questions and correspondence should be directed to HamiltonCountyBids@skender.com.
 TL21145 1/26 2/2 2t hspaxlp

Project: Hamilton County Special Projects 2024
Bid Package: 05 Judicial Center Damper Replacement
Scope of work: Replacing 6 dampers and installing new controls on top of the existing Judicial Center.
Contractor Bids: Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Hamilton County, Indiana, during its regularly scheduled meeting in the Commissioners' Courtroom will receive sealed bids for items as listed below. These sealed bids must be forwarded by registered mail or delivered in person to the Hamilton County Auditor, located in the basement of the historic courthouse at 33 North 9th Street, Suite L21, Noblesville, Indiana 46060 prior to 11:30 a.m. on February 23rd, 2024. After 11:30 a.m. bids may be delivered to the Commissioners' Courtroom up to the time of the noticed bid opening. All bids will be opened and read aloud beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23rd, 2024.
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Questions: All questions and correspondence should be directed to HamiltonCountyBids@skender.com.
 TL21146 1/26 2/2 2t hspaxlp

Project: Hamilton County Special Projects 2024
Bid Package: 06 Paving
Scope of work: Asphalt refurbishment and asphalt additions at multiple Hamilton County buildings/lots.
Contractor Bids: Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Hamilton County, Indiana, during its regularly scheduled meeting in the Commissioners' Courtroom will receive sealed bids for items as listed below. These sealed bids must be forwarded by registered mail or delivered in person to the Hamilton County Auditor, located in the basement of the historic courthouse at 33 North 9th Street, Suite L21, Noblesville, Indiana 46060 prior to 11:30 a.m. on February 23rd, 2024. After 11:30 a.m. bids may be delivered to the Commissioners' Courtroom up to the time of the noticed bid opening. All bids will be opened and read aloud beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23rd, 2024.
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Questions: All questions and correspondence should be directed to HamiltonCountyBids@skender.com.
 TL21147 1/26 2/2 2t hspaxlp

Project: Hamilton County Special Projects 2024
Bid Package: 07 Exterior Painting at Community Corrections campus
Scope of work: Exterior prepping and painting at Hamilton County Community Corrections campus
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Questions: All questions and correspondence should be directed to HamiltonCountyBids@skender.com.
 TL21148 1/26 2/2 2t hspaxlp

Project: Hamilton County Special Projects 2024
Bid Package: 08 Jail Block Plumbing Repairs and Sewer Cleaning.
Scope of work: Replacing copper, cast pipe, and valves in jail cell blocks. Sewer cleaning for multiple Hamilton County buildings
Contractor Bids: Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Hamilton County, Indiana, during its regularly scheduled meeting in the Commissioners' Courtroom will receive sealed bids for items as listed below. These sealed bids must be forwarded by registered mail or delivered in person to the Hamilton County Auditor, located in the basement of the historic courthouse at 33 North 9th Street, Suite L21, Noblesville, Indiana 46060 prior to 11:30 a.m. on February 23rd, 2024. After 11:30 a.m. bids may be delivered to the Commissioners' Courtroom up to the time of the noticed bid opening. All bids will be opened and read aloud beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23rd, 2024.
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Subcontractor walkthrough: Contact Mitch Imler (317-417-2712 or HamiltonCountyBids@skender.com) to schedule.
Questions: All questions and correspondence should be directed to HamiltonCountyBids@skender.com.
 TL21149 1/26 2/2 2t hspaxlp

Project: Hamilton County Special Projects 2024
Bid Package: 09 Historic Courthouse Windows and Doors
Scope of work: Replace 58 windows and refurbish 9 historic windows on the Historic Jail. Replace 8 new doors on the Historic Courthouse.
Contractor Bids: Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Hamilton County, Indiana, during its regularly scheduled meeting in the Commissioners' Courtroom will receive sealed bids for items as listed below. These sealed bids must be forwarded by registered mail or delivered in person to the Hamilton County Auditor, located in the basement of the historic courthouse at 33 North 9th Street, Suite L21, Noblesville, Indiana 46060 prior to 11:30 a.m. on February 23rd, 2024. After 11:30 a.m. bids may be delivered to the Commissioners' Courtroom up to the time of the noticed bid opening. All bids will be opened and read aloud beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23rd, 2024.
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Questions: All questions and correspondence should be directed to HamiltonCountyBids@skender.com.
 TL21150 1/26 2/2 2t hspaxlp

Thank you for reading The Times!

16698 Birdbrook Road Noblesville • \$589,900
SOLD!

 Stunning 5BR, 4.5BA in Essex of Noblesville. Custom designed with in-laws quarters on main level, kitchen with quartz, butler's pantry, premium lot w/pond view, walk-out basement, 3-car garage plus storage, a must see to appreciate all this home has to offer. BLC#21949379

Call Peggy 317.439.3258 or Jennifer 317.695.6032

 Your house could be here! Give us a call.

18865 Wimbley Way Noblesville • \$289,900
SOLD!

 This 3 BR, 2 BA ranch is located in family friendly Fairfield Farms. Huge great room w/doors leading to covered patio & fenced backyard, kitchen w/pantry, dining area & all appliances stay, new windows, water softener & HVAC in 2020. Fence, roof & gutters 2021. BLC#21949582

10717 Upland Way Noblesville • \$349,900
SOLD!

 Welcome to this lovely 4 BR, 2.5 BA home, kitchen with center island and newer SS appliances, spacious family room with gas fireplace, park-like backyard with maintenance free deck, auto-retractable awning, paver patio, basketball court and cute she shed. BLC#21949680

Time to plan your next move. Time to Speak to Deak!

Jennifer
Peggy

Speak to Deak.com
317.439.3258 Peggy or 317.695.6032 Jennifer

↓ IDENTITY From Page A1

while it often makes life easier, it also puts everyday Hoosiers at greater risk," Rokita said. "Cyber-attacks happen far too often, and our identities are vulnerable with any online activity. The best thing Hoosiers can do is educate themselves and stay on high alert."

Cyber-attacks do not only affect schools and businesses. Whether it is the result of a data breach, phishing scam, or hack, identity theft can happen to anyone at any given time, including children.

According to the Identity Theft Resource Center, there were more than 353 million victims of ID theft in 2023. The Office of the Attorney General suggests all Hoosiers read the following to avoid, detect, and respond to this crime: **Tips to protect you and your family:**

- Do not conduct any sensitive transactions, including purchases, on a public Wi-Fi network.
- Create a unique password for each online account and change often.
- Don't click on anything in unsolicited emails or text messages.

- Be careful with the information you and your family share on social media. Sharing things like pet names, schools, and family members can give scammers the hints they need to guess your passwords or the answers to your account security questions.

- Place a security freeze on your credit reports to block an identity thief from opening a new account or obtaining credit in your name and keep new creditors from

accessing your credit report without your permission

Common clues someone has stolen your identity:

- Bank account transactions you can't explain.
- Unfamiliar accounts or charges on your credit report.
- Medical bills for services you didn't use.
- A health plan won't cover you because your medical records show a condition you don't have.
- The IRS notifies you that more than one tax return was filed in your name, or that you have income from an employer you don't work for.

What to do right away if your identity is stolen:

- Call the companies where you know the fraud occurred.
 - Place a security freeze and request a free credit report with all three credit unions, Experian, Transunion, and Equifax.
- Any Indiana resident can request a credit freeze free of charge. There is no fee for Indiana residents to place, temporarily lift, remove or request a new password or PIN.

Contact Attorney General Rokita's office if you believe you are a victim of identity theft by visiting gov/attorneygeneral or call us at 1-800-382-5516.

For additional tips, you may also visit identitytheft.gov, a site maintained by the Federal Trade Commission.



↓ SCAM From Page A1

are using people to funnel stolen money out of the country. This can look like a classic romance scam, but victims are tricked into illegal activity and can be prosecuted.

How the scam works:

You join a dating app and start messaging someone who looks amazing. They are the complete package: good-looking, successful, kind... and, most importantly, really into you, too! After chatting for a little while, your new love interest suggests that you chat by text or email rather than through the app. If you do that, you may notice that they also delete their dating profile. Everything seems great, but soon, your new beau has some unusual - but seemingly harmless - requests. They want you to receive money for them and wire it overseas. They may claim to be helping a loved one battling COVID-19, doing a business deal, or representing a charitable organization. If you refuse, your amorous new beau may become hostile, threaten you, or become distant.

It turns out that the money they want you to receive is stolen. After stealing it, scammers send the money through someone in the United States, making it harder for authorities to trace. Money laundering and wire fraud are illegal! Although the "money mule" is a victim, they may also face prosecution.

Protect yourself from this scam:

- **Do your research.** Many scammers steal photos from the internet to use in their dating profiles. You can do a reverse image lookup using a website like Google Images to see if the photos on a profile have been stolen from somewhere else. You can also search online for a profile name, email, or phone number to see what adds up and what doesn't. Scammers most often pose as men and target women in their 50s and 60s.
- **Ask specific questions about details given in a profile.** A scammer may stumble over remembering details or making a story fit

- **Never send money or sensitive personal information to someone you've never met in person.** Cut off contact if someone starts asking you for financial or personally identifiable information (PII), like your credit card number or government ID number.
- **Be very suspicious of requests to wire money or use a pre-paid debit card.** These are scammers' favorite ways to send payments because, like cash, it can't be recovered once the money is gone.

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 and the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Your story can help protect consumers from similar scams.



Correction

Because of an editor's error, the name of Laura Alerding was incorrect in the Wednesday edition. Alerding filed to appear on the May 7 Republican primary ballot for State Representative for the 29th District. The Times apologizes for the error.



Thank You For Reading The Times



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Noblesville Creates Think Spring Showcase Opens

Noblesville Creates is welcoming Hamilton County Tourism and the Soil and Water Conservation District of Hamilton County's *Think Spring Showcase*, an exhibit that showcases the beauty and diversity of Indiana's native plants, among its other artists of the month in February. Details on *Think Spring* as well as information on the February artist exhibit dates and receptions are available below. STEPHENSON HOUSE: Hamilton County Tourism and the Soil and Water Conservation District of Hamilton

County. This exhibit features artwork that represents flowers native to Hamilton County, illuminating the often overlooked beauty of our flora and fauna, and invites you to "Think Spring" and contemplate the significance of our native plants. *Think Spring* sheds light on the threat posed by invasive plants to our county's environmental and economic health. Featuring local artists, the exhibit promises a diverse range of artwork dedicated to native plants, from intricate illustrations to vibrant paintings.



Think Spring is educational and inspiring, celebrating the richness of our local ecosystem, fostering a deeper connection with nature, and calling to appreciate and preserve Indiana's natural heritage. The full Think Spring exhibit can be seen in the Stephenson House this month from noon to

5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can meet the artists of this exhibit at their free public reception during the Noblesville Creates February First Friday event tonight from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the Noblesville Creates campus. Exhibit Dates: February 2 to 24

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Carroll, Rowinski, others laid groundwork for Zach Edey at Purdue



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

Zach Edey is closing in on Purdue basketball history, not to mention his second consecutive

Big Ten and National Player of the Year awards.

Edey became the second Boilermaker to reach 2,000 points along with 1,000 rebounds during Purdue's 68-60 victory at Rutgers on Sunday. All-American center Joe Barry Carroll (2,175 points and 1,148 rebounds) was the first of now six Big Ten Conference players to achieve that status. The others are Ohio State's Herb Williams (2,011 points-1,111 rebounds), Michigan State's Greg Kelsey (2,014 points-1,092 rebounds), Wisconsin's Ethan Happ (2,230 points-1,217 rebounds) and Indiana's Trayce Jackson-Davis (2,258 points-1,143 rebounds).

With 2,047 points and 1,102 rebounds, Edey needs just two blocked shots to become the third player in NCAA history with 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds and 200 blocks while shooting at least 60 percent from the field. The amazing feats of the 440th ranked recruit in 247 Sports' composite rankings for the Class of 2020 are the latest in a string of unexpected success stories for Purdue basketball. We'll start this tale of overachievement with Carroll, who was so unheralded coming out of Denver East High School that the Lafayette Journal and Courier referred to him as "Barry Carroll" in its May 13, 1976 story that reported his signing. Discovered by Purdue assistant George Faerber, who was in Denver looking at another prospect, Carroll came to Denver East as an uncoordinated 6-8 junior.

"He hadn't caught up to his body and had a tough time making any moves," Carroll's high school coach, Rick Schraeder, told the Journal and Courier's Bruce Ramey in 1977. "He would bring the ball down on rebounds and kids who were 5-10 would tie him up." After averaging just 5.3

points and 5.2 rebounds his junior season, Carroll underwent an off-season weight lifting and conditioning program. "He worked for hours on agility drills and played a lot of playground and youth center games against college students and a couple of professional players," Schraeder said. "His improvement was just phenomenal.

"He was very receptive to coaching and knew who to listen to. He knew who could help him." Now standing 7 feet tall, Carroll had offers from Purdue, Missouri, Southern California, Oklahoma, Iowa and Kentucky according to Schraeder. The decision came down to Purdue and Missouri. "The places that had a lot of glitter and tried to wine and dine him didn't impress him as much as the places that were honest with him," Schraeder said. "Purdue and Missouri . . . both stressed academics and showed him what life on campus would be like. They painted a very realistic picture. I think he finally chose Purdue because he preferred the Big Ten over the Big 8."

Purdue head coach Fred Schaus knew he had a potential star on his hands early on. "Carroll's strength is his shot blocking and rebounding and that is what we are looking for," Schaus told the Journal and Courier. "He will play an important part in our program, even as a freshman."

Carroll became a fan favorite right from the start with his shot blocking skills in a backup role behind Tom Scheffler. On Dec. 10, 1977, Carroll recorded the only triple-double in Purdue history with 16 points, 16 rebounds and a school record 11 blocked shots in an 80-78 victory at Arizona. By the time Lee Rose arrived as head coach for the 1978-79 season, Carroll was ready to break out. He averaged 22.8 points, led the Big Ten in scoring and grabbed a school record 352 rebounds while earning first-team All-Big Ten honors. Carroll was nearly unstoppable his senior season, leading Purdue to the Final Four and earning first-team All-American and Big Ten

honors in the process. He scored 35 points in his final game as a Boilermaker, a consolation game victory against Iowa at the Final Four. That put Carroll's career total at 2,175, which remains second to Mount on Purdue's all-time scoring list. Carroll also left Purdue as the career record-holder for blocked shots (349). Carroll briefly crossed paths with another unexpected Purdue success story. There were no expectations when Jim Rowinski followed in his father and sister's paths to Purdue in 1980 from Syosset, Long Island. He had been cut from his high school basketball team as a 5-10 junior. The first of two major growth spurts, maturing into a 6-3 forward by the start of his senior year, helped Rowinski not only make the varsity but earn all-conference honors. When Rowinski arrived in West Lafayette, he answered a callout by Purdue coach Lee Rose to fill a spot on the "Renegades" practice squad. When Gene Keady replaced Rose before the 1980-81 season, he put Rowinski on scholarship. Now standing 6-8, Rowinski played in six games and put up a modest eight points and nine rebounds. When Russell Cross struggled with knee ailments, Rowinski made his first start against Houston in December 1981 at the Sugar Bowl Classic in New Orleans. Rowinski held his own against future NBA legend Hakeem Olajuwon in a 59-58 loss. Rowinski grabbed a team-high 10 rebounds and scored nine points. The performance was even more impressive because after the game he was diagnosed with a slight shin fracture. That turned out to be a blessing for Rowinski and Purdue, which was able to redshirt him under the rules at that time. That offseason began Rowinski's transformation into a muscular center who earned the nickname "Mr. Atlas," according to a story by the Journal and Courier's Bob Scott. "It was tough to sit on the sidelines last year, but I made the best of it

by lifting weights and using a Nautilus," Rowinski told Scott. Rowinski gained national attention in a 1984 Sports Illustrated story, in which writer Curry Kirkpatrick called Rowinski "the Prince of Pecs" with "musculature reminiscent of the Sears Tower." That extra year turned out to be special for Rowinski, the Boilermakers and Keady. Purdue, picked to finish ninth, won a share of the 1984 Big Ten championship. Rowinski won the Chicago Tribune's Silver Basketball as the Big Ten's Most Valuable Player.

"One of the most amazing stories in college basketball," Keady said of Rowinski. A larger, even stronger version of Rowinski came along a few years later. Stephen Scheffler's choices coming out of high school included a football scholarship offer from Michigan. The 6-9, 255-pound Scheffler decided to follow in his brother Tom's footsteps and play basketball at Purdue. Scheffler was not ranked among the top 250 players in the 1986 recruiting class despite averaging 22 points and 17 rebounds as a high school senior. What Scheffler possessed in size, he lacked in confidence. A childhood diagnosis of dyslexia and the cruel teasing from other children left a deep wound in the thoughtful, polite young man. Former Indianapolis Star writer Mark Monteith got to know Scheffler during the 1987-88 season when he began work on his book, "Passion Play." "You couldn't meet a more naïve, honest and sincere person," Monteith recalled on his website, markmontieth.com. "This is a guy, keep in mind, who was so polite he said thank you to the referee every time he was handed the ball to shoot a free throw." The teasing continued during his freshman year at Purdue, leading Scheffler to consider leaving. "I looked at my situation and said, 'Do I really want to play this game anymore?'" Scheffler told the Journal and

Courier's Michael Perry in 1990.

Scheffler's faith gave him the strength to persevere. "I just didn't want to be happy for the sake of being happy," Scheffler told Perry. "That didn't make any sense. So in a prayer I said, 'It appears to me that this is what you wanted me to do. You wouldn't want me to quit or anything like that, God. So as long as you want me to be in this, could you at least make it enjoyable?' And believe it or not, it became enjoyable."

It wasn't so enjoyable for Purdue opponents, who could not stop Scheffler if he got the ball in scoring position. Scheffler left Purdue as its single-season and career field goal percentage leader (.685), as well as setting the NCAA career record.

And like Rowinski, Scheffler was named the Big Ten's Most Valuable Player. "Citizen Pain." "The Custodian." "That #@\$%*!" Brian Cardinal was called plenty of names during his career at Purdue but the one that stuck was "winner."

Cardinal nearly willed coach Gene Keady to a Final Four in 2000. Not bad for someone who four years earlier didn't think he belonged in a Purdue uniform. Not recruited by his hometown Illinois Fighting Illini, for whom his father was the basketball athletic trainer, Cardinal accepted a scholarship to Purdue and redshirted his first season. Cardinal paid back the Illini by never losing to them in nine games while at Purdue. Cardinal's early onset hairline recession made him the butt of old-age jokes for much of his time at Purdue, but the career of the 6-8, 235-pound Boilermaker remains a testament to his versatility. He could score in the post and on the perimeter, finishing with 1,584 points, hitting 130 3-pointers and shooting 76.1 percent at the line. He could also rebound on both ends (749 rebounds), pass (277 assists) and defend, recording 99 blocks and 259 steals, second

all-time. Cardinal helped the Boilers reach three Sweet 16s and the Elite Eight in 2000.

He quickly became a fan favorite, inspiring the Journal and Courier in 1997 to hold a nickname contest. "Citizen Pain" was the winner, suggested by a local middle school student. Other contenders included "Rawhide, The Janitor, Fall Guy and Tolono Terror," a nod to Cardinal's hometown. About the same time Cardinal was beginning to make an impact in the Big Ten, Willie Deane decided to walk on at Purdue after leaving Boston College following the 1998-99 season. Deane had followed his family to Fort Wayne, where his father was transferred by General Electric. No one on Keady's coaching staff had any idea who Deane was until he asked for a tryout.

"He started playing in some pickup games with our guys and asked if he could try out," Purdue assistant Jim Thrash told the Journal and Courier's Jeff Washburn. "We don't know a lot about him other than he's a good athlete and a nice kid."

After sitting out the 1999-2000 season, Deane made an immediate impact. He scored 16 points, including Purdue's final four, in the 72-69 upset of No. 1 Arizona in the John Wooden Classic at Indianapolis.

"I was just looking for an opportunity to play," Deane told Washburn in 2003. "I knew that if I worked hard enough, my work ethic eventually would pay off." That season, Deane earned first-team All-Big Ten honors. "It's just amazing how much he has grown over the years and learned how to play the game right," Keady said at the time. "I certainly have a great deal of respect for his attitude being positive."

Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.

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