

TODAY'S VERSE

*John 14:19 "Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live."
(ESV)*

Hamilton Happenings

More traffic headaches! Get ready because on or after Friday, March 1, Allisonville Road between 146th Street and Kensington Drive, and between 146th Street and Helmsley Court will close for 90 calendar days. Property owners within the limits of the closures will have access to their property during the closure. Both eastbound and westbound 146th Street will remain open to all through traffic throughout the closure of Allisonville Road. The contractor will be placing detour route markers as we approach the road closure. Please utilize the posted detour route to avoid the road closures on Allisonville.

Three Things You Should Know

- The ACLU of Indiana is opposing Senate Bill 50, a bill that would allow Indiana public school districts to establish onsite volunteer or paid school Chaplains. ACLU state chief Chris Daley said that although chaplains play an important role in many institutions, they should not hold official positions in public schools. Daley said that would open students to religious coercion and that it runs counter to Constitutional principles.
- The Indiana Natural Resources Commission wants to hear from you about proposed changes to Indiana's deer hunting rules before they vote on final adoption of proposed changes. Most proposed changes intend to simplify Indiana's deer hunting rules to make them easier to understand. You can submit comments online at IN.gov/nrc/rules/rulemaking-docket/ via the "Comment on this rule" link in the Rulemaking Docket for the Deer Hunting Amendments. Deadline for public comments is March 20.
- Do you need to file a tax return? Probably. The Internal Revenue Service issues a release that gives some definition to that question. According to the IRS, most U.S. citizens and permanent residents who work in the United States need to file a tax return if they make more than a certain amount for the year. Find details on tax filing requirements with Publication 501, Dependents, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information.

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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BTN By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!

Eggs & Issues - Legislative Mid-Session Update

Noblesville joins with OneZone and Westfield Chambers for Eggs & Issues 2024.

By the Numbers . . .

2-23-24

The date for this year's Update

8-9:30 a.m.

The time it begins



WESTFIELD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

noblesville
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OneZone
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2-19-24 Deadline to get your reservation



3535

The first four numbers to the address for The Bridgewater Club. It's the location, 3535 E. 161st St. in Carmel.

The cost to attend for Chamber members – non-members

\$30-\$40

2024 Off To Busy Beginning



MARK HALL
Hamilton County Council

Welcome to the Timesheet. This column is a report of work done on behalf of the people of Hamilton County. It's to be informative too, a place to learn about projects and how our county government works. As your employee, it's important that you know what is being worked on as transparently as is possible in government. You hired me as your County Councilman, and my hope is that you'll choose to be informed by regularly reading this column, getting involved, and by asking questions. Council meetings are at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at the judicial center in downtown Noblesville. Meetings are also available to watch online for those unable to attend in person. Here is where my time this past month has been spent. January's work involved normal county business, collaborating with Cicero and the Northern parts of our county, and the Redevelopment Commission. Neighbors in Jackson Township are considering reorganizing into a new town. This could include the township along with one or more of the other municipalities (Cicero, Arcadia, and Atlanta). The residents' information meeting was well attended and educational. Should two of the four governing authorities in Jackson Township agree to reorganize, and a majority of the voters approve, a new town would be created. Residents' concerns include annexation, maintaining the present quality of life, and the continuity of government services. Meetings concerning water and wastewater utilities, the use of eminent domain, and constituent questions required many additional hours this month. My committee assignments are now insurance, finance, and personnel along with now serving on the County Regional Development Commission. January's personnel committee meeting was completed by an electronic poll of the members. Personnel requests are voted on as they occur, at the next regular council meeting. We did not have a Finance meeting in January. The RDC meeting was largely organizational and included electing officers, setting meeting dates, establishing agenda items, and approving funding for the first phase of design for a public safety training center. In addition to the County Council public meetings,

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you feel overwhelmed, write down your to-do list and prioritize it. Simplify large tasks into smaller ones.



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

"You can't blame gravity for falling in love."
Albert Einstein

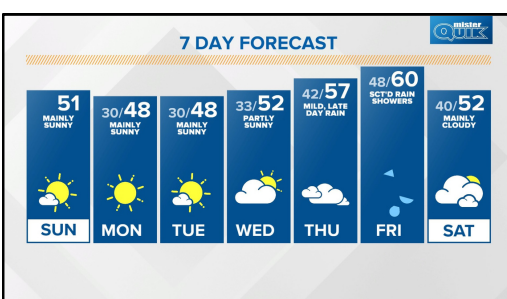
TODAY'S JOKE

Why are artichokes so beloved?
They're known for their hearts.

OBITUARIES

None

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



➔ See MARK Page A4

THROWING OUT THE TOWEL



DICK WOLFSIE Funny Bone

This is the 20th anniversary of my son's metamorphosis. I was reminded of it when Brett requested new towels for Christmas. When he opened the gift, he flashed a big grin. I knew exactly what he was remembering.

Back when Brett started college, we were worried about him. How would he handle his new independence? We had the normal apprehensions any parent would have. But when we visited him that first year, we witnessed something we did not anticipate.

Brett had turned green.

I wish I were making this up, but while Mary Ellen and I sat across from Brett at dinner during Parents Week, we noticed that his skin had a grayish-green tint to it. At first, we were alarmed. We sent Brett to college with the hopes of a good education. We hoped that something would set in.

We didn't expect gangrene.

"Brett, have you noticed that you are turning green?" I asked nonchalantly, trying to hide my concern.

My wife, never wanting to seem negative, interrupted my query. "It's a lovely shade of green, of course. But you weren't that color when you left home."

Brett seemed unnerved by the observation. He looked at his arms and his hands. Then he tightened his face, gritted his teeth and growled: "Don't make me angry. You won't like me when I'm angry."

Thinking my son was The

Hulk was a bit disconcerting, but if you have ever raised a teenager, you know that few things should really surprise you.

Brett explained that he noticed his change in hue after showering and drying off with the towels we bought him for his dorm room. This brought a glare from my wife who wanted to splurge on plushier accessories, but was convinced otherwise by her cheap husband who thought if Amazon.com was good enough for books, it would be good enough for towels.

Now that the source of the discoloration was identified, Mary Ellen went into a spasm of laughter, mostly out of relief that Brett did not have a rare tropical disease. Knowing this would end up a column, I tried out all my jokes on Brett like "You should start a garden, now that you have a green thumb." Then I went into a musical rendition of "It's Not Easy Being Green," using my very best Kermit the Frog impersonation. Mary Ellen, at this point, would have laughed at anything, just relieved we didn't need to make an appointment at the Mayo Clinic.

It was time to go back to the dorm. I helped carry some of the items from the car to Brett's room. Brett's roommate, Connor, was there practicing his guitar. "Hey, Connor, did you notice that Brett has turned green?" I blurted out, still a bit giddy with the potential for more green jokes.

"That's odd," said Connor, looking at his arm. "I did notice that I am turning kind of blue."

Sure enough, Connor's arms had an attractive sky-blue tint, which my wife and I immediately noticed perfectly matched his towels on the shelf. Connor's dad was probably a tightwad like me.

From that day on, we bought all his towels at a higher-quality establishment. Recently, that very company filed for bankruptcy. Unlike my son, Bed Bath & Beyond was not the color of money.

Landers Named Husky Hero



Courtesy photo

Jill Landers, HHMS Assistant Principal, was selected as the Husky Hero for the month of December. Pictured (l-r): Melissa Martin (HHEF President/HHSC Integration Coach), Jill Landers, Amber Bowen, baby Laken Bowen, Craig Bowen (FC Tucker), and Bret Bailey, (HHMS Principal)

Jill Landers, Assistant Principal, Hamilton Heights Middle School, has been named the Husky Hero for the month of December. Landers, who is in her fourth year at Hamilton Heights Middle School, spent her first three years as a math teacher prior to transitioning to the role of assistant principal at the start of the 2023-24 school year. She is known for providing timely and consistent support, especially in challenging situations.

"Mrs. Landers has brought a high level of effectiveness and professionalism, along with fresh insights to our leadership team as we all continually work together to develop ways to improve how we serve our students and staff," said Bret Bailey, Principal, Hamilton Heights Middle School.

"Mrs. Landers was very patient and understanding with our child, who was having some problems," said Shawn O'Bryhim. "She was willing to listen at all times, was reasonable, and was ready to change her mind when presented with facts and a different point of view. Because of this, things have improved, and our child is back on the right track."

"I am humbled by this honor because I know the people who surround me at HHMS every day and see how they go above and beyond," said Jill Landers. "To be nominated and selected among my colleagues serves as the highest compliment."

"When I work with students, it's really important to me that they know they will be heard," continued

Landers on one of the motivating factors of her work. "I start out most of my conversations with, 'What happened from your perspective?' and end with, 'Is there anything else you want to ask or that you think I should know?' I do this because I genuinely value hearing from students and understanding what they're dealing with."

My main goal for students is to learn from their mistakes and grow to be better. This doesn't mean there won't be consequences, but the conversations in my office are focused on being constructive as much as possible. I spend a lot of time with students trying to get them to understand their actions, what possibly led to them, and how to make better

choices moving forward; it's an investment of time that is absolutely worth it to me. When we make a thousand smaller decisions better, it changes the culture of our school, our community, and beyond."

Do you know a Husky Hero? Nomination forms and information about this special recognition program for Hamilton Heights employees are available at: <https://bit.ly/hhschuskyhero>.

The Husky Hero Recognition program is made possible through the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation in partnership with Craig and Amber Bowen (FC Tucker). #hhedfoundation

Carmel Symphony Plans Valentine's Performance

Spend a romantic evening Saturday at the Palladium as the Carmel Symphony Orchestra celebrates Valentine's Day with a performance of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, Prokofiev's Romeo & Juliet Suite, and Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story Symphonic Dances. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$67. They're available through the Center for the Performing Arts box office, (317) 843-3800. Shared boxes are available online. VIP and private box experiences for groups of four or more are available by contacting the Carmel Symphony

Development Office at (317) 844-9717. The evening will begin at 6:30 with some pre-concert romantic surprises in the Palladium side lobbies and atrium. Festivities will include two specialty drinks: Love Potion No. 9 (vodka, strawberry juice, grenadine, two cherries) and Hearts on Fire (a St. Elmo old-fashioned with two cherries). Each will be available for \$13. After that, it's an evening of virtuosity and passionate performances featuring

acclaimed Spanish violinist Francisco Fullana soloing on the Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. Fullana, winner of the 2018 Avery Fisher Career Grant, has been hailed as a "rising star" (BBC Music Magazine), an "amazing talent" (conductor Gustavo Dudamel) and "frighteningly

awesome" (Buffalo News). His Carnegie Hall recital debut was noted for its "joy and playfulness in collaboration ... it was perfection" (New York Concert Review).



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COPAYS AND DEDUCTIBLES MAY APPLY

It's Possible That I'm Making Progress



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

“Perfection is the enemy of progress,” according to Winston Churchill. It’s the time of year when we try to do too much, change too quickly. Already expectations are lowering, and reality is setting in. The sky is gray, the temperatures cold, and I am coming to grips with the fact that I cannot eat toffee every day. (At least, not a lot of toffee every day.)

It’s the mid-January new year letdown. More people die this time of year than on average. I imagine they make it through the holidays, finish off the toffee, take down the tree, look out at the gray weather, decide the New Year is not looking significantly better than the previous one and give up the effort to keep on living.

I spoke with my grouchy friend yesterday. This is the same grouchy friend who has cursed my cheerfulness in the past—and is a source of unflagging pessimism—so I should have known what was coming. He says there is no cause for rejoicing in the new year. He says the days are growing longer, and that means intolerable heat is around the corner. He says any promises he makes to himself will be broken. “I gave up goals and dreams in the summer of 1971,” he says.

He thinks I am a fool. I think he’s right. And I believe this may be one of my best qualities. Because the older I get, the less seriously I take myself. I used to obsess over not looking my best, walking around with spinach in my teeth or toilet paper on my shoe or a tag hanging out the back of my shirt. I used to beat myself up (usually hours later, while doing the dishes or trying to

fall asleep) for some dumb thing I said—something that someone could have taken the wrong way. “Ack!” I’d yell aloud while washing my vegetable steamer. “Why did I say that?!” Accepting that I’m foolish removes this burden. If I don’t take myself too seriously, I can’t expect anyone else to. If I accept that I am imperfect and just treat myself with love, I can hope folks will follow suit. I might wonder (as I did last night), what I am doing in the kitchen at 1 o’clock in the morning eating the last of my sister’s homemade toffee.

“Should I really be doing this?” I might ask myself. But now I answer, “Who wants to know?” And there is silence. It turns out that no one cares if I stay up too late eating toffee. There is no editorial committee reviewing my statements from the previous day, informing me of how they might have been more clever or less embarrassing. As a result, I feel a lot more free.

I can make that phone call, not knowing what I will say until I say it. I can have a conversation with a stranger—not caring so much about what they think of me, but letting them know that I am interested in them. But the key to all of this—to any of this—is action. I have to forgive my gaffes and blunders in advance and do something rather than nothing. I have to do something imperfectly if I am to make any progress at all. Today, I am doing situps. I can only do a few. My form is terrible. I cannot see how this will ever make me stronger. But I’m doing them anyway. And, while it’s much too early to tell, it’s possible that I’m making progress.

Till next time,
Carrie

My Head is Spinning



JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.
Family Medicine

This week I want to address dizziness, a condition I have seen more times than I can count throughout my career. Primary Care doctors in the U.S. see about six million patients a year who complain of being “dizzy.”

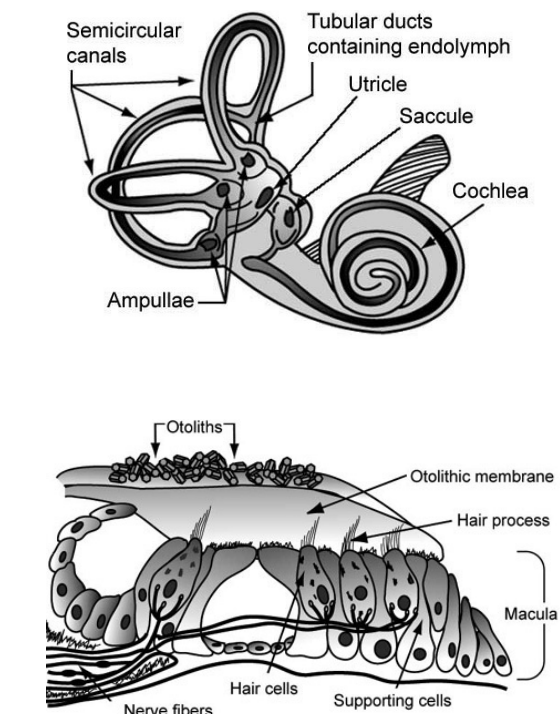
Dizziness means something different to each of us and can be a symptom of many medical conditions. People use “dizzy” as a universal term to describe feeling faint, lightheaded, or when they have a sensation of themselves or the world around them spinning. This latter sensation is called vertigo, from the Latin *vertere* meaning “to turn.”

The most common cause of vertigo is benign paroxysmal positional vertigo or BPPV. Benign means the condition is generally not dangerous, paroxysmal indicates it recurs intermittently, and positional refers to the vertigo typically being brought on by changes in the position of the body and/or head.

I have to crack open the anatomy and physiology books to explain the cause of BPPV. Hopefully, some of you recall the vestibular apparatus from junior high science class. It is the organ that allows us to maintain our balance and is found in the inner ear. This is a truly remarkable and complex organ. I’ve included a diagram to help you visualize what I’m describing.

We have a vestibular organ on each side of our heads. These organs, along with input from our eyes and sensory nerves in our body, are constantly monitoring the position of our heads and bodies in space in relation to motion and gravity. If a vestibular organ provides faulty or conflicting information to our brains, we lose our sense of orientation in space.

The three semicircular canals are a key part of the vestibular organ and are oriented at 90



degree angles to each other. They are filled with a fluid called endolymph. When we move our heads, the fluid shifts to varying degrees inside each of the three canals, allowing us to detect motion in three different planes (head turning, nodding up-and-down, and moving forward or backward). Movement of the endolymph in the canals stimulates a piece of tissue called the otolithic membrane that resides in two other parts of the vestibular system called the utricle and saccule.

The membrane sits on top of tiny hairs protruding from nerve cells that communicate with the brain. When the membrane moves, it wiggles the hair cells that fire off nerve impulses, telling the brain which direction the head is moving.

Resting on top of the otolithic membrane are tiny crystals made of calcium called otoliths. These crystals provide some weight on top of the membrane allowing it to stimulate the nerve cells more easily.

Now that you’re an expert in some inner ear anatomy and physiology, what does any of that have to do with BPPV? The cause of BPPV is a problem with the otoliths – they get dislodged from their position on top of the otolithic membrane and move into the semicircular canals. The displaced crystals move in the canals and trick the brain into thinking your head is moving in a

direction it is not. This results in the sensation of vertigo. Tilting the head, rolling over in bed, getting out of a bed or chair, looking up or down, or sudden head motion can all cause the vertigo associated with BPPV.

A good patient history is usually suggestive of BPPV. There are also a few simple movement tests that can be performed in the office to determine if one of the vestibular canals is at fault. You can watch a video demonstration of one of the maneuvers here: goo.gl/HcNlDY.

Most cases of BPPV resolve on their own when the otoliths move out of the semicircular canal. Sometimes medications like meclizine (Antivert®) or scopolamine are given to dull the severity of the vertigo.

If BPPV doesn’t resolve on its own, most cases can be treated in the office by undergoing either the Epley, Lempert, or deep head-hanging maneuvers. These involve putting the patient through a series of movements that attempt to move misplaced otolith(s) out of the semicircular canals. Severe and refractory cases of BPPV occasionally require surgical correction.

I’d like to ask our readers to suggest ideas for my column. Please email your suggestions to news@thetimes24-7.com.

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THE TIMES

Noblesville Lions Club Conduct Pre-School Kid Sight Eye Screening



(Frt) Director Lyndsay Sheridan, Lion Dale Unger, (Back) Lion Dave Marsh, Steve Shaw, and Duke Miller. Lion Cheryl Helton provided the photo.

On Jan 30 and 31, the Noblesville Lions conducted Eye Screening in their Kid Sight program. They screened 184 pre-school children at 1st Methodist Church. This program is chaired by Lion Dale Unger.



Director Lyndsay Sheridan, Lion Dale Unger, Steve Shaw with camera, Dave Marsh, and unidentified teacher with child

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MARK

From Page A1

January's work included attending a Board of Commissioners public meeting, meetings with Noblesville Mayor Jensen and Noblesville Councilmen Aaron Smith, attending a Noblesville City Council meeting, a Cicero Town council meeting, a Jackson Township reorganization informational meeting, and a quarterly joint County and Cicero planning meeting. Normal County business included another update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant construction. We were happy to hear that phase one is on schedule and under budget. This month there were seven constituents service requests. Usually, requests require research with a county department, securing the correct answer and then following up with the taxpayer. January's taxpayer questions included, the HEPL budget, retiree drug benefits, county employment opportunities, the use of eminent domain, the county workforce housing project, and construction progress at Koteewi Park. Of note this month was spending hours auditing our county appropriations that carried over from 2023, the council must approve these amounts. After reconciling the totals with the county financial data, I pulled three different vendors' information and called them to verify that what we show is due to them is accurate with their records. Happily, each amount was accurate. January included delving into the use of eminent domain. This is the right of a government or its agent to take private property for public use, with payment of

compensation. The council was asked to transfer our eminent domain authority to a city for their use in negotiating the purchase of a parcel of land. While being supportive of the project I voted against the transfer of the authority over the relatively quick timing of the request. It was an honor to represent you at the Serve Noblesville Celebration, and at tours of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Hamilton County Humane Society facility. This is my time sheet. This is where my time went during month thirteen. There are many projects in the queue for 2024 and while my job is primarily the financial oversight of the county budget it is important to understand the Board of Commissioners priorities and balance them with the stewardship of taxpayer dollars. That is the job, and I am excited to do the people's business. As a taxpayer myself, and listening to so many of you, our employers, it's important for the taxpayers to have access to all the information you want. I work for you and although you may not choose to do a deep dive into what your County Council does, it's important that you can always do so. Feel free to contact me at 317-832-1104 or mark.hall@hamiltoncounty.in.gov with questions, feedback or if you would like to talk about county business.

Mark Hall is a Hamilton County Councilman and the Founder and CEO of TLX, Talent Logistix. He writes a monthly column in The Times detailing his work as a county councilman.

2 From County Among Hoosier Women Artists Honorees



Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, along with the Indiana Arts Commission, announced the 2024 Hoosier Women Artists awardees at a celebration in the Indiana Statehouse recently – a list that included two artists from Hamilton County.

The pair, Francis A. Ruiz and Gina M. Baird are both from Fishers. Ruiz' work, Armonia (Harmony) will be displayed in the office of Indiana Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. Baird's work, Leaping: On Top of the World, will be displayed in the office of Indiana Health Commissioner Dr. Lindsay Weaver.

Since 2008, the Hoosier Women Artists program has celebrated and further expanded the important role art plays in our communities by showcasing the work of talented female artists throughout the state.

For the first time in program history, participants will be awarded a \$125 honorarium in recognition of their participation in the program.

Noblesville Lions Kid Sight Screening



Lions Steve Shaw, Larry Jacobi, Duke Miller, and Dale Unger



Lions Steve Morgan, Steve Shaw, Dale Unger, and Duke Miller. Lion Gary Hipes was missing.

The Noblesville Lions spent three days at United Emanuel Church screening 54 student's eyesights recently. This is a major school project for the Noblesville Lions Club, and Dale Unger is the current Committee Chairman.

CIRDA, IEDC Prepare for Grant Applications

The Central Indiana Regional Development Authority hosted the Indiana Economic Development Corporation recently as part of its Indiana Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative site visit in advance of the new round of grant applications. The READI 2.0 grant will be submitted in February and is one of several initiatives to get funding from different sources to bolster the Central Indiana region. Under the leadership of Governor Eric J. Holcomb, the next round of \$500 million in READI grants will promote strategic investments that will make Indiana a magnet for talent and economic growth. READI is expected to attract at least \$2 billion of local public, private and philanthropic match

funding that will propel investment in Indiana's quality of place, quality of life and quality of opportunity. "As Chair of CIRDA, I can't tell you how encouraged I am to see the progress of our public sector. We are aligned, engaged, and collaborating. They way we have come together should be something that all Indy Metro residents can take pride in," said Mayor Scott Fadness. Over the past 50 years, the CIRDA region has transformed from an agrarian and manufacturing-based economy to a hub for logistics, software development, advanced manufacturing, and medical technology. The region leads the state with double the population growth of the rest of Indiana over the last decade, and twice the rate of

growth of any other READI region. Central Indiana also leads the Midwest with recent data showing more GDP growth than Chicago and Columbus. CIRDA's vision with the READI 2.0 grant is for Central Indiana to be a hub of innovation and talent attraction centered around advanced technologies and become the national benchmark for strategic and sustainable growth in similarly sized metropolitan areas, supporting success for the region and all of Indiana. This year's CIRDA READI strategic action plan theme is "Main Street Matters," which evolves past the traditional downtown districts to hubs of activity and promote the development of walkable and connected districts that serves as magnets

for talent attraction, areas of innovation, and links to arts, culture and recreation. "During the past 10 years, we've seen how place-based investments in our core districts have driven innovation in the region and attracted younger, more educated residents. These hubs have reversed the trend of educated residents leaving the state to find the walkable communities where they want to live," CIRDA Executive Director Jennifer Messer said. When the READI 1.0 grant was announced in 2021, CIRDA was comprised of 8 communities and 2 counties. Today, the group has 23 communities in nine counties – Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Morgan and Putnam –

and continues to expand. "CIRDA has come a long way and has become a collaborative effort," said Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen, who serves as the vice chairman of the CIRDA board. "It's also a paradigm shift in how Central Indiana functions. We are all at the table talking together, not just as elected officials but our stakeholders and nonprofits, to impact a greater change for the region as a whole. This will make us competitive nationally with larger areas and cities." This year's grant application will invest in walkable and connected districts that will not only attract population, but will boost innovation, support research and development, expand housing, and improve many other key metrics

in the region. Comprised of municipal executives from our Central Indiana communities, CIRDA was established as an integrative regional entity, aimed at aligning the public, private and philanthropic sectors on key initiatives in Central Indiana, to drive economic development. CIRDA's efforts to attract investment in the region are focused on talent, quality of place, societal risk factors, entrepreneurship, and infrastructure. For more information on CIRDA, visit <https://centralindianar da.org>.

The
Times

2024 Chevy Trax RS is a Seriously Excellent Entry-Level Crossover



Photos credited to Chevrolet



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

Chevrolet has a sordid history with entry-level compacts—some excellent (Nova), others not (Vega), and a few unfairly maligned (Corvair, Cavalier). My first car was a 1989 Geo Spectrum, built by Isuzu and sold through Chevrolet, that served me well through high school and college. Chevrolet no longer builds small cars, but none compared to its current entry offering, the 2024 Trax crossover. Spend extra to get this seriously excellent entry-level crossover in RS trim.

And, it does look good in RS trim with a large black chrome grille, 19 alloy wheels, black moldings, and LED headlamps. It's a much sexier car, longer and lower than its predecessor, looking more like a Camaro crossover than the Chevy version of a popular Buick. It's especially fetching in our car's Cayenne Orange paint with

spoiler and roof rails, though the rear view is a little frumpy. Little red RS badges tell others you're not completely boring.

If there's Camaro on the outside, Corvette seeped inside with the twin-screen arrangement for gauges and infotainment. It's all very crisp, bright, and easy to access. Devices connect via wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Just toss you phone onto the wireless charger and go. Beyond that, our RS got red accents, thick heated flat-bottom steering wheel, "Evotex" upholstered seats – heated in front - and a sunroof. Tap around and you realize the textured dash is hard plastic, seats are manually adjusted, and there's only one zone for the automatic climate control, but at least it all works well while the cabin is kept quiet with active noise cancellation. It's also kept safe with a full array of safety tech that includes adaptive cruise,

automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, and blind spot warning. That adds peace of mind when you storming down the highway...and it can storm down the highway. Don't let its cylinder count turn you off. The RS' 1.2-liter turbocharged three-cylinder engine sends a peppy 137 horsepower and 162 lb.-ft. of torque to the front wheels through a six-speed automatic transmission. You can get all-wheel-drive in the Trailblazer that shares the Trax' architecture, but not in the Trax. There's really no need unless you plan to bust trails because front-drive with traction control will handle all the snow you're likely to encounter. Even better, fuel economy is rated a frugal 28/32-MPG city/highway. Just last week, I drove a Buick Encore with the same engine from Indianapolis to Memphis and back, over a thousand miles. That engine is a dream at Interstate

speeds, providing just the right amount of torque to carry it through the hills of Kentucky and Tennessee. Put in the RS with its tight steering and chassis, and it is a lot of fun. GM is excellent at developing chassis that are comfortable and engaging. Four-wheel disc brakes are right-now ready. You'll barely notice the torsion beam rear suspension because it rumbles over the rough stuff and plants corners with aplomb. After college, I almost traded my Geo for a Chevy Cavalier Z24, but bought a Saturn SC2 instead. The Z24 didn't seem as good.

When I inflation-adjust what I paid for the Saturn coupe, it comes to over \$30,000. I loved that car, but would have lost my mind over the Trax at a base price of \$21,485 or just \$27,080 as-tested. This is a thoroughly enjoyable crossover at a stupidly low price. Competitors

include the Hyundai Kona, Toyota Corolla Cross, Honda HR-V, Subaru Crosstrek, and Nissan Kicks.

Storm Forward!
Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

2024 Chevy Trax RS

Five-passenger, fwd Crossover
Powertrain: 1.2-liter T3, 6-spd trans
Output: 137hp/162 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Ind/Torsion beam
Wheels f/r: 19"/19" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Fuel economy: 28/32 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Changwon, Korea
Base/as-tested price: \$21,495/27,080

| Likes | Dislikes |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sophisticated interior • Turbo engine • Tight handling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear styling • Hard plastics • One-zone auto climate |

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