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SCAN TO HEAR INTERVIEW
ALISON VOSS - AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

OUR GENERATION
WITH THE TIMES
PODCAST



TODAY'S VERSE

2 Samuel 23:5 Yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant.

Hamilton Happenings

Hamilton County Emergency Management is giving away free weather radios to Hamilton County residents who are deaf and hard of hearing. Grant dollars allowed EMA to purchase hundreds of the radios that come equipped with a pillow shaker and strobe lights. Anyone who qualifies, should contact Monica Peterson at Monica.Peterson@HamiltonCounty.in.gov to receive their radio.

Three Things You Should Know

1 The first round of Community Development Block Grants for 2024 is now open for applications. Funding for all CDBG programs comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is administered by OCRA. The State of Indiana distributes CDBG funds to rural communities to assist units of local government with various community projects like improving infrastructure, downtown revitalization, public facilities improvements and economic development. Round 1 proposals are due by 11:59 p.m. on April 26. For further information on these programs, visit in.gov/ocra/cdbg.

2 If Cities Were Traded on Wall Street, then five Indiana cities would make the top 250! According to our friends at Stock Dork <Hamilton County Emergency Management is giving away free weather radios to Hamilton County residents who are deaf and hard of hearing. Grant dollars allowed EMA to purchase hundreds of the radios that come equipped with a pillow shaker and strobe lights. Anyone who qualifies, should contact Monica Peterson at Monica.Peterson@HamiltonCounty.in.gov to receive their radio.>, they ran a survey of 3,000 investors to create a 'City Confidence Index'. They asked respondents: If cities were publicly traded on stock exchanges, which would you most want to invest in? The top few included Jacksonville and Ft. Lauderdale in Florida, as well as Boston, Tucson and Columbus, Ohio. In the great Hoosier state, Ft. Wayne was No. 88, Bloomington was 127, Fishers was 203, Lafayette was 213 and South Bend came in at 227. Indianapolis? Sorry Mayor Hogsett, you guys didn't make it!

3 Remember the Back Street Boys? Well, member Nick Carter is coming to Indiana this fall. His solo show is set for the Palladium in Carmel. Tickets are on sale now at TheCenterPresents.org. Carter was only 12 when he auditioned for what would become America's biggest boy band. The Backstreet Boys went on to sell more than 130 million records worldwide while earning five Grammy nominations, along with countless Billboard Awards, MTV Video Music Awards and more.

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

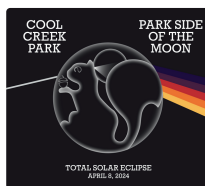
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County Has 6 Signature Events for Solar Eclipse

Hamilton County businesses and city officials are busy preparing for the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, by creating special events, educational opportunities, and safety plans. The destination looks forward to welcoming visitors for the celestial spectacle that will create total darkness in the middle of the afternoon.

Major viewing locations in the county include:

-Civic Square (Carmel, Indiana): Carmel's official eclipse viewing location is at Civic Square from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Attendees can enjoy a festival atmosphere featuring food and drink vendors, a variety of live music performers, educational information and live updates by eclipse experts. This is a free, public event.



-Conner Prairie (Fishers, Indiana): Conner Prairie's eclipse festival will take place from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and include live performances from musical acts and dance companies and enlightened talks from renowned experts who will shed light on the science behind this mesmerizing event. Hoosier astronaut Mark Brown will take the main stage as one of the featured experts, sharing

captivating stories about his time at NASA. Paid tickets are required for this event. <https://bit.ly/3wmLoUs>

-Cool Creek Park (Carmel, Indiana): Guests can park on site and tailgate or stroll the grounds of Cool Creek Park for its eclipse event. From 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. there will be live entertainment on the pavilion stage, crafts and

➔ See ECLIPSE on Page A3

Here Comes the Sun . . . AND the Moon



PAULA DUNN
From Time to Thyme

Unless you've been stranded on a desert island for the last several months, you probably already know a major

astronomical event will be taking place right in our backyard on April 8 – a little thing called a total solar eclipse.

On that day, the sky will darken for around 3 minutes as the moon passes between the sun and the earth.

In Noblesville, a partial eclipse will start at 1:51 p.m. The total eclipse begins at 3:06 p.m., reaches maximum totality at 3:08 p.m. and ends at 3:10 p.m. The entire show will be over at 4:23 p.m.

Solar eclipses aren't really that rare. Two to five partial solar eclipses normally occur each year and total solar eclipses come around about every 18 months. What makes this such a big deal is that it's been a VERY long time since any living creature witnessed the phenomenon in this area.

You may have read that the last time central Indiana was in the path of a total solar eclipse was the year 1205. Actually, according to a map on the Butler University website, that only applies to a relatively small triangle of land west/southwest of Indianapolis. It's been even longer for Hamilton County. The half of the county north of State Road 32 hasn't experienced a total solar eclipse since the year 957 and south of State Road 32, it was the year 831!

Obviously, no newspaper accounts of those eclipses exist, but the last total solar eclipse in this state took place over southwestern Indiana on August 7, 1869, which is the same year the Ledger – then known as the Hamilton County Register – started.

The Register published a report from a correspondent who rode an excursion train to Martinsville for the occasion. There, he joined several hundred people on a hill near the town to await "the glories of a total

➔ See PAULA on Page A4

Beckwith Lt. Governor Campaign Releases Action Plan

Micah Beckwith of Noblesville, a Republican candidate for Lt. Governor, recently announced his plan of action for serving in Indiana's second highest office.

"We need a Lt. Governor who will help move our state forward. That's why today I am announcing my plan of action, so delegates and voters know how I will serve them," Beckwith said. "Beyond my Constitutional duties, I will work for a positive agenda that makes Indiana a conservative leader in the country."

Beckwith's plan includes:

-Our children should not be indoctrinated with the woke agenda in our schools. Pronouns will be taught not reconfigured for a political agenda in the schools. As a father, no one is more committed to getting

political agendas out of the classrooms than Micah. He will work to ensure that our children are taught the fundamentals, prepared to compete in the marketplace, and taught Constitutional literacy. His mission is to visit as many schools as possible to inspire the next generation with the greatness of our Constitution. Micah will also work for more parental involvement in our schools.

-Hoosiers are hurting from inflation. Micah Beckwith believes that our state government must work to alleviate some of the financial pressure the Biden administration has caused. As our next Lt. Governor, he will push for tax cuts.

-Our cities need an urban upgrade where families can achieve the American dream. To improve the quality of life of all Hoosiers, our next Lt.

Governor Micah Beckwith will work to elect Republicans to office in our cities that have been devastated by failed Democrat leadership that has left too many people living in poverty.



-Our government should work for us – not against us. To stop the expansion of state government, Micah Beckwith will work with the legislature to file legislation to require a sunset clause on state regulations. By sunseting regulations, we will be limiting the power of government bureaucrats by requiring a review to make sure the regulations are still relevant.

➔ See BECKWITH on Page A3

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Ear wax is normal. If you must, clean out ear wax with an over-the-counter ear wax removal kit, not a cotton swab.

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

"Nature has given us all the pieces required to achieve exceptional wellness and health, but has left it to us to put these pieces together."
Diane McLaren

OBITUARIES

None

TODAY'S JOKE

You've heard of raining cats and dogs? Well, what do you call it when it's raining hens and roosters?
Fowl weather!



The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank CLARENCE FOX for subscribing!

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Once upon a time in this country . . .

Once upon a time in this country, men were men. Women were women. And that wasn't the beginning of an argument.



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

Once upon a time in this country, civility and good manners weren't just expectations but demands.

Once upon a time in this country, children were not allowed to run wild in stores.

Once upon a time in this country, politicians did not get rich because of their political careers.

Once upon a time in this country, mass shootings were a rare event.

Once upon a time in this country, we could have disagreements but remain friends.

Once upon a time in this country, the terms conservatives, liberals, Democrats and Republicans did not incite anger.

Once upon a time in this country, the phrase it's none of your business meant that not everyone had to be concerned with every little thing they saw or heard.

Once upon a time in this country, there were some people actually camera shy.

Once upon a time in this country, honesty and integrity were far more valued – and common – than they are today.

Once upon a time in this country, the F word stood for things like faith, family and freedom.

Friends, "once upon a time" wasn't all that long ago. Most of us remember it. We also remember that stories beginning with "once upon a time" ended with "happily ever after." I'm like a lot of you . . . not sure how to get there. After watching the State of the Union and listening to the Republican response, all I know for sure is government doesn't have the answer. Then again, it's not supposed to. Pretty sure that once upon a time, those answers all started with us.

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 ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com.

Once upon a time in this country, we welcomed the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. They went through a process that included a physical check of their well-being and an interview to make sure that immigrant was a good candidate to become an American citizen. And none of that was considered a bad thing. It was actually something we celebrated.

Once upon a time in this country, the idea that grade school children would be introduced to sex practices, let alone practices that most of us would find . . . out of the ordinary . . . would have been cause for concern.

Once upon a time in this country, killing unborn babies was not considered a right to be celebrated but a serious issue to be deeply contemplated.

Once upon a time in this country, a marriage followed a biblical standard of a union between a man and a woman.

Once upon a time in this country, sex outside that marriage was considered a sin.

Once upon a time in this country, people were patriotic and the love of country was something to be celebrated and even revered.

Once upon a time in this country, parents and schools worked together for the betterment of the children.

Once upon a time in this country, teachers could discipline students and the outcome was a good thing.

Once upon a time in this country, people would rather work than accept handouts.

Once upon a time in this country, charity began at home, but was understood that it would not last forever.

Once upon a time in this country, nothing was free and anything worth having was worth working for.

Fishers opens 2024 Nonprofit Grant application

The 2024 Fishers Nonprofit grant application is now open through April 24, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. The Fishers City Council established the Nonprofit Committee to manage the City's grant disbursement process. Final awards are subject to Council approval.

The Fishers Nonprofit Committee oversees the Nonprofit Grant Program, which awards funding to local organizations that create a sense of place, public interaction, or additional educational opportunities for Fishers residents. The Fishers City Council has allocated \$250,000 to nonprofit support for 2024.

"Every year, we witness the incredible impact these grants have on our community, empowering local nonprofits to further their missions and enhance the quality of life for residents," said Cecilia Coble, president of the Fishers City Council, and chair of the Nonprofit Committee. "The Nonprofit Grant Program exemplifies our City's commitment to fostering a vibrant, engaged, and inclusive community."

For more information and to apply for the grant, visit FishersIN.gov/NonprofitGrant.

Fishers Nonprofit Grant Eligibility

- Applying organization must be a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit or have a fiscal sponsor.

- Organization must be located in Fishers or serve Fishers residents.
- Priority will be given to organizations that make a large impact on Fishers residents.

Grant Criteria

- Proven Success: Organization measures and tracks outcomes and has a record of achieving goals.
- Organizational Strength: Organization demonstrates fiscal responsibility and has proper staff and board oversight.
- Cooperation & Collaboration: Organization uses innovative approaches to solve pressing issues in Fishers while collaborating with partners to best leverage efforts and reduce duplication of services.
- Reliability: Organization has the resources and plans available to maintain the work after the grant period ends.

City of Fishers nonprofit grants will NOT support:

- Capital requests
- Grants to individuals
- Organizations or projects that discriminate based upon race, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation
- Political campaigns or direct lobbying efforts by 501(c)3 organizations
- Post-event or debt retirement expenses
- Projects aimed at promoting a particular religion

New Farm Bill Has Rural Communities Talking



A new farm bill is top of mind for many farmers, ranchers, and rural community members. However, amidst the ongoing discussions and negotiations, another important conversation is beginning to unfold. In the weeks ahead, members of Congress will outline federal spending levels for 2025, including funding for programs that impact agriculture and small businesses.

After much delay, Congress passed its 2024 budget earlier this month to fund the federal government through Sept. 30. The bill came after a series of continuing resolutions to keep the government afloat to allow for negotiations to continue. In addition to tensions across party lines, Congress was working under spending caps established by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023.

The bill, which resulted in roughly \$26 billion for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration, includes funding for several small but mighty programs with outsized benefits for rural communities.

For example, the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

distributes funding to intermediary lenders, such as the Center for Rural Affairs, who use the money to provide loans and technical assistance to small businesses in rural communities. In turn, these small businesses boost local economies and provide job opportunities on rural main streets across the country. The program received \$5 million to continue this work in 2024, down from \$6 million in 2023 and \$6.5 million in 2022, but still a substantial amount.

Another program supported by annual appropriations is Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA). The funding allows USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff to work directly with farmers and ranchers implementing practices that improve soil health and water quality. CTA received roughly \$773.5 million for 2024, a slight decrease from \$800.9 million in 2023.

As planning for the 2025 budget begins this spring, Congress must be reminded of the return on investment that programs such as RMAP and CTA offer to rural communities and be encouraged to fund these programs in a more timely manner.



What's happening on our southern border is 'not a crisis, it's an invasion,' says Sen. Roger Marshall

by John Grimaldi

WASHINGTON DC -- Senator, Dr. Roger Marshall [R-KS] says that what's happening at the Mexican border is not a crisis, it's an invasion and "the only thing we can do about it is to elect a new president. There are not enough laws in this land that would make Joe Biden secure the border." In a recent interview with Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens, on her Better For America podcast, he said "if he wanted to secure the border, he could have done it yesterday, last year or three years ago. So what we have to do is to get somebody different in the White House. It is that simple."

In fact, according to the Senator, Joe Biden "broke the law." The law says that if you are going to release illegal migrants, "you should be paroling them one person at a time. He's paroling them by the tens of thousands" and so far he's paroled some two million illegals. In addition, according to the House GOP, the Biden Administration "flew some 310,000 illegals into the country on secret flights in an effort to decrease the numbers of illegal migrant encounters at the Southern Border."

In a recent Fox News report, Senator Marshall declared that "Joe Biden has the power to secure our borders; instead, he has chosen to break the law, resulting in the

worst border crisis in history. I do not know how Joe Biden sleeps at night knowing terrorists, CCP nationals, cartels, and worse are living here in the interior of our country."

In his Better For America, he said that his resolution to declare an invasion at the southern border aims to reaffirm state sovereignty, "their constitutional rights to protect themselves.

Some 10 million people have crossed our border illegally. That sounds like an invasion to me and that empowers governors to do whatever they can to secure their borders, as opposed to the fights that we've seen between Joe Biden and Texas. Can you believe

we're sitting here and having this discussion? I can't believe that I have to fight for Texas to be allowed to defend itself. If Joe Biden won't do it, for crying out loud, let the Texans defend themselves." However, he added, "the Democrats and Joe Biden want these 10 million people crossing the border so that they'll vote for their party in the future ... everybody should be concerned because it's already happening. There are statewide efforts, community wide efforts in blue states where they are trying to make sure that these illegals get to vote."

➡ See MARSHALL on Page A6

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE TIMES!

ECLIPSE From Page A1

NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE, THERE IS AN ECLIPSE EVENT FOR YOU! On April 8, get ready to be mesmerized by a celestial masterpiece as the communities of Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville, Westfield and the Northern Towns become the perfect stage for the Total Solar Eclipse...

BECKWITH From Page A1

Indiana should join the growing list of states passing the resolution for Congressional Term Limits. As the Chairman of Indiana's U.S. Term Limits and our next Lt. Governor, Micah Beckwith will work with the legislature to get the resolution passed.

months, I have been meeting with leaders, experts and voters regarding the needs of our state. Knowing that our next Governor will have their hands full, I am putting forth this plan to help be part of the solution for creating a bright future for Hoosiers."

Beckwith is an inspirational speaker and has served as the keynote speaker for several not-for-profit and community groups and over the past year has toured the state as an advocate for healthcare freedom. He currently serves in leadership positions for several organizations, including: Noblesville Campus Pastor for Life Church, Executive Director of Indiana Family Action PAC, Co-Founder of Indiana Coalition Conservatives, Indiana Chairman of U.S. Term Limits, and Executive Director of Hoosier Leadership Series.

activities, food for purchase and a kids activity zone. Paid tickets are required for this event. https://bit.ly/30FDYI9

are required. https://livemu.sc/3l6F8Tg

Hamilton County's eclipse local organizing committee and assistant director of community engagement for Hamilton County Tourism. "We've been planning for this historic event for well over a year and are excited to celebrate it with a wide range of viewing options and amenities."

Indiana has been proactive in stopping the illegal immigration crisis unlike New York and Massachusetts. However, the federal government is not doing their job in Indiana. As our next Lt. Governor, Micah will also work with our federal delegation to ensure that ICE agents can do their jobs in Indiana.

"Our way of life is being threatened from within by the woke culture which is infiltrating every aspect of our lives and attempting to alter our value system. We are going to need both a Governor and Lt. Governor fighting to restore common sense and preserve our rights. My plan will help protect our children for generations to come," said Beckwith.

The Times SERVING ARCADIA ATLANTA CARMEL CICERO FISHERS NOBLESVILLE SHERIDAN WESTFIELD AND ALL OF HAMILTON COUNTY

Grand Park Sports Campus (Westfield, Indiana): Westfield will host solar eclipse festivities from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

In addition to the major viewing locations listed above, numerous Hamilton County parks, restaurants, and businesses will host smaller events and festivals. "We're thrilled to be a premiere destination for the total solar eclipse," says Sarah Buckner, head of



Sarah Buckner



Our rights are non-negotiable. As a Constitutionalist, Micah Beckwith promises to always protect our rights. He will push for legislation to allow law abiding gun owners to carry guns without concealed gun permits.

Beckwith is a proud father, devoted husband, pastor and small business owner. He and his wife, Susan, and their 2 children have been serving Hamilton County and surrounding areas for over 15 years. He is a graduate of Huntington University with a degree in business and economics. Currently, Beckwith teaches a high-school constitutional literacy class for a Christian school in Carmel. He also co-hosts the popular podcast "Jesus, Sex and Politics" with Pastor Nathan Peternel.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Project: Industrial Drive Water Main Replacement Project City of Carmel Utilities 30 West Main Street, Carmel, IN 46032 Engineer: American Structurepoint, Inc. 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46240

SECTION 00 02 00 - NOTICE TO BIDDERS NOTICE TO BIDDERS Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received: By: Carmel Clay Schools 5201 East Main Street Carmel, IN 46033

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BY THE HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN SCHOOLS, HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA, CONCERNING A POSSIBLE DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY IMPROVEMENT, EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION AND REFUNDING PROJECT

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION Pursuant to Indiana Code § 6-1.1-20-5, notice is hereby given that the Board of School Trustees of the Westfield Washington Schools has preliminarily determined to enter into a lease agreement and issue bonds in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of \$302,000,000 to fund a portion of the Destination Westfield Projects, which include the (i) construction of a new middle school; (ii) expansion of the Virginia F. Wood Early Learning Center; (iii) construction of a transportation facility and related site improvements; and (iv) further renovation of and improvements to facilities in the School Corporation, including maintenance improvements and site improvements, and the purchase of equipment, technology, real estate and buses.

Public Notices Deadline: 11:00 a.m. 2 Business Days Prior to Publication legals@thetimes24-7.com Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION Pursuant to Indiana Code § 6-1.1-20-5, notice is hereby given that the Board of School Trustees of the Westfield Washington Schools has preliminarily determined to enter into a lease agreement and issue bonds in one or more series of bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$185,500,000 to fund a portion of the Destination Westfield Projects, which include the (i) construction of a new elementary school at Midland Crossing; (ii) demolition of all or a portion of the existing Shamrock Springs Elementary School and construction of a new elementary school thereon; (iii) renovation of the historic Westfield Library facility for academic use; and (iv) further renovation of and improvements to facilities in the School Corporation, including maintenance improvements and site improvements, and the purchase of equipment, technology, real estate and buses.

Indiana Provides Educators Opportunity to Earn Literacy Endorsement

The Indiana Department of Education recently announced that eligible educators can now enroll in a free professional development course designed to help them earn Indiana’s Literacy Endorsement. Eligible educators will receive up to \$1,200 in stipends for completion of the course.

“For the first time ever, Indiana educators can add a literacy endorsement to their existing license, and the state has provided a way for educators to earn this distinction free of charge while also earning a stipend for their time spent completing the course,” said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. “The literacy endorsement, created by state law in 2023, provides educators with tools focused on evidence-based instruction rooted in science of reading, ensuring more students across the state gain essential literacy skills necessary for future success.”

This course, tailored specifically for Indiana educators, is certified by the International Dyslexia Association and is aligned to Indiana Academic Standards and science of reading. By participating, educators will continue to improve upon existing knowledge allowing for enhanced instructional practices in the fundamental elements of early reading and writing.

Indiana educators who hold an active Pre-K through grade six or special education license are invited to enroll in the newly-developed course, offered by Keys to Literacy. The free course will be available through June 2025. The program’s instructional practices are designed to seamlessly integrate into classroom lessons with any curriculum or published literacy program.

Funding is allocated in the state’s biennial budget to allow educators to enroll in the 80-hour course, participate in the Praxis licensing exam, and, ultimately, earn the Indiana Literacy Endorsement. Following completion of the exam, beginning in August 2024, educators can apply to add the literacy endorsement to their license. Additional information will be available this spring for educators who have completed the necessary 80-hour professional development on science of reading through a different provider.

To support schools and educators, as well as parents and families in preparing students with foundational reading skills, Indiana continues to make historic investments in literacy, totaling over \$170 million. Below are examples of how this investment continues to

positively impact students –

- Launched a new data visualization tool with key literacy data to empower educators, parents and families, community leaders and policymakers with the information needed to continue improving state and local literacy rates.
- Increased school-level science of reading instructional coaching and support for educators through the Indiana Literacy Cadre. Participation in 2023 grew nearly five-fold, with 199 total schools opting into cohorts one and two.
- Provided over 105,000 hours of learning support and tutoring services to over 20,000 students through Indiana Learns, regardless of a family’s ability to pay.
- Grew the Indiana Learning Lab from 6,000 users in 2021 to over 62,000 users just two years later, including launching the Parent and Family Support Hub, which provides no cost, 24/7 access to resources for parents and families to support their student’s learning.
- Developed online professional development modules supporting Indiana educators with additional science of reading training. Nearly 6,000 educators have signed up to participate, with 1,200 already completed. Eligible teachers receive a \$1,200 stipend upon completion.
- Expanded the number of schools opting-in to administer the state’s IREAD assessment for second grade students to 1,099 schools. This allows teachers, parents and families to immediately know if a child is on-track or at-risk when it comes to mastering foundational literacy skills.
- Awarded the Expanding What Works grant to four regional partners serving over 3,000 students to increase access to high-quality summer programming providing supplemental literacy and math instruction using evidence-based strategies.
- Provided \$10 million in cash stipends to teachers, instructional coaches and other school staff at all corporations and charter schools who are responsible for the implementation and delivery of early literacy and reading instruction through the Literacy Achievement Grants.
- Increased the implementation of evidence-based instructional practices for over 65,000 students across Indiana through the Competitive Science of Reading grant, which awarded nearly \$15 million to 72 school corporations. This is in addition to the multiple other initiatives supporting science of reading.

City of Fishers announces recipients of first cycle of expanded 2024 Neighborhood Vibrancy Grant

The City of Fishers announced the recipients for the first cycle of 2024 Neighborhood Vibrancy Grants recently, a grant program that provides funding for creative and innovative ideas that boost the vibrancy of Fishers neighborhoods. The first grant cycle of the year featured a record-high of 37 applicants and \$399,638.40 in funding awarded to 28

Applications for the grant program are accepted on a rolling basis with funds distributed quarterly, a change from previous years when grants were only administered annually in the spring. The expanded timeline encourages opportunities for year-round vibrancy efforts. Deadlines to apply for the remainder of the 2024 grants are April 30, July 31 and October 31.

Under the leadership of Mayor Scott Fadness and the Fishers City Council, this year’s grant allocation also saw a significant jump from \$100k in previous years to \$750k for 2024. The City of Fishers now also funds 80% of the project cost up to \$25,000, requiring participants to contribute just 20% of the total. This marks a substantial shift from the previous 50/50 split of funding.

"In this year's first quarter alone, we've seen an unprecedented level of community

involvement and creativity through the Neighborhood Vibrancy Grant Program,” said Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness. “This is a significant step toward realizing our collective vision of making Fishers an even more vibrant and engaging place to call home.”

Grants can be used to fund a wide range of projects, from entrance landscaping and greenspace preservation to creating community spaces within residential areas. Community engagement initiatives, like community gardens, playgrounds, and communal gathering hubs, are also eligible for funding.

In addition to beautification, residents and homeowner associations are encouraged to pursue sustainable initiatives and projects that support the environment and natural habitats. All funded projects featuring landscaping utilize native species.

Recipients of the first cycle of the 2024 Neighborhood Vibrancy Grant Program include: * Allison Place (\$2,600) to repair and replace entrance walls. * Anchorage (\$22,840) to install lighting due to lack of sidewalks and install native plant species. * Ashwood (\$6,252.40) to enhance the entrance landscaping. * Belmont Place (\$3,000) to repair and replace the entrance monument sign. * Berkley Ridge (\$25,000) to replace an

entrance sign and add new lighting and landscaping. * Bridgewater at Geist (\$23,012) to install and enhance the entry way landscaping. * Britton Falls (\$20,061) to beautify the Thorpe Creek pathway, including lawns to natural areas, and the installation of trees. * Britton Ridge (\$25,000) to install erosion control along the north shore of the retention pond. * Cherry Hills Farms (\$17,218) to replace two pond aerators from 2004. * Conner Creek (\$23,430) to enhance amenities at the community pool area including fencing, lighting and landscaping. * Courtyard Lakes (\$9,000) to replace shadowbox fencing from 1997 along the western property line. * Geist Overlook (\$5,872) to install landscaping and lighting at the entrance. * Hanover on the Green (\$21,800) to remove groundcover and replace with sod. * Harrison Lakes (\$12,037) to remove and replace entrance landscaping and trees at the pond. * High Point Ridge (\$6,600) to replace the public safety gate with bollards. * Lantern Ridge (\$7,809.64) to install landscaping and lighting at the entrance. * Muir Woods (\$9,440) to remove and replace non-native species with native species, including pear trees. * Overlook at Beaver Ridge (\$18,380) to remove dead trees and

make an entrance sign, add new landscaping and make sidewalk improvements. * Princeton Woods (\$25,000) to install native landscaping within the landscape islands. * Sand Creek Woods (\$25,000) to separate the irrigation system for the adjoining apartment complex, tuckpoint the entrance sign, and replace the path lights. * Stevenson Mill (\$6,650.60) to make landscape improvements at the neighborhood entrance along Allisonville Road. * Tanglewood (\$25,000) to install a new playground for 5 - 12-year-olds and replace playground border, mulch, benches and tables. * The Haven (\$25,000) to renovate landscaping and irrigation at the front entrance. * Timberstone (\$1,519.16) to enhance entrance and pond landscaping. * Villages at Geist (\$11,865.60) to repair and replace the entrance sign with limestone. * Waterford Gardens (\$5,505) to improve the entrance by removing a tree trunk and tree leaning on a wall, install a rock garden and reslope yards. * Weaver Woods (\$7,435) to repair and replace walking paths. * Wintercove (\$7,311) to install a fountain at the retention pond along Easy Street.

THE TIMES

PAULA

From Page A1

eclipse of old Sol.”

For the two minutes the eclipse lasted, it was dark enough to see several stars, although the correspondent observed that “there was not darkness like night, for over sky and earth was a soft light that tinted all and painted the horizon in such colors as we may not hope to see until there is a ‘new Heaven and a new earth’ . . . “

He added — to his disgust — that the minute sunlight started to return, everyone there began dashing downhill into town, like modern concert goers leaving early to beat the rush.

The awe-inspiring spectacle had quickly become less important than finding a good seat on the train for the return journey. The Register’s correspondent used smoked glass to view the eclipse, but that’s not recommended today. Instead, you’ll need special eclipse glasses or solar viewers marked “ISO 12312-2.” That indicates the glasses or viewers meet international safety standards.

To make sure your glasses have been properly tested and aren’t counterfeits, visit NASA’s website,

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/> to check their list of safe suppliers.

Of course, you can always play it safe by viewing the progress of the eclipse indirectly using items like a colander or a pinhole projector.

The NASA website has instructions for doing that, as well as answers to most of the other questions you might have about the coming eclipse. (They’ve got some impressive graphics, too.) For local eclipse information — events, souvenirs, glasses and eclipse prep, etc. — check out <https://www.visithamiltoncounty.com/eclipse/>. (There’s even a countdown clock!) If you miss this eclipse, you’ll be out of luck for a long time. The next total solar eclipse visible in the continental United States won’t take place until 2044 and you’ll have to travel near the Canadian border of Montana or North Dakota in order to see it.

Paula Dunn’s From Time to Thyme column appears on Wednesdays in The Times. Contact her at younggardenerfriend@gmail.com

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MARSHALL From Page A1

It's an issue that needs attention across the board, Senator Marshall said. "We need to stand up at every level, at the local level, all the way up to the federal level. I think it's great that you're reaching out to your Congress members and your Senators. But I think it's equally important that you reach out to your state officers, your state representatives, your state senators, the governor, the secretary of state. All those people need to understand that you need to be a United

States citizen to vote in American elections. It's that simple. The Constitution tells us the time, the manner and the place of elections shall be controlled at the state level. So I think it's just all the more important that you reach out to local officials and that you don't let them tell you, it's just a citywide election or it's just a county wide election. It's a very slippery slope once you see that happening. So yes, everyone should be very concerned."

Noblesville and Carmel Lions Clubs Volunteer Manpower Serving Gleaners



Photo courtesy Noblesville Lions

On March 21 the Noblesville and Carmel clubs helped Gleaners with food service. Gleaners mobile food pantry comes to the Hamilton County Fairgrounds on the third Thursday of every month from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. The Carmel and Noblesville Lions are proud to volunteer their manpower and time to assist Gleaners with the distribution of food to those in need. All volunteers were kept very busy! From left, Lions Lane Sims, Bob Yunker, Joe Arrowood, Matt Best, Ed Shea, Dale Unger, Gary Hipes, Steve Craig, Walt Scheid, Larry Jacobi, and Rom Williamson. Not pictured are Jeff Kozicki and Joe Connerley.

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