

# The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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**TODAY'S VERSE**

*Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with thy might.*

## Hamilton Happenings

Green Day, a celebration of Earth and Arbor Days, returns on April 27, from noon to 2 p.m. at Grand Junction Plaza, hosted by the City of Westfield's Parks and Recreation Department. This free event will include local organizations and vendors sharing tips and techniques highlighting green practices and initiatives that can be practiced at home and around the community. Topics include soils, trees, water, invasive species and more. The city will give away free native tree saplings while supplies last, courtesy of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Free public parking for the event is available in the lot at the southwest corner of Poplar Street and Park Street and in designated on-street spots along Jersey, Mill, and Union Streets.

## Three Things You Should Know

**1** More than 50,000 guests from all 50 states and 33 countries around the world flocked to Indianapolis Motor Speedway to stare at the greatest show in the sky during the Total Solar Eclipse Event. Guests arrived early for a full day of exhibits, experiments, panel-led discussions, demonstrations, photo opportunities and, of course, the total solar eclipse. More than 80 percent of the guests were first-time visitors to the Racing Capital of the World. Among the guests were members of Indiana's congressional delegation, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, NASA Deputy Administrator Pam Melroy, and Mark and Rick Armstrong, the sons of Purdue graduate and first man on the moon Neil Armstrong.

**2** According to our friends at Test Prep Insight, a survey involving 3,000 parents shows a shift toward 'authoritarian parenting.' The data indicates a near-majority shift to stricter parenting, with 49% of parents reporting a tightening grip on their children's academic life, driven by an anxiety to navigate them toward future job security. A striking 37 percent of parents expressed the need to organize their children's leisure with structured activities, suggesting a preference for regimented skill-building over free play. Moreover, 65 percent of parents admitted they would reduce their child's allowance as a penalty for declining grades, indicating a punitive approach to academic performance.

**3** Indiana Sen. And gubernatorial candidate Mike Braun spoke on the Senate floor earlier this week and called for a full impeachment trial of DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. Braun said Democrats are trying to "sweep this under the rug" to avoid talking about what President Joe Biden did to open the border in his first days in office, and the steps taken by Secretary Mayorkas to "catch-and-release" illegal aliens into the country. Braun previously called on Secretary Mayorkas to resign over the border crisis.

## Fun Fest Cultural Fair, Shred Day, Westfield Play, Wildflower Walks, More



**BETSY REASON**  
Columnist

A Noblesville Fun Fest, Basile Westfield Playhouse show, Hamilton County Shred Day, Blatchley Nature Study

Club wildflower walks and more are among the things to do this weekend. Read more about happenings in The Times' list of 15 things to do this weekend and beyond:

1. Guests will embark on a culinary journey at tonight's SERVE Noblesville Fun (Food, Unity and Neighbors) Fest, in partnership with Noblesville Mayor's Youth Council Culture Fair, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. today at Noblesville Schools' Community Center on Field Drive in Noblesville. The festival will also feature booths representing a myriad of cultural facets of Noblesville, including traditions, languages, games and more.

2. Main Street Productions presents "That Championship Season," a play by Jason Miller and directed by Lori Raffel of Carmel, now through Sunday with show times at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Basile Westfield Playhouse, with tickets at westfieldplayhouse.org.

3. Enjoy live music with Robyn & Steve tonight, Jason Dozier on Saturday at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

4. Kiln Creations in downtown Noblesville offers Squishmallow Plates at 6 p.m. today with classes at the downtown shop, unless noted otherwise, with reservations at kilncreations.net.

5. Reduce unnecessary paper waste during Hamilton County Shred Day 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, with entry to the Shred Day on Clover Road just north of the Subway eatery. Also, upcoming, The Farmer's Bank will have a paper-shredding day on April 20 at the Noblesville bank.

6. Travel to the countryside to hear live music with Jeff Brown at 7 p.m. Saturday, cookie-decorating class at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville. Visit spencerfarmwinery.com.

7. Blatchley Nature Study Club's free Spring Wildflower Walks are 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, April 13 and 27, at Blatchley Nature Study Club, 125 Boulder Drive, Noblesville.

8. Noblesville Creates'



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

**Reduce unnecessary paper waste during Hamilton County Shred Day 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, with entry to the Shred Day on Clover Road just north of the Subway eatery.**



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

**Jim Simmons (from left) of Fishers (as Coach), Ken Kingshill of Whitestown (as Phil), Earl Campbell of Noblesville (as George), Mark Kamish of Indianapolis (as James), Adrian Blackwell of Noblesville (as Tom) rehearse for Main Street Productions' play, "That Championship Season," onstage through Sunday at Basile Westfield Playhouse.**

annual Fairyville event is April 17-20 at Noblesville Creates campus (formerly Nickel Plate Arts) and other locations in downtown Noblesville. Visit <https://noblesvillecreates.org/fairyville/>

➔ See BETSY Page A4



## Boomer Bits



### Ask Rusty – Can I Claim Social Security and Still Work?



**ASK Rusty**  
Social Security Advisor

#### Social Security Matters

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**Dear Rusty:**  
I will be turning 63 soon. Can I apply for Social Security and continue to work? Would I be limited to how many hours or how much I could make? I know my monthly SS amount would be cut by 30%, or somewhere around there, but how would working

affect me? I was trying to read up on this, but the \$1 and \$2 thing confused me. I have an offer to take a work-at-home position and need to decide soon, but it is a cut in income. The cut would be okay if I could draw my Social

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

### Phony Investment Opportunities' Can Cost You Big

(NAPSI)—Huge returns and little to no risk? Who wouldn't want an investment opportunity like that? If you receive a pitch by phone, mail or email that makes such incredible financial promises

➔ See PHONY Page A3

### What to Know About RSV

(NAPSI)—You may remember the old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." That's never been more true than it is right now about good health and older adults,

➔ See RSV Page A4

### TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Kids work harder in school when their parents are involved in their education.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at [www.thetimes24-7.com](http://www.thetimes24-7.com)



### OBITUARIES

**Cleatus Catherine "Cathy" DeLong Meyer Sherman**

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



### TODAY'S QUOTE

"Our new Constitution is now established, everything seems to promise it will be durable; but in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes."  
*Benjamin Franklin*

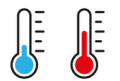
### TODAY'S JOKE

The student studied the test question carefully: What is the difference between tax avoidance and tax evasion. After some pondering he wrote down a one-word answer – jail. He passed.

## The Daily Almanac

### Sunrise/Sunset

RISE: 7:10 am  
SET: 8:20 pm



### High/Low Temperatures

HIGH: 56°F  
LOW: 41°F



### Today is...

- Drop Everything and Read Day
- National Dive Bar Day



### What Happened On This Day

- **1981** The Space Shuttle blasts off into space for the first time. Two astronauts took off for Space Shuttle Columbia's first orbital test flight.
- **1961** Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human in space. The Soviet Cosmonaut orbited the Earth aboard the Vostok-3KA spacecraft (Vostok 1 mission). The first human spaceflight took 108 minutes from launch to landing.



### Births On This Day

- **1947** David Letterman - American comedian, talk show host
- **1947** Tom Clancy - American author

### Deaths On This Day

- **1989** Sugar Ray Robinson - American boxer
- **1945** Franklin D. Roosevelt - 32nd President of the United States



# OBITUARY

## Cleatus Catherine "Cathy" DeLong Meyer Sherman

November 21, 1947 - April 4, 2024

Cleatus Catherine "Cathy" DeLong Meyer Sherman, 76, of Fort Wayne, Indiana (formerly of Noblesville) passed away on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at Parkview Hospital. Born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on November 21, 1947, she was the daughter of the late Cleatus William DeLong and Shirley (Anderson) DeLong.



She was also preceded in death by her stepfather Richard Shull, aunt Lois Fleck, sister Beth Keller, and sister-in-law Sandra Lees.

She is survived by her husband of 34 years, Ivan Sherman; her children, Lonny (Shiryl) Meyer of Danville, IN; Brian (Peggy) Meyer of New Haven, IN; Cyndi (Mike) Renn of Plain City, OH; Nancy (Mike) Ireland of Lafayette, IN; 8 grandchildren, Katie (Kyle) Feucht of Marysville, OH; Jackie (Cole) Heissel of Remsen, IA; Colby Ireland of Hillsboro, IN; Hannah (AJ) Bursott of Lafayette, IN; Kellen Meyer of Carmel, IN; Elizabeth (Tyler Webb) Meyer of Fort Wayne, IN; Payton Kubelsky of Danville, IN; and Kaiden Ortega of Danville, IN; and 6 great-grandchildren, Emery, Harper, Grace, Elliot, Julia, and Elena. Also surviving are her sister and brother-in-law, Martha (Melvin) Steury of St. Joe, IN; and brothers-in-law, Dennis Keller of Butler, IN and Julius Lees of Oklahoma City, OK.

Cathy grew up on farms around Antwerp, OH and Fort Wayne, IN. She graduated from Eastside High School (Butler, IN) in 1966. She started her family, moving to Noblesville in 1976. While homemaking and raising her sons, she also worked as a seamstress, making spectacular square dance dresses and vests, bridesmaids dresses, and fitting bridal gowns to several anxious brides in emergency fixes just days before their wedding.

In her later years she used her mother's instructions to create unique blankets as gifts to young and old friends and family. In the mid-1980's she took a job with Farm Bureau Insurance. She was also elected deacon of First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville. When her children were young, she enjoyed mini motorhome camping in most of the eastern U.S. states, exploring historical sites and sharing her love of history. When her sons reached high school, she also volunteered as band booster officer and uniform organizer for the Marching Millers. She served for all eight years of her sons' participation and will forever be remembered as a "Band Mom" to many NHS students from 1982 - 1990. She enjoyed attending band camps and trips to Philadelphia/New York and Florida as a chaperone.

Cathy met her husband Ivan while working at Farm Bureau Insurance. She then earned her associate degree at Ivy Tech in Indianapolis and worked as a paralegal for the US Army (DFAS) at Fort Harrison, retiring after 10 years of service.

In retirement she and Ivan enjoyed traveling and especially visiting the western US states, sometimes bringing family members along. Cathy was a thirty-one-year member of Order of the Eastern Star, Fishers Chapter #446. She served in various roles in the local chapter and was honored to serve as the Grand Representative to the State of Kentucky in 2014. She was so proud that all of her immediate family attended her appointment reception.

One of her greatest legacies is her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren. Whether it was for a sporting event, dance recital, cheerleading, band concert, 4H contest or art exhibit, she and Ivan made every effort to attend, even if it meant traveling hundreds of miles to several activities in one weekend. They answered many 1-800-GRANDMA calls over the years to help when the kids were sick, or their parents just needed a break. "Nana" was always ready to come with very little notice, with Diet Pepsi in hand.

Per Cathy's wishes, there will be no service. In lieu of flowers the family requests that you consider a donation to Fishers Chapter #446 OES, 14491 Harrison Parkway, Fishers, IN 46038.

To share online condolences please visit [www.harperfuneralhome.com](http://www.harperfuneralhome.com)

# Legislative Session Ends with Important Wins for Hamilton County



SEN. SCOTT BALDWIN  
 Guest Columnist

The 2024 legislative session ended with several important wins for Hamilton County and our state. I was proud to champion new laws that will bolster community response to mental health needs, improve our schools, strengthen public safety, and support our first responders and veterans.

One of my priorities this session was legislation to create the Community Cares Initiative, which is a statewide grant program to help communities establish mobile crisis teams to better respond to mental health and addiction issues among residents. This program is modeled after the City of Noblesville's NobleACT, which Mayor Chris Jensen launched in 2020 to equip first responders to address these issues and help more residents access care. House Enrolled Act 1385 encourages other communities to adopt programs like this to ensure Hoosiers are getting the help they need. Moving through several vehicle bills and amendments, this effort passed with broad, bipartisan support and will help save lives.

We also took steps this session to address the reading crisis occurring in our schools, where 1 in 5

students is ending third grade without basic reading skills. Senate Enrolled Act 1, which I co-authored, adds reading proficiency requirements in schools to address low literacy rates among young Hoosiers. The ability to read is a crucial building block for success later in life, and we must ensure all of our students are gaining this foundational skill.

Another important issue we worked on this session addresses public safety concerns around the use of lead pipes across the state. Senate Enrolled Act 5, which I co-authored, will set up a procedure to help utility companies in Indiana replace lead water lines quicker and more efficiently. Lead pipes pose a major health risk to Hoosiers which is why it's critical that we replace them as quickly as possible. Efforts to support our first responders and military veterans are always top of mind for me as your Senator. Having served as a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and law enforcement officer, I know the sacrifices our first responders make and the challenges they face every day to keep us safe.

I sponsored House Enrolled Act 1142 this session establishing the Hoosier First Responder Medal of Honor, which will be awarded to first responders who go above and beyond the call of duty while

engaged in an act of public service. Additionally, I co-authored Senate Enrolled Act 49 to allow certain disabled veterans to participate in Indiana's free hunting days. The days can serve as a healthy outlet for veterans who have sacrificed so much for this country.

As a Hamilton County business and residential taxpayer, I also feel the pressure of rising property taxes. While this is predominantly a local government issue, I am working with other legislators as part of the State and Local Tax Review Task Force to find ways to make rates more predictable and ease the property tax burden for Hoosiers.

Even though this was a short session, the General Assembly made great strides to improve the lives of Hoosiers. Over the summer and fall, I will continue to meet with my colleagues in the Legislature and constituents in our district on the issues important to our community. Please reach out to me at my Senate office at [www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Baldwin](http://www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Baldwin) if I can assist you in any way.

Republican Scott Baldwin is a state senator representing Noblesville in the Indiana Legislature.

# Superintendent Creating Student Advisory Council

Noblesville Schools announced today that students who will be in grades 4-12 next school year are invited to apply by April 30 for Dr. Daniel Hile's new Superintendent Advisory Council. Selected participants will advise Dr. Hile on school related issues important to students, provide feedback on Noblesville Schools, and offer input into district decision making.

Students who apply to participate should be thoughtful, analytical, respectful of others, collaborative, and confident in sharing questions and opinions in a group of peers.

Council meetings will be split between elementary

students and secondary students and will be held once each quarter during the school year at the Noblesville Schools Educational Services Center. Meetings will be from 7:30am-8:30am on a weekday. Students will need to make their own travel arrangements for arrival and a school bus will take students to their respective schools following the meeting. Students who arrive late to school will be excused.

The council will be made up of:

- 14 elementary students (one fourth grader + one fifth grader from each school)
- 6 NEMS students (2 from each grade)



Dr. Daniel Hile

- 6 NWMS students (2 from each grade)
- 12 NHS students (3 from each grade)

Students selected to represent their school will be notified before the end of this school year, with council meetings starting in the 2024-2025 school year.

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## ↓ RUSTY From Page A1

Security too.

**Signed: Wanting Work at Home**

**Dear Wanting:**

If you claim your Social Security to start in the month you turn 63, you'll be claiming 4 years before your full retirement age (FRA) of 67, which means your monthly benefit at 63 will be about 25% less than it would be if you claimed SS at age 67. And if you are working before your FRA, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

The 2024 earnings limit for those collecting early Social Security benefits is \$22,320 (this limit changes annually). If your annual earnings exceed the limit, Social Security will assess a penalty of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. They will recover that penalty amount by withholding future benefits until they recover what you owe. If your work earnings are under the annual limit, you will get all your monthly SS benefits. But if you exceed the limit, they will find that out after you submit your income tax return (the following year) and issue you an overpayment notice, telling you how much you owe for exceeding the limit last year. They will then withhold your benefits until they get back what you owe, or you can repay them in a lump sum. To avoid the overpayment notice, it is best to inform Social Security in advance that you will exceed the annual earnings limit, and they will simply withhold your monthly SS benefits during the year for enough months to avoid overpaying you.

So, what you should do depends largely on

how much your earnings from your new work-at-home position will be. If your earnings are below the annual limit, no penalty will be assessed. If you only exceed the annual limit by a little bit, then you can still work and earn and simply repay them what is owed for exceeding the limit (or have your SS benefit temporarily withheld). If you only exceed the earnings limit by a little, you'll still get benefits for most months of the year. But if you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you could even be ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your full retirement age (the earnings limit goes away at your FRA).

So, what you should do depends on what "a cut in income" means in terms of your expected annual earnings amount. If your total annual earnings will be under the annual limit, your SS benefit won't be affected. If you only exceed the limit by a little bit, then you will get SS benefits for most months of the year. But if your annual earnings are significantly over each year's annual earnings limit, then you won't get SS benefits for most months of the year and may even be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/progr ams/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.*

## ↓ PHONY From Page A1

as high returns with a low risk, you might ask yourself, "How is this possible?" Generally, it's not.

**The Problem**

Postal Inspectors say investment opportunities or "get rich quick" schemes are a favorite of fraudsters. Whether they sell bogus securities or commodities, oil wells, rare coins, or cybercurrency, these fraudulent promoters try to get you to invest your money—and lots of it. Some swindlers even surround themselves with the trappings of legitimacy—rented office space, a receptionist, investment counselors, and professionally designed color brochures describing the investment.

**Who Gets Hurt**

Older Americans are prime targets because they possess most of the nation's individual wealth. People who live on fixed incomes from Social Security and small pensions are especially vulnerable, as they frequently need supplemental sources of income to make ends meet, or are motivated to help younger family members seek out extra funds.

They may be manipulated into believing phony investment offers at a rate disproportionate to the rest of the population. Scammers know some older adults can be more easily disarmed by their convincing messages. These Americans may have difficulty discerning a fraudulent promotion from a legitimate one. It might be alarming to discover how vulnerable an older friend or loved one can be. It's important for family members

and friends to understand why older adults are at risk and what steps can be taken to minimize the chance they'll be taken advantage of by fraudsters.

**Some Scams**

Every year, thousands lose between a few dollars and their entire life savings to fraudsters. Even the most experienced investors can be caught up in an investment scam. A perfect example of this is the number of professional money managers who placed their clients' money with Bernie Madoff. And that's just one example.

In a case investigated by Postal Inspectors, a con artist acting as the CEO of an investment firm defrauded investors out of more than \$4 million through a purported financial services firm he controlled. He lied to investors about how much money had been raised, who had invested, how close the firm was to an IPO (initial public offering), and how he would use investors' money. The scammer appropriated most of the money for his own use or to pay off investors in a Ponzi-like fashion. He was sentenced to prison for his crimes.

Another man was sentenced to four years in prison for his role in two high-yield investment fraud schemes. Postal Inspectors said he and his co-conspirators defrauded vulnerable victims out of millions of dollars. The scammers have been handed down sentences ranging up to 12 years in prison. In another Postal Inspection Service investigation, a real estate investment scammer defrauded numerous investors who invested in more

than a thousand real estate investment properties. The real estate scammer convinced investors by misrepresenting returns, promoting fraudulent information and over-inflating appraisals. He was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison and ordered to pay \$17 million in restitution.

**Some Solutions**

So, what do you do to protect yourself from these scammers who try to separate you from your hard-earned money?

Education and information are your best defenses against investment fraud. Postal Inspectors urge potential investors to independently research registration of investment firms and be extremely cautious about unsolicited offers to invest through social media or the internet. Think about these things before jumping into an investment:

- Anyone can be anyone on the internet. Scammers spoof websites and use fake social media accounts to obscure their identities. You can identify phony accounts by looking closely at content. Pay careful attention to domain names.
- Take your time in deciding to invest—don't rush into accepting these "high-profit, low-risk" offers.
- Get all information in writing before you consider investing.
- Beware of unsolicited offers and fake client reviews. Scammers often reference or publish positive, yet bogus testimonials purportedly drafted by satisfied customers.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably

is. Be careful of claims that an investment will make "incredible gains," is a "breakout stock pick," or has "huge upside and almost no risk!" "Guaranteed returns" aren't. All investments carry some degree of risk, and the potential profits are typically correlated with the degree of risk.

**Learn More**

For more info on avoiding scams, visit the Postal Inspection Service website at [USPIS.gov](http://USPIS.gov).

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### Noblesville Schools Accepting Exhibitor Applications for 10th Back to School BASH

The 10th annual Noblesville Schools Back to School BASH will be Friday, July 26 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. This event has been a favorite of the Noblesville community for a decade and typically draws 8,000 or more attendees each year.

Exhibitor space at the Back to School BASH is limited and organizations must be selected and approved for participation. Community businesses and organizations interested in exhibiting at the Back to School BASH must apply by May 1. Go to

The event features food, games, athletics, arts, music and community youth organizations.

<https://www.noblesvilleschools.org/departments/marketing-pr-communications/back-to-school-bash>



for more information and to apply.





## RSV

From Page A1

especially when it comes to protecting yourself during what is commonly known as respiratory disease season (fall through early spring).

Last year saw the devastating effects of an increase in COVID, flu, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and pneumonia on the wellbeing of older Americans. Fortunately, most people had access to vaccines for all but RSV last year. And in good news for this year, for the first time ever, there is a vaccine approved by FDA for preventing RSV in older adults.

### The Problem

RSV is a serious respiratory virus whose full toll on seniors is just now being recognized. Each year, RSV results in up to 160,000 hospitalizations among people aged 65 and over and leads to as many as 10,000 deaths in older people in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

It can also prove serious for anyone with chronic conditions such as asthma, COPD, heart or other lung problems, certain autoimmune conditions and those receiving chemotherapy or radiation treatments. It is easily spread from contact with a contaminated surface as well as through the air (when someone infected sneezes or coughs), so anyone at any age can get it.

### A Solution

RSV vaccines are now approved and available throughout the U.S. and the cost is covered fully for Medicare beneficiaries. These vaccines can truly protect your health across your lifespan as they are now available for adults aged 60 years or older, as well as for infants through maternal immunization.

### What Else You Should Know

It is always a good idea to review your health plan. When contacting Medicare, make certain that you are contacting the actual government agency itself. Only government agencies can use the .gov ending and the best number to use to reach trained Medicare experts is 1-800-633-4227. It's easy to remember—it's 1-800-Medicare.

The National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) created a resource outlining the five things to know about RSV to help get the word out about this important opportunity to protect the health of older adults. English and Spanish versions can be found at <https://www.nanasp.org/vaccines>.

It's a good idea to talk to your pharmacist or healthcare provider about whether you should get the RSV vaccine, and any other recommended vaccines.

## BETSY

From Page A1

9. Bring the little ones to explore nature during Hamilton County Parks' free Nature Preschool program, "Open Wide and Say "Ahhhh!" featuring the animal world's "crazy tongues," 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. April 17 at Cool Creek Nature Center in Westfield (Carmel address), with registration at [hamiltoncounty.in.gov](http://hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

10. Hamilton County Parks offers free guided tours of the Coxhall Mansion and Museum at 4 p.m. April 17, May 15 and June 19 with registration online at [hamiltoncounty.in.gov](http://hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

11. Watch a moment captured in time during The Attic Theatre's production of "Meet Me In St. Louis," a play directed by Seth and Millie Lawrence, April 18-20 at the Ivy Tech Noblesville campus, with tickets at [theattictheatre.com](http://theattictheatre.com).

12. The community is invited to Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball's Pancake and Sausage Breakfast open to the community from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. April 20 at Forest Park Inn, for \$5 per person at the door, with proceeds to Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball, and breakfast served by Noblesville Sunrisers

Kiwanians.  
13. Register for Aspire to Get inShape 5K Run/Walk at 8 a.m. April 20 at Conner Prairie in Fishers, at [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com), featuring a bounce house, obstacle course, caricature artist, Star Wars characters, music, yard games, face painting and virtual reality games.

14. Get your car washed by Noblesville High School thespians during the NHS Theatre Car Wash noon to 3 p.m. April 20 at Tractor Supply Co. in Noblesville, with donations benefiting NHS Theatre.

15. Enjoy live theater during The Belfry Theatre's "Father of the Bride" comedy, directed by Barcia Alejos, onstage April 26-May 5 at Noblesville First United Methodist Church's Celebration Hall with tickets at [thebelfrytheatre.com](http://thebelfrytheatre.com)

*-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times Editor Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes24-7.com). For a complete list of all Hamilton County events, go to [VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Events](http://VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Events)*



Blatchley Nature Study Club's free Spring Wildflower Walks are 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, April 13 and 27, at Blatchley Nature Study Club, 125 Boulder Drive, Noblesville.

*Photo courtesy of Blatchley Nature Study Club*



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*Pancake & Sausage Breakfast*

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# Future Looks Bright for Painter, Purdue Boilermakers



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

Once the disappointment subsides from Monday's loss to two-time national champion Connecticut, this will be remembered as arguably the best season in Purdue men's basketball history.

The Boilermakers' 34 victories blew past the previous record of 30 set during the 2017-18 season. Zach Edey, Mason Gillis, Ethan Morton, Lance Jones, Chase Martin and Carson Barrett depart with a 110-29 record, the most wins by a senior class in school history.

Westfield's Braden Smith set the Big Ten record for most assists in a season with 292, one more than Michigan State's Cassius Winston in 2019.

Edey's 37 points against Connecticut were the most scored in a national championship game in 46 years. Only UCLA's Bill Walton and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar have also had at least 37 points and 10 rebounds in national championship game history.

Space does not permit listing every record the 7-4 center set this season but here are some highlights:

- Edey finished his career with 90 consecutive double-figure scoring games and 116 double-figure games in his career, tying E'Twaun Moore.
- Edey and Shaquille O'Neal are the only players in NCAA history to average at least 25.0 points, 12.0 rebounds and shoot 60.0 percent from the field in a single season.
- Edey leaves Purdue with 2,516 points and 1,321 rebounds in 138 games. Rick Mount's 54-year scoring record was 2,323 points in 72 games. Joe Barry Carroll's 44-year-old rebounding standard was 1,148 in 123 games.

- With Wednesday's Wooden Award announcement, Edey is the first player to sweep the National Player of the Year honors in consecutive seasons since Walton in 1972 and 1973. Edey also was named the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Center of the Year for the second season in a row.
- Edey joins Dave Schellhase (1966) and Glenn Robinson (1994) as national scoring champions from Purdue. Edey averaged 25.2 points along with 12.2 rebounds, which was second-best in the nation.

After the Connecticut loss, Purdue coach Matt Painter was asked if Edey should be remembered as one of college basketball's greatest centers.

"When you look at his numbers against the greats, there's no question he's in the conversation," Painter said. "But he's also the winningest player at Purdue.

"Everybody wants to have the argument about . . . who is the greatest. That's the ultimate separator because every person in that conversation is great. I think he was great in how he did it, too. People have no idea the burden you carry when you're as good as he is, produce like he does going into opposing arenas.

"A lot of those old-timers, they didn't have to hear it on social media. For young people that are successful, they have to go through a lot of stuff. But in a way you kind of like it 'cause it toughens you up, allows you to focus, allows you to push through things.

"I just told him in the locker room, you're not going to go on in life and push past here and not deal with adversity. In the workforce, in relationships, everything. You're going to deal with adversity. He was superior dealing with adversity. He was a guy that didn't get recruited, then all of a

sudden he started to get recruited, then that picked up. That got him on edge. All the great ones stay on edge.

"He's going to be a terrific NBA player. We're really proud of him."

Smith, whose deliveries to Edey helped him set the Big Ten assists record, also praised his teammate.

"He taught me so much. I went from 6-4 center (in high school) to a 7-4 center. Definitely a huge change," Smith said.

"The most unselfish person you'll ever meet. Like coach Paint said, he gets more hate for no reason. For what? He's out there dominating everybody?"

Now the ceiling has been raised for Purdue basketball. Early predictions have the Boilermakers favored to three-peat as Big Ten champions for the first time since 1994-96. Of course, those expectations could change after their rivals shop from the transfer portal. Indiana, Illinois and Michigan are expected to heavily invest in filling major holes in their rosters.

Painter welcomes the pressure, which is nothing compared to being reminded for 12 months about losing to Farleigh Dickenson as a No. 1 seed.

"I told our guys in the locker room, like, when you have the most wins in school history, you're the first team to win back-to-back championships by multiple games since 1976, which was the last undefeated team in college basketball, and you get an eyelash away from winning it all, that's the standard," Painter said.

So, like, now just like any other year we're going to take two to three weeks off, then get back to work. We like our young guys that are coming in next year, so we're excited."

The class of 6-8 forward Kanon Catchings of Brownsburg via

Overtime Elite, 6-4 guard Gicarri Harris of Loganville, Ga., 6-6 guard Jack Benter of Brownstown, 7-3 center Daniel Jacobsen of Brewster Academy, 6-10 forward/center Raleigh Burgess of Cincinnati and 6-2 guard CJ Cox of Milton Academy is ranked second in the Big Ten and 11th nationally by 24/7 Sports composite rankings.

Catchings, the nephew of University of Tennessee and Indiana Fever great Tamika Catchings, is ranked 34th in the nation by 24/7. Harris, the son of Glenn Robinson, is 90th. Here's a sample of the early expectations awaiting Purdue.

ESPN's Jeff Borzello has Purdue ranked sixth behind the Worldwide Leader in Sports' unofficial favorite school, Duke, Gonzaga, Kansas, Connecticut and Iowa State. Maryland is the second Big Ten school in Borzello's rankings at No. 20. Rutgers is 21st and Wisconsin 24th. "The post-Zach Edey era in West Lafayette has officially begun but don't expect Matt Painter's team to fall too far in the national discussion," Borzello writes. "The Boilermakers will still bring back one of the best backcourts in the country in Braden Smith and Fletcher Loyer, and Trey Kauman-Renn is ready for a bigger role in the frontcourt. The questions will be whether Smith and Loyer can take the jump from being complimentary players to go-to guys and which reserve or freshman breaks out. A good bet would be Camden Heide. Yahoo Sports' Ryan Young is the most bullish on the Boilermakers, ranking them second behind Duke. His reasoning, though, may be flawed unless Young knows something the rest of us don't.

"Zach Edey is off to the NBA, but head coach Matt Painter won't have to adjust much with freshman Will Berg, his 7-foot-2 Swedish center," Young writes. "Fletcher Loyer and Braden Smith will be

back, too, so Purdue should return atop the expanded Big Ten next season. It might finally be time for the conference (national title) drought to end."

Young has Rutgers ranked 16th and Maryland 19th.

At the opposite end of the optimism spectrum are The Athletic's CJ Moore and Sam Vecenie, who have Purdue 12th behind Duke, Gonzaga, Houston, Iowa State, Connecticut, Alabama, Kansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, Auburn and Arizona.

Moore and Vecenie project a starting lineup of Smith, Loyer, Kaufman-Renn, Heide and Caleb Furst.

"It will now be time for Kaufman-Renn to become the featured low-post scorer. The Boilermakers got a preview of that last summer when Edey was off with Team Canada and Kaufman-Renn led the Boilers in scoring during a foreign tour. Smith is already one of the best point guards in college hoops and could elevate himself to All-America status when he takes on more of a scoring role.

"It's rare to have so much experience and production returning. It's going to be difficult to replace Edey, but Matt Painter has two giants lined up to possibly be next. Berg, a 7-2 freshman this season, shot 75 percent from the field in limited minutes, and Painter signed a 7-foot-3 center in Jacobsen. He's got a type!"

Moore and Vecenie have Rutgers 16th, Maryland 20th and Michigan State 22nd. Like his peers, Sports Illustrated's Kevin Sweeney has Duke No. 1 ahead of Iowa State, Kansas, Gonzaga, Connecticut, Arizona and Houston. Purdue comes in at No. 8.

"The end of the Zach Edey era in West Lafayette will take some getting used to, but that shouldn't bring an end to Purdue as a national contender," Sweeney

writes. "Braden Smith is an easy projection as one of the nation's best floor generals after a massive season in 2023-24, and Purdue has quietly stockpiled athletic, versatile wings with the likes of Cam Heide, Kanon Catchings and Myles Colvin. Don't expect a big drop-off from the Boilermakers."

Sweeney has five Big Ten teams in his Top 25: Maryland (18), Ohio State (19), UCLA (20) and Rutgers (23). CBS Sports' Gary Parrish, who was one of the few national pundits to predict a Purdue national championship before the 2023-24 season, has Purdue ninth in his Top 25 Plus 1 rankings. Parrish deviates from group think, ranking Houston No. 1 over North Carolina, Iowa State, Kansas, Duke, Connecticut, Gonzaga and Auburn.

"The Boilermakers have finished in the top 25 at KenPom.com nine straight years, and there's no reason to think that streak won't continue next season even without the two-time National Player of the Year," Parrish writes.

Parrish ranked Wisconsin 21st, Rutgers 23rd and Ohio State 26th.

*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.*

## THE TIMES



*Please visit us online: [thetimes24-7.com](http://thetimes24-7.com)*

## Meijer Hiring for New Noblesville Grocery Store

The Meijer store in Noblesville is giving the local job market a boost. It announced it's hiring for 250 part- and full-time positions, including clerks, cake decorators, customer service, cashiers, receiving and meat cutters at its new 90,000-square-foot store set to open later this year near the intersection of State Road 32 and Little Chicago Road.

Meijer Grocery is a new type of Meijer store focused on providing a streamlined

experience for day-to-day needs. The store will feature fresh produce and meat, deli and bakery, as well as pharmacy, health and beauty care, baby and pet departments, floral, cards and party supplies.

Starting pay is competitive and based on experience level and specific skills. Applicants can begin the hiring process by applying online at <https://jobs.meijer.com/stores>. To find specific positions, click the "Search New Store

Open Jobs" button, enter "Noblesville" in the location field, and click "search." Hourly candidates can apply by clicking on the positions listed.

Meijer is a Grand Rapids, Mich.-based retailer that operates more than 500 supercenters, neighborhood markets, Meijer Grocery and Express locations throughout Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Wisconsin.

## Secretary of State Backs Alerding

Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales has officially chose a candidate in the State Representative race in District 29.

"I am pleased to endorse Laura Alerding for State Representative District 29," Morales said in a release. "Laura's experience as a Noblesville School Board member and her leadership within the Republican Party demonstrate her commitment to our conservative values. In the face of opposition from the liberal media, Laura has shown resilience and determination, qualities that will make her an invaluable ally



*Photo courtesy Laura Alerding Campaign*

### Alerding and Morales.

in defending Indiana's elections and upholding our conservative principles."

For more information go to <http://AlerdingForStateRep29.info/>



# Three Artists Featured in Noblesville City Hall

Noblesville Creates is featuring three artists of the month along with the Eclipse Exhibit in Noblesville City Hall in April. The artists of the month include Anita Strauss, Claudia Labin & Friends, and Liz Hamstra. Each of their exhibits will be featured at a different Noblesville Creates showcase location. Information on the exhibit dates, receptions, and artist details are available below.

## STEPHENSON HOUSE: Anita Strauss

Anita works with natural elements such as branches, acorns, pine cones, and moss. "Creating a house is like working a puzzle. The pieces tell you where they go if you listen."

When Anita couldn't find exactly what she was looking for in a faery house, she took it upon herself to remedy that problem. As she became proficient with power tools like the band saw, belt sander, pneumatic pin nailer, jigsaw, and lots of dremel tools, her skills improved. "I still have many ideas that I've yet to try and that keeps me pushing the limits of what wood can do."

Her personal creativity and skills with various power tools have attracted attention of those from the Indianapolis Art Center, inviting her to teach and empower others to try their hand in the wood shop. "I didn't think they were serious, but it's definitely something I'm considering."

Anita's exhibit will be like stepping into her booth at a fair with a wide variety of styles of faery dwellings including free standing, tree houses, faeryscapes and even hanging designs. "My hope is that people will be inspired to create their own faery garden and open up to the magic that is around us everyday."

The full exhibit, Where Do Faeries Live? - Woodland Dwellings for the Fae, can be seen in the Stephenson House April 5 to 27, 2024. Wednesday through Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the Noblesville Creates campus. You can meet Anita during our Fairyville event!

Exhibit Dates: April 5 to 27, 2024



Anita Strauss

## MEYER NAJEM: Claudia & Friends

Flowers won't be the only thing cross pollinating this Spring. Claudia Labin, Irwin Labin, Andy Ball, Julie Ball, Jim Barnes, Howard Friedman, Freddie Kelvin, Debbie Kriby, Bonnie Maurer, Tom Mueller, Bill Wehemier, Pat Wehemier, and Gayle Williams will be sharing an exhibit from April through June at Meyer Najem in Fishers. Their body of artwork will showcase the result of a "cross pollination" of ideas, technique, and experience.

This salon of local artists first started meeting around June 2023. Every six-to-eight weeks, they come together to present and review each other's latest artwork. Claudia recounts that because they all come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, there is always a lesson to learn and new chances to think outside the box. "I think this group gave me the opportunity to be more adventurous," she says, later noting that it "reignited my creativity".

Claudia herself began painting seriously in the last ten years. She credits Nobelsville Creates, then known as Nickel Plate Arts, as the launchpad from which her artistic passions took off. Her artwork since then has developed alongside her love of storytelling. "All of my artwork has a story to tell. They're one of a kind, all unique," she states. Influences from master painters, classical tales, and a bevy of mixed media supplies produces individual pieces rich with meaning.

Since the salon's inaugural meeting about nine months ago, Claudia has found herself experimenting. Her most recent pieces are multi-media with hints of burlap, cheesecloth, and paints. The other salon artists will be bringing their own latest works to the exhibit, including oil portraits, ceramics, steel, and more.

See the full exhibit, Claudia & Friends from April 12 through June 29. This exhibit is viewable at the Meyer Najem 2nd floor gallery, located at 11787 Lantern Road in Fishers, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. You can meet the artists of Claudia & Friends at their free public reception on Friday, April 12 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Meyer Najem.

Exhibit Dates: April 12 to June 29, 2024  
Reception Date: April 12 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Meyer Najem 2nd floor gallery)

## FOUR DAY RAY: Liz Hamstra

Chromatic shapes, colors, and texture will add wonder to Four Day Ray Brewing in Fishers this Spring. Liz Hamstra's showcase exhibit, Into the Kaleidoscope, will be a one of a kind viewing experience from April through June.

Liz graduated from Heron School of Art with a major in ceramics and minors in photography and art history. She began teaching ceramics in Kentucky before moving back to Indianapolis. There she taught at the Indianapolis Arts Center for about a decade. She has always loved teaching, reflecting that it became a "catalyst for my own creative process and inspiration".

Starting in 2020, she has both expanded and refined her intuitive process. She notes that she's "always been drawn to the entire spectrum of colors," evident by the bright geometric mandalas from recent years. Liz has no idea how a painting will look when she starts. In her current process, she starts by figuring a general shape. Then she measures small tick marks to map out the larger angles, swirls, and symmetry. Music plays a large role as well. "All of my paintings have their own soundtrack," she says, explaining that she'll often listen to the same few songs to really capture the emotions and atmosphere she wishes to convey.

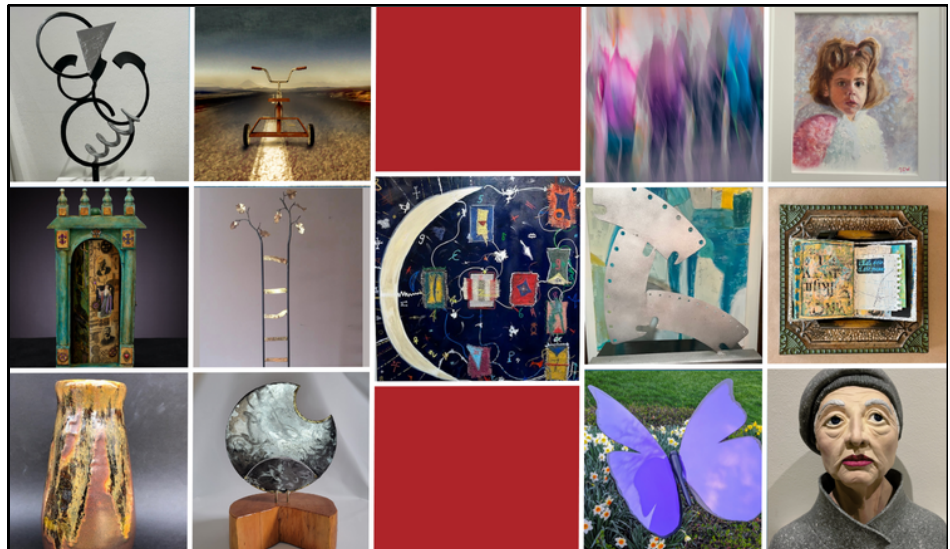
Into the Kaleidoscope explores dimension and refined color palettes. Liz's recent pieces show a more pastel range that emphasizes shapes. Gold thread sewn into the canvas also accentuates strong angles and lines. All of her pieces have no frame, allowing for the geometric designs to extend beyond borders and into imaginary space.

The full exhibit, Into the Kaleidoscope, can be seen at Four Day Ray Brewing, located at 11671 Lantern Road in Fishers, Sunday and Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Friday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. You can meet Liz at her free public reception on Tuesday, June 4th, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Four Day Ray Brewery Fishers.

Exhibit Dates: April 5 to June 29, 2024  
Reception Date: June 4 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Four Day Ray Brewery Fishers)



"Oakhurst Manor"



"Claudia & Friends Exhibit Collage"



"Are You Coming or Going"



Liz Hamstra