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Hosted by Dick Wolfsie

March 18 - 24, 2025

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

The fall due date for property tax payments is Tuesday, Nov. 12. Taxpayers can make a payment in the Treasurer's office by cash or check only. Credit / Debit cards are accepted only on the county's website with an addition 2.5 percent fee or by e-check for \$1. <https://secure2.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/PropertyReports/index.aspx>. The following banks in the county will accept payments until end of business Tuesday, Nov. 12: BMO Harris. Community First, Farmers, First Farmers, First Merchants, Horizon, Merchants and Star Financial. There is also a dropbox on the West side of the Historic Courthouse that payments may be placed in until midnight Nov. 12 and still be considered on time.

Three Things You Should Know

- 1 Indianapolis International Airport will soon feature a new transatlantic flight to Europe. On May 3, 2025, Aer Lingus, the Irish flag carrier, will provide nonstop service to Dublin, Ireland, flying out four times weekly from Indianapolis. The Aer Lingus nonstop flight will connect Indiana and Europe year-round with service scheduled four times per week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, with a short break between January and February. Operating on a state-of-the-art Airbus A321XLR, the Aer Lingus nonstop flight will offer dual class seats, including 16 business class seats.
- 2 The Indiana Arts Commission recently announced that 20 educators from across the state have received funding to support artist residencies in their classrooms through the Indiana Educator Fellowship for Creative Teaching. The Fellowship for Creative Teaching is a program of the IAC, in partnership with the Indiana Department of Education, that celebrates and supports outstanding educators throughout the state in implementing creativity-centered innovation in the classroom.
- 3 The Indiana Destination Development Corporation announced the opening of two grants - the Indiana Destination Development Grant and IN Indiana Placemaking Activation Grant. The Placemaking grant is a matching grant of up to \$25,000 to fund signage and placemaking efforts. The Destination grant is a matching grant of between \$50,000 and \$250,000. The IDDC is accepting applications for both grants and the deadline to submit is Feb. 7, at 4 p.m. All entities are eligible to apply for the Indiana Destination Development Grant. Entities eligible to apply for the IN Indiana Placemaking Grant are limited to municipalities, counties, communities, destination marketing organizations, Mainstreet organizations and chambers of commerce. For more information on guidelines and timelines, go to visitindiana.com/about-iddc/for-industry-partners/awards-grants.

The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty - Sign up for Social Security and Medicare Part B at 70?



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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Dear Rusty:

I just turned 69 years old in August 2024 and am still working full time. I signed up for Medicare Part A but, it is my secondary insurance because I have great health insurance through where I work. My wife is retired and has Medicare Part A but, is on my insurance also, and she is taking Social Security. Our plan is for me to work until August 2026 when I'll be 71. I'll file for Social Security when I turn 70, and bank all of it for a year until I retire. That is money we plan to use for travel and fun things. I have three questions: when should I file for my Social Security so it starts in September; when do my wife and I file for Medicare Part B (with a supplement) so it starts in September; and are there negative tax implications to this plan that I haven't thought of?

Signed: Needing Info

Dear Needing Info:

Sounds like you have a great strategy planned for your personal Social Security benefits and your Medicare Part B enrollment for both of you. To your questions:

If you will be 70 in August 2025, you can apply for Social Security about 3 months prior (e.g., in May 2025). Just be sure to specify that you wish your SS benefits to start effective with the month of your 70th birthday. Signing up a few months early is perfectly okay - you will indicate your desired benefit start date on your application, and that is when SS will start your benefits. Remember, SS pays benefits in the month following the month earned, so your first payment will be received in September 2025 (on the 2nd Wednesday if you were born before the 11th of the month).

As for Medicare Part B coverage for you and your wife, both of you can enroll in Medicare Part B a couple of months prior to you leaving work, but request that Medicare Part B coverage starts in the month your work coverage ends. In other words, you can enroll in Medicare before you retire from work but

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

New Drug Pricing Policy Could Raise Costs for Millions

By Ken Thorpe

Healthcare costs are one of Americans' top concerns as we head into election season.

President Joe Biden has worked hard to address this issue -- and has delivered for America's most vulnerable. His historic Inflation Reduction Act caps insulin costs, limits out-of-pocket drug spending to \$2,000 annually, and allows seniors to spread their pharmacy bills evenly throughout the year. Collectively, these reforms are a major step forward for healthcare affordability.

The IRA also directs Medicare to negotiate the price of

➔ See NEW Page A3

Protect Access to Prescription Drugs for Marginalized Seniors

By Yanira Cruz

America's poorest seniors could soon find it much harder to get the medicines they need.

That's because Medicare's Low-Income Subsidy program -- which provides millions of seniors with prescription drug coverage that comes with no monthly premium -- is eroding. And recent changes made in the Inflation Reduction Act are partly to blame.

➔ See PROTECT Page A3

Frights at Forest Park, Headless Horseman and More . . . Oh My!



Photo courtesy of Jennie Auble

Bring your little ghosts and goblins to First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville's free Trunk-or-Treat event 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday in the church parking lot, 1207 Conner St., with kids encouraged to wear costumes and enjoy trunk-or-treating and a make-n-take craft, music, movie and a brown bag hotdog dinner. In case of inclement weather, the event will move inside to the church's fellowship hall.



BETSY REASON
Columnist

Bring the family to Noblesville Parks & Recreation's Frights at Forest Halloween event. Dare to take the fifth annual Cicero Haunted Trail at Red Bridge Park.

Enjoy Trunk or Treat and games at Grand Junction Plaza in Westfield and the First Presbyterian Church in Noblesville. Experience Fishers free Boo Bash at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater in Fishers. Attend an unforgettable "Night with the Witch & Famous" Halloween party at Gal's Guide Library. Get a glimpse of the Headless Horseman as he rides again at Conner Prairie in Fishers. Adopt a pet during Hocus Pick-Us Spooky Special at Humane Society for Hamilton County. Trick-or-treat on Halloween during community hours and at Noblesville American Legion sponsored by American Legion Riders Post. 45. There are plenty of activities to do this weekend and beyond in and around Noblesville. Find these and more happenings in The Times' list of 25 things to do this weekend and beyond:

1. Bring the family to Noblesville Parks & Recreation's Frights at Forest Halloween event 5-9 p.m. today at Forest Park. Take a spooky

➔ See BETSY Page A4

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Influenza is in town - wash your hands frequently and stay home if you have a cough and high fever.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts.



OBITUARIES

Karen Kay Musgrove
Sirena Lyn Wallace

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Tis now the very witching time of night, When churchyards yawn and hell itself breathes out contagion to this world." William Shakespeare

TODAY'S JOKE

Why is a cemetery the best place to write a story?
Because it has so many plots!

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

OUR GENERATION with the Times

Melissa Shaw's interview with Alison Voss from American Family Insurance

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OBITUARIES

Karen Kay Musgrove

April 4, 1965 - October 14, 2024

Karen Kay Musgrove, age 59, of Sheridan, Indiana, passed away on Monday morning, October 14, 2024, at IU North Hospital in Carmel, Indiana. Born April 4, 1965, in Rushville, Indiana, she was the daughter of Robert and Ellen (Dickson) Herbert.



Karen loved helping people, young and old alike, in any way that she could. She worked for Hoosier Village as a food server in the cafeteria. She also volunteered as a teacher's aide with Sheridan Elementary School for over 5 years.

She grew up on a Trader's Point dairy farm and was a 1983 graduate of Pike High School. During her high school years, Karen played on the softball team and was very active in the band program. Her years in band gave her the opportunity to travel quite a bit with her fellow classmates. Marching in the Orange Bowl Parade in Florida with the band was quite an exciting trip; however, the year the Concert Band (in which she played violin) was selected to travel to Hawaii to perform was the highlight of her time with the program.

Karen likely caught the travel bug during these early trips. As an adult, she loved vacationing with her family, with some of her favorite destinations being Myrtle Beach, Charleston, Gulf Shores, Gatlinburg, and Las Vegas. Destination vacations were always a fun time, but many of her most cherished trips happened when the kids were younger, and the whole family would head out to go camping.

Sports and games played an important role throughout her life. For a few years she was part of a bowling league, and she never tired of playing Euchre. Karen could be quite the card shark; just because you were friend or family, she wasn't going to take it easy on you. Karen really came into her own when she began pitching horseshoes; she loved the activity and was a natural. During the late 90s she was the one to beat, winning the mixed doubles American Horseshoe Pitching Association (AHPA) Indiana State Championship in both 1996 and 1997; she was the runner-up in 1998 and 1999. While pitching might have been her favorite sport, finding a deal at a garage sale was her favorite way to relax. She always liked driving the back roads, just heading out for a nice quiet ride in the country, and usually somewhere along the way, she would just "happen" upon a garage sale. Coincidence or luck, who is to say, but she always seemed to find something she just couldn't live without.

Karen's family would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at Maple Park, for not only the loving care that they provided, but also for their heartfelt support and compassion.

Karen is survived by the love of her life, Dale E. Musgrove. She and Dale were married on June 7, 1986. Also surviving is her mother, Ellen (Dickson) Herbert; son, Dale Michael Musgrove (Claire) of Noblesville; 3 daughters, Meggan Clifton (Lloyd) of Sheridan, Elizabeth Lehman (Ryan) of Columbus, and Emily Engle (Eric) of Lebanon; 5 grandchildren, Eric Clifton, Taryn Clifton, Teddy Musgrove, Elijah Engle, and Hazel Musgrove; 2 brothers, Mike Herbert (Anna) of Sheridan, and Bobby Herbert (Rose) of Indianapolis; and her 2 sisters, Sally Reese (Bill) of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Sandy Faucett (Rick) of Sheridan.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert Herbert; maternal grandparents, Orville and Marjorie Dickson; paternal grandparents, Harry and Rose Herbert; and by her canine BFFs, Max and Bo the Boxer.

Services will be held at 7:30 pm on Friday, October 25, 2024, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 East 10th Street, Sheridan, Indiana, with visitation from 4:00 pm until the time of service. Pastor Kevin Bragg will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to either MAMA's Cupboard or to the Sheridan Horseshoe League.

Sirena Lyn Wallace

February 20, 1988 - October 14, 2024

Sirena Lyn Wallace, age 36, of Sheridan, Indiana, passed away on Monday afternoon, October 14, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. Born February 20, 1988, in Noblesville, Indiana, she was the daughter of Paul Edward and Gail Dawn (Bosanic) Wallace.



Sirena graduated from Sheridan High School with the Class of 2006. After a short time at Purdue, she traded in her black and gold for cream and crimson when she was accepted into the Indiana University Herron School of Art, allowing her to both pursue her passion and earn her bachelor's degree. Her world was her art.

Sirena was the hippie of the family. She was equal parts love, dreamer, and free spirit, all combined in the body of a fiery redhead. She never knew a stranger and would both greet you and say goodbye with a hug. Her friendships ran deep. She was always going to be the first one in your corner, and the biggest supporter you were ever going to find.

Sirena put her love out into this world, and those of us that were lucky enough to catch even a small glimpse of her light were forever changed for the better.

Sirena is survived by her parents, Paul Edward and Gail Dawn (Bosanic) Wallace; 2 sisters, Jenny Renee Smalling (Gary) of Sheridan, and TaMara Dawn Wallace (Andrew Martin) of Sheridan; 6 aunts, JoAnn Scoon (Bill) of Wisconsin, Penny Price (Paul) of Wisconsin, Aline Miller (Andy) of Arizona, Sue Wallace of Sheridan, Indiana, Lisa Birdin (Bob) of Arizona, and Amy Carlton of Indiana; uncle, Mike Bosanic of Wisconsin; niece, Taylor Jolie Dickey; nephew, Brayton Allen Dickey; many cousins, whom she loved dearly; and by her cats, Mena and Caspian.

She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Rena (Bailey) Wallace; grandfather, Eldon "Dony" Wallace; grandmother, Geraldine Ryerse-Carlton; 2 uncles, Jim Wallace and his wife Jackie, and Chet Wallace, 3 aunts, Wilma Laughlin, Jenny Mae Armentrout, and Vera Barker and her husband Maurice.

A celebration of life will take place at 5:00 pm on Sunday, October 27, 2024, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th Street, Sheridan, Indiana, with visitation from 2:00 pm until the time of service. Pastor Aaron Clark will be officiating.

Carmel Sets Trick-or-Treat Hours

Carmel's official hours of trick-or-treating will be Thursday, Oct. 31 from 5 to 8 p.m. Homes welcoming trick-or-treaters should turn on their porch lights. If you do not wish to participate, or run out of treats, please turn off your porch lights.

While there are many neighborhoods and other organizations that hold their own Halloween events and celebrations, we encourage those who want to trick-or-treat door-to-door to use the city's official hours to do so. Earlier this year, residents who participated in a survey voted to keep Halloween on Oct. 31 as it has been in prior years.

The city would also like to remind its residents of a few guidelines and proper safety procedures to follow for a safer celebration. While preparing for Halloween festivities, there are several important safety tips to keep in mind.

- Motorists should drive with extra caution and keep an eye out for "little goblins" roaming the neighborhood.
- Adults should always accompany their children and use a flashlight at night, staying within their own neighborhood and known homes. The use of glow sticks or reflective tape on costumes can also help with visibility.
- Watch for traffic before crossing any street.
- Avoid costumes that are long, which could cause tripping or costumes that have hard plastic or wood props like swords that could be a hazard.
- Face paint is often a safer alternative to masks that may obstruct vision.
- It is also important to inspect candy before allowing children to have it; dispose of any candy that is unwrapped.

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request that your Part B coverage starts in the first month your employer coverage ends (to avoid any gap in healthcare coverage). Obviously, you should begin your private supplemental healthcare coverage to coincide with the start of your Medicare Part B coverage.

Regarding the tax implications, just be aware that a portion of your received Social Security benefits become taxable income if your Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) as a married couple exceeds certain thresholds. FYI, "MAGI" is your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on your tax return, plus 50% of your received SS benefits, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had. If you file your taxes as "married/jointly" and your MAGI is more than \$32,000, then 50% of the SS benefits you receive during the tax year becomes taxable income, or if your MAGI as a married couple is over \$44,000 then up to 85% of the SS

benefits received during the tax year becomes taxable income (at your normal IRS tax rate). Income tax on SS benefits occurs when your MAGI is over the thresholds for your tax filing status, so you should plan accordingly. If your MAGI will be consistently over these thresholds after you retire from working, you may choose to have income tax withheld from your SS benefits, which is easy to do by submitting IRS FORM W-4V to your local Social Security office.

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/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Carmel Mayor Gives First State of City

Mayor Sue Finkam will highlight progress and detail plans for the City of Carmel as part of her first State of the City address, hosted by OneZone Chamber of Commerce.

Covering progress on key initiatives since she took office in January, the Oct. 29 event will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. at The Palladium.

Guests will hear updates on the city's new task forces, including efforts focused on housing, supporting senior citizens, veterans and young professionals.

General admission tickets start at \$20 and are available online.

All tickets must be purchased through The

Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts. OneZone membership benefits can be used for this event for general admission tickets. Reach out to Maggie Byrd Zollo at maggie@onezonecommerce.com to apply member benefits.

Box seating is available. Please email Kiley Chandler at kiley@onezonecommerce.com to purchase. Box seating includes a VIP event from 3-4 p.m. with Mayor Finkam.

Special thanks to OneZone Chamber of Commerce, The Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts and Ascension St. Vincent for their contributions to this event.

↓ PROTECT From Page A1

The number of "benchmark" LIS plans - which offer coverage without a monthly premium -- plummeted 34% last year alone. As a result of some plans being discontinued or increasing their monthly premium, over 1.3 million seniors were reassigned to a different plan by CMS. Many other seniors had no choice but to opt for more expensive alternative plans that require monthly premiums, jeopardizing their access to life-saving medicines -- or reducing what they can spend on other necessities like groceries and rent.

The Low-Income Subsidy program is a lifeline for roughly 13 million Americans. Low-income seniors are disproportionately burdened by chronic health conditions like diabetes and heart disease, so whether they can afford prescriptions can be a matter of life and death. Only seniors whose annual earnings are less than 150% of the federal poverty line -- about \$22,500 for a single person or \$30,500 for a couple -- qualify for the program.

By the numbers, communities of color are especially reliant on these subsidies.

Combined, Black and Hispanic beneficiaries make up just 20% of Medicare drug plan enrollees. But within the subsidy program, Black and Hispanic beneficiaries total 37% of enrollees.

At the same time, minority seniors tend to experience more negative health outcomes when compared to their White counterparts.

The data show that Black and Hispanic Medicare subscribers have higher hospitalization rates and an increased likelihood of suffering from chronic conditions like hypertension.

That's what makes the sharp reduction in Medicare's low-income subsidy plans so alarming. The decline is, in part, the result of changes made to the Part D program in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Low-income subsidy enrollees are increasingly having to turn to higher-premium plans. The number who now have to pay premiums has increased by more than one million just since last year.

The financial burden on seniors varies by state. As two examples, Medicare drug-plan premiums within the low-income subsidy group can exceed \$155 in West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Just as concerning is the fact that premiums across all Medicare prescription drug plans are rising. Average monthly premiums are projected to increase by at least 21% by the end of this year.

It's a concerning situation. Without swift action from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and Congress, America's poorest seniors risk losing access to the medicines they need to live healthy lives.

Dr. Yanira Cruz is the President and CEO of the National Hispanic Council on Aging. This piece originally ran in Medical Economics.

↓ NEW From Page A1

certain medicines for the first time ever. Unfortunately, for some seniors living with chronic diseases, this particular reform may actually lead to higher out-of-pocket costs. According to a new study from Milliman, Medicare price negotiations could unintentionally raise pharmacy costs for millions of beneficiaries by reducing the amount of drug spending that can be counted toward the \$2,000 out-of-pocket cap.

It's troubling that among Americans over 64, a full 25% struggle to afford their medicines, according to a poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation. A separate analysis by the Department of Health and Human Services put the number of Medicare patients struggling with pharmacy costs at more than three million in 2019.

Consider the experience of a Medicare patient who takes a \$1,000-per-month brand-name drug to manage her chronic illness. Let's assume the patient pays a flat \$10 fee -- or copay -- each time she fills her prescription, rather than the more common "coinsurance" requirement of 25% of the medicine's list price. In this case, the patient's monthly copay of \$10 is much lower than the \$250 per month she'd otherwise have to pay if her health plan used coinsurance.

Crucially, even though the patient only pays \$10 per month, Medicare will still "credit" \$250 toward the annual \$2,000 out-of-pocket spending limit every time she fills her prescription. That's a good thing: The faster she reaches the \$2,000 limit, the less of her own money she'll have to spend. In this case, the patient could hit the out-of-pocket limit after paying less than \$100 of her own money. After that, she'll be able to fill her prescriptions at zero cost.

Now imagine the same

patient's brand-name medication, which technically costs \$1,000 per month, is assigned a much lower "negotiated" price under the IRA. For the sake of argument, let's assume the new price is \$200. In that event, the value of 25% coinsurance "credit" will fall to just \$50, meaning the patient would have to keep paying her copay all year long, and wouldn't even come close to reaching the \$2,000 out-of-pocket spending limit.

As the Milliman report shows, scenarios like these will be very common under the new IRA price-setting scheme. The authors estimate that roughly 3.5 million Medicare beneficiaries will see their out-of-pocket drug costs go up. Granted, another 1.2 million will see their drug prices go down. But that's no consolation for the former group.

Moreover, those who see their costs increase will be the ones with the lowest incomes to begin with, who disproportionately come from marginalized communities. In fact, the Milliman study found that Black and Asian Americans will see the highest average increases in their drug costs as a result of the pricing reforms.

No doubt, lawmakers intended to help rather than harm chronically ill seniors in passing the IRA. But in an area as complex as Medicare, policy details make an enormous difference. The new study suggests that the IRA's price setting provision may end up doing more harm than good. Policymakers must do all they can to ensure that doesn't happen.

Kenneth E. Thorpe, PhD, is chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University. He is also chairman of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease. This piece originally ran in Medical Economics.



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↓ BETSY From Page A1

(not scary) trail filled with trick-or-treat stations, wear your best costume for a chance to win in a costume contest, and also enjoy hayrides, inflatables and food trucks.

2. Dare to take the fifth annual Cicero Haunted Trail today and Saturday at Red Bridge Park, with kid-friendly hours 4:30-7:15 p.m. and frightening hours 7:30-10 p.m. All proceeds benefit Cicero Parks. Take the trolley with stops in town.

3. Ages 21 and older, put on your costume for a Halloween and Costume Party with band Living Proof at 10 p.m. today at Britton Tavern in Fishers.

4. Adopt a pet during Hocus Pick-Us Spooky Special now through Oct. 31 at Humane Society for Hamilton County in Fishers, where cat and dog adoptions are \$31 (some exclusions apply) special as the shelter continues to be overwhelmed with animals in its care. Visit hamiltonhumane.com.

5. Wear a costume and enjoy trick-or-treating, carnival games, live performances and treats during Trick or Treating in the Plaza 5:30-8 p.m. today at Grand Junction Plaza in Westfield.

6. Catch a glimpse of the Headless Horseman, who rides again during Conner Prairie's annual Headless Horseman Halloween program through Sunday in Fishers, featuring hayrides, Trail of Terror, fall-themed activities, barrel train ride, Sleepy Hollow Marionette Show, Mis-Fortune telling with Carl Voyant, live deejay and live music performances from Sweet Tunes, live shows, food, Apple Store and more, with tickets at connerprairie.org

7. Attend an adult Halloween Costume Party 8-11 p.m. today at the Carmel American Legion with live music and games.

8. Residents can drop off their unused or old prescription drugs on Saturday during Hamilton County Council on Alcohol & Other Drugs' take-back event in the far east parking lot of Riverview Health in Noblesville.

9. Join Fishers free Boo Bash 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater in Fishers and enjoy live, interactive stage entertainment with 31SVN, themed costumes and decorated booths, Halloween goodies, games, photo opps, costume parades, recurring shows and more.

10. Bring your little ghosts and goblins to First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville's free Trunk-or-Treat event 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (note ending time change from 2023) Saturday in the church parking lot, 1207 Conner St., with kids encouraged to wear costumes and enjoy trunk-or-treating and a make-n-take craft, music,

movie and a brown bag hotdog dinner. In case of inclement weather, the event will move inside to the church's fellowship hall. Visit <https://fpc-noblesville.org/trunk-or-treat>

11. Join for a family friendly Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot at Christ Lutheran Church 5-7:30 p.m. Saturday with cider and games inside the building. Visit www.clc-in.org

12. Attend an unforgettable "Night with the Witch & Famous" Halloween party with costume contest, drinks, tarot and fundraiser for Gal's Guide Library in downtown Noblesville beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday at Gal's Guide at Noblesville Creates at 8th and Maple.

13. Join Ahlwardts present "Human Jukebox Halloween edition" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Feinstein's at Hotel Carmichael in Carmel with Ryan Ahlwardt and Lauren. Come dressed as your favorite singer, entertainer or music group/band with prizes for best costume with tickets \$20-\$30 plus \$25 minimum food and beverage per person with doors opening at 5:30 p.m., choose your cabaret seating at eventbrite.com

14. Enjoy a free Halloween Village for the community 5-7 p.m. Sunday at Noblesville First United Methodist Church with trick-or-treating, costume contest with prizes and dancing.

15. Take a hayride to the pumpkin patch at Russell Farms in Noblesville, open daily through Sunday also with corn maze, petting zoo, miniature golf, kids activities, bounce houses, pedal tractors, country store and more. Admission is \$8-\$15. For schedule, visit <https://www.russell-farms.com>

16. Join for the inaugural kid-friendly Haunted House and Trunk-or-Treat 5-7 p.m. Sunday at Stony Creek Swim Center in Noblesville with games, candy, activities and more.

17. Wear your best costume and play Halloween Bingo 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday at the Noblesville Moose Lodge, for \$25.25 cash only for the night, early birds at 6:30 p.m. for \$5 extra.

18. Watch for the Nickel Plate Express Halloween Railbike Express, which is sold out on both Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 on the historic Nickel Plate Road in Noblesville.

19. Put on your running or walking shoes and your best costume and join

Carmel Runners Club's Halloween Run & Walk at 6 p.m. Oct. 30 leaving and returning to Bier Brewery in Carmel, with awards for funniest, scariest, most creative and best group.

20. The Noblesville Flower Markets will be open 5-8 p.m. Oct. 31 with trick-or-treating and spooky fun; and Nov. 27 with Thanksgiving and holiday vibes in Seminary Park at 10th and Hannibal streets in Noblesville.

21. Trick-or-treat during official hours on Oct. 31 in Hamilton County: 5-8 p.m. in Carmel and Westfield, 5:30-8 p.m. in Fishers and Noblesville, 6-8 p.m. in Arcadia, Atlanta and Cicero.

22. Kids can enjoy safe trunk-or-treating 5:30-8 p.m. Oct. 31, during Noblesville's trick-or-treating hours, in the parking lot of the Noblesville American Legion (on South Eighth Street), sponsored by American Legion Riders Post. 45.

23. Join the Mystic Monster Mash at 6 p.m. Oct. 31 at Mystic Images Tattoo in downtown Noblesville, with free haunted house and indoor trick-or-treating, with "not-so-scary" soft opening for littles at 6 p.m., with spooktacular fight for the brave at 7 p.m.

24. Join the Halloween Westfield Ghost Walk for a brief encounter with Westfield's most haunting legends and folktales, including stories of ghosts of the Underground Railroad, from 8-9:45 p.m. Oct. 31, with reservations required at unseenpress.com

25. Visit Noblesville High School Theatre's Trunk or Treat night 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Nov 2 in the parking lot at Noblesville High School, where high school theater students will play host to this evening for all little ghosts and goblins.

Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact Times Editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com.



Photo courtesy of Cicero Parks

Dare to take the fifth annual Cicero Haunted Trail today and Saturday at Red Bridge Park, with kid-friendly hours 4:30-7:15 p.m. and frightening hours 7:30-10 p.m. All proceeds benefit Cicero Parks. Take the trolley with stops in town.



Photo provided by Humane Society for Hamilton County

Photo provided by Humane Society for Hamilton County Adopt Marley, a 9-year-old house-broken and crate-trained Retriever/Labrador/mix, during Hocus Pick-Us Spooky Special now through Oct. 31 at Humane Society for Hamilton County in Fishers, where cat and dog adoptions are \$31 (some exclusions apply) special as the shelter continues to be overwhelmed with animals in its care. Visit hamiltonhumane.com.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Take the hayride to catch a final glimpse of the Headless Horseman, who rides again during Conner Prairie's annual Headless Horseman Halloween program through Sunday in Fishers, plus visit Trail of Terror, fall-themed activities, barrel train ride, Sleepy Hollow Marionette Show, Mis-Fortune telling with Carl Voyant, live deejay and Sweet Tunes Band, Apple Store and more, with tickets at connerprairie.org

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Zach (Alcindor) Edey Already Proving NBA ‘Experts’ Wrong



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

Remember when skeptics didn't think Zach Edey would be a first-round draft pick by the NBA and would have to go overseas to play professionally?

Do you recall on NBA Draft night the shocked reaction when the Memphis Grizzlies selected the two-time National Player of the Year from Purdue with the No. 9 overall pick? One draft analyst even went so far to say Edey could be one of the worst picks of all-time.

Edey began his professional career Wednesday night not only as the Grizzlies' starting center but as a favorite to win NBA Rookie of the Year honors.

The Indiana Pacers saw first-hand Oct. 14 that Edey has a place in the 3-point heavy NBA. In just 19 minutes, Edey put up 23 points and nine rebounds in Memphis' 120-116 preseason victory at Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

"History will likely show that where he was chosen in the draft was low," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said afterward. "He's gonna have impact. He was drafted by an organization that believes in size and they believe in what he accomplished."

"Two-time national player of the year is a big deal. It's rare that that can even happen in today's world of college basketball. I have great respect for what he accomplished at Purdue and a lot of respect for what he did tonight because he put a will and a physicality into the game that we simply did not match."

Kevin Garnett, a member of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, is a fan of Edey too. The Commercial Appeal of Memphis quoted Garnett comparing Edey's hook shot to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's sky hook.

"He looks like ... Zach Alcindor," Garnett said on the 'Ticket & The

Truth' podcast, referring to Abdul-Jabbar's birth name of Lew Alcindor.

The Sporting News' Stephen Noh gave four reasons why Edey will join Terry Dischinger as Purdue All-Americans to be named NBA Rookie of the Year.

"Rookie of the Year hasn't always been about who the best player in a draft class is going to be," Noh writes. "More often, it's gone to the player who has put up the best box score stats."

Reason No. 2: "Rebounding is one of the most translatable skills from college to the pros, and Edey is going to be amazing there. He was also automatic in the low post, leading the nation in scoring and effective field goal percentage."

Reason No. 3: Memphis is a good fit with two former NBA Defensive Player of the Year winners in Jaren Jackson Jr. and Marcus Smart playing alongside Edey. Their skills will help cover any defensive mobility issues Edey might have. Desmond Bane is an outstanding shooter and Ja Morant's ability to drive to the basket will give Edey opportunities to score inside.

And finally, the 2024 Draft wasn't exactly filled with future Jordans, Barkleys, Olajuwons, etc. Edey is the only lottery pick projected to begin the season in his team's starting lineup.

"Edey could very well win the award by putting up 15 points and 10 rebounds per night," Noh writes.

The second NBA lottery pick from Purdue's recruiting class of 2020, Jaden Ivey, began his third season with the Detroit Pistons against Indiana on Wednesday night.

Ivey will be playing for his third head coach in three seasons, with J.B. Bickerstaff taking over for Monty Williams, who was fired after going 14-68 in his lone season on the bench.

The No. 5 pick in the 2022 NBA Draft, Ivey is averaging 15.8 points, 4.5 assists and 3.8 rebounds in 151 NBA games. He was a second-team All-Rookie Team selection and has been a part of the NBA's Rising Stars Game in each of the first two seasons in Detroit.

Boilers 14th in AP poll

The two-time reigning Big Ten champion Purdue Boilermakers are the highest ranked conference team in the preseason Associated Press Top 25.

Indiana (17th), UCLA (22nd) and Rutgers (25th) also were ranked.

Purdue will play four, possibly five, preseason Top 25 teams in the non-conference portion of the schedule. No. 2 Alabama comes to Mackey Arena on Nov. 15. The Boilermakers travel to No. 18 Marquette on Nov. 19 and play neutral site games against No. 13 Texas A&M on Dec. 14 (Indianapolis) and No. 11 Auburn (Birmingham, Ala.) on Dec. 21. Purdue could play No. 24 Mississippi in San Diego as part of the Rady Children's Invitational on Nov. 29.

Purdue travels to Creighton for an exhibition game Saturday that benefits the United Way of the Midlands Disaster Relief Fund. Grand Valley State serves as a final tune-up on Oct. 30 before the regular season begins Nov. 4 in Mackey Arena against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Purdue has sold out Mackey Arena for the season.

BTN Gold and Black

Purdue will be well represented on the Big Ten Network's basketball coverage this season.

Robbie Hummel returns as an analyst in a lineup that also includes former Purdue assistant Bruce Weber. Rapheal Davis returns as a studio analyst, roles that Hummel and Weber will also assume when not calling games.



Zach Edey

Former CBS analyst Seth Davis has joined the in-studio lineup headed by Dave Revsine and Rick Pizzo. BTN welcomes UCLA and Washington to the fold with a pair of episodes of "The Big Moment" featuring former UCLA guard Tyus Edney's heroics in the 1995 NCAA Tournament and former Washington guard Isaiah Thomas, not to be confused with the Indiana basketball legend.

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

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Voting is under way in The Times' ever-popular Readers' Choice promotion! This year, in order to open the ballot boxes to even more people, we are including the ballot in our Print AND Online Editions. And, in the spirit of votes coming out of suitcases after midnight, rigged elections and false claims, we are going back to the future with paper ballots only! No, we're not requiring voter registration or ID - heck, we still encourage everyone to vote early and vote often - but we are setting up the ballot so you can use pencil, pen, magic marker, blood from a turnip . . . whatever you like. Simply mark the box next to the person, place or thing you are voting for and send the ballot to Sagamore News Media, Box 579 Noblesville, IN 46060 - or email it to ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com. We'll tabulate everything and announce our winners at the end of the promotion! And be sure to watch for RC '24 ads in The Times!

Table with multiple columns listing various business categories such as Accountant, Auto Parts Store, Excavating Service, Heating/Cooling Company, Museum, Plumber, Italian Restaurant, Seed Dealer, Animal Shelter, Auto Repair Service, Farm Equipment Dealer, Home Office, Monument Company, Nail Salon, Politician, Pizza Place, Tanning Salon, Apartment Complex, Band (High School), Band (Jazz), Bar/Grill, Contractor, Flower Shop, Funeral Home, Gas Station, Gift Shop, Hair Salon, Lawn Mower Dealer, Landscaping/Lawn Care, Library, Lodge, Mail Service, Massage Therapist, Moving Company, Music Store, Nursery, Office Supply Store, Pet Groomer, Pet Shop, Photography, Restaurant, Retail Store, Spa, Teacher, Thrift or Re-Sale Shop, Tire Service, Tree Service, Trash Service, Towing Service, Veterinarian, Water Conditioning, Web Designer, Winery, Window Replacement, Youth Organization, and more. Each category lists several local businesses with checkboxes for voting.

County Artist Among 30 to Get Fellowships

The Indiana Arts Commission recently announced it has awarded \$60,000 to 30 creative entrepreneurs to fund arts projects around the state through the agency's On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator program, including one from Hamilton County.

On-Ramp is a three-day accelerator course for Indiana-based creative entrepreneurs to foster their business skills, followed by the opportunity to apply for a \$2,000 fellowship to put the learning into action.

Each funded project will support the pursuit of a clearly defined business goal that also supports the entrepreneur's community.

"The On-Ramp 2024 cohort demonstrates the talent, skill, and entrepreneurial spirit that is on display in every corner of the Hoosier state," said Jordan Adams, Artist Services Program Manager with the Indiana Arts Commission, "We are proud to support the growth of these entrepreneurs who are working to build a more

vibrant Indiana."

Hamilton County artist Rodney Carlstrom was one of the 30 selection. The support from the fellowship will allow Carlstrom to attend World Fantasy Convention 2024 to network and build infrastructure with agents, editors, publishers, and other creatives to bring back and share with fellow Hoosier Creatives. This opportunity will also help build lasting relationships as the artist pursues a traditional publishing deal.

The On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur will pause for program evaluation in 2025, allowing the program to grow to better meet the needs of Indiana, as informed by the 2023-2024 Artist Needs Assessment.



THE TIMES



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After Research, Reader Opts for Brad Helvey

LETTER TO THE EDITOR Dear Editor, The upcoming elections have certainly taken the foremost place in the news, especially those happening on the federal and state level. I know who I am voting for in the presidential election, as well as federal and statehouse selections. I made my mind up a long time ago. However, in a presidential election year, I find it easy to forget about local elections.

I want to focus on the Noblesville School Board where six candidates are vying for three spots. In this election cycle, three candidates have banded together to form a coalition, while the other three have formed a separate group. The school board is supposed to be a nonpartisan position. Is it wise to cast a vote for all three of one group as if they are all in lockstep with one another? I have listened to their speeches and read their statements. There certainly appears to be little difference between them. They all seem to be wonderful people, model citizens, involved in the community and care about the school. When candidates all look and sound the same, who wins my vote?

I have searched for the differences between all six candidates and discovered these distinctions.

1. Only two candidates have children currently in the school system: Stephanie Lambert and Brad Helvey. I think candidates who have kids currently enrolled in Noblesville Schools make better choices.

They are not reacting to what used to be, but what is happening right now.

2. Only one candidate has run both a nonprofit and a for-profit business. Others have worked as a volunteer or for a business, but only Brad Helvey has experience being in charge of both types of businesses. School corporations are unique businesses that operate in the nonprofit world with for-profit vendors. That is a difference maker for me.

3. Only one candidate has been a licensed public school teacher: Brad Helvey. As the largest employer in Noblesville, a school board member operates best when they have the perspective of the people working for the corporation. They understand how schools operate. That is an edge in my mind.

Let me also say that all the candidates claim involvement in the community, and I don't doubt their sincerity. However, I have run into Brad Helvey for years at school events. He is very involved and that did not just begin after he became a candidate. I have found him working the concession stands at football games, listening to school orchestra concerts, attending parent meetings with coaches and teachers. He is an involved parent, a critical thinker, a businessman and a person who is qualified to serve on the school board. He gets my vote.

Respectfully,
Kevin Yaney
Noblesville

Veterans Day Ceremony Back in Westfield

Westfield will host the second annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, November 11 at The Bridgewater Club (3535 E. 161st Street). Breakfast will be served starting at 7:45 a.m. followed by the ceremony commencing at 8:30 a.m. This ceremony is free and open to the public.

Join us in "Honoring Service & Sacrifice" and pay tribute to our brave veterans who have selflessly served our nation. It is a day to reflect, remember, and express gratitude for their sacrifices and unwavering commitment to our freedom.

There will be remarks from local veterans including Mayor Scott Willis, keynote speaker Roy Adams, and Westfield Police Chief Shawn Keen, as well as live performances by the Westfield High School Signature Sound choir.

Student winners of the poster and essay contest will present their work during the ceremony and receive a prize. In addition, veterans who attend the ceremony will receive a gift during the program.

The city will also be featuring residents in the Hometown Hero presentation that will be shown during the breakfast. If you are a veteran or know a veteran who would like to be featured on our Hometown Heroes presentation, please email communications@westfield.in.gov with a photo of the veteran, their name and service branch by Oct.

Organizations and resources will be available in the lobby for attendees to visit during the breakfast time and briefly after the ceremony.

For questions, please email communications@westfield.in.gov.

Carmel Hosts Annual Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation will host its annual Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail from 1-3 p.m. Saturday at River Heritage Park, 11813 River Rd. This event is designed for individuals with disabilities and their families. During the Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail, there will be no loud music, scary decorations, or people dressed in masks or full-body costumes. CCPR's adaptive program volunteers will dress in fun, non-frightening costumes, passing out treats along our fully accessible trails in River Heritage Park. Volunteers will host other fall-themed activities at the end of the trail.

"It's impossible to foresee an encounter with a scary costume or decoration when trick-or-treating," said Kelvin Solares, CCPR Inclusion Program Supervisor. "Our Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail is specifically designed for individuals with sensory needs, allowing participants to experience the fun of the holiday without fear."

There will also be a resource fair, where local organizations will provide information about community resources and services for individuals with disabilities and their

families. If your organization is interested in participating in the resource fair, you can reach out to Kelvin Solares, CCPR Inclusion Program Supervisor, at ksolares@carmelclayparks.com.

CCPR requests all trick-or-treaters bring their own bag or basket for candy and wear friendly costumes that are non-frightening. Participants should refrain from wearing masks that cover the full face. Trick-or-treaters may walk the trail multiple times.

The cost to participate is \$10 per trick-or-treater; accompanying family members are free. Pre-registration is required. *Sign up today!*

The Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail is made possible through the generous donation of our sponsor, Tikal Homes.

Volunteers are needed to help pass out treats to trick-or-treaters along the trail, host fall-themed activities, and set up/tear down the event. If interested in volunteering for the Trick-or-Treat Trail, click here to sign up. For more information on CCPR Adaptive programs go to www.carmelclayparks.com/programs/adaptive.

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READERS' CHOICE 2024

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County Launches Interactive Map for Early Voting Locations

Early voting will expand to seven additional locations this week when polls open Wednesday in Carmel, Fishers, and Westfield. Early voting is already taking place in Noblesville at the Judicial Center and 4H Fairgrounds.

"The beautiful thing about early voting is you can vote anywhere and whenever is most convenient for you," said Beth Sheller, Elections Administrator for Hamilton County. "Say you live in Noblesville but find yourself shopping in Carmel. You can stop in and vote at the Carmel Library. Or if you live in Fishers, but your kids are playing soccer at Grand Park. Drop by Westfield Town Hall."

The Election Office recently teamed up

with the Hamilton County GIS team to make finding those locations a bit easier. A new interactive map allows voters to find the early voting locations nearest to them, offering the dates and operating hours of each.

"Working together across departments to create this tool has been incredibly rewarding," said Chris Mertens, Hamilton County's Director of Information Technology. "Our goal is to make voting easier and more accessible for all residents. It's exciting to see technology being used in a way that benefits our community."

Early voting are available at nine locations throughout the county, with two



Beth Sheller



Chris Mertens

locations each in Noblesville, Fishers, and Westfield and three in Carmel. To access the interactive map, voters can visit <https://geohub.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/>

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THE TIMES

Witham EMS Member Honored



Photo courtesy Witham Health Services

Congratulations to Paramedic Jake Pell, Witham / Boone County EMS team member on receiving the "Patient Centered Care of Excellence Award." The award was presented by the ER staff of Ascension Health in recognition of his outstanding pre-hospital assessment and treatment skills. Jake is known for providing exceptional and caring service to Boone County residents. If you would like additional information on our EMT basic training class that begins Nov. 4 or other services please contact John Merson at jmerson@witham.org or (765) 485-8275.

Veterans in Spotlight at Cyntheanne Christian Church

Cyntheanne Christian Church has a couple of events coming up to benefit Veterans and Athletes.

On Saturday, Nov. 9 at 10:30, the church invites you to attend the Veterans and Athletes United auction. This is an annual auction that benefits the Veterans and Athletes United organization. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the Veterans and Athletes United group. There will be baked goods, crafts, jewelry and more.

In addition, the Fallen Heroes Memorial Wall will be on exhibit in the church parking lot on Thursday, Nov. 7. Stop by and read the names of those who served. This memorial is made

of more than 7,000 dog tags with the names of those who have fallen in the war on terror.

"We hope to bring awareness of the heavy price paid for this flag to keep our country free," James Howard, founder and president of VAU, said. "Behind each one of the 7,065 dog tags is a personal story of true heroism and selfless sacrifice. We hope our memorial provides an opportunity for visitors to honor, reflect and heal; to remember all those who gave their lives defending this great country in the war on terror."

Both events take place at Cyntheanne Christian Church, 13151 Cyntheanne Rd. in Fishers.

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE HAMILTON COUNTY BUSINESSES!

READERS' CHOICE 2024

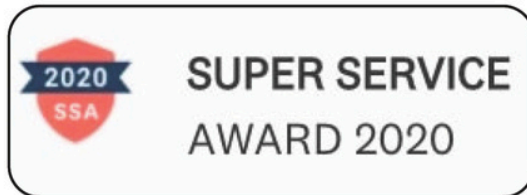
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Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

County Legislators Encourage Comparison

Area legislators encourage Hoosiers to take advantage of a new state website to compare health care prices and quality.

In 2020, state lawmakers passed a law establishing the newly launched Indiana All Payer Claims Database, which is overseen by the Indiana Department of Insurance, to help increase transparency in health care costs. The website collects insurance claims data from public and private health care payers to track the cost, utilization and quality of health care across the state.

"This new database can give Hoosiers a better understanding of what providers are nearby and an idea of what they could expect to pay for certain services," said House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers). "As we move forward, we'll continue to look at ways to drive down health care costs while increasing access and affordability of care."

State Rep. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers) said the APCD lets Hoosiers search what other patients have paid for common procedures across regions, providers and insurance plans. Additionally, the database includes a list of health care providers that perform services within certain distances from a zip code, the average out-of-pocket costs for a service and the quality rating for that facility. For example, Hoosiers needing a knee replacement can select their insurance, procedure and zip code on the database to view a list of nearby health care providers that perform the service, the quality rating for that facility and the average out-of-pocket cost.

"This new resource can help consumers know their expenses upfront and the availability of care nearby before deciding whether to move forward," Jeter said. "This is a strong step in the right direction, and we'll keep looking for solutions to address the affordability and availability of health care."

According to State Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville), the goals

of the database are to inform Hoosiers seeking medical care, identify state health care needs, support health care policy, and improve the quality and affordability of health care in the state.

"This online database is a significant step forward to creating more transparency in Indiana's health care system," Goodrich said. "I encourage Hoosiers to utilize this tool, and explore their health care options and prices."

State Rep. Donna Schaibley (R-Carmel) said information collected by the APCD complies with the security standards outlined in the U.S. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act also known as HIPAA and the U.S. Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act. Onpoint Health Data, the Indiana APCD administrator, is also certified by HITRUST, an industry-leading standard in health data security that uses both federal and state security requirements.

"Consumers compare prices for cars, homes and any other major expenses they plan on working into their personal budgets," said Schaibley, sponsor of the 2020 law. "With many still struggling to access affordable health care, this new online tool can help Hoosiers make more informed decisions, and choose the services and providers that best meet their needs."

"This new database will create a higher level of transparency and access to data to help health care consumers," said State Rep. Jerry Torr (R-Carmel). "With the ability to compare costs for different treatments or providers, Hoosiers can choose options that best fit their needs and budget."

Hoosiers can visit apcd.idoi.in.gov to compare health care prices and quality, and find out more information. Questions and suggestions for the current or future reports and dashboards can be submitted by email at apcd@idoi.in.gov.

Real Estate on Rise Locally

Noblesville and Hamilton County both saw active residential real estate markets in September, with home sales increasing and inventory increasing countywide compared to this time last year. In Noblesville in September:

- The number of closed home sales increased by 8 percent compared to this time last year, with eight additional homes sold.
- Noblesville home sale prices increased compared to this time last year, up 2.7 percent to \$433,948. The average price per square foot also increased, up 3.6 percent to \$164.02.
- Noblesville homes spent five days longer on the

market than in September of last year, selling in 29 days on average

In Hamilton County in September:

- Pended home sales increased 17.6 percent compared to this time last year.
- Available housing inventory increased 17.6 percent compared to September 2023.
- Homes spent more time on the market than September 2023, selling in 29 days on average.
- Year-to-date 2024 home sale prices increased 3 percent to an average sale price of \$522,046, which was the highest countywide average home sale price in central Indiana in September.

Westfield Lions, Elevance Health Work to Feed Hungry Students



Photo courtesy Westfield Lions

These Elevance employees and Westfield Lions combined to fill more than 400 bags of food.

Utilizing a \$1,900 grant from Lions Clubs International, the Westfield Lions Club partnered with Elevance Health to fill over 400 bags of food for Westfield school students in need. This is the second year in a row that the Lions and Elevance have taken advantage of the opportunity to secure LCI funds to purchase food items for the Open Doors Food Pantry's "Weekend Food Bag" program.

The motto of the Lions is "We Serve", and working with organizations like Elevance Health that want to positively impact communities is a perfect way to reflect that. Fifteen Elevance employees worked side by side with several Lions to put together food bags that are

delivered to all the Westfield elementary schools. Once the schools receive the food bags, the administrators at the schools distribute them each Friday to students who need them.

The Westfield Lions Club has been a significant supporter of the Open Doors Food Pantry over the years. They have donated thousands of dollars and volunteered countless hours to help sustain an integral part of the Westfield community.

To find out how you can become a Lion and help those in need, go to www.westfieldlions.org. They are looking for men and women who want to make a difference in our community.

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Sen. Walker Says Stay Safe Online



KYLE WALKER
 Guest Columnist

During October, we recognize Cyber security Awareness Month to help educate Hoosiers about the importance of cybersecurity in their everyday lives.

Why it matters: As our world becomes more digitally connected, it is important Hoosiers know how to protect themselves online.

The Indiana Executive Council on Cybersecurity (IECC) released its Indiana Privacy Toolkit, a free resource that aims to help households, businesses and organizations better understand maintaining privacy online.

With so many bad actors in the world, it is important for you to ensure your information and data is secure so it doesn't end up in the wrong hands.

If you believe you have been the victim of a cyber crime, contact your local law enforcement agency.

SUBMIT STORM
 Reports Directly in Hamilton County

As the weather in Indiana changes, it is important

to remember residents of Hamilton County can submit storm reports directly via the Emergency Operations Center app. The app also includes power outage information, travel advisories, shelters and resource links.

LOCAL FALL EVENTS

City of Lawrence Halloween Fest

The Benjamin Harrison YMCA and the City of Lawrence is hosting an evening of fun, food and family activities! Halloween Fest will take place Oct. 18 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Lawrence Civic Plaza. Guests must register to partake in the fun.

Hauntum at Fort Harrison

Fort Harrison State Park is hosting an exciting Halloween event Oct. 19 beginning at 4 p.m. Guests are asked to meet at Reddick Shelter for trunk or treat, spooky stories, pumpkin painting and the soldier's haunt.

State Sen. Kyle Walker represents District 31 which includes portions of Hamilton and Marion counties.

Drop-Off Locations to Open for Operation Christmas Child

Volunteers are preparing to collect Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 18 - 25. More than 4,700 drop-off locations will open across the country in November, and shoebox packers can find their local drop-off locations nearest them.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering gift-filled shoeboxes to children including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Operation Christmas Child hopes to reach another 12 million children in 2024 with the hope of Jesus.

Shoebox packing is fun for individuals, families and groups! Find a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoebox webpage. The project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God's love to children in need. Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

"Children need hope, and they need to know that they are not alone and God loves them,"

said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "Gift-filled shoeboxes open the door for us to share the hope of the Gospel with boys and girls around the world. Please pray that these simple gifts have an eternal impact."

Participants can find the nearest drop-off location and hours of operation as they make plans to drop off their shoebox gifts. The online lookup tool is searchable by City or ZIP code. Signs at each location will identify the drop-off.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 220 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.



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Baldwin Earns Endorsement of NFIB Indiana PAC

State Senator and U.S. Marine Corps veteran Scott Baldwin announced the endorsement of the National Federation of Independent Business Indiana PAC in his campaign for reelection to represent District 20.

“We are proud to endorse Scott Baldwin, as he is a proven supporter of Indiana’s small businesses and an owner of one himself,” stated Natalie Robinson, NFIB Indiana state director. “This election cycle, it is crucial that we have strong pro-small business advocates in the General Assembly, and we are confident that Scott Baldwin will continue to be one. He earned an 82% NFIB voting record, further proving his commitment to small business issues. We look forward to continuing working with him and strengthening

the small business economy in the Hoosier State.”

“I’m humbled to have earned the endorsement of the NFIB Indiana PAC,” stated Baldwin. “As an entrepreneur myself, I understand the impact government can have on small businesses and the economy. That’s why I’ll continue to fight to lower taxes, eliminate red tape and support entrepreneurship and innovation to keep Main Street strong.”

In the state Senate, Baldwin has authored and supported policies to strengthen Indiana’s reputation as one of the friendliest states in the country for small businesses, including authoring legislation to provide \$100 million in federal tax relief to Hoosier small businesses. He has also supported policies



Sen. Scott Baldwin

that reduced individual income tax rates, expanded eligibility for the state’s venture capital investment tax credit for Hoosier entrepreneurs, eliminated the state’s ban on “happy hours” and increased access to affordable child care to further support Hoosier small businesses and their employees, among others.

Baldwin, with more than 25 years of military and law enforcement experience, is a successful entrepreneur and business owner, a husband and a father of three.

AG Defends Ability to Ban Sex-Change Procedures on Minors

Attorney General Todd Rokita is taking action to protect states’ authority to prohibit sex-change procedures from being performed on minors — co-leading a 22-state brief to the U.S. Supreme Court aimed at thwarting the Biden-Harris administration’s efforts to override state laws.

“The Biden-Harris administration will stop at nothing to impose its radical transgender ideology on all Americans,” Attorney General Rokita said. “But Hoosiers elect state lawmakers to represent their values, and the Indiana General Assembly has passed a law forbidding medical practitioners from performing surgery or administering drugs to children under 18 to ‘transition’ them to live as members of the opposite sex.”

In the amicus brief, the attorneys general

support the State of Tennessee’s authority to enforce a law that — similar to Indiana’s — prohibits medical interventions before age 18 intended to alter boys’ or girls’ physical appearances so that they resemble members of the opposite sex. “The Constitution leaves to states the right to make decisions about how best to protect children from unproven and risky interventions,” Attorney General Rokita said. “Here in Indiana, we have laws rooted in common sense, compassion and science.”

That lack of authority did not prevent the federal government from supporting a lawsuit against Tennessee that erroneously claims the Tennessee law violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

“Nothing in passing the Fourteenth Amendment,” the amicus brief states, “remotely suggests that the Equal Protection Clause was meant to override the States’ traditional role in regulating medicine.”

Joining Attorney General Rokita in leading the amicus brief are the attorneys general of Arkansas and Kentucky.

“In our federalist system,” the brief further observes, “the States get to decide within their borders what interventions are available for boys and girls suffering from gender dysphoria. Tennessee gets to decide that using puberty blockers and hormones . . . is not sufficiently safe or beneficial — that long-term it will do more harm than good. No equal-protection challenge can change that.”

County EMA Gets Duke Foundation Grant

The Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency got some good news from Duke Energy. The local first-responder group is getting \$11,000 to purchase voltage detectors, portable impact drills and bit kits to assist with the proper establishment of electrical grounding, and to stock a community outreach trailer.

The money is coming from a Duke Energy Foundation shareholder-funded grant.

“You don’t have to look any further than the severe midsummer storms that impacted our service territory in 2023 and 2024 to see how Duke Energy and

local first responders consistently come together to assist our restoration efforts and help people get back on their feet,” said Stan Pinegar, president of Duke Energy Indiana. “That’s why I’m so grateful that today we’re able to help equip our fellow first responders with the tools and training to handle whatever Mother Nature throws our way. In the end, it will help us build a more resilient state.”

The grant here in the county was one of six totaling a little over \$40,000 this time around. Overall, the Duke Energy Foundation has handed out nearly \$215,000 to organizations all across the state. The money helps public safety

agencies increase their response capabilities during severe weather and other emergencies through advanced preparation, planning, equipment and training. Others included Hendricks, Henry and Johnson counties.

“Grants like these are key to helping smaller communities reduce their vulnerability to hazards and cope with disasters,” said Reigna Zeigler, president of the Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana. “This funding from the Duke Energy Foundation will go a long way toward ensuring that our citizens are safer, our first responders are prepared, and our communities can recover from disasters quickly.”

SisterCities Looking for High School ambassadors

Noblesville SisterCities is a non-profit organization committed to fostering global friendship, multicultural understanding, and economic growth by building lasting relationships between Noblesville and our Sister Cities of Nova Prata, Brazil, and Cittadella, Italy. For more than 28 years, Noblesville SisterCities has been recognized in the community as a leader in international citizen diplomacy through our Youth Ambassador Program. We believe in the power of people-to-people connections, uniting our community with our international partners.

This summer,

Noblesville will host an international delegation, which will include students from the three cities, chaperones, mayors and other dignitaries, along with Sister City members, for 10 days in July 2025. During their stay, the participants will experience the authentic culture of our city and the warmth of our families through home hosting. We are thrilled to share all the fun-filled activities we have planned for this cultural exchange.

We are currently seeking Noblesville high school students, ages 16-18, to serve as community diplomats and represent Noblesville in this

exchange. Additionally, we are looking for adult host volunteers to welcome and host the international dignitaries. Noblesville residents interested in being a part of our planning committee are also encouraged to join.

To learn more about this unique opportunity, please join us Nov. 12 at the Forest Park Inn from 6 - 8 pm. We will share more about the program, the exchange experience, and how you can participate. For additional details, visit our website at <https://noblesvilleisistercities.my.canva.site/>

Historical Society Looking for New Board Members

About the Historical Society:

The Hamilton County Historical Society, located on the southwest corner of the square in Noblesville, is located in the Old Sheriff’s Residence and Jail. Our museum is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 12-5pm and is free (donations encouraged.) In addition to exhibits on Hamilton County history, the museum includes rooms restored to the 19th century as well as 3 floors of jail cells. Follow us on Facebook and check out our website hamiltoncoinhs.com.

The Board of Directors for the Hamilton County Historical Society is seeking volunteers for a Vice President and Treasurer. The Historical Society, which is run by a 13-person board that includes a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and nine at-large members, manages the Historic Sheriff’s Residence and Jail Museum on the square in Noblesville, the Museum Director and regular Society business that includes events, fundraising and caring for a historic collection of artifacts related to Hamilton County history. It’s an exciting time to be involved as the society is establishing a strategic plan and also helps convene a county-wide history organization collaborative group.

Potential board

members should meet the summarized criteria below, a full copy of which is available upon request. The board is especially seeking people with some nonprofit experience, either in grant applications, managing accounts, or other related tasks.

The Hamilton County Historical Society seeks to represent all history of the county. This includes geographically (all 9 townships) as well as demographically. As the society works to tell the story of Hamilton County, the board should reflect this diversity and we encourage diverse candidates to apply.

At-large board member terms are for three years and officer terms are for two years. President and Vice-President are limited to 3 consecutive terms. (Note: the open seats include two officer

terms - both of which are a single year, Jan 2025-Dec 2025, then subject to re-election for a traditional two-year term)

- Must be able to attend a majority of board meetings, on the first Tuesday evening of most months, volunteer for at least one event held during each year, and assist the museum director for at least two shifts each year at the museum during regular open hours on Friday and Saturday 12-5pm.
- Must be living in Hamilton County or have significant business or personal interests in the area, and a knowledge of Hamilton County, Indiana, or Midwest history is a major bonus. Also must pass a provided background check to volunteer at events.

- In addition to bringing enthusiasm to the society and preparing for meetings in advance, board members should advocate for the museum and its strategic principles.

People interested in being nominated should contact President Jessica Layman at jessiearene@gmail.com or 317-922-6120 before November 21st, 2024 in order to be considered in time for the election at the society’s Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 1st, 2024.

Potential candidates should attend the annual meeting of the membership, details forthcoming, if at all possible.

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