

Building new clean energy will lower Hoosiers' bills & protect grid reliability.

MORE LOW-COST ENERGY NOW

PAID FOR BY ADVANCED ENERGY UNITED



TODAY'S VERSE

Habakkuk 3:19 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

50¢ WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM

Hamilton Happenings

Looking for a job? Kroger wants to talk to you! The new Kroger at 7450 Fishers Station Drive has openings, and to help fill them, Kroger has set up a couple of job fairs. The first is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kroger Central Division Office, 5960 Castleway West Drive in Castleton. The second is next Wednesday, Dec. 18 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the new store in Fishers. Just come to the foyer at the front of the store. Pay starts at \$15.75 per hour.

Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – Was Your IRMAA Article Incorrect?



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Dear Rusty:

In a recent article about Medicare's "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount" (IRMAA) and how IRMAA affects Social Security taxes, you described which income gets included in the IRMAA calculation. You said it is "your combined income from all sources, including 50 % of the SS benefits you receive." That 50% number might be true in some cases, but I think a more accurate, general answer is that "your taxable SS benefit is what gets added to IRMAA." For example, we have enough income every year that we are always taxed at 85% of our SS benefit, so 85% of our SS values get added to our IRMAA. The way your answer reads, a reader of the article might think everyone has 50% of their SS benefit added to IRMAA.

Signed: IRMAA Victim

Dear IRMAA Victim:

I think you may have confused two terms I used when describing Medicare's "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount" or "IRMAA." I also used the term "MAGI" (Modified Adjusted Gross Income), and it's important to distinguish between those two terms.

MAGI is what determines if the IRMAA provision applies, and IRMAA will affect how much your Medicare premium is. But MAGI is also used for another purpose - to see if your SS benefits are taxable. Your MAGI consists of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from your income tax return, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

Indiana Ranked 16th Best for Elderly Care

As people live longer, the demand for elderly care has reached an all-time high, and widespread concerns about the capacity to care for the growing senior population have arisen.

That's why personal injury lawyers Triumph Law, P.C. examined data from KFF.org to identify the states with the best and worst capacity levels for elderly care.

The research calculated the number of certified beds in care homes per state based on the number of facilities in each state and the average

➔ See ELDER Page A7

What Your Best Life Can Look Like

Five Ways to *Glow Up* and Show Up (Instead of Giving Up)

By Jill Palmquist

Mid-life and beyond is a mixed bag. On one hand, you're past the hectic childrearing years, you've (hopefully) reached some level of financial stability, and you (finally) know a thing or two about life. On the other, you're slowing down a little. You have less energy and more aches and pains.

➔ See BEST Page A3

Sights, Sounds, Events of Season Fill Weekend



Photo courtesy of NHS choir parent Christy Gordon

Hear the sounds of Noblesville Schools' choirs during two performances, at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday, at Noblesville High School, featuring specialty acts that include NHS Singers' senior Lauryn Kinzie (above) tonight and other NHS Singers tonight and Saturday afternoon.



BETSY REASON
Columnist

This is another busy weekend for holiday activities. Enjoy the last day to shop at the Janus Holiday Shoppe. Enjoy the sounds of Noblesville

Schools Choirs at two Holiday Concerts. Experience Noblesville's North Pole at Santa's Village in Federal Hill Commons, plus Breakfast with Santa and Llamas at the Noblesville North Pole. Go back in time for Noblesville

➔ See BETSY Page A4

County Faces Unprecedented Retirements

"I've got one month, ten days, 13 hours, and 27 minutes left until I retire," Hamilton County Surveyor Kenton Ward said. "I'm keeping track on an app!" Ward isn't alone. 22 Hamilton County employees with a combined 686 years of service to the community are set to retire at the end of the year.

"This is one of our largest retirements in history, if not

➔ See COUNTY Page A7

Three Things You Should Know

1 The Indiana Supreme Court this week allowed a preliminary injunction to stand against Senate Enrolled Act 1, Indiana's near-total abortion ban, for plaintiffs whose sincerely held religious beliefs would require them to terminate a pregnancy under circumstances prohibited by the ban. The case will now go back to the trial court.

2 According to Secretary of State Diego Morales, the website INBiz will be undergoing scheduled maintenance this weekend, from tonight at 7 p.m. to Sunday at 5 p.m. During this time, the site will be inaccessible for all users. The state apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate everyone's understanding as they work to improve the platform. If you have urgent matters or need assistance during the maintenance period, please contact INBiz@sos.in.gov

3 Our friends at Career.io, the all-in-one platform for career guidance and success, conducted a survey of 3,000 young professionals to pinpoint where America's most ambitious workers reside. A striking 64 percent of Hoosiers under 25 reported they'd be willing to clock 60-hour work weeks to climb the career ladder. This figure surpasses the national average of 61 percent, meaning the Hoosier State's young professionals rank among the most ambitious in the nation. In terms of Hoosier cities, Indianapolis ranked 62nd in the nation and Ft. Wayne 84th.

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Having hip, knee, ankle or foot pain? Losing just 10 pounds can improve the pain.



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

OBITUARIES

Gayle B. Scircle

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

TODAY'S QUOTE

"That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."
Linus Van Pelt

TODAY'S JOKE

What's the first thing they teach at North Pole Elementary School?
The Elf-a-bet!



The Times of Noblesville presents...

Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

Hosted by Dick Wolfsie

March 18 - 24, 2025



For more information contact Collette

1-800-581-8942

Please refer to booking #1232517

OBITUARY

Gayle B. Scircle

July 10, 1931 - December 8, 2024

Gayle B. Scircle, age 93 of Noblesville and formerly of Elwood, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024 at Riverview Health in Noblesville after a long, well-lived life. She was born July 10, 1931 in Tunnelton, West Virginia, the only daughter of John and Katherine (Hardesty) Bolyard. Gayle graduated early from Fellowville High School in West Virginia at the age of 17 before attending West Virginia University. Later, she moved to Indiana to complete her Master's degree in teaching from Indiana University. After dating and singing together at Church, she married the love of her life, Robert B. Scircle on Aug. 2, 1958 at the First United Methodist Church in Elwood where she remained a devoted member.



Gayle was a longtime music and English teacher starting in Markleville, and later for the Elwood School Corporation. She loved music and literature and was known as an avid reader all her life. Gayle was the choir director at the First United Methodist Church for over 20 years. She was a former member of Tri-Kappa Sorority and the Order of Eastern Star in Elwood. Playing bridge with her friends in various card clubs was one of her passions as well as listening to music and attending many live performances. Gayle loved the color red and would be thrilled with the upcoming Christmas season which she always enjoyed each year. The Scircle family encourages everyone to wear a touch of red in Gayle's honor on Friday for her services.

Gayle's family includes two children, Beth (Jeff) Draper of Noblesville and John (Sherry) Scircle of Powell, TN; 3 grandchildren, Kyle Draper of Noblesville, Lauren Draper (Brad Gaertner) of Noblesville, and Austin Scircle of Vicksburg, MS; 3 nephews; and a niece. She was preceded in death by both her parents and her husband, Dr. Robert Scircle.

A funeral service celebrating Gayle's life and faith will be held at 2:00 pm on Friday, Dec. 13, 2024 at First United Methodist Church (1500 N. A Street, Elwood) with Pastor Wynn Stenftenagel officiating. Burial will follow in the Elwood City Cemetery. Visitation for family and friends will be held from 12 to 2 pm prior to the funeral at the church. Arrangements have been entrusted to Copher-Fesler-May Funeral Home in Elwood. Memorial contributions are suggested to the First United Methodist Church. Online condolences and memories may be shared at copherfeslermay.com.



Lions Assist Gleaners in December



Photo courtesy Noblesville Lions

Earlier this month, members of the Lions Clubs from Noblesville, Carmel and Westfield helped Gleaners distribute food to over 180 families at Grand Park in Westfield. Some 14 volunteers from the three clubs braved the cold temperatures to hand out the food. From left, Duke Miller (NLC), Bob Yunker (CLC), Bill Ryan (CLC), Scott Willis (NLC), Joe Connerley (NLC), Jerry Baker (NLC) Mark Hallett (WLC) Carrie Larrison (WLC), Bill Nesbitt (WLC), Gary Smith (WLC) and Bruce Moss (NLC). Not pictured: Matt Best (CLC), Larry Jacobi (NLC) and Marianne Jacobi (NLC)

Carmel Upgrades Bid Process

The City of Carmel's adoption of OpenGOV, a state-of-the-art procurement software, will revolutionize the city's bid process, fostering a more open and competitive bidding environment while reducing administrative costs and waste generated by a paper-based bid process.

The new system is set to launch in January 2025, ultimately benefiting contractors, residents and taxpayers alike through a more efficient bidding process.

"Currently, our bid process is somewhat restrictive. This makes it challenging to access information and results in a limited pool of recurring bidders, which hinders competition," said Mayor Sue Finkam. "With OpenGOV, we are providing a more efficient and accessible tool for interested vendors, city team members and the community."

The implementation of OpenGOV addresses several critical challenges for the city. Previously, each department managed its own procurement process, resulting in inefficiencies. Vendors had to pay for access to bid documents, putting smaller businesses at a disadvantage and there were significant costs associated with the paper-based process.

The OpenGOV system provides multiple advantages for contractors, streamlining their interaction with the city's procurement process including simplified registration, easy online access, electronic submissions and a cost savings. For residents, the OpenGOV system offers a more efficient and cost-effective approach to managing city projects.

"OpenGOV offers a guided, step-by-step process designed specifically for



City Clerk Jacob Quinn

government needs. Automated processes will bring significant time savings and reduce administrative burden," said Carmel City Clerk Jacob Quinn. "Comprehensive lifecycle management will allow us to capture solicitation lifecycles in a single location, for a more organized procurement. Thanks to our administration, and specifically the city's purchasing analyst, Andrew Greeson, for the adoption of this software and diligence in getting it implemented."

The City of Carmel joins other major jurisdictions such as Cleveland, Pittsburgh,



Mayor Sue Finkam

Orange County and Orlando in leveraging OpenGOV to transform their procurement processes. This initiative underscores Carmel's commitment to transparency, efficiency and fiscal responsibility.

To sign up to become a registered vendor and receive notifications of upcoming opportunities, visit the City of Carmel's OpenGOV portal. There is no cost to register or use OpenGov. You may also contact Jacob Quinn at jquinn@carmel.in.gov or Purchasing Analyst, Andrew Greeson at agreeson@carmel.in.gov.

Noblesville Creates Showcases Eric Utterback This Month

Noblesville Creates will feature artist Eric Utterback in the Stephenson House and Gifted: Handmade Wonders in the Judge Stone House, along with other Artists of the Month, in December. The Artists of the Month include Eric Utterback, Michael Jack, and Jerry Mannell, with each of their exhibits showcased at different Noblesville Creates locations.

Familiar genres often follow familiar styles. One might expect a painting depicting knights or dragons to be illustrative and straightforward, or an abstract painting to be a conceptual

exploration of technique, color, or another element. New perspectives and practices can be developed through the combination of genre and styles, as artist Eric Utterback has discovered. Eric aims to blend his passion for illustrative and abstract paintings and lay out the processes that got him there in his showcase exhibit, *Diverging Worlds*.

Eric studied at Vincennes University for graphic design and at Herron School of Art & Design for painting. He's always had an interest in fantasy as a genre and began drawing monsters and mayhem at an early

age. Past university, he pursued workshops and mentorship programs to refine his repertoire. For him, "fine art is one mindset, illustration is another one entirely." Fine art requires careful study to build strong compositions and foundational skills, whereas he can create more freely when illustrating.

As his process evolves, it remains largely an organic one. Eric will wash the painting surface in color to build movement before layering in geometric shapes. Representational images threaded throughout the composition twist with

the more elusive shapes and create a dynamic push and pull visual effect. He enjoys employing a "dichotomy of hard edges, soft edges, abrupt breaks, and juxtaposition." Eric also strives to utilize materials that will lengthen the longevity of his work. For example, he's recently begun using Aluminum Composite Material, or ACM panels, as his painting surface. The lightweight material can be purchased in bulk, cut down to size, and does not warp.

Visitors can expect newer works of this variety as well as older paintings that mark Eric's creative journey.

Paintings from 2020 onward track a variety of subjects, including florals, fantasy, abstracts, and more. The exhibit will showcase his growth in quality and expression and the work he's done to merge illustrative and abstract representations.

See the full exhibit, *Diverging Worlds*, in the Stephenson House Gallery at the Noblesville Creates campus through Dec. 28. The campus is open for exploration Wednesday-Friday, noon to 5 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



Eric Utterback

Don't forget to renew your subscription!



thetimes24-7.com/
 subscribe

↓ RUSTY From Page A1

IRMAA is a factor which will increase your monthly Medicare premium if your MAGI is over certain thresholds for your tax filing status. MAGI is used to determine if a higher Medicare premium applies, and it is also used to see if your SS benefits are subject to income tax.

Your MAGI does, indeed, always use only 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year (not 85% in some cases). That's because the SS contributions included in MAGI relate to SS contributions your employer paid on your behalf. Only half of your received SS benefits are used to determine MAGI because that's the amount of your SS benefits attributable to your employer's contributions. Said another way, the SS payroll tax you personally paid while working was from your taxable income, so it is not included in MAGI. But the amount your employer contributed was not taxable by the IRS and, thus, is included in MAGI. So, it's the portion of your SS benefits attributable to your employer which is included in MAGI. Thus, the terminology that MAGI is "your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year" is correct. MAGI is what determines how much of your SS benefits are taxable, but your MAGI also determines if IRMAA applies to your Medicare premiums.

Your benefits are taxable if, as a married couple filing jointly, your total MAGI exceeds \$32,000. If your MAGI is over the

first threshold but less than the 2nd threshold (\$44,000 for married filers) then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year are included as part of your income taxable by the IRS. But if your MAGI goes over the 2nd threshold (\$44,000 for married filers) then up to 85% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year will be included as part of your income taxable by the IRS.

In short, MAGI determines how much of your income is subject to taxation. But MAGI is also used to determine if IRMAA applies. And how much your MAGI exceeds the separate IRMAA thresholds determines what your Medicare premium will be.

So, the article correctly states that IRMAA only counts 50% of the SS benefits received because that is what is included in MAGI (which is what determines if IRMAA applies). But the amount of SS which may be taxable income by the IRS could be up to 85% of benefits received during the tax year if your MAGI is high enough.

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.

↓ BEST From Page A1

You might be doing the hard work of raising teens while also caring for aging parents. Perhaps most alarmingly, time is flying by. This should be the prime of your life, so why does it feel like it's slipping away?

The busier and more complex our lives become, the faster we perceive the passage of time. Add in the dawning realization that life isn't all that long in the first place, and it's easy to see why people hit middle age and suddenly feel like their best days are behind them.

Since (according to science) we perceive time to speed up as we age AND because the Earth is literally spinning faster than it used to, it's more important than ever to make our time really count.

Mid-life is our big chance to let the truth sink in: How we spend our time is how we spend our lives. We get to choose. And choosing mindfully begins with gratitude for what it means to be a human, how magnificent it is to be alive, how crazy it is that we get to be who we are, traveling this finite experience.

Here are some tips for seizing these years as they fly by:

DON'T lose yourself. These years can be difficult physically and emotionally. You're in your prime earning years at work, which could mean putting in long hours and managing a stressful workload. You might also be a caregiver to more than one generation of loved ones. These roles can be all-consuming and lead to burnout, anxiety, or depression. Make sure that throughout all this turbulence, you reserve time for you.

Set weekly appointments to go to a gym. Invest in self-care, whether it's massages, acupuncture, or therapy. Make time for rest. Do something you enjoy, like participating in a singing group, taking art classes, or joining a book club. You are worth the investment.

DO keep social connections strong. It's easy to let friendships and relationships with family slip away when you've got so much going on. While maintaining and nurturing those relationships can take time and energy, it's rewarding and worthwhile to stay in touch and keep social ties strong. And don't worry if you can't make a long, luxurious "girls weekend" work right now. In the throes of mid-life hecticness, it's the thought that counts.

If all you can muster is a 30-minute coffee date or even a thinking-of-you text, that's a lot better than radio silence. The idea is to let your friends know you care.

DON'T neglect exercise. Now more than ever, it's important to move your body every day. Physical activity will help ward off chronic diseases and prevent premature death. Aim to get at least 30 minutes of moderate activity five days a week. (And don't forget those ever-important muscle-building exercises!) The good news is that being active doesn't need to be boring. You can join a fitness club; take a digital yoga, barre, or cycling

class; or take walks or jogs around your neighborhood. Pick a few activities you love and go all in!

DO make your mental health a top priority. The responsibilities and (dare we say) burdens of mid-life and beyond aren't for the faint of heart. Depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues can turn up because of typical new challenges that occur in this phase of life: a cocktail of shifting hormones, tough responsibilities at home or work, the onset of chronic health issues.

If you've been thinking about reaching out for professional help, here's your sign to do so. A healthy mind and soul are necessary for a long, happy life.

Finally, DON'T succumb to bitterness or cynicism. You may feel like you've "seen it all," and there's nothing new under the sun. Or maybe you've been hurt deeply a few times (or more) over the years and you're done trusting others or trying new things. Fight the urge to wallow in bitterness or cynicism—you can easily get "stuck" in them, and they hurt you more than they protect you.

Always try to keep engaging with the mystery and wonder of life. Keep a spirit of curiosity and try to assume the best of others. When you keep an open heart and mind, you'll be surprised and even delighted every day.

But how do you keep that world-weary feeling at bay when you're worn down and gun-shy from decades of harsh experience? A big part of it is regularly reminding yourself that this universe and the fact that you're here in it at all is nothing short of miraculous.

I want people to really see how spectacular, how mind-blowing, how cool it is to be here in these amazing bodies; with these curious, brilliant minds; sharing our time with others at all the ages. Every age can and should be the best age. Usually, living a better life is not about making big changes so much as it is about just opening our eyes and hearts and senses.

About the Author: Jill Palmquist is Life Time vice president and chief storyteller and the author of *In This Lifetime*, a coffee table book that celebrates the beauty and reminds us of the brevity of the human experience. A graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Journalism, she worked as an agency copywriter. With the birth of her daughter, she took a leap to go freelance, working on a variety of fun brands for a variety of fun companies, including luxury leisure and lifestyle company *Life Time*. While never pretending to understand the founder's brilliant brain, she did understand his heart and realized her desire to help people see the magnificence of their lives was completely aligned with his. Both her love of the company and responsibilities grew, proving what they say is true: time flies when you're having fun. (That baby girl is now 23 years old.) While happy with all the work she's done for the company, it's true fulfillment she feels in contributing to the brand's recent transformation.

About the Book: *In This Lifetime (Wise Ink, September 2024, ISBN: 978-1-63489-689-4, \$105.00) is available from Life Time, Inc.*

Building new clean energy will lower Hoosiers' bills & protect grid reliability.

MORE LOW-COST ENERGY NOW

PAID FOR BY ADVANCED ENERGY UNITED



NOW Hiring



LIGHT DELIVERY ROUTE

Early Wednesday morning newspaper delivery route available!

This does NOT include home delivery. It is delivering to post offices mostly.

Must have insurance, reliable transportation and a clean driving record.

Send resume and vehicle information to jobs@thetimes24-7.com.

THE TIMES

An Independent Newspaper - Founded 1904

Vol. 120
Sen. Phil Boots, President
USPS Publication Number:
391140

Issue 142
Tim Timmons, Publisher
Report address changes to
circulation@thetimes24-7.com

Annual Print Subscription: \$89

Annual Online Subscription: \$42

To subscribe: circulation@thetimes24-7.com
To contact news: news@thetimes24-7.com
To submit legal notices: legals@thetimes24-7.com
For billing: business@thetimes24-7.com

OUR GENERATION
with the Times

Click to **WATCH NOW**

Melissa Shaw's interview with Steve from Adrienes Flowers & Gifts

and be sure to subscribe so you don't miss a single interview!

Public Notices Deadline:
11:00 a.m.
2 Business Days Prior to Publication:
legals@thetimes24-7.com

Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement

Don't forget to renew your subscription!



thetimes24-7.com/subscribe

↓ BETSY From Page A1

Preservation Alliance's radio show, "Miracle on 34th Street." See En Pointe Indiana Ballet's "En Pointe Christmas" show. Watch Main Street Productions' "Greetings!" holiday comedy at Basile Westfield Playhouse. Visit Santa in the Santa House at the Courthouse Square. See Lights Over Seminary at Seminary Park. Visit Merry Prairie Holiday at Conner Prairie. Skate at Federal Hill Ice Plaza. Take a Holiday Walking Tour at Federal Hill. See "Seussical The Musical" at The Cat in Carmel. Shop and eat and experience musical talents at Carmel Christkindlmarkt. 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 20 things to do:

1. Shop at the Janus Holiday Shoppe 9 a.m.-2 p.m. today at Janus Developmental Services on Westfield Road (Indiana 32) with items that include new birdhouse designs, tree skirts, stockings, dog leashes and collars, pacifier clips, lanyards, beaded mobiles, mixed media and upcycled art, clay jewelry and desk decor, with Janus participants making a commission on art pieces sold with more info at janus-inc.org.

2. Shop and eat and experience musical talents at the annual Carmel Christkindlmarkt, which continues through Dec. 24, 4-9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursdays, noon-9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, noon-8 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays and Tuesdays and Christmas, special hours 4-9 p.m. Dec. 16-17, noon-9 p.m. Dec. 23, noon-4 p.m. Dec. 24 at carmelchristkindlmarkt.com.

3. Enjoy a Merry Prairie Holiday 2024 at Conner Prairie in Fishers 5:30-9:30 p.m. through Dec. 22 with thousands of Reynolds LED lights, a visit to Prairietown, games, food, activities, Frosty's Skating Rink, North Pole Village, selfies with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Kringle's Carousel, Polar Bear Plunge tubing hill and more, with tickets at connerprairie.org

4. Walk through the beautiful Seminary Park for Lights Over Seminary, nightly through the holidays at 10th and Hannibal streets in downtown Noblesville.

5. Experience live entertainment at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, featuring "Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" daily through Dec. 24 at Civic Theatre; Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour, today; Peanut Butter & Jam Melchior Marionettes Holiday Cabaret on Strings, Saturday; Jon McLaughlin & Friends Home for the Holidays, Saturday; Carmel

Symphony Orchestra's Vienna Holiday Matinee, Sunday; A Holiday in Old Vienna, Sunday; Handel's Messiah, Dec. 19; Festival of Carols, Dec. 20-22; Songbook Academy Alumni Sings The Songs of the Season, Dec. 22, with tickets at thecenterpresents.org.

6. Experience live theater as Main Street Productions' "Greetings!" holiday comedy, directed by Jeremy Tuterow, at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Basile Westfield Playhouse, featuring Barb Weaver and Nathaniel Taft of Noblesville, Megan Friedenmaker of Fishers, Jim LaMonte of Indianapolis, Dylan Acquaviva of Zionsville, with tickets at westfieldplayhouse.org.

7. Enjoy live music with Harp & Axe tonight, Ciara Haskett on Saturday, Sam King on Dec. 27, and open mic night at 6 p.m. Thursdays, at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville. Enjoy live music with Ciara Haskett on Saturday, Juan Douglas Trio on Dec. 21, Third Space Duo on Dec. 28 at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville.

8. Skate at the Federal Hill Commons Ice Plaza, open through Jan. 6, closed Christmas, at Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville with skating passes and more info available at noblesvilleparks.org, with the free Holiday Walking Tour opening every night at Federal Hill, and carriage rides, with or without Santa, will be available in December, with reservations at noblesvilleparks.org.

9. Hear the sounds of Noblesville Schools' choirs during two performances, at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday, at Noblesville High School with tickets at <https://noblesvillechoirs.org/> Both performances will feature all choirs. Specialty acts tonight: Alaina Wadsworth, Aubrey Frederick, Jade Youree, Lauryn Kinzie, Mia Feigel, Hannah Ropte and Brenner Zebrauskas, Sabrina Lara, Soren McLaughlin, Hannah Ropte, Ellie Seago and Brenner Zebrauskas. Special acts Saturday: Eli and Hanna Ropte, Else Miller and Charlotte Wiggins, Kate Boice, Matthew Hunt, Mason James, Ehren Knerr and Nick Sizelove, Matteo DiRosa, Miranda Ricardo and Eleanor Wilson, Olivia Magill, Sophia Deguire, and Emma Harden, and Soren McLaughlin.

10. Go back in time for Noblesville Preservation Alliance's radio show, "Miracle on 34th Street" plus three short features, "Gift of the Magi," Stan Freberg's "Christmas Dagnet (Yulenet)" and "A Visit from St. Nick"

at 7 p.m. today and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Logan Street Sanctuary in Noblesville, with \$10 admission, at noblesvillepreservation.org.

11. Take a drive and enjoy En Pointe Indiana Ballet's "EnPointe Christmas," an annual holiday tradition, this year on stage, at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Sunday at Reardon Auditorium in Anderson, featuring more than 100 dancers and 25 dance numbers, in two acts, in a mix of classical and contemporary ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, modern and a nine-minute finale with a playful rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," with tickets at enpointeindiana.com.

12. Bring the whole family to "Seussical The Musical" at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and Dec. 20 and 21; and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and Dec. 21 and 22 at The Cat in Carmel, with tickets at onthestage.tickets.

13. All ages can visit Santa at Santa's Village near the Hamilton Town Center Dog Park in Noblesville and will be available until Christmas Eve Dec. 24, with a Santa Photo Experience open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday-Friday and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturdays.

14. Experience Noblesville's North Pole at Santa's Village 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville, with live reindeer, crafts, elf training, plus vendor booths, plus sign up for Jingle Bell Breakfast with Santa in the Green Room at noblesvilleparks.org

15. Come visit with the llamas 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Noblesville's North Pole at Federal Hill Commons, thanks to the Hamilton County Llamas co-op for 4-H with llamas dressed in their Christmas best.

16. Experience the joy of the season at the "Christmas Festival of Music: And on Earth, Peace" at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, featuring the Noblesville First Chancel Choir, Orchestra, and new pipe organ, with registration required for free tickets at noblesvillefirst.com. Christmas Eve services are at 5 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24.

17. Play Ugly Sweater Bingo 5:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Noblesville Moose Lodge, with doors open at 5 p.m., early birds start 6:30 p.m. and regular games at 7 p.m. Next up, Stella Luna & The Satellites will play live music at the Moose Ugly Christmas Sweater Party at 8 p.m. Dec. 20 at the Moose.

18. Join in an evening of holiday musical cheer at the Holiday Show at Sara's Soiree Music Lounge in downtown Noblesville, with shows at 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Dec. 21, with tickets at sarasoiree.com

19. Santa is coming to town and families can ride with him starting Dec. 21, for private 15-20-minute carriage

rides through downtown Noblesville, for \$125, with reservations at noblesvilleparks.org

20. Shop at Grace Care Center's annual Christmas Store 1-5 p.m. Dec. 21 and 22 at Grace Church in Noblesville, created to help local families find gifts, providing more than 10,000 gifts and serving more than

1,000 families, with reservations for time slots available in advance, with more info at gracechurch.us/christmasstore.

Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times Editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes 24-7.com.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Enjoy a free Holiday Walking Tour opening every night through December at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Noblesville Parks is offering Noblesville carriage rides, available in December, with reservations at noblesvilleparks.org.



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Experience live theater as Main Street Productions' "Greetings!" holiday comedy, continuing through Sunday at Basile Westfield Playhouse, featuring Jim LaMonte (back left), Nathaniel Taft, Dylan Acquaviva (bottom) and Barb Weaver with tickets at westfieldplayhouse.org.

The Times of Noblesville presents...

Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

Hosted by Dick Wolfie

March 18 - 24, 2025

For more information contact Collette

1-800-581-8942

Please refer to booking #1232517

Numbers Staggering Behind Hiring of New Purdue Football Coach



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

Talk is cheap. Being competitive in the Big Ten (Plus 8) is expensive.

On paper as well as the words uttered Tuesday morning inside Mackey Arena by Purdue athletic director Mike Bobinski seem to indicate that the days of being thrifty and oblivious to what it takes to compete in today's pay for play college football are over.

Hopefully embarrassed by the millions spent to get Indiana into the first 12-team College Football Playoff, Purdue president Mung Chiang, the Board of Trustees and Bobinski have gone all-in on new head coach Barry Odom.

"Athletics is an essential and defining part of what Purdue is about," Chiang said during the press conference welcoming Odom. "Athletics is such an important part of what Purdue stands for, what it means to all the Boilermakers out there. The Board of Trustees, myself, we're going to invest more than ever before in athletics."

Contract terms call for Odom to be paid \$6 million each of the first two years, \$6.25 million in year 3, \$6.5 million in year 4, \$7 million in year 5 and \$7.25 million in the sixth and final year of the deal. Another \$1.5 million is available in "academic, performance and personal incentive pay opportunities."

The Las Vegas Journal reported that Odom's base salary at UNLV this season was \$1.75 million. Purdue also must pay UNLV \$3 million to buy out the remaining years on Odom's contract. Tack on the more than \$9 million it will cost Purdue to pay former coach Ryan Walters' buyout over the next three years, and we're talking about a sum of money that would have made previous Purdue administrations

conclude that Walters' 1-11 record in 2024 wasn't so bad after all.

Bobinski would not provide a specific dollar figure for the assistant coaching salary pool, saying Purdue is "committed to doing what's needed." If media reports are accurate that Indiana has \$11 million allocated to Curt Cignetti's assistant coaches and support staff, Purdue probably will need to be somewhere around \$6 to \$10 million.

At these financial stakes, Purdue is betting it can avoid repeating the school's football history over the past 50-plus years of replacing a losing coach with yet another sub .500 head man. Bob DeMoss to Alex Agase, Leon Burtnett to Fred Akers to Jim Colletto and most recently, Danny Hope to Darrell Hazell. If Odom cannot at least approach Jeff Brohm's modest (36-34, two bowl wins) success in West Lafayette, there's a chance the Boilermakers may be viewed as expendable by the Fox/CBS/NBC network trio which has invested more than \$1 billion with the Big Ten (Plus 8).

Don't think it went unnoticed that Notre Dame embarrassed Purdue 66-7 and Penn State drubbed the Boilermakers 49-10 on CBS. Or that Fox saw Purdue lose by a combined 80-0 to Oregon and Ohio State on its airwaves. Fox Sports 1 was the network home of the worst loss in school history, 66-0 at Indiana.

On paper, Odom appears to be the right man for rebuilding a Purdue team that went 5-19 the past two seasons under Walters. Odom led UNLV to its best record in 40 years, a

10-3 mark, and a second consecutive Mountain West Conference runner-up finish to Boise State. The Rebels ranked 14th in the Football Bowl Subdivision in scoring at 36.2 points per game.

Even with the season-opening 49-0 victory against Indiana State, the Boilermakers finished 129th out of 133 FBS teams in scoring offense at 15.8 per game. That's the lowest average of any Power Four (Big Ten, SEC, ACC, Big 12) school.

"What was accomplished at UNLV these last couple years was nothing short of remarkable," Bobinski said. "What that shows me is coach Odom brings a very unique combination of an old-school, traditional football toughness and mindset with ability to operate and adapt to today's college football environment."

Odom's 19-8 mark with the Rebels is even more impressive when you consider UNLV had won just 20 games combined during the five seasons prior to his arrival. UNLV has had just 12 winning seasons since joining Division I as an independent in 1977. The Rebels are bowl eligible in consecutive seasons for the first time.

"Their trust will be rewarded with a football program that will reflect the personality and excellence Purdue is widely known for — character, intensity and a no-excuses winning attitude," Odom said while thanking Chiang, Board of Trustees chairman Mike Berghoff and Bobinski. "I can assure you it will be built to last."

In addition to assembling a coaching staff, Odom must stop

the drain of what limited talent wore gold and black this fall. Twenty-three players at last count are in the transfer portal, including All-American safety Dillon Thieneman of Westfield, former Carmel star Will Heldt, and quarterbacks Ryan Browne and Marcos Davila. One former Boilermaker, three-year starting offensive lineman Mahamane Moussa, has committed to rejoining Brohm in Louisville.

Odom is unlikely to get any help from the high school class that signed last week with the Boilermakers, a paltry six-man group ravaged by decommitments as the losses piled up. The six rank 105th in 247 Sports' composite ratings, 46 spots behind the next-lowest Big Ten school, Northwestern.

The Big Ten schedule that was released Wednesday appears to be unfriendly to Odom's rebuilding project. Nine of the 12 opponents are playing in bowl games, with three participating in the first 12-team College Football Playoff.

The Boilermakers open

the season with three consecutive home games: Ball State (Aug. 30), Southern Illinois (Sept. 6) and the return of Southern Cal (Sept. 13) to Ross-Ade Stadium for the first time since 1976.

Purdue has a bye week following its Sept. 20 trip to Notre Dame. The October schedule brings Illinois (Oct. 4) and Rutgers (Oct. 25) to West Lafayette, with trips to Minnesota (Oct. 11) and Northwestern (Oct. 18) in between. Purdue opens November at Michigan (Nov. 1), followed by a home game with Ohio State (Nov. 8) and a trip to Washington (Nov. 15). At least the Boilermakers have a bye week before the Old Oaken Bucket game in Ross-Ade Stadium on Nov. 29.

Purdue has committed to the new \$20.5 million per school revenue-sharing model expected to take effect in 2025. Bobinski also promised a stronger commitment to Name-Image-Likeness (NIL) deals.

"Our folks didn't



Barry Odom

necessarily respond warmly to the way NIL evolved in the recent past, but that's going to change," Bobinski said.

"We're going to operate at the full cap. We're going to be as resourced as anybody in the country, allowing Barry and his staff the ability to go out there and be eyeball to eyeball with everybody we're competing for, a transfer or from a high school recruiting perspective."

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 of Noblesville presents....

Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

Hosted by Dick Wolfsie

March 18 - 24, 2025

For more information contact Collette

1-800-581-8942

Please refer to booking #1232517

Building new clean energy will lower Hoosiers' bills & protect grid reliability.

MORE LOW-COST ENERGY NOW

PAID FOR BY ADVANCED ENERGY UNITED

Don't forget to renew your subscription!

thetimes24-7.com/subscribe

Public Notices Deadline: 11:00 a.m. 2 Business Days Prior to Publication: legals@thetimes 24-7.com

Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement

HH Superintendent Shares Update



DR. ARROWOOD
Guest Columnist

The Hamilton County Community Foundation recently highlighted the six educational foundations serving school districts in Hamilton County as part of American Education Week. I couldn't agree more with their statement that "education foundations aren't just resources—they're champions of educational excellence in our community!" Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation (HHEF) has long been a champion in our district helping to enhance the overall educational experience at Heights for more than three decades. The Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit entity, provides monetary grants for teachers who initiate classroom instruction proposals that demonstrate a high degree of creativity and instruction enhancement.

The Foundation is dedicated to transforming the educational experience so that all students can acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, technology, and skills necessary to thrive at school, in their careers, and adult lives. It helps support rich, authentic opportunities that bring learning to life. In fact, it would be difficult to find a student who did not benefit from Foundation money during their PreK-12 journey at Heights. We are deeply grateful for the work and dedication of the Foundation volunteers. It is through

their efforts and the continued support and generosity of Foundation advocates that our students are given an academic advantage.

I would like to give a shout out to the 31 graduates of the Hamilton County A Chance to Serve (ACTS) Class of 2024. Among this year's graduates are 11 Hamilton Heights freshmen - Illiana Bowyer, Ben Butor, Selah Heuer, Jubilee James, Fiona McDonald, Will Monnin, AJ Smucker, Quinn Thompson, Nora Trees, Aleaha Trump, and Celeste Wiegman. The special leadership program, created and sponsored by the Purdue Extension/Hamilton County, offers freshmen the opportunity to participate in five, day-long training sessions their first semester of high school. Graduates then get to apply those skills coupled with real-time learning experiences by serving as a member of a local board for one year, with the option to continue serving on the board through high school. Lori Watson, our freshman guidance counselor, serves as the coordinator for the program. These students will begin their first year of board service in January for several local organizations. Congratulations to these aspiring leaders of tomorrow who are getting a jump start today!

Friday was our first "Synchronous" E-Learning Day of the year. The purpose of this type of E-Learning Day is to have LIVE online learning

between students and teachers during inclement weather days so that we do not need to add make-up school days at the end of the year. Each year, we plan one of these days in early December to ensure teachers and students can participate in Synchronous E-Learning. Our goal is to provide a meaningful learning alternative and quality access to teachers for days when the regular school day is not possible due to weather or some other issue, while also not extending the school year into the summer. We appreciate our parents preparing and helping your students get the most out of this type of E-Learning Day.

As a note of community interest Hope Clinic in Cicero will be offering free Walk-in Medical and flu shot clinics on Dec. 21 at 9-11:30 a.m.

As I look around at the love, support, and kindness that our students, staff, and community are showing each other, the quote from William Carey Jones comes to mind, "The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each other's burdens, easing each other's loads, and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts, becomes for us, the magic of the holiday season."
#WeAreHuskies

Dr. Derek Arrowood is the Superintendent of the Hamilton Heights School Corporation. His columns appear periodically in The Times.

NOW HIRING

FOR OUR NEW STORE LOCATED AT 7450 FISHERS STATION DRIVE

COME JOIN OUR TEAM!
PAY STARTING AT \$15.75

December 14th
10 am - 2 pm
Kroger Central Division Office
5960 Castleway West Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46250

December 18th
3 pm - 7 pm
Foyer of New Store
7450 Fishers Station Drive
Fishers, IN 46038

APPLY AT:
[KROGERFAMILYCAREERS.COM](https://www.krogerfamilycareers.com)
OR SCAN QR CODE



The Times SERVICE DIRECTORY

AUTOMOTIVE

FUNERAL SERVICES

Serving Hamilton County and surrounding areas

BussellFamilyFunerals.com

Donna Bussell
Owner/Director

1621 E. Greyhound Pass
Carmel, IN 46032
317-587-2001

FUNERAL SERVICES

FUNERAL SERVICES

Traditional Services
Affordable Cremation
Pre-Planning

1010 North Main Street
Lapel, Indiana 46051
765-534-3131
www.hersbergerbozell.com

FEATURED BUSINESS

Serving Hamilton County and surrounding areas

BussellFamilyFunerals.com

Donna Bussell
Owner/Director

1621 E. Greyhound Pass
Carmel, IN 46032
317-587-2001

FUNERAL SERVICES

indianafuneralcare.com

Indianapolis
(317) 636-6464
8151 Allisonville Rd.
Indianapolis

Greenwood
(317) 348-1570
2433 E Main St.
Greenwood

HOME SERVICES

RESTAURANTS

Online Ordering is HERE!
Visit our new website at
www.jdrest.com
to order now!
Sign up for our email list
to receive weekly
deals and specials!

Monday - Saturday 6:30 AM - 9 PM
Sunday 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM

2301 E. Conner
Noblesville
317-773-3288

RESTAURANTS

Don't forget to renew your subscription!

thetimes24-7.com/subscribe

↓ **ELDER** From Page A1

THE TOP 10 BEST STATES FOR ELDERLY CARE

Rank	State	Beds per 100 residents
1.	Montana	174.16
2.	Oklahoma	172.03
3.	Oregon	169.81
4.	Texas	155.55
5.	Missouri	155.35
6.	Idaho	152.65
7.	Utah	151.36
8.	Arkansas	150.66
9.	Wisconsin	148.99
10.	Wyoming	147.15

THE TOP 10 WORST STATES FOR ELDERLY CARE

Rank	State	Beds per 100 residents
1.	Alaska	114.56
2.	West Virginia	115.93
3.	New York	116.30
4.	North Dakota	116.47
5.	Florida	117.41
6.	California	117.66
7.	Virginia	119.30
8.	South Dakota	119.78
9.	Rhode Island	122.08
10.	Maine	123.13

number of beds per facility. This was then compared to the number of residents per state in nursing and care facilities to identify their capacity rates.

Montana was deemed the best state for elderly care with 174.16 beds per 100 nursing home residents. Montana reported 5,580 beds for 3,204 residents.

The second-best state was Oklahoma, which had 172.03 beds per 100 residents. This equated to 28,207 certified beds for 16,397 residents in the state.

Ranking as the third best state was Oregon, with 169.81 beds per 100 residents. In the state, there was a total of 10,681 beds for 6,290 residents.

Texas followed in fourth, with 155.55 beds per 100 residents. Overall, this figure correlated to 132,765 beds for 85,351 care facility residents.

Completing the top five best states for elderly care was Missouri, which reported 155.35 beds per 100 residents. There were a total of 53,142 beds for 34,209 residents in the state. Other states that had a high-capacity rate for elderly care were Idaho (152.65), Utah (151.36), Arkansas (150.66), Wisconsin (148.99), and Wyoming (147.15).

At the other end of the spectrum, Alaska was found to be the worst state for elderly care, with its nursing and care facilities nearing overcapacity. There were 114.56 beds per 100 residents, which corresponded to 834 beds for 728 care home residents in total.

Following in second was West Virginia, with 115.93 beds per 100 residents. West Virginia reported 10,726 certified beds for 9,252 care home residents.

In third was New York, with 116.30 beds per 100 residents. This figure represented 112,655 certified beds for 96,866 residents overall.

Ranking fourth was North Dakota, which reported 116.47 beds per 100 residents. This amounted to 5,244 beds for 4,502 nursing and care facility residents.

Rounding out the top five was Florida, which had 117.41 beds per 100 residents. In total, this corresponded to 84,476 beds for 71,948 residents.

Other states that were among the worst for elderly care, with beds nearing overcapacity, were California (117.66), Virginia (119.30), South Dakota (119.78), Rhode Island (122.08), and Maine (123.13).

Commenting on the findings, Robert Carichoff, Personal Injury Lawyer for Triumph Law, P.C. said, "Life expectancy has extended significantly in recent decades, with individuals living well into their 80s, 90s, and beyond. However, while the longevity of Americans is undoubtedly something to celebrate, there has been an understandable increase in age-related diseases and deterioration, meaning that the need for quality elder care has never been so high.

"The elder care sector is facing a significant challenge, and many

states are not fully equipped to deal with it. While some states have plenty of capacity for the booming numbers of elderly residents, many states are reaching overcapacity, and this will be a severe problem in the future if it isn't one already.

"Economic, healthcare, and staffing challenges may be factors affecting the states struggling the most with elderly care, alongside disparities in the demographics. Many states ranking among the worst for elderly care have some of the largest elderly populations, so resources are stretched thinner as demand is more intense. Additionally, some of the most populated states such as New York, California, and Florida have higher costs of living which can complicate operational expenses or hinder the expansion of care facilities. Consequently, while these states are home to large elderly populations, the high demand and cost pressures can lead to limited per-capita capacity.

"Going forward, funding for elder care is paramount, as this can ensure that the care is to the best possible standard, resources are fully replenished, and employees are paid well. Hopefully, we will only discover more ways in which we can help people of advanced age be happy, comfortable, and live their best lives way beyond retirement."

↓ **COUNTY** From Page A1



Photo courtesy Hamilton County

Front row from left, Auditor Robin Mills (44 years), Diana Cleland (27 years), Linda Swickard (22 years); middle row from left, Lore Rieke (26 years), Lee Graham (30 years), Darla Workman (25 years); and back row from left, Pete Jakositz (30 years), Kim Rauch (28 years), Connie Garrett (24 years).

the largest," said Sheena Randall, Director of Human Resources for Hamilton County. "A lot of that is driven by the Baby Boomer generation, many of whom have worked for us for decades."

Ward, who started his career with the county at age 19 while still in college studying construction technology, has served as the county's surveyor since 1977. "I've been with the county for 51 years now," Ward explained. "I've stayed all these years because I love the work. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have served this community, but now I'm looking forward to traveling the world with my wife."

Randall says succession planning has been a priority for her department as it forecasted this exodus several years ago. They've worked closely with department heads to identify future leaders and prepare them to step into the soon to be vacated roles. "We've made a significant investment in workforce development, and we're excited about the up-and-coming employees who are ready to take on the challenges that come with these retirements.

We pride ourselves on providing growth opportunities, including extensive training, so our employees feel supported and valued and want to build a career here."

Kim Rauch, Executive Assistant and Office Manager for the Hamilton County Auditor, is also retiring after nearly three decades of service. She joined the county when it was experiencing rapid growth and became a key figure in the Auditor's office. "I've had the privilege of working under three different auditors and it has been a true pleasure to serve my community, but I'm looking forward to not having to 'adult' anymore!"

Ward and Rauch both point to the county's competitive benefits and wages as well as healthy work environment as reasons for their longevity. "Hamilton County has always been a wonderful place to work, and our strong history of employee retention speaks to that," added Randall. "These employees have been the backbone of our workforce and we'll be sad to see them go, but we hope they enjoy their well-earned retirement years."

- Auditor's Office**
- Robin Mills, 44 years
 - Dawn Coverdale, 36 years
 - Lee Graham, 30 years
 - Kim Rauch, 28 years
 - Darla Workman, 25 years

- Assessor's Office**
- Dixie Packard, 30 years
 - Lore Rieke, 26 years
 - Linda Swickard, 22 years

- Buildings & Grounds**
- Todd Rees, 29 years

- Health Department**
- Tammy Gleber, 21 years

- Highway Department**
- Merv Hair, 41 years
 - Jim Neal, 28 years
 - Kevin Morgan, 25 years

- Information Systems Services**
- Diana Cleland, 27 years
 - Connie Garrett, 24 years

- Judicial Services**
- Shellie Watson, 37 years
 - Joni Haymaker, 25 years

- Prosecutor's Office**
- Lynett Duvall, 44 years

- Recorder's Office**
- Cheryl Hobson, 20 years

- Sheriff's Office**
- Peter Jakositz, 30 years

- Surveyor's Office**
- Kent Ward, 51 years
 - Jerry Liston, 43 years

The Times of Noblesville presents...

Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

Hosted by Dick Wolfsie

March 18 - 24, 2025

For more information contact Collette

1-800-581-8942

Please refer to booking #1232517

Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words:

Would You Like Fries With That?

The Noblesville Times is looking for clerical help. This could be the perfect job for part-time students all the way up to Baby Boomers looking for something to do.

Basic data entry skills are required. Experience with QuickBooks is a bonus.

E-mail jobs@thetimes24-7.com

Health Department Partners with CredibleMind

The Hamilton County Health Department launched a new digital platform last week for residents struggling with mental health issues. CredibleMind is a wellness-oriented platform that provides 24/7 access to more than 10,000 science-based mental health resources.

“CredibleMind focuses on early intervention and prevention,” says Health Department Administrator Jason Lemaster. “Residents can improve their overall wellbeing by taking mental health assessments and viewing an online library of mental health videos, podcasts, apps, and articles to help them learn new skills and better understand their mental health.”

Featured topics run the gamut from anxiety and stress to workplace wellness and parenting as well as addiction, recovery and suicide prevention. There is also a tab for Community Resources where residents can find a list of local agencies that provide mental wellness services.

“We are facing a mental health crisis in our country and the demand for mental health services is higher than ever,” said Deryk Van Brunt, CEO of CredibleMind. “We are thrilled to partner with the Hamilton County Health Department and provide on-demand, reliable self-care and mental health resources to help the



Jason Lemaster

community improve its overall wellbeing and flourish.”

Residents can access the CredibleMind platform by visiting the Health Department’s website, clicking on the Community Resources tab, and then selecting the Mental Health tab or by visiting <https://hamiltoncounty.crediblemind.com/>.

Ky Ragsdale New Chief of Fishers Fire and Emergency Services

Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness recently announced the appointment of Battalion Chief Ky Ragsdale as the next Chief of the Fishers Fire and Emergency Services (FFES), effective Jan. 24, 2025. Ragsdale, a fire service professional with more than 20 years of experience with FFES, brings a wealth of knowledge, leadership, and a deep commitment to the community.

“Ky is a dedicated public safety professional who cares deeply about the Fishers community,” said Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness. “The leadership Battalion Chief Ragsdale will bring to the department comes at an exciting time for the city, as the community continues to grow and evolve. His experience and commitment to service ensures that Fishers Fire and Emergency Services will continue to be a pillar of safety and reliability for all residents.”

A Fishers resident since 2000, Ragsdale is a third-generation firefighter, following in

the footsteps of his late grandfather, who served as fire chief in West Lafayette, and his late father, who served as assistant chief. Ragsdale’s career in the fire service reflects his passion for public safety and his deep-rooted commitment to protecting communities.

“Serving the Fishers community is an honor, and I look forward to working with the men and women of Fishers Fire and Emergency Services to continue pushing the envelope to remain a national leader as a department,” said Ragsdale. “I am dedicated to giving my best to the department and the Fishers community. Chief Orusa is leaving behind a legacy that developed our department to meet any challenge and protect those we serve and I’m dedicated to serving each day to deliver the results of that effort.”

Ragsdale holds a Bachelor of Management degree and is a U.S. Navy veteran. His leadership and dedication while serving at FFES have

earned him numerous commendations and experiences throughout his career. Currently serving as Battalion Chief, Ragsdale serves as incident commander during emergency situations, oversees departmental operations, spearheaded FFES’ Recruit Academy with more than 70 firefighters, and has served on specialized response teams including HAZMAT and Dive Rescue.

“Battalion Chief Ky Ragsdale has the knowledge, skill, ability, wisdom, and experience to lead Fishers Fire and Emergency Services into the future,” said FFES Chief Steven Orusa. “He is the perfect choice to be our new fire chief.”

Ragsdale will take over command as Chief on January 24, 2025, the date of current Chief Steven Orusa’s retirement.

Ragsdale has been a Fishers resident for 25 years with his wife, Donna, and their son, Cole, a student at Fishers High School.

Recycled Cycles Readies 350+ Bicycles



Photo courtesy Gary Blackburn

A Recycled Cycles volunteer readies restored bicycles.

Volunteers from Recycled Cycles spent the day at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds recently doing final inspection on 365 restored bicycles.

The crew worked all year repairing donated bikes at its repair site at 310 E. Main St., US 32, behind Big Hoffas BBQ, in Westfield.

The bikes will be offered to deserving

families at the Good Samaritan Networks partnership program Tower with Hamilton County Jail for transportation to jobs. They will also be given to children at the annual Good Samaritan Network Holiday Distribution at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds.

The volunteers continue to accept donations of used bikes

at the workshop to fill orders for next Christmas and yearly programs to support clients to work. If bikes cannot be safely restored, parts are used to fix other bikes.

Donors may leave used bikes outside the shop or drop them off during morning work hours. Donors can also bring bikes to the Good Samaritan Network office 12933 Parkside Dr. in Fishers

CCHA Law Welcomes New Attorneys

Church Church Hittle and Antrim is delighted to announce the addition of two new exceptional attorneys, Jane McGill and Olivia Burpo, to its team.

McGill recently gained admission to the Indiana Bar. Already licensed in Virginia, the additional admission will allow her to provide even more value to CCHA’s Sports Law and Higher Education clients, complementing her extensive experience and specialized knowledge. Having served as an NCAA Compliance Specialist at CCHA Law since 2019, McGill will continue to focus on a variety of sports law and higher education issues, including NCAA regulatory matters and litigation, Title IX investigations and allegations related to hazing or misconduct.

McGill previously worked as an associate director in the NCAA Eligibility Center, where she specialized in academic reviews and complex pre-enrollment eligibility matters. As part of the academic review team, she consulted with NCAA member institutions and counsel, guiding them through the initial-eligibility waiver process from submission to appeal.

“Jane’s NCAA compliance expertise and her experience on campuses as a coach bring valuable insight to our Sports Law and Higher Education practice groups,” said Kelleigh Fagan, CCHA Sports Law section

chair. “We are excited Jane pursued licensure in Indiana and look forward to the enhanced impact she will make for our clients.”

McGill began her career with the NCAA as a postgraduate intern in Enforcement, supporting investigations into secondary and major infractions. Before her time with the NCAA, she spent two years as an assistant field hockey coach at Division III Washington and Lee University, gaining valuable campus experience.

McGill earned her juris doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law and clerked for law firms in Washington, D.C., and Charleston, South Carolina. She graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English from Washington and Lee University, where she was a four-year student-athlete and senior captain of the field hockey team.

McGill is admitted to the bars of Virginia and Indiana and is an active member of Women Leaders in Sports. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the PCDH19 Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting those diagnosed with PCDH19, a rare seizure disorder. Originally from Virginia, she now lives in Carmel with her husband and two children.

Burpo is joining the Litigation practice group. She represents



Jane McGill



Olivia Burpo

schools, cities, towns and other public entities in a broad range of claims at the state and federal levels, including negligence cases and complex constitutional law matters.

“We are pleased to have Olivia as part of our Litigation team,” said Alex Pinegar, Managing Partner. “Her strong litigation skills and passion for representing public entities have already made her a key contributor to our firm. We look forward to seeing Olivia continue to thrive.”

Burpo earned her juris doctor from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, where she excelled in Moot Court, earning top oral advocate honors and serving as Chief Justice of the Moot Court Board. She also interned with the Indiana Supreme Court in the chambers of Justice Derek R. Molter. Active in the Indianapolis community, Burpo enjoys playing tennis with her fiancé, Jeff, and attending performances with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra’s “Forte” group for young professionals.

Students Invited to Page in Senate

The Indiana Senate is accepting applications for the 2025 Senate Page Program.

Why it matters: Young Hoosiers are the future leaders of our state, and the Senate Page Program is a unique and exciting way for students to get a real-life civics lesson.

Through the full-day program, students in grades six through 12 have the opportunity to:

- Tour Indiana’s Statehouse, including an executive branch office;
- Listen to debates from the Senate floor;
- Help staff with age-appropriate tasks; and
- Meet their state senator.

The Senate Page Program begins in January and will run through early April. Pages are scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during

the legislative session. Positions fill quickly, so it’s important to apply early.

For more information or to submit an application, go to <https://www.indianasenate.com/atepublicans.com/page-program>

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR Aspiring Hoosier Teachers

Indiana is accepting applications for the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship, which gives future teachers a chance to earn up to \$40,000 in financial aid.

The program is open to current high school seniors and college students who plan to teach in Indiana for at least five years after graduating from college.

The scholarship requires applicants to be in the top 20% of their high school class, have a top 20% SAT or

ACT score or a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Applications must be submitted online by Jan. 31, 2025.

INDOT4U Report Portal Winter weather and treatments like road salting can create challenges on Indiana’s roads. If you encounter an issue, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) wants to hear from you.

INDOT oversees the construction and maintenance of Indiana’s interstate highways, state roads, and U.S. routes. They rely on drivers to report problem areas through INDOT4U, their 24/7 customer service platform.

INDOT4U offers Hoosiers an easy and direct way to share concerns and report issues anytime.

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