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TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Hamilton Happenings

The Hamilton County Master Gardeners Association's 26th Annual Plant & Iris Sale fundraiser is set for May 17 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds. The sale will feature a wide selection of plants, including native plants, hostas, daylilies, perennials, vegetables, water plants and some shrubs and small trees. Dug-to-order irises will be available for purchase at the Iris Garden on the southwest corner of the fairgrounds. There are never enough wagons for everyone so bring your own if you can! For more information, visit https://bit.ly/3Qjb9eV or email PlantSaleQuestions@hcmga.org.

Three Things You Should Know

1 Where are the best Mom and Pop Hotels? Not too far away, as it turns out. A recent survey of 3,014 frequent road-trippers about their favorite family run hotels found that the Treetop Retreat in Nashville was voted Indiana's Top 'Mom-and-Pop' Hotel. The Oliver Inn Bed & Breakfast (South Bend) emerged in #2, and Songbird Prairie Bed & Breakfast (Valparaiso) in #3. Thanks to our friends at Gunther Volkswagen in Fort Lauderdale for the survey!

2 Looking for a place for an icy polar plunge into frigid water? Why? We don't understand, but if you are - West Beach at the Indiana Dunes National Park ranks high on the list. Our friends at AMFM https://amfmtreatment.com/surveyed 3,105 cold-water enthusiasts about their favorite destinations. Brighton Beach in Brooklyn and Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park finished tops in the nation. But our own Indiana Dunes came in 66th.

3 With the tech world exploding, many say the U.S. is losing out. A new report diving into the state of the tech workforce found that 46% of U.S. tech workers say the U.S. is falling behind the rest of the world and 51% say that the U.S. education system failed to prepare them for their jobs. More than a quarter (27%) fear their jobs will be outsourced and fear that H-1B programs are to blame. In some cases, H1B coworkers are paid less than U.S. citizens and more than half of H1B visa holders state their immigration status has been threatened in the workplace.

The TIMES

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Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty - Can I Avoid Paying the Medicare Premium?



ASK Rusty Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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Dear Rusty: Is there any way I can get out of paying the \$185 I am told will be taken out of my Social Security for Medicare Part B when I turn 65? We pay for Medicare all our working lives, and now I have to pay a monthly premium for insurance that only covers 80%.

Signed: Disheartened Senior

Dear Disheartened: For clarification, the money you paid into Medicare while working during your lifetime was for Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage). The Medicare taxes paid while working entitled you to FREE Medicare coverage for Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage, but they do not entitle you to Medicare coverage for outpatient services (coverage for doctors, medical tests, etc.). For that coverage from

Medicare, you must enroll in Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium (\$185/month for 2025). If you wish to have Medicare Part B coverage, you must enroll in Medicare Part B at age 65 - unless you have other "creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer.

The Medicare Part B premium will be automatically deducted from your Social Security payment when you enroll in Medicare, and there is no way to avoid it if you wish to have Medicare healthcare coverage for outpatient medical services. But, if you currently have "creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer, you can delay enrolling in Medicare Part B (thus avoiding the premium) until your employer coverage ends.

See RUSTY Page A3

You Prepared for Unpredictable Spring Weather?

Weather is more unpredictable than ever before, and homeowners should take stock of the outdoor power equipment they have in their garages and sheds to handle ensuing damage left behind. Preparation is key—before a storm and unseasonable weather hits a community.

Today it's not enough to just prepare for each season. We're seeing

See SPRING Page A3

BBB Says Financial Scammers Getting Worse

Investment scams, including those involving cryptocurrency, remained the riskiest scam type in 2024, according to a new report from the Better Business Bureau. Romance/friendship scams climbed to No. 3 riskiest for the first time since BBB began publishing the report.

Both types of scams involve financial grooming, where the scammer builds a relationship with the victim before perpetrating the scam.

Financial grooming scams

See SCAM Page A3

Media Isn't Giving You Whole Story



TIM TIMMONS Two Cents

A recent story in the media reported the Indiana Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith wants to double his office's budget. This, during a time when Gov. Mike Braun is asking for state agencies and departments to tighten their belt.

Doesn't sound like very responsible government, does it?

Remember Paul Harvey? Miss him? Yeah, me too. So let's think back fondly of him while we dive into the rest of the story.

Beckwith did not come into the lieutenant governor's office the traditional way. Instead of smoke-filled back rooms, political skullduggery, overt and covert favors and so on - Beckwith went after the job the old-fashioned way. He rolled up his shirt sleeves and hit the bricks. I don't know how many miles he traveled, but if he wore Weejuns like some journalists I know, he likely wore a few pairs out.

Beckwith didn't go to the power brokers - well, OK, he probably did. But more than anything, he went to see Hoosiers. And see them. And see them. He talked to them in their homes, in their coffee shops, in halls and lodges and on street corners.

He made the case that we need better.

Better effort from those we elect. Better results from our government.

It worked. By the time the Republican convention rolled around, he had the grassroots support to all but secure the job of lieutenant governor - even if there wasn't much support from the upper echelons of the party.

So the Braun-Beckwith team hit the general election trail and rolled easily past their Democratic challengers. Was it a match made in heaven. Ironically - Beckwith is a

See TIM Page A5

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Make a grocery list and only buy what's on it.

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Any fool can make a rule, and any fool will mind it." Henry David Thoreau

HONEST HOOSIER

Speaking of Happy Birthday wishes, here's a special one to another great Hoosier, Luke Kenley! Hope it's a great one, Senator!



TODAY'S JOKE

Why do omelettes love April Fools' Day? They enjoy practical yolks.

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



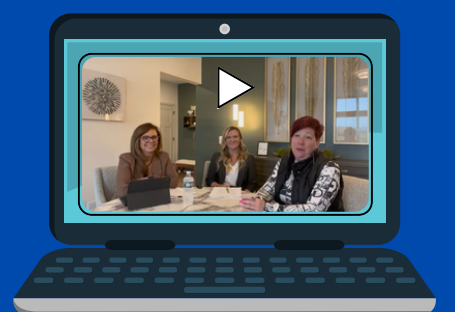
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with the Times

Melissa Shaw's interview with Promenade Trails in Noblesville

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S&P Global Assigns Hamilton County 'AAA' Long-Term Rating

Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings has assigned its highest possible 'AAA' long-term rating to Hamilton County's anticipated \$36 million Series 2025 ad valorem property tax lease rental bonds. S&P also affirmed the county's 'AAA' rating on its other outstanding general obligation and lease debt, with a stable outlook for the county's finances.

Officials plan to use the bond proceeds to construct a public safety training facility for local police and fire departments. The training center is set to include classroom space, a four-story fire training burn tower, SWAT training area, outdoor firing range and EMA training area. Officials hope to break

ground on the project this year.

"We are proud to be able to fund this important public safety project with low-cost borrowing," says Steve Dillinger, president of the Hamilton County Commissioners. "Our strong rating and stable outlook will allow us to finance essential projects, like the new training center, without placing additional burden on the taxpayer."

S&P's report emphasized Hamilton County's "robust tax-base growth" and "strong budgetary management practices" and acknowledged Hamilton County's status as one of the wealthiest counties in



Sue Maki, president of the Hamilton County Council

Indiana, noting that its financial standing enables it to manage debt levels effectively.

"We are thrilled to receive the 'AAA' rating," says Sue Maki, president of the Hamilton County Council. "It underscores our county's sound fiscal management, strong economic growth, and future financial stability."

Park Department Hopes Sign Board Improves Communications



Photo courtesy Hamilton County Parks and Recreation

This board is designed to allow people to point toward images of how they are feeling.

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation, with the generous support of the Channing's Joy Foundation, has installed a communication board at Cool Creek Park, located at 2000 E. 151st St. This innovative addition is specifically designed to assist individuals who are nonverbal or have speech impairments, offering them a valuable tool for communication using pictures and words.

The communication

board, strategically placed by the playground area, allows individuals to express their needs, feelings, and ideas by pointing to the words or symbols on the board. This simple yet powerful tool empowers those who might otherwise face communication barriers, offering people an opportunity to engage with their peers and communicate in a meaningful way.

"Playgrounds should be spaces where everyone feels

welcome and included. The communication board is a resource that helps break down communication barriers and ensures that everyone can fully participate and connect with others," said Chris Stice, Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Director. "We are proud to provide this new addition, which will undoubtedly make a positive impact for many people in our community."

This installation is an important part of HCPR's continuous efforts to improve accessibility and promote inclusion across its parks and public spaces. It underscores the department's commitment to making sure that playgrounds and other community areas are welcoming and accessible to people of all abilities, enabling everyone to fully participate and enjoy these spaces.

Indiana American Water to Start Annual Spring Cleaning in Sheridan

Indiana American Water is conducting its annual water main flushing in the Town of Sheridan beginning March 30 through April 10, from the hours of 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. during the weekdays.



The company conducts the annual maintenance program of its water distribution system to continue to provide customers with high-quality, reliable water service. In addition, it provides the opportunity for the company to make sure the company's fire hydrants are operational. Indiana American Water is responsible for nearly 32,000 fire hydrants in its communities across the state.

Flushing the water system helps to clean out any build-up of mineral deposits and

sediment inside the pipes. These deposits can occur when there is a reduced water demand. Hydrants are also inspected and checked for flows in our system.

No interruptions in water service will occur as a result of the flushing. Customers may experience a slight drop in water pressure or temporary water discoloration while this program is underway. Customers should refrain from doing laundry during the time the flushing

program is taking place in or near their neighborhood.

If tap water is discolored, Indiana American Water recommends allowing several cold-water faucets to run for a short time until the water runs clear. Using more than one faucet allows the water to clear more quickly. Customers who have questions regarding hydrant flushing may call our Customer Service Center at (800) 492-8373.

Kroger Saying Thank You to Customers



The Kroger Co. is in the middle of the return of Customer Appreciation Week, the retailer's mega-sales event honoring customers with its hottest deals and digital coupons. It is going on now through April 1.

"We know our customers are faced with many choices when it comes feeding their families and as America's grocer, we are proud every time they chose Kroger," said Mary Ellen Adcock, Kroger Senior Vice President and Chief Merchant and Market Officer. "We are thrilled to bring back our customer appreciation event with even more deals and discounts to express thanks to our customers for giving Kroger a seat at their table."

During the event,

customers can get even more great deals on Kroger's Our Brands favorites and national brands across the store. They're invited to visit [Kroger.com/appreciation](https://www.kroger.com/appreciation) to save big and learn more.

Customers can look forward to Kroger's hottest deals and digital coupons to stock up their pantries, load up on essentials to watch college hoops, prepare for the Easter Bunny and more.

Boost by Kroger Plus members can enjoy even more exclusive savings during customer appreciation week and may redeem Boost exclusive offers up to five times. Boost expands on savings available to customers through Kroger's free loyalty program.

Members can save customers up to \$1,100 per year on fuel, exclusive savings, streaming options and grocery delivery.

For even more fresh products and everyday savings, visit [Kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com) or the Kroger app, offering more than \$600 in savings available weekly in digital coupons. With more than 30,000 mouthwatering possibilities, customers are a swipe away from inspiration to reality. Kroger is worth it every time.

Customers can shop these items and more in-store or through Kroger Pickup and Delivery, offering the same products at the same low prices no matter how they shop.

KENNY THOMPSON



With decades of experience as an award-winning sports writer and sports editor – most of it covering Purdue athletics – Kenny Thompson has a perspective and inside knowledge that few others have. Whether it's putting what's going on in the Big Ten in historical perspective or shooting straight from the hip on what's happening today, no one has a better take on Purdue and sports than Kenny!

Catch Kenny every Friday in The Times!

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

Sheridan Public Library April Calendar

BABIES & TODDLERS:

April 7, 14, 21, 28 at 10:30 a.m. | Discovery Time (up to 3years)

PRESCHOOL:

April 1 at 3 p.m. | Interactive Movie Adventure (ages 3+)
April 9, 16, 23, 30 at 10:30 a.m. | Little Learners Story Time (ages 3-6)
April 22 at 6 p.m. | PJ Story Time (ages 3-6)

GRADES K-5:

April 1 at 3 p.m. | Interactive Movie Adventure
April 17 at 3:30 p.m. | After School Club: STE A.M. Kit Showcase
April 29 at 3:30 p.m. | After School Club: Creating on Canvas

GRADES 6-12:

April 15 at 3:30 p.m. | Teen Crafternoon: DIY Macrame Craft
April 19 at 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Magic the Gathering; led by David King

ADULTS:

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 11 a.m. | Needle Crafters
April 2, 16 at 3 p.m. | Adult Bingo (Sponsored by Robert Owen)
April 2 at 6 p.m. | Pinners (Pinterest Group)
April 3 at 6 p.m. + April 4 at 10 a.m. | Upcycled Craft: Paper Birds
April 11,15 at 11 a.m. | Senior Social Hour
April 16 at 5:30 p.m. | Sheridan Readers Book Club: A Good Man in Africa
April 19 at 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Magic the Gathering; led by David King
April 24 at 6 p.m. | Plant Propagation Presentation with House Plant Exchange

ALL AGES:

April 3 at 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Family Game Day (Drop-in)
April 5 at 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Easter Egg Hunt + Easter Bunny Visit; Free indoor event ages 10 and under-hunts begin every 15 minutes
April 7-12 during library hours | Spring Book Sale
April 10 at 6 p.m. | Family Bingo Night

Sheridan Public Library will be closed for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 5. For more information on programming and services, please visit: https://sheridan.lib.in.us

↓ RUSTY From Page A1

If you don't enroll in Medicare Part B during your initial enrollment period (at 65), or in a Special Enrollment Period following the end of your creditable employer healthcare coverage, then you will incur a penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B outside of the prescribed enrollment periods. That penalty is a permanent increase in your Medicare Part B premium. FYI, "creditable" is an employer group plan with at least 20 participants.

We do not advise going without outpatient healthcare coverage, so you should carefully consider enrolling in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. If you are already collecting Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled, but you can opt out of Part B if you wish - it's just not advisable, unless you have current creditable healthcare coverage from an employer.

So, to recap: the Medicare taxes you paid while working only entitled you to free Medicare Part A

inpatient hospitalization coverage. You must enroll in Medicare Part B (for which there is a monthly premium) to have Medicare healthcare coverage for outpatient healthcare services. Both Medicare Part A and Part B have deductibles and copayments, for which you may wish to consider getting either a supplemental insurance plan or a Medicare Advantage plan. But, in either case, you must still have both Medicare Part A and Part B to obtain such additional healthcare coverage.

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

↓ SCAM From Page A1

are often complex and devastating for victims. It can take weeks or months for the scammers to build trust with their targets. Once that happens, the scammer encourages the person to try investing, often in cryptocurrency. It always starts small, as trust builds over time. While the investment "grows," the scammer encourages them to invest even more money. But then the person realizes too late, once they've invested a significant amount, that the platform is fake, and they can't get their money back.

More than 80 percent of people who were targeted by investment/cryptocurrency scams, No. 1 riskiest, reported losing money to BBB Scam TrackerSM. It also had the second highest median dollar loss at \$5,000. Investment scams take many forms, including pressure to purchase, trade, or store digital assets (cryptocurrency) with fraudulent exchanges.

Employment scam reports remained the No. 2 scam type in 2024, making up about 14% of all reported scams. Employment scams had a \$1,500 median dollar loss.

Romance/friendship scams rose to No. 3 riskiest, with the highest median dollar loss of all scam types (\$6,099).

Online purchase (shopping) scams dropped further down the list this year, landing at No. 4 riskiest. This year, 30.3% of scams submitted to BBB Scam Tracker were online purchase scams, and 87.5% reported losing money.

"Scammers are spending more time building relationships with their targets, and the result is significant losses," said Melissa Lanning, executive director of the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust, which produced the 2024 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report. "If somebody you met online is offering to help you invest your money, it's a huge red flag, and probably a scam."

Key findings of the report include:

- Overall reported median dollar loss rose 30% from 2023 to 2024. Overall reported susceptibility (the percentage of reports with a monetary loss) fell 14.6%.

- People ages 65+ reported the highest median dollar loss of all age groups (\$160), followed by ages 18-24 (\$150).
- Employment scams were No. 1 riskiest for ages 18-34. According to survey research, the flexibility to work from home was the top motivational factor for engaging with the scammer.
- People reported being more likely to lose money when engaging via social media. According to survey research, almost 50% of scams via social media began when the person responded to a social media advertisement or post. About 15% began when the scammer sent them a direct message.
- Credit cards remained the most reported payment method with a monetary loss, followed by bank account debit and online payment system (digital payment app). Reports of people paying scammers with cryptocurrency rose from 3.0% in 2023 to 4.8% in 2024.
- According to our survey research, 29.6% said their mental health was impacted by the scam incident. The top emotions people felt following the scam were anger (60.3%), loss of trust (54.0%), and anxiety/stress/trauma (53.5%).
- Those who engaged with the scammer for more than one day were more likely to report losing money.

The five most impersonated organizations reported to BBB Scam Tracker in 2024:

- Publishers Clearing House
- U.S. Postal Service
- PayPal
- Amazon
- Spectrum

RESOURCES

For more highlights from the 2024 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report, visit BBBMarketplaceTrust.org/RiskReport.

Go to BBB.org/ScamTracker to report a scam, learn more about other risky scams on BBB.org/ScamTips and visit our news feed. Scam victims can get resources and advice at BBB.org/ScamSurvival Kit.

↓ SPRING From Page A1

powerful storms in places that normally don't get them—and too often leaving behind crippling damage," says Kris Kiser, President and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI). "Being equipped with the right outdoor power equipment is critical for when hurricane-force weather events bring water and wind, ice and snow put you at a standstill, and power goes out."

To help people prepare, OPEI encourages homeowners to educate themselves by visiting WeatherItBetter.com, which includes tips on having the right outdoor power equipment, severe weather and emergency cleanup, and safety measures, such as:

Have the right equipment on hand—before you need it. Acquire equipment based on weather, seasons and individual preferences before an emergency arises.

Know all equipment is not the same. Understand your equipment and its unique safety and usage requirements before using it. Review your owner's manual and follow all instructions.

Inspect equipment before use. Check the air filter, oil level, gasoline tank or batteries. Stored equipment should be put away without fuel in the tank. Watch for missing or damaged parts. Tighten chainsaw chains. Replace damaged parts or take equipment to a qualified service representative.

Walk through your yard

and work areas. Seek and remove objects, sticks, dog toys, and other items that could create a hazard. Always keep children and pets away from running equipment. Hire a professional if a job is beyond your abilities.

Never alter or disable equipment's safety protection. Stay safe and follow the manufacturer's safety measures at all times.

Use fuel and batteries designed for the equipment. Use E10 or less in gasoline-powered equipment unless it's designed otherwise. Only use batteries or chargers that are manufacturer-specified.

Store fuel and batteries safely. Use containers designed for fuel and label them with the purchase date and ethanol content. Use up fuel before it's thirty days old and run equipment dry of fuel before storage.

Keep battery packs away from other metal objects, like paper clips, coins, keys, nails, or screws, that can make a connection from one terminal to another. Keep batteries stored away from one another.

Clean equipment before storing. Remove dirt, oil or grass before using and storing equipment. Store it in a dry place, avoiding damp or wet environments.

Plan ahead for safe placement of generators. NEVER place a generator in a home, garage, carport, or near an open window or door. Have on hand and use outdoor-rated power cords long enough to keep it a safe distance from the house.

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with the Times

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Despite Track Record, Purdue Gets Little Respect from Prognosticators



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

Here are some interesting numbers from Purdue's NCAA Tournament run.

Only Virginia and UCLA have had three consecutive winners in the Naismith Trophy's 56-year history. But in each case, it was a single player honored (Ralph Sampson in 1981-83 and Bill Walton in 1972-74).

The Naismith Award will be presented April 2.

Sweet and low
Not surprisingly, the national media continues to have low expectations for Purdue in the Sweet 16. This is the same bunch who openly suggested the Boilermakers were going to lose to High Point and then McNeese State.

Myron Medcalf of ESPN.com has the Boilermakers 15th in his rankings, just ahead of Arkansas.

"In the tournament so far, Matt Painter's squad has demonstrated some of the defensive chops that led to early season wins over fellow Sweet 16 teams Alabama and Maryland," Medcalf writes, omitting that Purdue also has victories against Mississippi and Michigan this season.

SI.com, the online home to the once-esteemed Sports Illustrated, ranks Purdue 14th out of the remaining 16 teams. "You have to wonder, even playing down the road from campus, if this is where the run ends though, especially if Houston can clamp down on

Trey Kaufman-Renn and Braden Smith to force the rest of the squad to step their games up," writes Bryan Fischer, who has Purdue rated ahead of Arizona and Arkansas.

Chip Patterson of cbssports.com also has Purdue 14th, with Mississippi and Arkansas bringing up the rear.

"While most of the teams made it through to the second weekend with at least one tough challenge, either in terms of quality of opponent or the way a game played out, Purdue plowed through High Point and McNeese en route to the eighth Sweet 16 of the Matt Painter era," Patterson writes.

Purdue ranks 13th, ahead of BYU, Mississippi and Arkansas, in The Athletic's rankings.

"Houston is extremely physical and frequently doubles the post," The Athletic's Jim Root writes. "The Boilermakers' shooters will need to be at their best to pull off the upset."

Coaching carousel
Darren DeVries may be the latest savior of Indiana University basketball but the better fit might be somewhere else in the Big Ten.

Ben McCollum's coaching resume reminds me of Curt Cignetti's before he took over the Indiana football program.

This season at Drake,

he guided the Bulldogs to a school record 31 victories in his first Division I season. Before that, he won four national championships at NCAA Division II Northwest Missouri State. Amazingly, McCollum is just 43.

But instead of going to Bloomington, McCollum is moving just two hours from Drake to Iowa. This is going to be the best of the three Big Ten hires this offseason.

His chances of winning early increased Tuesday when guard Bennett Sturtz, the Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year at Drake, announced he would follow McCollum to Iowa.

For far too long, Iowa has settled for mediocrity. The Hawkeyes have not won a Big Ten title since 1979 (shared with Purdue and Michigan State) and have been absent from the Final Four since 1980.

Ever since Lute Olson left Iowa for Arizona in 1983 with a 167-91 record, the Hawkeyes have been searching for a coach who could stand alongside legends like Bob Knight, Gene Keady and Matt Painter at Purdue, Jud Heathcote and Tom Izzo at Michigan State and Lou Henson at Illinois.

George Raveling lasted three seasons, never getting past the NCAA Tournament's first round. Dr. Tom Davis

brought the Hawkeyes their first No. 1 ranking, but his full court pressure defensive teams only reached the Elite Eight once before his firing in 1999.

The Pierre Pierce sexual abuse scandal eroded goodwill toward Steve Alford in Iowa City, and the former Indiana great left for New Mexico after the 2006-07 season. Todd Lickliter couldn't bring his Butler success to Iowa and was gone after three losing seasons.

Fran McCaffery's teams were never boring and neither was his temperamental demeanor. But after 15 seasons and the lowest average attendance in 60 years (9,161) in 2024-25, the winningest coach in school history (297-207) was let go.

If Indiana's well-heeled boosters let the 49-year-old DeVries choose his players, there's a chance he can be the school's most successful coach since Kelvin Sampson was forced out in 2008. It is concerning, though, that DeVries never won an NCAA tournament game in six seasons at Drake and has just one season of major conference experience at West Virginia.

DeVries' son, Tucker, was the two-time Missouri Valley

Conference Player of the Year at Drake and took a medical redshirt at West Virginia to preserve his final season of eligibility. That's a good start to rebuild a roster that won't have Trey Galloway, Anthony Leal and Oumar Ballo next season. Malik Reneau, Mackenzie Mgbako, Myles Rice, Kanaan Carlyle, Jakai Newton and Gabe Cupps are in the transfer portal.

Luke Goode is appealing to the NCAA for a fifth season of eligibility but the 10 games he played as a sophomore at Illinois may be an obstacle. The recruiting class consists of just former Indiana high school standout Trent Sisley after Bosnian forward Harun Zrno decommitted following Mike Woodson's dismissal.

Finally, Colorado State coach Niko Medved, 51, is moving to Minnesota after guiding the Rams to three NCAA Tournament berths in the past four seasons. It'll be a challenge to win with the Gophers having just one NCAA Tournament victory since 2013. Financial support for the program is lacking, and Williams Arena is approaching its 100th birthday.

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.

Sen. Buck Shares Update



JIM BUCK
Guest Columnist

For nearly two decades, Indiana has been a leader in ensuring our elections remain secure by requiring voters to have a valid photo ID when they cast their ballot.

Senate Bill 10 would also make improvements to voter list maintenance procedures, ensuring those who are not eligible to vote are removed from lists.

DISCOVER THE
Outdoors Field Trip Grant Applications Open

Teachers interested in taking K-12 students on field trips to Indiana State Parks during the 2025-26 school year are eligible to receive financial assistance through the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation. Applications for funding will be accepted through April 30.

State Sen. Jim Buck represent District 21, which includes Tipton County and portions of Hamilton and Howard counties.

This year, Senate Republicans are working on a bill to strengthen Indiana's voter ID law by prohibiting student IDs issued by state colleges or universities from being recognized as an ID to vote, since college IDs are less secure than other forms of identification and standards vary from school to school.

Students at public colleges and universities are eligible to vote with other forms of ID like a driver's license or a free state-issued photo ID card that can be obtained at any Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch.

Keep Noblesville Beautiful



There's a lot going on with Keep Noblesville Beautiful. According to a press release, the first Adopt a Highway 37 Clean-up for the year will take place on Saturday, April 12. Volunteers are welcome if you want to give a few hours of your time. KNBO only asks that volunteers be at least 18 years old. In addition, KNB board members met with city representatives recently to begin plans for the Bicentennial celebration of the historic Riverside Cemetery. To find out more on these and other projects – or to donate – please visit <https://keepnoblesvillebeautiful.org/>

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Witham Health Has Wide Range of Programs Available

Witham Health Services has shared the following programs are available.

- Diabetes Self-Management Class – Call the Diabetes Education Department at 765-485-8120 for individualized class, scheduling and pricing.
- Restorative Yoga – is held weekly on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Cost is \$15 per class. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information.
- Rock Steady Boxing 1 & 2 - held weekly at 9:00 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- Rock Steady Boxing 3 & 4 - held weekly at 10:00 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- SilverSneakers – held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Mondays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- SilverSneakers Cardio - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- SilverSneakers Chair Yoga - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Thursdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- BeMoved Dance will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 pm at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Cost is \$10.00 per class. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information.
- Tai Chi for Health (Beginners and Advanced) – Will be held weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Cost is \$5.00 per class. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information.
- Indoor Cycling – This FREE indoor cycling and stretching program is designed to reduce the risk of any chronic disease you may be facing or help manage your weight. Held weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursday's at 10:00 a.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information.
- Flow Yoga – held weekly on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Cost is \$10 per class. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information.
- Breastfeeding Support Group – is held weekly on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the VIP Dining Room.
- Individualized Breastfeeding Support is available with a Lactation Consultant. To schedule an appointment and for pricing, call 765-485-8411.
- Alzheimer's Support Group – Tuesday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the VIP Dining Room.
- Cancer Support Cooking for Wellness – Tuesday, April 15th at 1:00 p.m. at the Boone County Cancer Society, 1208 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon, Indiana
- Cancer Support Group – Monday, April 28th at 6:00 p.m. at Boone Co. Cancer Society, 1208 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon, Indiana

Witham Health Services is proud to be part of the growth and vitality throughout Boone County and the surrounding communities. Its mission is to improve health through excellence and personalized care. Every day, the experienced and compassionate staff, combined with state-of-the-art technology, bring exceptional health resources to patients and their families – all close to home.

Witham Health Services has offices in Crawfordsville, Frankfort, Jamestown, Lebanon, Thorntown, Whitestown at Anson and Zionsville

Hopebridge Founder Speaking in Westfield

Invest Hamilton County is honored to welcome Kim Strunk, Founder of Hopebridge, as the April Coffee Connections speaker on Thursday, April 24 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at The Bridgewater Club! Hopebridge was born to bridge the gap in autism care and create better opportunities and outcomes for children and their families.

Kim will be discussing her background, the importance of inclusion, and the positive impact of hiring employees with disabilities in our community.

Our community is filled with many organizations that have been hosting inclusive events to promote Disability Awareness this month. We are honored to partner and work closely with Invest Hamilton County and Westfield Mayor's Council on Disabilities to help create and support opportunities for neurodiverse individuals!

The story of Hopebridge began in 2005, driven by a passionate occupational therapist – Hopebridge founder, Kim Strunk. While working closely with children in her community, Kim recognized a critical gap in essential pediatric services for the autism community, especially for those transitioning from early intervention programs to prepare for school.

Determined to change this, Kim pioneered an integrated, evidence-based approach rooted in applied behavior analysis (ABA). She founded the first center – originally named Homefront Learning Center in

Kokomo – one of the first of its kind in Indiana.

At a time when ABA therapy lacked insurance coverage and widespread recognition, her commitment to serving children and families laid the foundation for what is now Hopebridge Autism Therapy Centers.

20 years later, with more than 100 centers spanning across 12 states, Hopebridge serves nearly 5,000 patients with autism every day. Kim was awarded an IBJ 2022 Healthcare Hero award in the category of Community Achievement in Health Care, and is steadfast in her commitment as Head of Clinical Strategy to advance the clinical quality of autism therapy.

Since 2022, Invest Hamilton County has been piloting disability-focused career awareness and training programs in partnership with local advisory councils and service providers. In 2024, InvestAbility is expanding to deliver dynamic and inclusive career exploration services to students and adults throughout Hamilton County.

Through partnership with local Chambers, and the Hamilton County Leadership Academy, Invest Hamilton County will facilitate 1:1 career discovery meetings for local students and adults with disabilities looking to learn more about a given career or occupation.

Invest Hamilton County invites you to join us for what should be an impactful and informative morning.

Spartz's Town Hall is Tonight in Westfield



Photo courtesy Rep. Spartz's office

In addition to tonight's meeting, Rep. Spartz is scheduled for another town hall tomorrow in Muncie.

Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (IN-05) is scheduled to meet with the public in a town hall meeting this evening at the IMMI Conference Center at 18880 N. East St, Westfield beginning at 6 p.m.

She is also scheduled to hold a second town hall the following day

tomorrow at the Muncie City Hall, 300 N. High St. from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Please join the Congresswoman as she answers constituent's questions about improving healthcare, balancing the federal budget, and fixing the national debt.

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TIM

From Page A1



Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith

pastor – no. But it's worked so far and anyone who thinks Beckwith isn't a political force to be reckoned with isn't paying attention.

Did I mention he's a pastor?

And a conservative?

And that he is well acquainted with Charlie Kirk's Turning Point USA?

Think all that drives liberals nuts? Heck, it drives some of the old guard GOP nuts.

Good. Just one worn-out reporter's opinion, but we need something different in politics. I don't care even a little if you are a conservative, liberal, Democrat, Republican, RINO or on the finance committee of the bridge club . . . how can anyone not see the tremendous waste in government spending. It's astounding that people are more focused on who shares the news instead of what the news is. I could care less if Elon Musk or Barack Obama says it – when someone tells us that the USDA spent \$20 million to advance fertilizer use in Pakistan, Vietnam, Cambodia and Brazil . . . well, I smell something funny . . . pun intended.

C'mon, aren't we all tired of politicians – who make \$174,000 (which in itself is an outrage) – and end up with a net worth in the multi-millions? Wow! They must all be investment geniuses, huh! And if you believe that, I have some smelly land I'd like to sell you.

So Beckwith comes along and has the audacity to say we the people deserve better. For that, and for who he is and who he represents, he's under attack. False report after false report surfaces – sadly for me to say – often from the media.

Which gets us to the rest of that story. Beckwith told the House Ways and Means Committee that he wants more money to work on the mental

health side of crime, homelessness and such. He said that faith has a role to play.

To be fair, there's a slippery slope there. The Founding Fathers separated church and state for a reason. But still, can anyone really argue that we're winning the war on drugs? Or that downtown Indianapolis is a safe haven for an evening out with family and friends?

Maybe that's an argument for another day. But the story for today is how much Beckwith is spending – and that's where the rest of the story got left out. Critics focused on one specific area. However, Beckwith is responsible for not just his office, but four other agencies – the state Department of Agriculture, OCRA (Office of Community and Rural Affairs), the Destination Development Corp. and the Housing and Community Development Authority.

Before Beckwith took office, the budget for all that was around \$43 million. Beckwith and his staff proposed a budget of \$31.5 million. My math skills aren't great but that's a cut of more than a quarter – or around 26 percent. It begs the question: what's more important – the cost of programs, or the overall amount spent?

None of the stories I read shared that. It never ceases to amaze that our political climate continues to worsen – that substance matters less and style and source matter more. It's well past time we stop caring about who and start caring about what.

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically in The Times. Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns The Noblesville Times. He is also a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at timmons@thetimes24-7.com.

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

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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.

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Orchestra Features Symphony by Fishers Composer, Conductor

The White River Chamber Orchestra is pleased to announce the world premiere of a symphony by a local composer and conductor as part of their spring concert on Saturday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. be at Legacy Bible Church in Fishers. Dr. Keith Kunda of Fishers will conduct a program entitled Concerto and Symphony: Baroque and Modern.

The concert will open with William Boyce's Symphony No. 5 in D. The symphony is a 3-movement symphony consisting first of a brilliant fanfare-like fast section, followed by a brisk fugue. The second and third movements are standard Baroque dances, a gavotte and a minuet.

Next on the program will be Antonio Vivaldi's Flute Concerto in D, Op. 10, No. 3. The flute was a favorite instrument of Vivaldi, proven by the fact that he wrote 14 concertos for the instrument. Featured soloist will be Julia Mattern, principal flute of the White River Chamber Orchestra.

Turning to modern works, concertmaster

Shoshana Kay will be featured on Bela Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances for Violin and Orchestra. Six dances appear in rapid succession: Dance with Sticks, Waistband Dance, On the Spot, Hornpipe Dance, Romanian Polka, and Fast Dance. Composed during the first quarter of the twentieth century, they combine challenge for the soloist with fun for the audience.

The concluding piece on the program will be Dr. Kunda's Symphony No. 1 in G, a four-movement neo-Classical symphony. The opening movement begins slowly with just one trumpet playing a motive that is ultimately passed to the entire orchestra. A transition to a fast sonata form movement then grabs the attention of listeners. A slow ternary form second movement, featuring beautiful lyrical melodies and equally beautiful counterpoint, provides a time of repose in the symphony. The third movement, the most harmonically adventurous, is a

scherzo and trio, similar to that of Beethoven and the Romantic composers who followed him. The final movement opens with a slow version of one of the fast themes from the first movement, which leads to a playful 7-part Rondo. A thrilling coda concludes both the movement and the symphony.

Dr. Kunda is the founding conductor of the White River Chamber Orchestra. He holds a doctorate in orchestral conducting, with a cognate in music theory and composition. He has been composing and arranging music his entire life. He noted that he is very excited to bring his first symphony to the stage.

The White River Chamber Orchestra is the professional orchestra of Fishers. Now in its eighth season, the orchestra consists of 30 to 40 players, depending on repertoire. Tickets for the concert are available at FishersMusicWorks.org. Students under the age of 18 may attend for free, with free tickets available at the same website.

Sen. Walker Shares Update

Indiana 988 Suicide & Crisis Hotline

If you or a loved one is currently experiencing thoughts of suicide or a mental health crisis, click this banner or call 988 to reach a trained crisis specialist 24/7.



PROVIDING
A New Opportunity to Foster Youth

KYLE WALKER
Guest Columnist

This week, a bill I am sponsoring that would ensure children in foster care who don't have a reliable guardian can be financially independent advanced in the legislative process.

House Bill 1441 would allow a foster youth at least 16 years old or an emancipated minor under the age of 18 to open a savings or checking account at a bank or savings union without an adult cosigner. These accounts can be opened in the child's name with the consent of a juvenile court with jurisdiction over the child.

Currently, any minor under 18 years of age is required to have an adult cosigner for these types of accounts. Unfortunately, these children are not always in a stable placement with a reliable adult.

This week, HB 1441 passed the Senate Committee of Insurance and Financial Institutions and will now to move to the

Senate floor.

MENTAL HEALTH
Awareness Training

On March 26, from 5 to 6 p.m., suicide prevention program Talk Saves Lives will host an educational event on the risk factors and data associated with suicide.

Created in 2015 by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), the mission of Talk Saves Lives is focused upon the goal of reducing and preventing suicide attempts.

This free course, which takes place at the Delaware Township Government Center, will cover research and data components of suicide like the main cause(s) or reasons, risk factors, preventative strategies and warning signs.

If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, I urge you to contact a mental health resource like the suicide hotline or someone you trust.

DISCOVER THE
Outdoors Field Trip Grant Applications Open

Teachers interested in

taking K-12 students on field trips to Indiana State Parks during the 2025-26 school year are eligible to receive financial assistance through the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation.

Applications for funding will be accepted through April 30.

PARKINSON'S
Awareness Month

This week, the Senate passed Senate Resolution 43, which recognizes the month of April as Parkinson's Awareness Month and establishes April 11 as World Parkinson's Day.

Working on SCR 43 across the aisle with Sens. Fady Qaddoura (D-Indianapolis) and Shelli Yoder (D-Bloomington) has been a great experience, and I am happy that this resolution passed the Senate with bipartisan support.

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

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