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TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Hamilton Happenings

What are you doing this afternoon and evening? How about coming to Noblesville Main Street's First Friday? It begins at 4 p.m. and runs until about 8 p.m. (or maybe later!) It's a great chance to enjoy beautiful downtown Noblesville. Take in the night life, do some shopping (stores stay open a little later on First Fridays) . . . Sip, shop, savor! Downtown Noblesville is such a great place to hang out. Come on along and find out for yourself! See you there!

Three Things You Should Know

1 Indiana Landmarks announces that Brad M. Ward has been selected to become the organization's next president and CEO. A Jasper native with deep experience in community foundations and place-based philanthropy, Ward has worked as a lead strategist at the Council on Foundations, where he traveled the U.S., Mexico, Canada, and the Caribbean to help strengthen local community foundations. He has also worked with community foundations. He replaces Marsh Davis, who is retiring as president and CEO of Indiana Landmarks after serving the nonprofit organization for 36 of its 65 years.

2 Did you know that April is National Financial Literacy Month, but most Americans are only getting part of the story? At a time when mass layoffs—especially at the federal level—are threatening pensions, benefits, and retirement security, conversations around "financial literacy" are everywhere. But according to Michael A. Scarpati, CEO of RetireUS, we're having the wrong ones. "We're stuck in a loop talking about budgeting, credit scores and saving on coffee, while ignoring the other 80% of the financial picture," says Scarpati. "People need to understand taxes, insurance, asset management, income gaps, estate planning and how their benefits actually work especially if they're all of the sudden thrown into retirement. But because of what's trending online, they're not even thinking about those things. Most of the influencers giving financial advice online aren't licensed or registered. If they were, they wouldn't be posting half of what they do due to strict regulations," he explains. "That's a huge red flag. The financial advice dominating your feed is likely coming from people who have no professional obligation to protect your best interest."

3 Sport Clips asks first responders to submit a brief video sharing why they should be chosen for an all-expenses-paid trip to compete in the World Police & Fire Games this summer in Alabama. Current or retired first responders can submit a video between 30-120 seconds introducing themselves, sharing their story about how and why they became a first responder, what sport they plan to compete in and why they would make a great Sport Clips-sponsored athlete. Five winners will be selected. To find out more, visit sportclips.com/honoringour heroes. Entry deadline is 11:59 p.m. April 12.

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty – Will My Medicare Premium Change because I Sold Investment Property?



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.

ASK Rusty Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I have questions concerning the deduction of money from my Social Security benefit amount as relates to the sale of investment property. I am 66 years old and have been drawing Social Security since I turned 62. My wife is 56 and is a housewife and has no taxable income. Our income comes from our rental property and my Social Security benefit. I have decided to liquidate two of our properties - one was sold in December 2024, and one is in Escrow and is scheduled to close in March 2025.

My normal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) has been running about \$30K-\$32K. However, last year with the sale of the property I will receive a long-term capital gain profit of about \$255K. I did a rough calculation on

what my AGI will be for 2024, and it looks to be about \$318K. How will this affect my Social Security benefit, and will it have an effect on the amount I pay for my Part B Medicare Plan going forward? I have a Medicare Advantage plan.

My next question is about 2025 (after the next property closes and I file taxes), my AGI with the long-term capital gain profit could be between \$700k-\$800K. How will this affect my benefits going forward?

Signed: Prudent Investor

Dear Prudent Investor: Actually, the GROSS amount of your Social Security benefit will not be affected by these transactions, but the NET amount of your SS benefit payment will change due

See RUSTY Page A3

A Guide to Great Skin At Any Age

(Family Features) Here's the secret for achieving a glowing complexion: there is no secret. In fact, a key factor in achieving great skin at any age comes down to one common denominator that's no secret at all. It's simply taking good care of your skin.

After all, your skin is your body's single largest organ. It's your protective shield, but it can also reveal the truth of your age, especially if you're lax when it comes to regular skin care.

See SKIN Page A3

Don't Scan QR Codes on Unexpected Packages

A package you didn't order could be a fun surprise, but be careful – especially if it comes with a QR code. It might be the setup for a scam.

In a "brushing" scam, you receive a package you didn't order, often without a return address. This is often a setup by unscrupulous companies who found your address online. After the company ships the product to you, they can post a fake, positive review on your behalf to improve their store's ratings and get more sales.

See SCAN Page A3

Property Taxes Heating Up As Taxpayers Wait



TIM TIMMONS Two Cents

Are you watching the unfolding drama on property taxes inside the Indiana Statehouse? I sure am and boy is it interesting.

A few observations:

- Gov. Mike Braun is in the spotlight. He ran and won the office last fall by convincing Hoosiers he was going to do something about property taxes and ridiculous government spending. To be sure, Braun appears to be backpedaling a bit. He is talking about finding answers that are "minimally" enough. What happened to the big talk about being a fighter and really making a difference in spending?
- Along those lines, he's asked departments across the board to reduce their budgets by 5 percent. Really? Five percent? With the way government spends our money, isn't that a little like me losing a couple of pounds back when I tipped the scales at 330?
- A lot of people are asking where the fight is that Braun talked about both on the campaign trail and on the Statehouse floor not too long ago when a thousand or so folks showed up to show how strongly they feel about runaway property taxes? Mr. Governor – I understand in those hallowed Statehouse halls it's all about proper decorum and niceties. But your constituents are pretty fed up with decorum, niceties and exploding property taxes. A little more of that "fight" you talked about would be welcomed. Just saying.
- Braun started out talking about resetting property taxes back five years. THAT got everyone's attention as well as got a lot of Hoosiers excited. However, that also was a call to arms to the lobbyists who represent Hoosier cities, towns, counties, townships and

See TIM Page A6

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Keep snack foods out of reach when you're stressed or anticipate stress.



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

TODAY'S QUOTE

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."

Albert Einstein

HONEST HOOSIER

How is March Madness a thing in April?



TODAY'S JOKE

What do you call a research organization on April Fools' Day?

A think prank.

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

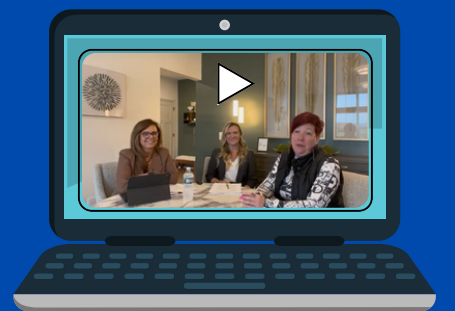


OUR GENERATION with the Times

Melissa Shaw's interview with Promenade Trails in Noblesville

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Photos courtesy Sheridan Public Library

Everyone had a good time (clearly!) and the kids learned a lot in the process as well.

The event was made possible by the family of Bernie Sander who valued STEAM learning experiences.

## Excitement & Toilet Paper In Air at Sheridan Library

Excitement (and toilet paper) was in the air at Sheridan Public Library during the recent STEAM Celebration. Professor Steve kicked off the event by presenting his “Unseen Forces” show in front of a crowd that was ready for fun. This comedy show had all ages engaged and eager to learn about science.

Professor Steve and Elissa Dee, the children’s librarian, talked with the kids about how they too can be scientists by studying the world

around them, asking questions, and being problem solvers. To encourage this, Elissa was thrilled to show off the new Grab and Go STEAM collection that contains over 30 kits that cover a variety of topics related to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, or Math. These kits are available to check out for one week at a time with one automatic renewal and can be placed on hold by clicking on the catalog link: [Sheridan STEAM Kit Catalog](#).

The collection of kits was made possible through a grant from Science Kits for Public Libraries (SKPL), a division of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). As a recipient of an additional donation through SKPL from the Sander family, SPL was able to purchase a larger collection. A longtime member of SKPL, Bernie Sander, always wanted to make a difference and knew the importance of all children having access to high quality STEAM learning experiences.

When he passed away last year, his family knew they wanted to donate to SKPL in his honor. Sheridan Public Library welcomed the Sanders family to the celebration and they were happy to be a part of the kick off. Toni, Bernie’s wife, spoke at the event and said, “I know Bernie was here and I could hear him say, go make a difference.”

SPL believes these kits will truly make a difference to the kids of Sheridan as well.

## County Parks to Honor John Bundy

On April 22 at 2:30 p.m., Hamilton County Parks and Recreation will play host to a special ceremony, open to the public, to honor the legacy of John Bundy, founder of White River Rescue Inc., for his dedication to the preservation and restoration of the White River.



County Parks and Recreation Director Chris Stice

The ceremony will take place at the White River Campground, where a dedication plaque will be unveiled in recognition of John’s unwavering commitment to the river and its surrounding ecosystem. Anyone who wants to attend is welcome.

Bundy founded White River Rescue Inc. in 2000, following a devastating pollution incident in 1999 that killed millions of fish in the river. This tragic event sparked his mission to restore the river’s health, protect its wildlife, and enhance its natural beauty for future generations. His work focused on river restoration, fish restocking, and environmental consulting, contributing significantly to the river’s revival and making it a thriving habitat for fish, wildlife, and a beloved recreational space for the community.

"We are proud to honor John Bundy’s remarkable contributions to the White River and the Hamilton County community," said Chris Stice, Director of Hamilton County Parks and Recreation. "John and the efforts of the White River Rescue have not only restored the health of the White River but have also created lasting opportunities for local families to enjoy its beauty and resources. The dedication of this plaque is a small token of our appreciation for his dedication to conservation."

White River Rescue Inc. made a generous \$52,000 donation to Hamilton County Parks and Recreation, which funded the refurbishment of the fishing pier at the White River Campground. The donation has greatly improved the pier’s accessibility, aesthetics and overall experience for visitors.

## Libertarian Leadership Includes 2 From County

The Libertarian Party of Indiana elected officers during its recent convention in Plainfield, including two from Hamilton County.

Evan McMahon, of Marion County, will serve his third two-year term as the LPIN chair. He has overseen the party during some of its most fruitful years and was elected unanimously by affirmation of the delegates.

In addition, three new officers were elected to lead the LPIN from 2025-27. The LPIN Vice Chair will be James Sceniak of Johnson County. Ronnie Dickson of Hamilton

County will be the LPIN’s treasurer. Stephanie Dasbach of Hamilton County was elected secretary of the party.

The convention body also was informed of the new district representatives to the LPIN State Central Committee. They will serve for the next year.

The district representatives are District 1: John Schick; District 2: Tim Cotton; District 3: Kristi Avery; District 4: Danny Lundy; District 5: Lauri Shillings; District 6: Luke Lomax; District 7: Elizabeth “Libby” Glass; District 8: Micah Haynes; and District 9: Kelley Curran.

## Sen. Walker Shares Update



KYLE WALKER  
Guest Columnist

In recent years, communities across Indiana have experienced an increase in deadly drugs and violent crime on our streets.

Senate Bill 324 is currently making its way through the Indiana General Assembly and would increase criminal penalties for meth and fentanyl dealers. It would also require individualized bail determinations for arrestees charged with violent crimes so more scrutiny is given to whether the arrestee should be allowed back on our streets.

I supported this bill to help local law enforcement crack down on drug dealers putting dangerous substances in our communities and to help keep Hoosiers across the state safe.

SB 324 passed the Senate with bipartisan support and is now being considered by the House of Representatives.

\*\*\*  
**NATIONAL VIETNAM War Veterans Day**

Vietnam Veterans Day was recently celebrated and it was a good time to pause and honor the courageous men and women who served our nation during the Vietnam War. Their sacrifice, resilience and commitment to defending our freedoms will never be forgotten.

\*\*\*  
**CELEBRATE AT Spring Fest**

The Benjamin Harrison YMCA and the City of Lawrence will host the annual Spring Fest at Lawrence Community Park on Saturday, April 19 from 9 – 11 a.m.

The event will feature several Easter egg hunts and an Easter bunny meet and greet. Spring Fest also gives children the opportunity to create crafts and play games with other attendees.

\*\*\*  
**INDOT PUBLIC Open Houses Near You**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is inviting public commentary on the 2026-2030 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

This opportunity allows Hoosiers to join in the conversation on Indiana’s STIP, sharing feedback on the state’s transportation projects planned for the next four years.

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

\*\*\*  
**CONGRATULATIONS** Maya Makalusky

Hamilton Southeastern’s Maya Makalusky has been named the 2025 Indiana Miss Basketball!

An Indiana University Women’s Basketball commit, Maya will graduate as Hamilton Southeastern’s all-time leading scorer, amassing an impressive 1,933 points.

Congratulations, Maya! Your exceptional dedication, leadership and talent has earned you this well-deserved honor. Best of luck as you take the court for IU next year – the City of Fishers will be cheering you on every step of the way.

**CASEY WILLIAMS**



Nobody but noooooobody gives you a better inside scoop on new cars than Casey Williams. Each week Casey puts you behind the wheel and gives you the lowdown on the latest out of Detroit, or other places! If you drive a car, this is a must read!

**Catch Casey every Monday in The Times!**

**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!*

**Thank you for reading The Times!**

## ↓ RUSTY From Page A1

to a provision known as “IRMAA” (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount). IRMAA affects the Medicare premiums you pay from your Social Security benefit, and a higher Medicare premium will result in a lower net Social Security payment. Here’s how this will work for you:

Your Medicare premiums each year (typically for Medicare Part B and Part D) are determined by looking at your “Modified Adjusted Gross Income,” or “MAGI”, from two years prior (MAGI is your normal AGI plus any non-taxable interest you may have had). Since the property you sold in 2024 will be reflected as part of your 2024 income, IRMAA will cause your 2026 Medicare premiums to be higher than the standard monthly 2026 amount. How much higher depends on how much you exceed the income level for your IRS filing status. Using 2025 rules, if you file as Married/Jointly and your taxable income (MAGI) is more than \$212,000 but less than \$334,000 then, instead of paying the standard 2026 monthly Part B premium, you’ll each pay \$370 per month for Medicare Part B (and likely a supplemental amount of \$35.30 if your Advantage plan includes prescription drug coverage).

Your Medicare premiums are recalculated every year (again based on income from two years prior). Thus, in 2027, IRMAA

will also affect your Medicare premiums and your net Social Security payment because of your 2025 real estate transaction. If your MAGI in 2025 will be over \$750,000, then IRMAA will increase each of your 2027 Medicare Part B premiums to \$638.90 (and likely also add a supplement of \$85.80 per month each to your Medicare Advantage premium for prescription drug coverage).

The good news is in 2028 all of this will be behind you and your Medicare premiums will revert to whatever the standard monthly premiums are for that year (because your income levels thereafter will presumably be below the then-IRMAA thresholds).

For reference, here is a link to Medicare’s information on the Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, or “IRMAA:” <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/factsheets/2025-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles>

*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](https://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org).*

## Art Classes Offered in Carmel

Classes with masters of traditional arts and crafts are being scheduled at Indiana Artisan Gifts & Gallery. Customers have long asked for this kind of opportunity to learn and build their skills. Three classes will be held in May and June.

**Build a Book with High Class Booker** – Carmel resident, bookbinder and retired professor of English literature Rai Peterson will share her tools, knowledge and skills to help people make an exquisite hard-bound book or photo album. No experience is needed, but even veteran bookbinders will enjoy their time (and might learn a few secrets) in her workshops in the Carmel store, 22 N. Rangeline Road. Bring your enthusiasm. Rai provides everything else you need. As you work, she will share and a semester’s worth of fascinating details about some of the tools you’ll use and the writers/bookbinders who have influenced her.

Build a Casebook May 4 and 5  
Build a Photo Album/Scrapbook May 18-19

Each class is 6:30-9 p.m.  
\$100 per class.  
Register Make a book with High Class Booker - Indiana Artisan

**Make an Irish Knitting Basket** - Your yarn and needles won’t find a nicer home than an Irish Knitting Basket, woven by you. In two evenings, you will learn fundamental weaving techniques as you craft this stunning, functional basket that originated in Ireland. Using a combination of natural and dyed materials, you will explore structural weaving, decorative accents, and practical applications of this traditional craft with expert basket-maker Bev Larson. Your basket will measure 10-12 inches in diameter. All supplies are provided, and color options are available.

Irish Knitting Basket Class June 29 and 30  
\$79 includes step-by-step instruction, all your supplies and the promise of two evenings well spent.  
Register Make an Irish Knitting Basket - Indiana Artisan

## ↓ SCAN From Page A1

**ABOUT BBB SERVING CENTRAL INDIANA:** The Better Business Bureau has empowered people to find businesses, brands, and charities they can trust for more than 110 years. In 2024, people turned to BBB more than 220 million times for BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.3 million businesses, and 80,000 times for BBB charity reports on about 12,000 charities, for free at [BBB.org](https://www.bbb.org). The International Association of Better Business Bureaus is the umbrella organization for the local, independent BBBs in the United States and Canada. BBB Serving Central Indiana was founded in 1916 and serves 42 Indiana counties.

Reports to BBB Scam Tracker over the last few months show a twist on brushing scams where the package contains a QR code. The code comes with instructions to scan it to find out who sent the package or how to start a return. Scanning the QR code can lead to a phishing website or download malware onto your device.

In one BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer received a package of pasta via Amazon in her name. Thinking it was a gift from a friend, she scanned the QR code that came with the package. The QR code took her to a website that appeared to be Amazon. The consumer said she has received a higher-than-normal amount of scam emails since scanning the QR code.

In another BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer received a ring in the mail that he did not order. The ring came with a QR code. The consumer checked BBB Scam Tracker before scanning the code, and after reading other reports about brushing scams, he decided not to scan it.

It might seem like there are no downsides to a free package, but it could be a sign that someone is using your personal information for their own gain. If this happens to you, BBB recommends checking the security of your accounts and notifying the retailer who sent you the package.

What to do if you receive a package you didn’t order:

- Don’t scan QR codes. They might take you to a phishing site that steals your personal information or download malware onto your device.
- Protect your identity. If you did scan the QR code and enter personal information, change your passwords for any accounts that may have been compromised, and enable two-factor authentication. Keep a close eye on your credit reports and credit card bills after you receive the package.

- Notify the retailer. If you can tell where the package is from, go directly to the retailer’s website to get their contact information and report the package as a scam. Retailers like Amazon have policies banning brushing and fake reviews, and they will investigate your report.
- Check for fake reviews. If you can identify the company that sent you the packages, look for false reviews in your name and report them to the retailer.
- Pause deliveries. One package is no big deal, but some targets of brushing scams are overwhelmed with a floor of unordered packages, creating a serious problem. If this happens, you may want to consider temporarily refusing package delivery at your home address and directing your real orders to a package acceptance service.
- Keep the package. The one silver lining of brushing scams is that you get to keep the gift – the Federal Trade Commission says you have a legal right to keep unordered merchandise. Don’t try to return it, especially if there are instructions to scan a QR code or enter information. It could needlessly compromise more of your personal information.

For more information Visit BBB's online shopping HQ for more tips on shopping safely online.

Read BBB's article on brushing scams. Stay alert to shipping fraud by visiting FedEx's website, U.S Postal Service and UPS's online resource center.

If you spot a delivery scam, report it. Visit [BBB.org/Scam Tracker](https://www.bbb.org/scam-tracker) to report your experience and help others learn the signs of a scam.

## ↓ SKIN From Page A1

**Make hydration a priority.** Keeping the skin hydrated maintains its barrier integrity. When the skin becomes dry, it reduces the effectiveness of the skin barrier, making it less resilient against irritants and allergens.

Often, when the skin is dry it feels more rough or flaky. With proper hydration, the skin feels smoother and looks more supple. Achieving hydration through a better skin care routine, drinking plenty of water daily and eating certain fruits and vegetables can improve your skin’s appearance, maintaining a radiant, healthy complexion.

**Use the right soap.** Despite what your mother may have told you, squeaky clean isn’t always best. A better bet when it comes to soap is a product that respects your skin’s moisture balance and cleanses without creating tightness or irritation.

Mild options such as Pears skin cleansing products are specifically formulated and dermatologically tested to be gentle on the skin. They’re made with plant-based glycerin, which is a powerful humectant that attracts water from the environment and deeper layers of the skin to the outer layer, keeping it hydrated. Glycerin-based cleansers can help prevent stripping of the skin’s natural oils, which averts a tight, dry feeling.

“More than ever, consumers are looking for mild and gentle products that are effective, smell good and work well,” said Dr. Adriana Lombardi,

founder of the Skin Cancer & Cosmetic Surgery Center of New Jersey. “Pears soap checks all the boxes. It creates a really nice, thick lather and smells crisp and clean while leaving the skin hydrated.”

**Avoid hot showers.** Even the best products may not overcome the potential harm that comes from taking showers that are too hot. The heat removes your skin’s natural oils, which leaves you prone to itching and dryness and may worsen skin conditions.

Instead of cranking up the heat, opt for lukewarm temperatures and keep the shower time brief. Use moisturizing cleansers, and after your shower, immediately apply moisturizer to replenish and rehydrate your skin.

**Protect your skin from the sun.** After completing your skin cleansing routine, there’s an additional step to help maintain healthy, hydrated skin before heading outdoors: Take time to apply a layer of sunscreen to skin that will be exposed, including your face, ears and hands. Reapply every two hours if you’re spending a great deal of time outside. Sun damage can prematurely age the skin. You may not feel the heat as much during colder times of year, but the rays are still capable of damaging your skin, maybe even more so because you don’t feel the burn.

Find more advice for keeping your skin supple and soft at [Amazon.com/pears](https://www.amazon.com/pears).



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## Sen. Buck Shares Updates



**JIM BUCK**  
Guest Columnist  
In recent years, communities across Indiana have experienced an increase in deadly drugs and violent crime on our streets.

Senate Bill 324 is currently making its way through the Indiana General Assembly and would increase criminal penalties for meth and fentanyl dealers. It would also require individualized bail determinations for arrestees charged with violent crimes so more scrutiny is given to whether the arrestee should be allowed back on our streets.

I supported this bill to help local law enforcement crack down on drug dealers putting dangerous substances in our communities and to help keep Hoosiers across the state safe.

SB 324 passed the Senate with bipartisan support and is now being considered by the House of Representatives.

\*\*\*  
**HONORING HOOSIER**  
Farmers

For more than 200 years, Indiana has had a proud agricultural tradition.

Today, the agriculture industry contributes more than \$35 billion to Indiana's economy each

year.

Last week, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture honored farms that have been owned by the same family for 100, 150 and 200 years with Hoosier Homestead Awards.

In Senate District 21, the Guy Kirby farm in Tipton County received a Sesquicentennial Award.

Congratulations to this family farm for earning this honor and thank you for your continued dedication to Indiana's agricultural heritage.

\*\*\*  
**INDOT PUBLIC OPEN**  
Houses Near You

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is inviting public comment on the 2026-2030 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

This opportunity allows Hoosiers to join in the conversation on Indiana's STIP, sharing feedback on the state's transportation projects planned for the next four years.

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

## Lt. Governor Makes Mass Spending Cuts

Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith is announcing mass spending cuts his office is making after assuming his role as Indiana Lieutenant Governor from the previous administration.

The office will not be renewing the following contracts:

- Two separate professional development training services totaling \$120,510;
- An outside graphic design service totaling \$27,000;
- The social media management platform, Hootsuite, totaling \$1,188; and
- The image hosting service, Flickr, totaling \$132.

The office has already canceled a subscription to The New York Times, totaling \$195. Additionally, the office renegotiated an existing contract saving \$15,000 of Hoosier taxpayer money.

"When I first came into office, I asked my team for looking for items and services we could cut immediately," Beckwith said. "I knew there would be wasteful spending left over from the previous administration. Fiscal

responsibility isn't just about numbers—it's about ensuring every dollar serves the people effectively. By cutting unnecessary spending, we can ensure that taxpayer money is going to essential services to Hoosiers."

One major purchase made by the Office of Lt. Governor was a new car. The car from the previous administration had been in multiple accidents and was suffering from mechanical issues. Additionally, the car would not be large enough to accommodate the Lt. Governor and his staff when traveling for town halls and meeting with community leaders around the state. The Lt. Governor's office submitted a request through the Indiana Department of Administration for a car to accommodate the office's needs and the office was presented with only two options. The purchase price of the car is less than the existing savings to be cut to the aforementioned.

"Overall, the Lt. Governor's office has already saved the state money," Beckwith said. "I look forward to continue to dive into these contracts and to make the necessary cuts."

## Carmel Reports on Meeting to Save Taxpayer Dollars

Findings from a detailed financial and legal review initiated to ensure appropriate use of taxpayer dollars were discussed at a recent Affiliate Review Committee meeting.

While the full fiscal and legal review prompted in partnership with Mayor Sue Finkam and the Carmel City Council includes four supporting organizations, Thursday's meeting focused on the operation of the All Things Carmel retail store and its supporting organization, Promote Carmel, Inc.

The Promote Carmel, Inc. board of directors voted to close All Things Carmel in August of 2024, with the city taking steps to wind down and dissolve the legal entity.

The store, which sold Carmel-branded items and products from local vendors, operated at a loss since its inception and would have required an additional subsidy of \$100,000 to remain open, prompting Mayor Finkam to call for the need to prioritize important expenditures such as police and fire staffing, as well as road maintenance.

"Running a gift store was not an essential City service and subsidizing it did not serve our taxpayers," the mayor said. "That's why we took steps to close the store and redirect those taxpayer dollars to public safety and other essential services. I appreciated the City Council's support on the immediate and decisive actions we pursued to be a better steward of taxpayer resources."

At Thursday's meeting, committee

members heard findings from the review, including a summary of annual subsidies to the store that exceeded \$1.2 million over five years. In addition, the review noted that some use of taxpayer funds and donor directed funds conflicted with city policies and with laws governing the non-profit status of the supporting organization.

City Councilor Ryan Locke, who leads the Affiliate Review Committee, said he was pleased with the detailed review of the affiliate's operations, noting that council and the mayor continue to be unified in the efforts to put appropriate controls in place to ensure taxpayer dollars can only be spent on critical, known and approved city services, initiatives and partners.

"We came into office with the intent to protect taxpayers by increasing transparency, oversight and accountability in government operations," Councilor Locke said. "The findings from this review highlight some of the issues that can arise with unchecked executive authority. The work of this committee will help us build the right framework of checks and balances to ensure our government and any of its affiliates will operate in the best interest of our city and our citizens - which is, and should always be, the most important mission."

As part of the store's closing, all vendors have been paid and all products returned. The Indiana Secretary of State's Office approved dissolution of the nonprofit March 27.

## 9th Annual Local Author Fair in Fishers

The Hamilton East Public Library is excited to host their 2025 Local Author Fair, a free, open house-style event for all ages. The event will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the FORUM Events Center, 11313 USA Pkwy. In Fishers.

Nearly 70 local authors and literary organizations from Fishers, Noblesville, Carmel, Westfield, Cicero, Indianapolis, Greenwood, Anderson, Crawfordsville, and beyond will have exhibit space for the public to meet them with opportunities to purchase their books. Authors will be available for book signings. There will be chances to win book bundles and other prizes for those who attend. Returning to the fair for a second year are story times and short readings featuring participating authors throughout the afternoon, in a room adjacent to the exhibit space.

"Hamilton East Public Library is excited for the return of this annual event showcasing the talent of local authors," says HEPL Adult Program Coordinator, Danielle Acton. "Our service area within Hamilton County, and Indiana at large, has many gifted writers, some of whom have self-published and others who have launched their works through traditional publishing houses. The

Local Author Fair provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with nearly 70 authors and literary organizations as you support local storytelling. During the event, you can purchase books for yourself or as gifts, network with other authors, ask them about their writing inspiration or process, and learn more about their journey to publishing."

Four free writing workshops will take place at the Fishers Library (5 Municipal Dr.) from 9:30-11 AM, the morning of the HEPL Local Author Fair, to hone your writing skills! While free, registration is required for each workshop as space is limited. Workshops include:

- Writing Great Dialogue with Michelle McGill-Vargas
- Get Published, Not Scammed with Myra Levine
- Reasons to Write with Dr. Leah "Riwo" Leach
- Creative Writing and Illustrating for Kids with Professor Watermelon and Mister Smart

Visit the HEPL event calendar to sign up for these free writing workshops. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with the literary community! Visit [hamiltoneastpl.org](http://hamiltoneastpl.org) for more information.

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### Health, Parks Departments Partner for Health

The Hamilton County Health Department will use state grant funding to support a series of community-focused health and wellness programs through Hamilton County Parks and Recreation (HCPR) aimed at encouraging physical activity, improving mental health, and promoting overall well-being. These initiatives will support residents and visitors with a variety of outdoor and fitness activities designed to combat obesity and support mental health.

One of the components of this funding is the introduction of a Bike Share Program at Strawtown Koteewi Park and the White River Campground. This program offers readily available bikes for park-goers and campers who are unable to bring their own to the park. By providing convenient access to bicycles, individuals will be encouraged to explore the park and incorporate physical activity into their visit.

HCHD will also fund additional exercise equipment at HCPR parks. The creation of additional fitness stations in various parks is aimed at offering free, accessible exercise opportunities to people of all ages and fitness levels. The goal is to eventually offer instructor-led classes using the equipment at these parks.

Through a collaboration with the Hamilton County Youth Assistance Program (HCYAP), HCPR will provide outdoor recreational activities at the Strawtown Koteewi Park Adventure Area to at-risk youth with HCHD funding. These programs, which have already proven successful, offer young people free access to unique therapeutic and educational experiences, such as equestrian

programs and archery, while also promoting mental health through outdoor engagement. HCPR's goal is to expand this collaboration and provide even more opportunities for youth to develop positive habits and connect with nature.

A new partnership with Camptown will introduce the "Wilderness to Wellness" program, an adventure-based initiative that focuses on building resilience and teaching coping skills to at-risk youth through activities like hiking, rock climbing, and wilderness travel. This program will combine physical activity with mental health education, empowering participants to develop both physical and emotional strength. The program will provide a much-needed diversion for at-risk youth, introducing them to activities they may not have experienced before while also fostering positive mental health outcomes.

Yoga continues to be a popular offering within the county's park programs. The Health Department will help support the ongoing success of the free Sunset Yoga Program at the Osprey Pointe Pavilion, where participants can unwind and relax with guided yoga sessions while enjoying the scenic view over the water. In addition, the free Y12SR Recovery Yoga program, which supports individuals recovering from substance use disorders, will continue, offering a crucial therapeutic outlet for those affected by addiction. Both programs have seen tremendous success, with participants praising the calming and rejuvenating effects of yoga in a peaceful, natural setting.

Finally, HCPR's numerous walking programs, including the Senior Walking Club, Moms' Walking Club, and Forest



**County Parks and Recreation Director Chris Stice**

Bathing Hikes, will be supported through this funding. The Health Department will enhance these programs by providing health services such as blood pressure checks, BMI measurements, and educational materials on the benefits of walking, injury prevention, and hydration. These walking programs already serve hundreds of participants annually and will now be able to expand and offer even greater health benefits.

"We are grateful for the Hamilton County Health Department's support with funding these initiatives to enhance the health and well-being of our community," said Chris Stice, Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Director. "These programs are ideal for helping our community reduce obesity, improve mental health, and provide individuals with the tools they need to lead healthier, more active lives."

The funding from the Hamilton County Health Department will help ensure these programs are accessible to as many people as possible, fostering a healthier, more active community. For more information on these initiatives and how to get involved, residents are encouraged to visit the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation website or follow their social media channels for updates.

# THE TIMES

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# Air1 Worship Now Tour Making Stop at Fishers Event Center



The Air1 Worship Now Tour with Phil Wickham, Charity Gayle, Josh Baldwin and Benjamin William Hastings will be live at the Fishers Event Center Oct. 9, with tickets going on sale April 10 at noon at FishersEventCenter.com and Ticketmaster.com.

Phil Wickham is a Grammy-nominated, Dove Award-winning modern worship artist whose songs have been sung in churches around the world. His most recent single, "The Jesus Way," is a bold declaration of what choosing a life in the Christian faith truly means. His 2024 Grammy Nominated album, *I Believe*, went #1 on the Billboard Top Christian Albums, while his song, "House Of The Lord," remained #1 on the Billboard Christian AC Airplay Chart for multiple weeks. In 2023, Wickham was nominated for two GRAMMY® awards in the category of "Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song," recognizing the songs, "Hymn of Heaven" and "Holy Forever." At the 2024 GMA Dove Awards, Wickham was the most awarded artist winning "Song of the Year" for "Holy Forever," "Worship Album of the Year" for *I Believe*, as well as "Christmas Recorded Song of the Year" for "Manger Throne." From his Gold-certified singles "This is Amazing Grace" and "Living Hope," to his latest project, *I Believe*, Wickham's music has received over 2 billion streams in the U.S. alone across his catalog and platforms. Wickham's discography includes ten full-length projects, multiple Christmas releases, and a series of popular Singalong records. In his most recent book release, *I Believe Devotional*, Phil invites people on a 14 day journey to living a life of greater faith.

Charity Gayle houses a powerful voice that has a fresh yet reminiscent sound. She loves the Lord with a fierce faith and was raised in a home full of worship. Growing up in Buffalo, NY, Charity was involved in ministry since she was a child and thrived in a community that worshipped with a focus on unity and diversity. Charity spent two years in Nashville where she fell more in love with the art of writing songs for the church. Her songs focus on bridging the genre gap between worship and gospel music. Her first album, *Lord, You are my Song*, debuted at #1 in the Christian and Gospel genre in January 2018. In 2021, she released her breakthrough album *Endless Praise*, featuring songs like "Thank You Jesus for the Blood" also debuting at #1, and "I Speak Jesus." Since the release of *Endless Praise*, Charity's music has amassed over half

a billion streams worldwide. In 2024, Charity released her newest album *Rejoice*, featuring the song "I Believe." *Rejoice* is a declaration of truth, written as a resource of encouragement for believers across the globe. Charity lives and leads worship with her husband, Ryan Kennedy in Houston where they are cultivating a movement for 24-hour prayer and worship called GatherHouse, and are continuing to write and spread the gospel in the US and globally.

Josh Baldwin is a songwriter and worship leader who joined Bethel Music in 2014. Josh is most known for his songs including "Praises (Be Lifted Up)," "You Deserve It All," and "Stand in Your Love," which reached No. 2 on the Christian Billboard charts. His newest album, *Made For More* (2024), marks his second live recorded worship album. Josh celebrated his first-ever No. 1 single with his globally renown "Made For More" at the top of both the Mediabase Christian AC and Christian Audience Radio charts. He has appeared on numerous Bethel Music albums including *VICTORY* (2019), *Peace* (2020), *Homecoming* (2021), and *Come Up Here* (2023) with his song "Time and Time Again". Most recently, Baldwin is featured on Bethel Music's newest album *We Must Respond* (2025) leading "Made For More," with Jenn Johnson, and "The Christ And Cornerstone". As a worship leader, Josh enjoys creating space for people to feel seen, encouraged, and invited into intimacy with God. Josh lives with his wife Sheila and their two children in Thompson's Station, Tennessee, and continues to tour domestically and internationally.

Benjamin William Hastings is a Northern Irish singer-songwriter whose journey began in Belfast and flourished in Sydney, Australia, where he became connected with Hillsong UNITED. As a key collaborator, Hastings co-wrote

impactful songs, including the globally acclaimed, Platinum-certified "So Will I (100 Billion X)," a top 5 hit on Christian Radio. Benjamin has written songs for artists like Brandon Lake, Cory Asbury, and Rend Collective, and has garnered over 1.3 billion streams globally. Now based in Nashville, TN, Benjamin is a top performing artist on AIR1 with hits like "Feels Like A Blessing," "That's the Thing About Praise," and "Know You Will." His 2023 single "That's the Thing About Praise" reached #11 on Christian Airplay. Alongside his wife, Jessa Hastings, author of the *Magnolia Parks* series, he balances creativity and family life with their two children. Benjamin's latest album, *Sold Out, Sincerely*, is a divine record that reflects his faith and life journey, offering songs that inspire deeper connection with God.

Opened in November 2024, Fishers Event Center is Indiana's new home for premier entertainment in the Midwest. The state-of-the-art venue with a seating capacity of 7,500 hosts a variety of shows and concerts spanning genres from comedy, family, country music and more. Pairing high quality entertainment with an intimate setting to provide an unmatched fan experience, the ultra-modern Fishers Event Center simultaneously serves as a community venue where local athletes compete and families can watch their children walk across the graduation stage, and is home to three professional sports teams: the Indy Fuel Hockey Club of the ECHL, Indy Ignite of the Pro Volleyball Federation, and Fishers Freight of the Indoor Football League. Follow Fishers Event Center on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter. More information at FishersEventCenter.com.

## TIM From Page A1

schools. We all know how it works. If you get to keep more of your money, that means the government gets less. One side or the other is going to feel pain. That is a fact. The lobbyists and (so far) the politicians have decided that will be you. We'll see if that changes before the legislature wraps up.

- And along THOSE lines, while the government is choosing you to feel the pain instead of them, they are also saying something else. During tough times, the ones who bear the brunt are taxpayers. That's just wrong. When belts have to get tightened, our government should never tighten after we do, or less than we do. It's not that complicated.
- Ultimately, what started as property tax reform has turned into property tax rerun. And like the stale re-runs we see on TV, we all know how things turn out.
- Another VERY interesting angle is that Braun's next political opponent could well be just down the hall (well, up the stairs and across the hall) in Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith. A quick review – Beckwith campaigned for and won the lieutenant governor's nod at the convention, despite Braun hand picking Rep. Julie McGuire. Beckwith campaigned extensively around the state and his conservative, Christian, common sense platform won favor with Hoosiers. LOTS of Hoosiers. If Braun backs off on property taxes now, he'll very likely be a one-term governor and his replacement could easily be Beckwith.

So many questions, so few answers. It'd be easy to say this is going to go like it always does. A few folks will make noise and jump up and down, but ultimately we'll take what our overlords (uh, I mean elected representatives) hand us.

Or not.

Mind you, I'm not saying there is hope. But the reality is the political climate has changed. Thanks to DOGE shining the light on outrageous

examples of our tax dollars being utterly squandered, people are paying more attention . . . and are more fed up.

Here's a big question for Republicans – and more importantly, voters. Do you remember when the GOP was the party of limited government and tax cuts? What happened to that? Don't forget that the Republicans have a super majority in the Statehouse. They can literally do whatever they want.

That's the thing you should not forget. They ARE doing whatever they want. They are not coming up with property tax reform of any significance. They are not resetting property taxes back five years like Braun said. They are not putting Hoosiers' concerns ahead of their pals in other sectors of the government.

They are showing you exactly what they want and what is important to them.

Let's not forget we're not asking the impossible. Several states have found ways to make low property taxes work. Nine states have found ways to survive without income taxes. Heck, Florida has no income tax and now is exploring how to eliminate property taxes.

Why can't we?

Because legislators are giving lobbyists, special interests and local governments priority while chucking you and all us other taxpaying schmucks in a well so deep and dark that not even Lassie will be able to find us.

If we are truly going to get government – at all levels – back on the right path, it's not going to happen little by little. Debate the chainsaw vs. scalpel approach all you want, but the scalpel accomplishes very little. Besides, there is enough fat in most government budgets that big cuts from a chainsaw can be handled.

I've worked with dozens of mayors, council people, superintendents and

the like over the years. For the most part, they were smart and sharp people. Tell them they have less money to work with – a lot less – and they'll figure it out.

Maybe that means a statue or two less in Carmel? Maybe we don't replace that intersection with a roundabout. Maybe we don't hold off on that new annex? Maybe they renegotiate a contract or three. Whatever. Those in charge can figure it out – if they are willing.

Today's scribbles started with saying the spotlight is on Braun. He could go from hero to zero or anywhere in between. Just one vagabond newspaper guy's opinion, but Braun is going to have to choose between legislators and taxpayers. And to be sure, that doesn't mean property tax reform will win out. Just because the governor says it doesn't mean it'll happen. There's that pesky executive / legislative branch thing (are you listening Mr. Trump?). But Braun can and should veto anything with a "minimal" amount of property tax relief. If the legislators don't deliver real reform, Braun should step up and call a special session. He should make it clear that he is fighting for us, and those in the chambers of the House and Senate are not. They can override him, but if they do I'd hate to be in their shoes when the next campaign rolls around.

Until then, government is doing what government always does. Saying one thing and doing another. The big question is – when will we (and our governor) stop putting up with it?

*Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically in The Times. Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns The Noblesville Times. He is also a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at ttimmons@thetimes 24-7.com.*

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