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TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 119:9-11 "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (NIV)

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

Gov. Mike Braun has created a collaboration between the Indiana State Police and the Alcohol & Tobacco Commission's Excise Police to address the issue of public safety around bars that tend to attract crime, drugs, and disturbances, sometimes referred to as "nuisance bars." To lead the effort, the Alcohol & Tobacco Commission will be hiring a new Excise Superintendent who will work with the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police and the Indiana Sheriffs' Association.
- 2

Turkey Run State Park Voted Indiana's Most Popular National Park to Visit During National Park Week. Our friends at Gunther Volvo (www.gunthervolvocars.net) surveyed 3,004 travelers and found that Turkey Run, Indiana Dunes, Brown County State Park, Pokagon State Park and McCormick's Creek State Park were most popular among Hoosiers. Nationally, the top three were the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Grand Canyon and Yellowstone.
- 3

Every year more than 12,000 volunteers across the state contribute countless hours on Indiana DNR properties. During National Volunteer Week, April 20-26, the DNR will thank and recognize those volunteers for caring for Indiana's natural and cultural resources and salute their accomplishments on its social media accounts. To find out how you can help DNR properties and become part of DNR's volunteer family, explore on.IN.gov/dnrvolunteer or contact your local DNR property to learn more.

The TIMES



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BTN

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another.

These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!

4-22-25

Earth Day!

According to the Earth Day website, this day is a reminder of the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability.



1970

The very first Earth Day was celebrated on the first day of spring, March 21, 1970.

60x40

This stands for a goal of reducing plastics by 60 percent by the year 2040.

1-28-69

The date of the Santa Barbara Oil Spill. More than 3 million gallons of oil was released off the coast of Santa Barbara, Calif. After a well six miles out blew. The spill killed thousands of birds, dolphins, seals and other marine life. This is generally regarded as the single event that spurred the first Earth Day 14 months later.



2016

On Earth Day that year, the Paris Agreement was signed, a comprehensive climate accord. World leaders from 175 nations, including the U.S. were involved.

1 billion

How many people around the world take part in Earth Day activities, marking this as the single biggest protest on the planet.



193

The number of countries involved in Earth Day observances.

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Brush or rinse your teeth after eating sugary foods.

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"No one in this world, so far as I know... has ever lost money by underestimating the intelligence of the great masses of the plain people."
H.L. Mencken

HONEST HOOSIER

A tip of the seed corn cap today in memory of Mr. Samuel Clemens – who the wise among you remember as the one and only Mark Twain! He passed away on this date in 1910.



TODAY'S JOKE

How do you keep a fool in suspense?
I'll tell you the answer tomorrow.

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

See CHERRY Page A3



Carmel Creates Inaugural Cherry Blossom Festival

The City of Carmel will host its first-ever Cherry Blossom Festival on Sunday, May 4 at 1 p.m. The festival will be held at the Japanese Garden on the grounds of Carmel City Hall in partnership with Carmel Sister Cities, Inc., offering a vibrant celebration of Japanese culture while recognizing Carmel's sister city relationship with Kawachinagano, Japan.

This event is free and open to the public; festival attendees will have the chance to experience activities for all ages including traditional Japanese arts such as calligraphy and origami, kimono try-ons, traditional drumming and more. Guests will also enjoy an assortment of authentic Japanese cuisine from a variety of local food vendors.

The Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the significant milestone of Carmel's first sister city designation, which officially took place in 1994. As Carmel celebrates the past 30 years of the partnership, the event underscores the deep and lasting friendship between the two cities. The festival will also serve as an opportunity to rededicate the Kawachinagano Japanese Garden at Carmel City Hall, a serene space completed in 2009 as part of the 15th anniversary of the sister city recognition. While the garden renovations will not yet be complete, renderings of the finished construction will be available to view at the event.

The expansion of the Japanese Garden is a partnership between the City and Clay Township. The City funded the beginning phases of the project,

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Melissa Shaw's interview with Promenade Trails in Noblesville

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About Discover White River

Discover White River is a collaborative initiative that promotes and enhances public access, environmental stewardship, and economic development along the White River in Hamilton and Marion Counties in Central Indiana. Through recreational programming, conservation efforts, and community partnerships, Discover White River works to create a vibrant and accessible riverfront for all to enjoy. The White Riverway is a national park-like network of natural, cultural, and community experiences along the White River. Discover White River helps tell the story of the White Riverway and its significance, while the White Riverway represents the broader collection of destinations and experiences along the river.

White Riverway Digital Pass Now Available

Discover White River has announced the launch of the White Riverway Rewards Pass, designed to encourage exploration and engagement in the White Riverway. The pass offers visitors an easy and interactive way to discover the natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and local businesses along the White River, while earning rewards for their adventures.

The White Riverway Rewards Pass, which is available now, is a free, mobile-friendly program that invites users to check in at designated locations along the White River to earn points. Users can also earn points for helping with volunteer activities and participating in digital scavenger hunts. These points can then be redeemed for exclusive prizes, like t-shirts and collectible White Riverway stickers as well as discounts at participating canoe and kayak rental businesses. Whether hiking, visiting a museum, taking in a concert, kayaking, or simply enjoying the scenic views, visitors can make the most of their White Riverway experience while unlocking exciting rewards.

“We wanted to create a fun and engaging way for people to explore all that the White Riverway has to offer,”



said Brad Beaubien, Senior Director of Destination Development with Visit Indy. “The digital pass encourages residents and visitors to connect with nature, support local businesses, help improve the river, and enjoy the many recreational and cultural opportunities available along the river. I’m eager to see who can collect all 21 White Riverway stickers.”

To participate, users can sign up online, access the pass on their mobile device and start checking in at participating locations. No app download is required. The more places they visit, the more points they earn. The program is part of a broader initiative to promote sustainable tourism and economic development in the White Riverway.

The White Riverway Digital Rewards Pass is available now for sign-up. For more information or to claim your pass, visit DiscoverWhiteRiver.com/Pass.

Noblesville Man Killed in Crash

A 38-year-old Noblesville man lost his life in a two-car accident on 146th and Promise Road.

Nicholas E. McKnight, 38, of Noblesville was driving west on 146th in a 2007 Chevy Silverado around 8:30 Wednesday when police say the Silverado crossed over the curbed median and onto the path of a 2018 GMC Acadia driven by Jordan A. Hill, 29, of Anderson. Two passengers were identified as Hailey B. Hill, 29, and Aubrey Hill, 1.

Although all three of them were taken by

ambulance to Ascension St. Vincent Hospital (Indianapolis) with non-life-threatening injuries, McKnight was pronounced dead at the scene.

The NPD Crash Reconstruction Unit was summoned to the scene to investigate. East and westbound lanes of 146th Street between Marilyn and Promise Roads were closed during the crash investigation. Both lanes of 146th Street were reopened at 12:50 a.m.

This remains an ongoing investigation.

Westfield Washington Library Celebrates 123rd Birthday

There’s now more than just books to check out at the Westfield Washington Public Library. The Westfield Library Foundation gifted an Adult Library of Things to the library in honor of its 123rd birthday today. The collection includes everything from instruments and tool sets to craft supplies and cameras.

“We wanted to give the library a gift the entire community could benefit from,” says Erin Downey, Executive Director of the Westfield Library Foundation. “This collection will allow our neighbors to discover new hobbies, try out new tools, and learn in a way that fits their lifestyle. What a fun way to celebrate the library and all its patrons.”

Located on the second floor of the library on bookshelves near non-fiction, the collection features a variety of tools and resources, including a bicycle tool kit, a rotary cutting set, ukuleles, an electric yarn winder, and a thermal imaging camera to name just a few. All items are available for checkout to adult library cardholders.

Community members are invited to grow the Adult Library of Things by purchasing a gift from the library’s Amazon Wish List at <https://ow.ly/OHxB50UjCmO>. or more information or to learn about how to support the Adult Library of Things, please visit the Westfield Washington Public Library.

For The Record

For The Record is a public service and regular feature in The Noblesville Times. It is designed to tell you what is scheduled to happen and what actually does happen in meetings paid for with your tax dollars. The Times encourages all citizens to take an active role in being involved in local government.

MEETING NOTICE

Carmel Climate Action Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 22 6 p.m.
Council Chambers, Second Floor
Carmel City Hall, One Civic Square

The King of Kings: A Quick Review



BONNIE ZICKGRAF
Learning the Journey

I don’t often go to the movies anymore and I’m surely not a movie critic. But perhaps because I’m a retired pastor or just a curious older lady, I ordered tickets online for Angel Studios' production of King of Kings.

Thinking that spring break was still in session (and that there probably wouldn’t be a whole lot of people at the theater on the very first day of this film release), I went to the Emagine Theater in Noblesville, but learned another valuable lesson during my trip.

The theater quickly (almost) filled up with many children from ages of “wee-ones to “middle” ones, to older pre-teen and teen ones, and also elder-grandparent ones to watch this movie. When I asked a lovely young lady if this crowd was a pre-school group, she smiled and told me they were a group of parents and kids who are home-schooled in our local community. (I never knew there were that many!)

King of Kings is an animated recount of the major life events of Jesus Christ from birth to his resurrection. It begins with a father telling his young son, Walter, the story about the king of kings, but something strange happened directly in the theater.

I noticed that the viewers in the audience were quickly immersed into the father's storytelling. Listening as intently as the animated son, slowly but surely, we began to walk alongside Jesus in his journeys with his disciples. But what happened in the hearts and minds of the people watching this movie is the true miracle.

Except for a child or two who made a hurried exit and a

quick return (probably from an obligatory bathroom break), everyone in the audience became totally engaged in this story. Kids, parents and grandparents alike became glued to the screen and thrown into the story as if they were actually walking alongside Jesus. I never saw such a well-behaved and attentive group of people in my life!

When the film’s family pet cat produced laughter, the audience laughed. When the boy in the story cried, we cried. And boy, did some of us cry!!!! We were all in the moment together!

This is God’s true power and glory that shined in the little theater that day! We all really connected to Jesus!

Angel Studios, thank you. This animated recount of the life of Jesus was scripturally based and tastefully done. The professional graphics and audio sounds helped to pull the viewer into the story of Jesus Christ. You should know that you made quite a few new disciples that day and strengthened the faith of many who already believe in the King of Kings!

Go . . . See . . . Do! A highly recommended “Must See” by all! King of Kings is time and money well-spent! (Free tickets may be available through Angel Studios, too). An appropriate film to see all year round, it is even more special now that Easter is near!

Bonnie Zickgraf is a retired pastor, author, columnist for The Times and an RN in mental health nursing and health plan accreditations. Send comments and prayer requests to bonniezickgraf@gmail.com.

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!

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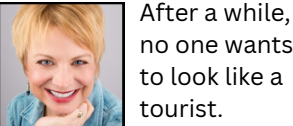
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The People Photographing Bougainvillea



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

After a while, no one wants to look like a tourist.

Experienced travelers will buy a hat in a local store, convinced that having the same head covering will somehow make them less conspicuous. They stray off the main streets and take their meals in the places locals frequent. They leave their fancy backpacks in the hotel and carry only what they need to explore the city. And, most importantly, they don't take photos.

If the tourists who don't want to appear to be tourists take photos, they only take a picture of themselves and their traveling partners. If there is something beautiful in sight, it serves as background. The goal is to appear to be anything but a tourist.

I was at a poetry reading the other day. I go to very few poetry readings. Because I write, I have writer friends, and some of them write poetry. So I occasionally go to a poetry reading to support my friends. But I never leave a poetry reading without feeling a little more stupid.

I sit among a group of people, listening to poetry, while consciously thinking to myself, "I have no idea what that means."

As I puzzle over what it might mean, the poet keeps on reading. Then I realize I have missed the last line. Now I really don't understand what is being talked about. So I sit back and listen to the words, and at the end, everyone applauds and, of course, I do, too. But all the while I am thinking that I am a much more stupid person than I give myself credit for being.

But at this poetry reading, I heard something that I understood—although it was not from the poet who was reading, but from another poet. She said, "You know who I'm talking about—the tourists. The people photographing bougainvillea!"

Everyone around the

poet laughed, and I actually knew what she meant—and I was kind of sorry that I did.

Much of Mexico is filled with bougainvillea, which bloom for most of the year, and San Miguel is no exception. It is stunning, especially blooming against a brightly painted wall. And it seemed to me that a poet—a poet especially—should realize this.

Everyone photographs the bougainvillea when they first arrive. Then they realize it is everywhere, and in time, they usually stop noticing it altogether. And this doesn't seem especially funny to me, even if it's true. It seems a little sad.

If having more refined tastes means I stop noticing bougainvillea, I'd be happy with the tastes I have, even if I never understand much poetry. Because it seems to me the ability to notice the beautiful in the ordinary is more important than recognizing the unusual.

My friend read her poetry, which I was delighted to discover I not only understood but found very funny. And I left, thinking about her poetry, and poetry in general, and bougainvillea in particular.

It is ordinary beauty that stuns me, time after time.

Seeing something that has no business being so beautiful—in a setting where no one even notices—seems like a miracle. Having the luxury to stop and enjoy it—perhaps even take a picture—feels to me like an act of worship.

It is not a bad thing to be a tourist. It is not terrible to stop in the middle of the sidewalk, blocking foot traffic, overwhelmed by the beauty of an ordinary thing. In fact, I think I will try to remain a tourist as long as I can.

Till next time,
Carrie

Wolfsie is Packing It In



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

Are you downstairs chatting with your girlfriend, again?

It's true that I often have late-night dialogs with my lover...of information. But just for the record, my source of knowledge (Natalie on AI) has been replaced by a British man I call Reggie. He has gotten a few things wrong lately, but it's hard to take issue with a guy with such an appealing accent. Recently, he desperately tried to help me with a computer problem, and after 45 minutes he said (and, this is true) "I don't want to talk about this anymore." He must have learned that phrase from being married to another robot."

But, back to my late-night chat. I was talking to my suitcase. Well, not exactly talking to the suitcase, but about the suitcase. You see, Mary Ellen and I were both packing for our trip to Iceland. We are both very compulsive about this process. In fact, we practice packing way before we leave. We try on things to be sure they are warm and comfy, which confused the neighbors when we came out of our house in heavy coats and boots in the middle of July last year. We also put everything in our suitcases weeks before we leave to be sure that there is room for everything. If everything doesn't fit, we then take everything out and put it all back again, hoping to arrange things in a more space-efficient way. In fact, even if everything does fit, we repeat this process several times. Why not, we have the time, we're not leaving for six weeks.

Then Mary Ellen and I negotiate space in our respective luggage

choices. Who has extra room they can spare, for example? I always lose this exchange, which is why for the last two trips I have had one high-heeled shoe, a makeup kit and a hair dryer in my carry-on.

Once we get to our destination, the real problem begins, especially for me. I have spent weeks packing so that everything is in its proper place. But I don't know where that place is. When you move to a new home and begin by neatly boxing things and labeling them carefully? Then you end up tossing every do-dad and thingamajig into several boxes. Where is that stapler? The ice cream scoop? And the charger for my hearing aids?

What my wife heard me doing was talking to myself, telling myself where I packed everything and then jotting it all down in a little notebook.

Dear Myself,

Glasses are in the backpack in the small zippered pocket.

Lipitor is in a bottle in the carry-on bag.

Power cords are also in my carry-on in the large zippered pocket.

My underwear and pajamas are under my pants in the checked bag.

Toiletries are also in the checked bag under my turtleneck shirts.

My list ended up being several pages long, I am sure that when we arrive in our hotel in Iceland, I will find this notebook very helpful.

If I can find it.

– Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Times. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

CHERRY From Page A1



Photo courtesy City of Carmel

Traditional Japanese gate at the Japanese Garden, Carmel City Hall.

including property acquisition and the initial construction of the lower pond, with the Township funding the revitalization of the upper pond and the beginning portions of the lower pond landscaping.

"We are incredibly proud of our long-standing relationship with Kawachinagano," said Mayor Sue Finkam. "This inaugural Cherry Blossom Festival is a wonderful way to honor this special bond, celebrate Japanese culture within our community and welcome our friends from across the globe. The rededication of the Japanese Garden further signifies the

beauty and importance of this connection."

The original Japanese Garden was made possible in part by a generous gift from the City of Kawachinagano, as well as funding from Clay Township and the Carmel Redevelopment Commission. The garden includes a traditional Japanese gate in between the cherry blossom trees. This festival builds upon the spirit of cultural exchange that was highlighted during the 2009 celebration and the subsequent Japanese cultural exposition, Kawachinagano Day.



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Lincoln Corsair PHEV is the Luxury Crossover for Those Who Only Want to Occasionally Plug In

**CASEY WILLIAMS**
Auto Reviews

A few weeks ago, I drove the Ford Mustang Mach-E electric crossover. I liked its style, size, luxuries, adaptive suspension, and ability to run daily from a plug. However, like many of your, I’m not quite sure I’m ready to forgo gasoline forever. I mean, I may want to drive across Montana or somewhere. Turns out, Ford’s luxury division has an excellent alternative: The 2025 Lincoln Corsair PHEV Grand Touring.

PHEV means it’s a plug-in hybrid that can travel a claimed 27 miles per charge before the 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine fires up to continue on. In full PHEV mode, Ford claims 76-MPGe or a frugal 33-MPG running as a regular hybrid. It’s efficient, but also quick given total system output of 266 horsepower and all-

wheel-drive. Drive modes make the accelerator more or less sensitive depending on the setting.

But, it’s also a Lincoln - a brand that offers some really nice vehicles that range from the compact Corsair through the larger Nautilus, Aviator, and flagship Navigator. Town Cars and Continentals are in the past, but their quiet luxury remains.

Style cribs the larger Navigator and even a little Range Rover, especially with the Grand Touring edition’s floating black roof, sleek glass, and black 20” alloy wheels. Further distinguishing the model are a large black grille, mirrors, and roof rails. It looks expensive, but also American. Small definitely doesn’t equal cheap.

But, if we dug a little deeper, we might see the same basic architecture that underpins the Ford

Escape and Ford Maverick pickup. Don’t cringe; if I hadn’t told you, you’d never figure it out because the Corsair PHEV seems greater than the sum of its parts.

There’s little trace of Escape inside where 24-way heated and ventilated seats, panoramic roof, and stitched coverings continue the ritzy vibe. It’s also uniquely Lincoln with the piano keys gear selector, flatscreen gauges, touchscreen proud of the dash, and bopping Revel audio system. I’d prefer a proper tuning knob, but devices connect wirelessly via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Charge wirelessly in the console. Check the wide head-up display that hovers over the hood.

Like the Mustang Mach-E, this Corsair comes with BlueCruise, Ford’s hands-off system that allows

drivers to rest arms or drink a cup of coffee on approved roads. There’s a steering column sensor to confirm eyes remain on the road. The system can be a little fidgety in changing lanes, but automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, blind spot warning, and rear cross path detection stand guard.

On-road, the adaptive suspension strikes the right balance between soaking up rough pavement, wafting down the highway, or taking the long way just for fun. It’s the right size to weave through parking garages, but large enough to feel safe on long trips. Despite claims, I never saw over 20 miles range, but that was enough to plug in at home and drive round-trip to the office plus run weekend errands. Step gently to stay in EV mode.

If you’re not quite ready to go fully electric, the Lincoln Corsair PHEV is

an excellent option that offers technology, luxury, and performance on-par with competitors like the Mercedes-Benz GLA, Audi Q3, BMW X2 and Lexus NX. I especially like that it wears its American luxury heritage proudly.

Corsairs start at

\$38,990, but came to \$67,325 for our Grand Touring PHEV – or about the same as the Mustang Mach-E Rally.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

Likes	Dislikes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electric optional• Driving dynamics• American luxury	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fidgety BlueCruise• No tuning knob• Getting pricey

2025 Lincoln Corsair GT PHEV

Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: 2.5-liter I4, batteries/motors
Output: 266 hp
Suspension f/r: Elect Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 20”/20” alloy
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc
Driving range (EV): 27 miles
Economy PHEV/Hybrid: 76-MPGe/33-MPG
Assembly: Louisville, KY
Base/As-tested price: \$38,990/\$67,325

Carmel’s Redirection of Taxpayer Dollars Continues

Findings from a detailed financial and legal review initiated to ensure appropriate use of taxpayer dollars were discussed at last night’s 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 nonprofit affiliates, Wednesday’s meeting focused on the operation of the Carmel Christkindlmarkt, Inc. (CCI).

Opening remarks at the meeting emphasized the best-in-class nature of the event and its programming. Founded in 2017, the market has received multiple #1 rankings as the nation’s best holiday market by *USA Today*.

The Affiliate Review Committee follows work prompted by Mayor Finkam in October 2024, when she restructured the nonprofit board, aiming to protect taxpayer dollars and ensure fiscal accountability. The changes included requiring the nonprofit to reimburse the City for expenses and prohibiting competition with the Carmel Christkindlmarkt. The City also protected the market’s trademarks and related intellectual property. To date, the efforts have resulted in the City being reimbursed for expenses

for the first time in market history—\$284,000 in 2025.

At Wednesday’s meeting, committee members heard findings that were informed by detailed analysis including the review of hundreds of pages of documents submitted by market leadership. The review focused on the governance structure, fiscal matters and executive compensation, risks and historical review of taxpayer investment. The committee discussed opportunities to increase transparency to the taxpayers and develop best practices pertaining to governance and financial reporting.

As a result of the review, the City encouraged market leadership to take multiple steps, including developing a long-term growth strategy to expand on its proven success, review staffing and compensation levels, and initiate surveys related to vendor, visitor and volunteer experience.

“The Carmel Christkindlmarkt is a treasured event and the steps we have taken as part of this review will ensure it remains an enduring tradition for our community,” said Mayor Finkam. “Already we have delivered significant relief to

taxpayers and will ensure that progress continues as part of the remaining work before us. I am pleased that the council, my administration and the CCI board continue to be unified in the efforts to put appropriate controls in place to protect taxpayers.”

CCI Board Chair Maddie Augustus shared, “Our board has worked productively and collaboratively with the City, and we remain committed to open dialogue and the shared vision of maintaining a festive, family-friendly event that brings joy to both residents and visitors. As part of that commitment, we understand the importance of working toward long-term self-sustainability, and we are actively exploring ways to enhance revenue opportunities, improve operational efficiencies, and ensure that the Christkindlmarkt remains a vibrant, financially responsible asset for the community.”

The Affiliate Review Committee will continue its work with analysis of the Carmel City Center Community Development Corporation.



Photo courtesy Poolwerx

The grand opening of Poolwerx is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 222 W. 161st Street.

New Pool Store Opens in Westfield

Poolwerx, a leading provider of pool supplies, service and maintenance, announces the grand opening of its newest retail store in Westfield.

The store officially opened its doors earlier this month, with a ribbon cutting with the Chamber of Commerce on April 14. The store’s grand opening celebration will take place this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The store, located at 222 W. 161st Street, will provide pool and spa owners in the Westfield, Noblesville and Carmel communities with convenient access to supplies and equipment along with Poolwerx’s signature mobile service.

Poolwerx Westfield is owned by Franchise Partner Jessica Thomas, who opened her Poolwerx mobile business in Noblesville

last April. Jessica was born and raised in Noblesville and moved back here to raise her family over a decade ago after serving in the United States Coast Guard. She leads a team of pool service professionals who will provide mobile service to clean, maintain, repair and install equipment for pools, hot tubs and swim spas across the area.

“We’re very excited to open our new store in Westfield and better serve pool and spa owners in the community,” Thomas said. “Our mobile technicians have the expertise to keep any pool or spa sparkling clean and in top working condition. Our retail store will make it easy for customers to get a free water test, pick up supplies, shop a selection of pool

equipment, and get helpful pool advice right in their neighborhood.”

The grand opening celebration will include a live DJ, entries for giveaways including a 3-month gym membership to Snap Fitness, a Gridiron speaker cooler and tailgate grill, a wine-tasting and gift cards and more. Food and beverages will also be served.

“We invite everyone to stop by and join the fun and see everything our new Poolwerx store has to offer. Even if you don’t have a pool or spa, stop in for a beverage and say hello!” said Thomas. “Our team can’t wait to become your go-to resource for pool and spa care in the Westfield area.”

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with the Times

Melissa Shaw's interview with Promenade Trails in Noblesville

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Ag Department Stresses Work to SNAP Recipients

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a memorandum to all state agencies administering the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) making it clear states must ensure SNAP benefits are provided with an expectation that those who can work, do.

“Since my confirmation, I have reiterated the states are our partners, and this includes ensuring our nutrition programs are tied to putting Americans back to work,” said Secretary Brooke Rollins. “It is important to remind states that Congress conditioned the receipt of benefits by able-bodied adults without dependents on satisfying work requirements. Many states have abused the system by requesting work requirement waivers. Today marks the start of a new era for SNAP—prioritizing work, career and technical education, and volunteering rather than idleness, excess spending, and misapplication of the law.”

In June 2023, the *Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023* amended the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to include in the SNAP purpose statement that it “assist low-income adults in obtaining employment and increasing their earnings.” This pivotal legislation reaffirmed efforts to reduce dependency on public assistance programs and increase self-

sufficiency.

The memorandum reiterates these fundamental objectives and their interaction with the Secretary of Agriculture’s authority to grant State SNAP agencies requests to waive the time limit on receiving SNAP benefits by Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents who do not meet statutory work requirements. Section 6(o)(4) of the Act explicitly allows the Secretary sole discretion to grant an ABAWD waiver request when the Secretary determines that the area has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent or does not have sufficient jobs to provide employment for ABAWDs. Congress conditioned the receipt of benefits by ABAWDs on satisfying work requirements when it passed the *Personal Responsibility, Work, and Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996* (PRWORA, Pub. L. No. 104-193). The text and structure of the statute reveals a clear purpose to reduce dependence on public assistance programs and to support self-sufficiency. Congress also allowed the Secretary discretion to approve waivers of the ABAWD work requirement in specific circumstances outlined in Section 6(o)(4).



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