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■ TODAY'S VERSE

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

The Westfield Farmers Market finished second in Indiana Grown's Ultimate Farmers Market Challenge behind Franklin Farmers Market in Franklin, Ind. This was the third year for this contest and was a chance for customers across the state to vote for their favorite hometown farmers market to encourage local engagement and statewide recognition. Franklin Farmers Market received over 1,500 votes! Total, there were over 5,000 votes cast during the 2-week voting period. Winona Lake finished third.



Hello Fall. So long my dear friend Summer! Can't wait to see your cousin Spring again – if the Good Lord is willing. I know I'm not supposed to wish away time, but I can tell you winter ends in 179 days. Just saying.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions."
- Stephen Covey

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What is the easiest way to remember your wife's birthday?
Forget it once.

The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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BY THE NUMBERS

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!

As you probably already know, we bid a fond farewell to summer today and say a brisk hello to fall! For those paying even closer attention to the calendar, we have a nice round number of days left before the ball drops in New York's Times Square. Today, we take a look at both – By The Numbers!

100 Today is Sept. 22, the 265th day of the year. There are 100 days left in 2025.



3 There are three major holidays left in this year: Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Of course we all know Christmas is Dec. 25. Most also know that we honor our veterans on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. And Thanksgiving this year falls on Nov. 27.



10 That's how many U.S. holidays we observe now. Can you name all 10? (No peeking yet!)

OK, with the three above we also have New Year's Day on Jan. 1, Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 20, Washington's Birthday (or some of us remember it as President's Day) on Feb. 17, Memorial Day on May 26, Juneteenth on June 19, July 4 and Labor Day on Sept. 1.

How'd you do?

179 That's the time this afternoon when fall officially begins.



The number of days from today until the first day of spring – which takes place on March 20 at 8:46 in the morning.

20

The number of degrees between the average highs and lows on this date and the first day of spring. In Indiana, our average high is around 78 with the average low around 57 today. Come that first day of spring, the average high will be 58 and the average low 37. Of course it's going to be A LOT colder than the for a few months in between! Enjoy!



■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. The pinnacle of recognition for outstanding customer satisfaction is J.D. Power, and the Indianapolis International Airport has – for the 8th time since 2010 – claimed the top spot* among mid-sized airports in the J.D. Power 2025 North America Airport Satisfaction Study. This year's honor makes the eighth time since 2010 that the Indy airport has been at the top of the J.D. Power rankings. As part of the study, the Indy airport was also recognized as #1 in food, beverage and retail and #1 in terminal facilities. Other top-rated categories among travelers included "Most Satisfying Traveler/Customer Experience Among Medium Airports", and "Best Medium Airport for Traveler/Customer Satisfaction." The Indy airport received an overall customer satisfaction score of 713 out of 1,000, which is the highest in the medium-sized airport category.

2. As part of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's annual College GO! campaign, the University of Southern Indiana invites Indiana students to submit their undergraduate admission applications for free through Friday. Prospective undergraduate students should apply via the USI application at USI.edu/apply by midnight on Friday, Sept. 26 using the promo code "collegego26" to ensure the fee is waived. In addition to acceptance to the University, applicants will also be considered for merit-based scholarships.

3. Indiana State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla joined with U.S. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, Sen. Rick Scott, Rep. Josh Brecheen, Gov. Mike Braun and a panel of experts from the Economic Policy Innovation Center, Club for Growth Foundation and State Financial Officers Foundation at the U.S. Capitol to spotlight the need to reign in the national debt. They addressed the dangers of the rising national debt, the absolute need to get back to balanced budgets and how structural reforms are necessary to ensure long-term sustainability of critical programs so they are viable for the most vulnerable. Also highlighted was U.S. Senate Resolution 600, which received a unanimous vote in 2024, for declaring that the debt is a national security threat and that deficit spending is "reckless, unsustainable and dangerous." Gov. Braun authored this resolution while serving as U.S. Senator and recently the Indiana Senate overwhelmingly passed a resolution to mirror U.S. SR 600 in an effort to bring further awareness to Hoosiers on the severity of the U.S. debt problem.

Adler Vote Puts Halt to Vote Centers

Proposal Would Have Allowed Voters to Cast Ballots at Any Countywide Location

The Hamilton County Election Board failed to get the unanimous vote needed to move the county from traditional precinct-based voting to a countywide Vote Center model. County Clerk Kathy Kreag Williams and Democratic appointee Greg Purvis voted in favor of the measure. Republican appointee Ray Adler cast the deciding vote against it.

Williams, who served as a member of the Indiana House of Representatives and sponsored the original legislation that gave counties the option to adopt vote centers in 2006, has long championed vote centers. While many counties moved quickly, Williams waited until she believed Hamilton County was ready. "With our growth, to over 280,000 registered voters, it was the right fit at the right time," Williams said. "We have been patient, worked through the process, and were at a point where it would have worked for us. It all came down to needing three votes and we were one short."

Sixty-eight of Indiana's 92 counties have already adopted the Vote Center model. The Allen County Election Board ap-

See **VOTE Page 4**

Rokita's Office Shows Posts From Educators

Attorney General Todd Rokita's office is actively reviewing public submissions regarding posts made by educators and administrators that glorified the tragic assassination of Charlie Kirk.

According to Rokita, his office has received hundreds of submissions through the Eyes on Education portal over the past week and is evaluating them for posting on a rolling basis.

"Freedom of speech is a cornerstone of our Republic, but it does not shield individuals from the consequences of their words, especially when they are public servants who are getting paid with taxpayer dollars," Rokita said. "Statements that celebrate or glorify violence are deeply concerning, particularly when made by those entrusted with shaping young minds. Our office is committed to transparency by sharing verified submissions on the Eyes on Education portal, where many examples are already available."

See **POSTS Page 4**

The TIMES

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ADOPT A PET SIR GUS



Sir Gus has been waiting for a home for over a year now. This 12-year-old male Domestic Shorthair has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 6/5/24. Sir Gus is diabetic, but he's never let it hold him back. His condition is well-controlled with a special diet and regular insulin, and as far as senior cats go, he still has a spring in his step. He is the perfect quiet companion for anyone looking for a new best friend. Sir Gus would love to meet you soon at HSHC anytime Monday-Tuesday or Thursday-Sunday from 12-5 PM. To meet him, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt.

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The Times

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Dick Wolfsie Plays Name Game



Dick Wolfsie
Columnist

Do you love your first name or did your parents saddle you with a label that is making your life miserable? As I have reported in the past, my first name has been the source of many tawdry remarks. Once in fact, I was denied membership at a local golf venue because I had the temerity to enter my nickname on the company's website. I have a brother named Peter. He would also have been banned from this place. What was my mother thinking? Don't answer that.

New research suggests that your name can serve as either a boost or a burden to your social, business and educational success. In one study, teachers were asked to grade three identical essays, but attached to these stories were different names. The research found that students with "normal" names like Susan and David scored higher than those with "unusual" names like Bertha and Elroy. As a former teacher, I resented the implication of this study. In all my years in education, I was never partial to anyone due to his or her name, with the exception of a guy named Slash and a girl named Bordello. I should have flunked them because if their parents didn't worry about their future, why should I?

With the help of Google and Facebook, I have tried to track what has happened to some of my former students with uncommon names. For example, I discovered that a kid named Broderick, who I had in class, spent time in a federal prison. How strange; she seemed like such a sweet girl.

I have no problem with unique names as long as they aren't a source of derision. I once knew someone named Robyn Banks. In this case, it's the parents who should be arrested. I'd throw

them in the clink with the parents of Doug Graves. My favorite was the guy from Wyoming who lived across the hall from me at George Washington University: Duane Pipe. Oh, and I knew a girl named Rose Thorne. But that was her married name. Do you think this dawned on her before she said "I do." I did see in the wedding section in the Star the marriage of Bill Sapp and Jenny Poore. Hyphenating her name was not an option.

My biggest gripe is when parents take a perfectly good name and decide that the normal rules of spelling that have evolved over the past 300 years should no longer apply. I once signed an autograph picture for a seven-year-old who said his name was Christopher. When I returned the photo, he indignantly informed me that his name was spelled K R I S T A F A H. I was tempted to report his parents to the authorities. This kid's name will be misspelled his whole life. I figured my friend over at Child Protective Services would be pretty sympathetic. His name is Geoff.

I'm also not a big fan of how guys' names can be morphed into girls' names. This came about in the old days when the patriarch of the family wanted a boy and was a bit disappointed with the new family addition. So, Frederick became Fredericka and Robert morphed into Roberta. I was once madly in love with a girl named Georgette. I guess her father wasn't looking for a girl. But that was precisely what I was looking for.

Dick Wolfsie is a retired TV personality, author, speaker, teacher and all-around good guy. His award-winning column appears here weekly. If you'd like to learn more about joining Dick on an upcoming trip to Costa Rica, go to this paper's website and click on the Collette Travel ads.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPROVED ORDINANCE
AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN REAL ESTATE TO THE CITY OF FISHERS, HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA
NOTICE IS HEREBY PROVIDED that on Monday, September 15, 2025, the Common Council for the City of Fishers, Hamilton, Indiana ("City"), meeting in a duly noticed public meeting, and in accordance with Ind. Code §36-4-3-5.1, passed Ordinance No. 081825A, annexing approximately 0.69 acres located outside of but contiguous to the City, generally known as the 10516 Collingswood Lane Annexation (the "Annexed Territory"), located in Fishers, IN. This Annexation Ordinance is available for review at Fishers Municipal Center, One Municipal Drive, Fishers, Indiana 46038. If you have specific questions please contact:

City of Fishers Community and Economic Development Department
planning@fishersin.gov
(317) 595-3155

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Open Letter to Gov. Mike Braun



David J. Hadley

I write to oppose the calling of a special session of the Indiana General Assembly for the purpose of redrawing the Indiana congressional districts. I oppose it for several reasons.

First, to redraw congressional district boundaries midway between decennial censuses when redistricting is required by law is an extraordinary step to take. There are no census data on which to base changing district lines to achieve more equal population representation.

Second, in light of Point 1, the only reason one might propose to change the district boundaries is because of dissatisfaction with past election results or in anticipation of future results that might be politically unsatisfying to the political party in power. In recent past Indiana congressional elections, the nine Republican candidates have received between 58 and 59.7 percent of the state-wide two-party vote while the Democratic candidates received between 38.5 and 39.9 percent. Those elections resulted in the Republican candidates winning seven, or 78 percent, of the Indiana congressional seats, 20 percent more than the 58-59.7 percent of the popular vote received – an indication of the level of overrepresentation of Republicans and underrepresentation of Democratic voters under the current districting plan.

Third: as I understand it, the purpose of calling a special session to redraw Indiana is to further skew the districts to the advantage

of Republican candidates, resulting in one, if not two, additional Republican congressional seats. This would effectively render worthless the votes of 40 percent of the Indiana electorate. If the 40 percent of Indiana voters who regularly vote for Democratic candidates can elect only one or even none of the Indiana congressional delegation, what stake do they have in our representative democracy?

Fourth, I am concerned that by calling a special session for this purpose, you will be violating, if not the letter, then certainly the spirit of the Indiana Constitution. Article 4, Section 9, establishing when the Indiana General Assembly shall meet, specifies: "But if, in the opinion of the Governor, the public welfare shall require it, he may, at any time by proclamation, call a special session." If you were to call a special session for the purpose of redrawing congressional districts mid-stream, I believe strongly you would be obligated at the very least to explain how the public welfare of the people of Indiana requires it.

Please do not call this special session to redraw Indiana's congressional districts, further distorting Indiana's electoral outcomes, rendering the congressional votes of at least 40 percent of Hoosier voters ineffective, and confusing President Trump's political motivations with the public welfare of Indiana citizens.

David J. Hadley, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, is retired from Wabash College where he spent 43 years on faculty, six as Dean of Students. He also served two terms as Montgomery County Democratic Party Chair.

County Pauses Plans for Domestic Violence Shelter

Hamilton County officials are pausing plans for a domestic violence shelter due to the financial impacts of Indiana Senate Bill 1 (SB 1). Passed earlier this year by the Indiana General Assembly, SB 1 lowers property taxes for homeowners while providing fewer dollars for cities and counties to spend on projects and services.



Mark Heirbrandt

"This is a very difficult and disappointing decision," Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt said. "The new law has created enormous financial constraints. While this project is paused indefinitely, we remain committed to keeping it at the forefront of our strategic priorities and are hopeful that, once the full impact of SB 1 is clear, we can move forward."

The county purchased an 8-acre site in Noblesville for the shelter back in 2022. Initial designs have been drafted, and the county had tapped Prevail of Central Indiana to operate the campus. Prevail provides crisis intervention and restorative support but does not have on-site housing. It has long relied on shelters in neighboring counties or hotel stays for clients in urgent need.

"The need for safe and

affordable housing for survivors in Hamilton County is urgent and deeply felt," says Tami R. Wanninger, Executive Director of Prevail of Central Indiana. "This project represents years of thoughtful collaboration. We remain steadfast in our commitment to pursuing innovative and sustainable solutions that honor survivors' needs and their healing journey."

SB 1 gives families up to a 10% property tax credit (up to \$300), but it also freezes certain local funds and changes how local income taxes are collected. Hamilton County officials emphasize that the pause is not an end to the project, but a necessary step in ensuring long-term fiscal responsibility amid the new state-level budget realities.

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2026 Subaru Solterra Goes Mile-High in Denver to Prove It's a Much-Improved Electric Crossover That Takes City Streets, Mountain Trails, and Giant Moose with Equal Apolomb



Casey Williams
Columnist

There was very little wrong with the Subaru Solterra EV that debuted in 2022 beyond range and charging times. At its California debut, it sliced through Santa Barbara traffic and proved its off-road chops on Catalina. It was a no-hassle city car and all-capable Subaru - as long as you didn't have far to go and had plenty of time to get there.

with the flybridge console, door cubbies, and roomy luggage compartment. You can even get it with leg warmers. Seriously.

A full suite of crash avoidance systems integrating Subaru's eyesight system include automatic emergency braking lane keep assist, and blind spot warning. Ambient lighting glows red when the safe exit assist system detects traffic. Traffic jam assist allows hands-off driving up to 25 mph, but I'd love it with highway speeds.

You may need it given longer distances traveled.

Range improves 25% to a more accommodating 288 miles. Quick charge 20-80% in 35 minutes. That originally took an hour. All-wheel-drive comes standard. Base versions enjoy 233 horsepower (up from 215), but 338-horsepower systems zip 0-60 mph in just 4.9 seconds.

I was fine with the old Solterra's performance, but this one elicited giggles as it effaced asphalt between apexes and while thrusting up steep mountain passes. In thin air that would wreak havoc on engines, EVs are unbothered. The suspension is a little soft sweeping through corners, but suitably tuned for daily driving.

On a rocky unpaved section, I was in full rally mode when I looked left

to see a moose statue. Wrong, not a statue. There he was, all 1,200+ lbs. of him, munching on a tree. My driving partner and I watched him meander across the road before latching onto another tree. We gave him a courteous goodbye, then zapped towards the off-road course.

Dual Function X-Mode with deep snow/mud programming plus 8.3-inches of ground clearance proved their worth whether creeping down steep inclines or rolling over moguls. As in Catalina, its performance was impressive with the electronics shifting power as if by magic. It's simply enchanting. Pitch and roll gauges tell you which way is up.

Back at the hotel downtown Denver, I reflected on a long day of fast driving and grippy climbing. Subaru could have just added range and reduced recharge times, but this vehicle is better in almost every way.

Subaru is still setting prices, but expect a base under \$40,000 with top trims around \$50,000. That compares favorably to the Chevy Equinox EV, Ford Mustang Mach-e, Hyundai IONIQ 5 and Kia EV6.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @ [AutoCasey](https://www.youtube.com/AutoCasey).

LIKES	DISLIKES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMPROVED RANGE TRAIL CRED ZIPPY ACCELERATION 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO HUD HANDS-ON CRUISING NO WILDERNESS

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Sometimes, I Need a Second Opinion



Carrie Classon
The Postscript

I have never minded getting advice.

My husband, Peter, is good about giving advice, and

one of the things I regularly need advice on is food, specifically if I should eat food that I already know I should not.

I hate throwing away food. I was not raised during the Depression, so I have no idea where this aversion comes from, but nothing makes me more sad than seeing food that looks perfectly fine getting tossed out.

The key here is "looks perfectly fine." I will have a very strong indication that the food is not, in fact, perfectly fine, and I will go ahead and eat it. This is always a mistake.

I have eaten beans that have gone bad. "Oh," I say, "they cannot be bad. I just made them!" I have a pretty good sense of smell, and I know there is something not quite right about those beans, but I throw them into a stir-fry, anyway. I trust the calendar instead of my nose. A few hours later, I very much regret it.

Most recently, I broke the glass container holding my broccoli. I steam my broccoli in advance so I can

just toss it into a stir-fry and have a meal in minutes. The glass container shattered.

It seemed like a clean break. I carefully picked it up and removed the broccoli from the container, put some in my stir-fry and the rest in a new container in the fridge. I added wild rice and lentils and barley, a little spinach and put some cheese on top. I was eating late. I'd had a big day of going over copy edits for my book, so I was especially hungry.

I took a bite. "Crunch."

This was not an undercooked broccoli crunch. This was not wild rice. This was the crunch you might experience while eating a sandwich on a beach when the wind was blowing. I looked at my delicious meal. I took another bite. "Crunch."

My husband, Peter, had eaten his lunch earlier. I took my plate into his office and looked very sad. "Peter, you don't think it would be terrible to eat a little glass, do you? I mean, if it's really just glass dust—no big pieces or anything—I think I might have..."

"You can't eat glass," Peter said.

"But it's really, really fine pieces..."

"You cannot eat glass!" Peter sounded totally sure.

I threw away my wonderful lunch. I threw away the rest of the broccoli, all the while thinking, "Maybe the broccoli in the container doesn't have as much glass in it as what was on my plate..."

It was awful. But it was probably the right thing to do. I don't make my best decisions when I'm hungry; that's the truth. I had a tuna fish sandwich for lunch.

But I am very grateful that I was able to ask Peter. Maybe at my age, I should know what to eat. There are probably a lot of things I should know by now. Too many times, I have justified continuing to do something I know isn't good for me. This can apply to my lunch or to relationships that become like eating bits of broken glass. "Maybe it's not so bad," I think. "Maybe it will get better." Sometimes, I need a second opinion, even if it's not the one I want. Sometimes, I need someone to state the obvious.

So, for future reference, if you think I need advice, please let me know. Especially if it involves something I'm about to eat.

Till next time,

Carrie

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VOTE

Continued from Page 1



Photo courtesy Hamilton County

From left, County Clerk Kathy Kreag Williams, Republican appointee Ray Adler and Democratic appointee Greg Purvis.

proved a similar proposal on Monday, Sept. 15. “I just think we should let Allen County go through it and see what problems they have,” Adler said. “We’re changing voting for hundreds of thousands of people and I want to make sure it’s not an experiment.”

Under Indiana law, moving to a Vote Center model requires approval from all three governing bodies: the Hamilton County Commissioners, the County Council, and the Election Board. Both the Commissioners and

the seven-member Council voted unanimously in favor of the transition. Public sentiment in a recent countywide survey also suggested 60% of respondents were in favor of moving to the vote center model and 10 percent were indifferent.

“It’s disappointing because I know there was a lot of bipartisan support for the measure,” said Greg Purvis, the Democratic appointee to the Election Board. “I wish Mr. Adler had shared some of his concerns more openly. Maybe

we could have worked through it. We’ve spent a lot of time trying to make sure this worked right just to have it go nowhere.”

Precinct-based voting will remain in place for the 2026 Primary and General Elections. Without the Vote Centers, Hamilton County will have to find polling locations for 15 new precincts for the 2026 election, bringing the total number of precincts to 235. The vote center model would have only required 57 locations.

POSTS

Continued from Page 1

To view the posts on Charlie Kirk and other posts from Indiana educators, go to <https://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/education-liberty/>

The Eyes on Education portal is a tool to help empower parents and community members to engage in their children’s education by submitting and reviewing materials or statements that may be inappropriate in school settings. Since the assassination of Charlie Kirk, the portal has received numerous reports around the state of public comments or shared posts celebrating or glorifying the tragedy.

Several educators, including an administrator at Ball State University, have faced consequences, including resignations or terminations. Ball State University referenced *Hedgpeath v. Britton*, a federal ruling allowing schools to discipline employees whose public

statements disrupt operations or undermine public trust.

Rokita said Ball State’s legal analysis was correct and other higher education institutions, as well as secondary and elementary school boards, superintendents, principals and their attorneys should take notice.

To submit a report to the Eyes on Education portal, visit in.gov/attorneygeneral, select “Eyes on Education,” choose the school corporation and name, and upload relevant documents. A member of the Attorney General’s office may contact submitters for additional information. Verified submissions will be published regularly.



Rokita said they are not investigating teachers, just sharing information.

“Let me be clear: my office is not conducting investigations into these individuals,” Rokita said. “Our goal is to provide transparency, equipping parents with the information they need to make informed decisions about their children’s education.”

Under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Micah Beckwith, who also serves as the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs’ (OCRA) mission is to work with local, state and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to assist communities in shaping and achieving their vision for community and economic development. For more information, visit ocra.in.gov.

Community Development Block Grants Open for Applications

The Office of Lieutenant Governor Micah Beckwith and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced the second round of Community Development Block Grants for 2025 is now open for applications.

The following programs are accepting applications.

- Blight Clearance
- Main Street Revitalization
- Public Facilities
- Stormwater Improvements
- Wastewater/Drinking Water

A series of updates have been made to the CDBG program that are in effect for Round 2 of 2025.

- Program-specific alignment for Wastewater/Drinking Water grants: OCRA has adjusted the WDW program to reflect new benchmarks established by the Legislative Taskforce. These updates are designed to ensure compliance with revised user rate thresholds.
- Public Facilities program expanded to include historic preservation: The scope of Public Facilities program will expand to include supporting rehabilitation and restoration of historical structures, preserving architectural heritage.
- Promote effective building practices: Modifications to the

Main Street Revitalization and Public Facilities programs will promote efficient construction and renovation practices, encouraging long-term cost savings for municipalities and residents. Residential Blight Clearance initiative expanded: In response to evolving community needs, the Blight Clearance program now includes residential properties, enabling local governments to address substandard housing and promote safe and healthy communities.

- Support for disaster-impacted communities: Additional bonus points will be awarded to non-entitlement communities recovering from natural disasters and facing heightened financial needs, improving their abilities to secure CDBG funding.
- National Objectives guidelines: The criteria for assigning points to National Objectives remain unchanged, but now explicitly incorporate the guidelines into application materials to give applicants a clear understanding of the established practices.

Detailed information on 2025 Round 2 updates and additional resources are now available on the CDBG Resources Page and

a pre-recorded webinar is available here.

Funding for all CDBG programs comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is administered by OCRA. The State of Indiana distributes CDBG funds to rural communities to assist units of local government with various community projects like improving infrastructure, downtown revitalization, public facilities improvements and economic development.

Proposal submissions will be collected via the electronic Grants Management System. Instructions on how to submit proposals can be found at in.gov/ocra/cdbg/cdbg-construction-grants/.

2025 Round 2 proposals are due Friday, Oct. 24, by 11:59 p.m. ET via the eGMS. Communities are encouraged to submit their applications prior to 4 p.m. on Oct. 24, as technical assistance will not be available after that time.

2025 Round 2 Applications are due on Friday, Dec. 19, by 11:59 p.m. ET also via eGMS. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications prior to 4 p.m. on Dec. 19, as technical assistance will not be available after that time.

For further information on these programs, visit in.gov/ocra/cdbg or contact the assigned OCRA regional community liaison.

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Hamilton Heights Traditional Parade Route:

Illinois from the school parking lot – North to Main – turn left
 West on Main to Dora – turn left
 Dora – Parade stops – the high school band – will disperse and return to school on buses located at the middle school – athletes will join their respective teams
 South on Dora to South Street – turn left
 East on South to East Street – turn right
 South on East Street to Franklin – turn left
 East on Franklin to Illinois – turn right
 South on Illinois – back to the high school

Heights Gearing Up for Homecoming Friday

Attention Husky fans and enthusiasts. Hamilton Heights High School's Fall Homecoming will take place on Friday. The days leading up to Homecoming will be filled with various fun and spirit-filled activities to rally the Dawgs before the big game against the Logansport Berries at 7:30 p.m. on the Husky Field that night.

Each day this week will be designated "spirit" days where students and staff can participate and show their spirit. Today is Pajama Day, Tuesday is Hawaiian Day, Wednesday is Class Shirt Day, Thursday is Dress as your Decade Day and Friday is Orange and White Day.

All grades will vie for bragging rights at the annual

Power Puff football game on Tuesday, September 23. The night will start with an inner squad scrimmage with the Unified Flag Football team at 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday, September 24, the Powder Puff game begins at 7 p.m. and will take place at the high school football field. Admission is free.

On Friday, a student pep session featuring our Hamilton Heights band, cheerleaders, and football team will be held at the football field from 1:40 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The parade line-up begins at 3:00 p.m. in the north/west high school parking lot. The award-winning Hamilton Heights High School Band and Amber Guard will lead the parade with the school song and impressive flag

routine through the streets of Arcadia beginning at 4 p.m. Kick off at 7:00.

Halftime Festivities include recognition of alumni from the classes of classes of 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006, and 2016 followed by the presentation of the 2025 Homecoming Court and the crowning of this year's Homecoming King and Queen.

On Saturday, September 27 Hamilton Heights will honor and induct the Class of 2025 to the Athletic Hall of Fame with lunch (ticketholders only) at noon followed by the induction ceremony in the high school gymnasium. The Fall Homecoming Dance will be held from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. that night at The Bell at the football field.

Ripple Effect of Giving Selflessly



MARK HALL
 Guest Columnist

This is my fiftieth Feeding Team feature column and even as I shake my head in disbelief over that statement, I'm taken back by the very nature of what is happening in our county. It will come as a shock to no one that life is particularly hard right now. The costs of energy, food, housing, healthcare and just getting by are as tough to manage as we've seen in the last several years. The "rising cost of getting by" as Don Williams sang about, forces tougher choices onto families. Yet, here in Hamilton County people still give. The redeeming qualities of the people in Hamilton County are both a light of encouragement and a demonstration of how charitable folks around here really are.

Then there's Edgar (not his real name). Edgar is in his young twenties and we met him recently at one of our office food pickup days. He was born and raised right here in Hamilton County. Edgar lives in a lean-to on a horse farm. He rides his bike to various pantries around the county to secure his meals. Edgar's backstory is none of my business. He needs food to get by and Feeding Team can help him along his present path.

His story reminded me of the "ripple" effect of giving and now it's impact on Edgar's life. As a young boy I learned about the impact of dropping a heavy rock into a pond. The initial splash combined with that distinct "plop" sound, followed by dozens and dozens of ripples flowing through the water. It was particularly fun to do as a kid, unless my Dad was fishing, in which case I'd be sentenced to

sitting quietly on the lawn chair for scaring off the bass he was trying to catch.

Here is the point. Four layers of giving had to occur for Feeding Team to receive the MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) that ultimately ended up in Edgar's backpack. From volunteers to donors to other volunteers to other donors ultimately to Feeding Team and then to Edgar. The ripple impact of your charity has a real and tangible impact on neighbors in Hamilton County. When you donate non-perishable food items or monetary donations to Feeding Team it is just like the stone tossed into the water. It has a ripple effect, helping many of our neighbors. Ultimately your donation blesses the families receiving the donation, but it also blesses those involved. The volunteers who loaded Edgar's backpack with food were incredibly impacted while doing so. They were moved to tears learning his story and making sure that he had what he needed for the next week. Your charity has a ripple effect on you too, those that you help, and those that serve your donations to others. It makes you feel good helping others and we too are honored to receive your donations, and then those families that receive from your donations feel better about their situation too. Together we help families meet basic food needs and as a result our community benefits.

With over 44,000 food challenged neighbors in Hamilton County, www.Feedingteam.org is a registered 501C3 not for profit organization that provides outdoor 24x7x365 no questions asked free food pantries throughout the county. The pantries exist, to meet the food insecurity needs of GAP families, neighbors

that may not qualify for public assistance and could use a few meals before payday. The pantries serve as many food-challenged neighbors as possible, and our hearts are with those that, like my family, could not always make ends meet.

Thank you for supporting the pantries. We love serving with so many neighbors across Hamilton County. In future columns we will share more stories about how your generosity served neighbors in times of need. The face of hunger in Hamilton County is not what you may think.

In practical terms this straightforward way to help neighbors is having a real impact on lives, families, and our communities. Thank you. A few meals can change the course of a person's life. A can of green beans means so much more when you have nothing to feed your kids. Would you like to get involved? Volunteer opportunities are available. We are evaluating new pantry locations. If you think you have a potential area location, please contact us.

www.feedingteam.org facts – 78 pantries, 14,000 meals a month are provided, over thirty volunteer families.

Mark Hall is a Hamilton County Councilman and the Founder and CEO of TLX, Talent Logistix. Feeding Families outdoor Free Food pantries is the corporate charity of his company. Mark and his wife Lisa founded the food charity program the team after living with food insecurity as a young married couple with kids. They may be reached at lisa@feedingteam.org and mark@feedingteam.org or (317) 832-1123.

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