

■ 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.



It's another Friday the 13th! Good thing I'm not superstitious – almost.

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

In observance of President's Day, there will be no edition of The Times on Monday (we'd like to think our staff will be studying our presidents and U.S. history that day . . . but probably not!). We'll see you bright and early with our Wednesday Online Edition!

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."
Dr. Seuss

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Did you hear about the lonely skeleton on Valentine's Day? Apparently his heart just wasn't in it.

■ ADOPT A PET
MARTHA MAY WHOVIER



Martha May Whovier is a senior sweetheart with the biggest heart. This 10-year-old female Domestic Shorthair has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 1/2/26. Martha is a purrfect tea time conversationalist and quiet companion for those peaceful days when you just want to lounge around on the couch. All she needs now is a best friend to show her what it means to have a family. If you would like to meet this amazing girl, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt, then stop by HSHC anytime 12-5 PM daily (closed Wednesday).



The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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BOOMER BITS... Tips and Advice from Boomers to Boomers

I'm on SS Disability; Should I Switch?

Dear Rusty: Should I take my Social Security now at age 62, or wait till I am 65? I've been collecting SS disability due to health issues and was curious if I should wait or claim my regular Social Security retirement benefits now.

Signed: Disabled but Wondering



ASK RUSTY

Social Security Advisor

Dear Disabled but Wondering: If you are now collecting Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits and you are still disabled, it would be a disadvantage to claim your SS retirement benefits at this time (age 62), or even at age 65. That's because your SSDI benefit is the same as your full retirement age (FRA) amount, as calculated for you at the point you became disabled. Born after 1959, your

FRA is age 67, but you are already receiving your FRA benefit while on SS disability even though you have not yet reached your full retirement age. That full SSDI benefit will automatically convert to become your SS retirement benefit when you reach your full retirement age.

If you were to claim your normal SS retirement benefit any earlier than your SS full retirement

age of 67, the amount you get would be reduced for claiming early. At your current age, you would likely get between 75% and 80% of what you are now receiving on SSDI (depending on your exact age in the month you claim), and at age 65 you would get about 87% of what you are now receiving on Social Security disability.

See Rusty Page 3

Snow Thrower Safety Tips: Keep Best Practices in Mind

Clearing snow and ice from driveways, sidewalks and parking lots is no small job. You rely on your outdoor power equipment to do the heavy lifting, and it's important to keep safety in mind. The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) reminds home and business owners to use snow throwers, often referred to as snow blowers, safely and offers tips to help.

"Weather today is unpredictable. You need to have your snow thrower serviced and ready to power up," says OPEI President and CEO Kris Kiser. "Review your owner's manual so you can use your equipment safely." Kiser says preparation is key and

that home and business owners should consider the following:

Review the owner's manual. Check the owner's manual for safe handling procedures. If the manual cannot be found, look it up online, and store a copy on your computer so it's available to reference in the future. Review how to operate controls. Be able to shut off equipment quickly.

Check equipment. The snow thrower should be powered off when being checked over. Adjust any cables and check the auger.

Charge batteries. Locate the batteries for your snow thrower and charge them fully before it snows.

Purchase fuel. Be

sure to use the correct fuel recommended by the equipment's manufacturer. For most gasoline-powered snow throwers, that is E10 or less. Often fuel stations are closed after a storm so buy gasoline in advance of storms. Fuel that is more than 30 days old can phase separate and cause operating problems. For more information on fueling properly see www.opei.org/programs/ethanolwarning

Store and use fuel properly. Place gasoline in a proper fuel container and label it with the date purchased and the ethanol content. Store fuel safely and out of the reach of

See Snow Thrower Page 5

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. The U.S. Postal Service will observe Presidents Day on Monday, Feb. 16. All Post Office locations will be closed. Regular mail delivery and retail services will resume on Tuesday, Feb. 17. (And don't forget there won't be your favorite Online Edition in your email inbox either.) Also don't forget that even when Post Offices are closed, you can still access postal products and services through usps.com and self-service kiosks available in select lobbies nationwide. For more information on USPS services, visit www.usps.com.

2. The Indianapolis International Airport wrapped up another year of record-setting passenger traffic, welcoming more than 10.6 million passengers in all through the IND terminal, nearly 100,000 passengers more than in 2024. The new record was made up of growth across both business and leisure travel, driven by a strong list of new nonstop destinations – including domestic, international and transatlantic destinations – along with expanded flight options and specialty flights to support major events. Key time periods and days that drove high passenger traffic also helped set the Indy airport up for another record-breaking year, such as Fall Break 2025, which delivered the busiest day (Oct. 9), the busiest month and the first million-passenger month (October) – all in IND history..

3. On the other hand . . . Indiana is among the least prepared states for tarAfter a year that resulted in the arrest of 499 individuals for crimes against children, the rescue of 126 children from ongoing abuse, and the receipt of thousands of new investigative tips, Indiana Gov. Mike Braun is emphasizing the ongoing success of the Indiana State Police's initiative aimed at protecting Hoosier children from online predators and abuse. The Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force has been an emphasis of Gov. Braun's administration and has experienced significant growth in order to better protect Hoosier children. From January 2025 through February 9, 2026, the ICAC Task Force has increased by 50 individuals from 470 to 520 law enforcement officers. The ICAC Task Force provides tips for parents with a focus on safe social media practices, parental controls, and how to report abuse. More information can be found at <https://www.in.gov/isp/icactf/parenting-tips/>

Social Security as a Child

By Russell Gloor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Obviously, minor children normally aren't working and contributing to the Social Security program toward their future retirement, but that doesn't mean Social Security isn't there to protect them.

In real life, there are two main situations where minor children can collect Social Security benefits based upon a parent's earnings record – 1) if the parent is living and collecting their personal Social Security retirement (or disability) benefit, or 2) if a parent is deceased and was eligible for Social Security benefits.

This is a real life stories about minor children who are the surviving dependents of a parent entitled to (but not necessarily collecting) Social Security retirement or disability benefits.

Minor Child Benefits from a Deceased Parent: "Three young sisters"

Cheryl and Bernie had three little girls – Jennifer (8); Rebecca (6); and Danielle (4). Bernie was a corrections officer, and Cheryl was an Administrative Assistant for a prestigious local law firm. But one day while battling a bad cold, Cheryl developed a severe, debilitating headache and went to the local hospital Emergency Room for treatment. Turned out Cheryl had bacterial meningitis, an infection which caused her brain to swell, putting her into a deep coma from which she never recovered. Cheryl succumbed several days later at only 35 years of age, leaving behind a devastated family, including her three young daughters.

The trauma was obviously severe for Cheryl's entire family, but through the dark cloud of the family's loss, Social Security was there. Although Cheryl had been in the workforce only about a dozen years, she had been contributing to Social Security from her earnings during those years, thus entitling her surviving minor children to Social Security benefits from Cheryl's earnings record.

As Cheryl's surviving spouse, Bernie contacted the Social Security Administration and applied for surviving minor child benefits for each of his girls, which were readily approved after Bernie provided Cheryl's death certificate

See Social Security Page 3

The TIMES

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Carmel Firm Gets Two Orr Fellows

Midcontinent Independent System Operator in Carmel, an electric grid operator for the central United States that ensures power flows reliably and affordably to more than 45 million people across 15 states, just got two new Fellows.

Bloomfield native Christopher Royal and Indianapolis native Dylan Haslett recently earned Orr Fellowships. The Wabash College seniors are now guaranteed a two-year salaried position with one of Indiana's most dynamic, high-growth businesses.

Royal, a political science major with a minor in Classics, will receive executive mentorship and participate in a curriculum designed to develop understanding and skills vital to entrepreneurship and business leadership. Further, as an Orr Fellow, he will grow professionally through an active and supportive network with opportunities for cultural and civic engagement.

"It feels amazing to earn an Orr Fellowship," said Royal. "I feel like it was a recognition of a lot of hard work put in over my college career. I'm looking forward to assimilating into the community at MISO and the many opportunities for growth offered by the Orr Fellowship."

On campus, Royal is a member Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, the Sphinx Club, and the mental health concerns committee. He's studied in Rome, Italy, on both immersion

learning and study abroad opportunities and has served internships with Still 630 and Bridge Builder Strategies.

Haslett, a financial economics major with a minor in business, will receive executive mentorship and participate in a curriculum designed to develop understanding and skills vital to entrepreneurship and business leadership. Further, as an Orr Fellow, he will grow professionally through an active and supportive network with opportunities for cultural and civic engagement.

"I'm extremely honored and grateful to be an Orr Fellow and join the significant list of Wabash College graduates in the program," said Haslett. "I look forward to expanding my knowledge of financial planning, analysis, and corporate strategy, while also surrounding myself with other successful business leaders."

On campus, Haslett is a member of the Wabash baseball team and has traveled to the Dominican Republic on an immersion learning experience. Additionally, he is a supplemental instruction leader for macroeconomics classes.

Orr Fellows work in a variety of job functions, ranging from marketing to engineering to consulting, sales, and more. Fellows are matched with industries of all types and partner with companies from small start-ups to enterprise-level global organizations.

Students From County Participate in Statehouse Page Program

Three local college students are serving as interns for the Indiana Senate Majority Caucus during the 2026 legislative session, said State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville).

Audrey Donaldson, a resident of Carmel, is the daughter of Andrew and Andrea Donaldson. Donaldson graduated from Bishop Chatard High School and is a junior at Indiana University Indianapolis studying psychology and human resources management.

Salil Gupta, a resident of Noblesville, is the son of Mona and Vineet Gupta. Gupta graduated from Noblesville High School and is pursuing his dual MD-MBA degree at the Indiana University School of Medicine and Kelley School of Business.

Leo Martinez, a resident of Carmel, is the son of Francisco and Gladys Martinez. Martinez is a senior at Indiana University Indianapolis studying political science and philosophy.

"It's always exciting to have the opportunity to see my fellow community members working here at the Statehouse and gaining valuable professional experience," Baldwin said. "With 2026 being a short legislative session,

these interns play a crucial role in helping our days run smoothly. They are a great help to us serving all Hoosiers, and I look forward to seeing what they will accomplish in the future."

As legislative interns, Donaldson, Gupta and Martinez track and analyze bill data, provide constituent services, staff Senate committee hearings and meetings, and conduct legislative policy research.

"It is an honor to serve the district where I was born and raised and the entire state of Indiana while studying medicine and business in school," Gupta said.

"I am very excited for this opportunity to assist the senators and legislative assistants of Indiana whose hard work is the cornerstone of our great state," Donaldson said.

"I am happy to have the opportunity to play a small part in assisting these senators as they work hard to serve the Hoosiers they represent," Martinez said.

Senate Majority interns work through the duration of the legislative session, which is scheduled to conclude by the end of February. More information on Senate Republican internships, including eligibility require-



Audrey Donaldson



Salil Gupta



Leo Martinez

ments and applications for the 2027 program, can be found at IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/intern. Baldwin represents

Senate District 20, which includes Noblesville, Carmel, Cicero and unincorporated areas of Hamilton County.

Busy Month of March at the Center for Performing Arts

The following is a list of coming events and attractions at Carmel's Center for the Performing Arts.

Chris Botti

8 p.m. Friday, March 6
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Drewry Simmons Vornehm Jazz Series
Grammy-winning trumpeter Chris Botti has been one of the most popular instrumentalists in the world for nearly three decades. He has collaborated with some of the biggest superstars on the planet, including Sting, Paul Simon, Barbra Streisand, Lady Gaga, Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Aretha Franklin, Bette Midler, Joni Mitchell, Steven Tyler, Andrea Bocelli, Herbie Hancock, Yo-Yo Ma and others. He has topped the jazz charts with numerous albums, earned multiple Gold and Platinum records, performed with symphony orchestras and on prestigious stages from Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood Bowl to the Sydney Opera House.

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra & Marc-André Hamelin

8 p.m. Saturday, March 7
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Leo Brown Group Classical Series

Canadian piano virtuoso and composer Marc-André Hamelin joins the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra for a program featuring Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 12 in A Major, K. 414, as well as Beethoven's Allegretto from Piano Sonata No. 17 and Schubert's Chamber Symphony in B-flat Major. Founded in 1972 in New York City, the Grammy-winning Orpheus Chamber Orchestra has recorded more than 70 albums for Deutsche Grammophon, Nonesuch and other labels.

Jerome Collins: Rewind: A Journey to Motown and

Beyond

8 p.m. Saturday, March 7
The Tarkington
Katz, Sapper & Miller Pop/Rock Series
Rewind: A Journey to Motown and Beyond is a captivating solo performance featuring the talented Jerome Collins of famed a cappella group Straight No Chaser. This show is a nostalgic throwback to the legendary sounds of Motown and R&B. Collins takes the audience through electrifying renditions of timeless hits from some of the world's most iconic musicians and renowned artists. With a set list that includes songs from legends like Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Sam Cooke and Stevie Wonder, his soulful delivery ensures an unforgettable experience. Opening the show will be the singer-songwriter duo Small Town City, featuring Straight No Chaser's Mike Luginbill and SNC alumnus Ryan Ahlwardt.

Goitse

7 p.m. Sunday, March 8
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Telamon Passport Series
Named Live Ireland's Traditional Group of the Year and Chicago Irish American News' Group of the Year, Goitse have become leaders of the new generation of traditional Irish ensembles. The group has released six critically acclaimed recordings, mixing original compositions with age-old traditional tunes. Its lineup consists of Colm Phelan, bodhrán; Áine McGeeney, fiddle, vocals; Conal O'Kane, guitar; Alan Reid, banjo, bouzouki; and Daniel Collins, piano, accordion. Together, the quintet Goitse – the Gaelic word for "come here," pronounced GO-witcha – makes what Irish Music Magazine calls "Music that's brimming with energy and creative zeal."

Joshua Henry: Get Up, Stand Up

8 p.m. Friday, March 13
Payne & Mencias Palladium
BHI Senior Living Songbook Series

Taking a break from his acclaimed starring role in the Broadway revival of Ragtime, Joshua Henry makes his headlining debut at Allied Solutions Center. Get Up Stand Up is described as "a soulful bop through the songs that have moved and grooved us through the decades," featuring "Feeling Good," "Wait for It," "A Change is Gonna Come," "If I Loved You," "What's Goin' On" and more. Henry is best known for his Tony-nominated leading roles in Carousel, The Scottsboro Boys and Violet on Broadway, as well as his portrayal of Aaron Burr in the Chicago production and First National Tour of Hamilton. He also is a BMG recording artist.

Gregorian: Pure Chants World Tour featuring Songs of Enigma

8 p.m. Saturday, March 14
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Katz, Sapper & Miller Pop/Rock Series
Since its founding in 1999 by producer Frank Peterson (Enigma, Sarah Brightman, Andrea Bocelli), Gregorian has sold more than 10 million albums and performed for more than 3 million people in 31 countries with its blend of pop/rock songs and chorale in the style of medieval chants. For its current North American tour, supporting the albums Pure Chants I & II, the ensemble of eight classically trained English vocalists will highlight the music of Enigma, the Grammy-nominated recording project that blended new-age and world music with elec-

See Center Page 6

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'Tommy' Mannequin on Job With Health Department



Photo courtesy Hamilton County

Tommy is realistically made to present catastrophic wounds, such as amputations and burns.

The Hamilton County Health Department has acquired the TOM-Manikin-GSW, also known as "Tommy," to help public safety agencies prepare for critical emergencies.

"Real-world incidents have shown a trained and prepared public can provide rapid interventions to save the injured prior to first responder arrival," Christian Walker, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, said. "Tommy will enhance these trainings to assist in overall community preparedness."

Tommy features a heavy steel frame and interchangeable body parts that replicate catastrophic wounds, such as amputations and burns. This durable build allows instructors to stage

authentic trauma situations in diverse settings, ranging from standard classrooms to intense field simulations. By mimicking a reactive patient, the unit enables law enforcement and fire departments to practice Tactical Emergency Casualty Care under realistic conditions.

Purchased with grant funding at the request of local fire departments, Tommy will be accessible to all Hamilton County public safety agencies for high-severity injury training. Additionally, the unit will assist Health Department staff in teaching the "Stop the Bleed" curriculum, improving residents' abilities to provide immediate care during catastrophic events.

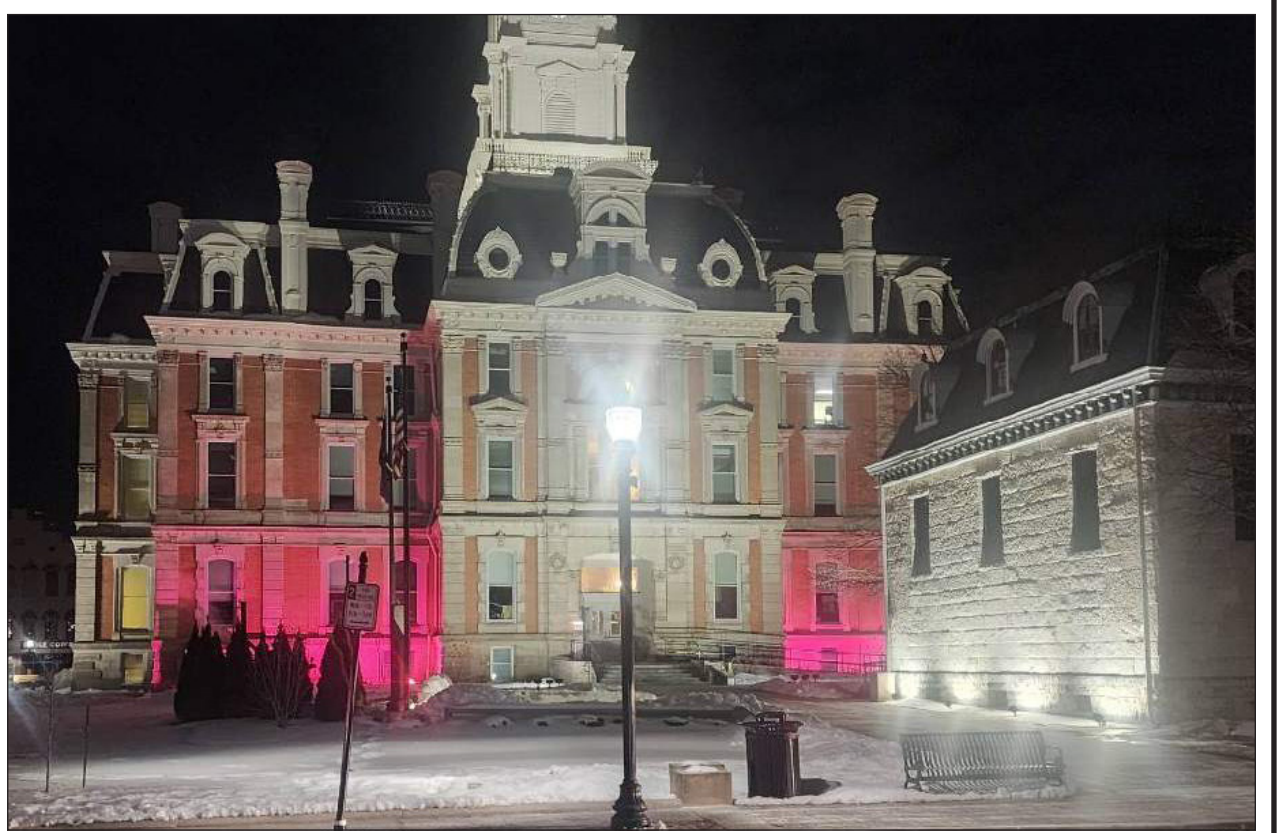


Photo courtesy Hamilton County

The courthouse illuminated with pink is just one of the ways the county is supporting the Buzbee family.

County Goes Pink for Hailey

Hamilton County is participating in "Go Pink for Hailey" Month by illuminating the Hamilton County Old Courthouse pink throughout the month of February in remembrance of Hailey Buzbee. Buzbee, a student at Hamilton Southeastern High School, was reported missing for several weeks before authorities recently confirmed

her death.

"Hamilton County stands resolute in its commitment to the safety of all our communities through strong partnerships with community leaders and the public safety professionals who serve and protect our county," Hamilton County Commissioner Christine Altman said. "We have zero tolerance for

predatory criminals, and we believe they should be held fully accountable under the law."

The observance follows a proclamation by the City of Fishers honoring Hailey's life.

Hamilton County extends its deepest condolences to the Buzbee family and joins the community in honoring Hailey.



Commissioner President Christine Altman

Kid Rock Coming to Noblesville

Waffle House Legend Award winner Kid Rock will bring his Freedom 250 Tour - The Road to Nashville to amphitheaters across the U.S. this spring and summer. The run includes a stop at Ruoff Music Center in Noblesville on Friday, June 19. Known for his larger-than-life live shows and unapologetic approach to rock 'n' roll, Kid Rock continues to deliver a high-energy concert experience night after night.

Kid Rock is a multi-platinum, award-winning American rock 'n' roll icon whose music blends rap-rock, country, and heartland anthems. From early career-defining hits like "Bawitdaba" and "Cowboy," to chart-topping

singles including "Picture" (feat. Sheryl Crow) and the global smash "All Summer Long," which reached No. 1 in eight countries, his catalog has resonated with generations of fans. Kid Rock has sold nearly 30 million records worldwide and has earned a reputation as one of the hardest-working acts in live music.

He holds the Michigan record for most tickets sold across a single concert run and set the Little Caesars Arena attendance record in his hometown of Detroit. His latest album, Bad Reputation, accompanies the 2026 touring cycle. Kid Rock is also a passionate supporter of the U.S. Armed Forces and numerous charitable causes.

RUSTY

Continued from Page 1

In other words, as long as your disability continues and you remain eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, you should not switch to your normal SS retirement benefit, because you would get less money. And the resulting benefit reduction would be permanent.

This article is intended for information purposes

only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssad-visitor@amacfoundation.org.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Continued from Page 1

and his daughters' Social Security Numbers to the Agency. And though it could never make up for the loss of their mother, each of Cheryl's daughters shared a portion of the Social Security benefit Cheryl had earned up to the day she died.

How much did each of Cheryl's children get? Well, the maximum benefit available to a surviving minor child is 75% of the deceased parent's full entitlement, but whenever there are multiple dependents the Family Maximum applies. [1] Each of Cheryl's children received an equal portion of Cheryl's personal Family Maximum. And, although each received less than 75% of Cheryl's earned entitlement, each child collected their share until they were 18 years of age (thus no longer minors).[2]

Who Received the children's Social Security?

Bernie was appointed Representative Payee for each of his girls and was obligated to use funds received only for the girls' behalf, which Bernie chose to do by creating a college ("529 plan") savings fund for each girl into which each child's Social Security benefits were deposited.

Jennifer's minor child benefits stopped when she became 18 and, at that time, Cheryl's Family Maximum was shared only by Rebecca and Danielle (making each of their payments higher). And when Rebecca became 18, Danielle received her full 75% of Cheryl's

earned entitlement. Monies accumulated over the years were saved and used to help fund each girl's college tuition.

As an aside, Bernie - still in his late 30s - was technically entitled to Social Security "child in care surviving spouse benefits" but could not collect that

benefit because he continued to work full-time. Further, Bernie claiming child-in-care surviving spousal benefits would have only detracted from the amount his daughters could collect because the total amount of benefits paid by Social Security were limited by the Family Maximum.

The rest of the story

Although SS benefits were paid to Bernie as Representative Payee, that additional money did not impact Bernie's income tax obligation. The Social Security money was used for the children's benefit (even saving it counts), so it is not taxable by the IRS.

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No Controversy Here; Drew Breezes Into NFL Hall of Fame



**SPORTS,
SPORTS, &
MORE SPORTS**
with Ken Thompson

As expected, Purdue legend Drew Brees was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

Fittingly, his enshrinement ceremony will be held at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio, in August. Benson was owner of the New Orleans Saints when the combination of Brees and head coach Sean Payton helped turn the franchise from a perennial loser to a Super Bowl champion. Brees is the Saints' inaugural first ballot Hall of Famer.

"Drew's work ethic, preparation and passion for the game helped launch the New Orleans Saints to new heights," Saints owner Gayle Benson said in a statement. "Drew raised the standard for excellence throughout our entire organization and established a culture of leadership and accountability that continues to guide us today."

Brees was originally selected by the San Diego Chargers with the first pick in the second round (32nd overall) of the 2001 NFL Draft. He took over the Chargers starting job in 2002 and led San Diego to its first playoff berth in nine seasons in 2004. Brees was selected to his first of 13 Pro Bowls and voted as the consensus NFL Comeback Player of the Year.

After suffering a serious shoulder injury in the last game of the 2005 campaign, Brees signed with New Orleans and had an unforgettable debut season in 2006. He was selected as an Associated Press All-Pro, Pro Bowl starter, led the Saints to the NFC championship game for the first time in franchise history and set the table for a prolonged run of amazing production and consistency.

"I'll say this: there's a lot of people riding with me," Brees said on NFL Network. "Sean Payton and (general manager) Mickey Loomis, two of the guys most responsible for this, bringing me to New Orleans believing in me at a time when it was kind of hard to believe in myself coming off that injury with the San Diego Chargers. I wasn't sure what the rest of my career would look like. With unwavering positivity, hope and belief, Sean Payton looked me in the eye and said you're my guy. We're going to build this offense around you and we're going to go do something special. Every day that I stepped foot in the facility I wanted to prove them right."

A season after becoming only the second quarterback in NFL history to reach 5,000 passing yards and capturing AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year honors, Brees led New Orleans to the Super Bowl XLIV title and was named the game's Most Valuable Player. His heroics on and off the field earned him the esteemed Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year and AP Male Athlete of the Year honors.

In 2011, Brees produced one of the most prolific seasons ever as he was named AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year for the second

time, completing 468 of 657 passes (71.2 percent) for 5,476 yards with 46 touchdown passes. He set what was then the league's single-season passing yardage mark in leading New Orleans to its second 13-3 campaign in three seasons.

In 2018, Brees set the NFL's single-season record for completion percentage (74.4), completing 364 of 489 passes for 3,992 yards with 32 touchdowns and only five interceptions while leading the Saints to the NFC Championship game. In what would turn out to be his final season in 2020, Brees became the first quarterback to surpass 80,000 career passing yards.

Brees retired as the league's all-time leader in passing yardage (80,358), completions (7,142) passing attempts (10,551), ranked second in career completion percentage (67.7 pct.) and touchdown passes (571) and fifth in passer rating (98.7).

He threw for more than 5,000 yards an NFL-record five times, a feat no other player has accomplished more than twice.

Brees thanked Purdue for helping him reach the pinnacle of pro football in an interview with Chris Hagen of Fox 59 in Indianapolis.

"I love Purdue and it really paved the way for me for so many opportunities for me and certainly this opportunity for going into the Pro Football Hall of Fame," Brees said.

"I tell you what, I carry so many people from Purdue with me. Joe Tiller, being one, Greg Olson, Tim Lappano, Jim Chaney – all of the guys who came to recruit me out of the state of Texas, where I didn't want to leave."

Brees is the fifth Purdue

representative in the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the third Super Bowl champion quarterback.

The late Len Dawson was elected in 1987 after a 19-year career, mostly with the Kansas City Chiefs. The Pro Football Hall of Fame website declares that Dawson "ranks among the elite forward passers of all time."

He will be best remembered in Kansas City for leading the Chiefs to a 23-7 upset of the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV. Dawson connected on 12 of 17 passes for 142 yards in the now-historic game, and his 46-yard pass completion to Otis Taylor wrapped up the surprise victory that evened the AFL-NFL portion of the Super Bowl series at two wins each. Dawson was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

Like Brees, Dawson's early years in the NFL were a struggle. He spent five seasons as a seldom-used backup in Pittsburgh and Cleveland before joining his former Purdue quarterbacks coach Hank Stram with the American Football League's Dallas Texans. The Texans won the AFL title in Dawson's first season (1962) before moving to Kansas City the following year. Dawson also led the Chiefs to AFL titles in 1966 and 1969.

Stram called his protégé "the most accurate passer in pro football." Dawson won four AFL individual passing crowns in 1962, 1964, 1966 and 1968. During his career, he completed 2,136 of 3,741 passes for 28,711 yards and 239 touchdowns. He also rushed for 1,293 yards before retiring after the 1975 season.

Bob Griese of the Miami Dolphins followed three years later in 1990. The Hall of Fame website states that Griese "was the poised leader of a classic ball-control offense that generated an awesomely efficient running attack, three AFC championships in 1971, 1972 and 1973 and victories in Super Bowls VII and VIII."

In 14 seasons, Griese threw 3,429 passes, completing 1,926 for 25,092

yards and 192 touchdowns. He also rushed 261 times for 994 yards and seven touchdowns.

A six-time Dolphins MVP, he was named All-Pro in 1971 and 1977, and All-AFC four times (1970, 1971, 1973 and 1977). He played in two AFL All-Star games and six AFC-NFC Pro Bowls.

Stram got the Hall of Fame call in 2003, two years before his death. During the 10-year history of the AFL, Stram's Texans / Chiefs won more games than any other AFL team and more championships than any other coach (1962, 1966, 1969). He also led the 1971 Chiefs to an AFC Western Division championship.

His Hall of Fame biography describes Stram as "an innovative coach (who) developed or utilized such things as the 'moving pocket,' which used the talents of his quarterback Len Dawson. He devised a two-tight end offense – it provided an extra blocker and slowed down the pass rush. On defense, he made famous his 'stack defense,' with linebackers stacked behind down linemen. Whether he used a 3-4 defensive alignment or a

4-3, Stram differed from other coaches of that day by always having a man head-up on the center."

His 17-year coaching record was 131-97-10. Eight of his Chiefs players are also in the Hall of Fame: Dawson, Bobby Bell, Buck Buchanan, Curley Culp, Willie Lanier, Johnny Robinson, Jan Stenerud and Emmitt Thomas.

A member of the 75th and 100th NFL Anniversary teams, Rod Woodson entered the Hall of Fame in 2009 as one of the greatest defensive backs in pro football history.

Woodson was the 1992 NFL Defensive Player of the Year. During his 17 NFL seasons with Pittsburgh, San Francisco, the Baltimore Ravens and Oakland, Woodson intercepted 71 passes, including an NFL record 12 touchdown returns, for a record 1,483 yards.

He was named to the Pro Bowl 11 times, a record for a defensive back.

Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.



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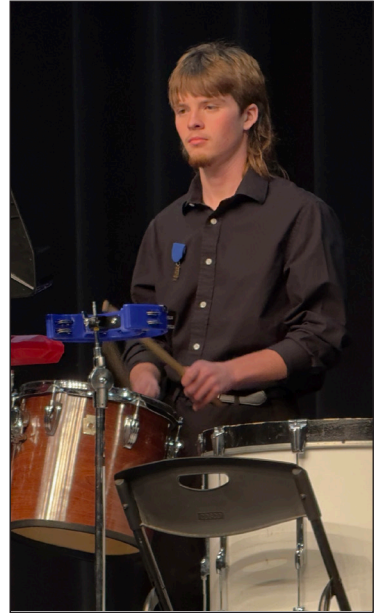


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Heights Musicians Shine at ISSMA District Solo & Ensemble Contest



Photos Courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Hamilton Heights musicians shined at the ISSMA District Solo & Ensemble Contest, earning top honors across solos and ensembles.

Hamilton Heights Middle School and High School musicians delivered an outstanding showing at the ISSMA District Solo & Ensemble Contest held this past Saturday at Westfield High School. Students from both programs earned top honors across a wide range of instruments and ensemble categories, demonstrating exceptional skill, preparation, and musical growth.

Hamilton Heights is proud to recognize the following students for their achievements:

HHMS GOLD

- Haylee Wesley (8) - Flute
- Hadley Reading (6) - Flute
- Mallory Snider (6) - Clarinet
- Hailey Hodson (8) - Alto Saxophone
- Jackson Van Kirk (6) - Alto Saxophone
- Silas Speck (6) - Alto Saxophone
- Mark Hiday (8) - Trumpet
- Marley Huskins (7) - Trombone
- Brendon Rose (6) - Trombone
- Jace Jackson (6) - String Bass

- Jace Thompson (7) - Snare Drum
- Woodwind Trio (6) - Ella Carey, Coralie Cote, Faye Straley
- Woodwind Trio (8) - Arabella English, Hailey Hodson, Haylee Wesley
- Woodwind Quartet (6) - Aralynn Ellis, Nolan Herrmann, Grace Hodson, McKinley Mosbaugh
- Percussion Trio (6) - Levi Hay, Anthony Meier, Aidan Smith

HHMS GOLD

- Luke Powell (8) - Snare Drum (entered in HS Group I)

HHHS GROUP I - GOLD ***

- Advanced to the ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Rachel England - Trumpet
- Kaylee Roberts - Euphonium
- Mazie Emmert - Euphonium
- Lukas Jackson - Multi-Percussion Solo
- Percussion Ensemble: Nicole Eberhard, Mazie Emmert, Lukas Jackson, Maddy Lustig, Jack Powell, Kiera Rinas, Connelley Schuster, Ava Snelson

HHHS GROUP I - SILVER

- Nicole Eberhard - Bass Clarinet
- Kiera Rinas - String Bass

HHHS GROUP II - GOLD

- Luke Allwardt - Trumpet

These results reflect the dedication of student musicians and the strength of the Hamilton Heights band program. Congratulations to all the participants and best wishes to state-qualifying performers at the next round of competition.

Don't Be Left Out in the Cold on Unclaimed Cash

As winter's chill grips Indiana, Attorney General Todd Rokita is calling on Hoosiers to heat things up by searching for unclaimed cash at IndianaUnclaimed.gov.

"It's fast, free, secure and easy," Attorney General Rokita said. "There's no reason to leave your money sitting unclaimed in a government account. It belongs to you. You might be among the thousands of Hoosiers with cash to be claimed, but you'll never know unless you check."

In 2025, Indiana's Unclaimed Property Division set an all-time record by

returning more than \$88 million to rightful owners, surpassing previous highs and reuniting Hoosiers with what's theirs. As of early 2026, nearly \$1 billion remains unclaimed statewide.

Unclaimed property is any financial asset with no activity by its owner for an extended period of time. Examples of potential unclaimed property are:

- Unclaimed wages or commissions
- Money orders
- Safe deposit box contents
- Savings and checking accounts
- Refunds
- Overpayments such as:

Credit card balances
Cell phone bills
Indianapolis Colts legend Jeff Saturday recently teamed up with the Office of the Attorney General to help raise awareness of IndianaUnclaimed.gov.

The former Super Bowl champion and longtime Colt's center serves as spokesperson in ads running on local radio and TV stations as well as across online digital platforms with statewide reach. Hoosiers can access the website by texting JEFF to 46220. Or you can call 1-866-462-5246 to get help searching your name.

SNOW THROWER

Continued from Page 1

children. Fill the fuel tank outside before starting the engine and while the engine is cold. Never add fuel to a running or hot engine.

Clear the area. Snow can sometimes hide objects. Doormats, hoses, balls, toys, boards, wires, and other debris should be removed from areas you intend to clear. When run over by a snow thrower, these objects may harm the machine or people.

Dress for winter weather. Locate safety gear now, and place it in an accessible closet or location. Wear safety glasses, gloves and footwear that can handle cold and slippery surfaces when operating the snow thrower.

KEY SAFETY TIP: Never put your hands inside the auger or chute. Use a clean out tool to unclog snow or debris from the snow thrower. Your hands should never go inside the auger or chute.

Turn OFF the snow thrower if you need

to clear a clog. If you need to remove debris or unclog snow, always turn off the snow thrower. Wait for all moving parts to come to a complete stop before clearing any clogs or debris.

Operate in visible conditions. Never operate the snow thrower without good visibility or light.

Aim with care. Never throw snow toward people or cars. Keep children or pets inside and away from your snow thrower when it is operating.

Use extreme caution on slopes and hills. Use caution when changing directions on slopes. Do not attempt to clear steep slopes.

Know where the cord is. If using an electric powered snow thrower, be aware of where the power cord is at all times. Avoid tripping.

About OPEI
OPEI is an international trade association representing manufacturing and suppliers of power equipment, small engines, battery

power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars. OPEI is the advocacy voice of the industry, and a recognized Standards Development Organization for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and active internationally through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in the development of safety and performance standards. OPEI owns Equip Exposition, the international landscape, outdoor living and equipment exposition, and administers the TurfMutt Foundation, which directs the environmental education program, TurfMutt. OPEI-Canada represents members on a host of issues, including recycling, emissions and other regulatory developments across the Canadian provinces.

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Valentine's Shopping, Bubba and 'Tudes

Do you have a Valentine's Day present yet? I admit I'm a procrastinator and with the clock ticking, I was starting to sweat. So as much as I hate online shopping, I was sitting at my desk surfing some websites that my wife likes.

What?
Yes, I was at work but I do company work on my time so why can't I do my stuff on company time? Heck, I use the same philosophy for getting my hair cut during the work day – it grew on company time, didn't it?

So there I was, peeing and sweating. Truth to tell, my better half doesn't really care what I get her. She just appreciates being appreciated – yes, I am indeed a lucky man. But I want to get her something she'll like, so I stress over it. But it was my lucky day, her favorite store's website was having a half off

flash sale.

Of course that was the moment the phone rang.

"This here's Roses R Us, a species service that brings 10 roses to your missus direct from our rose orchards in Italy."

"Special service maybe?"

"Huh?"

"Never mind. What could I do for you Bubba?"

"Dang Timmons, how do you always know it's me?"

"Well, you meant to say special, roses don't come in 10s they come in dozens, they don't grow in orchards and oh, I don't know, just a lucky guess. But listen Bubba, I'm kind of in the middle of something here and-

"Whatcha in the middle of?"

The last thing I wanted to do was try to explain my gift-buying process to Bubba. For

those who haven't had "the pleasure," Bubba is a catalytic converter short of an emission system. If you remember the conic dunce caps we used to see in schools, Bubba had one in his size . . . with his name misspelled on it – in permanent ink.

I thought maybe I could turn the tables and get out of this call before it went too painfully long.

"What are you getting your wife for Valentine's Day, Bubba?"

"Oh shoot, Timmons. We don't do nuthin' special. Now back in the day was different, but not so much now."

"Really?" I asked.

"What'd you do back in the day?"

"Member going steady, Timmons? Well sir, that's how it started. Started going steady

when I was a senior, I think it was the second time I was a senior . . . or maybe it was

the third time, I can't recall."

"How many times were you a senior, Bubba?"

"Oh, four I think, Timmons. I dunno. I think they finally done gave me the diploma because I was older than the new teachers."

Lord help me.

"Anyways, I was head over feels and-

"Heels."

"Huh?"

"Head over heels, Bubba. It's head over heels."

"How stupid is that Timmons? Ain't your head always over your heels? It's about what they feel. Gosh Timmons, any idiot knows that."

Hate to say it, but that kind of made sense.

"Anyways, where was I before I was so tudely interrupted. . ."

"Oh for crying out loud Bubba! It's rudely! Rudely interrupted!"

"Timmons for a guy



Two Cents
from Tim Timmons

who works with words for a living you sure get a lot wrong. It's about 'tudes . . . You know 'tudes, right. Attitudes?"

How does he keep making sense in such a weird way?

"Timmons, I was crazy for her. Man I couldn't eat, couldn't sleep . . . all I could do was think about her."

"How cool is that Bubba? And you two are still together after all these years."

"What? Oh heck no Timmons. That was Wanda Fishman. She dumped me right before

my fourth senior prom."

Why do I even waste time? I hung up and went back to the flash sale only to find my connection had timed out. Pretty sure I was developing a real 'tude.

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@thetimes24-7.com.

CENTER

Continued from Page 2

tronic and ambient sounds and sold an estimated 70 million worldwide.

Step Afrika! The Evolution Tour

7 p.m. Sunday, March 15
Payne & Mencias Palladium

Telamon Passport Series
The Evolution Tour is an electrifying production that fuses groundbreaking step choreography with the vibrant soundscape of a live DJ. Founded in 1994, Step Afrika! blends traditional African dances, percussive dance styles practiced by historically Black fraternities and sororities, and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. Performances integrate songs, storytelling, humor and audience participation. An official Cultural Ambassador of Washington, D.C., Step Afrika! has toured more than 60 countries, headlined President Barack Obama's Black History Month Reception, and performed at the first ever Juneteenth Celebration at the White House.

One Night in Memphis: The Number One Tribute to Presley, Perkins, Lewis and Cash

7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19
Payne & Mencias Palladium

Katz, Sapper & Miller Pop/Rock Series
One Night in Memphis is a rocking concert tribute to legendary Sun Records recording artists Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley, featuring over 90 minutes of rockabilly, country, gospel and pure 1950s rock 'n' roll performed live with an energetic rockabilly backup band. Inspired by the "Million Dollar Quartet" incident of 1956, this rock 'n' roll royalty jam session of true American music features hits like "Blue Suede Shoes," "Folsom Prison Blues," "Great Balls of Fire," "Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On," "Shake, Rattle and Roll," "Don't Be Cruel," "Hound Dog" and many more.

Branford Marsalis Quartet

8 p.m. Friday, March 20
Payne & Mencias Palladium

Drewry Simmons Vornehm Jazz Series
Saxophonist Branford Marsalis is a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz

Master, Grammy Award winner, Tony and Emmy award nominee, and one of the most influential figures in contemporary music. For more than three decades, the core of his musical universe has been the Branford Marsalis Quartet, an ensemble celebrated for its uncompromising interpretation of both original compositions and jazz and popular classics. Following up on the Grammy nominated albums *Upward Spiral* and *The Secret Between the Shadow*, the group's new debut release on Blue Note Records is *Belonging*, a complete interpretation of Keith Jarrett's 1974 album of the same name.

Direct from Rome: The Three Italian Tenors

7 p.m. Sunday, March 29
Payne & Mencias Palladium

Leo Brown Group Classical Series
The Three Italian Tenors' program *Italia Musica Amore* is a unique tribute to Italian song and aria, saluting the tradition of great Italian tenors such as Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, Mario Lanza and Enrico Caruso. This exhilarating and unique musical event features original arrangements of universally loved Italian song and tenor arias, presenting memorable melodies and themes in a stunning program filled with nostalgia and memorable classics. Audiences will be captivated with this first concert tour of North America by the spectacular Three Italian Tenors: Giovanni Maria Palmia, Ugo Tarquini and Alessandro Fantoni, accompanied by Fabrizio Mocata on piano.

OTHER MARCH ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Peanut Butter & Jam: Bobcat Opossum

10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 7

The Studio Theater
Tickets: \$10 per child, includes two free adult admissions

Multi-instrumentalists Sean Hoffman and Ellen Coplin tell stories through music and invite the audience to participate. All ages can travel through time and experience the vibrant world of folk songs and dances. Designed for ages 1-7, Peanut Butter & Jam sessions engage young children in the joy of live performance.

Stand-Up Comedy Practicum – SOLD OUT

Mondays, March 16-April 6

Payne & Mencias Palladium

Group Vocal Coaching

6:15 p.m. Wednesdays, March 18-April 15

Payne & Mencias Palladium

Cost: \$90
Musical theater veteran Todd Neal leads this course on topics including song selection, vocal technique and interpretation. Students gain a better understanding of performance, delivery, projection and stage presence. The class is for anyone who enjoys singing, with no previous vocal training required.

Child & Adult Music Class: Over in the Meadow – SOLD OUT

Tuesdays or Fridays, March 24-May 1

Payne & Mencias Palladium

Luminaries speakers series: The Roots of Rock 'n' Roll

2 p.m. Tuesday, March 24
Payne & Mencias Palladium

Tickets: \$10
Bassist, educator and music publicist Ron Kadish has extensive experience in the business and history of music. His presentation will provide a comprehensive look at the roots of rock 'n' roll, from its diverse influences to the pivotal moments that set the stage for the British Invasion, including a discussion about which song is really "the first" rock 'n' roll song.

FROM OUR RESIDENT COMPANIES:

Carmel Symphony Orchestra

Nordic Nights

7 p.m. Saturday, March 21 – Payne & Mencias Palladium

Central Indiana

Dance Ensemble

Mixed Rep
4 p.m. Sunday, March 8 – The Tarkington

Civic Theatre

The Scarlet Letter
March 13-28 – The Studio Theater

Gregory Hancock

Dance Theatre

Exodus
March 27-28 – The Tarkington

Indiana Wind Symphony

Chanson Francaise
7 p.m. Saturday, March 7 – The Studio Theater



Courtesy Photos

These are just a few of the wonderful performers we have coming in March.

Newest Kroger Fuel Center Opens in Noblesville

Kroger is offering even more convenience to customers in Noblesville and an easier way for them to enjoy their Kroger Fuel Points. The grocer is celebrating a grand opening for its newest fuel center in Hamilton County at 14645 Hazel Dell Crossing. It formally opened Wednesday.

“We invested \$2.5 million dollars over four months to build this fuel center and we are thrilled with the results,” Shenevelyn Ross Division Fuel Manager said. “We’re giving Noblesville shoppers what they’ve wanted for a long time -- an easier way to save money on fuel and many convenience products whenever they’re in the neighborhood.”

The new fuel center formally opened at 8 a.m. Wednesday. The center is open daily



Photo courtesy Kroger

The new fuel center formally opened at 8 a.m. Wednesday and is now open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., offering unleaded, midgrade, premium and diesel fuel.

The first 50 customers Wednesday got a Kroger bag with Kroger swag inside.

Regular customers can take advantage of the Kroger Fuel Points program with their digital accounts or Shoppers Cards. They can:

Earn one Fuel Point on each dollar spent on most groceries. Special promotions may boost available points.

Earn 25 Fuel Points for qualifying prescriptions filled by Kroger. (See Kroger pharmacist for details.)

Loyalty program members are eligible to receive a discount when not using Fuel

Points by scanning loyalty cards or entering Alt-ID to receive a discount of 3 cents per gallon.

Kroger began selling gasoline at supermarket fuel centers in 1998. The company now operates 1,731 fuel centers across the USA as another feature of its one-stop-shopping strategy.



County Dems Set Record with Candidates

The Hamilton County Democratic Party set a record this cycle. The party has 359 candidates running for public office, marking an unprecedented level of Democratic participation in a county that has struggled with enthusiasm in the primaries.

In a particularly striking demonstration of grassroots enthusiasm, 220 individuals filed to serve as delegates to the state convention – far exceeding the 162 available seats. This overwhelming response represents a dramatic shift for a county where, just a few years ago, many residents had no Democratic candidates on their ballots.

“We’re finally seeing the fruits of our labor,” said Josh Lowry, Democratic County Party Chair. “For years, the Hamilton County Democratic Party has worked tirelessly to encourage citizens to be active participants

in their own democracy. Our mission this primary season has been simple but essential: ensure that voters have a choice at the ballot box, which drives turnout and gives people the opportunity to be heard and represented in our government.”

The surge in candidate filings and delegate applications follows a months-long concerted effort by county party leadership to recruit citizens willing to step up and serve.

The increased participation ad-

resses a critical gap in Indiana’s political landscape, where low voter turnout at both the state and county levels has long been a challenge. By fielding candidates across the county and energizing the base through robust delegate recruitment, the Hamilton County Democratic Party is creating the infrastructure necessary for sustained civic engagement and competitive elections.

For more information on Hamilton County Democrats, visit <https://www.hamcodemsin.org/>

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BASEBALL

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The 2026 Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball Season begins **April 13, 2026** and ends on **June 17, 2026.**
(You do not need to be a Noblesville resident as we welcome ball players from surrounding communities).

There will be two Leagues: 13-15 year old Competitive League and 16-18 year old Competitive League.

Both 13-15 League and 16-18 League will begin play on April 13, 2026. A double-elimination tournament will be played June 7-17, 2026.
**Note: Dates subject to change due to weather or unforeseen circumstances.*

Registration Fee: 2026 Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball registration fee is \$199 (plus processing fee applied at checkout) and includes team jersey and hat.

Player Evaluations: 13-15 year old players new to Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball or 13-15 year old players wishing to re-enter the team draft need to attend the player evaluation session scheduled for March 14, 2026 from 2 pm-4 pm at Noblesville High School. **More details to be provided at a later date.*

Register today at:
noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.sportsengine-prelive.com

Interested in supporting our young men and helping with continued upgrades to our facility? Sponsor opportunities are still available!
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