

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Proverbs 3: 5-6

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.



It's Friday the 13th again! Forget superstition! This is going to be a good day, dagnab it!

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

Known for timeless hits like "Sailing" and "Ride Like the Wind," singer, songwriter and guitarist Christopher Cross will make his debut appearance at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in June. The performance is set for 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 21, at the Payne & Mencias Palladium, 1 Carter Green, Carmel. Tickets starting at \$35 are available at TheCenterPresents.org, by phone at (317) 843-3800, or in person at the Payne & Mencias Palladium's Fifth Third Bank Box Office. The concert is part of the Printing Partners Encore Series and the 2025-2026 Center Presents Season sponsored by Allied Solutions.

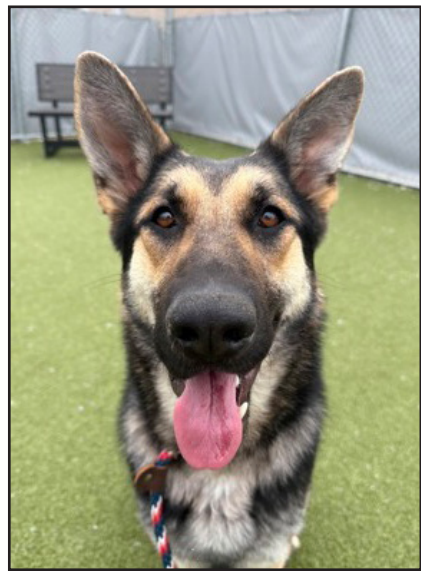
■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant."
Anne Bradstreet

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What is the easiest way to burn 1000 calories?
Leave the pizza in the oven.

■ ADOPT A PET CLAIRE



Claire is a young and energetic pup with a zest for life and a love of playtime. This 2-year-old female German Shepherd has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 1/18/26. She is a playful companion who's always ready to chase after her favorite toys or enjoy a peanut butter treat, and she's eager to start her next chapter with someone who can show her the ropes of being a loyal house pet. To meet Claire, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt, then stop by HSHC anytime 12-5 PM daily (closed Wednesday).



The TIMES

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BOOMER BITS... Tips and Advice from Boomers to Boomers Why Is My SS Retirement Benefit So Small?

Dear Rusty: Can you help me understand? I have paid into Social Security since I started working in 1978. I did have a lot of tax deductions, but I don't understand why I only receive \$350 a month from Social Security.

Signed: Befuddled Senior



ASK RUSTY

Social Security Advisor

Dear Befuddled Senior:

Your Social Security benefit is based upon your average monthly earnings for the 35 years over your lifetime that you earned the most while contributing to the Social Security program (however, your benefit isn't based on your contributions to SS). Your average lifetime earnings amount is called your "AIME" or "Average Indexed Monthly Earnings," which are adjusted for inflation for years

before you turn 60. Your earnings (your net earnings if self-employed) are provided to the SSA by the IRS. Your average lifetime earnings number (your "AIME") is subjected to a formula which calculates your "Primary Insurance Amount" or "PIA," which is the SS benefit you receive if you start benefits in the month you reach your full retirement age. Your personal full retirement age (FRA) depends on the year

you were born which, if you were born in 1960 or later, is age 67. However, if you claim Social Security before reaching your FRA, you will get only a percentage of your PIA (reduced from what you would get if you claimed at your FRA).

For example, if you claimed at age 62, you would only get 70% of the amount you would have gotten had you waited until

See Rusty Page 3

IRS Releases Dirty Dozen Tax Scams for 2026

The Internal Revenue Service recently announced its annual Dirty Dozen list of tax scams for 2026 that threaten the tax and financial information of taxpayers, businesses, and tax professionals.

The Dirty Dozen is part of a broader campaign conducted through the Security Summit, a partnership among the IRS, state tax agencies, and the nation's tax industry, and reinforced by outreach efforts tied to National Slam the Scam Day on March 5. These initiatives educate taxpayers about identity theft schemes and other forms of fraud, particularly during filing season.

"Today, Slam the Scam Day, provides a great opportunity to remind everyone to remain

vigilant and watch out for scams because thieves continuously adjust the pitches they use to take advantage of honest taxpayers," said IRS Chief

watch out for."

A notable change to this year's list is the addition of abusive undistributed long-term capital gains claims as item #6,

replacing prior fuel tax credit concerns, as the IRS sees an increase in overstated or fabricated claims tied to Form 2439, Notice to Shareholder of Undistributed Long-Term Capital Gains. The IRS advises all taxpayers to remain cautious year-round, as criminals will always be on the lookout for new ways to obtain money, personal identifiable information, and

data.
The 2026 Dirty Dozen: 12 key scams to watch for

See Scams Page 5

How to protect yourself and what to do if you get a suspicious message or call

Don't click unexpected links or open unexpected attachments. If you get a suspicious IRS-related call, hang up. The IRS provides guidance on what to do next, including how to report scams. To report suspected IRS-related phishing emails or messages, send them to phishing@irs.gov and follow IRS reporting instructions. If you think your tax identity has been compromised, visit IRS.gov/idtheft for steps to protect your account and recover.

Executive Officer Frank J. Bisignano. "For more than two decades, the IRS has used the Dirty Dozen list to flag emerging scams that taxpayers should

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. INDOT has activated its worksite speed control pilot program, known as Safe Zones, in Hancock and Jasper counties. Starting on March 23, Safe Zones enforcement will resume in the I-70 construction zone between mile markers 104.9 and 109 in Hancock County near Greenfield. Also on March 23, Safe Zones enforcement will begin on I-65 between mile markers 210 and 219 in Jasper County near Rensselaer. The program is currently active and will continue in the Clear Path I-465/I-69 work zone on the northeast side of Indianapolis. Once active, vehicles traveling 11 mph or more over the posted speed limit will receive a violation notice via mail. The first violation results in a zero-fine warning, followed by a \$75 civil fine for second violations, and a \$150 civil fine for third and subsequent violations.

2. With rising prices all around, Kroger is offering a little relief. The grocery giant is having Customer Appreciation Week from now through March 17. Shoppers can enjoy the low prices on seasonal favorites and great deals on Kroger's Our Brands favorites and popular national brands across the store. In addition to great savings, each day from March 11-17, Kroger will reveal new Daily Deal Drops, available to clip for one day only at Kroger.com, the Kroger app or by requesting the discount at checkout through March 17. All offers must be redeemed by March 20. Visit kroger.com/appreciation to learn more. Daily Deal Drops will remain a surprise until the day-of.

3. OK, good, bad or indifferent we're all adjusted to springing forward earlier this week. But did you use the opportunity to replace the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors? Our friends at CenterPoint remind us that with spring approaching, customers can also use this season reminder to perform energy saving and safety tasks around the home, such as: Changing filters in HVAC systems, cleaning dryer vents, sealing air leaks by caulking and weather stripping, installing hot water saving measures and checking and restocking emergency kits. Daylight Saving Time is a great reminder to check that emergency supplies are up to date. For additional efficiency tips, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/SavingsTips.

AARP Indiana Applauds Law Protecting from Crypto Kiosk Scams



AARP Indiana expressed its support for Gov. Mike Braun's signing of House Enrolled Act 1116 (HEA 1116), landmark legislation designed to protect Hoosiers from cryptocurrency kiosk scams.

Cryptocurrency kiosks, also known as "crypto ATMs," can be found in supermarkets, convenience stores, and gas stations. Today, there are more than 45,000 crypto ATMs nationwide, with nearly 900 located across the state. Increasingly, criminals have been using the machines to quickly extract money from their victims, who disproportionately are older adults.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) 2025 Annual Report, fraudsters used virtual currency kiosks to steal more than \$333 million in 2025 alone. These financial losses are mounting, and many incidents go unreported.

HEA 1116 bans the operation of these machines in Indiana, representing a major step forward in consumer protection.

"Indiana families deserve strong protections from fraud, especially as criminals adapt their tactics to new technologies," said Ambre Marr, AARP Indiana Legislative Director.

"When it comes to these kiosks, Indiana now has the strongest protections in the country. We greatly appreciate the work of Rep. Wendy McNamara, Sen. Scott Baldwin, and the rest of the Indiana General Assembly for their commitment to making it harder for scammers to take advantage of Hoosiers, and we want to thank Governor Braun for signing the bill into law.

"This legislation also wouldn't have been possible without the local work of Sergeant Detective Nathan VanCleave of the Evansville Police Department and the Evansville City Council. The 2025 ordinance that the city passed played a key role in building momentum for this statewide law."

To learn more about AARP Indiana's work across the state, visit aarp.org/IN, and for more information about AARP Fraud Watch Network, visit aarp.org/fraudwatch.

About AARP Indiana
AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to

See AARP Page 3

The TIMES

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Spring Native Plant Kit Sale Coming

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District announced the launch of its Spring Native Plant Kit Sale, offering residents an accessible way to establish beautiful native landscapes, support pollinators and wildlife, and enhance watershed health across Hamilton County. Native Indiana plant kits take the guesswork out of creating vibrant ecosystems and provide a curated mix of tried-and-true species suited to a range of yard conditions.

What's Available:

- Multiple native plant kits — each containing 50 plant plugs tailored for specific garden types (e.g., prairie, rain garden, shade garden, monarch-friendly, basic prairie)
- \$165 per kit plus

tax

- Pre-order deadline: March 31
 - Pick-up: First week of June in Noblesville
- How to Participate:
- Visit the SWCD's online store to order plant kits.
 - Pre-order early — kits can sell out as demand grows.
 - Payment can be made online, or by calling the SWCD office if you prefer to use cash or check.

This annual fundraiser supports the SWCD's mission to advance conservation, educate the community, and reinvest in local environmental stewardship. Funds raised help expand educational programs, shore up water quality efforts, and support future restoration projects throughout the county.

CSO Welcomes Spring with Nordic Nights

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra is excited to welcome spring with a fresh program of classical masterworks. CSO's Nordic Nights, sponsored by Pedcor Companies, will take place Saturday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Payne & Mencias Palladium at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts. The symphony will be under the direction of Conductor Kelly Kuo.

The program includes pieces by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. His Karelia Suite opens the program and personifies

the beauty of Finnish folk themes. This piece was inspired by his honeymoon to Karelia and remains one of his most beloved works.

Enhancing this program is Thomas Adès' Air – Homage to Sibelius. This is another work with organic and expanding themes, featuring a solo on violin by CSO's concertmaster, Davis Brooks.

Rounding out the program will be Sibelius' Symphony No. 2, op. 43, written during his time in Italy. The boisterous ending to the Second Symphony elicited a



Kelly Kuo



Davis Brooks

positive response from the general public. Finns nicknamed the work "Symphony of Independence" as the ending bore a triumphant tone which gave them hope for their future as an independent nation.

To select your seats, contact the Fifth Third Bank Box Office at (317) 843-3800 or this link: <https://thecenterpresents.org/tickets-events/events/2526/resident-companies/cso-nordic-nights/>

Councilman Mark Hall Shares February Details

Welcome to the Timesheet. This column is a report of work done on behalf of the people of Hamilton County. It's to be informative too, a place to learn about projects and how our county government works.

As your employee, it is important that you know what is being worked on as transparently as is possible in county government. You hired me as your County Councilman, and my hope is that you will choose to be informed by regularly reading this column, getting involved, consider volunteering, and by asking questions. Council meetings are at 7:00 PM the first Wednesday of every month at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center in downtown Noblesville. Meetings are also available to watch online for those unable to attend in person. Here is where my time this past month has been spent.

In addition to the County Council public meetings, February work included: watching Board of Commissioners' public meetings, meeting with the interim CEO of Riverview from Parkview Health, a review of the Council web site updates, a meeting with Carmel City Council member Rich Taylor, a meeting with Jackson Township Board candidate Eric Scherer and a Council Caucus session.

The in-person February personnel committee meeting was cancelled in lieu of a poll of the voting committee members. The poll addressed five position requests for reclassification from the Auditors department and one reclassification from the Community Corrections department.

All requests were approved after committee members reviewed the supporting documentation which included studies from our outside vendor. Interestingly, one reclassification resulting in an expense reduction of over seven thousand dollars. The requests were moved on to the full council for a final approval vote. The finance committee did not meet this past month. The insurance committee did not meet this past month.

During February I received eight constit-

uent service requests and communications. Several families living near the intersection of Pleasant Street and Cherry Tree Road contacted me regarding the speed limit along Cherry Tree Road and its intersection with the new Pleasant Street Parkway. After driving through the area myself, I contacted Brad Davis of the Highway Department to discuss both issues. The area is on a list of county roads that will undergo a formal speed test. There are no immediate plans to resurface Cherry Tree that I could discover (city of Noblesville or Hamilton County).

A constituent reached out asking me a question about the HCRUD (Hamilton County Regional Utility District). He was under the impression that the county was spending fifty thousand dollars a month on dog food using it as a biological agent in the facility while HCRUD awaits enough connections to no longer need any additive. After researching the question and speaking with the Auditors office to verify expenses and with the head of the HCRUD, the county is using an additive named Smart B.O.D. which is used to feed and support the biological floc (biomass in activated sludge systems). For 2025 and so far in 2026 the district has spent \$18,600 in total.

Another constituent reached out asking if he could connect to the HCRUD. After researching the location, I connected him to the head of the Utility District where

Mark Hall

Hamilton County
Councilman
The Timesheet



they planned for his connection as the lines come through his area.

A family reached out asking for advice on an issue with their HOA. They feel as though their HOA was selectively enforcing rules rather than universally applying them to all homeowners in their Noblesville neighborhood. Specifically, they asked about county or city zoning overriding the HOA and about litigation.

Lastly, it was an honor to represent you this month at the Pizza and Punchlines event produced by Crossroads Church.

Of special note this month was the briefing that council received from John Bowen, the interim CEO of Riverview Health. As a reminder, the county purchased property from Riverview for seventeen million dollars and created a secured debt refinance package that allowed Riverview Health to continue operations. Turning around a county hospital is an enormous challenge and I'm happy to report that the new leadership has made and continues to make substantive improvements to operations, personnel, reimbursements and processes. As my grandpa used to say, "it ain't soup yet", but I can tell you that the changes made

so far have the confidence of many that the team brought in from Parkview to consult is well on the way to ensuring Riverview will be healthy for a long time to come.

This is my time sheet. This is where my time went during February 2025. While my job is primarily the financial oversight of the county budget, it is important that I understand the Board of Commissioners' priorities and balance them with the stewardship of taxpayer dollars. That is the job, and I am excited to do the people's business.

As a taxpayer myself, and listening to so many of you, our employers, it is important for the taxpayers to have access to all the information you want. I work for you and although you may not choose to do a deep dive into what your County Council does, it is important that you can always do so. Feel free to contact me at (317) 832-1104 or mark.hall@hamiltoncounty.in.gov with questions, feedback or if you would like to talk about county business.

Mark Hall is a Hamilton County Councilman and the Founder and CEO of TLX, Talent Logistix. He writes a monthly column in The Times detailing his work as a county councilman.

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Westfield Firms Up Plans for Ice Hockey Facility

The City of Westfield recently announced it has selected Nicholas Family of Companies as the selected offeror for a new ice hockey facility in the Grand Park District, pending final contract negotiations. The project evaluation committee will provide the recommendation to the Westfield Redevelopment Commission for consideration as the City's next step in the public process.

The facility is planned to include three ice sheets, with the ability to expand to four in the future. Envisioned as a primary winter attraction to complement Grand Park's seasonality and promote year-round economic activity, the facility is expected to be a highly desirable destination for ice hockey tournaments and other winter sporting events. Local programming will help build a pipeline of youth athletes and include classes, youth sports organizations, leagues, and public skating. The proposed location is at the northwest corner of Grand Park Boulevard and John Dippel Boulevard.

"We've built Grand Park into a destination, but visitation isn't the same year-round. That seasonality affects the hotels, restaurants, and shops

that serve visitors," said Mayor Scott Willis. "This ice hockey facility adds a winter anchor and helps us build a 365-day destination. More consistent activity makes it easier for businesses to succeed and encourages more growth around the district."

A June 2025 analysis by Hunden Partners estimates that over 30 years, the Westfield ice hockey facility could generate about \$498 million in new spending, \$220 million in new earnings, and more than 105 new full-time equivalent jobs, along with nearly \$8.7 million in County Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue.

In its proposal, Nicholas Family of Companies emphasized its hands-on, family-led approach and experience with similar ice facilities, including work in the Chicagoland market. The team described an approach that keeps design, construction, and early operations closely coordinated, giving the City a clear point of accountability. The emphasis on customer experience, hospitality, and single point of accountability were all primary factors in the selection of Nicholas to lead this project.

"Nicholas Family of Companies rose to the top of a list of highly qualified offerors, with



Illustration courtesy City of Westfield

Please note this is a conceptual rendering for illustrative purposes only.

their intentional focus on experience and relationships exhibiting a history of success within their current portfolio," says Jenell Fairman, Executive Chief of Economic and Community Development. "Their presence will establish a quality destination within the southern area of the Grand Park District, bringing a new level of hospitality to Westfield."

"We are honored to be selected by the City of Westfield for this transformational project within the Grand Park District," said Nick Papanicholas Jr., CEO and Managing Director for the Nicholas Family of Companies. "Our mission has always been to build

and invest in communities, and this facility represents far more than sheets of ice. It represents opportunity, economic impact, and a home for youth athletes and families year-round. What excites us most is the alignment between Westfield's long-term vision and our integrated, family-led

approach to design, construction, and operations. By keeping every phase closely coordinated under one accountable team, we can deliver not just a premier tournament destination, but a welcoming, hospitality-driven environment that serves local programming as powerfully as it attracts

regional and national events."

The Westfield Redevelopment Commission anticipates executing a contract to begin design and predevelopment with Nicholas in early April. Design is expected to commence immediately with an anticipated opening date in 2028.

Sheridan Launches Effort for First Art Alley

Sheridan Main Street, Inc., a 501(c)(3) Indiana Main Street, announces its next phase for investment in Sheridan's downtown, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The organization has qualified for a CreatINg Places grant that would provide \$100,000 to complete an Art Alley as a public space, enhancing the quality of life in our community.

The organization, in partnership with town leadership, is in year three of a matching grant facade program supporting the owners of 38 historic buildings. To date, \$800,000 has been invested in securing sustainability and protecting the historic integrity of those valued buildings. That work continues.

An extended phase for restoration of the Sheridan community is to enhance public

spaces and to connect our downtown with the northernmost trailhead on the popular Monon Trail through a stunningly unique Art Alley. The Art Alley will be located at 5th and Main between the Sheridan Fire Department and Keever's Hardware. The Alley is designed around a mural being developed in partnership with the Basile Center for Art, Design, and Public Life at the Herron School of Art. The mural will be enhanced by three arches, benches, and plantings to create a welcoming gathering space drawing visitors and residents to the heart of the community. The Art Alley isn't just about beautification; it's about preserving the history while remaining connected to a place where people want to gather, shop, and dine.

Enhancing public spaces in our community has always been at

the forefront of desired enhancements of the downtown area. The CreatINg Places grant works through a Patronicity crowdgranting process and with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA), assuring that the alley becomes a reality. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 so that we receive a matching \$50,000 from IHCDA. Giving levels are such that everyone can be a part of this exciting project.

Support this community-powered project and unlock the full match! Scan the QR code below or open Patronicity.com/SheridanArtAlley. Find your level of giving and give something to continue the transformation of Sheridan, the hometown we love.

Learn more about Sheridan Main Street, Inc. and its work, visit: www.sheridanmainstreet.org.

Flags Flying in Cicero, Thanks to Kiwanis

There are few sights more stirring than the American flag waving proudly in the morning breeze. It reminds us of who we are, what we stand for and the generations who built this nation. This year, as our country celebrates 250 years of independence, the Kiwanis Club of Cicero is inviting residents to show their patriotism in a meaningful way by joining the Avenue of Flags program.

The program is simple but powerful. On designated patriotic holidays (Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Patriot Day and Veterans Day), Kiwanis volunteers place a beautiful American flag in front of subscribers' homes and return a week later to respectfully collect it. The result is a breathtaking display of red, white and blue throughout the community, an "avenue" of flags that reminds everyone of the pride we share in our country.

But the Avenue of Flags is about more than patriotic spirit. Every subscription helps fund programs

that directly benefit children in our communities.

One of the most meaningful is the club's Books for a Bright Future program. Through this effort, every elementary school student in our communities receives a brand-new book to call their very own. For many children, it's the first book they've ever owned. The joy on their faces when they open that book is something Kiwanis members never forget. Reading is the foundation for learning, imagination, and opportunity. Thanks to the community's support of the Avenue of Flags, hundreds of local children are discovering the magic of reading.

And the Kiwanis Club has an even bigger dream.

With continued support from the community, the club hopes to expand the Books for a Bright Future program into the middle school, putting even more books into the hands of students who need them. Every flag subscription helps make

that goal possible.

That's why the Kiwanis Club has opened its second subscription opportunity for the Avenue of Flags program. The club hopes more residents will take part in this patriotic tradition, filling our neighborhoods with flags while investing in the future of our children.

Imagine driving through town on a summer holiday and seeing flag after flag lining the streets. It's more than decoration. It's a statement about who we are as a community, patriotic, generous, and committed to our children.

The Kiwanis Club of Cicero is inviting everyone to be part of that vision.

Subscribe to the Avenue of Flags today and help bring pride to our streets and books to our children.

Visit the Kiwanis Club of Cicero online and sign up for your flag subscription today. Your flag will stand as a symbol of patriotism, and a promise to the next generation: www.cicerokiwanis.org/programs/flags

RUSTY

Continued from Page 1 age 67, or if you claimed at age 63 you would get 75% of your age 67 benefit. The reduction is less as you get closer to your FRA; if you claimed at age 65, you'd get about 87% of your full retirement age amount.

You can see your lifetime Social Security earnings record at your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount (you will need to first create that

online account), or you can call Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 to request an "Earnings Statement" be sent to you. That statement will show your lifetime earnings by year, the 35 highest of which were used to calculate your PIA (your Social Security benefit at your FRA). Generally, your Social Security FRA benefit will be about 40% or less of your average indexed monthly earnings. So, to recap, your SS

retirement benefit isn't based on your contributions to the program; it's based on your average monthly lifetime earnings. If you had less than 35 years contributing to the program, SS would still use 35 years in the benefit formula by using zero dollars in earnings for some number of years, which would result in a smaller AIME. Thus, if you claimed before your full retirement age of 67, your SS benefit was reduced because

you claimed early. And if you had less than 35 years of SS-covered employment, your AIME was less, resulting in a smaller PIA. And that is likely why your monthly Social Security retirement benefit is low.

One other thought to consider: if you are married and your spouse's monthly SS benefit is considerably more than yours (e.g., more than twice as much as yours), you may want to explore your options for spouse

benefits.

I hope this explains how your SS benefit is calculated, but if you still question your monthly SS retirement amount, I suggest you first obtain your "Earnings Statement" to review the lifetime earnings SS has on file for you. If there are any discrepancies in your Social Security's earnings record, there are correction benefits available to you. If that is the case, please feel

free to contact us again for more information.

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Behind the Mic With Purdue Announcers Rob Blackman, Bobby Riddell



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

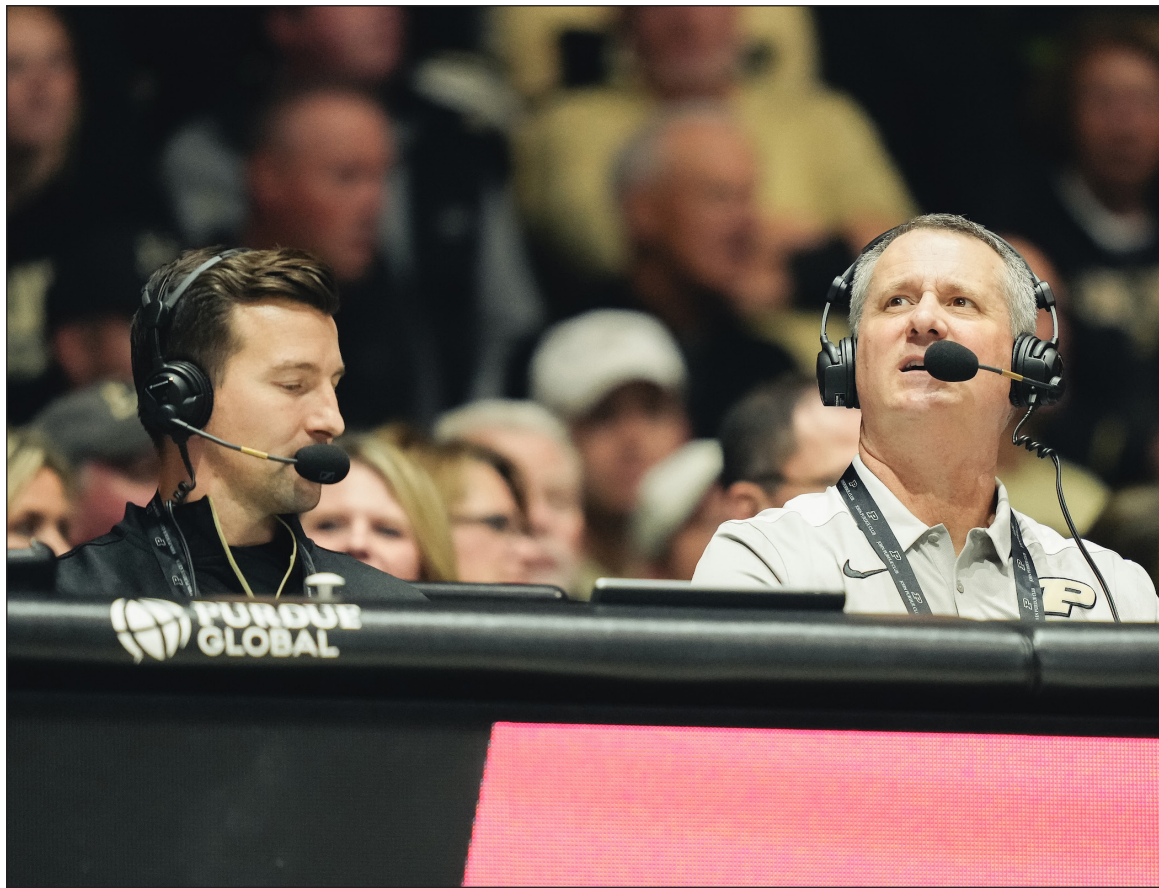


Photo courtesy Purdue Athletics
Bobby Riddell (left) and Rob Blackman are in their sixth season together calling Purdue men's basketball games.

Every play-by-play announcer dreams of a signature call. Think Al Michaels and the 1980 Olympic hockey semifinal between the U.S. and Soviet Union. “Do You Believe in Miracles? Yes!”

To this point in Rob Blackman's career with the Purdue Global Radio Network, his came on Easter Sunday in 2024 in Detroit during the final seconds of the Boilermakers' Elite Eight victory against Tennessee.

“And wouldn't you know it. On Resurrection Sunday, the Purdue Boilermakers have turned the doubters into believers. Believe this! For the first time since 1980, Purdue is headed back to the Final Four.”

In the aftermath of that moment, listeners asked Blackman if he prepared those remarks in advance.

“I've been asked that a lot and it's a 50-50,” Blackman said. “I did not prepare that word for word. I did, however, jot down a few notes in my hotel room the night before just in case Purdue did win I wanted to tie it into the fact that it was Easter Sunday. In my mind I had rehearsed a few different scenarios that I could somehow tie it into Easter Sunday and luckily for me it came out damn near perfect.”

In a radio career that dates to his days as a football player at the University of Evansville, the Purdue-Tennessee game remains Blackman's favorite broadcasting moment.

“I know that's the easy answer, but it's the answer,” Blackman said. “I know we talk about breaking glass ceilings but to finally get back to the Final Four. The other part of it is the team had just fallen flat on its face the year before in the NCAA Tournament. You had all these expectations and all these doubters out there ready to say ‘ha ha, we told you so. You can't win in the tournament.’ So many people were ready to say that.”

“Hopefully, that will move into second place one of these days.”

This interview with Blackman and radio partner Bobby Riddell took place before Purdue basketball skidded into the postseason with an unheard of five losses in Mackey Arena.

Blackman was thrust into the Purdue basketball play-by-play role when longtime voice Larry Clisby's ultimately fatal cancer battle took a turn for the worse in 2020. It's never easy replacing a legend, but fortunately for Blackman he had learned a lot from Clisby as his color analyst.

“To me, he was an icon in broadcasting,” Blackman said. “I grew up in Monticello. I was born in 1970, back then as you know it was antenna television. You had very few options, but Channel 18 was an option. I can remember ‘Cliz’ doing the sports anchoring on Channel 18. Then you add on top of that he's the voice of the Boilermakers, so anything related to Purdue or Lafayette sports had some kind of connection to Larry Clisby.”

“He's a childhood hero of mine and the next thing you know I'm working alongside the guy thinking to myself ‘how did this happen?’”

“His passion was so contagious. Some would argue over the top at times and that's a fair criticism. But look, there was never any doubt about where the Cliz stood on his thoughts about Purdue basketball. I think that's what endeared him so much to the fans. Purdue was his team and those were his guys. By God, he was going to make sure everyone listening knew that.”

Clisby's greatest lesson to Blackman had nothing to do with play-by-play techniques.

“One of the things, and he passed this along very early in our working relationship, was that you can't fool the fans,” Blackman said. “This is a lesson Cliz said coach Keady shared with him. Look, if we're playing poorly or badly, we being Purdue, then you need to let the fans know. Just as when we're playing well, playing at a high level, you need to let the fans know.”

It was a long path for Blackman from North White High School in Monon, Ind., to a prized seat in Mackey Arena. It was during his days at the University of Evansville that Blackman's passion for radio blossomed.

“At the time I wanted to be a disc jockey,” he said. “Evansville had a campus radio station at the time, they no longer do, so it was

a great opportunity. Once I was there they allowed the students to also broadcast some of the college's different sporting events. The announcing bug bit me. So I started to pigeon myself into that genre of broadcasting.”

After graduation, Blackman started out in Mount Carmel, Ill., calling high school and junior college games. A chance to call Division I football and basketball at Tennessee State and Lipscomb took Blackman to Nashville, Tenn. Moving back to Indiana with his wife in 2001, Blackman called Arena League football games and high school sports.

As sometimes is the case in life, who you know is as important as what you know. That's how Blackman ended up at Purdue.

“When I called Purdue I caught a major break,” Blackman said. “The guy who picked up the phone had been a college classmate of mine. He was running the network at the time.”

While his former college acquaintance didn't have a full-time position, Blackman was offered a role as a fill-in announcer.

“Luckily a full-time position opened up and somehow, some way a guy who grew up watching Larry Clisby on TV, figuring he was the coolest guy ever, was now working alongside him,” Blackman said.

In addition to Purdue basketball, Blackman has been a pit reporter for the past seven years on the Indianapolis 500 Radio Network.

When Blackman took over the play-by-play job, that opened a spot for Riddell, a former walk-on guard who had starred locally for Harrison High School.

Riddell's timing could not have been worse for someone learning the craft of broadcasting. Just weeks into his new role, the COVID-19 pandemic changed how Purdue games away from Mackey Arena would be broadcast.

But with Blackman's guidance, Riddell soon found himself comfortable in a role he never expected to fill.

“It couldn't have worked out any better for me starting out in this industry to have a guy like Rob who literally had my job alongside Larry Clisby all those years,” Riddell said. “He knows what it entails, and I was comfortable around him. There was definitely a lot of nerves from my end at the beginning. I love Purdue and stupidly was building it up as the biggest thing in the world and it's just calling a basketball game.”

Riddell had been working full-time at a tax and accounting firm in West Lafayette, Heman Lawson Hawks. It was the same firm Purdue coach Matt Painter and some members of his staff were using for their annual tax preparations. Riddell's boss at the time allowed him to take the lead role on those accounts.

“That probably helped keep me fresh on their minds compared to any other former player,” Riddell said when the color analyst role opened. “Thankfully, I was someone coach Painter thought of as a good option. It also worked out well that Rob Blackman and Wes Scott, who is our radio engineer, were both also on the radio team when I was a player so I had a relationship with those guys.”

Riddell is now employed by the Purdue Research Foundation, which allows

him to support a wife and four children.

“It's a dream side gig for someone like myself,” Riddell said of being a part of the Purdue Global Radio Network. “When you get done playing and you're not coaching, you miss that camaraderie when you are no longer part of a team. This has been the perfect amount to scratch that itch and it still allows me to have that good work/life balance. I can be a good husband and father, focus on my day job – the one that pays the bills – with the Purdue Research Foundation. I'm a father of four now, I have three older boys and a daughter who is one-and-a-half. The job doesn't pull me too much away except for these little hiatuses to Piscataway, N.J.”

Like Blackman, Riddell says his best basketball moment as an announcer came in Detroit.

“That was incredible,” he said. “As someone who bleeds gold and black, it was such a surreal moment to witness Purdue go to the Final Four and be on the broadcast for it.”

“Rob Blackman just totally knocked it out of the park with his closing of Purdue going to the Final Four. I was so nervous and wanted Purdue to win I could never get myself to say ‘if Purdue wins is there something cool I should say on the broadcast?’ Rob had that awesome close and he came to me. I was like, oh I should talk now and say something great. Off the top of my head I rattled off something excited. It was a dream-come-true moment.”

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.

Park, Bike or Ride: Travel Options for Indy 500 Race Day

Race Day parking and camping at Indianapolis Motor Speedway are sold out for the 110th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge almost a month ahead of last year, another indication of a historic crowd anticipated for Sunday, May 24.

With phenomenal Race Day ticket sales trending ahead of 2025, when all reserved seating sold out, fans should remember to plan ahead and arrive early for “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing.”

“The momentum

continues to build as we lead into the 110th Running of the Indianapolis 500, and the fans who make this event so special are once again going to make the race the world's largest single-day sporting event,” IMS and INDYCAR President J. Douglas Boles said. “Even though IMS parking is sold out, there are still many great options, including our shuttles and one of the great Race Day traditions of parking – in the yards and driveways of so many Town of Speedway

residents.”

Alternative options for fans to ensure a successful Race Day experience include the following:

Speedway and Neighborhood Parking

A significant number of fans have made it a tradition to park in the areas surrounding IMS. The residents and businesses of Speedway and other communities welcome these visitors and open their yards and lots to those looking for alternate parking options. This Hoosier hospitality

is key to hosting the world's largest single-day sporting event at the Racing Capital of the World.

Bike to the 500 and Bike Parking

The BodyArmor Flash I.V. Bike to the 500 presented by Central Indiana Cycling is back for its 11th year, offering race fans a safe and healthy way to commute to the track on Race Day. The escorted, 5-mile commute starts at the AMP at 16 Tech, and riders can choose from two departure times, 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. ET.

Cyclists will then park outside the famed Gate 1 at IMS.

Central Indiana Cycling will offer a limited number of pre-sold and on-site valet bike options at Gate 1 and 2 for those not participating in Bike to the 500.

Bike parking is available for all cyclists at Gates 1, 6 and 9.

Rideshares

Race fans who are not planning to park at the track should consider using a rideshare service, such as Uber or Lyft, when traveling to or from the facility on

Race Day. Guests using rideshare services like Uber, Lyft or taxis will be dropped off at the corner of 10th and Polco Streets. Guests also will be picked up at this location after the race.

Race Day Shuttles

IMS also offers a round-trip shuttle service for fans. The school busses depart from either the Indianapolis International Airport or downtown Indianapolis locations and arrive at the Main Gate parking lot (between Oval Turns 1 and 2) located across from Gate 2 on 16th Street.

SCAMS

Continued from Page 1

1. IRS impersonation by email and text (phishing + smishing). Scammers send emails, direct messages (DMs), and texts that appear to be from the IRS, often using alarming language and QR codes that direct taxpayers to fake IRS websites to “verify” accounts, enter personal information, or claim refunds. The IRS urges taxpayers not to click links or open attachments from unexpected messages and to report suspicious IRS-related emails, DMs, and texts. The IRS reported over 600 social media impersonators during fiscal year 2025.

As a reminder, never click any unsolicited communication claiming to be from the IRS, as it may install malware surreptitiously. These links may install malicious software, including ransomware, on a taxpayer’s personal device, potentially preventing access to their files or personal information.

2. AI-enabled IRS impersonation by phone (robocalls, voice mimicry, spoofed caller ID). Phone scams continue to evolve, including calls that use computer-generated tactics and spoofed caller ID to appear legitimate. The IRS reminds taxpayers that it generally contacts taxpayers by mail first and does not leave urgent, threatening prerecorded messages, call to demand immediate payment, or threaten arrest. Taxpayers should not rely on AI-generated responses to complex tax questions, and they should verify any calculations or information provided by artificial intelligence.

3. Fake charities. Fraudsters often exploit tragedies and disasters by creating fake charities to collect donations and personal information. The IRS is committed to preventing fraudulent nonprofits from taking advantage of the American taxpayer.

Taxpayers who give money or goods to a charity may be able to claim a deduction on their federal tax return if they itemize deductions, but charitable donations only count if they go to a qualified tax-exempt organization recognized by the IRS.

4. Misleading tax advice on social media. Viral “tax hacks” can push taxpayers to file returns with false information or claim credits they don’t qualify for, leading to refund delays, audits, penalties, or worse. The IRS continues to warn that social media-driven misinformation and disinformation remain a major driver of tax scams. The IRS and the Coalition Against Scam and Scheme Threats warn taxpayers not to fall for these scams, and urge them to follow trusted advice from the IRS, tax professionals, and other reputable sources. The IRS reminds taxpayers who knowingly file fraudulent tax returns that they could

potentially face significant civil and criminal penalties.

5. Identity theft involving IRS Online Account access. Criminals may attempt to use stolen personal information to gain unauthorized access to a taxpayer’s IRS online account or may pose as

contribution schemes. Some schemes involve inflated appraisals of donated property using syndicated conservation easements or art. Promoters often promise to eliminate or substantially reduce tax liability. The IRS warns taxpayers not to file

returns with made-up information and reminds taxpayers that it can hold refunds while verifying claims.

10. Overstated withholding schemes (fabricated wage/withholding

Report abusive tax schemes and suspicious activity

The IRS encourages taxpayers, tax professionals, and the public to report suspected tax fraud, scams, identity theft, or other tax-related wrongdoing by visiting IRS.gov/SubmitATip. The new online tool allows individuals to confidentially submit information using a smartphone, tablet, or computer. It consolidates IRS fraud-reporting options into one location and routes tips to the appropriate IRS office. Prompt reporting helps protect taxpayers and quickly stop abusive activity.

helpers to collect sensitive information during account setup. Taxpayers should create their account directly through IRS.gov and should not rely on unsolicited third parties offering assistance. The IRS provides official guidance to help taxpayers securely establish and protect their accounts.

6. Abusive undistributed long-term capital gains claims. The IRS identified an increase in the abuse of Form 2439. This form allows shareholders of certain investment funds or real estate trusts to claim a refundable credit for taxes paid on undistributed capital gains. Identified schemes involve overstated or fabricated Form 2439 claims, including claims tied to organizations that are not legitimate investment funds or real estate trusts. The IRS has also seen fake claims falsely linked to real, well-known organizations. Improper claims may result in refund delays, audits, penalties, or enforcement action.

7. Bogus “Self-Employment Tax Credit” promotion. Scammers use misleading claims about a broad “self-employment tax credit” to encourage inaccurate filings and generate improper refunds. The IRS reminds taxpayers to rely on trusted sources and qualified tax professionals, not social media promotions, when determining eligibility for credits. Many taxpayers do not qualify for these credits, and the IRS is closely reviewing claims coming in under this provision, so taxpayers filing claims do so at their own risk.

8. Ghost preparers. A “ghost” preparer prepares a return but refuses to sign it and/or refuses to include a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN). When a preparer refuses to sign or provide a PTIN, that is a major red flag; the taxpayer is legally responsible for what is filed. The IRS urges taxpayers to avoid preparers who will not sign the return and to choose reputable help. Taxpayers should never sign a blank or incomplete return. Instead, the IRS reminds taxpayers to use a trusted tax professional for help.

9. Non-cash charitable

data). Scammers encourage taxpayers to inflate withholding amounts (sometimes described as “other withholding”) to manufacture a larger refund by reporting zero or little income on incorrect forms. The IRS may delay processing while it verifies wages and withholding against third-party records. Inaccurate claims can lead to penalties and enforcement action. There are multiple variations of the overstated withholding credit scheme, including those involving Forms W-2 and W-2G; Forms 1099-R, 1099-NEC, 1099-DIV, 1099-OID, and 1099-B, as well as the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend, Schedule K-1 with Withholding Reported, and Unspecified Source of Withholding Credit Claimed.

11. Spear-phishing and malware campaigns targeting tax professionals. Tax professionals and businesses remain targets of “new client” or “document request” emails that deliver malicious links or attachments to steal client data or access systems. The IRS and the Security Summit urge preparers to remain vigilant and to strengthen their security practices. Businesses and individuals, including tax pros, should always be cautious and look out for any suspicious requests or unusual behavior before sharing any sensitive information or responding to an email. Warning signs may include unexpected requests for sensitive information, mismatched or unfamiliar sender addresses, urgent payment demands, or links directing users to websites that do not clearly originate from IRS.gov. Be aware that by gaining access to a hacked email account, scammers can locate a genuine email from a previous victim’s email account sent to their tax professional.

12. Aggressive or misleading Offer in Compromise marketing (“OIC mills”). The Offer in Compromise program can help certain eligible taxpayers resolve tax debt when they are unable to pay in full, but “OIC mills” often overpromise results and charge high fees to taxpayers who don’t qualify. Taxpayers can check eligibility using free IRS tools to avoid high-pressure sales tactics.

Humane Society Dedicates March to Restoring American Pit Bull Terrier’s Reputation



Photo courtesy Hamilton County Humane Society
The American Pit Bull Terrier was chosen to embody the strength and loyalty of America’s military during the World Wars.

Every March, HSHC hosts Pit Bull Education Month, a campaign that touches every aspect of HSHC’s mission - saving lives, educating communities, and completing families. “Pit Bulls” have faced going on four decades of stigmatization, discrimination, and, in many cases, unthinkable abuse. HSHC’s social media outreach this month will share the facts vs. fiction when it comes to proving these dogs, once considered “America’s Dog,” still deserve to be.

“Every day, our front desk staff are faced with more and more visitors requesting to see any dog except a pit bull,” said Emma Nobby, Community Engagement Manager. “Most of these folks have never actually met a pit bull, but rather, have been negatively influenced by inaccurate media reporting and a lack of understanding about the dozens of dog breeds, let alone mixes thereof, who have similar physical characteristics to the American Pit Bull Terrier.”

That’s why HSHC is dedicating the month of March to educating the community about the history of the American Pit Bull Terrier, and how the breed, whose image was chosen to embody the strength and loyalty of America’s military during the World Wars, has since fallen from grace. In fact, these dogs arrived in America with settlers in the 1800’s and were revered as ideal family and working dogs. The American Pit Bull Terrier became a popular part of American culture and a beloved pet of famous figures like Teddy Roosevelt and Helen Keller.

Because the American Pit Bull Terrier and so many of their “bully breed” brothers and sisters have been catapulted to the wrong kind of fame over the last 40 years due to dog fighting, backyard breeding, and relentless breed misidentification by law enforcement and the media reports, they comprise the majority of dogs waiting, and dying, for someone to love in U.S. shelters.

“As with any dog breed, ‘pit bulls’ aren’t for everyone,” said Re-

becca Stevens, president and CEO of HSHC. “But after 20 years of working with tens of thousands of dogs, the majority of whom have been what people call ‘pit bulls,’ there is no more loving, loyal, abused, and forgiving breed on the planet.”

HSHC invites the community to visit their website’s Pit Bull Education page—or even better—visit in person. “If you’re unsure about these dogs, but you’re willing to consider a different perspective, it would be my honor to personally connect with you,” added Stevens. “The only way we can save the lives of the dogs waiting longer, and giving up faster than our hearts can take, is if we can open more minds.” If you have an interest in learning more about the breed, Stevens can be contacted at ceo@hamiltonhumane.com.

As an incentive to adopt a “pit bull,” J.C. Hart Apartment Communities, which proudly welcomes “bully breed” dogs into their communities, and PODS Moving and Storage, are sponsoring \$17 adoption fees for eligible dogs* all month.

HSHC adoption fees include the spay/neuter surgery, microchip, and age-appropriate vaccinations, as well as a complimentary wellness exam with a participating veterinarian, a free bag of food, and exclusive discounts from dozens of our sponsors.

To see the list of dogs available for adoption, visit our adoptable dog page at: <https://www.hamiltonhumane.com/adopt/dogs>. We encourage anyone interested in adopting a dog, or learning more about “pit bulls,” to visit us during adoption hours--12 pm to 5 pm, every day except Wednesdays, which is by appointment only. Please contact Stacy Clark at adoptionprograms@hamiltonhumane.com for a match-making appointment.

Can’t adopt but still want to help? Please consider donating at <https://www.hamiltonhumane.com/pit-bulldonate> in honor of the dozens of Pit Bulls at HSHC in need of an angel.

*Exclusions apply to puppies 6 months and younger.

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AG's Office Lists Nearly 50 Items Recalled in February

Attorney General Todd Rokita today alerted Hoosiers to a surge in consumer safety threats, with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announcing nearly 50 products recalls in February — many involving children's toys, clothing, furniture, baby products, and household items that pose choking, burns, drowning, poisoning, and other serious risks.

“Hoosiers deserve protection from faulty products — especially when they put our children at risk,” Attorney General Rokita said. “If you own any of these recalled items, stop using them immediately and contact the manufacturer for a refund, repair, or replacement.”

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports the following products were recalled in February:

Clothing:

HALO Dream Recalls Magic Sleepsuits Due to Choking Hazard: The zipper head can detach from certain sleepsuits, posing a choking hazard to infants.

Unique Brands Com Recalls Forever 21 Pajama Pants Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Burn Hazard; Violates Mandatory Flammability Standards for Children's Sleepwear: The recalled children's pajama pants violate the mandatory standards for flammability of children's sleepwear, posing a burn hazard and risk of serious injury or death to children.

Meijer Recalls Lullaby Lane and MCS Children's Sleepwear Due to Burn Hazard; Violates Mandatory Standard for Children's Sleepwear: The recalled sleepwear violates the mandatory flammability standard for children's sleepwear, posing a risk of burn injuries to children.

Dresbe LED Christmas Headbands Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violate Mandatory Standard for Consumer Products with Button Cell Batteries: The recalled headbands violate the mandatory standard for consumer products with button cell and coin batteries because the button cell batteries in the headbands can be accessed easily by children, posing an ingestion hazard. Additionally, the packaging and product do not have the warnings required under Reese's Law. When button cell or coin batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, internal chemical burns, and death.

Lola Plus The Boys Recalls Youth Clothing with Drawstrings Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Strangulation Hazard; Violates Federal Rule for Children's Upper Outerwear: The drawstrings in the recalled clothing can get caught on objects and cause death or serious injury to children due to the strangulation hazard. The clothes are in violation of the federal rule for children's upper outerwear and present a substantial product hazard.

Health and Beauty Products:

Tomum Minoxidil Hair Serum Spray Bottles Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Child Poisoning; Violates Mandatory Standard for Child-Resistant Packaging; Distributed by Belleka: The hair serum contains minoxidil, which must be in child-resistant packaging as required by the Poison Prevention Packaging Act. The hair serum's bottles are not child-resistant, posing a risk of serious injury or death from poisoning if the

contents are swallowed by young children.

Zan International Trading Recalls Lotus Joy Sweet Birch Essential Oil Bottles Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Child Poisoning; Violates Mandatory Standard for Child-Resistant Packaging: The essential oil bottles contain methyl salicylate, which must be in child-resistant packaging, as required by the Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA). The bottles are not child-resistant, posing a risk of poisoning if the contents are swallowed by young children.

Organic Zing Birch Essential Oil Bottles Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Child Poisoning; Violates Mandatory Standard for Child-Resistant Packaging; Sold on Amazon by Linkers: The essential oil bottles contain methyl salicylate, which must be in child-resistant packaging, as required by the Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA). The bottles for the products are not child-resistant, posing a risk of poisoning if the contents are swallowed by young children.

Toys:

Cubimana Island Storm 3 In 1 Building Sets Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violates Mandatory Standard for Toys; Sold on Amazon by RBS Toys: The Island Storm Building Sets violate the mandatory safety standard for toys because the battery compartment within the LED light piece contains button cell batteries that can be easily accessed by children. When button cell or coin batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, internal chemical burns and death.

The KiddoSpace Recalls Peg Doll Children's Toys Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Choking Hazard; Violate Small Parts Ban: The recalled toys are intended for children under three years old and the toy's peg dolls can block a child's airway, which violates the small parts ban, posing a risk of choking and death to children.

The KiddoSpace Recalls Children's Flashcard Talking Toys Due to Risk of Injury from Lead and Phthalate Exposure; Violates Federal Lead Content and Phthalates Bans and Standard for Toys: The recalled children's flashcard toy sets contain levels of lead that exceed the federal lead content ban and levels of phthalates that exceed the federal phthalates ban. Lead and phthalates are toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health issues. In addition, the flashcards also violate the mandatory standard for toys because they fail to comply with the short-circuit protection requirement for battery-operated toys.

Surreal Brands Recalls Children's Tubby Tots Fizzy Flask Bath Magic Bath Foam Sets Due to Impact Hazard: Moisture trapped inside the bath foam set container can cause pressure to build up, allowing pieces to be forcefully ejected when opened, posing an impact hazard.

The KiddoSpace Recalls Children's Sensory Swing Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Strangulation: The recalled swing's flexible fabric can form loops that can entangle a child's head or neck, posing a risk of serious injury or death from strangulation.

Magnetic Chess Games Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Magnet Ingestion; Vi-

olates Mandatory Standard for Toys; Sold on Amazon by Kaiwenshangpin: The recalled magnetic chess games violate the mandatory standard for toys because they contain loose magnets posing an ingestion hazard to children. When high-powered magnets are swallowed, the ingested magnets can attract each other, or other metal objects, and become lodged in the digestive system. This can result in perforations, twisting, and/or blockage of the intestines, blood poisoning and death.

Zelbuck Children's Chess Games Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Magnet Ingestion; Violate Mandatory Standard for Toys; Sold on Amazon by n b plus: The recalled children's chess games violate the mandatory standard for toys because they contain loose magnets posing an ingestion hazard to children. When high-powered magnets are swallowed, they can attract each other, or other metal objects, and become lodged in the digestive system. This can result in perforations, twisting, and/or blockage of the intestines, blood poisoning and death.

The KiddoSpace Recalls LED Soccer Hover Balls Due to Serious Risk of Injury from Burn Hazard; Violates Mandatory Standard for Toys: The surface temperature of the recalled toys' batteries exceeds the allowable limit, which violates the standard for toys, posing a risk of burn injuries.

The KiddoSpace Recalls Children's Story Books Due to Choking Hazard: The recalled book's felt parts can detach, posing a choking hazard.

Grtard Magnetic Stick Figure Toy Sets Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Magnet Ingestion; Violates Mandatory Standard for Toys: The magnetic stick figure toy sets violate the mandatory standard for toys because they contain loose magnets, posing an ingestion hazard to children. When high-powered magnets are swallowed, the ingested magnets can attract each other, or other metal objects, and become lodged in the digestive system. This can result in perforations, twisting, and/or blockage of the intestines, blood poisoning and death.

The KiddoSpace Recalls Children's Handwriting Practice Kits Due to Risk of Injury from Lead Exposure; Violates Federal Lead Content Ban: The pens in the recalled children's handwriting kits contain levels of lead in the nib that exceed the federal lead content ban. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health issues.

The KiddoSpace Recalls Reusable Water Balloons Due to Risk of Injury from Phthalate Exposure; Violate Federal Phthalates Ban: The cord lock on the recalled water balloons' storage bags contains a regulated phthalate, which violates the federal phthalate ban. Phthalates are toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects.

The KiddoSpace Recalls Children's Fingerpainting Kits Due to Risk of Injury from Hazardous Substances and Phthalate Exposure; Violates Federal Hazardous Substances Act and Phthalates Ban: The recalled children's fingerpainting kits contain the hazardous substances methanol and ethylene glycol and are intended for children under 12 years of age, which violates the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. The

products also contain a regulated phthalate, which violates the federal phthalate ban; phthalates are toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects.

The KiddoSpace Recalls Children's Christmas Tree Play Sets Due to Risk of Injury from Lead Exposure; Violates Federal Lead Content Ban and Mandatory Standard for Toys: The zipper pull on the music box compartment of the recalled Christmas Tree Toys contains levels of lead that exceed the federal lead content ban. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health issues. Additionally, the Christmas tree component fails to comply with various mechanical and electrical requirements for battery-operated toys.

Joyreal Busy Board Children's Toys Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Choking and Laceration Hazards; Violate Small Parts Ban and Mandatory Standard for Toys; Sold on Amazon by Indream Store: The recalled children's toys violate the small parts ban because the small mirror can detach from the toy, posing a deadly choking hazard. In addition, the toys violate the mandatory standard for toys because the toy's mirror has sharp edges, posing a laceration hazard.

The KiddoSpace Recalls Children's Montessori Egg Puzzle Toys Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Choking Hazard: The recalled toys are intended for children under three years of age and the eggs can block a child's airway, posing a risk of choking and death to children.

Magnetic Chess Games Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Magnet Ingestion; Violate Mandatory Standard for Toys; Sold on Amazon by Yiruikeji2024: The recalled magnetic chess games violate the mandatory standard for toys because they contain loose magnets posing an ingestion hazard to children. When high-powered magnets are swallowed, the ingested magnets can attract each other, or other metal objects, and become lodged in the digestive system. This can result in perforations, twisting, and/or blockage of the intestines, blood poisoning and death.

Huaker Magnetic Balls and Rods Sets Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Choking; Violates the Small Ball Ban: The recalled magnet toy building sets violate the mandatory standard for toys because they contain small balls and are intended for children under three years of age, posing a deadly choking hazard.

Surveying Accessories Cheaper Recalls Board Games Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Magnet Ingestion; Violates Mandatory Standard for Toys: The recalled board games violate the mandatory standard for toys because the magnetic game pieces contain loose high-powered magnets, posing an ingestion hazard to children.

When high-powered magnets are swallowed, the ingested magnets can attract each other, or other metal objects, and become lodged in the digestive system. This can result in perforations, twisting, and/or blockage of the intestines, blood poisoning and death.

Cobelae Busy Books Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Choking Hazard; Violates Small Parts Ban; Sold on

Amazon by Flyindream: The toy books violate the small parts ban because the beads can loosen and detach from the product, posing a deadly choking hazard.

Child Products:

Trankerloop Baby Bath Seats Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death to Children from Drowning; Violates Mandatory Standard for Infant Bath Seats: The recalled bath seats violate the mandatory standard for infant bath seats because they are unstable and can tip over while in use, posing a risk of serious injury or death due to drowning.

Bicystar High Chairs Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Fall and Entrapment Hazards; Violates Mandatory Standard for High Chairs: The high chairs violate the mandatory standard for high chairs because they were sold without the required attached crotch restraint, posing a deadly fall hazard for children. In addition, a child's head can become trapped between the seat and the side of the high chair, posing a deadly entrapment hazard.

Sanven Technology Recalls Vevor Baby Gates Due to Risk of Serious Injury from Entrapment Hazard; Violates Mandatory Standard for Gates and Enclosures: The recalled gates violate the mandatory standard for expansion gates and expandable enclosures because a child's torso can fit through the opening between the gate and the floor, posing a risk of serious injury due to entrapment.

Babysense Max View Baby Monitors Recalled Due to Fire Hazard; Manufactured by Hisense: The display or “parent” unit of the Max View baby monitors can overheat and/or spark when charging, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

CheerKid Baby Bath Seats Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death to Children from Drowning; Violates Mandatory Standard for Infant Bath Seats; Sold on Amazon by Babibaby and Woot: The recalled bath seats violate the mandatory standard for infant bath seats because they are unstable and can tip over while in use, posing a risk of serious injury or death due to drowning.

Outdoor Equipment:
Evajoy Above-Ground Pools 48 Inches and Taller Recalled Due to Drowning Hazard; Manufactured by Shenzhen Danya Tech: The compression strap that surrounds the outside of the pool legs may create a foothold, allowing a child access to the pool, posing a drowning risk.

Weber Recalls Over 3.2 Million Metal Wire Bristle Grill Brushes Due to Ingestion Hazard: Small metal wire bristles can detach from the brushes, stick to the grill or food, posing an ingestion hazard and risk of serious internal injuries that could require surgery.

Watkins Manufacturing Recalls Hydromassage Rotary Jets in Highlife Collection Spas Due to Entanglement and Drowning Hazards: The hydromassage rotary jets can create a suction force that allows the user's hair to be entangled, submerging their head underwater, posing entanglement and drowning hazards to the user.

Household Products and Supplies:

Dupray USA Recalls Neat Steam Cleaners Due to Risk of Burn Hazards or Serious Injury: The steam cleaner's boiler can rup-

RECALLS

Continued from Page 6

ture if it is overfilled, corroded and the pressure release valve malfunctions, posing risk of burn hazards or serious injury to users or bystanders.

SumDirect LED Mini Lights Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violates Mandatory Standard for Consumer Products with Button Cell Batteries: The recalled LED lights violate the mandatory standard for consumer products containing button cell or coin batteries because they contain button cell batteries that can be accessed easily by children, posing an ingestion hazard. Additionally, the LED lights do not have the warnings as required by Reese's Law. When button cell and coin batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, internal chemical burns and death.

Somgem Pig and Yomin Toilet Lighters Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Fire and Burn Hazards; Violates Mandatory Standard for Cigarette Lighters; Sold on Amazon by Elepdv: The recalled pig and toilet lighters violate the mandatory standard for cigarette lighters because they do not have the required child-resistant mechanisms, posing a serious risk of injury or death from fire and burn hazards. The lighters also failed to meet the pre-market lighter submission requirement needed to demonstrate that the lighters feature child resistant mechanisms and ensure their safety and compliance with U.S. regulations.

Andersen Windows Recalls Window Opening Control Devices Sold as Kits or Installed on 100 Series Casement Windows Due to Fall and Serious Injury Hazards: The window opening control devices can break or detach after accidental or other impact, allowing the window to be opened, posing fall and serious injury hazards.

Royal Oak Enterprises Recalls Lighters Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Fire and Burn Hazards; Violates Mandatory Standard for Multi-purpose Lighters: The recalled lighters violate the mandatory standard for multipurpose lighters because they do not have the required child-resistant mechanisms, posing a risk of serious injury or death from fire and burn hazards. The lighters also violate the labeling requirements under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act by missing required safety information.

PQL Recalls High Bay Linear LED Light Fixtures Due to Fire Hazard: The retaining pins used to secure the LED board inside some units can degrade, allowing the LED board to come loose inside the fixture, posing a fire hazard.

Prismatic 3D Prints Recalls Book Nooks Due to Risk of Serious

Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violates Mandatory Standard for Consumer Products with Coin Batteries and Statute for Battery Packaging: The recalled book nooks violate the mandatory standard for consumer products containing button cell or coin batteries because the nooks include a spare lithium coin battery that can be easily accessed by children. In addition, the spare coin battery is not in child-resistant packaging, and the packaging does not have the warnings as required by Reese's Law. When button cell or coin batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, internal chemical burns and death.

JJGoo LED Balloon Lights Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violates Mandatory Standard for Consumer Products with Button Cell Batteries: The recalled lights violate the mandatory standard for consumer products containing button cell or coin batteries because they contain button cell batteries that can be accessed easily by children, posing an ingestion hazard. Additionally, the LED lights do not have the warnings required by Reese's Law. When button cell batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, internal chemical burns and death.

Joly's Recalls 80% Vinegar Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Poisoning and Chemical Burns; Violates FHSA Labeling Requirements: The recalled vinegar product violates the precautionary labeling requirements under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) because the hazardous substance lacks required warning labels and first-aid treatment instructions. This poses a deadly risk of poisoning if the contents are swallowed and a serious injury from chemical burns to the skin and eyes if improperly handled.

LShome Photoelectric Smoke Detector Fire Alarms Recalled Due Failure to Warn During Fire Posing Serious Injury or Death Hazard; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com: If the sensing threshold of security warnings is set too high, the alarm might not sound in a timely manner, posing a fire hazard.

Airova Recalls Aroev Air Purifiers Due to Fire and Burn Hazards: The air purifiers can overheat and ignite, posing fire and burn hazards to consumers.

Aterian Recalls PurSteam Elite Travel Steamers and Mighty Lil Steamers Due to Risk of Serious Burn Injury: The steamers can expel hot water from the steam nozzle during use, posing a serious burn hazard to consumers.

Little Cow Company

Recalls 9 oz Candles in Glass Jars Due to Fire, Burn and Laceration Hazards: The glass jar holding the candle can crack or break during use, posing fire, burn and laceration hazards.

Scepter Fuel Containers Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Flash Fire, Burn and Child Poisoning; Violates Mandatory Standards for Portable Fuel Containers; Imported by Mameix Retail: The recalled fuel containers violate the mandatory safety standards for portable fuel containers because they lack flame mitigation devices required under the Portable Fuel Container Safety Act, posing a deadly risk of flash fire. In addition, the Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act requires all closures on portable gasoline fuel containers to be child-resistant. The spout on the product is not child-resistant, posing a risk of burn and poisoning to children.

Kitosun Submersible LED Lights Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violates Mandatory Standard for Consumer Products with Coin Batteries: The recalled LED lights violate the mandatory standard for consumer products containing button cell or coin batteries because they contain lithium coin batteries that can be accessed easily by children, posing an ingestion hazard. Additionally, the LED lights do not have the warnings as required by Reese's Law. When children swallow button cell or coin batteries, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, internal chemical burns, and death, posing an ingestion hazard to children.

Furniture: Shintench 6-Drawer Dressers Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards; Violate Mandatory Standard for Clothing Storage Units: The recalled dressers are unstable if they are not anchored to the wall, posing tip-over and entrapment hazards that can result in risks of serious injuries or death to children. The dressers violate the mandatory standard as required by the STURDY Act.

EnHomee 10-Drawer Dressers Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Tip-

Over and Entrapment Hazards; Violates Mandatory Standard for Clothing Storage Units: The recalled dressers are unstable if they are not anchored to the wall, posing tip-over and entrapment hazards that can result in risks of serious injuries or death to children. The dressers violate the mandatory standard required by the STURDY Act.

Clark Associates Recalls Lancaster Table & Seating Powder-Coated Aluminum Outdoor Restaurant Chairs and Barstools Due to Fall Hazard: The legs of the chairs and barstools can bend or break while the chair is in use, posing a fall hazard.

Furnulem 5-Drawer Dressers Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Tip-Over and Entrapment; Violates Mandatory Standard for Clothing Storage Units: The recalled dressers are unstable if they are not anchored to the wall, posing tip-over and entrapment hazards that can result in risks of serious injuries or death to children. The dressers violate the mandatory standard as required by the STURDY Act.

Beloems Adult Portable Bed Rails Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Entrapment and Asphyxiation; Violate Mandatory Standard for Adult Portable Bed Rails: The recalled bed rails violate the mandatory standard for adult portable bed rails because users can become entrapped within the bed rail or between the bed rail and the side of the mattress, posing a serious entrapment hazard and risk of death by asphyxiation. The bed rails do not meet structural stability or retention strap requirements, posing a fall hazard. The bed rails' push pins and push pin holes are incorrectly sized, posing a laceration hazard.

SOOWERY 6-Drawer Dressers Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards; Violates Mandatory Standard for Clothing Storage Units: The recalled dressers are unstable if they are not anchored to the wall, posing tip-over and entrapment hazards that can result in risks of serious injuries or death to children. The dressers violate the mandatory standard as

required by the STURDY Act.

Fortemotus Direct Adult Portable Bed Rails Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Entrapment and Asphyxiation; Violate Mandatory Standard for Adult Portable Bed Rails: The recalled bed rails violate the mandatory standard for adult portable bed rails because users can become entrapped within the bed rail or between the bed rail and the side of the mattress, posing a serious entrapment hazard and risk of death by asphyxiation. The bed rails do not meet structural stability or retention strap requirements, posing a fall hazard. The bed rails' push pins and push pin holes are incorrectly sized, posing a laceration hazard.

Vive Health Recalls Adult Portable Bed Rails Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Entrapment and Asphyxiation; Violates Mandatory Standard for Adult Portable Bed Rails: The recalled bed rails violate the mandatory standard for adult portable bed rails because when the bed rails are attached to a bed, users can become entrapped within the bed rail or between the bed rail and the side of the mattress, posing a serious entrapment hazard and risk of death by asphyxiation. In addition, the bed rails do not bear the required hazard warning labels.

Exercise Equipment: Todson Recalls Concord Bicycle Helmets Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Head Injury; Violates Mandatory Standard for Bicycle Helmets: The recalled helmets violate the mandatory safety standard for bicycle helmets because they do not comply with the retention

system and positional stability requirements. The helmets can fail to protect the user in the event of a crash, posing a serious risk of injury or death due to head injury.

SAMIT Youth Multi-Purpose Helmets Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Head Injury; Violates Mandatory Standard for Bicycle Helmets; Sold on Amazon by SAMIT Outdoor: The recalled helmets violate the mandatory safety standard for bicycle helmets because they do not comply with the positional stability and certification requirements. The helmets can fail to protect the user in the event of a crash, posing a serious risk of injury or death due to head injury.

Semfri Children's Helmets Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Head Injury; Violates Mandatory Standard for Bicycle Helmets: The recalled helmets violate the mandatory safety standard for bicycle helmets because they do not comply with the impact attenuation, positional stability, labeling and certification requirements. The helmets can fail to protect the user in the event of a crash, posing a serious risk of injury or death due to head injury.

If you believe you recently purchased a recalled product, stop using it, and check its recall notice. Then follow the notice's instructions, including where to return the product, how to get the product fixed, how to dispose of the product, how to receive a refund for the product, or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.

To view recalls issued prior to February, visit the Consumer Protection Safety Commission website.

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Workspace Company Celebrates Grand Opening in Carmel

Industrious, a leading national provider of premium flexible workspaces, will celebrate the grand opening of its newest Carmel location in the Wren building at 750 Veterans Way, suite 120 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house event on Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event will welcome business leaders, entrepreneurs, and community members to experience the newly opened workspace located in the heart of Carmel City Center. Attendees will enjoy networking, guided tours, refreshments, and a ceremonial ribbon-cutting hosted by OneZone Chamber of Commerce. Event highlights include morning mingling with mimosas and craft coffee, a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony, and tours of the modern, hospitality-driven workspace.

The grand opening marks a significant milestone in Industrious' growing presence in Carmel with 15,000 rentable square feet including 7 conference rooms and 48 offices. This follows the company's announcement to expand operations within Carmel City Center, further strengthening its commitment to the Carmel business community and meeting rising demand for flexible workspace solutions. "Carmel continues to attract innovative



companies, entrepreneurs, and remote professionals, making it an ideal location for our expanding footprint," said Industrious leadership. "This new location and our continued expansion allow us to provide premium work environments that support collaboration, productivity, and community connection."

Industrious at Carmel City Center – 750 Veterans Way offers coworking memberships, private offices, and on-demand meeting rooms, designed to accommodate teams of all sizes. Members enjoy hospitality-driven amenities including daily breakfast, unlimited printing, and curated community programming.

Located within Carmel's vibrant downtown district, the new space places members steps away from dining, retail, entertainment, and cultural attractions, reinforcing Carmel City Center's position as one of Central Indiana's

premier business destinations.

"We're thrilled to see Industrious continue its growth at Carmel City Center with its expansion into the new Wren building," said Melissa Averitt, senior vice president of Pedcor Companies. "Industrious has been a tremendous addition to our mix of businesses, and we're excited to welcome even more of their members to the Center. We look forward to them experiencing and enjoying the many shopping and dining options just steps from their workspace."

Carmel City Center is located at the southwest corner of City Center Drive and Rangeline Road. Parking is available along the street and surface parking is available on plaza level (accessible from City Center Drive) and in the underground garage (accessible from Range Line Road as well as City Center Drive) and in the Veterans Way garage.



Photos courtesy of noblesvilleshowchoirpics

Indiana Show Choir Championships at NHS

The public is invited to a full day of singing and dancing fun at the Indiana Show Choir Championships, presented by Gaylor Electric. The event will be at Noblesville High School on Saturday, March 21. Enjoy award-winning performances by Noblesville, Carmel, Westfield, Ben Davis High School and more! Tickets can be purchased at the door. Find more information at <https://tinyurl.com/nxanjxe4>

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Providing an affordable and positive baseball experience for all young men ages 13-18

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

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