

■ TODAY'S VERSE

**Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

Ella Community Pharmacy is partnering with the Westfield Police Department to host a Drug Take Back event. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to noon at Ella Community Pharmacy, 211 Jersey St. in Westfield. Drug Take Back events provide a free, safe and anonymous way to dispose of old and unneeded medications, reducing prescription drug abuse and preventing accidental poisonings in our community.

■ ADOPT A PET FROGGY



Froggy is a playful, cheese-loving pup who is ready to bring joy and laughter to your life. This 2-year-old male Pit Bull Terrier has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 8/8/25. Froggy's favorite thing in the world (besides you, of course) is his collection of toys and stuffies. He loves carrying his favorite toy around, snuggling up with it, or showing off his newest playtime find. To meet Froggy, please fill out an adoption application at [hamiltonhumane.com/adopt](http://hamiltonhumane.com/adopt), then stop by HSHC anytime 12-5 PM daily (closed Wednesday).



Really? We're two-thirds of the way through April? I swear the older I get the faster time flies.

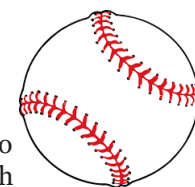
# The TIMES



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## Juuuust A Bit Outside . . . BY THE NUMBERS



By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!

*As Bob Uecker famously said when a pitch said when a pitch was 20 feet off target (juuuust a bit outside) from the movie Major League, so say we today. We're well into April and baseball season is in full swing . . . so what better time to get juuuust a bit outside and take in America's pastime? With that in mind, we borrow a line from our friend Honest Hoosier and tip our seed corn cap to baseball . . . by the numbers.*

**6** The Indianapolis Indians have a six-game homestand starting tomorrow with the Saints from St. Paul. First pitch tomorrow is at 6:35. The early-season series concludes with an afternoon contest Sunday at 1:35. Of course the Indians play in the friendly confines of Victory Field in wonderful downtown Indianapolis.

**4** Staying with the Indians for the moment, they have been in four different classifications. In 1902 they were independent. From 1903-1911 they were Class A, Double-A from 1912 to 1945 and Triple-A ever since.

**5** Did you know the Indians have been tied to at least five Major League clubs? They team is on its second time with the Pittsburgh Pirates. They were also affiliated with the Milwaukee Brewers, Cincinnati Reds (twice), the Philadelphia Phillies and two times with the Chicago White Sox.

**14** And we wrap up the Indians with sharing that in their history, the team has won 14 league titles.

**30** That's the number of Major League teams – 29 in the U.S. and one in Canada.

**2,000,000** That's the approximate number of kids who play Little League Baseball and Softball. It is the largest organized youth sports league.

**1,000,000** When it comes to popcorn, baseball fans eat it up. And no, that is not the number of pounds of popcorn eating during the MLB season. It's the number of pounds consumed during two days at the All-Star break!

**4** Speaking of the Indianapolis Indians and Victory Field. The stadium is the fourth home to the professional minor leaguers. From 1902 to 1931 the team played at Washington Park, which moved to a second location. They then moved to what old-timers remember as Bush Stadium on 16th Street. It was named after Owen J. Bush Stadium. (And did you know that the stadium was also home to several Negro Major League teams and a Continental Football League team? Finally, the current home, Victory Field, was built and moved into in 1996.

**4** Leaving the Indians (kind of), they are one of four Minor League Baseball teams located in our great state. The other three are the Fort Wayne TinCaps, the South Bend Cubs and the Gary SouthShore RailCats. There is a fifth professional team, but it's an independent – the Evansville Otters.

**5 ounces** A regulation baseball weighs between 5 and five and a quarter ounces.

**108** Believe it or not, every MLB baseball has 108 stitches. They are in a vivid red color.

**9-13-26** Back to the Indianapolis Indians to wrap up. The final regular season home game is Sept. 13 against Omaha. Yes, we'll be sad to see it go once again.

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**1.** Following a six-week antitrust trial, a New York jury returned a verdict in favor of Attorney General Todd Rokita and other plaintiffs on all counts — declaring Live Nation Entertainment Inc. to be a monopolist in its concert and ticketing dealings. After the U.S. Department of Justice reached a settlement with Live Nation during the first week of trial, 33 states and the District of Columbia continued to champion consumer rights by continuing with litigation. In 2010, Live Nation acquired Ticketmaster as part of a plan to leverage their strength in promoting live entertainment to become a one-stop shop for ticketing and artist promotion. Live Nation's conduct negatively impacted consumers by raising ticket prices and restricting access to shows and venues.

**2.** The Indiana Natural Resources Commission has opened its first public comment period for proposed changes to bobcat and other wildlife-related rules. This is the first of two comment periods to occur before the NRC votes to adopt, reject, or modify the proposed changes. Proposed changes in the wildlife-related rule package include:

- Allowing muzzleloaders that load the powder and primer from the breech end during the muzzleloader season, in addition to the deer firearms and youth seasons;
- Removing previous limits on rifles for deer hunting, deferring to those set forth in IC 14-22-2-8;
- Increasing the antlerless deer bag limits in Fayette and Franklin counties;
- Removing armadillos from the list of exotic mammals;
- Removing Kirtland's warbler from the state's list of endangered species; and
- Allowing additional methods for taking frogs.

Proposed changes to the bobcat rule expand the bobcat season harvest to include hunting in addition to trapping following requests from some hunters for hunting opportunities. The quota would rise to 400 bobcats, with a goal of decreasing negative interactions with bobcats across the 40 counties with high-quality bobcat habitat, while still maintaining a strong bobcat population in Indiana. The season would start on Nov. 8, 2026, and run through Jan. 31, 2027, or until the quota is met, whichever is earlier, consistent with the 2025 season. Public comments can be submitted at [IN.gov/nrc/rules/rulemaking-docket/](http://IN.gov/nrc/rules/rulemaking-docket/) by clicking on the "Submit Comments Here" link in the Rule-making Docket for that rule.

**3.** If gas prices keep rising, Hoosiers say it'll take hitting \$4.63 per gallon before they start cutting back on essentials. With prices around \$4.05, that means we are 58 cents from that tipping point. At least that's what our friends at Advance America are telling us. Advance America surveyed 3,002 drivers, asking a simple but telling question: *At what price per gallon would you have to start cutting back on essentials?* The answers reveal a country split not just by geography, but by tolerance — and in some cases, proximity — to financial strain. The 5 states closest to their thresholds: #1. Vermont: 17 cents; #2. North Dakota: 50 cents; #3. Hawaii: 50 cents; #4. Utah: 53 cents; and #5. South Dakota: 55 cents. Indiana was seventh.

## Downtown Construction Next Phase Begins

Construction of Phase 1A of the Embrace Downtown project is now complete. Crews have begun Phase 1B construction to improve infrastructure, enhance pedestrian safety and introduce beautification upgrades throughout downtown Noblesville.

Phase 1B construction will take place on Logan Street from Eighth Street through the intersection at Ninth Street. The intersection of Eighth Street and Logan Street will be open throughout Phase 1B construction. During this time, Logan Street will be closed from east of Eighth Street through the Ninth Street intersection.

Business access will be maintained throughout construction, but there will be no parking on Logan Street between Eighth Street and Ninth Street.

"We encourage everyone to continue to visit our downtown businesses as we address these critical infrastructure upgrades," Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen said. "The improvements we are making will promote a vibrant and healthy downtown economy. We look forward to the lasting impact Embrace Downtown will have on Noblesville."

During Phase 1B, a six-foot wide sidewalk will be maintained adjacent to building frontages for visitors to gain access to businesses. The remaining portion of sidewalk and street up to the Hamilton County Courthouse seat wall will be closed as work progresses.

Access to businesses will remain throughout the construction, and detours for vehicles and pedestrians will be clearly identified.

In addition to widening the sidewalks, crews will be removing curbs, installing landscaping buffers, and more to cultivate a traffic-calmed environment centered around pedestrian safety and accessibility.

Phase 1C construction will immediately follow the current Phase 1B construction, which is anticipated to last until Fall. Phase 1C construction involves the removal and replacement of the existing six-foot wide sidewalk that is being maintained in Phase 1B with a new decorative paver sidewalk.

See **PHASE Page 4**

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When I played ball, I didn't play for fun ... It's no pink tea, and Mollycoddles had better stay out. It's a contest and everything that implies, a struggle for supremacy, a survival of the fittest."

Ty Cobb

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What did the DJ say to the vegetable farmer?

Lettuce turnip the beet.

# The TIMES

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## Used Bike Sale May 16 in Westfield

A used bicycle sale and donation day will be held Saturday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to noon, sponsored by Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County. It will take place at Recycled Cycles repair shop at 810 E. Main St. in Westfield. The shop is located at the top of the drive, north of Big Hoffa's BBQ.

Around 40 top-condition bikes and high-end 700c wheels and other parts (Campy, Shimano, Sram) will be offered for sale at bargain prices. All bikes have been repaired, adjusted, lubricated and inspected for safe use. Payment by check is preferred (sorry no Venmo, Paypal, credit card, etc.

available).

Proceeds will be used to purchase parts to repair other bikes. Last year, Recycled Cycles repaired and gave nearly 400 bicycles to deserving families who might not otherwise have afforded new bikes, mostly for Christmas.

Recycled Cycles is an all-volunteer group that repairs child and adult bikes throughout the year under the sponsorship of Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County. Donations of any used bike, no matter the condition will be accepted. Parts from unrepairable bikes are salvaged to make whole bikes.



Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

Inside the historic site that houses Abraham Lincoln's tomb.

## If You Don't Have A Photo to Prove It . . .



ANDY  
CHANDLER  
Columnist

Combat photographer Dickey Chappelle advised journalists that: If you can't prove it happened with a picture, it didn't happen.

Fall is a fun time to be a photographer; it's as if nature is a canvas backdrop for a cornucopia of colors. It was into that backdrop that I found myself at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Ill.

The rolling hills and fall foliage during Lincoln's time were just outside of town, make me understand why Abraham and his wife Mary would come here often to go for walks together. They'd decided this would be where their finally resting place is.

If anything, the tomb is a historic site that's unique in that it is large enough to have its own guide. It is a collection of statues and tributes to a man who shaped the country for the coming generations, both in terms of the slavery question, but also in terms of how the union would continue to be.

After photographing for a bit, I stepped outside. Coming in my direction was an entourage of about 20 or more people. I noticed the earpieces as well

as the holstered firearms worn by the six men in front and quickly surmised that not only were these public officials here for a visit, but it would be in my best interest to step aside.

It's not uncommon for officials to visit the tomb when they are in Springfield. UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, and President Barack Obama made visits during their tenures as world leaders.

Being that I live less than a half hour from the Illinois border, I could recognize Gov. Pritzker. Since Springfield is the state capital and he's the boss over the Lincoln Monument State Site. I didn't recognize the slick looking younger guy in the jeans.

As one of the staffers walked by, she was sporting a Philadelphia Eagles hat.

"Go birds!"

She turned to me. "Wait. You're from Philly?" "Yeah, Berwyn. That car you guys parked next to in the parking lot, the one with the Eagles license plate. That's mine."

The Philadelphia Eagles. The football team with the reputation for the most



Andy with Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro (left) and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker (right).

violent fans in football.

"I'll need to get Gov. Shapiro over to say hi to you."

"Governor of...?" "That's the Governor of Pennsylvania."

She called out for his attention, and when he turned around, she pointed at me. "He's from Philly."

How remarkable, that I was standing at Abraham Lincoln's tomb, with the governor of the state his grandfather left to go west (Pennsylvania), and the governor of the state he, the grandson settled in (Illinois).

Rather than greet Gov. Shapiro, I starting singing "Fly Eagles fly..." He joined in, "hit 'em high, hit 'em low."

After we finished singing the Eagles fight song, we

spoke briefly about matters of the heart. It wasn't about politics or policy, but about a subject that he and I are fond of: Philadelphia sports.

I told Gov. Shapiro of my dad's 2017 passing. How my father was a lifetime Eagles fan and how it crushed him when he realized he didn't have much longer to live, that he would never live to see them win a Superbowl. The Eagles won the next year, and Gov. Shapiro told me, "I hope you thanked him for that."

"Governor, I did."

Andy Chandler is a presidential historian and a museum archivist at Candles Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute and the Ernie Pyle WWII Museum in Dana Ind.

## Baldwin Legislation Signed by Governor

Legislation authored by State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville) to strengthen health care competition, establish a counter drone framework and modernize judicial security in Indiana was ceremonially signed into law by Gov. Braun today.

Senate Enrolled Act 189 builds on the federal No Surprises Act of 2021 by triggering a good faith conference between parties to negotiate a reimbursement agreement instead of conducting an Independent Dispute Resolution case, which will avoid delays in medical care and increased costs. SEA 189 also expedites care by prohibiting insurers from charging

a fee for out-of-network care, which allows health care employers to provide care based on patient need and clinician expertise.

"Health insurance companies often use their power to force health care providers to use specific health insurance carriers, which often delays care that Hoosiers need in a timely manner," Baldwin said. "Senate Enrolled Act 189 will alleviate these burdens and enhance competitiveness within Indiana's health care marketplace."

To address the threat of drones, Senate Enrolled Act 227 creates a federally compliant framework to allow law enforcement

throughout the state to detect and respond to unauthorized drones only when federal law permits. The law also designates the Indiana State Police as the coordinating agency that sets training and approval standards and provides oversight and liability protections.

To strengthen judicial security, Senate Enrolled Act 291 repeals the existing Supreme Court Sheriff safety model and replaces it with a dedicated Supreme Court Marshal. The Court of Appeals would also be created to create their own marshal system, which would provide security for the Court of Appeals and Tax Court.

These marshals will have multiple tasks, including protecting justices, judges, court staff, facilities and judicial residencies. SEA 291 provides marshals limited police power while on duty, which permits them to carry weapons, temporarily detain individuals to address security threats, and have access to law enforcement intelligence like criminal history records and threat assessments.

"As the risks to public safety continue to change, keeping Hoosiers safe is always a top priority for me," Baldwin said. "Senate Enrolled Act 227 ensures Indiana is prepared to

See **SIGNED** Page 4

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## 2026 NISSAN MURANO PLATINUM BOASTS CONCEPT CAR STYLE AND GENERATIONS OF GOOD FAVOR

It may not be the most powerful luxury-ish crossover, but it is still pretty lush.



**CASEY WILLIAMS**  
*Columnist*

When people ask me if they should buy particular vehicle, I often reply, “If you bought the same model two or three generations ago, would you still like it?” I think back to the first-generation Nissan Murano I drove in 2003. If I still owned it, I’d enjoy it. Spending time with the fourth-generation 2026 Murano Platinum we have this week, recalls good memories that start in good favor.

The Murano has always looked like it secretly escaped a concept car turntable and that’s true of this one as well. There’s a lot of connection to the Nissan Ariya and Leaf EVs in the swooping profile, plastic facias, and black 21-inch wheels, but details like the squinty LED headlamps, chrome window arch, smoked taillamps and upturned window-line from the original Murano lend distinction. I especially like its sculpted shoulders and strong stance.

I spent considerable miles in the first Murano, driving it from Atlanta to Memphis when I lived there. It remains one of my favorite test cars, perfect for visiting Graceland, touring Sun Studio and eating on Beale Street with my grandmother – just stepped right in. Clay colored leather seats, aluminum dash trim, Bose audio and a beautiful analog gauge cluster felt special.

That sense of everything being “designed” carries to the latest Murano with its layers of stitched dash materials, ambient lighting, translucent panels and flush-mount- ed climate controls in a

swath of woodgrain. Duel 12.3-inch flatscreens stand proud of dash upholstery. Beige and mocha diamond-stitched leather seats are heated, ventilated and massage up front with the rear bench and two-spoke squirrel steering wheel both heated. Devices connect via wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto – charge wirelessly too. Crank up the Bose audio system, open the dual-pane moonroof and enjoy.

I wish the Murano came as a hybrid, but the 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine delivers 241 horsepower and 260 lb.-ft. of torque – all routed to the all-wheel-drive system through a 9-speed automatic transmission. I’m glad Nissan ditched the revvy continuously variable transmission for a proper geared unit, paddle-shifted if you please. It’s not an abundance of power, but the Murano isn’t aimed at towing or hauling, preferring to carry passengers and luggage on highways and byways. For that, it’s fine if not invigorating. Fuel economy is rated 21/27-MPG city/highway. That’s quite good for a luxury

crossover, but I’d still like a hybrid option.

I also like hands-off highway driving and a head-up display, which this Murano indulges. It also comes with a full suite of crash avoidance tech that includes automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, rear cross path detection with auto brake, and blind spot intervention. Safety is no joke with this chic future-dweller.

That Murano I drove in 2003 cost \$35,000, or about \$63,000 inflation-adjusted. I loved it then and would like it now, but given all of the additional performance, luxury, safety tech and hands-off driving, our vehicle is a far better value. Murano starts at \$41,670, but came to \$57,035 in Platinum trim with all the options. Alternatives include the Buick Envision, Mazda CX-70, Subaru Outback Touring and Toyota Crown Signia.

*Storm Forward!*

*Send comments to Casey at [AutoCasey@aol.com](mailto:AutoCasey@aol.com); follow him on YouTube @ AutoCasey.*

LIKES	DISLIKES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GORGEOUS INTERIOR</li> <li>SUAVE STYLE</li> <li>HANDS-OFF CRUISING</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TEPID POWER</li> <li>NO HYBRID</li> <li>GETS PRICEY</li> </ul>
<p><b>2026 Nissan Murano Platinum</b> Five-passenger, AWD Crossover Powertrain: 2.0-liter T4, 9-spd Output: 241hp/260 lb.-ft. torque Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind Wheels f/r: 21”/21” alloy Brakes f/r: disc/disc 0-60 mph: 7s Fuel economy: 21/27 mpg city/hwy Assembly: Smyrna, TN Base/As-tested price: \$41,670/57,035</p>	

# Carrying Around Dog Treats



**CARRIE CLASSON**  
*The Postscript*

I have become the treat lady again.

Depending on where I’m walking, I either carry dog treats or I don’t. I used to carry them all the time, but when we moved to the city, I stopped carrying dog treats because I feared that the downtown dogs (or their owners) might not welcome my treats. Maybe they were on a diet (the dogs, I mean). Maybe they had allergies. Maybe they would be suspicious of a strange woman doling out treats. So I stopped carrying treats. My husband, Peter, thought this was a mistake. He is of the opinion that dogs (and cats) always need treats.

But we spend much of the winter in Mexico, and one day I went to the English-language bookstore and saw they handed out treats in the bookstore. (Dogs are welcome everywhere in San Miguel except a few restaurants, and even those will look the other way if the dog is well-behaved.) These bookstore dogs knew all about the treats and were in there, tails wagging, and I realized I missed carrying treats, so I started again.

Here in San Miguel, there are some very pampered pets. I bought the same

brand of treats as the bookstore, but I still had a few refuseniks.

“He’s never had dog food before,” someone told me.

“She’s a pescatarian,” someone else said.

“No, she’s on a diet,” I heard fairly regularly.

Sometimes the owner refused, sometimes the dog. But usually, my treats were appreciated, and it added some fun to my daily walk, spotting dogs and asking, in my bad Spanish, if the dog would like a “dog cookie.” And it allowed me to meet dogs, which is always fun.

I got to know Candy, who is a sweet little dog I first saw around Halloween. She had fierce eyebrows drawn on her face, which made her look very comical. I assumed it was a costume for the occasion.

“No!” Candy’s owner said with emotion. He went on to explain that someone else had drawn these eyebrows on his dog. He did not seem very happy about it. Now I see Candy a lot, and she likes my treats. But she still has the eyebrows. They are starting to grow out, but whoever messed with Candy must have

used a heavy-duty Sharpie, because those eyebrows are still her most distinguishing feature.

I met Bonita, who, as her name implies, is a beautiful dog. I forgot my treats one day, and she gave me such a reproachful look that I vowed I would always keep at least one treat in my little satchel for her. The next time I saw her, I gave her two.

Big dogs gently take treats from my hand, and little dogs gobble them down and expect more. It’s wonderful to meet all these dogs and say “hello” to their owners and get my dog fix for the day.

The other evening, I was walking and saw a dog wearing a little sombrero on his head, edged in blue feathers. He looked very festive. (Although he’s not the only dog in town wearing a hat. There’s a little chihuahua who goes around town in an FBI cap, for reasons that are unclear.)

I stopped to talk to the dog in the festive hat, and that’s when I saw his friend.

It was a duck. She was walking beside the dog, and instead of a festive hat, she was wearing pearls. I admired her pearls and complimented her owner. But sadly, it had never occurred to me to bring duck treats.

*Till next time,*

*Carrie*

## ► Letter to Editor Additional Support for Sen. Jim Buck

Dear Editor,

We have known Senator Jim Buck since he was first elected to the Indiana Senate. We confirm the many other endorsements confirming that he has consistently been a person of high moral character and honesty, and who has consistently voted his conservative values.

Senator Buck recently posted 16 conservative endorsements from businesses and non-profits. We would add the following more recent additions: former V.P. and

Governor Pence, former Governor Daniels, and from the home town of Senator Buck’s opponent, Mike Cline (former Tipton County GOP Chairman) and Nancy Cline (Tipton County Commissioner).

Senator Buck has supported our President’s agenda on probably 99% of the time. His only divergence was on redistricting based on a large majority of the wishes of his conservative constituents. The resulting misleading negative advertising is from a very large sum of money from out of state residents

who are not familiar with Senator Buck’s conservative constituents and are only interested in their own interests. Our choice is to continue to have Senator Buck vote the wishes of his conservative constituents rather than the wishes of single interest out-of-state residents.

Vote for Senator Jim Buck, our proven conservative Senator.

*J. Conrad and Jo Ella Maugans*

*Kokomo*

# KENNY THOMPSON

With decades of experience as an award-winning sports writer and sports editor – most of it covering Purdue athletics – Kenny Thompson has a perspective and inside knowledge that few others have. Whether it’s putting what’s going on in the Big Ten in historical perspective or shooting straight from the hip on what’s happening today, no one has a better take on Purdue and sports than Kenny!

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# I Never Dated Girls Who Were Fast



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Columnist

My wife walks faster than I do. If I hadn't broken into a full gallop down the aisle the day we got married, she'd have beaten me to the justice of the peace by a nose. I've mentioned this before in this column, but things have gotten much worse and far more embarrassing

When we take a walk around the block, Mary Ellen has to turn around every three or four minutes and walk back around me so that she doesn't get too far ahead.

As embarrassing as this is, I demand that she do it because a 79-year-old man should not be yelling to his wife, "Wait up!" an expression that I thought I had stopped using in junior high school.

What makes this more humiliating is that I have always been a good athlete. I played center field on my high school baseball team and even ran track. My wife is not an athlete. When my wife tries to run, she doesn't bend her legs at the knees and she ends up looking like a soldier doing a goose step on too much coffee.

No, she can't run. But boy, can she walk.

And I can't figure out why she walks faster. Let's see...her legs are longer than mine. And she moves them back and forth faster than I do. Okay, I just figured it out.

The great irony in this is that one of the reasons I was attracted to my wife almost 48 years ago was her long, slender legs. This is exactly how men get themselves in trouble. When I saw those lovely limbs, my mind turned to romance, but I should have realized that she'd be walking faster than me for the next 50 years. I knew I was going to marry a woman who was smarter. But faster? That was never the plan.

In fact, during high school and college, I never dated girls who were fast. (My mother approved of that.)

Now, I must admit that when I used to walk my dog, Barney, he also walked faster than I did. Barney was 88 in dog years, 10 pounds over-

weight, and had arthritis. But the difference between Barney and my wife is that Barney actually turned around every few minutes to make sure I hadn't had a heart attack. Back then, I considered using a leash, but neither Mary Ellen nor Barney would wear one.

Sometimes, just to feel loved and wanted, I would hide behind a tree to see if my wife would look for me. Out on a hiking trail, this is okay, but in a residential neighborhood, men behind trees are frowned upon. When you are telling your story to a police officer and he keeps using the word "lurking," you have a great deal of explaining to do.

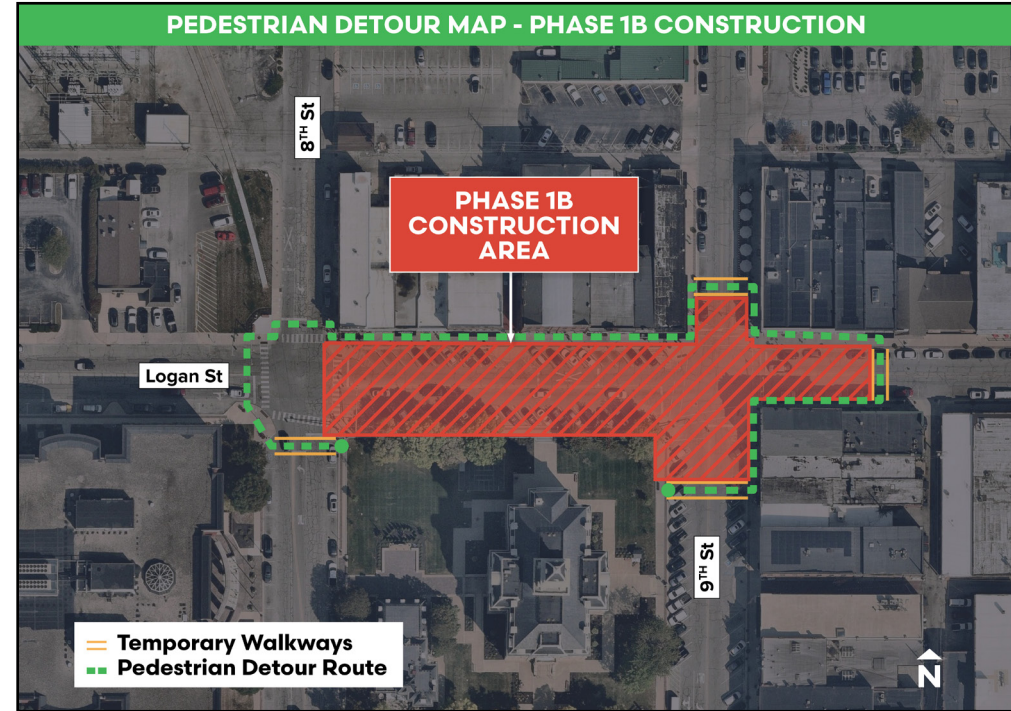
Now, when we walk around our new neighborhood, she feels like I slow her down, and the sight of her circling me every few minutes has the neighbors talking. Instead, when my wife and I want to walk, we go in different directions around our neighborhood circle. No matter how leisurely I walk, we pass each other at exactly the same time.

I know that was an incredibly stupid thing to say. But don't try to explain it to me. You know how slow I am.

*Dick Wolfsie is a retired TV personality, author, speaker, teacher and all-around good guy. His award-winning column appears here weekly.*

## PHASE

Continued from Page 1



Overall construction is anticipated to be complete in November 2026, weather dependent.

Visit [www.Embrace-DowntownNoblesville.com](http://www.Embrace-DowntownNoblesville.com) to learn more about the project or follow the project

on X and Facebook and Instagram.

## SIGNED

Continued from Page 2

respond to the threats drones present to large public events, airports and critical infrastructure, and Senate Enrolled Act 291 ensures judges can do their job without fear of intimidation and prevent-

ing tragic shootings like the one involving Judge Steve Meyer and his wife at their home."

To learn more about legislation Baldwin authored during the 2026 session,

visit [iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov).

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



Photo courtesy Noblesville Lions

**Noblesville Lions President Walt Scheid and Hand Executive Director Andrea Davis.**

## Lions Learn About HAND, Affordable Housing

At their meeting on Wednesday, April 8, the Noblesville Lions welcomed Andrea Davis, Executive Director of HAND, Inc., along with board member Scott Lowe.

Davis introduced her organization by explaining that "Where we live impacts every aspect of our lives." HAND's mission is to build, preserve and advocate for affordable housing in the suburbs. She shared that housing costs are now outpacing incomes, and the average age of a first time home buyer is now 40 years old. Davis said that one in four households struggle to afford basic needs, and Hamilton County is currently served by more than 40 food pantries to meet the needs of food insecure residents. In

examining the housing needs of senior citizens, she shared that Hamilton County is considered a senior housing desert. When housing costs are more than 50 percent of total income, people have to choose between housing and other basic needs.

HAND was founded in 2003 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the housing needs of low- and moderate-income individuals and families in the northern suburbs of Indianapolis, including Hamilton, Tipton and Boone counties. Their vision is for a community where everyone can thrive with a full range of quality housing options for every stage of life. HAND develops, owns and manages 157 rental units, many designated for

seniors over 55. Participation is based on income and funding comes from federal grants that are managed by the state.

Davis concluded with an invitation to participate in the 2026 HAND Suburban Housing Conference on April 23 at IMMI Conference Center in Westfield. The theme of the event will be "From Plans to Places: Turning Housing Systems Into Real Homes." The conference will bring together local governments, employers, nonprofits, lenders, faith organizations and community leaders to focus on strengthening our region's housing future.

To learn more about HAND, Inc., visit their web site at <https://hand-incorporated.org/>.

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# Greg Ballard: Why I'm Running as Independent



**GREG BALLARD**  
Guest Columnist

Running for office wasn't something I ever set out to do.

After serving our country as a Marine for 23 years, in war and in peace, I came home to Indiana, built a career in the private sector and focused on raising my family.

But when I saw my city struggling, I stepped forward and ran for mayor of Indianapolis.

No one thought I could win. I didn't have the money or the political connections. I wasn't part of the establishment. I was just someone who believed we could do better.

Together, we did just that.

For eight years in the mayor's office, we focused on results — navigating the

Great Recession while balancing the budget, saving taxpayers and ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars, bringing the Super Bowl to Indiana and forging practical partnerships across party lines.

I ran as a Republican, but I governed for everyone.

Today, things are ... different. Both political parties are broken, and we're the ones paying the price.

When politics becomes this toxic, it's essential to have an independent voice overseeing our elections. In Indiana, that's the job of our Secretary of State, but the current leadership in that office has shown an eagerness to engage in partisanship.

Candidly, I thought my career in public service had

ended, but when you see something this broken and know you can fix it, you step forward.

That's why I announced that I'm running for Indiana Secretary of State, and I'm doing so as an independent.

I did not reach this decision lightly. I have always considered myself a public servant in the best sense of the phrase — someone who believes in doing the right thing for the right reasons, with careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars — and my values haven't changed.

Frankly, I'm worried about the direction of both parties, a sentiment I share with millions of Hoosiers. In fact, recent polling shows more Indiana voters now identify as independents (41%) than as Republicans (29%) or Democrats (21%).

When it comes to our Secretary of State, the office should be mainly focused on one thing: safeguarding the integrity and professionalism of our elections.

Here are two examples of

what I will do differently:

First: It's common for Indiana Secretaries of State to endorse, fundraise for, and donate to candidates who appear on the very ballots they oversee. Imagine running for office and seeing the official responsible for administering your election publicly backing your opponent. That's wrong.

If elected, I will not take sides in other state or local races like that. I am the only candidate for Secretary of State who has made that commitment.

Second: You have the right to clear, accessible information about who and what is on your ballot. Yet many Hoosiers walk into the voting booth unsure about down-ballot offices or unfamiliar races.

A nonpartisan voter guide from the Secretary of State's office mailed before early voting — with plain-language explanations of offices, equal-length candidate statements, and a sample ballot — would help all of us to arrive prepared, to cast our ballots more quickly, and

to shorten wait times at the polls.

As Secretary of State, I'll make sure every Hoosier voter gets one.

But those common-sense reforms aren't the only reason I'm running.

During the past few years, I've met so many good people who want to step up and serve like I did, but don't feel like they have a place in either party. Like me, they're on the outside looking in.

That's not how Indiana is supposed to work.

When voters truly have options, our elections are more competitive, our leaders are more accountable, and our government works better.

And when good people know they can run — and win — without bending to the most radical voices in our state, more will step forward.

Under Indiana's rules, our campaign for Secretary of State will unlock a place on the ballot for those good

people beyond this year. (Go to our website, [gregballard.com](http://gregballard.com), to learn more.)

You have the right to leaders with experience, who serve with integrity, and are committed to making a lasting impact.

Hoosiers should be proud of our elected officials, and I will make you proud. I will not be the Republican or Democratic Secretary of State.

I will be your Secretary of State.

*Greg Ballard served two terms as Mayor of Indianapolis from 2008 to 2016 after winning a surprise upset victory as a political newcomer and retired Marine with no prior elected experience. In office, he built a reputation for focusing on the nuts and bolts of government rather than partisan maneuvering. You can learn more by visiting the campaign website and following Greg on social media on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Threads and X.*

# County Councilor Hall Details March's Timesheet



**MARK HALL**  
Guest Columnist

Welcome to the Timesheet. This column is a report of work done on behalf of the people of Hamilton County. It is 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 p.m. 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, March work included: watching Board of Commissioners' and Noblesville City Council public meetings, attending a Cicero Town Council meeting, meeting with Jason LeMaster, Hamilton County Health Department Administrator to discuss

his departments annual report, a meeting with Chris Mertens, Hamilton County Information Technology Director, to discuss upcoming software price increases and the departments project dashboard, a Redevelopment Commission meeting, a personnel committee meeting, an insurance stewardship review meeting and a finance committee meeting. Yes, it was a very busy month.

The March personnel committee meeting included a Judicial Services position reclassification request, Prosecutors office band increases for three of the deputy prosecuting attorneys, three reclassification review requests for the Parks and Recreation department, the Sheriff's Department submitted a classification review request seeking to convert an existing Corrections Officer position into a newly established Support Services Manager position and the Human Resources Department submitted a request for team lead differential pay increase to bring a team lead in their department in line with the compensation of other team leads.

Not all the requests were approved after committee members reviewed the supporting documentation

which included studies from our outside vendor. The requests were moved to the full council with the committee's recommendations for a final vote.

The finance committee meeting included a presentation by the HEPL (Hamilton East Public Library) Director Melissa Loisselle regarding their planned third library location. We also received a legislative briefing update from the county financial consultant. This included expected changes to revenue sources over the next several years as well as the expected supplemental LIT distribution that is in process. We discussed the interlocal agreement with the city of Fishers regarding work on State Road 37 and the counties commitment from years ago for an additional 4.5 million dollars. We then turned to Parks and their request for an additional 2.5-million-dollar appropriation and the cash balance requirements of the finance committee for the Parks Fund, noting that Parks' levy has gone up considerably over the past several years. Lastly, we moved on to a review of how we could finance road projects at the intersections of 146th and Hazel Dell and 146th and Gray. The amount of planning that goes into financing these road improvements is massive. We must be years ahead of the process to plan properly. In one case the county has been awarded nine million dollars towards a project I expect to cost over thirty-five million dollars. That means that we must have the means and mechanisms to finance the

remaining costs in a timely manner to not lose the nine-million-dollar time sensitive grant. It is kind of like juggling porcupines while riding a unicycle, tricky on its best day.

The insurance committee met and reviewed our present state on expenses, claims, and reserves. I appreciate that our outside consultants keep officials well informed on the health of the plan and how it is being managed.

During March I received five constituent service requests and communications. Again, this month 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. The planned speed test is to take place in April as is some road maintenance to address wear and tear on Cherry Tree. Again, I drove to the area twice and continue to work with the county highway department to address the families' concerns.

Another request was regarding the "Burn Out" events and campgrounds set up in the area of 211th and Creek Road. Many local officials have received several disturbing reports of noise, safety, and sanitary concerns over the conditions regarding these events. In speaking with the health department, sheriff and county attorney, these events are operating within the present regulations.

The last set of communications questioned Riverview Health and their purchase of the naming rights for the Arena at Innovation Mile. The taxpayers were unhappy that taxpayer money was used to bail out Riverview and shortly thereafter they spent upwards of five million dollars to purchase naming rights to the arena. I must admit that the optics of such a move do not make me happy either. I investigated the transaction a bit and spoke with the county attorney who also is a member of the Riverview Hospital Board. He reported to me that part of the agreement with Parkview includes funding for marketing and promotion from Parkview. Further that the funds used for the naming rights originated from Parkview not Riverview.

Of special note this month was the tour of the new Public Safety building under construction east of State Road 37, North of State Road 32. The time was spent walking around the entire site, asking questions that as a taxpayer, I would want the answers to. This facility will house all our 911 and Emergency Management teams. The care taken to build this facility to withstand a category five tornado ensures that even during a horrible disaster, emergency personnel can communicate and serve the citizens of Hamilton County. At seventy plus million dollars it deserves much attention. I am happy to report that the project is on time and budget.

Lastly, it was an honor to

represent you this month at the Sheridan Schools State of Finances presentation where Dr. Mundy outlined the finance needs of the district considering the SEA1 property tax credits. In short, the district will need to pass a referendum to ensure financial continuity in the years ahead.

This is my time sheet. This is where my time went during March 2026. 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](mailto: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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**About FeedingTeam.org**

More than 44,000 people in Hamilton County struggle with food needs. FeedingTeam.org is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit that offers outdoor, no-questions-asked food pantries that are open 24/7, all year long. These pantries help families who may not qualify for other programs but still need a few meals to get by.

We are so thankful to all the volunteers, hosts, donors, and sponsors who help us every day. We love serving our neighbors and seeing how your generosity changes lives. Hunger does not always look the way people think it does, and every meal makes a big difference.

A simple can of food can mean everything to a parent who has nothing left to feed their kids. A few meals can change someone's life.

If you would like to help, there are many volunteer opportunities. We are also looking for new spots for future pantries. If you know a good location, please contact us.

# Neighbors' Thankfulness, Credit God for Timing & Circumstances



**MARK HALL**  
Guest Columnist

in volunteering serving the 160 families that picked up food. You see, Jack started his new job on the following Monday. They report that the timing of finding a food source was absolutely God's providence. Your acts of kindness, supporting neighbors in Hamilton County bridged a gap until they were able to get back on their feet.

Meet Abby (also not her real name). Abby had been homeless for four months and had found one of the Feeding Team pantries. We met her at one of our in-office Thursday food pickups. She was so thankful for the pantry and would visit it every couple of days to get the food she needed. Besides food, she needed some basic toiletry items. Abby is telling us this story with tears in her eyes. She prayed to God asking that he send her some toilet paper and later that week she was driving and saw a second yellow pantry, she did not know

that there was more than one. She stopped and when she opened the pantry door, she saw toilet paper and began sobbing out loud. Abby wasn't worried about who might see her or what they might think. She didn't care if anyone heard her as she thanked God for the toilet paper. When Abby talks about Feeding Team and that time in her life, she says, "Feeding Team was my lifeline, it gave me hope that things would get better. I don't know what I would have done without it." Abby now has a job, a home and is working with a financial advisor so she never has to be homeless again.

Meet Ruth (also not her real name). Ruth is on disability and cares for her adult son. Ruth is also a devout animal lover and learned about Feeding Team from videos that feature our mascot Mavis (a high energy 10-month-old Australian Shepherd puppy). Unfortunately,

**FeedingTeam.org Facts:**

- 80 outdoor pantries
- Two drive through food pick-ups monthly and two in office food pickups monthly
- Over 20,000 meals given out each month
- Over 30 volunteer families.

Ruth's disability income is not enough to make ends meet, so learning about food pantries and pickups was an incredible blessing. Ruth started with the drive throughs and then occasionally the in-office food pickups. Now Ruth volunteers to help to distribute food to families that are in need.

These are typical pantry stories that we get to experience regularly. Some people believe that Hamilton County is void of hungry neighbors but telling the stories of our neighbors, who just like these three, struggled and then turned it around. You too can help others. You too can get help if you are in need. Thanks

to all our pantry hosts, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and supporters.

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

It has been a while since we gave you some updates on local "coincidences" when supply meet needs, so I thought we would share a few recent pantry stories from the volunteers. Meet Jack and Diane (not their real names) but they were as John Mellencamp sings "two American kids doing the best that they can." We first met this couple two months ago at a drive through food pick up. A nice middle-class couple who had come upon some extremely hard times. They found out about food pick up and pantries on social media. Their first trip through the line was awkward. As it is with most

families in their situation. They do not know how to act. Do I speak? Do I not make eye contact? Is it ok to ask for more chicken instead of fish? Am I supposed to even say thank you? I noticed them on their first time because they drove a very distinctive unique compact car. The second food pick up they spoke to us. They are traditional friendly midwestern folks looking for a hand up. Fast forward to the third food pick up and they jump out of the car and give hugs, no longer intimidated at the prospect of receiving help; their gratitude took over. Move to last week, the same couple joined us

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## KENNY THOMPSON

With decades of experience as an award-winning sports writer and sports editor – most of it covering Purdue athletics – Kenny Thompson has a perspective and inside knowledge that few others have. Whether it's putting what's going on in the Big Ten in historical perspective or shooting straight from the hip on what's happening today, no one has a better take on Purdue and sports than Kenny!

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