

THE TIMES

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QUICKTIMES

Crossing Connects Ice Cream Social at Frankfort Neighborhood Center

The Crossing School will host its "Crossing Connects" Ice Cream Social on Thursday, May 14, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Frankfort Neighborhood Center, featuring free ice cream from Glover's Ice Cream, food, raffles, and information on educational opportunities and tuition funding options.

Dine to Donate Alzheimer's Fundraiser at Milky Way

The community is invited to a "Dine to Donate" fundraiser benefiting Alzheimer's awareness on May 15, 2026, at Milky Way, 750 Washington Ave., Frankfort, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. A portion of all food sales will be donated to Alzheimer's-related causes, with organizers encouraging dine-in and carryout participation to support families affected by the disease.

Sparkling Success Leadership Series Luncheon

Mayor Judy Sheets has announced the next installment of the city's Sparkling Success Leadership Series Luncheon, set to take place on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Frankfort Neighborhood Center.

Clinton County Community Celebration

The Clinton County Community Foundation will celebrate its 30th anniversary on Thursday, June 11, from 6:30-9 p.m. at Prairie Creek Park in partnership with the City of Frankfort. The evening will feature live music from Jake Towe Band and celebrate three decades of local philanthropy and community impact in Clinton County.

Flora Community Club "Paint a Picnic Table" Project

The Flora Community Club is inviting residents and artists to participate

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Submitted photo

Former sheriff Richard Kelly is shown in this file photo. Kelly resigned Thursday as sheriff of Clinton County after pleading guilty to felony conflict of interest and official misconduct charges in Clinton Circuit Court.

Clinton County sheriff resigns after guilty plea

By NATALIE GARGIULO

Clinton County Sheriff Richard Kelly has resigned as part of a plea agreement filed Thursday involving 2022 felony charges.

During a final pretrial hearing Thursday morning in Clinton Circuit Court, Kelly pleaded guilty to one Level 6 felony count of conflict of interest and one Level 6 felony count of official misconduct. A second official misconduct count was dismissed under the plea agreement, according to court records. His resignation was part of the agreement

filed with the court.

"This is an emotional day for me personally, having been involved in this process for nearly six years," says Clinton County Commissioner Jordan Brewer. "Throughout that time, there were accusations that this was politically motivated or some kind of witch hunt. Those accusations were directed not only at me, but at other commissioners, council members, and even our families. We've endured a great deal, always believing that the truth would eventually come to light." Kelly's wife, Ashley Kelly,

also entered a guilty plea Thursday in the same case. A court spokesperson confirmed she pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor conflict-of-interest charge and received probation. Richard Kelly also was sentenced to probation, according to court records.

The case centered on Kelly's decision after taking office in 2019 to appoint his wife as jail matron. Prosecutors alleged the couple failed to file the conflict-of-interest disclosure required under Indiana law when Ashley Kelly was hired. Authorities also alleged she simultaneously served

as jail commissary manager, a second position that later drew scrutiny during separate investigations.

The pleas closed one criminal case in Clinton County, but they did not end the legal troubles surrounding the former sheriff and his wife.

In a statement issued Thursday evening, the Clinton County Board of Commissioners said the process of filling the vacancy had already begun.

Under Indiana law, Republican precinct committeemen

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Clinton County voters deliver decisive primary results, set stage for November elections

By NATALIE GARGIULO

Voters across Clinton County delivered a wide-ranging set of results in Tuesday's primary election, deciding contested races for county offices, township seats and state legislative nominations while setting the stage for several fall matchups.

Unofficial election results show strong turnout in several contested races, including county sheriff, county commissioner and select township and council seats, while many other offices were decided outright in the primary.

In the Republican primary for U.S. House District 4, incumbent Jim Baird led a three-way race with 66.6 percent of the vote. Craig Haggard followed with 24.2 percent and John Piper received 9.2 percent.

In legislative races, voters split closely in State House District 38, where Mark



Submitted photo

A "Vote Here" sign marks a polling location in Clinton County during Tuesday's primary election, where voters cast ballots in several contested county, township and state races.

Hufford edged Heath R. VanNatter 50.8 percent to 49.2 percent.

In State House District 41, Mark Genda secured the Republican nomination with 100 percent of the vote after running unopposed.

Judicial and countywide

races also saw decisive outcomes. In the race for judge of the Clinton Superior Court, Thomas F. Little defeated Shawn Rountree 55.3 percent to 44.7 percent.

For prosecuting attorney of the 45th Judicial Circuit, Christopher David Vawter Jr.

ran unopposed and received 100 percent of the vote.

Other uncontested countywide Republican races included clerk of the circuit court, where Stephanie Harshbarger won with 100

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Clinton County 5K draws more than 700 to Prairie Creek Park for mental health awareness event

By NATALIE GARGIULO

More than 700 people gathered last week at Prairie Creek Park for a community 5K aimed at drawing attention to mental health and the services available in Clinton County.

The Mental Health Awareness Run/Walk was organized by the Healthy Communities of Clinton County Coalition and brought runners, walkers, families and local supporters to the park for the annual event.

Organizers said the turnout reflected growing community support for conversations around mental health and the importance of local outreach.

The event was held during Mental Health Awareness Month, which communities across the country recognize each May to encourage education, reduce stigma and connect residents with mental health resources.

Frankfort Mayor Judy Sheets marked the occasion by issuing a proclamation declaring May as Mental

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Clinton County roundabout named state finalist for engineering excellence

By NATALIE GARGIULO

A road project on the west side of Clinton County has earned statewide attention.

Clinton County was named a finalist in the 2026 Indiana Engineering Excellence Awards for the roundabout at State Road 28 and County Road 800 West, county officials announced this week.

The recognition came during an April 30 awards luncheon hosted by the Indiana chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies. The annual program highlights projects from across the state that stand out for engineering design, public value and technical achievement.

For local officials, the honor marks another chapter for a project that has already changed a heavily traveled intersection west of Frankfort.

Before construction, the crossing at State Road 28 and County Road 800

See ROUNDABOUT, page A3

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Fireside Grill

MONDAY General Tso's Chicken with Rice and Egg Roll \$11.99	TUESDAY Grilled 1/4 lb Coney Dog with Potato Wedges \$7.99	WEDNESDAY Beef and Noodles w/ 2 sides \$11.99	THURSDAY Grilled Smoked Pork Chops w/2 sides \$11.99	FRIDAY Big Sloppy Joe with Potato Wedges \$6.99
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May DAILY SPECIALS!