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THE TIMES

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

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Braun declares June 'Nuclear Family Month'

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More than 80% of Indiana households are living out-of-sync with what Gov. Mike Braun considers "God's design for the family structure."

The Republican chief executive issued a proclamation Monday recognizing June as "Nuclear Family Month" and touting the supposed benefits that flow only from families consisting of one husband, one wife, and any biological, adopted or foster children.

According to Braun, children raised by married, biological parents "have better physical and emotional well-being." He said nuclear families also have "been the foundation of society since the creation of the world."

Yet, according to U.S. Census Bureau data, just 18% of the 2.7 million Indiana households consist of Braun's ideal married couple with children.

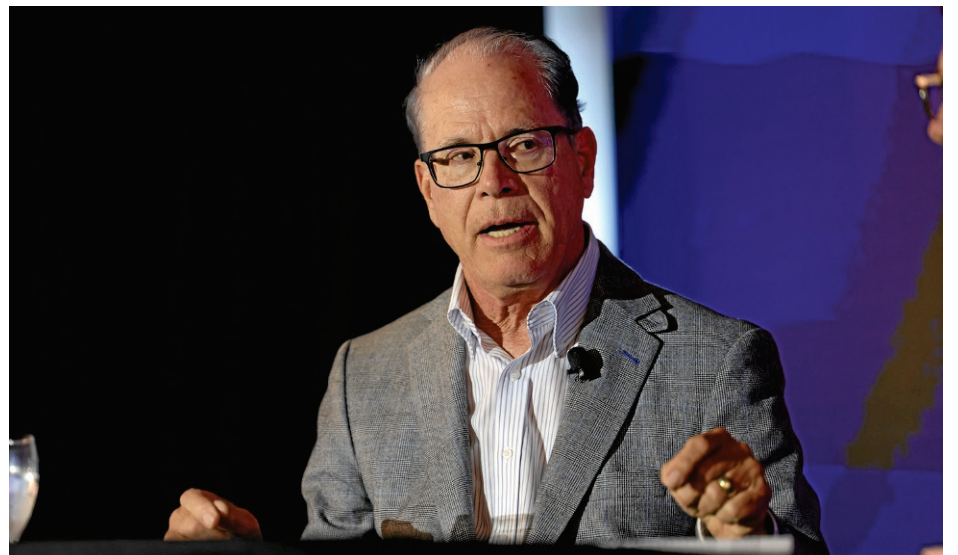
In fact, Hoosiers living alone make up

the largest number of Indiana households, followed by married couples without children, and nearly 250,000 single parents, who comprise 9% of the state's households.

Braun's proclamation suggests those people — the vast majority of Hoosiers — are a burden on the state government he leads because in the absence of nuclear families: "Society must compensate with expensive, inferior approaches such as welfare systems, schools as surrogate parents and police as surrogate discipline."

"As a father of four and grandfather of seven, I have seen firsthand the impact that loving, committed families can have across multiple generations. As we approach America's 250th anniversary, this proclamation recognizes the important role families play in shaping the future of our state and our country," Braun said in an X, formerly Twitter, post promoting his proclamation.

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JOHN J. WATKINS, FILE, THE TIMES

Republican Gov. Mike Braun issued a proclamation Monday recognizing "Nuclear Families Month," along with the supposed benefits that flow only from families consisting of one husband, one wife, and any biological, adopted or foster children.

FARM TO HAMMOND



Vendor Lisa Semane, with the help of a rubber duck, shows off her homemade skincare products, "Wrapped N Love by Granny," at the Farmed & Forged Market in Hammond.

Debut of downtown farmers market part of larger vision for revitalization

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HAMMOND — Finally, downtown Hammond residents have access to chocolate cherry sour-dough bread. Also, the Region's best chicken chorizo, and fresh fruit and veggies from "the home of the big berry." Artisan ankle

bracelets. And a whole lot more. Mandy Krickhahn and The Collective have brought the popular Farmed & Forged Market to Hammond; the market, which has run successful indoor and outdoor iterations around LaPorte County.

The market, which began last

week, will run every Thursday in downtown Hammond. The debut event on May 28 featured dozens of local vendors and a live cooking demonstration from Chefs Darrick Tucker and Maurice Shelton aka 'Chef Blake.'

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CP calls for end to BP lockout

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CROWN POINT — The City Council approved a resolution reinforcing support for workers locked out from British Petroleum's Whiting Refinery, part of a swell of support from local municipalities that has grown over the past few weeks.

Crown Point's resolution largely mirrored calls for BP to end the lockout made in Hammond and East Chicago since late May. United Steelworkers Union 7-1 employees have been kept off the job since March 19, when they voted to reject the oil giant's proposed contract.

The council's vote was 4-1, with Laura Sauerma voting "no" because, though she supported the message of the resolution, she felt it was unprecedented for city leaders to take a stance on a labor dispute and said it fell outside of the council's purview. Sauerma said she prefers that the council "stay in our lane."

Councilor Joe Sanders abstained, citing the same general reasons as Sauerma, saying that, "The business of the council should be related to Crown Point." Councilor Scott Evorik was absent from Monday's meeting.

The city's resolution is titled "in support of the United Steelworkers' Union Members" who are locked out.

Mayor Pete Land said he understood the concerns of councilors, but he felt the resolution was not about taking sides.

"(T)he primary focus of this resolution is just to support the men and women of the Steelworkers' Union, whether they're Crown Point residents or not," Land said.

BP has promised to end the lockout if the union accepts some concessions, The Times previously reported, including job cuts for some union employees to allow for a more competitive and sustainable refinery.

The company has said it is also offering a 13% pay raise over the first four years of a proposed six-year contract.

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Weather
Mostly sunny
High: 85 Low: 56
Forecast: A4

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