



Brought to you by:



**TODAY'S VERSE**

*Psalm 16:8 I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.*



**Faces of Hamilton County**

People who call our community their own

What makes Jennifer Sylvester smile? "Music," said the Noblesville resident, a 2000 Noblesville High School graduate who was found playing the snare drum during the 150th Anniversary NHS Alumni Pep Band and Community Night in 2019. (The next NHS Pep Band Alumni gathering is at 6 p.m. today in the NHS band room.) Jennifer played tenor drums at NHS and also plays guitar and a little piano and sings. She is the lead vocalist in a cover band called Obviously Incognito, which plays at Urban Vines Winery & Brewing Co. in Westfield. She also performs solo in Noblesville and Carmel. She learned music from her musician parents, Mickey and Lynn Sylvester, and what they didn't teach her, she taught herself. "My mom sang opera for most of my life, and my dad plays guitar and sings." She studied web design and majored in multimedia at Ivy Tech and works at a call center in a sales job. She will turn 42 on Dec. 30. Why she returned for the NHS Alumni Pep Band and Community Night? "Band was a huge part of my life, from middle school all the way through high school ... Music, pretty much, is my only hobby." All Noblesville High School Pep Band Alumni are invited to relive the magic of band with a gathering in the band room at 6 p.m. today (Friday) for a pre-game reunion, with fellow alumni, then hit the court for a chance to be a part of the Pep Band magic once again. Read more about the alumni gathering and other things to do in the Betsy Reason column in today's edition of The Times.

# The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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The Times photo by Betsy Reason

En Pointe Indiana Ballet will present "An En Pointe Christmas" which will be performed at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Noblesville High School with tickets at [www.enpointe.yapsody.com](http://www.enpointe.yapsody.com).

## An En Pointe Christmas, Winter Artisan Market, Kids Night, Santa Visits



### BETSY REASON Columnist

Share your holiday wish list with Santa at the Santa House on the Square, ice skate at the temporary Federal Hill ice plaza, watch Carmel Community Players' live theater, take in the Carmel Christkindlmarkt, see the lights at Merry Prairie at Conner Prairie, perform with the Noblesville High School Alumni Pep Band, and experience an Evening with Santa. Here's The Times' list of 22 things to do this weekend and beyond:

1. Experience the magic of the 2023 Carmel Christkindlmarkt daily through Dec. 24

at Carter Green next to the Performing Arts Center of Carmel. Enjoy traditional German food, shop handmade German goods under the twinkling lights at this one-of-a-kind holiday experience, ice skate on an outdoor rink, visit German artists at work, find fun in the kids corner, enjoy live entertainment, with free admission. Hours are noon-9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, noon-8 p.m. Sundays, 4-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, noon-4 p.m. Dec. 24. Visit [carmelchristkindlmarkt.com](http://carmelchristkindlmarkt.com)



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

2. Santa listens to gift lists at the Santa House on the Square on select dates in downtown Noblesville, courtesy of Hamilton County Historical Society, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. today and Dec. 21, 22; noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and Dec. 23; and noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 24. Stop by to visit Santa, snap a photo, and consider a donation that goes toward making this Santa House event possible.
3. Experience Lights Over Seminary presented by the City of Noblesville and Noblesville Preservation Alliance during this walkable light display in Seminary Park at Hannibal and 10th Street in downtown Noblesville display 5-11 p.m. nightly through December.

Experience the magic of the 2023 Carmel Christkindlmarkt - with traditional German food and goods under the twinkling lights at this one-of-a-kind holiday experience -- daily through Dec. 24 at Carter Green next to the Performing Arts Center of Carmel.

4. Federal Hill Commons temporary Ice Plaza is open through Dec. 22 in Noblesville, with hours 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday through Dec. 22; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, starting Dec. 23 through Noblesville Schools holiday break; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

➔ See BETSY Page A4

**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Walking at least six miles per week can help reduce age-related memory loss. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at [www.thepaper24-7.com](http://www.thepaper24-7.com)



**TODAY'S QUOTE**

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet The words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men!" Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

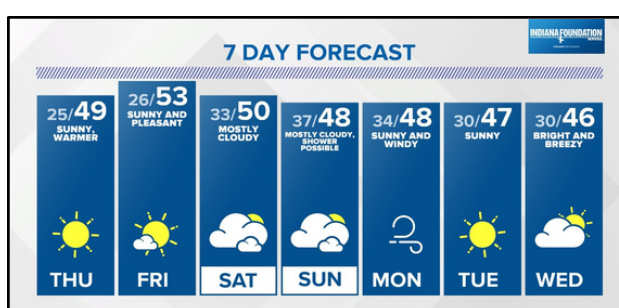
**OBITUARIES**

James David (Dave) Henderson

**TODAY'S JOKE**

What are the best Christmas sweaters made from? Fleece Navidad!

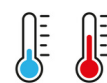
The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank WILLIAM AND DONNA CLARK for subscribing!



## The Daily Almanac

**Sunrise/Sunset**

RISE: 7:59 am  
SET: 5:20 pm



**High/Low Temperatures**

HIGH: 53°F  
LOW: 33°F



**Today is...**

- Bill of Rights Day
  - National Cupcake Day
  - International Tea Day



**What Happened On This Day**

- 2009 Maiden flight of Boeing 787 Dreamliner. Considered to be one of Boeing's most fuel-efficient airplanes, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner has suffered from problems associated with its lithium-ion batteries.
- 1791 U.S. Bill of Rights becomes law. The first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the United States are known as the Bill of Rights. They became law after Virginia ratified the amendments.



**Births On This Day**

- 1907 Oscar Niemeyer - Brazilian architect, designed the United Nations Headquarters
- 37 Nero - Roman Emperor

**Deaths On This Day**

- 2010 Bob Feller American baseball player
- 1966 Walt Disney American animator and director

## OBITUARIES

### James David Henderson

March 1, 1951 - November 30, 2023

James David (Dave) Henderson, 72, of Anderson, and (formerly of Noblesville) died November 30, 2023, at Edgewater Woods Health Care Facility in Anderson, IN after a long battle with cancer. He was born March 1, 1951, in Evansville, IN to James L.



& Avis (Ashcraft) Henderson. He graduated from Union High School in Dugger, IN in 1969. Since his parents owned the drugstore in Dugger, IN Dave opted to attend Purdue University with plans for a degree in pharmacy. However, he decided this plan was not for him & went on to receive a degree in Business Management from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, IN. He married Cristina McBride (divorced) & 2 children were born to this union.

Dave moved his family to Noblesville, IN after graduation to take a job with the Food Brokerage Firm of Dugan & Doss, then later with Nicholas Sales & Marketing. He spent many years in sales management, representing various food manufacturers.

Dave was also a professional tennis umpire & officiated at many major tournaments, including the US Open.

Dave & Barbara Snyder were married in 1992, & settled in Noblesville, IN. After Barbara retired from Anderson Community School Corp., they moved to Anderson, IN and became full-time chauffeurs for the grandchildren.

After his career in Sales Management, Dave drove a truck for Carter Express, worked as a courier delivering meds & then for a company driving people to and from doctors appts.

After a second cancer diagnosis in 2020, Dave retired from the workforce & spent many hours in his attic workshop, creating lovely wood pieces for his family.

Dave is survived by his spouse of 30 years, Barbara (Snyder) Henderson, 2 children: Jason (Leigh) Henderson of Detroit, MI & Kara (Daniel) Beyer of Indianapolis, IN. Also surviving are 2 stepchildren: Kim (Jim) Sundheimer of Anderson, IN & Jason (Jenna) Snyder, of Auburndale, FL, 13 grandchildren and his beloved dachshund, Maddie.

Per Dave's request, there will be no funeral services. A Celebration of Life will be held in Dugger, IN at Newkirk's Funeral Home March 2, 2024 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

## Heights Update From Superintendent Arrowood



### DR. ARROWOOD Guest Columnist

As I reflect on the first half of the school year, I am proud of all we have accomplished together as a school community to challenge, educate, and inspire every student, every day. I continue to be grateful for the leadership and vision of our school board, and passionate teachers and staff and their commitment to our students. I remain proud of our students for their efforts to learn and achieve in the classroom, on the stage, and on the athletic fields. I appreciate our families support and involvement that is a gamechanger for positive student outcomes. On the topic of involvement, one of our district parents who works in the local food security sector reached out to see if we could help spread the word about a new app, [Community Compass](#). This free, quick, and easy tool provides information about when and where free food is available in our area. This can be a helpful resource for those navigating the pantries and alternative food distribution system. Most of us aren't immune to facing

difficult times or challenges. Finding nutritious, readily available food shouldn't be one of them. We all could use a helping hand now and then, especially when the unexpected happens. Hamilton County Youth Assistance Program (YAP) was selected as this year's recipient for the Partners in Service Award recently presented at the Hamilton County Trustee Association annual awards ceremony. There are 11 YAP advocates serving Hamilton County's six public schools. Jackson Township Deputy Trustee, Nicole Duncan, said, "It was our direct relationship with YAP Youth Assistance Early Intervention Advocate for Hamilton Heights, Mary Ann Haymaker, that influenced our decision to select this organization for the award. We love her and the work she does at Heights through YAP and is deserving of this honor." We couldn't agree more! Thank you to all our Hamilton County Youth Assistant Advocates for their investment in our students and community through the YAP. Learn more about the impact of YAP in our schools [here](#). Our Band Director, Mark Snelson, is offering a special opportunity for middle school students to participate in the first of what could be an annual, half-day Flag Camp for HHMS students (grades 5-8) this Saturday, December 16. Students are invited to practice and perform with Heights' award-winning high school Color Guard live on court at halftime during the boys' varsity basketball game.

The camp consists of practice during the day, mentored by our amazing Color Guard Squad, pizza lunch, flag, T-Shirt, and creating a great memory in front of Husky fans and visitors alike. The deadline to register is Friday. More information and registration can be found [here](#). Members of the Hamilton Heights Girls Basketball team cordially invite the community to wear pink and come out in force at the 4th Annual Pink Out on Friday, January 19 at Hamilton Heights. Our annual Pink Out campaign is something we all look forward to as we recognize those who have survived, remember those who fought, and bring awareness about breast cancer in our community. Proceeds benefit the IWIN Foundation. Calling all former Hamilton Heights boys basketball team players, managers, cheerleaders, and coaches to participate in the Hamilton Heights Alumni Boys Basketball game and related festivities on Saturday, January 20. The afternoon "fun" raiser and evening recognition is designed to connect the sport's rich past with our current players and fans. Details and registration information can be found [here](#). May your holiday season be filled with the most precious gifts of all: time with friends and family, rest and relaxation, and cheerful laughter. #WeAreHuskies



## Firewood Permits Available at Some Parks

The public is invited to cut certain downed trees at Brookville Lake and Whitewater Memorial State Park for firewood. Trees eligible for firewood have fallen as a result of natural causes or have been dropped by property staff. They are along roadsides or in public areas such as campsites and picnic areas. Permit sales are ongoing and end Jan. 31. The cost of one pickup-truck load is \$10. All proceeds will be used for resource management and restoration efforts, including replacement of trees in campgrounds and other public areas. A firewood permit must be obtained for each load at the park office between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Mounds State Recreation Area office. Permits are not available on observed state holidays. Wood may be cut and removed between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily. For more information, call 765-458-5565. Firewood cut at Brookville Lake and Whitewater Memorial State Park is for personal use only and cannot be sold. Mounds SRA at Brookville Lake ([on.IN.gov/brookvillelake](http://on.IN.gov/brookvillelake)) is at 14108 State Road 101, Brookville. Whitewater Memorial State Park ([on.IN.gov/whitewatermemorial](http://on.IN.gov/whitewatermemorial)), is at 1418 S. State Road 101, Liberty.



## Updates From Rep. Victoria Spartz



### REP. SPARTZ Guest Columnist

Throughout my time in Congress, I've seen our country drift closer to a surveillance state I've fought hard to ensure the legislative branch

has the right to independent audits of intelligence collecting. The American people deserve these protections. This should be a bipartisan issue: We must protect 4th Amendment Rights.

**Legislative Update: Farm Bill & Budget Committee**  
I recently spoke in front of the [Ag Committee](#) and [Budget Committee](#) on the importance of and need for real reform. Both committees are skirting their responsibilities when it comes to meaningful reform with the Farm

Bill and the budgeting process. Unfortunately, there aren't enough members of congress willing to make hard decisions and reform our budgeting process.

**Holding Russia and Europe Accountable**  
In February 2022, Russia violated the Budapest Memorandum and UN Charter, and invaded a sovereign country. I believe that we must explore proper due process to use Russian assets to pay for weapons for Ukraine.

I'm a member of the Helsinki Commission which held a hearing on ways that we could use Russian assets to pay for weapons needed in Ukraine. I'm supportive of ways that we can equip the Ukrainian people to defend themselves through unique funding mechanisms like this, while also encouraging our allies in Europe to do more.

**Carmel Student Recognized for Coding Feat**  
This week, I was able to

announce Jasper Zhu as the winner of the 2023 Congressional App Challenge (CAC) for Indiana's 5th Congressional District. The Carmel High School sophomore created an app that allows users to find the cleanest public restroom — no matter where they are in the country. How'd Jasper do it: Jasper and his teammate, Jackie Wei of California, used JavaScript to create their mobile app. How do I see more? The app, dubbed "I Pooped There," will be showcased on [www.House.gov](http://www.House.gov), and it will also be part of a

rotating display in the Cannon House Office Building leading to the U.S. Capitol. What is the Congressional App Challenge? Commencing in 2014 as a collaboration between the U.S. House of Representatives and the Internet Education Foundation (IEF), the CAC is open to middle and high school students. Those interested in participating as judges or students eager to partake in the competition next year can contact our Noblesville office at (317) 848-0201

16698 Birdbrook Road  
Noblesville • \$589,900  
**PENDING**



Stunning 5BR, 4.5BA in Essex of Noblesville. Custom designed with in-laws quarters on main level, kitchen with quartz, butler's pantry, premium lot w/pond view, walk-out basement, 3-car garage plus storage, a must see to appreciate all this home has to offer. BLC#21949379

11256 Winding Wood Ct.  
Indianapolis • \$239,900  
**SOLD!**



This open concept condo is move-in ready, 2 BR, 2 BA. Family room with gas fireplace, eat-in kitchen with granite counters, breakfast bar, tile floor, pantry, appliances stay, main BR ensuite with walk-in tile shower, large 2-car garage, patio with retractable awning. BLC#21945183

18865 Wimbley Way  
Noblesville • \$289,900  
**NEW PRICE!**



This 3 BR, 2 BA ranch is located in family friendly Fairfield Farms. Huge great room w/doors leading to covered patio & fenced backyard, kitchen w/pantry, dining area & all appliances stay, new windows, water softener & HVAC in 2020. Fence, roof & gutters 2021. BLC#21949582

10717 Upland Way  
Noblesville • \$349,900  
**SOLD!**



Welcome to this lovely 4 BR, 2.5 BA home, kitchen with center island and newer SS appliances, spacious family room with gas fireplace, park-like backyard with maintenance free deck, auto-retractable awning, paver patio, basketball court and cute she shed. BLC#21949680

WISHING YOU THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAY SEASONS FROM...  
Peggy and Jennifer!

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# Gold Coin Dropped into Red Kettle

When Salvation Army volunteers are busy counting and sorting donations at the end of a long day of bell ringing, they never expect to see the sort of donation that was pulled out of a Central Indiana Red Kettle late last week: a gold coin worth at least \$2,000.

The \$50 Gold American Eagle Coin was discovered last week in a Red Kettle that had been outside the Walmart store on East Main Street in Plainfield. It was nestled among other bills and coins that had been placed in the kettle and was found while counting the donations at the end of the day.

“Whether it’s a penny or a hundred-dollar bill, we presume every donation we receive is given with a measure of sacrifice,” said Major David Martinez of The Salvation Army Eagle Creek Corps Community Center. “We count this as another opportunity to thank God that our community finds us worthy of such generosity.”

The gold coin will support programs and ministries at the Eagle Creek Corps in 2024. The Salvation Army will have the coin appraised for authenticity before it is sold. As of December 11, 2023, the price of gold is \$1,994.83 per ounce, according to American Hartford Gold.

“Receiving a gift like this in a kettle is really a double portion for us,” added Major Rachel Stouder, Central Indiana Area Commander. “We are grateful not only for its monetary value but also the morale booster of receiving such a



valuable sacrifice from a caring donor. Central Indiana truly does have some of the very best people.”

This isn’t the first time valuable coins have been donated to The Salvation Army of Central Indiana. Five coins made of silver, gold and platinum were dropped into Central Indiana Red Kettles last year. The coins had a total value of \$1,800. The annual Red Kettle Campaign has a goal of raising \$3.6 million through the Red Kettles located throughout Central Indiana. Bells started ringing early this year at various locations like Kroger, Cabela’s, Walgreens, Walmart, Sam’s Club, Needer’s Fresh Market, Hobby Lobby, and Simon Malls. Volunteer bell ringers are needed to keep the kettles out all the way until December 23, so supporters are encouraged to visit [RegisterToRing.com](http://RegisterToRing.com) today to sign up for a 2-hour shift at a location of your choice.

Every donation dropped into Red Kettles during November and December provides help and hope to those in need, and all gifts stay right here in Central Indiana. Visit [SACentralIndiana.org](http://SACentralIndiana.org) to learn more about how you can help The Salvation Army ensure that we can Love Beyond Christmas and continue to help those in need in 2024.

[www.thetimes24-7.com](http://www.thetimes24-7.com)

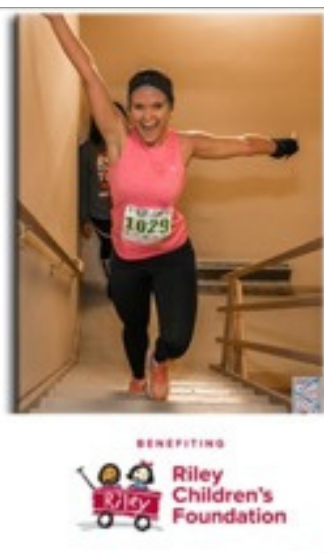
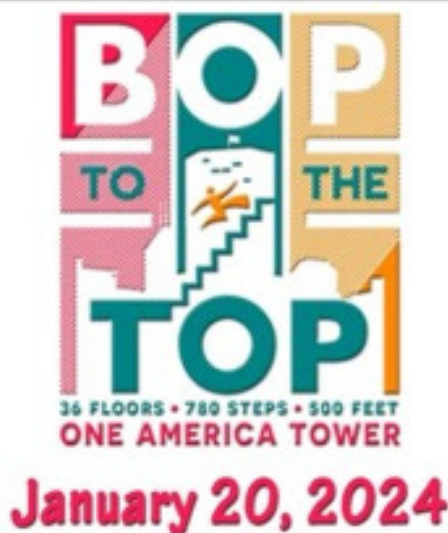
# New Stop Signs Going Up

Drivers around Sheridan need to be aware that beginning Monday, stop signs will be installed on 206th Street at Six Points Road, making the intersection an all-way stop.

There are “NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN AHEAD” warning signs installed east and west of the intersection. As always, The Times urges motorists to be observant and stay safe.

*Thank you for subscribing to The Times*

# Entries Open for Bop to Top Stair Climb



Tuxedo Brothers will once again host the annual Bop to the Top Stair Climb in 2024. Bop to the Top is scheduled to take place Saturday, Jan. 20 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the One America Tower in downtown Indianapolis. Registration and fundraising information can be found at [tuxbro.com](http://tuxbro.com), Tuxedo Brothers’ website. Early Bird registration and pricing ends on December 31, so hurry and register for this outstanding event helping raise funds for Riley Children’s Foundation. It is also necessary to register by Jan. 11 to guarantee your shirt! Participants are invited to climb the 36 floors of the OneAmerica Tower. There are 780 steps in all. All ages and abilities are welcome. The climb can be made as an individual or as part of a team.

This incredible event, now in its 41st year, is a third-party fundraiser for the Riley Children’s Foundation. Over \$1 million has been raised so far for the Foundation! Tuxedo Brothers is an event management company owned and operated by brothers Don and Phil Carr. Since 1984, Tuxedo Brothers has managed more than 1,000 runs, walks and triathlons benefiting service and charitable organizations. Don and Phil, along with their team of employees, are honored that they have had the opportunity to host this fundraising event each year. Don Carr, President of Tuxedo Brothers, is extremely pleased to be part of this legacy. “I can’t tell you what it means to be a part of such a meaningful event. To be able to help Riley Children’s Foundation

work toward their mission is what it’s all about.”

Riley Children’s Foundation is the fundraising arm of Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health and the founding organization that opened Riley Hospital in 1924. Today, Riley Hospital is recognized as one of the best children’s hospitals in the nation and is the only comprehensive children’s research hospital in the state of Indiana.

Each year, as part of the Bop to the Top event, a ‘Riley Hero’ – an individual who speaks about their own experience as a child with Riley – is selected.

This year’s Riley Hero is Josh Jennings of Terre Haute.

Josh is a champion powerlifter who holds seven state records and one world record. He has come a long way since he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at the age of six. Josh went through three years of chemotherapy at Riley Children’s Health, and today he is cancer free. He is looking forward to sharing his Riley story and providing hope for others.

Tuxedo Brothers goal for 2024 is to raise at least \$15,000. If you are interested in participating in the climb and collecting donations for Riley Children’s Foundation, you can set up a personal or corporate fundraising page. Collect donations from your friends, family or co-workers by creating an online giving page. Riley Children’s Foundation receives 100% of funds raised by individuals and teams who set up fundraising pages, so please

consider the difference you can make in a child’s life! You can also bring your donations to the event site on January 20.

Overall and Age-Group awards will be provided for those who want to get competitive in Bop to the Top, but it is not required. Those who simply want to take their time and climb the stairs are also encouraged to come out.

Participants are encouraged to visit <http://www.tuxbro.com> for registration and updates on this and all Tuxedo Brothers’ events, or e-mail Jason Springer at [Jason@TuxBro.com](mailto:Jason@TuxBro.com). You can also check out future events, including several 5K’s, half-marathons, full marathons, triathlons and more on their website.



**TUXEDOBROTHERS**  
EVENT MANAGEMENT



This year’s Riley Hero is Josh Jennings of Terre Haute.



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[thetimes24-7.com](http://thetimes24-7.com)

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## Trout Stocked Across Indiana

A total of 7,250 brown trout and 1,955 rainbow trout have been stocked in 17 bodies of water across Indiana.

“The demand from trout anglers for brown trout has been increasing over the past several years,” said Matt Horsley, fisheries biologist for northeast Indiana.

“Stocking brown trout into our northern lakes and streams has the potential to extend trout fishing opportunities from just a month or so to several months, possibly even the entire year.”

The stocked brown trout averaged 8.25 inches in length.

Brown trout stocking locations include:

- Fancher Lake, Lake County, 200 trout
- Harbor Lake, Porter County, 240 trout
- Little Kankakee River, LaPorte County, 250 trout
- Potato Creek, St. Joseph County, 150 trout
- Pinhook, St. Joseph County, 200 trout
- Lawrence Lake, Marshall County, 1,380 trout
- Myers Lake, Marshall County, 1,920 trout
- Sand Lake, Noble County, 400 trout
- Fairfield Northeast Lake, Tippecanoe County, 350 trout
- Boones Pond, Boone County, 550 trout
- Brookville Lake Tailwater, Franklin County, 1,610 trout

Rainbow trout stocking locations include:

- Pinhook Lake, St. Joseph County, 200 trout
- Shoaff Park Pond, Allen County, 300 trout
- Memorial Park Pond, Huntington County, 200 trout
- Johnson Lake, Jefferson County, 300 trout
- Oak Lake, Clark County, 405 trout
- Garvin Park Lake, Vanderburgh County, 550 trout

Anglers 18 and older will need an Indiana fishing license and a trout/salmon stamp to fish for trout. The bag limit for trout is five.

This includes any combination of brook, rainbow, or brown trout, but no more than one may be a brown trout. There is no minimum size limit for lakes except for the 18-inch minimum size limit for brown trout at Oliver, Olin, and Martin lakes in LaGrange County, and the Brookville Lake tailwater in Franklin County. Streams have a 7-inch minimum size limit. There is no closed season for taking trout from inland lakes. Streams close to trout fishing from Dec. 31 to the last Saturday in April.

For more information on DNR fish stockings, visit [on.IN.gov/fish-stocking](http://on.IN.gov/fish-stocking).

## Meeting Notices

### Carmel Schools Meet Monday

The Carmel Clay Board of School Trustees meet Monday at 6 p.m. at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Center.

Please note the following:

- Doors open at 5:15 p.m. – all attendees will need to sign in
- Public comment is on the agenda and those wishing to speak during public comment must register by 5:45 p.m. The updated [Public Comment Policy is available for review](#)
- Attendees are expected to follow and respect the decorum of the meeting ([Civility and Decorum Policy](#))

All participants are subject to metal detection and may be subject to pat down based upon metal detector activation. To help expedite entry to the meeting, please do not carry bags/backpacks/purses as this will cause delays. No firearms or weapons are permitted on school grounds, regardless of an individual's permit.

To view the agenda, go to <http://go.boarddocs.com/in/ccsin/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CMXXM57546E9F>

[www.thetimes24-7.com](http://www.thetimes24-7.com)

### Board of directors for Riverview Health meets Monday

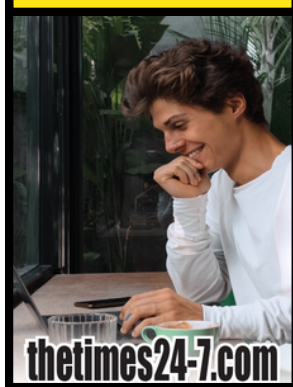
The board of directors for Riverview Health has a meeting scheduled for Monday at 5 p.m. in the hospital board room. Prior to that, the Personnel & Finance / Building & Grounds Committee will meet at 4:45 p.m.



### Carmel City Council Meets Monday

The Carmel Common Council Meeting is scheduled to meet Monday at 6 p.m. This meeting will take place in-person at City Hall and will be broadcast live on the City's website and local access television.

Thank you for reading The Times



## Makin' Bacon



### DICK WOLFSIE Funny Bone

Christmas morning 2023 will be a big disappointment for me. Not one of my presents will be bacon related. I just know it. It's hard to imagine how Mary Ellen could have perused the current merchandise catalogs thick with bacony items and not realized that there should have been something under the tree that had at least a whiff of this American food addiction. I used to belong to a bacon club where they send you a different slab of bacon each month. My wife kept trashing the package, maybe because the name of the company was The Strip Club.

Everyone loves bacon. When it's frying in the pan, you can almost hear a splattering of applause coming from the heavens. We wrap a \$50.00 filet in a strip of bacon to make it even better, and “No one has ever gone to see a Kevin Hot Dog movie,” says comic Jim Gaffigan. Nor would we even know what a water chestnut is if it weren't for bacon. To get a taste of their newest gift ideas, I went to one manufacturer's website. Their premier item is bacon shaving cream. The company suggested ordering early to be sure customers have a festive pork-scented holiday, which apparently is every man's fantasy. The ad claims the shaving cream delivers “maximum bacon scent when you need it most.” When that is, I have no idea, but they had me worked into a lather just thinking about it. By the way, the company lightheartedly warns that while using this product, “you can be eaten by bears,” making some of the side effects of my Lipitor pale in comparison. Overall, I was very

impressed with the company's selection of pork-related products and their customer-friendly approach in their follow-up correspondence. They even asked if I'd prefer to not receive their frequent email solicitations, because in their words, “No one likes spam.” They had a point. I'll try their Bacon-Flavored Popcorn, but the idea of Spam Lip Balm makes me a little nauseous. How about a container of Bacon Infant Formula? The product was launched several years ago accompanied by claims that the fat in pork is very important in the development of a newborn's brain. Now, it turns out this particular promotion was nothing but an April Fool's Day joke by the manufacturers. Yes, everyone is laughing except the 112 people who fell for this and still wait by the mailbox every day, hoping the product delivered before the baby is delivered. Finally, my favorite (and this one is real): The Bacon-Scented Oxygen Inhaler. You've had a long day at the office; you're at the half point in a marathon, or suffer from COPD (Chronic Overt Pork Deficiency). Pick up your mini-inhaler, hold the device up to your snout and breathe in. You'll never be out of breath again, but you will experience periodic grunting. And so, Christmas morning will come and go. There will be no bacon salt, no bacon candles, and no bacon-flavored envelopes. Not even a package of bacon-scented stickers to slap on friends who might enjoy sniffing themselves at work for a quick bacon high. I will sit at the breakfast table somewhat consoled when my wife serves a bacon quiche. I will savor several pieces. I figure she might get some gift ideas for next year if I make a pig of myself.

*- Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Times. E-mail Dick at [Wolfsie@aol.com](mailto:Wolfsie@aol.com).*

[www.thetimes24-7.com](http://www.thetimes24-7.com)



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

The cast experiences a comedic moment during rehearsals last week for “Moon Over Buffalo,” a fast-paced hilarious screwball comedy continuing through Sunday by Carmel Community Players at The Cat in Carmel, with tickets.

## BETSY

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Sundays; special holiday hours 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31. Rates are \$13, \$11 for ages 12 and younger. Also take private 15-minute carriage rides through downtown Noblesville.

5. Experience Merry Prairie at Conner Prairie, where visitors can explore Historic Holidays and immerse in the magic of Prairietown by candlelight 5:30-9:30 p.m. now through Dec. 17 and Dec. 21-22 at the Fishers living history park. Ride a vintage carousel, enjoy the thrill of Polar Bear Plunge tubing hill and warm by a fireplace while showing off your sock-skating skills at Frosty's Sock Skating Rink, plus pose for a selfie with Santa and hear the music of Jennifer Mlott at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and Dec. 21 at Blitzen's Bandstand Stage. Plus, reserve your seats for Breakfast with Santa this Saturday and Sunday. Tickets for all at [www.connerprairie.org](http://www.connerprairie.org)

6. Calling all Noblesville High School Pep Band Alumni, you're invited to relive the magic in the band room at 6 p.m. today for a pre-game reunion, with fellow alumni, then hit the court for a chance to be a part of the Pep Band magic once again.

7. Enjoy an Evening with Santa from 6-8 today in downtown Cicero. Bring your pet for selfies with Santa, contest for best dressed pet, Meet Olaf reindeer from Silly Safari, enjoy hot dogs, cookies and hot chocolate, free sugar cookie kit to the first 50 kids, selfies with antique Christmas tree, special kids Frosty & the Grinch and Royal events.

Donate a bag of food to help out Food Pantries. Sponsored by Lisa Stokes Bear, Cheryl Trietsch, Jeanne Hutcherson, Hometown Century 21 Angela

8. Experience “Moon Over Buffalo,” a fast-paced hilarious screwball comedy through Sunday, 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, by Carmel Community Players at The Cat in Carmel, with tickets at [carmelplayers.org](http://carmelplayers.org)

9. Enjoy live comedy with headliner Sam Rager and Jon Pfenler and Evan Frenz at 7:30 p.m. today and weekend guest Alana Gonzalez at The Brick Room Comedy Club on Maple Avenue and Ninth Street in downtown Noblesville. Visit [thebrickroom.cc](http://thebrickroom.cc) for tickets.

10. Meet Noblesville author Sarah Ackermann, who will celebrate her new children's book, “Finding My Superpower,” at a book signing 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at Logan Village Mall in downtown Noblesville.

11. Enjoy “An En Pointe Christmas” during En Pointe Indiana Ballet's holiday performances at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Noblesville High School with tickets at [www.enpointe.vapsody.com](http://www.enpointe.vapsody.com).

12. Experience a live-stream event beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday at Center Stage Vintage Guitars.

13. Shop the Winter Alley Art Market for works by local artists and makers 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday at South

Alley Community Room, Primeval Brewing, Just Lagom, Noblesville Antiques on the Square and Noble Coffee and Tea in downtown Noblesville.

14. Experience a live nativity 6-7:30 p.m. Saturday at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Noblesville.

15. Experience live music with Hill and Oaks on Saturday, John Beatrice on Dec. 22, Sam King on Dec. 23, Donny Coyle on Dec. 29 at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

16. Hop aboard the Nickel Plate Express for an array of excursions, including upcoming Holiday Cheers Express for 21 and older Friday nights through Christmas, Reindeer Express on Saturdays and Sundays through Christmas, tickets at [nickelplateexpress.com](http://nickelplateexpress.com).

17. Travel to the countryside to hear live music with The Booze Hounds at 7 p.m. Saturday, Bomar and Ritter on Dec. 23, Jeff Brown on Dec. 30 at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville. Visit [spencerfarmwinery.com](http://spencerfarmwinery.com).

18. Enjoy live music featuring Dead Squirrels on Saturday, Craig Thurston on Dec. 21, Jeff Brown on Dec. 23, and Disagreeable on Dec. 30 at Grindstone Public House in Noblesville.

19. Join your favorite princesses, including Beauty, Snow Sister, Sleeping Beautu and more for the musical holiday show, followed by meets and greets and a photo session.

20. Bring the family to