

TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" (NIV)

Hamilton Happenings

Westfield Green Together, a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental stewardship and community engagement, is pleased to announce that it contributed 780 volunteer hours to the City of Westfield in 2023. This dedicated effort demonstrates the organization's commitment to enhancing Westfield's natural beauty and sustainability. As Westfield Green Together looks ahead to the new year, the organization calls upon the support of the community and stakeholders to ensure the continued success of their projects. By supporting Westfield Green Together, individuals and businesses contribute to the preservation and enhancement of parks and natural spaces throughout Westfield. For more information about Westfield Green Together and opportunities to get involved, please visit wgtogether.org or follow Westfield Green Together on Facebook.

Three Things You Should Know

1 The United States Supreme Court has declined to review a federal court ruling in favor of a transgender student and his family challenging a discriminatory restroom policy at an Indiana public school district. Represented by the ACLU of Indiana, an adolescent transgender boy and his parents filed a lawsuit against the Metropolitan School District of Martinsville in December 2021 for failing to provide him with access to bathrooms consistent with his gender in violation of his rights under Title IX, the law prohibiting sex discrimination in educational programs, as well as the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. In an August 2023 opinion, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals found the school district policy did likely violate the student's rights under Title IX and equal protection.

2 The Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America group gave Senator Mike Braun an "A+" ratings on their National Pro-Life Scorecard. The new score takes into account votes and legislative action for every member of Congress in the first session of the 118th Congress. As SBA List wrote in their scorecard, "Sen. Braun has stood up against the extremist nominees of the pro-abortion Biden-Harris administration, and against pro-abortion action both in the administration and through legislation advanced by Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. Sen. Braun has voted consistently to defend the lives of the unborn and infants."

3 Good news for potential home buyers, house prices were down last month. New data from MIBOR Realtor Association shows a decrease in median sales price and decrease in active inventory compared to a year ago. The median sales price for a single-family home in central Indiana was \$278,000, a slight decline of 0.7 percent over last year and a 4.1 percent decline from the previous month. Closed sales were down 16.9 percent and pending sales were relatively flat, up just 0.6 percent, year-over-year. The typical listing received 97.4 percent of the asking price, compared to 97.7 percent last December.

The **TIMES**



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

50¢ WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM

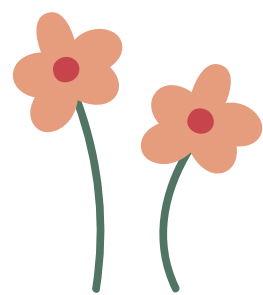
BTN

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!



11:06 p.m.

The exact time of the March Equinox here in the Northern Hemisphere. Folklore tells us that at the exact moment of the equinox, an egg can be balanced on end. The truth is that because eggs have many flaws, they can be balanced on their ends at any time of the year. There is no truth to the idea that the lunar or solar gravitational forces have anything to do with it.



92.8
VS.
89.8

The number of days we can enjoy spring in the Northern Hemisphere is 92.8. Those in the Southern Hemisphere have 89.8. Of course, our spring signals in the start of warm weather (we hope!). In the south, it's the opposite.

The number of days from today until spring. The March Equinox signals the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This year that occurs on March 19.

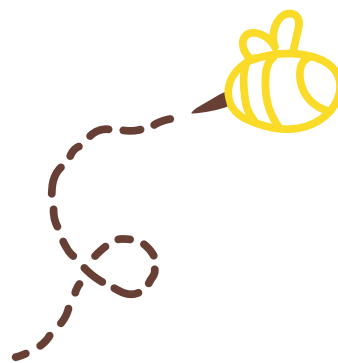


12

The number of hours of sunlight we get (approximately) on the equinox - which actually comes from two Latin words meaning equal night (aequus and nox).

3-1

This is the date meteorologists recognize as the first day of spring. The year is divided into four seasons and spring begins March 1 and ends May 31.



The number of days in this Leap Year in February, meaning we have to wait one extra day for March to arrive!

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Cracking your knuckles does not appear to lead to arthritis.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in *The Times* and online at www.thetimes24-7.com



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Genius begins great works. Labor alone finishes them."
Joseph Joubert

TODAY'S JOKE

What's a baby computer call its father?
Data.

OBITUARIES

None

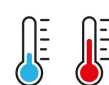
The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **BILL NUCKOLS** for subscribing!



The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset

RISE: 8:04 am
SET: 5:55 pm



High/Low Temperatures

HIGH: 33°F
LOW: 32°F



Today is...

- International Sweatpants Day
- National Hot Sauce Day



What Happened On This Day

- **1970** The Boeing 747 takes off on its first scheduled flight. The Pan Am jumbo jet flew from New York to London.
- **1943** World record for fastest temperature change. The fastest temperature change recorded in history occurred on this day in Spearfish, South Dakota. The temperature increased from -4°F (-20°C) to +45°F (+7°C) in the span of two minutes.



Births On This Day

- **1906** Robert E. Howard - American author
- **1788** Lord Byron - English poet

Deaths On This Day

- **2008** Heath Ledger - Australian actor, director
- **1901** Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom

| 7 DAY FORECAST | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| -5/24 BREEZY START, SUNNY | 19/35 CLOUDY, FEEL WARM LATE | 31/40 FRESHEN UP, RAIN TO RAIN | 36/46 CLOUDY, POOL & SHOWERS | 39/50 SHOWERS LIKELY | 40/46 CLOUDY | 36/42 CHANGE OF SHOWERS |

34-30 Or Fight!



DICK WOLFSIE Funny Bone

Have you seen my pants lately?

My 34-30-inch pants. That's my size. Yes, I have a 34-inch waist and two 30-inch legs. If you ever wondered how I measure up, now you know.

I am not proud of this. I didn't aspire to it (except when I was a 36). But I'm not unhappy with it either, although I'd rather be a 33.

Now, I ask you again. Have you seen my pants? No, not the ones I am wearing, although I'm beginning to think that they were the last 34-30s made in America. I'm looking for another pair of 34-30s. Where have all the 34-30s gone?

Every Saturday morning, I head out the door to look for pants. I'm either waddling around in a pair of 36-30s or scrunched into 32-28s.

First, I go to Kohl's to look for pants. Man, do they have pants. And they have some really great sizes: 38-33, 42-28, 30-36, 40-34, 36-28. And that's just the beginning. The entire rack of clothes is a testimony to the myriad and wonderful ways that God works. Imagine creating humans in so many shapes. I'm pretty sure that all squirrels would wear pretty much the same size pants.

But God, in his omnipotence, should have seen that creating men with 34-inch waists

and 30-inch legs was unnecessarily cruel. God should have known that 34-30 men would never find pants. Men like this are destined to be naked. There's no question that Adam was a 34-30.

I look through the other sizes, hoping that some 34-30 who forgot his credit card may have hidden away his size so he could return the next day and reclaim his treasure. Maybe there's a 34-30 in between the 44-30s and the 32-28s. That's where I once hid a pair of 34-30s. No luck. Let me tell you something: You can hide some of your income from the IRS in a bank in Switzerland, but you can't hide a pair of 34-30 pants. Someone will find them.

So, what is the explanation for my problem? Humpty Dumpty was a 46-24 and the guy on stilts at the State Fair is probably 32-64. They didn't have a problem finding pants.

The truth is that 34-30 is so common stores can't keep the size in stock. I know that when I see a pair of 40-29s, they are going to be there for a while. Men who are 36-32 are probably trying to squeeze into my 34-30s. There ought to be a law. I have my rights. And that guy now has his tights.

No one cares about 34-30s. We are normal around the middle, average from crotch to cuff. There is nothing distinctive about us. Except a lot of us don't have any pants that fit.

When I had a 35-inch waist, the salesman told me they didn't manufacture many 35-inch-waist pants because very few men were that size. I told him that to go from 34 to 36, you have to pass through 35 first.

Usually between Thanksgiving and New Year's.

Health Department Hosts Internet Safety Webinar

The Hamilton County Health Department, in collaboration with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, will host a free Internet Safety webinar for parents on Wednesday, January 24 at 6:00 p.m. Experts will address common online risks and provide practical guidance. James Ginder, Health Education Specialist, says it's important for parents to be aware of online risks, "We will discuss how to protect your child's privacy on social media, how to determine the right age for social media use, and how to best balance online and offline activities. Understanding these risks allows parents to effectively guide their children."

Detective Larry Bendzen is currently assigned to the Hamilton County Metro Child Exploitation Task Force where he investigates people attempting to solicit sexual exploitative material with children or traffick in child pornography. "Ensuring online safety for children is not just a priority – it's an absolute necessity. The digital world poses unique challenges, and our responsibility as parents and guardians is to equip our kids with the knowledge and tools to navigate it safely." The webinar is FREE to all parents. Those interested in attending can register at <http://tinyurl.com/childrens-health-webinars>



Please visit
us online:
thetimes24-7.com

CFB Announces Leadership Team Growth

Community First Bank of Indiana (CFB) announced key updates to its leadership team structure, poising the bank for continued expansion while remaining diligent to its commitment of exceptional service for its customers and local community partners.

Bob Hickman has been promoted to Executive Vice President, Chief Banking and Credit Officer.

Carlonda Davis has been promoted to Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer/DE&I.

Janelle Campbell has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Director of Consumer Banking.

Jonathon Malin has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Director of Commercial Banking.

Robb Blume, President & CEO, shared, "We are leveraging the strengths and expertise of key individuals to spearhead

strategic initiatives and drive innovation across the company. We intend to heighten our focus on delivering exceptional products/services and personalized experiences tailored to meet the evolving needs of our customers. I know these leaders share the vision we founded the bank on 20 years ago – to be a locally owned bank that would serve as a flexible and responsive community partner – yet they will also bring fresh ideas to drive continuous improvement." The bank also has a unique focus on caring for its employees. Regarding her new role, Davis shared, "We remain committed to nurturing talent and fostering a culture of continuous learning. Efforts will be intensified to provide employees with the necessary tools, training, and support to thrive in their roles." Hickman was one of the founding members of CFB in 2003, has 36 years of experience in finance and credit, and joined the bank's board



Bob Hickman



Carlonda Davis



Jonathon Malin



Janelle Campbell

of directors in 2022. Malin and Davis are graduates of the Graduate School of Banking – Colorado (2019 and 2023), and Campbell is on track to graduate in 2024. CFB ramped up its strategic growth plan in 2015 when it opened its first

office outside of Howard County – a Loan Production Office in Noblesville. It now has offices throughout Howard, Hamilton, and Marion Counties with its newest full-service banking center opening in Fishers in February of 2024.

Become an author today! **DON'T WAIT!** www.mybook100.com

Learn how to get your book idea sold online and at bookstores nationwide.

Call or visit us to get your FREE authors guide to publishing! **800-448-1964**

SAVE ON YOUR **Travel Plans!** *Spend your travel dollars when you get there not getting there!*

- ✓ Up to 75%
- ✓ more than 500 Airlines
- ✓ and 300,000 Hotels across the world!

Let us do the research for you for free... we'll save you time and money

We're not allowed to publish fares online so call for the best rates now **800-419-9625**

BLUE PILL PROMOTIONAL OFFER **SAVE OVER \$500!**

Generic and Herbal versions of Viagra® right now as low as \$2 a pill. Mention the discount code **[STEELMAN]** and get the special **BUY 1 GET 1 FREE!** Call now for rush delivery in your unmarked package.

Change your life and call today! **1-800-515-6311**

LIVING WITH DIABETES CAN BE **PAINLESS**

If you administer insulin 3 or more times per day or using an insulin pump, **CALL NOW** and learn how a Continuous Glucose Monitor **CAN HELP YOU.**

Get **FREE** shipping of your new CGM, plus we will bill your insurance for you... **AT LITTLE OR NO COST!**

CALL NOW! 866-641-0141

COPAYS AND DEDUCTIBLES MAY APPLY

Sharing a Story



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

My nephew, Beau, keeps me on my toes. Keeping on my toes is a good way to develop balance and agility. It is also a good way to fall on my face and embarrass myself. But since I don't spend a lot of time with teenagers—and not nearly enough with Beau—I am trying. Right now, he's trying to convince me that I need a mechanical keyboard for my computer. I am old enough to remember typing class in high school. The "thunk, thunk, thunk!" sound of hitting keys is not a pleasant memory. My parents gave me a state-of-the-art typewriter when I left for college, and it had (wonder of wonders!) a self-correcting function, which was a huge improvement over the machines from high school, but it was still messy and time-consuming. Then I didn't write anything for years and, by the time I wrote again, I was using a wireless keyboard and wireless mouse with a great big monitor. Now, when I see typewriters, rather than experiencing a pleasant nostalgia, I feel something closer to dread. But Beau is trying to tell me that a mechanical keyboard is the way to go, and I am trying to keep an open mind.

"It's really easy to use," he assures me. "And it will last much longer than a membrane keyboard."

"Hmmm."

"And you can adjust it to any touch you want."

"Uh-huh."

In addition to his interest in computer peripherals, Beau is also a voracious reader. I gave him a book over Christmas, and he texted me a few days later saying he wanted to discuss it with me. The problem was, I hadn't read it. (I had no idea I was

expected to actually read the books I gave to him at Christmas.) So I went back to my local bookstore to buy a copy. As I approached the front desk, I saw a collection of books and a sign that read "Signed Copies." I then realized one of the books on the table was the meditations of Marcus Aurelius, who died in A.D. 180.

"I guess you wouldn't have a signed copy of Marcus Aurelius," I said to Patrick, who works the front desk.

"Well, we wouldn't have three for sure!" Patrick replied. Patrick is a smart aleck. Also displayed in front was an old typewriter, much older than any I was forced to use. "I feel lucky to be writing now," I told Patrick. "I bet we would have three more novels by Charles Dickens if he'd had word processing."

"A lot of writers back then had their wives transcribe their manuscripts!" Patrick noted, disapprovingly. "I've heard he read his books to his daughter," I told him.

"You can tell," Patrick said. "His writing sounds like a story you would tell aloud."

I left the bookstore with the book I gave Beau and a copy of Marcus Aurelius. I thought how fortunate I was to be able to buy a book so easily and to have all these tools that make writing so effortless. But as different as it all seems, I know that reading and writing have not really changed all that much. Whether the story was written with a quill pen or on a fancy computer, whether it was read off a stone tablet or an electronic one, it is still just someone sharing a story.

Till next time,
Carrie



Please visit us online:
thetimes24-7.com

Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Part 2



DR. JOHN ROBERTS
Montgomery Medicine

I left you hanging last week wondering about the treatment of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD). First, a quick review. Recall that acid from the stomach (gastro) is found in the tube that connects the mouth to the stomach (esophagus) and goes in a backward direction (reflux). When I see someone complaining of GERD symptoms, I review the patient's history to try and identify any risk factors for GERD such as decreased tone of the lower esophageal sphincter (LES), loss of normal muscular function of the esophagus, excess production of stomach acid, delayed emptying of the stomach, and overeating. Fatty or fried foods, coffee, tea, caffeinated drinks, chocolate, and mint are all foods that can cause or worsen GERD. Alcohol and cigarette smoking are also risk factors. Many patients immediately reach for medication to help control the symptoms rather than trying to identify and control the underlying cause(s) of their GERD. Direct-to-consumer advertising has been extremely effective in pushing medications to treat this common problem. Virtually any medical insurance company will tell you that its largest drug expense is often a class of medications called PPIs or Proton Pump Inhibitors (more below). Simple lifestyle modifications are the foundation of treatment for GERD. Losing even a modest amount of weight can have a significant impact. Reducing fat in the diet and avoiding large, fatty meals just before bedtime are also critical to managing symptoms. Avoiding tight fitting clothing, reducing alcohol consumption, and quitting smoking are also important. People who wake up at night with reflux symptoms should consider raising the head legs of their bed using commercial plastic bed risers, a 4X4 post cut into blocks, or by nailing two 2x4s together. Raising one's head and chest using pillows can actually worsen reflux by increasing pressure in the abdomen; elevating the head legs of the bed is the way to go. Those who don't respond to lifestyle modifications may need medication. Reducing the frequency and intensity of heartburn, the most common symptom of GERD, is much less predictable than treating esophagitis that I mentioned last week. People may need to try different medications from various classes to find one that works for them. Histamine antagonists are the oldest

medications on the market. They block the release of histamine that stimulates stomach acid production. Tagamet® (cimetidine), and Pepcid® (famotidine) are the most common ones available over the counter and are effective for most people. Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) are the newest class of medications used to treat GERD. These are extremely powerful blockers of acid production. Names that most people recognize (due to very successful marketing) include: Prilosec®, Protonix®, Aciphex®, Nexium®, Zegerid®, Dexilant® and Prevacid®. Why so many? Because they make pharmaceutical companies wheelbarrows of money. PPIs are safe and effective for short-term use, but are associated with a slight increased risk of hip fractures in those over age 50, probably due to reducing absorption of calcium in the gut. Many people take PPIs for years thinking they need them because their symptoms return when they stop taking the medication. Most of these people suffer from "rebound" reflux. Some call this an "addiction" to PPIs. Once the initial symptoms of GERD are controlled, preventing their return can often be controlled with medications that are not as powerful as PPIs. Ask your doctor about ways to try to stop PPIs if you've been on them more than a few months. I get a lot of questions about the "two week warning" found on boxes of GERD medication. People are advised to contact their physician if they have to use the medication longer than two weeks to control their symptoms. This is an important reminder for people to contact their medical provider to discuss risk factors and develop a game plan to manage their GERD. It's also important to see a provider to assess your risk for other more serious complications of GERD that I discussed last week. Surgery is the treatment of last resort for GERD that is unresponsive to lifestyle modifications and medication. Laparoscopic Nissen fundoplication is the most commonly performed procedure. This involves using minimally invasive endoscopic surgery to take the top portion of the stomach and wrap it around the bottom of the esophagus to act as a valve to reduce reflux. It's very important to see a gastroenterologist and/or surgeon who is very familiar with the procedure to make sure you are a candidate. EsophyX TIF is a newer procedure that allows reconstruction of the lower esophageal sphincter via an endoscope passed through the mouth into the esophagus.

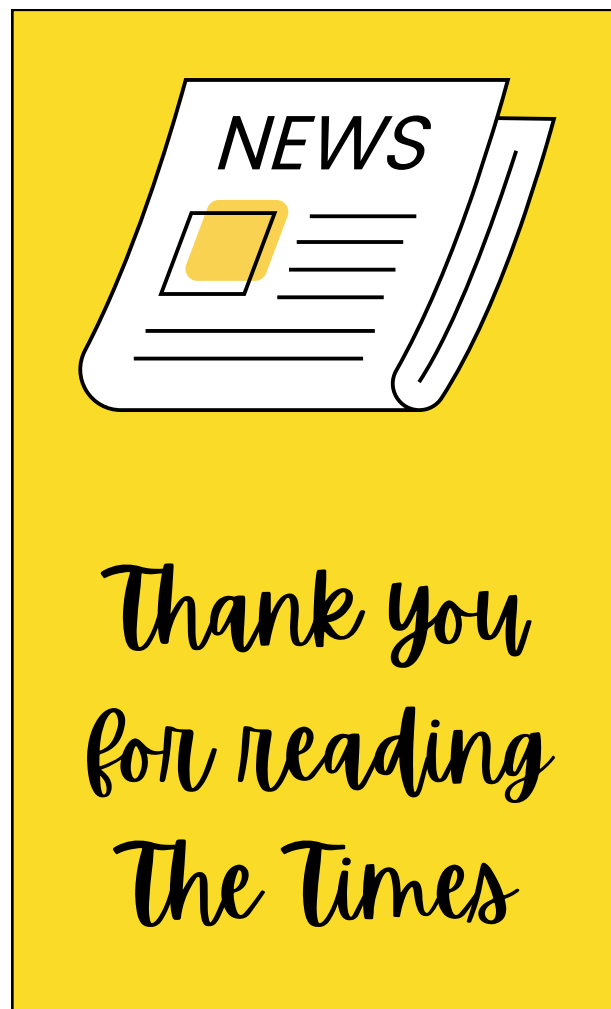
TCC Honored As One of Best Places to Work

For the second time in three years, TCC, one of the nation's largest Authorized Verizon Retailers, has been named a winner of Glassdoor's annual Employees' Choice Awards, honoring the Best Places to Work 2024. Unlike other workplace awards, the Glassdoor Employees' Choice Awards are based on the input of employees who voluntarily provide anonymous feedback on Glassdoor by completing a company review about their job, work environment and employer over the past year. Founded in 1991, TCC is a privately held wireless retailer operating over 500 locations across the U.S.

"We take great pride in the strong relationships we have cultivated with our employees and the opportunities made available to them to support their personal and professional growth," said Scott Moorehead, CEO of Round Room, the parent company of TCC. "It is an honor to be recognized as one of the Best Places to Work by a platform that values the same ideals as us. We are dedicated to the well-being of our people and believe that a thriving workplace culture goes beyond office walls; it encompasses a sense of purpose and community."

As a Culture of Good, Inc. company, TCC makes ongoing investments in the communities it operates in. In 2023, the company donated 120,000 backpacks

containing school supplies with its sister company, Wireless Zone, to children across the nation through the 11th annual School Rocks Backpack Giveaway, marking 1.3 million backpacks donated by TCC since 2013. The company also gave away a Mega Grant of \$1.7 million to seven Indianapolis-based nonprofits that included a \$60,000 transportation allowance. Additionally, TCC held in-store pet supply drives and shelter animal adoption events through its Rescues Rocks campaign and provided funds to each of its stores to shower teachers with love through its Teachers Rock program. TCC's nonprofit organization, TCC Gives, has provided more than \$4.5 million in donations to local nonprofits across the country. The Culture of Good also benefits TCC internally, as the company has been nationally recognized for its company culture and currently boasts industry-leading employee satisfaction scores across employer review services. TCC's belief in supporting employee interests and encouraging volunteerism is not just a corporate checkbox – it's ingrained in the company's DNA. Glassdoor's Best Places to Work award recognition solidifies TCC's commitment to fostering a culture of giving back to those who make the company successful.



CCHA Law Expands Sports Law Practice

Church Church Hittle Antrim recently welcomed Paia LaPalombara into its expanding sports law practice. With a distinguished career marked by significant contributions to collegiate athletics, Paia brings a wealth of experience and expertise. She will work in CCHA's Sports Law and Higher Education sections and assist the firm's clients in navigating the complex landscape of NCAA compliance and regulatory issues.

As a member of CCHA, Paia will play a crucial role in assisting the firm to provide clients with strategic guidance, advocacy, and a deep understanding of the evolving challenges faced by college athletics and higher education. Her diverse skill set, cultivated through extensive experience at an NCAA Division I Power 5 university and the NCAA National Office, uniquely positions her to approach NCAA compliance and

regulatory issues from multiple perspectives.

Paia's national reputation in college athletics is emphasized by her roles as Vice Chair of the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee, a member of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors Infractions Process Committee, and service on the National Association for Athletics Compliance (NAAC) Board of Directors.

Paia's professional journey includes leadership roles on several prominent NCAA committees, demonstrating her commitment to staying at the forefront of industry trends. She has a proven track record in managing public relations, open records requests, and media statements associated with NCAA infractions and institutional and student-athlete crises, aligning with state and NCAA policy.

Her comprehensive

expertise encompasses a wide range of areas, including:

- NCAA investigations, case processing, and infractions appeals
- Student-athlete eligibility matters (reinstatement, amateurism, transfer and legislative relief waivers, academic eligibility, and limited immunity)
- Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) support (policy creation, collective and third-party support, risk management, contract review, and institutional best practices)
- Independent investigations (coach and staff conduct, hazing, sports wagering, Title IX sexual harassment and violence, substance abuse, and student-athlete welfare)
- NCAA compliance reviews
- Program culture and risk assessments
- Title IX gender equity reviews

- NCAA Policy on Campus Sexual Violence

Prior to joining CCHA, Paia served as the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance at The Ohio State University. Her role involved overseeing the Department of Athletics' investigatory function, managing a consistent caseload of investigations, and developing best practices that became templates for departments university-wide.

Paia's specialization in Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) is highlighted by her business acumen and background in intellectual property. She played a pivotal role in guiding the NIL program at one of the largest athletic departments in the country, demonstrating creativity and direct communication to garner stakeholder support. Her elite student-athlete advocacy extends to



Paia LaPalombara

to the development of Ohio State's first Elite Student-Athlete Program, offering tailored support for athletes with professional aspirations.

"Paia's background in college sports and higher education speaks for itself," said CCHA Sports Law section chair Kelleigh Fagan. "She is a great fit for our growing practice and brings with her the most relevant of experiences, coming to CCHA Law directly from The Ohio State University and through her service on NCAA

committees and NAAC. She will provide immediate value to our clients. We are excited to add her to our team."

Paia resides in Columbus, Ohio, with her husband and their two children.

Thank you for reading The Times

Former Sheridan Teacher Exemplified Greatness



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

Every school has had a few teachers through the years who just stand out above the others. One such teacher at Darlington was Edwin "Ed" Miller, who taught and coached a total of 29 years . . . from 1915 to 1944. Born and raised near Sheridan, Ed dropped out of school during his junior year to help his parents on their farm. However, he finished his studies later on and enrolled at Wabash College, where he also played fullback on the Little Giant football team. Ed's mother was part Miami Native American, and with his straight black hair, rugged profile and muscular build, he earned the nickname "Indian Ed" from his teammates. Ed taught school at New Richmond, Elmdale, and Sheridan before coming to Darlington in the fall of 1915. He soon earned the admiration and respect of the students and athletes. As the 6th grade teacher, he masterfully weaved fun and learning into a combination that left his eager students spellbound and actually longing to be in school. Ed instilled in each student the desire and discipline to attain one's goals, and he set high standards that he expected everyone to achieve. Ed did not hesitate to use his paddle if a pupil got out of line or failed to do his best work. Yet he was fair to all and loved his students as a father.

Ed's famous game of "judge ball" was employed as a reward after a hard day's work in the classroom. He also told ghost stories, used "Black Magic" tricks, and played practical jokes, and his knack of mixing education with fun activities could not be matched. My father, Bill Dale, was a student in Ed's 6th grade class. To show the dangers of electricity, Ed hooked up a small hand-cranked generator with two wires dangling down into a 5-gallon bucket of water. He then dropped a nickel into the bucket, and dared any student to grab the coin as he cranked the generator. Dad told me his hand jerked in and out of the water, as he received small shocks while Ed cranked the handle . . . and he never forgot that lesson! Sometimes Ed rewarded students with a quarter for an excellent recitation, and class rankings were posted each month. The students also looked forward to recess, and Ed usually participated . . . on the girls' side, of course, to even the competition. In addition to teaching, Ed coached the high school basketball teams a total of 13 years. When he first arrived at the school, there had been no teams the previous three years, but Ed's zest for life made a big difference. The boys were so enthused to play that they adopted Ed's college nickname, and from then on the Darlington teams became known as the Indians! The student body gave his teams

tremendous support and elected the school's first cheerleaders. After graduation, some of Ed's players joined the Darlington Bearcats independent teams, which played against other teams from all over the country. Two teams actually claimed the national championship in those early days. After retiring in 1944, Ed continued to substitute teach around the county before moving to Florida. On his last day, as Ed was doing substitute work with grade school youngsters, he stepped into the locker room after a game was over. The principal found him there, with the whistle still around his neck. Ed passed away just the way he would have chosen . . . as a teacher and coach. Some of his former 6th grade students had this to say: "Mr. Miller taught integrity and honesty, and he was the first teacher to make me think about the future." . . . "No one was more strict in discipline than Mr. Miller, yet he earned our respect and love and made learning enjoyable." . . . "I'll always remember Ed's math wizardry, his stories of Cousin Charlie, his ghost stories with the blinds down and the lights out, his strict discipline, and his fairness to all students." . . . "Ed was a fun teacher. His classes were filled with excitement, and he made learning fun. We need more like him today!" . . . "I think of all the classes, I will



Ed Miller and his 1917 Darlington Team



Ed Miller and his 6th Grade Class in Fall of 1938 (Class of 1945)

always remember Mr. Miller's the best. During the afternoons when we thought we had studied enough and were getting restless, Ed would suddenly announce "Time for recreation!" Judgeball, ciphering matches, spelling bees, ghost stories. I always liked the ghost stories the best!" Former teacher,

principal, and bank executive John Bowerman summed it up best by stating, "the greatness of an individual cannot be determined solely by what is done while that person lives, because life is too short. Greatness is surely determined by the extent that others, year after year, are better because of a life that

has been lived. Such a life was that of Ed Miller."

John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and Montgomery County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 32 years, and is a well-known artist and author of Montgomery County history. He writes a weekly newspaper column and agreed to allow this column about a Sheridan teacher to be reprinted in the Noblesville Times.

Local Students Honored at Colleges

A host of local students have achieved various honors at their colleges. The Times is proud to recognize these wonderful achievements.

Bucknell University

Two students from Fishers, Ava Aguilar a political science major and Jack Goheen, earned dean's list honors at Bucknell for the fall semester of the 2023-24 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

University of the Columbians

In recognition of academic performance, the Office of Academic Affairs at University of the Columbians has announced the students named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester. This includes two from Hamilton County, Jacob Ingle of Noblesville and Kathryn Harrison of Carmel. To be eligible for the President's List, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (a full course load), maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 4.0 for the semester, receive an "A" grade in UC Engage, and be in good academic standing. (Note: All students who are named to the President's List automatically make the

Dean's List, since the Dean's List requires a minimum semester GPA of 3.5; however, Columbiands only lists students on either the Dean's List or the President's List, to avoid overlap.)

Georgia Southern University

Camdyn Collins of Fishers was recently recognized for earning the Fall 2023 President's List. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must have at least a 4.0 grade point average and carry a minimum of 12 hours for the semester.

Grove City College

Sawyer Strong, a Mechanical Engineering major at from Westfield, has been named to the Dean's List with High Distinction for the Fall 2023 semester. Sawyer is a 2023 graduate of Westfield High School and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Randall Strong (Mindi) from Westfield. Students eligible for the Dean's List have a GPA of 3.40 to 3.59; for the Dean's List with Distinction a GPA of 3.60 to 3.84 and for the Dean's List with High Distinction a GPA of 3.85 to 4.0.

University of Iowa

Four students from Hamilton County were among nearly 1,700 undergraduate, graduate and professional students degrees at the close of the 2023 fall semester.

They and their areas of study are:

Alexander Tuttle of Westfield – Carver College of Medicine, Master in Medical Education, Medical Education

Griffin Seitz of Carmel – Tippie College of Business, Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance

Jordan Smith of Carmel – Graduate Management Programs, Master of Business Administration, Professional MBA Program

Kelsey Smith of Carmel – Carver College of Medicine, Certificate, Physician Assistant

James Ratliff of McCordsville – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts, English

The University of Iowa awarded nearly 1,700 undergraduate, graduate and professional students degrees at the close of the 2023 fall semester.

University of Kentucky

More than 1,900 undergraduate students have qualified for the Fall 2023 College of Arts and Sciences Dean's List at the University of Kentucky. Among them three from Hamilton County. They are: Eloise Hampton of Westfield, a psychology major;

Emily Spoerner of Fishers, a mathematics major; and Ellen Murphy of Carmel, a major in psychology.

Miami University (Ohio)

Almost 30 students from Hamilton County, including one from Noblesville, were among the Miami University students ranked in the top 20 percent of undergraduate students within each division for the Fall semester 2023. That group was named to the Dean's list recognizing academic excellence. Anastasia Damick of Noblesville; Kirsten Cobb and Lauren Harvey of Westfield; Anna Martin of Arcadia; Emma Burns, Olivia Castor, Mack Lotz, Brytni Mathews, Elise Wiggers, Riley Watkins, Riley Maher and Madeline Shell of Fishers; Danny Kirk, Josie Cruzan, Jenna Lindeman, Emily Long, Lizzie Nichols, Kat Pikus, Sienna Shapiro, Ava Wells, Chase Becker, Emily Clevenger, Ben Gladden, Kendall Greene, Mya Hughes, Tyler Knapp, Grace Lappin, Jonah Spinner and Reagan West of Carmel; and Mia Finn of Fortville.

Miami University students ranked in the top three percent of undergraduate students within each division for the fall 2023 semester have been named to the

President's list recognizing academic excellence. This included more than 20 students from Hamilton County. Tyler Dikos, Kinley Callahan and Julia Bohn of Westfield; Charlotte Melby, Steven Overbeck, Dylan Ball, Annie Christi, Ava Loria, Addie Mitchell, MacKenna Mitchell, Abby Murchland, Katelyn Wang, Joshua Balanoff, Abigail Burnham, Colin Lasek and Henna Dhamecha of Carmel; Jillian Flinta, Melanie Hamon, Ava Hunt, Maddie Stookey and Kyle Boatman of Fishers; and Ava Matas.

Northern Illinois University

Mia Reinhard, of Noblesville, who is majoring in Sport Management, made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Northern Illinois University. To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale. Reinhard is a graduate of Hamilton Southeastern High School.

Saint Mary's College

Eleven students from Hamilton County were named to the Saint Mary's College Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. To earn this academic honor at Saint Mary's, a student must achieve a grade

point average (GPA) of at least 3.6 on a 4.0 scale, have a minimum of 12 graded credit hours, no incompletes, and no grades lower than a C. They are: Annalise Weinschrott and Sarah Whitten from Noblesville; Madelyn Atwell, Phoenix McClellan Grace Rightley and Hollie Williams from Fishers; and Grace Leber, Delaney McNamara, Savannah Paulson, Jada Reitmeier and Eleanor York from Carmel.

South Dakota State

South Dakota State University announces Sarah Gould of Carmel has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester. Overall, 3,475 students from 39 states and 24 foreign nations are on the list. Nearly 1,500 students received a 4.0 GPA, and those are indicated with an asterisk. Gould is a student in SDSU's College of Nursing.

Stonehill College

Joseph Grainda, a member of the Class of 2027 from Carmel has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Stonehill College. To qualify for this honor, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered.


➡ See STUDENTS on Page A6

INDIANAPOLIS

HOME SHOW

PRESENTED BY





JAN. 19-28

INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS
WEST PAVILION & EXPO HALL

DISCOVER. PLAN. DO.

10 DAYS ONLY!

Shop, compare and save with **400+** home experts in kitchen & bath, landscaping, flooring and more!



Explore the **Centerpiece home**, an exquisite Craftsman-style home that blends meticulous artisan details with earthy elegance, built by **Davis Homes**.

See HGTV stars and twin sisters **Leslie Davis** and **Lyndsay Lamb** from their hit show **Unsellable Houses** on Friday, Jan. 19 and Saturday, Jan. 20!



buy online & **SAVE \$2**

VALID ON REGULAR ADULT ADMISSION ONLY.

DISCOUNT COURTESY OF:



IndianapolisHomeShow.com MARKETPLACE EVENTS

WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM

STUDENTS From Page A5

Trine University

Four students from Hamilton County completed Trine University degrees at the end of the Fall 2023 semester. They are:

- Gary Rice of Noblesville, completing a degree in Mechanical Engineering
- Price Knowles of Arcadia, completing a degree in Civil Engineering
- Maggie Wilson of Carmel, completing a degree in Master of Business Administration
- Theodore Munn of Carmel, completing a degree in Business Administration

were named to the President's List for the Fall 2023 semester. To earn President's List honors, students must complete a minimum of 12 hours and have a grade point average of 3.750-4.000.

The following students were named to the Trine Dean's List:

- Andrew Einterz of Noblesville, majoring in Computer Sci and Information Tech
- Isaac Wilson of Noblesville, majoring in Sport Management
- Bridget Decraene of Westfield, majoring in Forensic Science
- Michael Brucker of Fishers, majoring in Design Engineering Technology
- Aiden Finn of Fishers, majoring in Computer Sci and Information Tech
- Andrew Spurrison of Fishers, majoring in Sport Management
- Lillian Domsich of Carmel, majoring in Finance
- Eryn Pikus of Carmel, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

The following students were named to the Trine President's List:

- Kyle Kirtley of Noblesville, majoring in Mechanical Engineering
- Avelyn McCall of Noblesville, majoring in Biology/Pre Physician Ass't Program 3+2
- Camden Nagel of Noblesville, majoring in Civil Engineering
- Camden Prather of Noblesville, majoring in Biomedical Engineering
- Gary Rice of Noblesville, majoring in Mechanical Engineering
- Hayden Smith of Noblesville, majoring in Mechanical Engineering
- Nikolas Pensyl of Westfield, majoring in Computer Engineering
- Price Knowles of Arcadia, majoring in Civil Engineering
- Brian Beerbower of Fishers, majoring in Computer Engineering
- Fletcher Burton of Fishers, majoring in Finance

- Daphne Bush of Fishers, majoring in Civil Engineering
- Connor Donsbach of Fishers, majoring in Dual Enrollment
- Kayla Stoeffler of Fishers, majoring in Biomedical Engineering
- Evalyn Bellotti of Carmel, majoring in Biology
- Joseph Langeman of Carmel, majoring in Design Engineering Technology
- Jamie Le of Carmel, majoring in Mechanical Engineering
- Evan Sosinsky of Carmel, majoring in Design Engineering Technology
- Logan Lara of Fortville, majoring in Mechatronics & Robotics Engineering

Utah Tech

Abby Katuin of Arcadia earned Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. A total of 1,489 students were included on the Dean's List, reflecting their strong commitment to academics. To qualify, students had to achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 to 3.89 as well as complete at least 15 credits. Aimee Brittain of Fortville was among the 1,233 students honored on the President's List for the Fall 2023 semester. A total of 1,233 students were included on the President's List, reflecting their strong commitment to academics. To qualify, students had to achieve a semester GPA of 3.9 and higher as well as complete at least 15 credits.

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Ashnaya Gupta from Carmel, who is studying Human Performance at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, has earned a roster spot on the Warhawk gymnastics team for the 2024 season. UW-Whitewater placed fourth at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference/National Collegiate Gymnastics Association West Regional Championship in 2023. Five different Warhawks earned All-America honors, including Kara Welsh, who captured the NCGA national title on vault.

Roger Williams University

Cara Harvey, of Fishers has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.



HHSC School Board of Trustees Spotlights

January is School Board Appreciation Month. Hamilton Heights School Corporation is honored to celebrate and recognize members of its School Board of Trustees for their dedication and commitment to the district and its students. HHSC has five extraordinary individuals who are tasked with the enormous job of governing our school district. Together they work to safeguard two of our community's most precious resources – our children and tax dollars – while striving to create the best educational environment possible with the resources available. We are taking this opportunity to share an up-close look at each of the extraordinary individuals who comprise Hamilton Heights School Board.



Gretchen Pennington

Thank you Gretchen Pennington for being a front-line advocate providing a local voice for the community, a vision for the district, and a pathway to success for our students. Gretchen Pennington has served as a Hamilton Heights School Board member representing White River Township since January 2021.

Pennington, a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Hamilton County, sought the seat because she believes there is no greater way to give back to the community than to serve as a member of the Hamilton Heights School Board. She is married to Ed, a 1990 graduate of Hamilton Heights, and they have three children who are graduates of Hamilton Heights. She is currently Vice-President of the School Board.

Q: What motivates you to serve on the school board?

A: The desire to see all students learn, grow, and develop into the best versions of themselves and knowing that Hamilton Heights played a significant role in laying that foundation!

Q: What is one specific strength you bring to the board table?

A: One specific strength of mine is the ability to keep an open mind while obtaining and processing information, opinions, and perspectives.

Q: What do you like best about being a member of the school board?

A: Quite simply, the opportunities to interact and work with many people and witness the Husky Pride of our students, parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and community.

Q: What is an accomplishment during your tenure with which you are most proud?

A: The many accomplishments of HHSC are a collaborative effort. I'm proud to be a part of this process and its success. The focus and dedication to provide a safe, learning environment that adjusts to the needs of our students and community is amazing and humbling.

Q: What makes this board effective?



Courtesy photo

Gretchen Pennington, White River Township seat, Hamilton Heights School Corporation.

A: The diverse backgrounds of this board improve the decision-making process by bringing a greater variety of approaches, perspectives, and ideas when representing the best interests of Hamilton Heights School Corporation and the community it serves.

Q: What is one thing you feel the district is doing well to prepare students for success in

school and life?

A: HHSC is broadening the opportunities for students to explore and experience different job or career pathways through CTE and the Ford Next Generation Learning so each student will graduate from Hamilton Heights better prepared for future employment, secondary education, or serving in the armed services.

Dr. Kevin Cavanaugh

Thank you Dr. Kevin Cavanaugh for being a front-line advocate providing a local voice for the community, a vision for the district, and a pathway to success for our students.

Dr. Kevin Cavanaugh has served as a Hamilton Heights School Board member representing Jackson Township since January 2017. Dr. Cavanaugh, co-founder, part owner, and President of Peterson Corn Genetics, is the current Secretary of the School Board and is a past Vice President and President of the School Board. His exacting focus to ensure each deliberation, decision, and action reflects the best interests of every student at Heights continues to make a meaningful impact for students now and in the future. He and his wife, Carey have two children, who are Hamilton Heights graduates.

Q: What motivates you to serve on the school board?

A: A strong education has been very important in my life. It has enabled me to do many things. Serving on the School Board is a great way for me to give back to the community and help build a strong foundation for the next

generation of leaders and contributing community members. Seeing the success of our students after they leave Hamilton Heights and know you were a small part of that is an incredible feeling.

Q: What is one specific strength you bring to the board table?

A: A big part of strong public education is being able to use the available resources that are provided to Hamilton Heights and utilize them to the fullest to build strong academic programs, teaching faculty, and facilities to serve the students. I feel I bring strong financial expertise and long term vision to maximize our resources to serve our students.

Q: What do you like best about being a member of the school board?

A: There are some great people at Hamilton Heights!! The opportunity to interact with the administration, teachers, staff, and students is an absolute privilege! Watching students excel in academics, socially, and in sports after the Board worked to provide an outstanding teaching environment and facilities is very



Courtesy photo

Dr. Kevin Cavanaugh, Jackson Township seat, Hamilton Heights School Corporation.

rewarding!

Q: What is an accomplishment during your tenure with which you are most proud?

A: One thing that I have learned early in my tenure is that education is constantly changing. Through the Covid pandemic, the team had to constantly change the way education was delivered to students. I'm most proud of the team for adapting to the changing environment of education and

continually bringing solutions to help every segment of the student population succeed and become contributing members of society for the future.

Q: What makes this board effective?

A: No two individuals are the same. We have different experiences, backgrounds, strengths, and weaknesses. That is the same for our School

➔ See HHSC on Page A7

HHSC From Page A6

Board members. Everyone brings different strengths and passions to the Board. Recognizing the strengths of each member and having varied experiences makes the Board a powerful decision making body that results in creative, well thought out, fiscally responsible decisions.

Q: What is one thing you feel the district is doing well to prepare students for success in school and life?

A: Education is not one size fits all. The diversity of our academic programs enables Heights to prepare each student to be successful in life. Some students want to pursue a college degree, others want to jump in immediately to the work force, while others are choosing entirely different pathways. Heights creates these different pathways to ensure the success of each student. Adding programs to enhance the educational

experience of each student is a real strength at Hamilton Heights.

Q: What is one thing about being a member of the school board that you think the community should know but probably doesn't.

A: I think people that attend a school board meeting may leave thinking that the meeting was scripted and that the Board just went through the motions during the meeting. What the community doesn't see is the hours of listening, discussion, discovery, and problem solving that happen leading up to the Board meeting. By the time the Board meeting occurs, the Board has usually looked at a decision from 360 degrees and has come to a well thought out conclusion to achieve our goal of providing our students with the best education and facilities for learning and future success.

Ben Lehman

Thank you Ben Lehman for being a front-line advocate providing a local voice for the community, a vision for the district, and a pathway to success for our students. Lehman (Class of 2003) is the first Heights graduate of this century to be elected to the school board. He is the newest member beginning his second term this month. Lehman is deeply invested in the community and is working to make a meaningful difference for the district during his tenure. He is a CPA and part owner of Lehman and Company in Noblesville. He has two children enrolled at Hamilton Heights.

Q: What motivates you to serve on the school board?

A: My main motivation is my general love to serve. I want to be a voice for our kids, community, and teachers. As a member of the school board I can help proactively set the

standards of achievement for our district rather than simply wanting for better on the sidelines.

Q: What is one specific strength you bring to the board table?

A: My main strength is my ability to look at an issue and take from my life experiences to find a solution. I work daily with businesses to develop solutions and being on the school board presents the same opportunities to help find solutions on issues that impact public education at the local level.

Q: What do you like best about being a member of the school board?

A: The opportunity to listen to the people I represent and be a part of a collective voice in advocating for the best educational experience possible for every student. Working together toward a common goal (the best interests of every child)



Courtesy photo

Ben Lehman, White River Township seat, Hamilton Heights School Corporation.

yields the best outcomes.

Q: What is an accomplishment during your tenure of which you are most proud?

A: Honestly, for me pride comes before the fall. I'm just grateful for the opportunity to serve and do my part to make a difference for the children in our community.

Q: What makes this board effective?

A: Respect and the ability to listen to different opinions and find either a common ground or the ability to agree to disagree. At the end of the day, it is our diversity that brings us together and makes us a stronger, more unified governing body for Hamilton Heights.

Q: What is one thing you feel the district is doing well to prepare students for success in school and life?

A: We are expanding past just preparing kids for college. We are assisting them by offering more opportunities and experiences that open doors to different post-secondary pathways whether it be college, a trade, public service, or the armed forces.

Q: What is one thing about being a member of the school board that you think the community should know but probably doesn't.

A: The school board is incredibly intentional and truly wants the best for all students. I never knew how much time, effort, research, thought, and pre-meeting discussion goes into every decision this board makes until I was elected.. I'm incredibly grateful and appreciative to my colleagues on the board.

Julie Davis

Thank you Julie Davis for being a front-line advocate providing a local voice for the community, a vision for the district, and a pathway to success for our students.

Julie Davis has served as a Hamilton Heights School Board member representing Jackson Township since January 2019. Davis is the first educator to serve on the board and she served as School Board President in 2022. She is a retired English Teacher and Department Chair, who spent most of her career in education as an English teacher at Heights, working with students of all levels of ability, interests, and learning styles. She brings incredible insight, passion, and perspective to her role on the board. Davis has two children who are Heights graduates and two grandchildren currently enrolled at Heights.

Q: What motivates you to serve on the school board?

A: I have been connected with Hamilton Heights schools nearly all my life, whether as a student and graduate, a teacher, or an instructional assistant. I have seen many positive changes, both in facilities, curriculum, and School Board transparency. I am honored to be a part of this amazing corporation as it continues to move ahead.

Q: What is one specific strength you bring to the board table?

A: As a former teacher and Instructional Assistant (IA), I worked closely with students of all interests and abilities

for 45 years. I have witnessed their changing needs, and I understand what is necessary in supporting and empowering our teaching staff and administration to provide for these needs.

Q: What do you like best about being a member of the school board?

A: I love the opportunity to support students of all ages and interests, and I find it exciting that we are exploring ways to meet their changing needs. I am passionate about talking with students, parents, and teachers to see how we can continue to improve.

Q: What is an accomplishment during your tenure that you are most proud of?

A: I am particularly proud of the curricular opportunities that have been explored and implemented for students. We have established a Special Needs department that is second to none, and inclusion makes everyone better. And, of course, the buildings and grounds look amazing, thanks to Project Vision and the Master Plan.

Q: What makes this board effective?

A: The Board members listen to each other and work well together, even when we don't always agree. This Board is transparent and listens to students, staff, and patrons. We do our research to be able to make the best possible decisions.

Q: What is one thing you feel the district is doing well to prepare students for success in school and life?



Courtesy photo

Julie Davis, Jackson Township seat, Hamilton Heights School Corporation.

A: Hamilton Heights seeks to accept and nurture all students, regardless of their interests and backgrounds. Pathways and our involvement with the Ford Next Generation program have allowed us to support all student interests, whether they seek enrollment, employment, or enlistment as options for the future. Students have been instrumental in the planning and decision-making process.

Q: What is one thing about being a member of the school board that you think the community should know but probably doesn't.

A: I hope that the community understands how much research and study the Board engages in before decisions are made. If our actual Board meetings seem to run smoothly and without incident, it is because we have extensively done our homework. Community

members are always welcome to attend these meetings, and to visit with us before or after. I also encourage attendance at Dr. Arrowood's Superintendent Advisory Committee meetings to learn, share, and express ideas.

Visit us online:
thetimes24-7.com

ZIPPY 2024 SUBARU OUTBACK TOURING MIXES A TOUCH OF LUXURY WITH RENOWNED CAPABILITY



CASEY WILLIAMS *Auto Reviews*

Since it was introduced with wacky Crocodile Dundee advertising in the late '90s, the Subaru Outback has set the standard for all-capable station wagons, predicting the wave of crossovers that have drowned out family sedans and mini-vans. Over the generations, they have become more refined, more capable, and in the case of our 2024 Touring edition, a credible luxury car.

I've been looking forward to this review because my family has owned two Outbacks – a 2017 Premium and the 2022 Wilderness we drive now. They've been fantastic cars for our family, comfortable on long drives between Indianapolis and Dallas to see relatives, plenty of space for my daughter's gear, and all-road capability when snow tumbles down. I especially like the jacked ride height, black trim, and turbo engine on our Wilderness. But, for our next Outback, we might be ready for something even more luxurious and not as exuberant.

All Outbacks were updated for 2024 with a bit more of that Wilderness style in gray plastic on the front bumpers, more aggressive wheelwell accents, and fortified lower body cladding. The black grille and headlamps were restyled too. Chrome window trim, satin silver mirror caps, faux skid plates front/rear, and 18" wheels add bling to Touring editions. Unlike on my Wilderness, the roof rack has extendable cross bars built in so it's super easy to attach bicycles, kayaks, and roof carriers (Wilderness racks are specially fortified for roof tents).

Even if you've driven luxury brands for years, you'll be impressed with the Touring's interior. Soft brown Nappa leather upholsters the seats while contrasting stitched panels pad the dash and doors. Caress the soft leather-wrapped steering wheel too. All outboard positions get heated seats while the fronts add ventilation and drivers lux out with extendable lower cushions. Outback seats have always been comfy, but these supportive soft

thrones rival Volvo. But, that's just what makes the Touring special. The large tablet-style touchscreen comes on all Outbacks and is easy to use with swipe capability and redundant buttons for key climate functions. Proper volume and tuning knobs are appreciated. Connect phones via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Add to that Harman Kardon audio and a power sunroof. I wish Subaru would add a dual-pane roof and head-up display, but safety is enhanced with adaptive cruise, automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, and rear cross path detection with auto brake.

One of the biggest surprises in my Outback that's shared with the Touring XT is its powertrain. The 2.4-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine dishes 260 horsepower and 277 lb.-ft. of torque. I don't love the Outback's continuously variable transmission, but the turbo eliminates the buzziness. It's quite pleasant on the highway. It's also a surprising barn stormer, able to rip 0-

60 mph in under 6 seconds – comparable to early '90s Corvettes. All that, and it achieves 22/29-MPG city/highway.

All-wheel-drive is standard and incorporates torque-vectoring to sharpen corners. X-Mode further configures the powertrain for steep slippery trails and engages hill descent control to modulate throttle and brakes downhill. Off trail, it just rumbles over rough pavement without a squeak and soaks up long highway miles like a luxury sedan. Turning is especially sharp whether carving trails or wedging into a tight garage.

Perhaps the best part of the Outback is its price, which is more comparable to compact crossovers than the mid-size crossover it is. Base models start under \$29,000 with our lavishly equipped Touring coming to \$42,795. Compare that to the Chevy Blazer, Kia Sorento, Volvo XC60, Honda Passport, Nissan Murano, and Ford Edge.

Storm Forward!



Photos provided by Subaru

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

| Likes | Dislikes |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Luxury interior · Turbo engine · All-road capability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No head-up display · No dual-pane roof · Predictable styling |

2024 Subaru Outback Touring XT
 Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
 Powertrain: 2.4-liter T4, CVT
 Output: 260hp/277 lb.-ft. torque
 Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
 Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy
 Brakes f/r: disc/disc
 Towing: 3,500 lbs.
 Fuel economy: 22/29 mpg city/hwy
 Assembly: Lafayette, IN
 Base/as-tested price: \$28,895/42,795

www.thetimes24-7.com

The Times SERVICE DIRECTORY

AUTOMOTIVE

FUNERAL SERVICES

BUSSELL FAMILY FUNERALS

Serving Hamilton County and surrounding areas

BussellFamilyFunerals.com

Donna Bussell
Owner/Director

1621 E. Greyhound Pass
Carmel, IN 46032
317-587-2001

FUNERAL SERVICES

FEATURED BUSINESS

Traditional Services
Affordable Cremation
Pre-Planning

Hersberger Bozell
FUNERAL HOME

1010 North Main Street
Lafayette, Indiana 46051
765-534-3111
www.hersbergerbozell.com

Indiana Funeral Care

indianafuneralcare.com

FUNERAL SERVICES

Indiana Funeral Care

indianafuneralcare.com

Indianapolis
(317) 636-6464
8151 Allisonville Rd.
Indianapolis

Greenwood
(317) 348-1570
2433 E Main St.
Greenwood

HOME SERVICES

RESTAURANTS

Jim Dandy Restaurant
Since 1964

Online Ordering is HERE!
Visit our new website at www.jdrest.com to order now!
Sign up for our email list to receive weekly deals and specials!

Monday - Saturday 6:30 AM - 9 PM
Sunday 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM

2301 E. Conner Noblesville 317-773-3288

Indianapolis
(317) 636-6464
8151 Allisonville Rd.
Indianapolis

Greenwood
(317) 348-1570
2433 E Main St.
Greenwood