

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

Hamilton Happenings

It wouldn't be Hamilton County without orange cones. The latest is 236th Street between US-31 and Deming Road. There will be lane restrictions for the next several weeks for right-of-way clearing and utility relocation. Traffic will be maintained between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., so some short delays may occur. Please be cautious while driving through this area.

Three Things You Should Know

1 Tickets are available at <https://am.ticketmaster.com/iuindy/24-gubernatorial-debate> for the final debate among all six candidates for the Republican gubernatorial nomination. The debate will take place before a live audience from 7-8:30 p.m. April 23 at Hine Hall Auditorium on the IUPUI campus. The doors open at 6 p.m., and all audience members must be in their seats by 6:45 p.m. Weapons, signs and other campaign paraphernalia are not permitted. Voters may submit their own questions for the candidates at www.indianadebatecommission.com. The debate will be carried live at www.indianadebatecommission.com. U.S. Sen. Mike Braun; Brad Chambers, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch; Eric Doden, former Attorney General Curtis Hill and Jamie Reitenour are competing for the opportunity to run in the November election.

2 Congresswoman Victoria Spartz, Republican Congresswoman from Indiana's 5th District, has been endorsed by the National Rifle Association. "As a lifetime NRA member, I am proud to have the NRA endorsement once again," Spartz said. "As someone who grew up under a tyrannical government, I understand that our Second Amendment is second for a reason – to protect all other rights against all enemies foreign and domestic. I will always stand strong for Second Amendment rights for all law-abiding Americans." The NRA is America's oldest defender of gun rights.

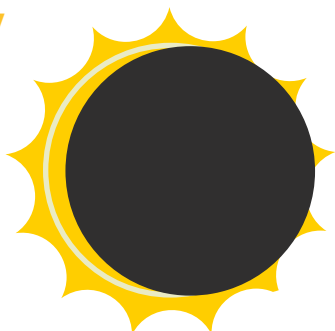
3 Our friends at Mixbook say that Hoosiers are set to hit 'Peak Optimism' On April 10. They say that peak optimism in America occurs on April 4 nationally, and that Indiana will come along six days later. Mixbook, a top-rated photobook company, set out to identify this peak of positivity in 2024 through a survey of 3,000 people, revealing that the surge in optimism varies across the U.S. Mostly, it has to do with the weather. Hey, we have to agree. Nice temps and blue skies are a great reason to smile.

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!

City Time of Totality

Evansville	3:03
Vincennes	4:05
Jasper	3:11
Terre Haute	2:57
French Lick	3:07
Bloomington	4:02
Brown County	3:58
Greenwood	4:00
Indianapolis	3:49
Noblesville	3:28
Carmel	3:29
Fishers	3:38
Sheridan	2:50
McCordsville	3:49
Muncie	3:47
Marion	2:11
New Castle:	4:00
Hagerstown	3:59
Portland:	3:43



4-8-24

Today's Eclipse

8-21-17

Date of last eclipse visible in Indiana

8-23-44

Date of next eclipse

1:50

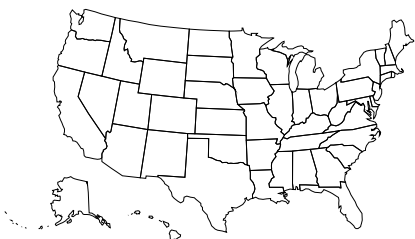
Depending on where you are, approximate time of the beginning

4:25

Depending on where you are, approximate time of ending

15

The number of states in the path of totality. They are: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.



32 million vs. 12 million

The number of people living in this year's path of totality vs. 2017's path.



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Eating whole grains instead of refined white starches results in less belly fat.

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

"Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats."
Howard Aiken

OBITUARIES

None

TODAY'S JOKE

Some folks have the very first dollar they ever made. The rest belong to Uncle Sam.

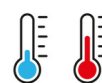
The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **JENNY KRONENBERG** for subscribing!



The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset

RISE: 7:16 am
SET: 8:16 pm



High/Low Temperatures

HIGH: 72°F
LOW: 51°F



Today is...

- Draw a Picture of a Bird Day
- Zoo Lovers Day



What Happened On This Day

- **1977** The Clash release their debut album of the same name. The British combo around lead vocalist Joe Strummer is considered one of the most influential early punk rock bands.
- **1959** One of the first modern programming languages is created. The Common Business-Oriented Language or COBOL was primarily designed by a woman, Grace Hopper. Also known as Amazing Grace, she is regarded as one of the pioneers in the field.



Births On This Day

- **1929** Jacques Brel - Belgian singer-songwriter, actor
- **1918** Betty Ford - American wife of Gerald R. Ford, 40th First Lady of the United States

Deaths On This Day

- **2013** Margaret Thatcher - English politician, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- **1973** Pablo Picasso - Spanish painter, sculptor

Afterglow Market Hosts Charity Wine Tasting Event

Afterglow Market, the pioneer in sustainable fashion and advocate for environmental causes, is thrilled to announce its upcoming charity wine tasting event on April 20, from 6 to 9 p.m. The event, hosted at Afterglow Market's brick and mortar store, promises an evening of exquisite wine sampling, fashion-forward shopping, and philanthropic support for the Hoosier Environmental Council.

At the heart of this event is Afterglow Market's commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. Event goers will have the opportunity to indulge in a variety of wines while also exploring Afterglow Market's collection of eco-friendly and sustainable clothing. Every purchase made during the event, whether it's a bottle of wine or a stylish garment, will contribute to supporting the Hoosier Environmental Council and their mission.

"Afterglow Market is more than just a fashion retailer; we are on a mission to revolutionize the way people interact with their wardrobe," said Rachel Mirabella, Founder of Afterglow Market. "Our commitment to sustainability extends beyond our clothing line to every aspect of our business, including our events. By partnering with the Hoosier Environmental Council, we aim to amplify both our and HEC's impact."

Ten percent of proceeds from wine sales from One Hope Winery and 15% of all Afterglow Market



clothing profits generated during the event will be donated to the Hoosier Environmental Council. Additionally, attendees can participate in raffles featuring generously donated items from other local businesses, with all proceeds benefiting the council's initiatives.

The Hoosier Environmental Council is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocating for environmental conservation and sustainability for all Hoosiers. Through their efforts, they strive to protect Indiana's natural resources and promote a cleaner, healthier environment for current and future generations.

"We are grateful for Afterglow Market's generous support and commitment to our cause," said Mary Brock, Green Business Manager for HEC. "Events like these not only raise vital funds for our organization but also raise awareness about the importance of environmental stewardship. Together, we can make a significant impact on the well-being of our planet and our fellow Hoosiers."

For more information about Afterglow Market and their commitment to sustainability, visit afterglowmarket.com. To learn more about the Hoosier Environmental Council and how you can support their initiatives, visit hecweb.org.

Joshi, Hahn Join Josh Lowry Campaign

Josh Lowry recently announced that Carmel City Councilor Dr. Anita Joshi and attorney Gregory Hahn will serve as co-chairs of his campaign for Indiana State Representative. Lowry, a Democrat, is running to represent House District 24, currently held by retiring Representative Donna Schaibley, a district that includes Westfield, Carmel, Sheridan and Zionsville.

Dr. Anita Joshi ran a successful council campaign for last fall's Carmel elections, promising a safer, smarter and more sustainable community. As a pediatrician, small business owner and a member of several boards of trustees, she has a long and proven track record of being a positive presence in the community.

"Josh Lowry's work ethic, dedication and drive to serve his community is something that I witnessed firsthand as we went door-to-door together to



Josh Lowry

speak with members of our community," Joshi said. "I know that he will bring that same drive and passion to the State House, and that is why I am proud to be a part of his campaign."

Greg Hahn, a partner at Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, has more than 50 years of law experience with a focus on corporate law and business litigation, as well as insurance law, real estate law, gaming and hospitality, and state and federal representation. Hahn has served the Democratic party on the county, state and federal level.

"Josh has a special combination of constitutional



Dr. Anita Joshi

knowledge, community reputation and servant leadership that can truly make a positive impact on the lives of Hoosiers now and for years to come," Hahn said. "I look forward to working with him and his team to put a great person in the State House." Lowry said it is an honor to be joined on the campaign by these two leaders.

"Dr. Joshi proved Democrats can win in Hamilton County and Greg knows how to use his influence for the greater good," the candidate said. "I look forward to working with them both and following in their footsteps. Both of these amazing people represent the best of our community, and I am



Gregory Hahn

beyond excited to have their support on this journey to bring Hoosiers voices back to local government." Josh Lowry is a trial attorney who specializes in constitutional law. He received his bachelor's degree and Juris Doctorate from Indiana University. He is a member of the Lions Club of Westfield and Westfield Democrats. He and wife Alexis live in Westfield with their five children. As a family, they enjoy staying active, playing basketball and volunteering with community organizations. For more information on Josh Lowry and his campaign, visit www.lowryforindiana.com.

Former Fishers Resident Promoted to Brigadier General

INDIANAPOLIS -- The Indiana National Guard honored one of its Army aviators during a recent promotion ceremony at Stout Field.

Brig. Gen. Larry Muennich, formerly from Fishers and currently in Louisville, received his one-star rank from his wife and children during the ceremony at Indiana National Guard headquarters near downtown Indianapolis.

"Larry is not only an outstanding soldier, but also one of our

finest aviators," said Maj. Gen. Dale Lyles, the adjutant general, during his ceremonial speech. "He leads by example, and he will make a fine addition to our command team as we focus on our people and our readiness." Muennich will join the adjutant general's team as an assistant adjutant general.

General officers also receive a one-star flag, pistol and ceremonial belt. During the ceremony, Lyles presented the Muennich with his red, 3-foot by 4-foot, one-star flag.



"The success of a professional organization depends on its people and its leaders' ability to develop the people in their charge. As a leader, I live by the philosophy of mission first, people always. That is my way of saying that we are here to do a job - to fight and win our nation's wars - but above all else, the only way we achieve our mission is by putting our people first," said Muennich in his speech.

Muennich also outlined how he plans to put people first.

"As the assistant adjutant general, I am committed to the professionalism and personnel readiness of the Indiana National Guard. We must successfully retain, recruit, and develop the best talent our nation offers to continue to stand on the front lines of freedom and democracy, protecting our way of life from those who seek to challenge it," said Muennich.

Muennich joined the

Indiana National Guard in 1993. He's served in staff and leadership roles within the 38th Combat Aviation Brigade, headquartered in Shelbyville, from company level to battalion and finally brigade commander. Muennich, a senior Army aviator with more than 1,700 flight hours, is qualified to fly the UH-1 Iroquois and UH-60 Black Hawk aircraft.

Muennich has five overseas deployments including Operation Desert Spring in Kuwait in 2001, Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo in 2004 and Operation New Dawn in Iraq in 2011.

Throughout Muennich's 31-year military career, he's earned the Bronze Star Medal, two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, four Meritorious Service Medals, and the Honorable Order of Saint Michael.

When not serving in the military, Muennich's worked for General Electric Appliances in marketing, business strategy and logistics.



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Discouraging Day Turns Useful



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

I had a discouraging day yesterday. I don't expect anyone to keep track—heck, I can't keep track half the time. But I got another rejection of my book from another editor with another publishing house.

a file I keep with the previous rejection letters. Sometimes I read the comments later and, generally, I don't get too discouraged. But yesterday I did. I was grumpy, and I felt more than a little sorry for myself. So I took a day off. Instead of writing, I went for a long walk.

I've read the stories of how long it has taken well-known authors to sell their first novel. A publisher has to put a lot of money into a new book, and the odds are slim that a writer's first book will ever earn that money back. Publishers know this and so they are understandably cautious.

And, as I was walking, I suddenly thought of my best friend who died seven years ago. She was only 50 years old when she died, and I never met a person who was more alive. I thought of how she would chew me out for wasting even part of one day feeling sorry for myself.

You would think I would be used to rejection by now. Before I was even able to have my book read by publishers, I had to find an agent, and they are swamped with letters from writers who want the same thing I do—to see their book out in the world.

“Take a teaspoon of cement, Princess, and harden up!” she would have said.

Now that I have my wonderful agent, Annie, she is putting a lot of time into editing and working to sell my book, and she makes no money at all until the book sells. It is a long process. Everything takes months and months, and in the meantime, I keep writing, because that is the only part of the process I have any control over at all.

She was very good about saying things like that, whenever I complained that what I was doing was too difficult. I missed her no-nonsense advice, her never-ending encouragement.

So, when I got an “update” from Annie yesterday, I knew from the subject line of the email it would not be good news. The note read:

“I sure could use you now,” I thought. And at that moment, I realized I had lost sight of a really important thing. Of course, I write because it makes me happy. But the reason writing makes me happy is because I think the stuff I write might be useful.

“Hi Annie,

Maybe my writing will make somebody smile. Maybe someone will feel less alone. Maybe it will be used to line the bottom of a birdcage. But whatever happens, I'm hoping it will be useful in some small way.

Thank you for the opportunity to read Carrie's work. She is a talented writer, and I love the premise for this, but I didn't connect with the characters quite as strongly as I'd hoped. It is with regret that I am a pass, but I hope you land the perfect home for this (or perhaps already have!).”

It's not really about me. Or, as my beloved friend would say when I got too full of myself, “Buy some lumber, build a bridge, and get over yourself!”

I added this rejection to

She was good at that, as I mentioned. She was good at reminding me of what matters and, seven years later, she is still so very useful.

Till next time,
Carrie

Former Mayor Endorses Alerding

Former Noblesville Mayor Mary Sue Rowland has given her endorsement for the District 29 State Representative race to Republican Laura Alerding of Noblesville.

candidate who has conviction, dedication and does the right thing for the right reason every time,” Rowland said. “Laura Alerding has a proven record of accomplishment and is the most prepared to serve at the state level as your House Representative for District 29. Consider Laura Alerding, she will not let you down.”

Rowland currently serves on the Noblesville Township Board and was an At-Large City Councilor. During her tenure in city government she was a champion of Downtown Noblesville. “Seldom do you meet a

For more information, go to <http://AlerdingForStateRep29.info/>

A Very Puzzling Column



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

About 16 years ago, my third edition of Indiana Curiosities was published, stories about all the unusual people, places and things in the Hoosier state. I traveled several thousand miles around Indiana to compile the book. Leafing through it the other day, I decided it might be fun to check back after all these years and revisit some of the people who earned a chapter in my quirky travel guide.

When I first met David Cozad, his life was in pieces. About 25,000 pieces, 24, 978 to be exact. The Plainfield resident was one of the premier jigsaw mavens in the Midwest. He had recently finished the puzzle referenced above, chock full of animals, hot air balloons, the planets of the solar system, and the tiniest of sea creatures.

Cozad put the puzzle together on his garage floor, a painstaking achievement, hard on the eyes and the knees. Cozad admits that he was limited to about two hours at a time. “Then you hit the wall...you get so absorbed, but you have to take a break.”

Most of Cozad's completed puzzles are displayed in his house or garage, several have gone to his grandkids. But his latest achievement, a panorama of Disney characters, was even bigger than the one featured in my book. It was 40,000 pieces. At about 26 feet long and 6 feet tall, it weighed more than a hundred pounds in the box.

Cozad spent three years on his condo's garage floor interlocking pieces. He sees the effort almost spiritually. “First, I find the correct church for all the pieces, then the correct pew. That's how he explains separating the edges and the colors. He isolates the puzzles by sections, which are then glued together so they can be mounted on a giant board.

One piece of jigsaw history: In 2008, the

Ravensburg Puzzle Company in Ravensburger, Germany, hosted a public puzzle event in the city square. Citizens collaborated to assemble an astounding 1,141,800 pieces, a world record for the largest puzzle ever completed!

Great puzzles have unifying ideas to keep the hobbyist interested, but Cozad admits that it isn't until the puzzle is completed that he can stand back and appreciate all the artistic nuances of the scene. One of his favorites was a black-and-white Civil War scene with Abraham Lincoln featured in the painting. A real toughie because he only had two pews of colors.

“Putting in that last piece is a great accomplishment,” says Cozad. But his greatest fear is that as he nears the end of his task, a piece will be missing. “That's why I used to keep my eye on the dog.”

David is a big advocate of encouraging kids to take up jigsaw puzzling. “It develops their capacity to concentrate,” says Cozad. “An ability that many lack in today's world of video games.” Cozad had temporarily retired from this passion of the last 30 years. This was okay with his friends who wanted him to play more golf and cards. “Over the years, they weren't exactly beating down my garage door to help.”

UPDATE: Recently, the bug bit him again. He was getting edgy, to use some jigsaw lingo. He bought a large puzzle in a bag, just the pieces, but he has no idea what the final scene will be. “I've never attempted anything like this before,” he tells me.

But it seems only fitting he should do that.

– 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.

Spartz Honored by Conservative Group

Rep. Victoria Spartz (IN-05) was recently recognized with the Award for Conservative Excellence by the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) for her conservative voting record in Congress.

“The most important job of a legislator is to protect our Constitutional rights to Life, Liberty and Property, which I always use as a

guidance for my votes,” Spartz said. “I am honored to receive an award from a grassroots conservative organization like CPAC.”

CPAC Foundation's scorecard is widely recognized as the original “gold standard” for measuring a member of Congress' commitment to conservative principles.

FOR THE RECORD

HAMILTON COUNTY BZA

WHERE: One Hamilton County Square, Suite 13 Noblesville

DATE: Wednesday, April 24, 2024

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hamilton County Historic Courthouse, second floor courtroom, 33 North 9th Street, Noblesville, Indiana Enter using west side entry doors.

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Communication/Reports:
4. Approval of Minutes – February 28, 2024
5. Old Business:
6. New Business:

Docket No. BZA-LU-0004-04-2024

A Land Use variance concerning Article 03, A-3, 2 of the Hamilton County Unified Development Ordinance No. 07-25-2022-A as amended 07-10-2023. To allow an accessory dwelling on a parcel in the A-3 zone district, whereas; an accessory dwelling is not a permitted use or special use in the A-3 zone district.

Project Address: 16185 E. 281st Street, Atlanta, IN 46031

Parcel number(s): 07-04-08-03-01-009.000

Property is zoned: A-3

Size of property: 0.99 acres

Owner: William and Natalie Simon

7. Director's Report:

8. Legal Counsel Report:

9. Next BZA Meeting - Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Hamilton County Commissioners' Courtroom / County Council Chambers, First Floor, Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana

10. Adjournment

ADA Notice: Hamilton County will, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so that they can participate equally in Hamilton County's public meetings. For special accommodations for a meeting contact Steven Rushforth - the ADA Facilities Coordinator / Safety & Risk Manager at (317-764-0417) or by email at steven.rushforth@hamiltoncounty.in.gov least two (2) business days prior to the scheduled meeting or event to request an accommodation

CARMEL PARK & RECREATION BOARD

2024 Regular Meeting Schedule

Meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at the John W. Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Ave. The April meeting date has been changed to 7 p.m. Following are the dates meetings were held, or are scheduled for.
January 23, February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10.

For The Record is a public service and regular feature in The Noblesville Times. It is designed to tell you what is scheduled to happen and what actually does happen in meetings paid for with your tax dollars. The Times encourages all citizens to take an active role in being involved in local government.

Visit us online:
thetimes24-7.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Public notice is given that the Sheridan Plan Commission, on the 18th day of April, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in the Sheridan Community Center, located at 300 E. 6th Street, Sheridan, IN 46069, will hold a public hearing on Ordinance 2024-09 entitled An Ordinance To Amend The Unified Development Ordinance. Public notice is hereby given that at said public hearing, the Sheridan Plan Commission, as designating body, will receive and hear all remonstrances and objections from interested persons concerning an amendment to add a definition and use provisions for accessory dwellings to the Unified Development Ordinance. After hearing all evidence presented, the Sheridan Plan Commission shall make a recommendation to the Town Council, which will consider said recommendation at its next regular meeting on May 8, 2024.
Council of the Town of Sheridan,
Indiana
Silas DeVaney, III
Presiding Officer

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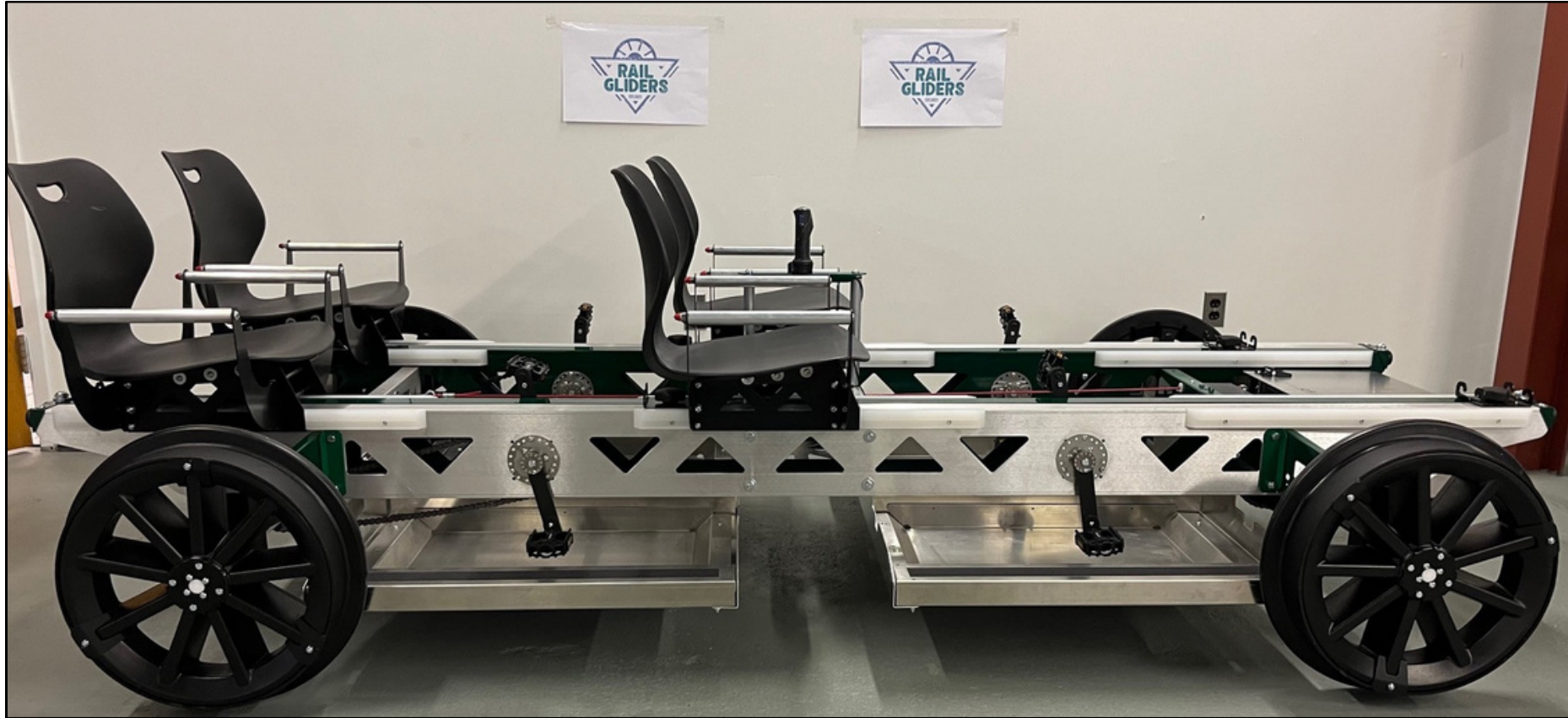
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Railbikes Coming to Noblesville



Individuals and groups can soon “bike” the historic Nickel Plate line north and south from Forest Park using unique “railbikes” that operate on the existing railroad tracks. The Nickel Plate Express Railbike is the first of its kind in the state of Indiana and one of the few available in the Midwest.

The specially designed family-friendly sturdy Rail Gliders look like “dune buggies” and are manufactured in Pennsylvania. They allow up to four passengers (plus two optional seats for very young children) to travel together north or south from Forest Park in scheduled tours lasting from 45 minutes to two hours. The rail bikes use foot power and follow the existing rail lines north to the Devin Wye (located north of Noblesville and south of Cicero), or south to downtown Noblesville.

“During warmer months we wanted to offer a one-of-a-kind experience in Indiana through the railbike program,” said Nickel Plate Express Executive Director Emily Reynolds. “This program seemed like the perfect complement to our regular rail excursions.” The railbike’s Forest Park Rail Adventure lasts two hours and departs north on the rail line. It features seven available bikes or 30 seats plus two additional seats and may be purchased in

single or multiple seats. It is available beginning in late May. Single seats are \$45, and an entire quad bike rental is \$129.

The White River Family Cruise lasts 45 minutes plus a 60-minute layover in downtown Noblesville to shop or dine. It also features seven available bikes or 30 seats plus two additional seats and may be purchased in single or multiple seats. It is available in June. Single seats are \$30, and an entire quad bike rental is \$109.

Adults up to 6’4” and children of all ages may railbike. All children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. All riders must be secured safely in a seats of their own and harnesses are available for toddlers. Infants under the age of 2 may ride strapped securely to an adult in an infant carrier. Excursions are accompanied by trained staff members. The railroad does not operate on the line during railbike periods.

“Northbound tracks do have a slight incline, but the bikes have been thoroughly tested and found not only manageable but also fun for riders of all levels”, Reynolds said.

Summer schedules and how to make reservations, which are recommended, can be found at NickelPlateExpress.com.

FAQ

What is a railbike?

Nickel Plate Express Railbikes are high-quality railbikes manufactured in Pennsylvania by Rail Gliders. The family-friendly, pedal-powered bikes are designed to safely run on top of the rails of the existing Nickel Plate railroad tracks where the Nickel Plate Express operates, departing from Forest Park. Railbikes seat up to four and are safe for all ages. The more people who can pedal, the easier it is to maneuver, but the bikes are designed for ease of operation.

Who can ride railbikes?

Railbikes are versatile and easy to ride for people of all ages and abilities -- everyone from small children to adults up to 6'4". Rail Glider's seats are adjustable, even while sitting in them.

Children can ride railbikes with appropriate adult guidance. Youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in the railcar, however. All riders must be secured safely in a seat of their own. Harnesses are available for toddlers. Infants under the age of two may ride strapped securely to an adult in an infant carrier.

How do railbike tours work?

Reservations are recommended. All tours depart together and are led by a trained tour guide. Railbikes can be rented as a group or by individual seats. Participants maintain a distance of about 500 feet between railbikes. The railbikes are designed to turn their seats, so once the designated northern- or southern-most point is reached, the seats are turned for the return trip. For excursions into downtown Noblesville, railbikes rest at the rail terminus until the return trip when the seats are turned for the northbound trip. This means the experience is round trip and passengers return to their starting point. Tour lengths vary. See reservations for more information.

Who else will be on the tracks?

Nickel Plate Express Railbikes will be the only operators for the tour. As such, no train movement will occur at the same time when railbikes are in use. Daily coordination within the organization ensures all parties are aware of the schedule for both railbikes and train operations for maximum safety.

What is the weather policy?

Nickel Plate Express Railbikes operate in most weather conditions, including rain and on cooler or hotter days, as long as it is deemed safe. Railbike tours proceed in light to moderate rain but exclude heavy rain or threatening weather such as lightning. Staff reviews weather radar before each tour and has access to

Hamilton County Emergency Management alerts. Should continuous downpour or adverse weather conditions be expected, the railroad may opt cancel or delay departure until conditions improve. Due to the unpredictable nature of thunderstorms, a decision to cancel a tour for this reason is typically made approximately 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time. Should the tour be cancelled for weather-related issues, participants will be offered a full refund.

Customers who choose to cancel due to weather are subject to a cancellation fee, so they should be mindful when booking that railbikes is an outdoor activity and may be exposed to the elements including light rain, wind, heat, and cool temperatures.

How are railbikes tickets purchased?

Reservations are strongly recommended. Space is limited and walk-in tickets are not guaranteed. Tickets can be purchased per seat or for all four seats on the railbike. There is a discount when purchasing the entire bike. If individual tickets are purchased, other passengers may be seated in that railbike.

What should I wear?

Passengers should review weather forecast and dress appropriately. Since these tours take place outdoors and the railbikes are exposed to the elements, comfortable and loose-fitting clothing that is suitable for hiking or cycling is best. Closed-toed shoes are advised for convenience and safety.

Is there a place to put my things?

Each railbike is equipped with a small basket for bags and other items. Larger items should be stored in the vehicle you drove. Passengers should bring bottled water. There will be bottles of water to purchase at the railroad store if these are forgotten. Passengers may bring a snack to enjoy on the journey but please gather all trash or empty bottles and leave the railbike and the nearby environment litter free. If conditions are sunny, passengers should consider applying sunscreen prior to departure

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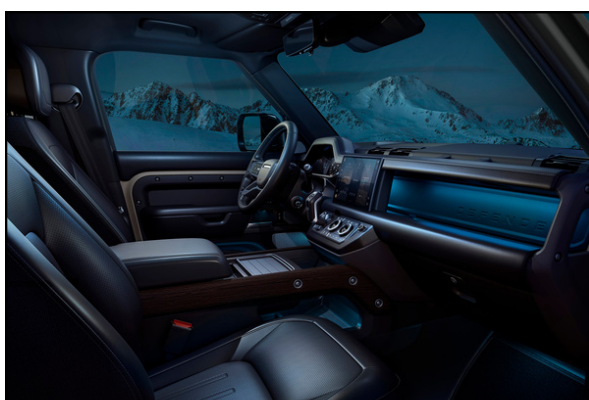
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2024 Land Rover Discovery 110S Proves Capability is its Own Luxury



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

In the beginning, way back in 1948, post-war Land Rover had one model cribbed from the American Jeep. Its aluminum-intensive body covered a chassis engineered for war, farms, and crawling across deserts. Seventy-six years on, we have the more luxurious Discovery series and the stupid-exclusive Range Rover, but if you still want an all-capable SUV that borrows from its upscale siblings, you'll consider the 2024 Land Rover Defender 110S.

County Retro Vibe

In County trim, there's a definite retro vibe with white alloy wheels, side stripes, and Tasman Blue roof over Santorini Black paint. You can also see the classics in round LED headlamps, silver bumper inserts, and raised roof with side windows. There's a lot of plastic in the facias, but like the originals, also a lot of aluminum in the bodywork. I especially like the hood

patches that look like step plates, taillamps with surfaces flush mounted and the streamlined forms. There's an obvious connection to history, but with a decidedly forward direction.

Land Rover purists may scoff at the comfy interior, but there's a lot of tradition in there too. While many surfaces are soft and stitched, exposed bolts, rubber floor mats and synthetic materials beg to be washed down after adventures. Yet, grained leather heated seats, heated steering wheel, panoramic glass roof, and deep Meridian audio bring luxuries – as do tri-zone automatic climate control, rain-sensing wipers, and illuminated treadplates.

If there's a downside, it's the touchscreen infotainment system. The glossy dash screen delivers access to audio, phone, and navigation functions, but tapping into it without becoming friendly with the owner's manual will have you cursing in both Yiddish and Pig Latin. Land Rover can

do better, but at least devices connect easily through Apple CarPlay and Android Auto to avoid that drama.

The safety suite is considerably easier to understand as adaptive cruise, automatic emergency braking, blind spot warning, lane keep assist, and rear cross path alert protect the flanks and human cargo.

Smooth Wafting Performance

Driving approaches divine. Smooth seamless power flows from the 3.0-liter turbocharged inline-six and mild hybrid system that acts as an electric supercharger. It's swift in its actions, accelerating from 0-60 mph in just 5.8 seconds, and formidable as that power routes to the four-wheel-drive system and electronically active differential through an eight-speed automatic transmission. I suppose it's efficient for a nippy off-road tank that can tow 8,200 lbs., but fuel economy rated 17/20-MPG city/highway is

far from frugal.

If the Defender simply used that power like a mountain goat or splash mud like a piggy, it would be impressive, but its air suspension adds both capability and comfort that translate to actual paved streets and highways. It can be raised for serious off-roading, and lowered for easier entry, but it also allows the big wagon to waft down the highway and soak up potholes like a Range Rover. Beyond that, the Terrain Response System configures the powertrain for all types of conditions. With turbo-electric power and magic carpet ride, capability equals luxury.

The Land Rover Defender may indulge fuel, befuddle infotainment, and cost a pretty penny, but I'd get over all of that if it appeared as a gift in my driveway. As expected, it has very luxurious prices that start at \$60,600 for a Defender 110 and rise to \$82,053 as-equipped. Competitors include the Jeep Grand Cherokee, GMC Yukon,

Ford Bronco and Lexus GX.

Storm Forward!

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

2024 Land Rover Defender 110S
 Five-passenger, AWD SUV
 Powertrain: 2.5-liter T16, 8-spd, hybrid
 Output: 395hp/406 lb.-ft. torque
 Suspension f/r: Air Ind/Ind
 Wheels f/r: 20"/20" alloy
 Brakes f/r: disc/disc
 Towing: 8,200 lbs.
 0-60 mph: 5.8s
 Fuel economy: 17/20 mpg city/hwy
 Assembly: Nitra, Slovakia
 Base/As-tested price:
 \$60,600/82,053

Likes	Dislikes
· Saturating power	· Cumbersome touchscreen
· Wafting comfort	· Fuel consumption
· Off-road prowess	· Lofty price

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Carmel Doctor Publishes Book

Finding the Way: A Memoir, a new book by Dr. Constantine Mavroudis of Carmel, has been released by Dorrance Publishing Co., Inc.

Dr. Constantine Mavroudis performed Kentucky's first infant heart transplant in 1986, a life-saving procedure referred to nation-wide as the "Baby Calvin heart transplant".

Dr. Mavroudis was born in Thasos, Greece in July of 1946. He spent the first year of his life in his birthplace before immigrating to the United States with his family in 1947. In his inspiring, extraordinary memoir, Dr. Mavroudis recounts his youth in New Jersey with his parents making a living through a luncheonette-ice cream parlor and his rise to become one of

the most world-renowned pediatric congenital heart surgeons. Dr. Mavroudis established the second successful neonatal cardiac transplant program in the world. He made many scientific and clinical contributions to the field by his research, multiple publications, his numerous editions of his textbook, *Pediatric Cardiac Surgery*, now in its 5th Edition, and educating the next generation of surgeons, including his own son.

Finding the Way is the tale of resourcefulness, hard work, and where humble beginnings lead to extraordinary endings.

Finding the Way: A Memoir is a 222-page paperback with a retail price of \$19.00 (eBook \$12.00). The ISBN is 979-8-89127-808-0.

Rokita Endorses Laura Alerding



Laura Alerding

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has officially endorse Laura Alerding of Noblesville in her bid to win the State Representative seat in District 29.

"Laura Alerding's alignment with conservative values and dedication to defending Parents' rights perfectly complements my mission as State Attorney General to uphold your constitutional rights," Rokita said in a statement. "With Laura in the State House, we will have a steadfast ally in our efforts to protect the fundamental liberties enshrined in our



Todd Rokita

Constitution. Her unwavering commitment to preserving individual freedoms will significantly bolster our endeavors to safeguard the rights of every Hoosier. Together, we'll work hand in hand to ensure that the principles of justice, liberty, and equality are upheld for all citizens of Indiana. Laura Alerding is a strong advocate of her community and I gladly endorse her for House Representative for District 29."

If you'd like to learn more information please visit Alerding's campaign website at <http://AlerdingForStateRep29.info/>

Local Basketball Legend to Sponsor Murals

Gary Harris, a Fishers native and professional basketball player for the Orlando Magic, has partnered with Koda Witsken, an artist who is also a Fishers native, to create two basketball court murals at Brooks School Park (11565 Brooks School Road) in Fishers.

The design concept for the murals includes vibrant colors, cosmic elements, and Gary Harris' "GH" brand symbol. Through bright colors and symbolic out-of-this-world imagery, the designs are meant to inspire the next generation of Indiana basketball talent to reach for the stars for a bright future.

As a player at Hamilton Southeastern High School in 2012, Harris finished his high school career as 2012 Mr. Indiana Basketball with a school-record of 1,540 points, 467 rebounds, 232 assists, and 232 steals. Harris was rated among the top players in the nation by ESPNU100 (No. 11), Scout.com (No. 16) and Rivals.com (No. 25). He was also ranked among the nation's top shooting guards by ESPNU100 (No. 2).

Harris explains why he sought to install basketball court murals in his hometown, saying, "My love of basketball started in Indiana, THE basketball state, and specifically in Fishers. Given all that basketball has done for me and my family, I felt strongly about returning some of that love to the Fishers community with vibrant, statement-making basketball courts for the next generation of Indiana basketball talent to enjoy. I'm very excited to partner with Koda and the City on this project to make the vision a reality."

The courts are expected to be installed starting April 5 through May 1, 2024. Witsken, a 2011 Hamilton Southeastern graduate, says of the project, "It's powerful to be a part of this project, not only to honor Gary's legacy as a hometown legend, but to invite current and future generations of youth players to gather on the courts. At the intersection of sports, art, and culture, people gather and dreams are made. It's special to be the person bringing the art to the table, and I thank Gary and his family for partnering with me."

To celebrate the mural's completion, Fishers Parks will host an outdoor 3x3 basketball tournament for ages 16 and older and a 3-point competition for ages eight and older on Saturday, May 18 at Brooks School Park. Registration opens soon. Visit [FishersParks.com/BrooksSchoolCourts](https://fishersparks.com/BrooksSchoolCourts) to sign up to receive updates once registration opens.

The murals are part of the City of Fishers' commitment to infusing vibrancy and celebrating creativity throughout the community through public art. In summer 2020, the City unveiled a new Art Wall at Brooks School Park that features new murals by local artists and students on a rotating basis. The court murals will continue the legacy of integrating art and play at Brooks School Park.

"What an awesome project to kick off the summer," said Marissa Deckert, director of Fishers Parks. "Our Parks department is so grateful to Gary Harris for teaming up with artist Koda Witsken to make this dream a reality. We can't wait to share this with the community and celebrate with an event open to all ages. This project brings a winning combination of community and vibrancy to one of our most popular parks."



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