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➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Philippians 3:13 "Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (NIV)

Hamilton Happenings

When the good folks at Infographic looked for the most idyllic urban havens in America, Carmel popped up. Out of a list from the east coast to the west, Carmel was ranked 28th (and Broad Ripple was 103rd). The survey of 3,000 selected Old Northeast in St. Petersburg, the Highlands in Denver and Beacon Hill in Boston 1-2-3.

Three Things You Should Know

- 1** The mother of all book sales is going to take place at Hachette Books in Lebanon on June 15. From hardcover best sellers to children's books to all sorts of titles, books will be sold for \$1 each. That's right, \$1. Want a new Grisham, Evanovich or some other top author? Only a buck! The sale begins at 9 a.m. at Hachette Book Group, 121 N. Enterprise Blvd. in Lebanon. No children under 12 are allowed and neither are carts or wagons. You might also be prepared for a walk. Parking can be a bear!
- 2** The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is part of a \$10 million state investment in new personal protective equipment that is aimed to help volunteer firefighters across Indiana. to better serve their communities. The \$10 million will purchase 940 complete sets of PPE and SCBA, benefiting 66 fire departments across every Indiana fire district. The selection process addressed the poorest volunteer departments first and those with the oldest equipment. IDHS accepted submissions for several months in 2023 to determine the highest need departments. The application process is now closed.
- 3** The Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife plans to stock nearly 63,000 rainbow and brown trout across the state this spring in preparation for inland trout fishing season, which, for inland streams, opens Saturday, April 27. Thirty-five bodies of water across 21 counties are anticipated to receive fish before and after opening day. To find a stocked stream near you, see this year's trout stocking plan at on.IN.gov/fish-stocking.

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!

4-22-24

Earth Day!

According to the Earth Day website, this day is a reminder of the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability.



NHS Alumni Banquet To Celebrate Class of '74




The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Noblesville High School Class of 1953 graduate Barb Guilkey Lawson celebrates her 70th year reunion at the 2023 NHS Alumni Banquet in the NHS Cafeteria. Th 2024 banquet will be Saturday.

1970 The very first Earth Day was celebrated on the first day of spring, March 21, 1970.

1-28-69 **60x40** This stands for a goal of reducing plastics by 60 percent by the year 2040.

The date of the Santa Barbara Oil Spill. More than 3 million gallons of oil was released off the coast of Santa Barbara, Calif. After a well six miles out blew. The spill killed thousands of birds, dolphins, seals and other marine life. This is generally regarded as the single event that spurred the first Earth Day 14 months later.



2016 On Earth Day that year, the Paris Agreement was signed, a comprehensive climate accord. World leaders from 175 nations, including the U.S. were involved.

1 billion How many people around the world take part in Earth Day activities, marking this as the single biggest protest on the planet.



193 The number of countries involved in Earth Day observances.

I say this every year. I think I've attended nearly every Noblesville High School Alumni Banquet since I started working as a Noblesville journalist 38 years ago.

BETSY REASON
Columnist

The banquets are always a lot of fun, graduates reminisce about high school days, the 50-year class is celebrated and an Alumnus of the Year is honored. Plus, attendees enjoy a good meal catered by Noblesville Jim Dandy Restaurant.

This year's NHS Alumni Banquet is at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 27, in the NHS Cafeteria.

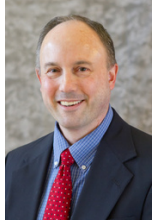
Peggy Beaver, a 1972 NHS grad and longtime member of the NHS Alumni board and who celebrated with her class of '72 50-year-reunion at the banquet two years ago, is taking reservations along with treasurer Janice Robinson, Class of '68.

Current NHS Alumni Association board president Karen Williams Pryor is a member of the Class of '74, which this year will be celebrating its 50-year reunion. "Our Alumni Association is dedicated to staying connected to our friends, remembering our teachers and classmates that helped shape our lives and future," Williams Pryor wrote to alumni in this year's NHS Alumni newsletter.

The NHS Class of '74 will look back. Class members saw a lot of change with the end of many childhood pastimes: The Diana Theater, Rainbow Roller Rink, Grandpa's Candy Store, the curly slide at Candy Park, as well as the demolition of elementary buildings that launched many of their educations. Some of the collected mementos, such as bricks and door knobs, came from the rubble as Third Ward, second Ward and then First

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Keep your fingers away from your eyes if you want to minimize your chances of getting "pink eye."



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

Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Matthew 22: 17-21

➔ OBITUARIES
NONE

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

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

Do you know how the 1040 form got its name? For every \$50 you earn, you get \$10 and the IRS gets \$40.

The TIMES
Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

➔ See BETSY Page A3

Spark!Fishers Back With Multi-Day Celebration

The annual Spark!Fishers festival presented by Meijer returns to Fishers' Nickel Plate Cultural District this summer. Kicking off on Tuesday, June 25, and running through Saturday, June 29, the festival offers ways for the community to celebrate Independence Day traditions while showcasing what it means to be uniquely Fishers.

"We are thrilled to unveil new elements at this year's Spark!Fishers festival that will enhance our community's experience and celebrate the unique spirit of Fishers," said Marissa Deckert, Director of Fishers Parks. "Our partnership with the Fishers Art Center in the new Fishers Municipal Center is particularly exciting, allowing us to offer a rich array of free programming that includes art galleries, interactive activities, and local performances. Alongside the debut of our 1-Mile Walk/Run and the spectacular drone show and fireworks at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater, we are proud to provide an engaging, accessible festival that truly has something for everyone."

This year, attendees will enjoy a new schedule of events, including the popular drone show now scheduled to close out the Tuesday concert, and a fireworks display to conclude the concert on Friday night at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater.

New this year, a 1-Mile Walk/Run welcomes participants of all ages and abilities. The fun-run-style event will drop participants right in the middle of the day's festivities.

With the opening of the new Fishers Municipal Center, which includes City Hall and the Fishers Art Center, visitors can enjoy free programming from the Fishers Art Center during Saturday's events. This includes art galleries featuring works by the celebrated Hoosier artist, writer, and cultural icon, Kurt Vonnegut Jr., alongside high-quality demonstrations, interactive activities, and performances by local performing arts groups.

Registration is required for the Spark!Fishers 5K Race and 1-Mile Walk/Run and car show participants in the Car & Art Show. All other events are free to attend.

Applications are now open for festival vendors and entertainers through May 10. Parade participant applications are due May 31. Applications can be found at sparkfishers.com.

Several volunteer opportunities are available for all ages and abilities to get involved in this year's celebration. Learn more and register to volunteer at volunteerfishers.com.

Visit sparkfishers.com and follow Fishers Parks on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for festival news and updates.

Make-Off Coming to Fishers Library

About Ignite Studio at HEPL

Ignite Studio at HEPL is located at the Fishers Library and is an art studio and makerspace available to our community. Ignite Studio is a place to discover, collaborate, & experience in creative ways. We hope that visitors connect with creative members of the community and build lasting collaborations. We hope that visitors teach themselves, share their knowledge, and learn from others. We want our community to feel empowered to think differently through unique art and making experiences. Everyone is an artist and a maker, no matter their age, background, or experience level at the Ignite Studio.

Showcasing the variety of wonderful, artful things a person can create in our makerspace, Ignite Studio at Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) hosts its first annual Make-Off. The event will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ignite Studio located in the Fishers Library. Selected artists will compete for monetary prizes to make an original piece of art related to Ignite equipment, kits, or other in-house materials. Artists are challenged to highlight the creative possibilities involved in making and will be given up to six hours to complete their masterpiece. Non-participants will be able to watch the artistic process at work and participate in art projects. Equipment demonstrations and other scheduled activities will be held every half hour throughout the competition.

"Ignite is excited to hold its first ever Make-Off. Indiana and the Ignite community have many gifted artists and makers who create work in various mediums and this is your chance to see them at work! This year's theme of sustainability will showcase artists using recycled materials, metal, textiles, wood, eco-friendly paint and more to create an original piece of art. Work will be judged by our current Maker-in-Residence, Christina

Hollering, former Maker-in-Residence, Boxx the Artist and representative of Earth Charter Indiana, Patricia Wildhack. During the event, spectators can create their own sustainable art at various stations around the Ignite space," says Arts Engagement Coordinator, Kris Hurst. Interested visual artists had between Feb. 24 – April 10 to submit their application to be considered to compete in the Make-Off. Ten artists were chosen to compete and will be assigned an area in the space.

The theme for the first annual Make-Off is sustainable art, which involves awareness of environmental issues, such as the materials artists use to create their works, reducing waste, and adopting practices that can reduce the impact of their work on the environment.

Winners will be selected by a panel including past and current Makers-in-Residence. All work will be on display in the Ignite Studio from May 6th to June 15th. All ages are invited to join us for this unique opportunity to witness the artistic process at work, while participating in your own art projects! Visit ignite.hamiltoneastpl.org for more information.

Purdue Extension Crop and Weather Updates Going Public

The first Purdue Extension field crop call for the season took place earlier this month. These calls have been an internal tool used in Extension since 1982, when educators and specialists would huddle around landline telephones to give updates on production issues facing local field crop growers. In turn, the specialists on campus would give what recommendations they had to combat the issues.

As we move Extension into the 21st century, we are finding new ways to utilize technology in order to meet the in-season informational needs of crop growers. Now that the calls are being hosted online, they can be recorded, edited down to just the vital pieces, and shared in a relatively timely fashion with our crop producers. You can find our first Purdue Extension Crop and Weather Update for 2024 on the Purdue On The Farm YouTube Channel at <https://youtube.com/@PurdueOnTheFarm>

Each call this season will start with a state weather update from the Indiana State Climate Office, then each department on campus is invited to

give updates; agronomy, botany and plant pathology, entomology, weed science, agricultural economics, and agricultural engineering. The Office of the Indiana State Chemist is also invited to the calls to provide regulatory updates as policies are frequently evolving from season to season and even within seasons.

This first update features a winter weather summary and throughout the update there are discussions of its implications for pest issues this season. Specialists also shared early-season wheat management reminders, equipment maintenance reminders, and other production issues to keep an eye out for as the season gets under way. Growers can expect the remaining Crop and Weather Updates will be posted to the Purdue on the Farm YouTube Channel on April 26, May 10, May 24, June 7, June 21, July 12, Aug. 9, and Sept. 13.

To reach members of the Purdue Extension Field Crops and Purdue on the Farm Teams, please reach out to purdueonthefarm@purdue.edu.

Cyber Help In Person!



Noblesville Schools technology leaders Andrew Swickheimer and Jennifer Sebbas recently met with members of the Noblesville Senior Citizens Organization to discuss cybersecurity and help troubleshoot the senior citizens' personal tech issues.

The 2024 lineup:

Tuesday, June 25 / 7-9 p.m.

Free Tuesday Night Concert featuring Uptown Funk: Bruno Mars Tribute and drone show at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater (6 Municipal Drive).

Wednesday, June 26 / 7 p.m.

5K Race presented by IU Health Fishers around downtown Fishers and the new 1-Mile Walk/Run. Stick around for the 5K After Party at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater with music, food, and games. Registration is now open.

Thursday, June 27 / 6-9 p.m.

Free Car & Art around the Municipal Complex. Applications are now open for car show participants and artist vendors.

Friday, June 28 / 8 p.m.

Friday Night Concert featuring Red – A Taylor Swift Tribute and fireworks show at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater.

Saturday, June 29 / 2-9 p.m.

Street Fair around the Municipal Complex, with a community parade at 6 p.m.

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HOSTED BY MELISSA SHAW

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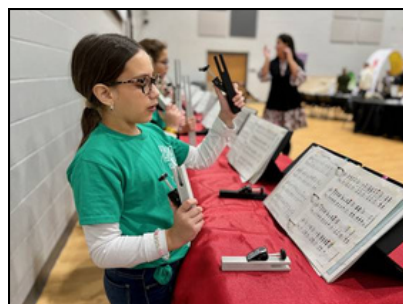
Noblesville Shines for 10th Consecutive Year

Noblesville Schools have been named a 2024 Best Community for Music Education winner by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. This is the 10th consecutive year Noblesville has earned the honor.

embracing music education as a part of the core school curriculum.

Noblesville Schools is one of an exclusive group of districts across the nation to have received the honor for ten consecutive years.

Districts were selected based on music funding, staffing of highly qualified music teachers, commitment to standards, and access to music instruction.



↓ BETSY

From Page A1

Ward were demolished. The Class of '74 was the first seventh grade class at the new Noblesville Junior High complete with Noblesville Schools' first indoor swimming pool, according to NHS Class of '74 grad Susan Crandall, who shared memories from the class in a featured article in the NHS Alumni newsletter. With the addition of the Harbours, Noblesville grew beyond its 12,000 residents, bringing new classmates and lifelong friends.

Class members saw penny loafers give way to tie Weejuns, which gave way to gum-soled oxfords and platform shoes. School dress codes went from dresses only for girls to jeans allowed only on Fridays, to ground-dragging bell bottoms every day of the week. Students attended school while NHS was under renovation, and the auditorium was constructed. "We boldly sat hard-hat-free in dust-filled classrooms, trying to hear our teachers over the wind rattling the temporary visqueen walls," Crandall recalled. "We learned to take notes while wearing gloves as we huddled deep in our sherpa-lined coats and CPO jackets."

While her class members cheered on NHS's football, basketball, baseball, tennis, swimming, wrestling and track teams, she said, "We saw the birth of girls' sports with our girls' volleyball and gymnastics teams." Crandall said, "We painted some of the last senior cords to be seen for quite some time. For four years, we dedicated many an autumn evening to homecoming float building, finally winning the competition our senior year with our Pinball Wizard-themed entry which was, of course, amazing."

And thanks to NHS Alumni Association board member and NHS Class of '73 class member, Jeff Zeckel, who shared the history of NHS proms, which took place until 1971 at the high school, in either the cafeteria or gym. There was always "an enchanting theme." The junior class built the sets, props, stages and put up the decorations. Sophomores were servers. The basement

cafeteria was fully decorated when the high school was on Conner Street. When the new high school was built in 1956 (current location of Ivy Tech), the gym and cafeteria were much larger for even grander events. In the late '50s and '60s, doors to the school were open to the community on Friday afternoon before the prom so folks could check out that year's theme and decor, Zeckel wrote. "In the 1972 Shadow (yearbook), it states, "Challenged by the dilemma of less interest in the prom, the 1971 Junior class attempted to solve this problem by staging its prom differently. For the first time, Noblesville's prom was not held in the school gym but was held at the Sheraton Motor Inn in Indianapolis." Zeckel said, "NHS never looked back after the spring of 1971; every prom since then has been held outside the school." The placemats at Saturday's banquet will have more on the proms, Zeckel said.

Attendees every year at these banquets seem to have a great time.

"If you have never been to one of our NHS Alumni Banquets, you are missing out on a fun evening reminiscing with classmates from all graduating classes," said Beaver, who was on the homecoming court her senior year. "Our main mission is to celebrate our alumni and hold a banquet each year for all of you to gather and enjoy the company of your classmates." The NHS Class of 1975 will be hosts at this year's banquet, greeting attendees as they check in, directing guests to their tables and serving punch during social hour. It's a tradition for each class to play host the year prior to its 50-year reunion. Also, in tradition, NHS students serve the Jim Dandy meals to each table. One outstanding NHS Alumnus of the Year, voted on by the NHS Alumni Association board officers, is recognized with a plaque and isn't announced until the banquet. The 2023 winner was The Times publisher Tim Timmons, Class of 1975, and who joined the Alumni board in May 2014. The 2022 winner was current NHS Alumni Association president Karen Williams Pryor,



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

The Noblesville High School Alumni Association board members -- Joanne Cook White, Class of '48 (from back left); Tom Gang, Class of '67; Tim Timmons, Class of '75; Charlie McMillan, Class of '81; Michelle Menchaca Dixon, Class of '89; Karen Williams Pryor, Class of '74; Jeff Zeckel, Class of '73; Debbie Davis Bastin, Class of '71 (from front left); Terri Sigman Kennedy, Class of '72; Peggy Baldwin Beaver, Class of '72; and Vicki Wright Wilson, Class of '68 -- gather at the 2023 NHS Alumni Banquet.

Class of '74) But before then, during the banquet, door prizes are presented to the graduate who has traveled the farthest, who has the most grandchildren and the earliest and most recent graduates. All of these add "a little more fun to the evening," Beaver has said.

Current officers on the board are Karen Williams Pryor, president, class of 1974; Debbi Davis Bastin, vice president, class of 1971; Janice Robinson, treasurer, class of 1968; Vicki Wright Wilson, secretary, class of 1968. Other board members are Jeff Zeckel, class of 1973; JoAnn Cook White, class of 1948; Tim Timmons, class of 1975; Tom Gang, class of 1967; Peggy Baldwin Beaver, class of 1972; Terri Sigman Kennedy, class of 1972; Charlie McMillan Jr., class of 1981; and Michelle Menchaca Dixon, class of 1989.

"If you are interested in serving on the board, we would love to hear from you," Beaver has said. Donations are encouraged for the NHS Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, Newsletter Fund, general fund to support the banquet, and the Gold Star Program (in which name appears on a plaque and is on display at every banquet.)

All paid members will receive an alumni newsletter, "if we have your current address,"

Beaver has said. The newsletter is mailed out in early March. The newsletter includes a banquet reservation form that can be completed and mailed in with a check payable to NHS Alumni.

The NHS Alumni Association's board provides scholarships each year to graduating seniors. The 2023 scholarship winners were '23 graduates, Brooklyn Ely, the daughter of Jeremy Ely, class of '94, and Kelly Ely, class of '96; Nathaniel Hamm, son of Chris Hamm, class of '91, and Angela Hamm; Emily Linville, daughter of Bill Linville, class of '81, and Jennifer Linville; Maggy Randall, daughter of Tom Randall, class of '79, and Dana Randall; and Caden Seymour, the son of Andrew Seymour, class of '94; and Carrie Seymour, class of '97. The 2024 scholarship winners will be announced in May during NHS Senior Honors Night.

On Saturday, doors open at 5 p.m. for socializing with dinner at 6 p.m. and program at 7 p.m. Beaver encourages folks to make a reservation, "so we can plan for our seating and number of meals," she said. "Have you made your reservation? It's not too late," Beaver said.

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact Times editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com.

Want TO GO?

What: 2024 Noblesville High School Alumni Banquet. The 50-year class of 1974 will be honored, and NHS Alumnus of the Year will be awarded.

When: Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., program at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 27.

Where: Noblesville High School, 18000 Cumberland Road, Noblesville.

How much: \$22 per person.

Who can attend: While the banquet celebrates NHS alumni, you don't have to be a graduate to attend.

Good to know: Shuttle service available from NHS parking lot to the front door.

After Party: Following banquet at Noblesville Moose Lodge with entertainment by The Rugged Brothers Band.

Reservations required: Call Peggy (Baldwin) Beaver at 317-372-2674 or email bvrhut@aol.com; or Janice Robinson at 317-773-3425 or bbop1950@yahoo.com. Checks may be made payable to NHS Alumni and mailed to Noblesville Alumni, P.O. Box 818, Noblesville, IN 46061. Tickets are \$22 each. Please include your name, class, phone and email with your check.

What else: NHS Class of '74 reunion will be at 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, April 26, at The Edge Barn in Noblesville, with social hour at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., program and fellowship 7-11 p.m., with breakfast on Sunday morning with time and place to be announced. The 2024 NHS Homecoming Parade will be Sept. 27 with the Homecoming Football game that night NHS Millers vs. Franklin Central Flashes. (Plans are under way to construct an alumni float for the parade.) The NHS Class of 1964 will celebrate with a 60-year reunion 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. April 26 at The Lodge in Forest Park in Noblesville. The NHS Class of 1961 will celebrate 63 years on Aug. 24 at Osprey Pointe Pavilion at Morse Beach Park in Noblesville. The fifth annual NHS Florida Alumni Gathering will be at 2 p.m. March 4, 2025, at Riverside Park in downtown Bonita Springs, Fla.

More info: www.NoblesvilleAlumni.org or contact Peggy Beaver or Robinson above.

Perfection Has to be Imperfect Enough to Notice It



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

I was lying in bed the other night in the little apartment with my husband, Peter, and I rent in Mexico, and thinking that things were perfect. Then I wondered what that meant.

Because, without trying very hard at all, I could come up with things that were far from perfect—in the world, in the neighborhood, even in my body if I really started digging. But it did not prevent me from feeling that—at that moment, lying in bed, listening to the distant cacophony of noises outside my window—things were, in fact, perfect. I thought about my day and decided it had to do with imperfection.

I only noticed my sheets because I could feel them against my legs. They are not 1000-thread-count sheets. These are cotton sheets that have likely been used for a few years. They are sturdy and a little rough from drying on a clothesline on the roof.

“There is nothing as nice as a crisp cotton sheet” is what my mother would say.

She hangs her sheets out on the line to this day, and perhaps that’s what got me thinking about perfection. Perfection has to be imperfect enough to notice it, to enjoy it, to make me pay attention.

Walking earlier that night, I saw a crowd of young men gathered around the back of an old hatchback. They were excitedly peering into the open back door and, because I could not help myself, I stopped to see what had them all excited.

Puppies. The whole back of the car was filled with puppies, and these were not some kind of special breed. They had a little of this and a little of that in them, and they were all different patterns and colors and, yes, they were absolutely perfect because they were all so very alive and all a little homely.

Health Department Provides CPR Mannequins to Schools

The Hamilton County Health Department has provided 256 CPR mannequins to area schools to help empower students with life-saving skills. The department purchased 32 adult and 32 infant CPR mannequins each for the Westfield Washington and Noblesville School Districts as well as Carmel High School. An additional set of mannequins were purchased for Carmel’s three middle schools to share among them.

“We know that CPR saves lives,” says Jim Ginder, Health Education Specialist at the Hamilton County Health Department. “Even a seventh grader can make a difference by knowing how to administer it.

We’re proud to help our

Earlier in the day, I went to the vegetable market. Peter calls it “Carrie’s Candy Store” because I get so overwhelmed by all the things there are to eat and to buy. There are boxes of beets on the bottom shelf, a bucket of asparagus on the counter, pudgy carrots of various sizes and shapes and celery bunches that stand half as tall as me. None of the vegetables are uniform; all of them are jammed into a small place filled with other shoppers who have a lot more experience navigating Mexican markets than I do.

“I’m afraid to go in there!” Peter says. I love it.

I love those vegetables because they are unusual shapes and are very fresh, and they look and taste like they just came out of the garden. They are not packaged or presented in any special way. They are perfect.

On my way back into the apartment, I took a photo of a flower in a pot, sitting on the stairwell, catching the late afternoon light. The wall behind it was a little stained, and as I looked closely, I saw the bloom was past its prime, a little faded. That flower was as beautiful as it could be because it was blooming at just the right time, in just the right light, not trying to be anything other than what it was.

And that’s it, I suppose. Too often, I imagine that perfection is an absence of flaws. But I don’t think that’s how I experience it. Perfection is perfect because it is messy and oddly shaped and possibly just a little past its prime. Perfection is rough enough to get our attention and smells a little like sunshine.

Till next time,
Carrie

Wolfsie’s Brew Ha Ha



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

I was wrapping up my visit to my local car dealership, but I was having a great deal of trouble deciding. There were so many choices available. What to do?

“I need help making a final decision,” I told the general manager. “This is much harder than it used to be. Any suggestions?”

He rattled off a list of his recommended models...

“Wait, I’m not buying a new car. I’m waiting for an oil change. I’m talking about your new coffee machine. I’ve never seen anything so complicated in my entire life.”

Years ago, while waiting for a \$19.95 oil change, I could treat myself to a newly brewed hot cup of coffee that I poured out of a Pyrex coffee pot. There were no options, no add-ons, no goofy ingredients. If I wanted cream and sugar, there it was. How much I wanted of each was my choice. Life was sweet, like how I wanted my coffee to be.

This new machine baffled me. Despite its relatively small size, it provided a sultan’s harem of choices. But first, it offered a few introductory remarks rolling across the high-tech screen:

“Whoever tastes this coffee will be happy every time and everywhere.”

I doubt that would be true for someone who came in for an oil change and then was told they needed a new six-thousand-dollar transmission. A good cup of java can do just so much to cheer you up.

Here is another of their screen testimonials...

“Perfecting who we are is a never-ending story.”

But I do want the story to end because now I have too many choices, 32 to be exact. Here are

some of the options they offer...

Espresso long: But there was no Espresso short or medium offered. This is what happens to me when I buy pants.

Mochaccinos: According to Google, some coffee lovers claim that mochaccinos are the same as mochas, but we strongly disagree.” Avoid this controversy at your next dinner party. It’s safer to debate Biden versus Trump.

Flat White: I hesitated to try something I had just used to paint my living room.

Dirty Chai: I would never call anyone that, not even coffee.

There was also Filthy Chai, which seems even more rude.

Premium Instant: Isn’t all coffee pretty instant at a machine? That’s why I’m not waiting in line at Starbucks.

Another option was HOT WATER. Like every other selection, it was complimentary. So, the hot water at this dealership is four bucks cheaper than plain hot water at Starbucks.

There were also nitros, listos, lattes, and cappuccinos, but I could not find COFFEE.

Regular, plain, boring COFFEE. It was still early morning and I was getting a bit drowsy so I probably missed seeing it. I simply pressed something called Cortado, having no idea what it was. When the brew cooled a bit, I chugged it and headed home. But halfway there, I started to get sleepy and had to pull over.

I need to find another auto dealership. One offering coffee that gets better mileage.

– 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.

Commissioners Endorse Nation for Re-Election

Hamilton County Commissioners Mark Heirbrandt, Steve Dillinger, and Christine Altman have united to endorse Steve Nation for his re-election to Hamilton County Council.

Among the reasons for their support, they stress Councilor Nation’s work ethic and commitment to the betterment of the county.

“Steve Nation is the one of the hardest working council members we have in Hamilton County. He is someone who is extremely smart and works quietly, behind the scenes to deliver on the promises he makes,” said Commissioner Heirbrandt. “Steve understands how government works, how to collaborate with different parties involved, and how to work as a team to accomplish the task at hand. When I look at a candidate I want to support, the most important aspect I take into consideration is how the individual genuinely cares for people and wants them to achieve their fullest potential. Steve Nation is that candidate.”

Nation’s history of public service goes back to serving as Hamilton County’s Prosecutor for four terms and then as a Hamilton County Superior Court Judge for four terms. During his first term on the council, Nation was key in helping the county



Steve Nation

secure a AAA bond rating and establish a \$50 million rainy day fund.

Other projects Nation is proud to include: the founding and launching of the Pursuit Institute in 2021; the River Road Public Safety Training Facility; and the finalization of the county’s comprehensive response to behavioral health with an assessment center. In his first term, he served the count through honesty, accountability, and impactful governing. He took tangible actions to fulfill the commitments he made; he was clear and transparent with his vision, and he delivered.

Residing in Noblesville with his wife of 40 years, Nation is deeply rooted in the community, serving as the Board President for the Indiana Fallen Heroes Foundation and as the Secretary of the Noblesville Elementary Football League. His commitment to the well-being and prosperity of Hamilton County is evident in both his professional and personal experience.

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schools arm students with these essential skills."

The high-fidelity mannequins offer an interactive learning experience, responding to students' actions to provide immediate feedback on compression depth and speed. The feature ensures that students receive accurate training and develop confidence in their CPR skills.

Indiana law requires school districts to provide cardiopulmonary

resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED) instruction as part of their high school health curriculum.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Hamilton County Health Department for their generous donation of CPR mannequins," says Teresa Layton, Nursing Coordinator for the Westfield Washington School District. "With these resources, we can ensure that our students receive top-notch CPR training, empowering them to become confident and capable responders in emergency situations."

For more information about CPR training and resources, please contact the Hamilton County Health Department at (317) 776-8500.

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BMW Conjures an Ultimate Driving Machine from Its Six-Figure X5 M60i Crossover



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

Back in the waning days of the last century when the BMW X5 began production in South Carolina, the vehicle was intended to be an “ultimate driving machine” marinated with American spirit – an SUV that could go flat-out on the Autobahn... or Eisenhower’s Interstate. Through four generations, the X5 has been a staple of the German automaker. But what if we crossed an M5 super sedan with the X5 and threw in a hybrid system for extra kicks? Then, you’d have the 2024 BMW X5 M60i.

It has a look that doesn’t endear itself to being peeved off! When you see that large twin-kidney grille and flared fascia nostrils, it would serve you well to move into another lane. It’s especially menacing over 22” M-style wheels, sport exhaust outlets and black

Shadowline trim, but the tall body and Hoffmeister kink in the rear windowline clearly identify it as a BMW... and X5. Subtle, it is not. But, it is approachable.

Designers recently brought the interior up to standards set by the 7-Series and EVs. That means twin dash screens for gauges and infotainment, heated/ventilated front seats, Harman Kardon audio, and a panoramic moonroof. Charge devices wirelessly and control volume and your music library through hand gestures. You can still control the system with the iDrive joywheel, but it works even better via touchscreen. Caress the carbon fiber trim and deep leather. Safety is enhanced by a head-up display, automatic emergency braking, and blind spot warning systems.

Whether slipping through clogged city streets or locking onto the horizon heading cross-country, the M60i is ready. Behind

that angry grille is a 4.4-liter twin-turbo V8 engine with an 8-speed automatic transmission, all-wheel-drive, and 48v mild hybrid system. Throw all that together and it conjures 523 horsepower and 553 lb.-ft. of torque – good for 0-60 mph in 4.2 seconds. This kind of hybrid is more of an electric supercharger than fuel sipper, but the big and heavy X5 achieves a very respectable 17/22-MPG city/highway.

What about finesse for the firepower? Well, with 22” wheels, not even the adaptive suspension system can provide a smooth ride. It’s quite firm, wrenching over rough pavement, but is a mother’s dream on wide expanses of smooth asphalt where it can take a set and toss itself forward. Of course, that could also toss your kids towards the cargo area, but it is competent for a large barge of a crossover. The M Sport exhaust and Brembo brakes with blue calipers are

ready for a sprint – even if you’re just taking the tykes to taekwondo. Fortunately, rear steering makes short work of tight parking garages.

It takes some gumption to look at a family-friendly crossover and reimagine it as high-caliber road runner. Pile in all of the leather and luxury one expects of a BMW and the M60i is pretty fly. Sure, it’s no fan of rough pavement, and it’s ungodly expensive, but most will find it dreamy. While the X5

starts at \$65,700, our M60i came to a towering \$105,745. Also consider the Mercedes-AMG GLE 63 S, Range Rover Sport and Cadillac Escalade-V.

Storm Forward!

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

2024 BMW X5 M60i

Five-passenger, AWD SUV
 Powertrain: 4.4-liter TTV8, 8-spd, hybrid
 Output: 523hp/553 lb.-ft. torque
 Suspension f/r: Adaptive Ind/Ind
 Wheels f/r: 22”/22” alloy
 Brakes f/r: disc/disc
 0-60 mph: 4.2s
 Fuel economy: 17/22 mpg city/hwy
 Assembly: Spartanburg, SC
 Base/As-tested price: \$65,700/105,745

Likes

- Muscular style
- Regal comfort
- Potent V8

Dislikes

- Firm suspension
- Lofty price
- Gesture controls?

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