

Vote for

**KAREN WILLIAMS PRYOR**  
**State Delegate**



- ★ Lifelong resident of Noblesville
- ★ Development Team member for Indiana Right to Life Indianapolis
- ★ Member of Harbour Shores Church
- ★ Active Community Volunteer:
  - Precinct Committeeman
  - Mentor for Hamilton County 4-H Llama program
  - Past President of Hamilton County Republican Women's Club
  - Current President of NHS Alumni Association

➔ **TODAY'S VERSE**

1 John 4:20 If a man say, "I love God," and hateth his brother, he is a liar. For he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

*Hamilton Happenings*

Sandra Baughman curls long, thin strips of paper to create shapes that then become the brush marks of her art, quilling. Curls and scrolls tun into leaves and flower petals, straight or kinked strips grow into feathers and fur. Watch as Sandra demonstrates quilling from 4-8 p.m. May 11 at Indiana Artisan Gifts & Gallery, 22 N. Rangeline Rd. in Carmel.

*Three Things You Should Know*

- 1 Beer Can Island, Fla. is up for sale. The 9-acre man-made atoll, also known as Pine Key, has long been a place for parties. It's located off Apollo Beach near MacDill Air Force Base and was man made in the 1940s. The owners have cleaned up the place, bagging hundreds of bags of trash and empty beer bottles and have listed it for a stiff \$14 million. One potential buyer is trying to raise the money by selling ownership shares at \$1,000 per share. He calls his enterprise the "Save Beer Can Island" project.
- 2 Natalie Renot, of Wiggins, Miss., known for rescuing animals in need, has a new patient to care for—a lamb born with five legs who she calls Spider-Lamb. When she found her lamb he was in dire need but he has been responding to the care she and local veterinarians have provided. As she tells it, "I am still having to force-feed him, but I did stand him up and he walked a little bit, so I call that progress."
- 3 Talk about "muscle control." Thirty-five-year-old Ma Hui, who hails from China, made it into the Guinness Book of World Records when he downed more than a gallon of water and then regurgitated it in a record-breaking 5 minutes and 51.88 seconds. According to Guinness, "water spouting is a trick which has been performed since the 17th century."

The **TIMES**



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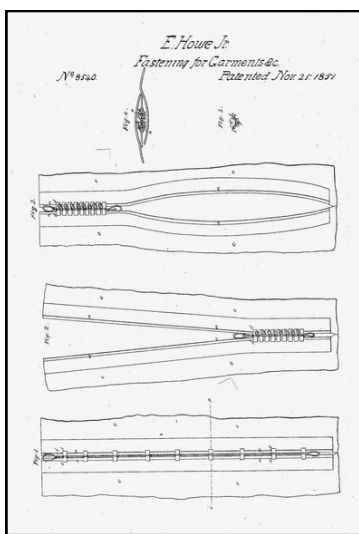
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**BTN**

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news (or, in the case of today, maybe what's in the lighter part of the news) . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. And it seems like everything and everyone is so serious all the time now, so we're taking a break today from all the seriousness and examining zippers. That's right – zippers. Today is National Zipper Day. So in honor of the little gadget that holds an awful lot of our things together, here is Zipper Day . . . By The Numbers!

**1800s**

Believed to be when the zipper was invented. Elias Howe got a patent for the "Automatic Continuous Clothing Closure." But because he didn't market it, it kind of zipped out of the public eye.



1851 patent for Howe's Automatic Continuous Clothing Closure

**4-29-1913**

The modern zipper is mostly credited to a Swedish-American electrical engineer who designed and patented the "Hookless Fastener." It was mostly for shoes, at first, but the U.S. military knew a good idea when they saw one and began using it in WW I for the first pilots.

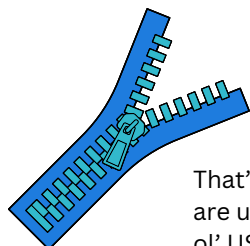
**1934**

Ever notice most zippers have YKK imprinted on them? That stands for Yoshida Kogyo Kabushikikaisha, a Japanese zipper manufacturer who makes about half the zippers on the planet – more than 7 billion annually. YKK was founded in 1934.



**\$11,000,000,000**

There's money in them thar things! Who would've thunk it, but the global market for zippers is around \$11 billion a year!



**4.5 billion**

That's about how many zippers are used each year in the good ol' US of A.

**50**

Believe it or not, if you took all the zippers produced in one year, they would wrap around the Earth 50 times!

**Turnout Low So Far On Voting**



**BETSY REASON**  
Columnist

The Hamilton County voter turnout for early voting is "low, so far." The county Election Office sent out about 4,500 mailed ballots and about 2,300 have voted early," Hamilton County Elections Administrator Beth Sheller said Thursday.

Seven satellite voting locations (outside of Noblesville) just opened

Wednesday and Sheller expected early voting to pick up.

The deadline to turn in an application for a mailed ballot was Thursday. "So it isn't likely we will go above 5,000 mailed ballots," she said.

Preparing for May 7 Election Day takes a lot of manpower. "For early voting, we have about 200 workers," Sheller said. "For election day, we

➔ See BETSY Page A4

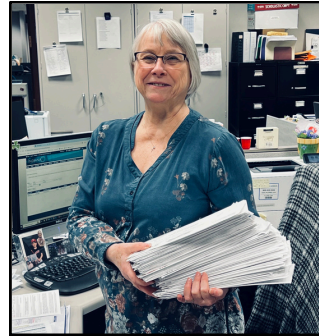


Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Elections Administrator Beth Sheller

Joyce Wielinski, who has worked in the Hamilton County Election Office for 18 years, holds a portion of the returned ballots that the office received in the mail last week.

➔ **TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

If you're not already seeing an eye doctor, you should have a baseline screening at age 40.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts.



➔ **TODAY'S QUOTE**

"The income tax created more criminals than any other single act of government."  
Barry Goldwater

➔ **TODAY'S JOKE**

What's the difference between death and taxes?  
The government hasn't figured out a way to make death worse every year.

➔ **OBITUARIES**

None

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



**The Daily Almanac**

**Sunrise/Sunset**

RISE: 6:46 am  
SET: 8:38 pm



**High/Low Temperatures**

HIGH: 74°F  
LOW: 59°F



**Today is...**

- Zipper Day
- International Dance Day



**What Happened On This Day**

- **1992** Deadly riots erupt in Los Angeles. 53 people died in the riots, which started after the acquittal of the 4 Los Angeles police officers accused of the brutal beating of Rodney King.
- **1968** The musical Hair goes to Broadway. As a portrait of the 1960s hippie counterculture and sexual revolution, it was highly controversial at the time. Some of the musical's songs became anthems of the peace movement during the Vietnam War.



**Births On This Day**

- **1958** Michelle Pfeiffer - American actress, singer
- **1899** Duke Ellington- American pianist, composer, bandleader

**Deaths On This Day**

- **1980** Alfred Hitchcock - English director, producer
- **1937** William Gillette - American actor, author

## School Board Recognized



Photo courtesy Noblesville Schools

The Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees was recognized recently night by the Indiana School Boards Association with an Advanced Level Exemplary Governance award. Board members were also all recognized individually for their ongoing professional development and commitment to excellence in public service. School board members pictured are, from left, Laura Alerding, Christi Crosser, Misti Ray, Stephanie Lambert and Dr. Joe Forgey.

## Heights Middle School Inventors Make World Championship in Texas

Five Hamilton Heights Middle School Robotics teams qualified to compete at this year's VEX Robotics World Championship and will represent Team Indiana in the largest robotics competition in the world.

Representing Heights will be the Alien Kidnappers, Buff Bananas, Party of 5, Peace Love Robots and Double Stuff. The students who qualified include Wyndham Jung, Collyn Miller, Aydan Cox, Camden Millikan, Mikko Kikta, Tommy Girolamo, Rylee Mellinger, Kase Powell, Illiana Bowyer, Kaelynn Fidler, Olivia Higgins, Grace Reynolds, Aleaha Trump, Levi Meindhart, Jude Bailey, Royce Bowyer, Ryder Holt, Grayson Pickering, Reagan VanKirk, Levi VanAlstine, Caitlin Dougherty, Levi Heuer, Noah Heuer, Selah Heuer and Cohen Ford.

"It is truly inspiring to see students from all over the world come together to compete and show off their STEM knowledge and achievements," Lacy Bowyer, Coach of the HHMS Robotics Team, said. "The dedication, perseverance, and ingenuity they possess is building the foundation for a truly remarkable future."

The VEX Robotics World Championship, presented by the Northrop Grumman Foundation and the REC Foundation, runs through May 3 at the



Teams 214A (Alien Kidnappers) and Team 214B (Buff Bananas) were paired together at the Indiana VEX State Championship. They are, from left, Camden Millikan, Wyndham Jung, Kase Powell and Mikko Kikta



Photos Courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Team 214D (Party of 5) won the Indiana VEX State Championship Design Award out of 115 teams. They are, from left, Aleaha Trump, Kaelynn Fidler, Grace Reynolds Olivia Higgins, and Illiana Bowyer.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas. The annual event will bring together the top VEX IQ Robotics Competition, VEX Robotics Competition, and VEX U teams from around the globe to celebrate their accomplishments and participate in the 2023-24 games to be crowned world champions.

The VEX IQ Competition serves as

a vehicle for students to develop critical life skills, such as teamwork, ingenuity, and project management. These skills are honed through building robots and collaborating with like-minded students from the community. More information about the VEX IQ Competition is available at <https://recf.org/vex-robotics-world-championship/>.

## All Four Hamilton County Mayors Endorse Steve Nation

Mayor Scott Fadness of Fishers, Mayor Scott Willis of Westfield, Mayor Chris Jensen of Noblesville and Mayor Sue Finkam of Carmel have announced their endorsement of Steve Nation, citing his unwavering dedication to public service and his proven track record of leadership.

"Steve Nation has been an incredible Hamilton County Councilor. He is collaborative, focused, and delivers on his promises," Westfield Mayor Scott Willis said. "I know he is focused on finishing several projects that are currently in progress. Please join me in supporting Steve in his re-election campaign."

Nation has 45 years of experience serving the community, Nation's tenure as Hamilton County Prosecutor and Superior Court Judge

speaks volumes about his commitment to public service. During his first term on the council, Nation played a pivotal role in achieving significant milestones for the county, including securing a AAA bond rating and establishing a \$50 million rainy day fund to ensure essential services remain available to citizens during challenging times.

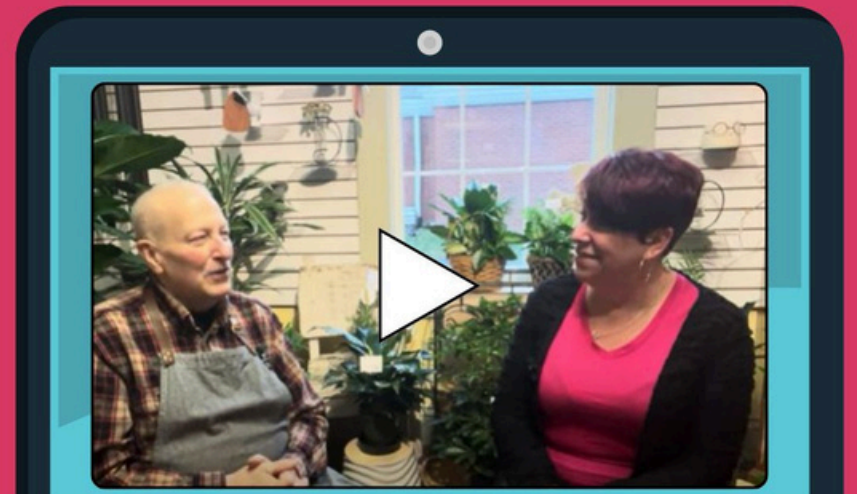
"Steve Nation has been an outstanding councilor, dedicating his entire life and career to serving people," Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness added.

Among his accolades, Nation was honored as the "Person of the Year" by the International Association of Truancy and Dropout Prevention in 2017 and was bestowed with the prestigious Sagamore



Steve Nation

of the Wabash Award by Governor Eric Holcomb in 2018. 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.



**OUR GENERATION**  
*with the Times*

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## Superintendent Points Spotlight on Deserving Students, Events



**DR. ARROWOOD**  
Guest Columnist

As we enter our last five weeks of school, I invite you to take part in celebrating the work and achievements of our students. There will be a wide variety of events to choose from, such as awards and recognition programs, prom, art shows, athletic events, and graduation celebrations. Stay in the loop with details on the website, Facebook, calendars and future building communications.

Something cool is taking place on Friday at Hamilton Heights Middle School. It's their annual Take our Kids to Work Day - a day designed to be more than a career day. It's an opportunity for staff to bring their child with them to school in their classroom, meet their students, help them teach, and experience first-hand what it means for their parent to be a teacher. HHMS started this program in 2022 and it's proven to be a positive experience for the students, teachers, and teachers' children. It's a tradition they hope to continue well into the future, especially as we inspire more students to become teachers.

Speaking of cool, I want to give a shout out to Will Monnin, an eighth grader at HHMS, who has set his sights on making a positive impact for current and future student athletes at Heights. He is undertaking a project to improve our Cross Country course while he earns his rank as an Eagle Scout. #RunWithTheDawgs

Packaging meals for the International Disaster Emergency Services (IDES) has become another annual tradition for high school and middle school students at Heights. Earlier this month, about 90 fifth-grade students joined the effort with HHMS staff and Teach One to Lead One (T1L1) volunteers to package over 6,000 meals in

one hour in the auxiliary gym. Last Friday, over 30 high school students traveled to the IDES campus in Noblesville and helped package over 8,000 meals. These pre-packaged meals will be shipped around the world for families in need. This annual service project is a hands-on activity that serves as a real-life application of the character and leadership lessons they learn throughout the semester during the T1L1 program.

This is National School Library Month. School libraries (media centers) are integral to our schools. These spaces offer unlimited opportunities for growth through access to technology, multimedia, and incredible resources of every variety. Our school media center specialists, Karen Jones (HHES), Emily Beechler (HHMS), and Lori Hippensteel (HHHS) play an essential role in the education of our students. They are teachers of information, literacy, and skills and are invaluable instructional partners. Thank you for helping to positively transform lives at Heights!

Registration is also open for the 35th annual Golf Scramble hosted by the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation (HHEF). Plan to spend a relaxing day on the green with friends and colleagues while supporting the work of this outstanding organization on Thursday, June 6 at Bear Slide Golf Course in Cicero.

Thank you for your partnership and working with us to foster students' engagement, empowerment, and achievement in their educational journey at Heights. #WeAreHuskies

*Dr. Derek Arrowood is the Superintendent of the Hamilton Heights School Corporation. His columns appear periodically in The Times.*

## Heights Senior Signs with Wabash College



Photo courtesy Jen Kauffman

From left, Emily Overton (sister), Matt Overton (father), Tyler, Julie Overton (mother) and Justin Overton (brother).

Tyler Overton, Hamilton Heights' senior, has signed a letter of intent to play football for Wabash College in Crawfordsville. Wabash College is a member of the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) and a NCAA Division III athletic institution. He is the son of Julie and Matt Overton.

"The connections that students have with each other, their professors, and the alumni is what inspired me to choose Wabash College," Overton said. He plans to study economics and business with the goal of a career in corporate or personal finance.

Wabash, a small, private liberal arts college, will give Overton a high quality education, opportunity to play football, and incredible opportunities after graduation. The college is often ranked on "best" lists including Highest Alumni Salaries, Best Alumni Network, Great Professors, Great Classroom Experience, Great Financial Aid, Great, Career Services, Best School for Internships, and Happiest, Most Successful Alumni.

Overton is a multi-sport (football, wrestling, and track and field) student athlete who excels in the classroom and on the field, track and mat. He is a member of Student Government and the National Honor Society. He was recognized as an Academic All Star in wrestling and football helping to bring Heights a Class 3A Hoosier Conference championship win in 2023. He also holds down a parttime job.

Overton has been passionate about football for as far back as he can remember, playing from the time he

could pick up a ball.

Ongoing training and commitment to a rigorous weightroom routine has been key to developing his skills, strength, and ability to make valuable contributions on his teams.

He credits his parents as being instrumental in his success through their continuous encouragement and support. Being surrounded by competitive friends and teammates pushing each other to be better has also been a plus in Overton's journey to take his game to the next level.

"Tyler has been an intricate part of the Husky football program for the past four seasons," said John Kirschner, Hamilton Heights head football coach. "His commitment to the process of off-season development allowed him the opportunity to be one of the top corners in our conference. He loves the game of football and has been a huge component of our success on defense the past two seasons. Tyler's aggressive style of play along with his knowledge of the game has made him a dynamic player in multiple facets of the game. He will definitely be missed, and we wish him the best at Wabash!"

"Tyler has been one of those quiet, steady players who has provided a major contribution to the recent success of the football program," added Hamilton Heights Athletic Director, Kurt Ogden. "His coverage in the secondary will be sorely missed next year. We wish him the best as he continues his football career at Wabash College."

# Honored!



Photo courtesy Noblesville Schools

**Noblesville Schools Assistant Director of Food Services Christine Stinson was selected as the 2024 Assistant Director of the Year by the Indiana School Nutrition Association. Christine is a registered dietician and holds degrees in Food Science and Dietetics from Purdue. She has been with Noblesville Schools for four years.**

## Former Carmel Mayor Endorses Bill Gutrich

Bill Gutrich, running for State Representative in District 24 picked up an endorsement from former 28-year Mayor of Carmel, Jim Brainard.



Bill Gutrich

Brainard notes Gutrich's business acumen and experience as among the many reasons why Bill Gutrich is the most-qualified candidate for the role.

"With Bill's extensive corporate experience and passion for serving the community, he is dedicated to advocating for policies that benefit taxpayers, foster economic growth, and safeguard our homes, community, and families," Brainard said. "Having served as Carmel's mayor for 28 years, I understand the qualities we need in a State Representative. Bill Gutrich embodies those qualities - he is thoughtful, well-qualified, and undoubtedly the best

candidate for this role. I am confident that he will effectively represent Carmel and Hamilton County."

Gutrich has an extensive background in corporate leadership, small business ownership, and deep community involvement. His vision includes advocating for effective government, lower taxes, strong schools, and smart development.

For more information about Bill Gutrich's campaign for State Representative, District 24, please visit: [www.gutrichforindiana.com](http://www.gutrichforindiana.com)

## Sheridan Public Library May Events

Babies + Toddlers:  
May 2,9, 16 at 11am Discovery Time (18-36mos)

Preschool:  
May 3,10,17 at 11am Story Time (ages 3-6)  
May 1,8 at 11am Mindful Movements (ages 2-6)

Grades K-5:  
May 7,14 at 3-5pm Lego Club  
May 8 at 4pm American Sign Language Presentation by Liberty Coyle-Paddack

Grades 6-12:  
May 2 at 4pm D&D Game for Teens  
May 9 at 4pm Follow the Evidence-Witnesses  
May 16 at 4pm End of the School Year Party

Adults:  
May 1,8,15 at 11am-1pm Needle Crafters  
May 7 at 3pm Adult Bingo (Sponsored by Robert Owen)  
May 15 at 5:30pm Sheridan Readers: A Concise Chinese English Dictionary for Lovers by Xiaolu Guo  
May 20 at 6pm Pinner's  
May 23 at 6pm Beekeeping Introduction by North Central Beekeepers Club

All Ages:  
May 4 at 9am -1pm Free Comic Book Day sponsored by Comics Cubed  
May 10 at 6pm Bingo Night, Free Event  
May 18 at 6pm Andy Schomburg Concert; Free, indoor event  
May 25 at 9am -1pm Puzzle Swap  
May 29 at 1-3pm Summer Reading Kick Off Foam Party; free food, games, door prize  
May 30 at 6pm Summer Safety presented by Hamilton County Health Department

Summer Reading begins May 29! For more information on programming and services, please visit: <https://sheridan.lib.in.us>

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## Every Time I Have Bet Against Bonanza, I Have Been Wrong



**CARRIE CLASSON**  
The Postscript

My husband, Peter, and I spend the winters in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. The center of the town is a designated World Heritage Site, which means the facades of the buildings must remain as they were in the mid-1700s. The streets are made of round and sometimes slippery cobblestones. The doors are stout and covered with hundreds of coats of paint, and on the top of every building is a rooftop terrace where people can watch the fireworks that go off for no reason that anyone has ever been able to figure out. It is wonderful.

But there is another world, just outside our little town, where there are big-box stores and a couple of very large grocery stores with food courts and bakeries and all the brands we are used to buying in the United States.

Peter and I have never been there.

Instead, we go to the vegetable market that gets deliveries every hour, and the bakery where particular types of bread only appear at particular times of day. For everything else, we go to Bonanza.

When you see the outside of Bonanza, you could be forgiven for thinking their inventory might not be extensive. The store appears to be smaller than a two-chair hair salon. Immediately inside the door, a checkout counter occupies most of the space. Sitting at the counter is the same woman every day, engaged in animated conversation with someone new. The conversation always sounds interesting (and probably includes a lot of juicy gossip), but the Spanish is spoken at a velocity far too fast for my ears, so I just listen to the rapid-fire dialogue while the cashier pushes buttons and makes change with lightning speed, without ever taking a pause for breath.

Inside there is, quite literally, everything.

### Commissioners Endorse Gutrich for State Rep

Bill Gutrich, candidate for Indiana State Representative, District 24, received endorsements from Hamilton County Commissioners Mark Heirbrandt and Steve Dillinger.

"Bill Gutrich embodies the values we hold dear: a dedicated family man, deeply rooted in faith, and committed to doing what's right. His unwavering integrity and genuine compassion make him the ideal choice to represent us at the state level," Heirbrandt said.

Both Heirbrandt and Dillinger, recognize Gutrich's dedication to serving the community and his strong leadership qualities.

Peter compares it to a "Harry Potter"-style store that somehow magically grows the farther in you venture. I like to think of Garrison Keillor's monologues about the mythical Lake Wobegon, the home of Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery.

"If you can't get it at Frank's," Keillor would assure his listeners, "you can probably get along without it." That is Bonanza exactly.

Every time I have bet against Bonanza, I have been wrong. "They won't have balsamic vinegar glaze," I told Peter. "I bet they will," Peter said.

They had a dozen varieties, three different brands of the normal type and several flavors I had never heard of, all at half the price I would pay in the U.S. Above the balsamic glaze is pie filling and next to it is shampoo and on the shelf you cannot reach are paper napkins of every imaginable variety. There is cat food by the pound and candles and spices and bulk flour and oats and chia and flax seeds, wheat germ and raisins, prunes, and too many kinds of beans and nuts to count. There is cheese by the slice and wine and pickles and cookies and toothpicks. The only things they don't sell at Bonanza are fresh breads, vegetables and meat—because you know you are supposed to go to the proper store to get those.

I love it. I love having one tiny store filled literally to the rafters. The staff keep a ready supply of stools and long sticks with hooks on the end to reach the half of the inventory that is far out of reach.

We still haven't been to the fancy grocery stores outside of town with the wide aisles and the food courts. We've heard it's great. Maybe we'll go someday. But probably not.

*Till next time, Carrie*

"Bill Gutrich's experience as a business leader will serve the constituents of District 24 well," Dillinger said.

"I am honored to receive the support of Commissioners Heirbrandt and Dillinger, two distinguished leaders who have dedicated their careers to serving the people of Hamilton County," Gutrich said. "Their endorsements reaffirm my commitment to representing the best interests of our community and working tirelessly to address the needs of our residents."

## Chicken Gets a Lube Job



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Funny Bone

My wife has been cooking dinner for me almost every night for over 44 years. I always felt guilty about that, but never guilty enough to do anything about it. There was a short period when I was in charge of all the barbecuing. I was old school then and still used charcoal, but Mary Ellen read somewhere that this was an unhealthy way to prepare food. Of course, the meat alone was enough to raise our LDL no matter how we cooked it.

Then we got a new Weber Grill. Each time I cooked, I first had to clean the grill with a wire brush, which I learned has bristles that can dislodge from the tool and end up in your stomach. There are only so many things you can worry about.

Using the new grill involved turning on the gas, pushing in one of three knobs, then turning all to HIGH; letting the grill heat up; then resetting all the knobs to M O M, which means medium, off, and medium.

I had trouble mastering exactly how long to cook our grilling selections. Medium rare is okay for steaks, but it's life-threatening with poultry.

"This chicken is certainly in the pink," Mary Ellen told me one night when I took our dinner off the grill. This was not intended as a compliment to the chicken. Or to the chef.

After I was barred from cooking on our deck, I decided to give it a go inside with our new air fryer, another appliance I knew nothing about. But how difficult could it be? I mean, frying with air? This sounded like a fool-proof endeavor. Even for me.

My first attempt at

using the new fryer was making a recipe I found on a social media website. You view a sped-up video making you think you can cook this masterpiece in 12 seconds. They usually don't give you written directions, and I still haven't figured out to save something or print it off. No matter now, when Mary Ellen found out I had a Tic Tok account, I was cooked. Account closed.

The recipe was for lemon garlic chicken. I placed the cutlets and all the required ingredients in a plastic baggie, gave it a good shake, and let it marinate. Then I placed it all in a pan and slid it into the air fryer. But first I slathered the top of the bird with olive oil. That was my own little touch.

Mary Ellen had retreated to the back porch to enjoy her night off. I dozed off in my office easy chair. About 5 minutes later, I was awakened when smoke came billowing from the kitchen. Fumes filled the entire house. What should I do? Call 911? Or Emeril Lagasse?

The problem was that the directions called for baking the recipe in the oven. NOT the air fryer. And not with oil. Ooops! Mary Ellen was aghast at this mistake. "Look at those directions again. You did something wrong." I tried to confirm that she was correct, but it was hard to see the recipe through all the smoke. But here's the really good news: The chicken that night was very crispy.

*— 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.*

## Noblesville Lions Host Indy 500 Princess



*Photo courtesy Noblesville Lions*

**Last week the Noblesville Lions Club welcomed Elizabeth Baker, Indy 500 Princess 2024. Elizabeth is an IU Medical School student, chosen as 500 Festival Volunteer Program to the club. There are many areas and events needing volunteers for helping or participating in. You can learn more at 500Festival.com/Volunteer. Elizabeth was given a Certificate of Appreciation from Lion Vice President Jeff Kozicki.**

## BETSY

From Page A1

have more than 700 workers. Of course, those numbers will be more in the fall when we will be busier," she said.

"Some of the absentee and early-voting workers work 30 to 40 days and some work one day," Sheller said. "It's usually according to how much time they are willing to give. They were given raises this year, so we were happy about that." This week, the Election Office is getting busier as workers prepare for Election Day.

"We are getting the more than 700 Election Day workers their training, preparing the supplies to go to the poll sites and fielding many calls about 'Where do I vote?' and 'Am I registered to vote?' The absentee boards are taking in the mail ballots as they come in and sorting by precinct," she said.

The absentee ballots are opened on Election Day. "We have 15 bi-partisan teams who open mailed-in ballots on Election Day and several bi-partisan teams who tabulate the votes," Sheller said.

While some voters like to vote "straight ticket" in the general election, there is "no straight ticket in the Primary since you request a Republican or Democrat ballot," Sheller said. "Voters are choosing who will be on their ballot for the fall election, when all candidates of all parties are on the ballot. The only final decisions being made are for the Republican Precinct Committeepersons and the Democrat and Republican state delegates."

There are almost twice the number of Republican state delegates who filed to run for office in 2020, when 160 Republican state delegates filed to run for office. This year, there are 283 Republican State Delegates. The layout for Republican state delegates per Hamilton County's nine townships are Adams, 15 delegates; Clay, 10; Delaware, 10; Fall Creek, 12; Jackson, 15; Noblesville, 10; Washington, 10; Wayne, 15; and White River, 15. That's a total of 112 state delegates who will be elected in the county.

The 112 Republican State Delegates who take office in Hamilton County, not registered voters, will vote for the Lieutenant Governor seat at the State Convention on June 15. Candidates for nomination or election at the State Convention must file for candidacy "not later than 30 days, at 5 p.m., prior to the convening of the State Convention." So that would mean the candidate deadline to file is 5 p.m. May 16. As far as state delegates on the Democrat side,

there are 76 candidates this year, compared to 108 in 2020, Sheller said. And for the Republican Precinct Committeeperson positions, there are 156 candidates this year, compared to 237 in 2020.

One important thing to know this year before going to voting is this: "If a Republican Precinct Committeeperson or Democrat or a Republican State Delegate is unopposed, then their name will not be on the ballot. "We get a lot of questions on this," Sheller said.

Also, if a voter did not vote in the Municipal Election in 2023, "they will discover that every voting machine has a paper trail attached to it now." The Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail device "prints behind a screen the candidates that the voter voted for," she said. "The voter can then verify and confirm that vote, or they can go back and change it. This will bring much confidence to the election process, as well as, it will be used if we have an audit or recount."

For Election Day, there are 220 precincts at 108 polling sites. "We lost 12 polling sites this year and gained one," Sheller said. "Some locations do not like presidential years because of the volume of people. We are grateful for those willing to make the sacrifice to help their community those couple of days this year." Sheller's advice for voters? "Do your research before you go to the polls."

The Elections Office has sample ballots on its website at [www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov](http://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov) under the "Elections Office" and "Current Information." Also, voters can go to [www.indianavoters.com](http://www.indianavoters.com) to see "Who's on the ballot." She said, "This will give the names of candidates so the research can begin." Voters, be sure to bring your Indiana Driver's License or State ID or your U.S. Passport to the polls.

Early voting continues and will be open this Saturday. Noon May 6 is the deadline to early vote.

On Election Day May 7, polls are open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Also, if you're a political candidate, please let us help you promote your political campaign with an advertisement in The Times while helping inform your voters.

*—Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times Editor Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes.com).*

The Times

# 2024 Toyota Crown Platinum Redefines the Great American Sedan with Hybrid Power and Future-Tech Styling



**CASEY WILLIAMS**  
Auto Reviews

All automakers are facing the challenge of how to keep their sedans relevant. It's a crossover world, ya'all. So, to stand out from the boring three-box masses, they must innovate without squandering the handling and comfort for which sedans are known. When Toyota replaced its long-standing Avalon full-size sedan, it could have just given us another. Instead, we drive the 2024 Toyota Crown Platinum.

### Classic Future-tech Style

One thing for sure; the Crown looks nothing like an Avalon! Instead, it looks like a new Prius, classic Celica, and RAV4 crossover had relations. The sleek fastback look is hybrid future-tech, but black paint on the hood, roof, and decklid infuse a splash of sport. Pinched beneath its hammerhead prow are

eight LED headlamps over a wide expanse of mesh grille. It doesn't look like that large of car...until you realize its riding on 21" wheels. I especially like the rear view with black facia, thin taillamps, and chrome detailing.

Exterior styling won't be everybody's vision of a full-size hybrid thingy, but almost everybody will find comfort inside. You first notice stepping in at a higher elevation, which drivers young and old should appreciate. It all feels very grown-up Prius once planted in the plush heated and ventilated front seats. There's a flatscreen gauge cluster, 12.3" infotainment screen, deep console, and wrist-flick gear selector. Everything looks and feels like it came from a Lexus, including the bronze accents on the dash and doors.

With the Platinum package, there's much more to like. Settle under the panoramic

glass roof, crank up the saturating JBL audio system, and refresh thyself with dual-zone automatic climate control. A heated steering wheel and heated rear seats add luxuries. Tap into wireless Apple CarPlay/Android Auto and wireless device charging while staying safe with Toyota's comprehensive crash avoidance systems that include automatic emergency braking, blind spot warning, lane change alert, and front/rear cross-path detection.

### Smooth Turbo-Electric Power

All Crowns are hybrids and come with all-wheel-drive, but the Platinum is especially potent. Its Hybrid MAX system with a 2.4-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine, batteries, motors, and six-speed automatic transmission puts 340 horsepower and 400 lb.-ft. of torque to the road. Swift turbo and electric torque ushers it from 0-60 mph in a

scant 5.7 seconds, but if you're expecting Prius fuel economy, you'll be disappointed because the Crown is a very full-size car posting 29/32-MPG city/highway. If that bothers you, choose the less potent XLE or Limited trim to enjoy 42/41-MPG city/highway. Unfortunately, there's no plug-in version.

Over the recent holiday, I drove the Crown a couple of hours to take my parents to lunch. On the open highway, the big car was whisper quiet, rode smooth, rumbled over rough pavement with aplomb, and offered seamless power from the turbo and electric motors. I wondered what my nearly 70-year-old mother would think of the Supersonic Red paint with black accoutrement. Surprisingly for a woman who drives a Chevy Equinox, she liked it. Which means, Toyota designed a car that's flamboyant enough for younger

buyers, but also appealing to older buyers.

Toyota took a risk with the Crown's styling and all-hybrid powertrain, but mostly nailed it. A very reasonable \$40,350 base price rises to a loftier \$56,183 with all of the luxuries. If you don't love your full-size sedan with the Crown's overt styling, also

consider the Lexus ES, Dodge Charger, and Nissan Maxima. And, if you still feel like you need a crossover, check out the upcoming 2025 Toyota Crown Signia.

*Storm Forward!*  
*Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.*

**2024 Toyota Crown Platinum**  
Five-passenger, AWD Sedan  
Powertrain: 2.4-liter T4 Hybrid  
Output: 340hp/400 lb.-ft.  
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind  
Wheels f/r: 21"/21" alloy  
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc  
0-60 mph: 5.7s  
Fuel economy city/hwy: 29/32-MPG  
Assembly: Aichi, Japan  
Base/as-tested price: \$40,350/56,183

Likes	Dislikes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Bold styling</li> <li>· Luxury interior</li> <li>· Smooth driving</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Fuel economy (Platinum)</li> <li>· No plug-in version</li> <li>· Premium price</li> </ul>

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# Letter Backs Alaina Shonkwiler

Dear Editor,  
I'm writing to express my support of Alaina Shonkwiler as Indiana's next State Representative for House District 29. Alaina is running in the Republican Primary on May 7th to fill the seat currently held by Representative Chuck Goodrich, who is running for the 5th Congressional seat. I've known Alaina since we were both sixth graders at the now Noblesville East Middle School. For over 30 years, I've admired how her integrity and authenticity resonates with everyone she meets. She's a natural born leader that brings people together to solve complex problems. Alaina is exactly what our community needs in our Statehouse!

Alaina is an experienced and successful leader. She has the humility and common sense to represent the conservative values of this community in ways that bring people together. Alaina takes time to invest in our community through her volunteerism and participation on countless boards and organizations. Through her time with the City of Noblesville, Noblesville Schools, and the organizations she serves, she grasps the intricacies of the local impact of policy matters and is keen to find innovative solutions for our community. Unlike her opponent, Alaina has real world experience working with local government and will deliver for all of us as her constituents.

One aspect of Alaina's candidacy that particularly resonates with me is her advocacy for the business community. She understands that fostering an environment that encourages our existing businesses to grow and expand, as well as new businesses to choose to move to Noblesville is vital to the long-term economic success of our community. Alaina is a staunch supporter of policies that foster a conducive environment for businesses to thrive, and her genuine support

for talent attraction and retention efforts within local industries is commendable. I can personally attest that companies choose our community over our neighbors because of leaders like Alaina.

Our community continues to experience unprecedented growth and development. We need young, energetic, and engaged leaders that recognize the challenges of this generation and the generations that will follow, while embracing the values of our past. We need community leaders, such as Alaina, that will apply their strong conservative values to help solve problems in ways that don't divide communities and bring embarrassing press. Unlike her opponent, Alaina is actively raising a family in our community. Her children attend Noblesville Schools. Her husband, Jason, is a Noblesville Police Department Sergeant who serves as a School Resource Officer. Alaina is subjected daily to the many challenges facing our youth and understands that such drastic actions as implementing censorship policies on books are not the conservative principles that will solve today's problems. True conservatives don't use an eraser, but instead use their position as leaders to educate, influence and promote the values we hold so dear.

As a fellow community member and staunch conservative, I ask that you strongly consider voting for Alaina Shonkwiler for House District 29. Her dedication to serving our community and her vision for the future make her the BEST candidate for State Representative. The alternative is concerning, and Alaina's opponent has proven through her recent actions to be extremely divisive. This is why I wholeheartedly endorse Alaina and encourage you to join me in supporting her campaign.

Greg Conner  
Noblesville

# Heights Wrestler Inks With Cornerstone University

Isaac Kuhn, Hamilton Heights' senior, has signed a letter of intent to wrestle for Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Mich. Cornerstone, a private Christian College, is a member of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) and a NAIA athletic institution. He is the son of Brian and Virginia Kuhn.

It was the welcoming environment and feeling like the team was family that sealed the deal for Kuhn to continue his studies and wrestle at the collegiate level. Kuhn, who is as strong in the classroom as he is on the mat, plans to pursue a degree in sports management to ultimately pursue a career as an event manager for a professional team.

Kuhn is a Team Indiana All-Star, named to the Academic All State Team and Academic All American twice, a state qualifier, and a three-

time sectional champion. He is the president of the HHHS National Honor Society, a member of Huskies for the Cross (HFC), Arcadia Christian Church, Soccer, and Husky Wrestling Club.

Kuhn said he has been passionate about wrestling since the sixth grade, putting in the time and sweat equity to build his skill and strength on the mat over the next seven years. He credits middle school wrestling coach, Rodney Case, as being important to his development as a wrestler. Kuhn met Case in middle school year and said he [Case] has continued to be an inspirational influence on his wrestlers.

"Isaac represents Hamilton Heights High School's Wrestling Program as one of the best scholars to participate in the sport," said Hamilton Heights Athletic Director, Kurt Ogden. "He is a two-time National All-Academic selection and has earned



Photo courtesy Jen Kauffman

From left, Simon Kuhn (brother), Naomi Kuhn (sister), Isaac, Virginia Kuhn (mother) and Brian Kuhn (father).

several more academic accolades as well. On the mat, he has earned over 100 career wins and recently participated at the state finals. On top of all that, Isaac is one of the most polite and respectful young men I know. Cornerstone University should feel privileged to get an individual the caliber of Isaac to represent

their wrestling program."

Gary Myers, Hamilton Heights Head Wrestling Coach, agrees. "Isaac is another academic success who just happens to be a great wrestler! Isaac will thrive at the next level as he has done his work on and off the mat!"

# Fishers Student Honored by IHSAA

Ryleigh Gee of Fishers High School is not only a high achiever in academics but also a dedicated community servant. And because of that, was the recipient of the Parker Amet Champions Together Post-Secondary Scholarship. The honor is a symbol for inclusivity and kindness and the IHSAA and IHSAA Foundation said they were honored to partner with friends of the 2016 Carmel High School Prom King to award the Parker Amet Post-Secondary scholarship to one partner athlete who participated in their school's Champions Together program.

Gee has demonstrated a genuine passion for making a difference in the lives of others through involvement in Unified Flag Football, Unified Track & Field and the Champions Together Club at Fishers. Ryleigh

serves as president of the Champions Together Club and consistently goes above and beyond to serve the community, school, and her fellow student athletes with compassion and integrity. Participating in Unified Sports has had a profound and lasting impact on Ryleigh's life and has opened her eyes to the beauty of diversity and the importance of inclusivity.

In her words, "Unified Sports is a community where differences are celebrated, not hidden. It provides a safe and inclusive space for everyone to come together, regardless of their abilities. This program has taught me that everyone has something valuable to contribute to and that our differences are what make us truly unique and special. The friendships that I have formed through Unified Sports

are truly priceless and I am grateful for each and every one. I know they will last a lifetime."

In addition to her efforts with Champions Together and Unified Sports, she is a member of the National Honor Society, Best Buddies, and Future Farmers of America. Ryleigh is also active with her church, where she has been able to make a difference worldwide through mission trips to Mexico, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. Her service projects ranged from building houses and schools to providing clean water, food, and medical care to people in need. What truly sets Ryleigh apart are her exemplary leadership skills. She has a natural ability to inspire and motivate others, leading by example and fostering a collaborative environment in all her extracurricular activities

Whether it's leading group projects in class or spearheading initiatives in her club participation, Ryleigh's leadership shines through in everything she does. She's committed to making a positive impact in all areas of her life and using her skills and abilities to make the world a better place.

Announced in 2021, the Parker Amet scholarship annually awards \$2,000 of financial support to a partner athlete who continues the work of the scholarship's name. These recipients are leaders within their schools and champions for a better community. These future and current leaders have demonstrated high character, ability to work alongside and support others and, above all else, high moral character.

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