

The Times of Noblesville presents...

Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

Hosted by Dick Wolfsie

March 18 - 24, 2025



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TODAY'S VERSE

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Hamilton Happenings

The inaugural Mayor's Grand Gala in Westfield is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 5, at Grand Park Sports Campus. "This gala presents a unique opportunity for our residents and business owners to come together, celebrate our shared vision, and contribute to the continued growth of our city," Mayor Scott Willis said. On tap are a DJ, silent and live auctions and food from a variety of Westfield restaurants. The Gala supports the efforts of not-for-profit partnerships through the Advancing Westfield Foundation. Tickets start at \$200 and are available at westfieldgrandgala.com.

Three Things You Should Know

1 The numbers are in, and the Indianapolis Airport Authority is reporting record-breaking passenger traffic for the first half of 2024, with more than 5.2 million people having traveled through the airport. The year started out with record-breaking, first quarter passenger traffic, which was driven by the NBA All-Star game in February and a busy spring break travel season. In fact, March 2024 became IND's busiest month of all time, with 967,597 total passengers, and surpassed the previous record held the top three busiest months of all time at IND are now June, March, and May 2024.

2 Forbes has named Ivy Tech Community College among the best employers in Indiana for the third consecutive year. To create its 2024 list, Forbes partnered with market research firm Statista to survey employees on how likely they were to recommend their employer on a scale of zero to 10. Indiana's list includes 75 organizations and five higher education institutions. Nationally, just eight community colleges made the list.

3 The Sinclair Broadcast Group-owned EKRC-TV in Cincinnati is teaming up with WISH and WNDY to televise the 2024 Indiana Governors Debate. This addition adds another six Indiana counties representing 48,070 TV Households able to view the important 2024 Indiana Governor's Debate. The "All Indiana Politics Special: The Governor's Debate" will be broadcast live on Thursday, Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. and will originate from the WISH-TV studios in Indianapolis.

The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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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!

Are We Having Fun Yet? Not According To This

What? We Hoosiers are not fun? Our friends at the personal-finance website WalletHub recently released a report on 2024's Most Fun States in America . . . and hard to believe but the great state of Indiana came in 40th!

C'mon now! From our great State Parks to the top-notch Hoosier sports world (the Indianapolis 500, Colts, Pacers, Fever, minor league baseball from one end of the state to the other, the 500 Festival Mini-Marathon, Grand Park, IU, Purdue, Notre Dame, All-Star games, Olympic Trials . . . the list goes on) to the wonderful world-class entertainment venues we have like Ruoff Music Center, Clowes Hall and more to the outstanding fairs and festivals that populate the calendar . . . Indiana has it all. Heck, they even ranked Ohio above us! Ohio? So forgive us if we take umbrage at the idea that there are 39 states more fun than us.

Pshaw!
Rankings

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Florida | 26. Virginia |
| 2. California | 27. Utah |
| 3. Nevada | 28. Alabama |
| 4. New York | 29. South Dakota |
| 5. Colorado | 30. Oklahoma |
| 6. Illinois | 31. Wyoming |
| 7. Texas | 32. Idaho |
| 8. Washington | 33. New Mexico |
| 9. Minnesota | 34. Nebraska |
| 10. Louisiana | 35. Iowa |
| 11. Arizona | 36. Montana |
| 12. Oregon | 37. New Jersey |
| 13. Pennsylvania | 38. Maine |
| 14. North Carolina | 39. Kansas |
| 15. Ohio | 40. Indiana |
| 16. Wisconsin | 41. North Dakota |
| 17. Missouri | 42. Kentucky |
| 18. South Carolina | 43. New Hampshire |
| 19. Maryland | 44. Connecticut |
| 20. Alaska | 45. Vermont |
| 21. Georgia | 46. Arkansas |
| 22. Michigan | 47. Rhode Island |
| 23. Hawaii | 48. Delaware |
| 24. Massachusetts | 49. Mississippi |
| 25. Tennessee | 50. West Virginia |

26 WalletHub compared the 50 states across 26 key metrics. The data set ranges from movie costs to the accessibility of national parks to nightlife options per capita.

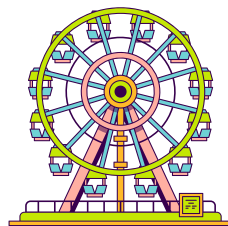


7.4

California has the most **movie theaters** (per square root of population), which is 7.4 times more than in Rhode Island, the state with the fewest.

18.7

Texas has the most **amusement parks** (per square root of population), which is 18.7 times more than in Hawaii, the state with the fewest.



2.7 Alaska has the highest **personal spending on recreation services** per capita, which is 2.7 times higher than in West Virginia, the state with the lowest.

30 percent



Financial experts suggest that the percentage of your income that you spend for leisure activities, such as going out to dinner and travel, should not exceed 30% of your total take-home income.

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

You can usually take grandma's advice to the bank.

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



OBITUARIES

John Robert Gutknecht

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"It also is an occasion for remembering that in the truest sense freedom cannot be bestowed, it must be achieved; and that there must be constant vigilance if it is to be maintained."
Franklin D. Roosevelt

TODAY'S JOKE

Little Johnny walked up to the teacher and politely said, "Teacher, do you know how you and God are alike?" Taken back, the teacher thought that maybe Little Johnny was finally starting to come around. "No, how?" he asked. "You're both old!"

Tasting Event Draws Boys & Girls Club Supporters



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville executive director Becky Terry greets guests to the Whiskey & Wine Charitable Tasting Event on Thursday at The Nesst benefiting the Club.



BETSY REASON
Columnist

It was good to see familiar faces at the Whiskey & Wine Charitable Tasting Event on Thursday night at The Nesst in downtown Noblesville.

Years ago, I attended many Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville Auxiliary functions benefiting the club that serves kids grades K-12, and it was nice to see that many of those same folks are still involved with the club, as are many club kids who grew up and remained supporters. Unlike some other Boys & Girls Club fundraisers, this charitable function was neither planned nor organized by the club. Rather, The Nesst of Noblesville, an upscale downtown restaurant on Conner Street, reached out and chose the Club as a beneficiary for the event. In previous years, The Nesst has hosted a similar event to benefit other local nonprofits.

"We try every year to pick someone to benefit," said Brandy Staniscic, who with her husband, Sladan Staniscic, opened The Nesst in November 2020. She is glad that Conner Street is open after being closed for construction. "It's good to have everybody in here for this," said the restaurant's chef and controller. "...It's nice to help out."

Becky Terry, the Club's executive director, who greeted guests in attendance, said, "This is an additional event for the Club, graciously organized and hosted by The Nesst."

The restaurant's wine and bourbon vendors provided the

➔ See BETSY Page A4

OUR GENERATION with the Times

Melissa Shaw's interview with Alison Voss from American Family Insurance

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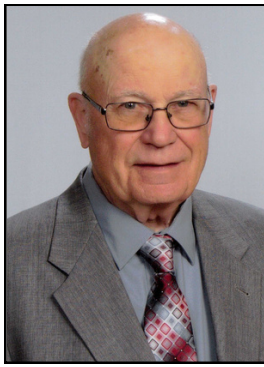


OBITUARY

John Robert Gutknecht

March 29, 1942 - August 21, 2024

John Robert Gutknecht, 82, of Noblesville passed away August 21, 2024. He was born March 29, 1942, in Blue Island, Illinois the son of the late Joseph and Ruth Gutknecht. Growing up, the family lived in Hobart, Columbia City, and Rensselaer, before settling down in Rochester, Indiana.



John proudly and honorably served in the United States Navy from 1960 to 1964 where he was a machinist mate on the fleet tanker, Pawcatuck, and on a destroyer. Upon his discharge his love of working with his hands led him to begin his successful career as a sheet metal journeyman. The years of sheet metal work gave him the firmest grip on the planet, as anyone who has ever shaken his hand can testify to. He was a member of the Local 20 Sheet Metal Union.

On November 29, 1969, he married Nancy Renner. They later moved to Lakeville, IN in 1973 and joined the Calvary Lutheran Church in Plymouth where he served as an usher and held various church offices. In 2011, they settled in Cicero, IN and became members of the Christ Lutheran Church in Noblesville.

He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Nancy Gutknecht; two children, Gary (Michelle) Gutknecht of Noblesville, IN and Amy (Travis) Dowden of Blue Ash, OH; four grandchildren, Ashleigh and Emma Gutknecht, Abigail and Cole Dowden; sister, JoAnn Mears of Columbia, SC; and sister-in-law, Claudia Gutknecht of Sarasota, FL; as well as nieces and nephews in SC and FL. He was preceded in death by parents and brother, Ralph Gutknecht.

Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. Monday, August 26, 2024, at Christ Lutheran Church, 10055 East 186th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060. Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service. Memorial contributions may be directed to Christ Lutheran Church, Calvary Lutheran Church, 1314 North Michigan Street, Plymouth, IN 46563, or to the Alzheimer's Association. Online condolences may be shared by visiting www.flannerbuchanan.com.

Noblesville Elks Step Up . . . Again!



Photo courtesy Noblesville Elks

Noblesville Elks #576 recently presented a check for \$3,368.83 to the Hamilton County Humane Society. The Society founded the "Pets Healing Vets" program. The program was created in 2012 with the mission of Saving Lives on Both Ends of the Leash. It is fully funded and facilitated by the Humane Society and pairs shelter dogs and cats with qualifying Hoosier Veterans who suffer from PTSD, TBI, Anxiety or Depression. This program is FREE of charge to the veterans and supports the animal for the LIFE of the pet. There are currently 40 veterans paired in this program. Exalted Ruler, Steve Vallier and other lodge officers gave the check to Jennifer Hatcher, Director of Development with Humane Society for Hamilton County. The Noblesville Elks have a vested interest in the community and work hard to support many worthwhile efforts. Elks Care . . . Elks Share.

Specialty Store Closes to Redirect Cash to Police, Fire and Roads

All Things Carmel, a specialty store operated by a non-profit organization in the Carmel Arts & Design District, closed today.

Managed by Promote Carmel, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) that was started by Mayor Jim Brainard in 2020, the store has been supported by revenues budgeted in the city's General Fund which is funded by property tax and income tax.

A recent analysis of the store's financials showed that due to obligations made by the previous administration, an additional \$100K would be required this year to fund the non-profit beyond the \$200K subsidy in Mayor Brainard's last budget. Upon discussion with the Promote Carmel board, the city decided to redirect the funds granted to the non-profit to other key priorities.

Because of inflation and a higher cost of living, Carmel taxpayers have had to tighten their belts. It is my responsibility to do the same with our city budget," said Mayor

Sue Finkam. "Although the program has been a vibrant addition to the Carmel Arts & Design District, today's financial climate requires us to prioritize important expenditures such as police and fire staffing and road maintenance."

As a result of the city's decision to redirect funds to the benefit of the broader community, the Promote Carmel board of directors decided to close the store, notifying team members of the decision today.

"The store was a labor of love for many individuals," Tim Griffin, board chair of Promote Carmel, Inc., said. "The leadership of the Promote Carmel, Inc. and the City of Carmel thank them for their support."

Following an inventory, store products will either be donated or sold online, with the 501(c) (3) taking other steps to cease operations, including outreach to vendors and other partners.

New School Year Brings Sense of Renewal, Possibility



DR. ARROWOOD
Guest Columnist

Our campus is buzzing with excitement as everyone settles into the business of teaching and learning and settling back into the rhythm of school life. The first couple of weeks always brings with it a sense of renewal and possibility, new opportunities, and challenges ahead. It's good to be back.

Hamilton Heights Elementary, Middle, and High Schools went for the gold and got it! All three buildings successfully completed Indiana's Carrying the Torch to Student Success GOLD STAR program. Receiving this status demonstrates that we have a comprehensive and accountable school counseling and guidance program, aligned to Indiana School Counselor and Student Standards and American School Counselor Association (ASCA) standards. Because Indiana is one of six states in the nation to earn reciprocity with ASCA's Recognized ASCA Program (RAMP) for the state's Carrying the Torch to Student Success Comprehensive School Counseling Initiative, our Gold Level status also qualifies each building for RAMP recognition! Kudos to our district's counseling team (Nikki Wert, Tricia Rudy, Chelsea Pacheco, Sabrina Duncan, April Baugher, Jessi Cantlon, and Lori Watson) and HHMS teacher, Connor James, for a job well done!

At the high school, there's a cool opportunity for juniors and seniors interested in a career in education. Heights, in conjunction with Indiana University Kokomo's Tomorrow's Teachers: Growing Our Own program, helps expose students to the profession, and challenges their prior conceptions about teaching and learning. This program, under the leadership of Lori Hippensteel, is designed to cultivate future educators by offering high school students a blend of on-campus and school-based learning experiences.

Participants can earn up to 12 college credits in education, engage in hands-on field experiences in PK-8 classrooms, and build professional networks through on-campus activities. This program not only provides early exposure to college-level coursework but also supports students with a robust network of instructors and peers, ensuring a smooth transition to college life while helping to create a pipeline of well-prepared future educators. I call that a win-win!

I would like to give a shout out to the Hamilton County Health Department for hosting an Immunization Clinic as part of the MS Husky Connect Day in July. We appreciate the families who took advantage of this opportunity to see that their child was current with their state-mandated vaccinations ahead of the new school year. As a reminder, as per Indiana State Law, students are required to be up to date with their immunizations (for all grades, but specifically in grades Kindergarten, 6th, and 12th grades) by the 20th day of school (September 3) to avoid exclusion on day 21 (Sept. 4).

If you are looking for something fun to do this Saturday, look no further than the Cicero Street Festival from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. in downtown Cicero. There will be food, games, Kids Zone, artisans, contests, live music and much more. Thank you to the sponsors who have generously given some of our school sports teams complimentary booths to help raise funds for their teams and to Our Town Cicero for hosting this annual fun-filled, family event for our community. #WeAreHuskies

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

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Carrie's Tiny Tent



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

I haven't gone camping in a tent in a long time.

I grew up camping and, for much of that time, it was in a tent. My parents would take my sister and me to the Boundary Waters between Minnesota and Canada for about a week. We'd paddle our canoes from one lake to the next. We'd listen to the loons at night. We'd build a fire. We'd eat dried food—which miraculously tasted better the farther we paddled from civilization. We'd drink water right out of the lake, before we needed expensive filters. We'd use the latrine deep in the woods. I still vividly remember the time I felt flies landing on my behind—only to look down into the latrine and see a whiskered woodchuck looking up at me!

When I was a teenager, I went camping with a group of girlfriends. We called ourselves the "Future Old Maids of America," or FOMA for short, and had T-shirts made. (None of us remained very loyal to our cause.)

Much later, when I became a 50-year-old graduate student, I splurged on a nice one-person tent and a lightweight air mattress and a compact, fold-up chair. (I've noticed that with both camping gear and lingerie, the less material there is, the more it costs.) I loved camping in my tiny tent, as I drove from the Southwest to the Midwest and back, listening to coyotes and surviving the occasional thunderstorm.

So, when an opportunity to go tent camping came up, of course I was tempted.

My first cousins on my mother's side are having a reunion on Lake Ontario, east of Toronto. It's quite a way away, and my husband, Peter, and I had ruled it out because Peter has to attend an important condo board meeting that weekend.

I wasn't going to go

without Peter, but several of my cousins had decided to go without their spouses and, as I got thinking about it, I wasn't sure how many more of these opportunities would happen in my lifetime. I am one of the youngest of my original 34 cousins on my mother's side. Several cousins have died, and none of them live close together. So this chance to drive to Canada and see a lot of my cousins in one place seemed like it might be important.

I wrote to my Canadian cousin, "Is it too late for me to tell you I'm coming?"

"Of course not!" she said.

I called up my sister. "Do you have room for me in your car?" I asked.

"Of course!" she said.

Her husband is a pastor and does not get much vacation, but my niece and nephew will be coming. And now, so will I. We will camp all the way up and stay in tents while we are there.

So I'm digging my fancy little tent out of the closet. I'm airing out my sleeping bag. I'm checking to see if my air mattress still holds air. I'm trying to remember how to assemble my complicated little chair. I'm pulling together all the things I will need in my tiny tent at night—a flashlight, a bottle of water, a puff jacket for the cold.

It will be fun to see all my cousins. I know that.

But, right now, I am looking forward to being in my tent again—sensing the changes in the weather, hearing the animals move around at night, feeling that I am entirely outdoors, with nothing but a thin layer of polyester between my tiny tent and the great open sky.

*Till next time,
Carrie*

Maybe It's All Just Hearsay



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

The disorder is called misophonia. When I first heard about this, I thought it was a feeling you experience when you can't find your cellular device. Get it? Miss your phone.

So, what is it? Well, if you have misophonia, you're not going to like the sound of this. Actually, if you have it, you are not going to like the sound of a few things. The malady is characterized by an aversion to certain everyday sounds. This is a serious disorder, but let's look at the lighter side of it by going to their website.

One primary care physician claims there are certain noises he can't tolerate. Hopefully "Ouch!" and "ahhh..." are not examples. He admits being overly sensitive to yawners and to people whose "saliva is audible when they speak." By the way, if your saliva is saying anything interesting, I'd like to interview you for a column. Over the phone.

On a misophonia website, many people expressed relief at discovering that other people had this problem. One man said that he suffered from the disorder way before he knew there was a word for it. This is not so unusual. As a kid, I often took candy bars off the shelf at the supermarket and stuck them in my pocket. I had a bachelors degree in psychology before I realized I was a kleptomaniac.

One woman hated the sound of heavy breathing and when she heard anyone doing it, she immediately left the room. She signed her post as Chastity, which makes a lot of sense when you think about it. Another lady said that she hated it when people whistled through their noses and still another poor soul said that she could not stand

the sound of her own chewing. Okay, lady just keep your mouth shut. All the time.

The sound of people eating popcorn was mentioned in several of the posts. And the crunching of apples drives a lot of people bonkers. One farmer said—and I swear I am not making this up—that when her husband eats an apple, she has to cover her ears, "but listening to my horse eating an apple doesn't bother me at all." Here's another post: "I can't stand any sounds that are emitted orally." So apparently as long as her partner doesn't snore or burp, she's happy with anything. A newlywed said that her husband's eating disgusts her and she's thinking of leaving him. What? She's just now discovering this? Waiting until marriage for intimacy is one thing, but waiting for your first meal together? What cult is that?

The sounds made by ice cream eaters are also annoying to some people. What with the lip-smacking and the spoon hitting the bottom of the bowl. One woman confessed she was thinking about doing away with her husband, but instead she told him he was lactose intolerant. A senior citizen said that when his wife slurps soup, he wants to ring her neck. By the way, ringing is a another sound some people hate.

Check out the website Misophonia.com. Are these real people with legitimate concerns? Who knows. Maybe it's all just hearsay.

— 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.

Health Department, Riverview Offer Backpack Safety Tips

The Hamilton County Health Department will host a free webinar on backpack safety for children on Wednesday at 6 p.m. as part of a year-long series of monthly webinars aimed at addressing children's health.

Carrying heavy backpacks or wearing them improperly can lead to serious back, shoulder, and neck injuries in children. To help parents and caregivers understand the importance of backpack safety, the Health Department has invited Dr. Kyle P. Stephenson, DO, an orthopedic surgeon from Riverview Health, to lead the session.

"Backpack-related injuries are more common than many people realize," says Dr. Stephenson. "With the right information, parents can help their children avoid unnecessary pain and potential long-term damage. This webinar will provide practical tips on how to select the right



Dr. Kyle P. Stephenson

backpack, properly pack it, and wear it correctly."

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions during the live session, making it an interactive and informative experience for all attendees.

Anyone interested in participating in the webinar is encouraged to register online at <https://tinyurl.com/BACKPACKSAFETY>. For more information about the webinar series and upcoming topics, visit www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/health and click on the Health Education tab.

Geist Half Marathon Back, Expanded

The City of Fishers is gearing up to host its largest community race—the Geist Half Marathon Race Series presented by Meijer—with an expanded event on Saturday, September 14. The 16th annual waterfront race around Geist Reservoir serves as an iconic community tradition, originally hosted by a group of Geist residents and now managed by the City of Fishers as part of its Culture of Health initiative.

This year's event features a half marathon, 5K, and the return of the popular 10K race. Operated in partnership with Vision Event Management, the family-friendly race series showcases the beauty of Geist Reservoir with stunning water views, tree-covered trails, and scenic waterfront bridges. All races are walker-friendly, and participants receive a race shirt, medal, and a free drink at the post-race party. "We're excited to host the 16th running of this popular community race and solidify the Geist Half Marathon Race Series as a staple early-fall endurance race in the region," said Ginny Zimmerman, Race Director of the Geist Half Marathon Race Series and Culture of Health Ambassador for the City of Fishers. "We have reimaged our post-race party and are excited to offer

expanded food and drink options that support our local businesses and nonprofits. We listened to the feedback from last year's participants and brought the 10K course back into the lineup, added age awards for all three races, and pushed back the start time so participants can take in the scenic views as the sun rises over the course. With registration already exceeding last year, we're elated at the number of residents and regional participants who are returning to the course and for all of our first timers who are using the event to check off their fitness goals."

New this year, a post-race breakfast will be offered by Hero Hut, a nonprofit that works to build community for veterans and first responders through

collaborative spaces at events nationwide. Breakfast is \$10 per person and all funds will directly support Hero Hut's mission. Tickets for breakfast can be purchased ahead of time or onsite at the event. Also new at this year's post-race party, Java House, Smoothie King, and Athletic Brewing will join MashCraft Brewing to provide complimentary refreshments for race participants.

Another new feature in 2024 is the Mental Health Mile, joining the Gold Star Mile as a dedicated mile along the half marathon course. The Mental Health Mile at mile five will provide encouragement and support to participants halfway through the race with Aspire and Hamilton Southeastern's student-led Bring Change to Mind Club cheering on racers. The mile aims to bring together area mental health agencies to support the Fishers Health Department's ongoing mission to create a Stigma Free Fishers. The Gold Star Mile, presented by The Tot Spot and Fishers Armed Services Commission, is designated as mile ten to honor Indiana's fallen service members and their families. Gold Star race bibs will be available at packet pickup on Friday, September 13.

The City of Fishers is currently recruiting hundreds of volunteers to help with the event, from course marshals and medal distributors to water station volunteers. Opportunities are available for families, groups, and individuals. Visit VolunteerFishers.com to sign up. Sponsors for the Geist Half Marathon Race Series include Meijer (Presenting Sponsor); IU Health (Photo Sponsor); WTHR-Channel 13 (Bib Sponsor); Java House (Post Race Party sponsor); Stretch Zone (Post Race Party Sponsor); and MashCraft Brewing (Post Race Party Sponsor). To learn more and register for the event, visit FishersIN.gov/GeistHalf.



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The Times of Noblesville presents...

Iceland's
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Hosted by Dick Wolfsie

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Please refer to booking #1232517

↓ BETSY

From Page A1

tastings for more than 50 wine offerings in addition to multiple bourbons served in tasting glasses in all three rooms of the restaurant, where an array of delicious hors d'oeuvres (from shrimp cocktail and ahi tuna to prime rib sliders, charcuterie boards and grilled chicken sliders) pleased any palate. Wine and bourbon samples that guests liked could be ordered as full-size bottles at the event to be picked up a week later at The Nesst.

Why Whiskey and Wine?

"The Nesst has had success with this fundraiser in the past," Terry said. The restaurant's goal was to net at least \$5,000 for the Club, she said.

Tickets, at \$100 per person, were open to the public, "many of whom happen to be Club supporters," she said.

"This is a first-time opportunity for us ... This was kind of a nice surprise that we hadn't budgeted," said Kim Hirschfeld of Noblesville. "Becky said they did most of the legwork. All we had to do was invite board members and supporters of the club, and we provided some of the silent auction items. It was very easy to add it to our list of the many events that we do because it didn't take a lot of manwork on our part. But it's really nice because The Nesst invited their email list. So we're hoping we'll gain some new supporters who love our mission as much as we do." Hirschfeld is a longtime Club auxiliary member and has served on the Club's board of directors for about 30 years.

"We have this fabulous, beautiful building but our staff is what really sets us apart from any other organization, the dedication of that staff. What they do is amazing. And we're the best deal in Hamilton County, \$75 for the year, not a week, not a month, but a whole year," Hirschfeld said. "I've watched what my kids pay to send their kids to after-school care, and it's ridiculous. And they don't get anything any better than what you get at the Boys & Girls Club."

Noblesville High School grad Bryan Mills of Noblesville and a longtime Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville supporter who spent 21 years on the Club's board of directors, said, "I think this is a fabulous event ... It's just very cool that they're supporting the Club," he said. Mills played a role in two of the Club's capital campaigns, was inducted into the Indiana Area Council of Boys & Girls Clubs Hall of Fame in 2023 and has been "an

outstanding ambassador for the club." He attended with wife, Cathie Mills. Longtime supporter and Auxiliary member Suzanne McMahon said, "This is a special, different event for the Boys & Girls Club. It brought old and new people together." She attended with her husband, Don McMahon, who was on the Club's board of directors from 1985-2006.

Others in attendance included Club supporters Darren and Monica Peck, Phil and Judy Gumpert, Megan Wiles, retired Riverview Health CEO Pat Fox, Hamilton County Sheriff candidate Lt. Dustin Dixon and wife, Roslynn, and Tom and Rachael Coverdale, and many other supporters.

George Kristo is a huge supporter of the club, often matching donations and always buying tickets to Club fundraisers, from pancake breakfasts to Thursday's event. He doesn't always attend the fundraisers, but he likes to support the cause, often offering his tickets to friends and acquaintances.

More than 100 people attended the fundraiser, which auctioned to the highest silent bidders an array of donated items, including a Dennis Basso coat, Indy Eleven and Indy Fuel tickets, Ruoff Music Center tickets, bottles of bourbons and wines, an Embassy Suites stay, restaurant gift cards, iFlex memberships, a Hyperlite wakeboard and more.

The nonprofit club is at 1700 Conner St., in Noblesville. The Club's former 1448 Conner St. building -- which was the former high school built in 1910 -- was home to Club kids from 1969 to December 2017. The current 34,000-square-foot Tom & Soni Sheehan Boys & Girls Club, just

two blocks east, opened in January 2018.

At least three more events this year will benefit the Club, Trick or Trivia on Oct. 5 at the Noblesville Moose Lodge, Top of the Club Donor Appreciation Party on Oct. 17, and the third annual Spotlight on Art on Nov. 14 at Hotel Carmichael in Carmel. (Prevail Inc. and The Children's TherAPlay are also beneficiaries besides the Club.) One of the Club's annual fundraisers, the Darlington Bed Race, this year was canceled due to the uncertainty of the construction and the added traffic congestion. However, a virtual campaign, "Race past the Construction," raised more than \$18,000 for the Club. The 2025 Bed Race is slated for Friday, May 30, 2025, which is the last day of classes for Noblesville Schools.

During 2023, the Club served 2,086 members and membership continues to steadily increase, Terry said. This year's after-school Club programs began on Aug. 12 and 319 youth members attended.

Members can attend the Club for only \$75 per child per year, "while the true cost to provide services to each member totals more than \$930 (per year)," Terry said.

"The after-school program is already off to a great start, and we're thrilled to have our Club Kids walk through our doors each day after school," she said. "We're beyond grateful for a generous community and partners like The Nesst that see the value in programs we offer our local young people."

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



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Guests had more than 50 wines to taste, plus bourbons, live music, silent auction and delicious hors d'oeuvres during a Whiskey & Wine Charitable Tasting Event on Thursday at The Nesst and benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

More than 100 guests attended a Whiskey & Wine Charitable Tasting Event hosted by The Nesst and benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Mimi Frank of Westfield bids on a silent auction item Thursday during the Whiskey & Wine Charitable Tasting Event at The Nesst and benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville.

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Readers' Choice Awards 2024

Readers' Choice

Voting is under way in The Times' ever-popular Readers' Choice promotion! This year, in order to open the ballot boxes to even more people, we are including the ballot in our Print AND Online Editions. And, in the spirit of votes coming out of suitcases after midnight, rigged elections and false claims, we are going back to the future with paper ballots only! No, we're not requiring voter registration or ID – heck, we still encourage everyone to vote early and vote often – but we are setting up the ballot so you can use pencil, pen, magic marker, blood from a turnip . . . whatever you like. Simply mark the box next to the person, place or thing you are voting for and send the ballot to **Sagamore News Media, Box 579 Noblesville, IN 46060** – or email it to **ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com**. We'll tabulate everything and announce our winners at the end of the promotion! And be sure to watch for RC '24 ads in The Times!

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MachineryAutomotive SpecialistsAuto ZoneMufflers & MoreAVC AutoAAA Auto ServiceAlexander's GarageKent'sMark WoodsonTaber's Auto BodyMonro Auto Service and Tire CenterReggie's Motorworks	Bank Financing <ul style="list-style-type: none">Farmers BankFarmori CUIndiana Members Credit UnionHuntingtonIMCFirst Farmers Bank & TrustChaseCommunity FirstFifth ThirdFirst MerchantsHorizonMarathonOld National	Band (High School) <ul style="list-style-type: none">NoblesvilleSheltonWestfieldPebble Brook VillageThe Retreat at CarmelHamilton SoutheasternFishers	Band (Jazz) <ul style="list-style-type: none">NoblesvilleSheltonWestfieldPebble Brook VillageThe Retreat at CarmelHamilton SoutheasternFishers	Appraiser <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tone Lab SocietyThe Trading PostThe SuburbanDave & BobThe Hugged BrothersThe Dool BandHenry Lee SummerJeremy Morris and HarvestMy Yellow RickshawNoble BrosGrego SpinksWright BrothersAndrew Young TrioConfields & CrossroadsFrank/TownGold CountryIndy Gordian ClubEvans Street QuartetFast CadenceMM ArchitectsThe Dead SquidrelsCeltic Ram	Architect <ul style="list-style-type: none">Peterson Architecture/Darren PetersonReidham ArchitectsMaui ArchitectsK&M ArchitectsCurran ArchitectureMS ArchitectsBalay ArchitectsProfessional Engineers/Mike MearnsStar Associates	Apparel <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mill Top Banquet & Conference CenterKidz CharliesThe Mustard SeedForest Park InnForest Park LodgeHarbour Trees Golf & Beach ClubThe Bridgewater ClubSeamco MallThe Ambassador House102 East Event CenterNoblesville EaglesOak Hill MansionParkington Golf ClubThe Green Room at Federal HillThe Lacey Building	Art & Craft <ul style="list-style-type: none">Geoff DavisNickel Plate ArtsHamilton County Artists/Birdie GalleryKirk CreationsMakItPainting with a TwistCaravan ClaytesCarmel Arts and Design DistrictUpfront Pottery Studio in NoblesvilleThe Wandering Peacock in WestfieldThe Art Lab in Carmel	Assisted Living / Nursing Home <ul style="list-style-type: 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Indiana-Built 2024 Subaru Crosstrek Chooses Sport Over Wilderness



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

I've been a big fan of the Subaru Crosstrek Wilderness since I first drove one in Utah last

summer and earlier this year back in Indiana. Its 9.3-inches of ground clearance, fortified black body cladding, and more powerful engine take it down almost any trail, but most of us don't really need all of that to pick up groceries or take the kids to a Friday night movie. The Sport edition may be a better choice for most of us.

Jacked-up Attitude

The Crosstrek is essentially a jacked-up Impreza hatchback, but it gives the right off-road attitude while still being urban friendly. A black grille, vented cladding around the wheels, and additional protection around the bumper protect from rocks, sticks, and probably kids on bicycles. Copper accents on Wilderness are replaced with slashes of gold and Sport logos, but it all looks absolutely scouting over 18" dark alloy wheels.

A bit of Wilderness style carries over inside where the canvas seats sport gold accents. Canvas and gold stitching adds panache to the doors too. The large tablet-style touchscreen provides easy access to climate, audio, and phone functions. Redundant buttons for key climate controls plus volume/tuning are placed around it while wireless Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, console charging, and a full contingent of USB ports keep devices connected. I appreciate the power sunroof, heated front seats, driver power lumbar, but I'd like it even more with Harman Kardon audio.

That's all nice, but I suspect most people buy the Crosstrek because it looks ready for adventure. And, it is. Pop open the rear hatch, flip down the seats, and toss in almost anything you want. If that's not enough space, clamp gear to the roof rails. Thick rubber floor mats for passengers and cargo contain everything you bring back. It's a car that's aesthetically pleasing, but feels like it can be

scrubbed down when the fun is finished. And what works well for outdoor activities makes it ready for messy kids.

Power Meets Economy

Like the Crosstrek Wilderness, Sport versions come with the uprated 2.5-liter "Boxer" four-cylinder engine that sends 182 horsepower and 178 lb.-ft. of torque to the standard all-wheel-drive system through a continuously variable transmission. I don't love CVTs because they whine and scream, but this one isn't bad and can be paddle-shifted through eight pre-set gear ratios. Fuel economy is rated 26/33-MPG city/highway.

Beyond all that, this Crosstrek has real on- and off-road chops. Compared to the Wilderness, Sports ride a little lower with a still-impressive 8.7" ground clearance, wear street-worthy tires, and retain ample suspension travel to tame trails and potholes. It just rumbles over the rough stuff. The Sport also gets Subaru's dual function X-Mode traction system to churn through snow and mud,

but also creep down steep inclines automatically. I'd love a turbocharged engine, but the 2.5-liter engine gets it.

Safety, a Subaru hallmark, is fortified with automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, blind spot warning, rear cross traffic alert, and automatic emergency steering to avoid accidents. A rear seat reminder keeps adults from forgetting their offspring in hot weather.

Given how long owners seem to keep their Subarus, the Crosstrek Sport delivers absurd value. Base models start at just \$25,195 and came to \$32,605 for our well-equipped Sport. Want another reason to choose the Sport (or Wilderness if you choose)? They're both assembled domestically in Lafayette, Indiana. Competitors include the Honda HR-V, Toyota Corolla Cross, Ford Bronco Sport, and Chevy Trailblazer.

Storm Forward!

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

Likes

- Super practical
- All-road chops
- Expected durability

Dislikes

- CVT
- No turbo
- No Harman Kardon audio

2024 Subaru Crosstrek Sport

Five-passenger, AWD Crossover

Powertrain: 2.5-liter H4, CVT

Output: 182hp/178 lb.-ft.

Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind

Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy

Brakes f/r: disc/disc

Fuel economy city/hwy: 26/33-MPG

Assembly: Lafayette, IN

Base/as-tested price: \$25,195/\$32,605

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Getting Input From Front Lines

Noblesville Schools superintendent Dr. Dan Hile launched his Superintendent Advisory Council recently with elementary students getting an overview of district functions at the Noblesville Schools Educational Services Center. The fourth and fifth graders were chosen from a group of applicants to represent all seven of the district's elementary schools. The highlight of the morning was a tour of Dr. Hile's office and his Star Wars Lego collection. Superintendent Advisory Council students representing grades 6-12 will also meet with Dr. Hile.



Photos courtesy Noblesville Schools

St. Vincent Heart Center ranked No. 1

When it comes to taking care of your heart, patients want the best team in healthcare—and a new, independent ranking places Ascension St. Vincent at the very top for cardiac care.

Ascension St. Vincent Heart Center has been ranked the top hospital in the state in Indiana and second in the nation for cardiac care by Money Magazine in its 2024 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care, rising above many world-renowned providers.

As the only hospital in Indiana listed in the top 65, Ascension St. Vincent Heart Center ranked higher than such national luminaries as Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles (#3); Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston (#4); and the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland (#5).

“It is truly an honor to see the ‘heart’ of our cardiovascular program recognized as No. 2 in the country and No. 1 in the state,” said Kevin Speer, JD, Ascension St. Vincent chief executive officer. “We are blessed to have an extraordinary and committed team of caregivers whose outstanding work continues to be acknowledged beyond our ministry as Indiana’s most trusted heart leader for more than 20 years, and as demonstrated in this ranking, in the nation as well.”

The ranking compared all short-term, acute care hospitals in the

country that offer deep expertise with highly experienced cardiologists and heart specialists, and have earned a four- or five-star quality rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Indiana’s only five-star heart hospital, and the only specialty heart hospital in Indiana with physician ownership, Ascension St. Vincent Heart Center is a licensed 80-bed specialty hospital that is home to the state’s largest and most complex cardiovascular program, including the region’s most comprehensive valve and structural heart program offering the least-invasive surgical options. It houses a robust cardiovascular research institute and is at the forefront of innovation in cardiovascular medicine.

“Heart disease remains the No. 1 cause of death among Americans, but Hoosiers are fortunate to have the No. 1 hospital for cardiac care right here in their own backyard,” said Ascension St. Vincent Heart Center Chief Medical Officer Greg Mazanek, MD. “Our team’s performance in this list, ranked higher than the most reputable providers in our specialty, reflects our dedication to safe, efficient, high-quality care with fewer complications, so patients can get home faster, no matter where they live in the state.”

To generate the ranking, more than 125,000 datapoints were analyzed by Denniston Data and Definitive Healthcare, using the largest and most accurate data available in the U.S. on medical providers, as well as publicly available data from the American College of Cardiology.

In recent years, Ascension St. Vincent has been named among the Top 50 cardiovascular hospitals in the U.S. by both IBM Watson/Fortune and Fortune/PINC AI; 50 best cardiac surgery programs by Healthgrades; Top 100 hospitals with great heart programs by Becker's Hospital Review; world’s best specialty hospital by Newsweek and Statista; and received a 3-star rating, the highest rating possible, by the Vascular Quality Institute (VQI) for patient safety and the quality of vascular care delivery.

“For the many accolades Ascension St. Vincent Heart Center has accumulated over the years, we are extremely proud of our physician owners and team members,” said Lori Shannon, RN, MBA, president of Ascension St. Vincent Heart Center. “Their incredible work is the reason our safety, quality and patient-experience scores are consistently at the very top, year after year.”

Bell Ford Bridge Moving to Geist Park

The Bell Ford Bridge will have a permanent home at Geist Park in Fishers in early September with a final completion date of spring 2025. The bridge is scheduled to move from the Fisher Parks’ AgriPark, where it has been reconstructed, to Hamilton County Parks and Recreation’s Geist Park, less than a quarter mile away, on Sept. 5 and 6. During the move, Florida Road will be closed from 113th St. to Martha St. Local access to properties within the impacted area will be provided during the bridge move operations.

The Bell Ford Bridge, built in 1869, is originally from Seymour, Indiana in Jackson County. There it allowed people to cross the White River for about 100 years until it was deemed unsafe. A windstorm destroyed half of the structure, and then the other half fell into the White River in 2006.

Fortuitously, the pieces of the bridge were retrieved from the river and stored in a barn in Jackson County by a bridge historian and engineer. In 2018, Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt and Hamilton County Parks and Recreation collaborated with Jackson County Commissioners to acquire the bridge. The pieces of the historic bridge were then stored at the Hamilton County Jail. Six years after acquiring the bridge, it will finally be installed at Geist Park and used as



County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt



The bridge is scheduled to move less than a quarter mile away, on Sept. 5 and 6.



Photos courtesy Hamilton County Parks and Recreation

The bridge has been reconstructed at Fisher Parks’ AgriPark.

a pedestrian walkway and bike path, completing a portion of the Geist Greenway Trail. The bridge will serve as a focal point for Geist Park, making it an attractive destination for visitors.

The Bell Ford Bridge holds historical significance as it is the only combination-post truss bridge in the world and has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2005. It was reassembled with most of its original components but has been modified to fit its new home and purpose. The bridge will not be as long or wide as it was originally, but the historic integrity of the structure remains intact.

The project costs approximately \$7.5 million with nearly \$3 million in federal funding. This project was made possible because of the collaboration of multiple entities including Hamilton County Highway Department, Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department,

Jackson County, the City of Fishers, INDOT, and Duke Energy.

Hamilton County Parks Director Chris Stice said, “Bringing the Bell Ford Bridge to Geist Park is a tremendous achievement made possible by the efforts of many partners. We are excited to see this historic structure become a new landmark that the community can enjoy for years to come.”

The addition of the Bell Ford Bridge is one of a series of upgrades Geist Park will receive. Hamilton County Parks and Recreation plans to update the restroom and shelter as well as add more parking spaces.

Geist Park is an excellent destination to connect with nature, featuring trails, wetland and prairie areas, fishing spots, a canoe launch, and a playground. The new amenities will enable even more visitors to enjoy this beautiful space.