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TODAY'S VERSE

John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (NIV)

Hamilton Happenings

She L.E.A.D.S. 2025 Mayor's Conference, hosted by Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam is set for Feb. 20 at 502 E. Event Centre. The conference aims to empower women and middle school-aged girls in Carmel through Leadership, Empowerment, Advancement, Development and Service. "Women and young girls are the backbone of a thriving community," said Finkam. "She L.E.A.D.S. is a call to action to empower today's women and equip tomorrow's leaders. By fostering connections, providing resources, and showcasing women as role models, we ensure Carmel remains a place where all generations of women can thrive and lead." She L.E.A.D.S. bridges generations to create mentorship, professional growth and career exploration opportunities. The event's interactive programming presented in two engaging segments is designed to inspire attendees to dream big and achieve their goals. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/city-of-carmel-she-leads-conference-tickets-1138519084229?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Three Things You Should Know

1 Attorney General Todd Rokita won a lawsuit on behalf of Hoosiers in Plymouth who were subjected to roof leaks, black mold, and unsafe electrical conditions at The Pointe Apartments. One tenant reported they were literally shocked in their own shower last summer as a result of extremely mishandled electrical problems. The landlord, RICHMONS Group LLC, must pay a total of \$303,702 in damages and penalties, the Marshall County Circuit Court ruled. The court's decision mandates restitution for former tenants, covering damages such as mental anguish and actual losses, totaling \$214,902. Additionally, the judgment includes \$13,800 for the costs incurred by the Office of the Attorney General in investigating and prosecuting the case, as well as a \$75,000 civil penalty for violations of the Deceptive Consumer Sales Act. The lawsuit, filed by the Consumer Protection Division through its Homeowner Protection Unit, highlighted severe safety violations at The Pointe Apartments that led to the displacement of approximately 20 residents following an inspection by the City of Plymouth Building Commissioner.

2 It's not often you find yourself face to face with a wild caracal cat on the loose in the US; these critters are usually found in Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia. But there it was, loose in the Chicago suburb of Hoffman Estates and it appears that no one knows how it got there. When the police caught it and dropped it in a cage it went crazy and so they shot it with a tranquilizer gun, "but the drug they used wasn't potent enough to knock it out. It didn't get really groggy until it was in the cage for about 7-8 minutes," according to a neighbor who saw the hunt.

3 It was a sight that slowed down traffic: a perfectly useful SUV in a dumpster in Fort Myers, FL. Scott Greenberg got a glimpse of it and told reporters that he did "a double take" when he saw the vehicle in the dumpster along with a load of trash. It turned out that the car was in the way of construction workers on the job of building a new apartment complex and so they carefully used a forklift to remove it onto the dumpster. It was eventually moved from the dumpster and carefully relocated to a parking space.

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!

Country & Western Superstar and Noblesville native Steve Wariner is coming back home to Indiana for an "Intimate Evening With Steve Wariner" at the Center for Performing Arts in Carmel. The show is scheduled for Feb. 21 and tickets are going fast. So in honor of our fellow Miller, we're taking a look at Steve, a friend of The Times, By The Numbers!

14 Since hitting it big in Nashville, Steve Wariner has been nominated for Grammy Awards an amazing 14 times! He has won in 2010 for Best Country Instrumental Performance, 2009 for Best Country Instrumental Performance, 2000 for Best Country Instrumental Performance and 1992 for Best Country Vocal Collaboration.



John Lowes Kicks Off Sheriff Bid



Photo courtesy Lowes Campaign

Lowes told the crowd he wants to create a safer, more united community.

Hamilton County Chief Deputy John Lowes officially launched his campaign for Sheriff at a kickoff event held last week in Carmel. The event drew an enthusiastic crowd of supporters, showcasing strong community backing for Lowes' candidacy.

Lowes has earned the endorsement of current two-term Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush, who expressed his confidence in Lowes' ability to lead. Sheriff Quakenbush stated, "Having served alongside John throughout my term as your sheriff, Chief Deputy Lowes is the clear choice to continue to lead and expand the protection and safety we cherish in Hamilton County."

Appointed as Chief Deputy by Quakenbush in 2019, Lowes has led a team of 250 dedicated men and women committed to maintaining the safety and security of Hamilton County. With 26 years of experience in law enforcement, Lowes has consistently demonstrated a tough-on-crime approach. He is dedicated to defending the community against violence, drugs, and human trafficking while collaborating with local leaders to address critical mental health issues.

Lowes brings 15 years of executive-level leadership experience, a degree in

See LOWES Page A3

- 5 Steve has been inducted into five different Hall of Fames:
- Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame
- Musicians Hall Of Fame
- Kentucky Music Hall of Fame
- National Thumbpickers Hall of Fame
- and the Music City Walk of Fame



\$35 to \$75 Tickets start at \$35 and go up to \$75 for the February show. The 1,500-seat Palladium Concert Hall will likely sell out so those planning to go should purchase tickets soon. To get tickets online, go to <https://thecenterpresents.org/tickets-events/events/2425/center-presents/steve-wariner/>

18 How many BMI Million-Air Award songs Steve has had. The award is a recognition for songs that have reached more than 1 million U.S. broadcast performances. The award is given by BMI, a performing rights organization that represents icons like Paul McCartney, Dolly Parton, Roy Orbison and others.

12-25-54 Steve was a Christmas Day Baby. His parents named him Steven Noel Wariner.

10 The age at which he started his musical career. Although an accomplished world-class guitarist now, he began by playing drums in his father's band.

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you're having trouble falling asleep at night, try dimming the room lights for an hour or so before retiring. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"The trouble with our liberal friends is not that they're ignorant. It's just that they know so much that isn't so." Ronald Reagan

HONEST HOOSIER

This from a reader - We live in a time where smart people are told to keep their mouths shut so that stupid people won't get their feelings hurt.



TODAY'S JOKE

Did you hear what the janitor yelled when he jumped out of the closet? Supplies!

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank TERRY TURPIN for subscribing!

The Times of Noblesville presents... Iceland's Magical Northern Lights Hosted by Dick Wolfsie March 18 - 24, 2025 For more information contact Collette 1-800-581-8942 Please refer to booking #1232517

Experience Hands-On Art at Indiana Artisan



Photo courtesy Indiana Artisan

Indianapolis letterpress printer Evan Backstrom will be present.

Make plans to make a special valentine as Indiana Artisan launches 2nd SaturDate, a new way to engage with some of the state's exceptional artists. On the second Saturday of each month, Indiana Artisan Gifts & Gallery will host an interactive event from 1-5 p.m. in its store at 22 N. Rangeline Road in the Carmel Arts & Design District. Indianapolis letterpress printer Evan Backstrom and Westfield marshmallow maker Becky Lane will be in the store on Feb. 8. Guests will be given all the supplies they need to print a letterpress

valentine with Backstrom, and they will be able to sample Lane's handcrafted, pure-bliss marshmallows. This is a free, drop-in event.

"Experiencing art hands-on adds more enjoyment and another level of appreciation to any art enthusiast's understanding of the skill and techniques needed to make exceptional art," says Ros Demaree, Indiana Artisan director. "2nd SaturDate events will give people that opportunity every month in a variety of media."

Special Olympics Expansion Includes Noblesville

Special Olympics Indiana has expanded its Train 4 Life initiative, bringing its free fitness program designed for people with intellectual disabilities (ID) that includes partnerships with facilities in seven communities, including Noblesville.

Train 4 Life focuses on fitness, nutrition and mental health for Special Olympics athletes ages 13 and older. The 12-week program includes pre- and post-program biometric and fitness testing, group workouts, weekly nutrition and healthy lifestyle education. By developing these healthy choices within individuals, the program allows athletes to see measured outcomes and continue good habits throughout their lifetimes.

Studies have shown that nearly three-quarters of adults with ID and half of youth with ID are overweight or obese. People with ID are four times more likely to acquire Type 2 diabetes and a quarter of them have low bone density.

Preliminary results from the five pilot programs in 2024 include:

- 76.6% improvement in upper body strength.
- 406.% improvement in lower body strength.
- 14.5% improvement in endurance.
- 2% improvement in blood pressure.

"This program is an incredible opportunity for our athletes to get health and fitness training outside of their chosen sports seasons," Special Olympics Indiana President and CEO Jeff Mohler said. "By improving their physical fitness and well-being, we are helping to set them up for longer, more fit lives."

The program's 2025 sites include:

- CrossFit HSE, Noblesville
- Mad Apple CrossFit, Fort Wayne
- Purdue University Recreation, West Lafayette
- Reclaim, Greensburg
- THIRST, Terre Haute
- Three Cord Fitness, Greenwood
- Unbreakable Athletics Academy, Plainfield

Participants will work out alongside individuals without intellectual disabilities in order to build a sense of mentorship, friendship and community. The program's model is designed to meet individuals where they are and set achievable goals as they progress and take on increasing physical challenges. Special Olympics Indiana will continue to monitor and report results. The goal is to expand the program to all 92 Indiana counties.

County Legislators Open Doors to Potential Pages

Applications are live for the Indiana House Page Program during the 2025 legislative session at the Statehouse in Indianapolis, according to Hamilton County lawmakers.

House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) said Hoosier students ages 13 to 18 are invited to spend the day assisting lawmakers and staff, touring the Indiana Statehouse and listening in on the legislative session.

"The page program offers an introduction to public service for the future leaders of Indiana," Huston said. "I hope to see several students from Hamilton County participate this year and learn more about the state's lawmaking process."

Applications are live and can be found at IndianaHouseRepublicans.com/PageProgram along with available days during the 2025 legislative session, which started Jan. 8 and must end by April 29. "Learning about Indiana's government early on can leave a huge impact, especially when students have a front row seat to the lawmaking process," said State Rep. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers). "I would love to have the opportunity to meet young Hoosiers from our district and show them how their state government works."

"Civics is such an important topic to a student's education, and this is a great way

to get an inside view of state government," said State Rep. Danny Lopez (R-Carmel). "I am excited to meet young Hoosiers at the Statehouse and show them how laws are made in Indiana." State Rep. Alaina Shonkwiler (R-Noblesville) said interested students will have the opportunity to page on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the legislative session and will receive an excused absence from school. Large groups can participate on Wednesdays only. To schedule a group, contact the page program director at 317-232-9410 or pageprogram@iga.in.gov.

"At the Statehouse, students will be able to meet lawmakers and staff while learning more about Indiana's government," Shonkwiler said. "This is a unique educational experience, and I encourage any interested students to apply."

"This is a tremendous opportunity for young Hoosiers with an interest in the state legislature," said State Rep. Hunter Smith (R-Zionsville). "These slots fill up fast, so do not wait to apply and experience session firsthand." Students are responsible for their own lunch and transportation to and from the Statehouse in Indianapolis.

Carmel Lays Out 2025 Construction Schedule

The City of Carmel is pleased to provide the following anticipated schedule for our 2025 road construction season. These projects include new roundabouts, improvements to some of our main arteries, storm water collection and a continued effort to grow our bicycle and pedestrian connectivity throughout the city.

Several projects are highlighted below but please review the full schedule for a comprehensive view of the year ahead.

COLLEGE AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION

This robust project will ramp back up in the spring and, when completed, will bring major improvements to the North College Avenue stretch of road from 96th Street to

106th Street. We are looking for opportunities to accelerate the construction of this project but currently expect construction throughout 2025, pushing into 2026.

HAZEL DELL PARKWAY AND 106TH STREET

The roundabout at this intersection has been open to traffic but will require a full closure in early March for the installation of raised pedestrian crosswalks.

MULTI-USE PATHS

The city will continue to add to its extensive multi-use path network in 2025 including construction of the W. 96th Street path from Spring Mill Road to Ditch Road, W. 116th Street path from Shelborne Road to Michigan Road and more.

Carmel Honors Gold Medalist Sky Simpson



Photo courtesy City of Carmel

From left, Mayor Sue Finkam with father Steve Simpson, gold medalist Sky Simpson, mother Nancy and Coach Kyle Moran.

Mayor Sue Finkam, Councilor Shannon Minnaar, City of Carmel leaders, friends, family members and other supporters greeted Sky Simpson and his father Steve as they arrived at Penn Station East Coast Subs in one of Carmel Fire Department's engines.

Simpson, a 2020 Carmel High School graduate and Penn Station employee, was honored with the designation of "Sky Simpson Blvd" a temporary renaming of the street sign at Monon Green Blvd. and Range Line Rd.

Simpson, a Special Olympian and hometown hero, won gold medals at the International Powerlifting Federation's World Open Equipped Powerlifting Championships in Iceland in November.

Simpson's success in his chosen sport has been supported by his coach and friend, Kyle Moran, owner of Moran Academy, who has been working with

Simpson since 2020.

"It's pretty special to see not only Sky's physical but social development," said Moran.

Simpson has been a Penn Station team member since 2022 and, in 2024, was the face of their annual Round Up for Down Syndrome campaign.

Todd Roush, Penn Station's Indianapolis area representative attended yesterday's event and shared that supporting the Down Syndrome community is a passion that is "near and dear" to Jeff Osterfeld, founder and chief operating officer of Penn Station East Coast Subs. Since 2014, Penn Station has been fully funding the National Down Syndrome Adoption Network to raise awareness and funds for the Down Syndrome community.

Simpson's next competition takes place on Feb. 2. where he will compete in the Powerlifting America Groundhog's Day Grind.



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THE TIMES

The Car Wash Dress



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

My sister took me to task. “You know I was not being mean about your dress, don’t you?” She meant the dress that she had said made me look like a car wash—the part of the car wash where the flappy things slap the car dry. My dress looked a lot like that, especially if I spun around. I thought this was hilarious and mentioned it in a column.

“Of course I knew you weren’t being mean!” I told her.

It was not my intention to be so amusing, wearing the car wash dress. From a certain angle, it looks pretty stylish. It was some designer’s idea of a good look, and because I wear a smaller size, I can usually fit into these ill-conceived but affordable cast-offs I find on the internet. Not all of them work out. But I am delighted when I can cause some unexpected merriment simply by showing up in an \$11 used dress.

My sister ought to know this. She should know that, at 62, I am not angling for some best-dressed list. I am all about having fun with clothes, trying weird and different things, and a lot of those things absolutely are not going to work out. That is fine with me. I still have the car wash dress. Unlike an actual car wash, it is black, so I could wear it to a funeral sometime when I felt a little levity might be welcomed at the end of the service.

My family has a fine tradition of teasing. I know some people find this hard to believe, and I know some people tease cruelly. That is not what I mean at all. The teasing in my family has always been delivered with a heavy dose of love. Since I was a small child, I have known that the person who got teased was loved and the more people teased,

the more love there was.

My dad and his sister were terrible to each other. My father always gave my aunt the meanest birthday cards, until one year she said, “Just once, I’d like a nice birthday card!”

The next year, my father went on a mission to find the most maudlin, absurdly sentimental, “To My Beloved Sister” birthday cards he could find. We found three, doused them in perfume, and presented them to her. (My dad also made her a rather nice set of candleholders in his woodshop that year, as I recall.)

They both laughed so hard they had to wipe away tears. She never asked for another nice card. So when my sister tells me I look like a car wash, it makes my day. I feel seen. I feel loved.

Being able to tell someone they look like a car wash means you know them well. She knows I have an oversized interest in buying dresses—too many dresses—for cheap on the internet. She knows I am not terribly self-conscious. (OK, I’m a bit of a ham.) Most of all, she knows that I know she loves me. She has supported me through every crazy and life-disturbing decision and event—through career changes, through a divorce, through moves across the country. There has never been a moment of my life when I have doubted that my sister would be there for me.

And so she gets to tease me.

I am definitely keeping the car wash dress. And it’s not the last crazy dress I will buy. I figure it’s my duty to give my sister something new to laugh about.

*Till next time,
Carrie*

Wolfsie Shares Memories



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

This is the time of year when I thank the people, places, and situations that make this column possible. As I have often explained, the key to writing a humor column is to take an actual event and blow it a little out of proportion. So, let’s look back at some of my favorite pieces in the past year.

Because I kept falling out of bed, I bought a Hiccapop, a 6-foot-long pillow shaped like a giant sausage that you stick under the bottom sheet on the side of the bed. When Nettie, our housekeeper, failed to vacuum in our bedroom, I asked her why.

“Dick, someone was sleeping in your bed.”

“That’s my Hiccapop.”

“I don’t care who it is. I didn’t want to wake him.”

My proofreader quit last year—just as well. I was going to dump her anyway. She kept correcting me. Who needs that? Mary Ellen took over the job. That was an easy transition for her; she has been correcting me for 45 years. She is now my wife and my corrections officer.

My watch’s alert system detected a possible injury when I fell out of bed. This was before I got the Hiccapop. It alerted several people on my medical emergency list, including my brother, who drives a cab in New York. I got this text minutes later. “Dick, if it’s a real emergency, I can be there in 14 hours, but that’s going to run you about 1500 bucks, and I refuse to come back light (This is cab talk for a driver having no passenger on the return trip).

One day my wife graciously came home early from shopping so I could use her car while mine was in the repair shop. She got out of her Prius. Then I got in and sped off. But she still had her key fob in her purse. Twenty miles

later, I exited my car and realized I couldn’t turn off the engine because I couldn’t turn it back on. And I certainly didn’t want to leave the car running during my meeting. I also couldn’t ask Mary Ellen to come get me because she had no car. I had her car. Are you laughing? I wasn’t.

In an article in a survival magazine, the writer advocates a particular brand of survival food, saying it is “as good as or better than any survival food I’ve eaten.” This is the kind of testimony that is hard to discount, not unlike the words of Charles Manson who once grudgingly admitted that San Quentin had the best Salisbury steak of any prison he’d ever been to. You can’t buy PR like that.

Thanks to Kevin, who brought joy to our neighborhood last year. Kevin is a peacock who sauntered from yard to yard in Fishers, displaying his plumage by admiring himself in everyone’s patio doors. Apparently, Kevin had already visited many neighborhoods in our area, but his origin is still unknown. He even has a Facebook page. It has 10 times more followers than I do. I wish I could be as proud as he is.

Thanks to Amy who accidentally took home my cell phone at the end of a church charity auction one night when we sat at the same table. I called her later that night on Mary Ellen’s phone and told her if she got any calls for me to answer them and explain what happened. “Don’t worry, Dick,” she said. “I’ll just say that I have your cell because we had spent the night together.” I asked her to rephrase that.

– Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Noblesville Times. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

LOWES From Page A1

Business Management and is a proud alumnus of the Police Executive Leadership graduate program at the Southern Police Institute. This extensive background equips him to oversee the multi-million-dollar Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office budget with efficiency, transparency, and responsibility.

“I am running for Sheriff because I believe we can create an even safer, more united community by embracing a vision of law enforcement rooted in trust, transparency, and accountability,” Lowes stated during the event. “Hamilton County has a well-earned reputation as one of the safest

communities in the nation, and I am confident we can build on this legacy to make it an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.”

The campaign’s tagline, “Lowes Knows Safety,” underscores Lowes’ commitment to protecting Hamilton County. His campaign website, LowesForSheriff.com, provides additional information about his platform and vision for the future.

As the campaign moves forward, Lowes encourages all Hamilton County residents to join him in building a stronger, safer, and more united community. “Together, we will keep Hamilton County safe,” he concluded.

FOR THE RECORD

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

MEETING NOTICE CARMEL CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m.
Council Chambers, Second Floor
City Hall, One Civic Square

AGENDA / JOINT MEETING THE BOARD OF NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS AND NOBLESVILLE COMMON COUNTY NOBLESVILLE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

16 S. 10th St.
Noblesville, Indiana
Tuesday, January 28, 2025
5 P.M.
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II. TIF PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION
III. ADJOURNMENT

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Hosted by Dick Wolfsie

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For more information contact Collette

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Please refer to booking #1232517

Providing an affordable and positive baseball experience for all young men ages 13-18

The 2025 Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball Season begins April 14, 2025 and ends on June 17, 2025.

There will be two Leagues: 13-15 year old Competitive League and 16-18 year old Competitive League.

Both 13-15 League and 16-18 League will begin play on April 14, 2025. A double-elimination tournament will be played June 8-17, 2025.
* Note: Dates subject to change due to weather or unforeseen circumstances.

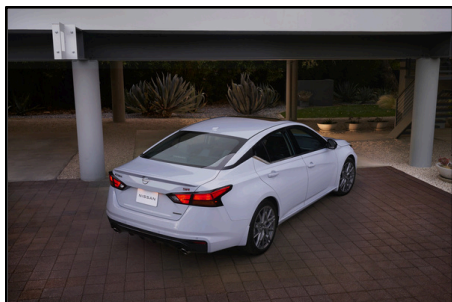
Registration Fee: 2025 Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball registration fee is \$199 (plus processing fee applied at checkout) and includes team jersey, hat, and 2 tickets to the Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball League Pancake Breakfast/Picture Day scheduled for April 26, 2025 from 8 am-11 am at the Forest Park Inn.

Team/Player photos will be taken at the Pancake Breakfast. Additional tickets for the League Pancake Breakfast will be available at the door for \$5 each.

Player Evaluations: 13-15 year old players new to Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball or 13-15 year old players wishing to re-enter the team draft need to attend the player evaluation session scheduled for March 16, 2025 from 2 pm-4 pm at Noblesville High School.

Register today at:
noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.sportsengine-prelive.com

The 2025 Nissan Altima SR May Be the Snoop Dog Martha Stewart of Pleasantly Perfect Sedans



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

I have to confess one of my recent guilty pleasures has been watching the Martha Stewart documentary, “Martha”, on Netflix. She’s as perfectly pleasant and prone to details as ever, but post-prison Martha has a bit more edge, hanging with Snoop Dog and dropping F-Bombs like garden flower ordinances. I like this Martha a lot, and if she had an automotive alter ego, it may be something like the 2025 Nissan Altima SR with all-wheel-drive.

Splendid Attitude

This angry cake gets frosted through a tall black grille with red SR logo, 19” bronze alloy wheels, more aggressive ground affects, flat body color spoiler, and rear diffuser. Lines are crisp and the roof hovers above with a broken C-pillar. Nissan designs all look sporty and there’s consistency in theme from the lowly Versa

through the compact Sentra and mid-size Altima. Crack open the trunk and flip down the rear seats to haul almost any gear you want.

Martha may appreciate styling flourishes throughout the cabin, but would be underwhelmed by its luxuries. Let’s start with the positives. I’m a big fan of the soft seats with red stitching and cloth inserts that hint at houndstooth. Red stitching on the console and doors pop. Piano black and faux carbon fiber trim pieces add panache. The touchscreen couldn’t be easier to use and has actual knobs for volume and tuning. Mad props for that. Connect devices via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

The flat-bottom leather-wrapped steering wheel is perfect, but there’s a focus on value, so don’t expect automatic climate control, Bose audio, sunroof, nor adaptive cruise control. There are no heated seats either. It all looks

picture perfect, but is a bit light on substance. Safety, however, was given its due with automatic emergency braking, rear cross traffic alert with auto brake, lane departure warning, blind spot alert, and forward collision warning systems.

Peppy Performance

While efficient and peppy, the engine is less spirited than the exuberant styling promises. Behind the sinister black grille is a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine delivering 182 horsepower and 178 lb.-ft. of torque. Routed to the all-wheel-drive system through a continuously variable transmission, that’s enough power to travel comfortably at comfortably above the speed limit, but a sports car it is not. How nice would it be with a turbo...maybe attached to the variable-displacement engine in the Rogue crossover? Even so, it is efficient, achieving 25/34-MPG city/highway.

Handling is more Martha than Mario. I suppose if you wanted to toss the Altima SR down a two-lane country road it wouldn’t embarrass itself, but the suspension and steering are more tuned for long-distance highway journeys and comfortable daily commutes. I don’t love the continuously-variable transmission that’s sleepy in its action, but it does keep the engine in the right rev range for power and efficiency and can be shifted via paddles should your inner Snoop bark. It rumbles over rough pavement with aplomb, so place that cake on the floor without worry.

If we’re being honest, the Altima SR is a bit below a highly accomplished woman known for owning a string of General Motors SUVs, Mercedes S-Class sedans, Mercedes-EQS SUV, Aston Martin DB9, and even a classic Edsel station wagon. But, maybe “new Martha” would give it a twirl.

I love the new Martha and her F-bombs, but engineers really need to drop a T-bomb and make the Altima SR a real sport sedan. Then again, it might dislodge its considerable value. Base Altimas start at \$27,000, but our fancy-pants SR came to \$34,580. Also consider the Toyota

Camry SE, Honda Accord Sport Hybrid, Hyundai Sonata N Line, Chevy Malibu RS and Kia K5 GT-Line.

Storm Forward!

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

Audi Q8

Likes

- Sporty styling
- Stylish cabin
- Solid value

Dislikes

- Limited luxuries
- Mundane handling
- No hybrid

2025 Nissan Altima SR AWD

Five-passenger, AWD Sedan
 Powertrain: 2.5-liter I4, CVT
 Output: 182hp/178 lb.-ft.
 Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
 Wheels f/r: 19”/19” alloy
 Brakes f/r: disc/disc
 Fuel economy city/hwy: 25/34-MPG
 Assembly: Canton, MS
 Base/as-tested price: \$27,000/\$34,580

Sheridan Public Library February Events

Babies + Toddlers:
 February 3,10, 17, 24 at 10:30am Discovery Time (up to 3years)

Preschool:
 February 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10:30am Little Learners Story Time (ages 3-6)
 February 25 at 6pm PJ Story Time (ages 3-6)

Grades K-5:
 February 20 at 3:30pm After School Club: Dogman Party; no registration

Grades 6-12:
 February 4 at 3:30pm Un-Valentine's Day Party
 February 15 at 9:30am - 1pm Magic the Gathering; led by David King

Adults:
 February 1, Color Me Away; stress-relief adult coloring at 9:30am-12:30pm
 February 6, Upcycled Night: Book Roses at 5:30pm
 February 5, 19 at 3pm Adult Bingo (Sponsored by Robert Owen)
 February 5, 12, 19, 26 at 11am Needle Crafters
 February 14 at 1:45 - 6pm Blood Drive; see website for registration
 February 15 at 9:30am - 1pm Magic the Gathering; led by David King
 February 17 at 6pm Pinners (Pinterest Group)
 February 19 at 5:30pm Sheridan Readers; The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar
 February 27 at 6pm Adult Trivia Night

All Ages:
 Now - February 28 Register on Beanstack for Winter Reading Challenge
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Heights Superintendent Shares Update



DR. ARROWOOD
Guest Columnist

Something pretty cool happened over the weekend. Three Hamilton Heights' wrestlers, Kendall Moe, Zoe Pugh, and Izzy Bailey qualified to compete at the inaugural IHSAA girls wrestling state finals held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum on Friday. They were among a total of 224 wrestlers representing 121 member schools at the highly anticipated event. Kendall, a junior, topped her perfect season (25-0) by winning the 105-pound championship. Kendall is now a three-time state champion after winning the 98- and 100-pound titles previously during the IHSGWA state finals. Senior Zoe Pugh, a two-time medalist, placed 4th. The event's roots started with Coach Gary Myers and a vision for a girls' wrestling program. Congratulations!

I would like to give a shout out to Kaden Derrer, Quentin Derrer, Cooper Rollins, Caden Hine, and Lauren Happel. These students made an outstanding showing at the National Western Roundup at the Denver Stock Show in Denver, Colorado. Their impressive performance in the Livestock Judging events brought personal accomplishments and accolades for our district. Under the leadership of Emilie Carson, Hamilton Heights' Agricultural Education and FFA Advisor, and Coach Spencer Carson, our students were a competitive force on a national stage. This is a testament to the strong agricultural education and leadership development programs at Hamilton Heights. Congratulations on your individual and team achievements at this event!

Congratulations to Hamilton Heights band students Rachel England (trumpet) and Kaylee Roberts (euphonium) who were selected to perform in the Indiana Music Educators Association (IMEA) Honor Band. They represented Hamilton Heights well with an incredible performance at the Embassy Theater in

Fort Wayne on Sunday.

You won't want to miss our latest HHSC Monthly Video Update. Highlighted in this edition are some high school students caught doing good things, amazing 4-H students, the district's inclement weather delay and closing process, our fantastic HHSC School Board, HHHS Athletic signings, Husky Hero SROs, and a Sagamore of the Wabash. All updates and these bi-monthly messages can also be found on our website at www.hhschuskie.org.

This year's annual Kindergarten Roundup will take place on Thursday, February 27 from 3:45 to 6 p.m. at the elementary school. Doors A and K will be open for this event. Registration will be live on Monday, February 24 by 4 p.m. Our Kindergarten educators are phenomenal in providing an exceptional blend of engaging, inspiring, and fun learning experiences that are the building blocks of early literacy, socialization, communication skills, independence, and success in school for our littlest Huskies.

The 6th annual Hickory Classic basketball event vs. the Tipton Blue Devils is set for next Wednesday, January 29 at the Hoosier Gym in Knightstown beginning at 6:00 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. (for players and fans). The 8th grade girls (on court first) and boys will compete in a fun evening of Hoosier Hysteria. Heights reserved seating capacity is 250. Admission is free for HHMS students and younger and \$5 (cash only) at the gate for all others. The game will also be live streamed.

While this snowy and icy blast from Mother Nature isn't necessarily giving us much to cheer about, we always have something to celebrate when it comes to our students and staff. Stay warm and stay safe. #WeAreHuskies

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

Carmel Gets Birdathon Grant

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation received a \$2,800 grant from the Amos Butler Audubon Society's Birdathon to promote the enjoyment and stewardship of birds of Central Indiana.

Funds for Birdathon are raised during an all-day sponsorship event. Audubon Society staff and board members compete to locate as many bird species as possible within a 24-hour period. The National Audubon Society successfully raises \$30K each spring to fund bird research and conservation, environmental education, and habitat restoration across the United States.

CCPR was awarded a \$2,800 grant from the Amos Butler Audubon Society to purchase 20 binoculars for use in recreation programs, Summer Camp Series, Master Naturalist

classes, and Citizen Science volunteers. In 2024, over 70 individuals enrolled in various birding classes from July through December and used the newly purchased binoculars for bird watching and education.

"Birding is a great activity that anyone can enjoy, and thanks to this grant from Amos Butler Audubon Society, we're able to provide the one piece of equipment that makes birding easier," said Jerry Kozlansky, Park Operations Manager. "We're adding more classes this year because the interest has gotten so high."

Individuals interested in a recreation program centered around birding may sign up for CCPR's Birding 101 class here. This course is free, but registration is required.

Library Selected to Boost Digital Literacy

Hamilton East Public Library is among more than 100 public libraries nationwide awarded funding by the Public Library Association to increase digital literacy using DigitalLearn.org resources, powered by a generous \$2.7 million contribution from AT&T. The PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive and the new PLA Digital Navigator Workshop Incentive support public libraries in their work of improving basic digital skills among families and communities. The workshops will utilize DigitalLearn training materials, created in collaboration with AT&T, that are freely available to anyone through DigitalLearn.org and AT&T ScreenReady.

Hamilton East Public Library is working to help bridge the Digital Divide. They offer programs to help build basic technology skills, such as using email, navigating the internet, building cybersecurity awareness, knowing more about using Android/iOS devices, and more! Over the next few months, HEPL will increase its already robust computer and technology learning opportunities through this grant. And, for the first time ever, they're offering some of those sessions in languages

other than English.

"Our very mission, here at Hamilton East Public Library, is to be our community's essential connector to information and ideas," says HEPL's Director of Public Services, Amber Wright. "One way we are continually working towards this is to help reduce the digital divide."

PLA President Michael Lambert said, "PLA is proud to support public libraries in being at the forefront of boosting digital literacy skills and bridging the digital divide in their communities. With another year of PLA's sustained collaboration with AT&T, more learners across the nation than ever before will get connected to vital digital literacy skills and technology resources at the library."

PLA's free training site, DigitalLearn.org, helps community members build skills and confidence using technology. Hamilton East Public Library will help patrons utilize these resources in upcoming workshops. More details and a full listing of workshops can be found on HEPL's Digital Literacy Workshop blog.

Sen. Walker Shares Update



KYLE WALKER
Guest Columnist

Insurance and Financial Institutions.

Senate Bill 220 would require the state employee health plan (SEHP) to provide coverage for groundbreaking new medications that slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease. While there are many therapeutic drugs used in the treatment of the symptoms of dementia, these new medications actually slow the progress of the disease, allowing patients to stay independent longer and improving their quality of life.

There are approximately 2,130 individuals age 65 or older covered by SEHP, and it is estimated that 200 to 250 of these individuals covered by SEHP could be diagnosed with a form of dementia.

SB 220 will now move to the full Senate for further consideration.

BENEFITS FOR HOOSIER VETERANS

There are many benefits available to our Hoosier veterans and their families. I hope those

eligible will take advantage of these, some of which include free or discounted college tuition, property tax deductions, income tax deductions and discounts on hunting and fishing licenses.

FISHER'S GIVES BACK on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

To celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., the City of Fishers created a community food drive for local food pantries.

Residents of Fishers who participated donated canned goods and/or non-perishable food items to Fishers City Hall, Hamilton East Public Library, Fishers Art Center, the Fishers YMCA, Hamilton Southeastern Schools and Fishers Parks HQ.

On MLK Day, residents of Fishers took donations to Kroger located at 116th St., Olio Road or Fishers Crossing Drive.

If residents would like to contribute to the food drive in another way, the city has an online wish list for Amazon and Walmart. Volunteer opportunities for this drive are also available.

State Sen. Kyle Walker represents District 31 which includes portions of Hamilton and Marion counties.

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Angela Frazier to Lead Leadership Class of '26

Angela Frazier to Lead Leadership Class of '26



Angela Frazier

Hamilton County Leadership Academy is thrilled to announce that Angela Frazier will serve as dean for the Class of 2026. Applications for HCLA's 35th cohort of community leaders will open on Friday, Feb. 28.

"I am truly honored to be selected as Hamilton County Leadership Academy's next class dean," said Frazier, business development director at American Structurepoint. "My 2020 HCLA classmates and many other alumni have become like family to me. I am fortunate to be part of such an outstanding group of leaders, and I look forward to helping the next class foster education, leadership, philanthropy, and collaboration to better serve the Hamilton County community."

HCLA has been educating leaders and cultivating community networks for over 30 years. Since its inception in 1991, more than 900 community leaders have graduated from HCLA. The organization is anchored by its mission to inspire and empower participants and alumni to drive and amplify community impact through unique access to knowledge, leaders and organizations.

The dean plays a critical role in shaping class culture and connectivity while providing meaningful insight throughout the HCLA experience. Deans also serve as ambassadors for the program, working closely with the executive director and board to create an engaging and thought-provoking learning environment.

"HCLA is fortunate to have a legacy of deans who model community leadership and impact," said Diana Coyle, HCLA executive director. "Angela is a perfect addition to that legacy. As an HCLA volunteer and class day speaker, she consistently brings connectivity, wisdom, and passion for Hamilton County and we are excited to see her share those gifts with the Class of 2026."

With over 15 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, Frazier is passionate about connecting with others to make a difference in Hamilton County. She currently serves on the Hamilton County Community Corrections Advisory Board, Fishers Arts and

Culture Commission, Fishers Advisory Plan Commission, and the Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) Corporate Member Advisory Council. She is also a current Hamilton County Connector through the HCLA and Invest Hamilton County partnership.

In her role at American Structurepoint, Frazier serves as a liaison between the company's technical professionals and local governments and public service providers in Indiana. She frequently collaborates with elected and appointed officials, advising on planning, engineering, and architectural services to help communities achieve economic development, capital improvement, and quality-of-life goals.

Before joining American Structurepoint, Frazier gained leadership experience working for Mayor Andy Cook in the City of Westfield as director of Westfield Welcome and assistant director of the Westfield Public Works Department and Grand Park Sports Campus. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a Master of Public Management from Indiana University Kokomo. Angela resides in Fishers and enjoys traveling, trail running, studying history and politics, and spending time with family and friends.

Applications for the HCLA Class of 2026 will close on April 1, 2025, and the cohort will be announced in June. HCLA will also host meet-ups for prospective applicants to learn more about the program and application process. Meet-ups include:

- Tuesday, March 11 from 5:00-6:30 pm | Songbird Social House (Carmel)
 - Tuesday, March 18 from 3:30-5:00 pm | Collaboration Hub (Fishers)
 - Wednesday, March 26 from 8:30-10:00 am | Westfield Washington Township (Westfield)
- To learn more about HCLA, its community impact, and share interest in the Class of 2026, visit www.hcla.net.

Gallery Hop Set for Feb. 14

Looking for something fun to do on Valentine's Day? Then consider gallery hopping!

Fishers Arts Council and the City of Fishers, along with Fishers Art Center, Noblesville Creates at Meyer Najem, High Frequency Arts and Ignite Studio are ready to share incredible art and music at the Second Friday Gallery Hop on Feb. 14, from 4-9 p.m. While most gallery locations are walkable, FAC recommends driving to some locations to make sure you get to it all in one night. The Gallery Hop sponsor, Four Day Ray, offers free dessert with your dinner purchase of \$25 or more, if you visit all participating art galleries.

Fill your Valentine's Day with art, music, poetry, and more all for free as you make your way around Fishers. Start your adventure at Ignite Studio in Hamilton East Public Library in Fishers at 4 p.m. to enjoy live music by Steve Newby and explore the Comic Book in a Day exhibit presented by Noblesville Creates. The library closes at 6 p.m., so get your Gallery Hop card stamped before you move onto your next location.

From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. you can check out the Meyer Najem 2nd Floor Gallery, at 11787 Lantern Road, featuring original artwork by McCordsville artist, Bobbi K Samples. "Color in Silence" features her newest abstract floral

paintings done in acrylic. This exhibit "explores the delicate balance between subtlety and expression, where each bloom speaks to the quiet power of individualism. In the interplay of neutral tones and bursts of color, the pieces reflect the hidden emotions that surface when we embrace our true selves." Live music will be performed by Mario Joven and Steve Goodman. Samples' exhibit is managed by Noblesville Creates and is on display through March 28.

Anytime from 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m., take Lantern Road south to the Hub & Spoke building at 8100 E. 106th Street to step into High Frequency Arts' "Fragments of Identity" exhibit with live music by Andy Schomburg, refreshments, cash bar, and artist vendors. Discover the multifaceted nature of identity in this evocative portraiture exhibition. This collection of artwork delves into the fragments that shape who we are. From bold abstractions to intimate realism, each artist offers a unique perspective on the human experience, capturing emotions, stories, and complexities through their art. The Art Gallery at City Hall in the Fishers Municipal Center at 1 Municipal Drive, presented by Fishers Arts Council, will be open from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. with live music from Chad Mills from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. "The Golden Age:

Artists 50 & Better" will be on display, featuring 2D and 3D works of 28 individuals who are incredibly creative in their golden age. Refreshments and cash bars will be available at both the Art Gallery at City Hall and Fishers Art Center during their open hours.

Fishers Art Center, just across the breezeway from the Art Gallery at City Hall, showcases "White Noise Collection" New Works by C. Pyle from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. The Fishers Art Center proudly presents an exhibit of new works by mixed media, abstract painter, C. Pyle. Within her new series "White Noise Collection", Pyle explores the complexities of color and texture while limiting her color palette to tones of white. A self-taught abstract artist, Pyle gives her emotions a clear voice, allowing pain and brokenness to be articulated through beauty. After a near-fatal car accident devastated her life, she turned to art as a form of physical and cognitive therapy. C. Pyle's inspirational journey of healing, exploration, and discovery affirms the significance of creativity as a form of wellness, an imperative the Fishers Art Center shares with the prolific artist. Live music will be performed by Jason Reinhardt from 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Also opening at 6 p.m., the FAC Hub Gallery,

inside the Hamilton County Community Foundation at 11810 Technology Drive, features "My Art is my Movement" by Indianapolis artist, Johnson Simon. "My style of work is expressionistic. I use heavy dark lines along with vibrant colors to display a sense of motion and flare. I especially enjoy watching dancers and athletes, and make a conscious effort to transfer the graceful display of dance and athleticism into my art. The human body is both complicated and elegant, and with the extra component of motion added, it is a vessel unlike any other in this world." Live music will be performed by Molly DeRose; refreshments and a cash bar will be available. The gallery is open until 8 p.m.

Each location will have a Gallery Hop card available for you to pick up and get stamped along your journey. Anyone who collects all the stamps by completing the hop can get a free dessert from Four Day Ray with their \$25+ dinner purchase, limit one dessert per table.* You must show your completed hop card when ordering. This free dessert offer will only be available February 14-16. If you have questions about the hop, please contact Fishers Arts Council. Additional performers and any time changes will be posted on FishersArtsCouncil.org/galleryhop

Aspire Names Dr. Holly Oh Chief Medical Officer

Aspire Indiana Health has named Holly Oh M.D. to be its Chief Medical Officer. A pediatrician and seasoned community health advocate, Oh will work to reshape and expand healthcare services for the nonprofit, which has health centers in Hamilton, Boone, Madison and Marion counties.

As the chief architect of Aspire's clinical strategy, she will lead the development and expansion of primary care medical services, help foster strategic partnerships with other health systems and guide the professional growth of clinical providers at Aspire. "I'm incredibly thankful for this opportunity with Aspire Indiana Health, an organization that has done so much over the decades to serve some of the most vulnerable people in Indiana," Oh said. "Working with their

dedicated staff, we're going to do some truly amazing things in the years to come."

She earned her medical degree at the University of Michigan after obtaining an undergraduate degree in psychology from Brown University. She completed her residency at Children's Hospital of Boston and Boston Medical Center. She has served in senior leadership and executive roles at healthcare organizations with a history of leading transformational healthcare system change for underserved populations.

"Holly is a preeminent figure in developing innovative models of healthcare delivery to the people who need them most. Aspire is extremely proud to have a clinical leader of her status joining our organization," said Antony Sheehan,



Dr. Holly Oh

President & CEO. "We have ambitious goals to expand the scope of medical services offered to underserved patients in Central Indiana, and Dr. Oh will be our primary navigator in that journey."

Aspire is a Federally Qualified Health Center with nine clinics primarily serving Medicaid and Medicare patients. It also provides behavioral healthcare, addiction treatment/recovery facilities and programs addressing social drivers of health such as housing and employment.

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