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TODAY'S VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:58  
Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Hamilton Happenings

Legendary comedy icon Jeff Foxworthy will be the special guest for the inaugural Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation Legacy Celebration event, presented by CSO Architects, at the Fishers Event Center on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025. Jeff is one of the most respected and successful comedians in the country. All proceeds from the event help support HSEF programs including innovative teacher grants, student scholarships, mental health, and student wellness initiatives across all grade levels in Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

Three Things You Should Know

- 1 The Internal Revenue Service opened the 2025 tax filing season last week and is accepting and processing federal individual tax year 2024 returns. IRS systems have already received millions of tax returns from across the nation for processing. The IRS expects more than 140 million individual tax returns for tax year 2024 to be filed ahead of the Tuesday, April 15 federal deadline. Taxpayers can visit IRS.gov to get answers to tax questions. IRS.gov is the quickest way for taxpayers to get help. The Interactive Tax Assistant (ITA) is a tool that provides answers to several tax law questions specific to individual circumstances.
- 2 The December unemployment rate in the state was 4.5 percent, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. By comparison, the national unemployment rate reported for December was 4.1 percent. December 2024 total private employment is 2,872,600 an increase of 2,100 from the previous month and 608,300 above the April 2020 Trough.
- 3 In just two years, Indiana students have improved to sixth in the nation in reading according to results from the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress rankings. This is the highest Indiana has ever ranked in fourth grade reading. NAEP – also known as the Nation's Report Card – provides a snapshot of how Indiana's students are performing compared to other students across the nation. Hoosier students ranged sixth in fourth grade reading (previously 19th) and sixth in eighth grade reading (previously 17th). In addition, Indiana ranked ninth in fourth grade math (previously 11th) and 13th in eighth grade math (previously 11th).

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!

Last week we took a musical detour with country & western superstar Steve Wariner who is coming home to Indiana to perform in Carmel in February. This week, we take a look at perhaps America's silliest annual event that just took place yesterday . . . Groundhog Day . . . by the numbers.

17

The friendly folks at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration decided to grade the groundhogs (and others) against each other to see which one is the most accurate. Unfortunately for Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania fans, Phil came in 17th out of 19 with a 35 percent accuracy rating. Who was the most accurate? Staten Island Chuck at an astounding 85 percent!



1887

That was the first year in Punxsutawney for what has turned into a national celebration. And no, Phil wasn't alive back then . . . although most groundhogs live for less than two decades, Phil's handlers say he is 125 years old thanks to a magical elixir he drinks (wink, wink).

1993

The year the movie Groundhog Day came out, starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell. The film was shot in the spring and summer of 1992 and was done almost entirely in Woodstock, Ill., not Punxsutawney, Penn.



2

That's the number of choices Phil (or any of the other furry prognosticators) have – either predict an early spring, or six more weeks of winter weather. The legend goes that if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, we're going to have six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, an early spring is in store. But when you think about it, seeing his shadow means the sun is out . . . so we're not sure of the logic here. Then again, why are we talking about logic and groundhogs predicting the weather?

0

Comedic genius Harold Ramis directed the movie and despite the success Ramis and Murray had together on Caddyshack, Ghostbusters and Stripes, the pair clashed and never made another movie together again. In fact, they didn't even speak until shortly before Ramis passed away in 2014.

WINTER



12 to 15

How many pounds most groundhogs weigh.

30,000

About how many people show up in Punxsutawney for the big day. That's pretty amazing when you consider the town has a total population of only 6,000 or so.

45

Despite what Phil and all the others say, mother nature says the vernal or spring equinox is 45 days away. Spring is sprung on March 20 at 5:01 a.m.

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Eating quickly can triple your chance of becoming overweight – put the fork down between bites and allow your stomach to realize it's full.

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Love is a friendship set to music."

Joseph Campbell

HONEST HOOSIER

Welcome to February, Sweethearts!



TODAY'S JOKE

What do you call two birds in love? Tweehearties!

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

Countdown Is On For All-Star VB

The Momentum continues to build at the new Fishers Event Center as the excitement builds for Pro Volleyball Federation's inaugural All-Star Match Feb. 22.

On the heels of a successful opening and big events including Turnpike Troubadours, Alabama, Cirque du Soleil and more, the new Fishers Event Center is thrilled to share several recent exciting announcements ahead of the Pro Volleyball Federation's inaugural All-Star Match, set to take place at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22. Fishers Event Center is home of the league's newest franchise, the Indy Ignite. PVF is the leading professional volleyball league in the United States, and this event will showcase the league's top talent while providing fans a unique opportunity to witness the best in professional volleyball.

Tickets start at \$30 and are on sale now via Ticketmaster or at the Fishers Event Center Box Office, open Wednesdays through Fridays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The All-Star match will also be broadcast nationally on CBS Television Network.

Olympic gold medalist and entrepreneur Shawn Johnson East will join the inaugural All-Star Match as co-host. Shawn will participate in pre-match festivities, match break activities and appear on the national CBS Television Network broadcast. Shawn is a four-time Olympic medalist and entrepreneur celebrated for her dedication to family, empowerment, and community impact. With her husband Andrew East, a former NFL athlete, Shawn shares their journey through parenting and life with over 11.5 million followers across

See VB Page A3

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

## HAND Transitions to Self-Manage Rental Properties

HAND, the Hamilton County-based nonprofit dedicated to providing quality affordable housing options, is pleased to announce that it will begin self-managing its 157 rental units by March 31. This significant step reflects HAND's ongoing commitment to delivering the highest level of service and care for its residents.

Approved by HAND's Board of Directors in October, the decision to bring property management in-house marks a transformative moment for the organization. HAND has been collaborating closely with local partners and its current third-party property manager, Herron Property Management, to ensure a seamless transition.

Why Self-Management? The decision reflects HAND's commitment to enhancing oversight and ensuring a high level of responsiveness to resident needs. By taking direct control, HAND can better align its operations with its mission and values, providing the service its residents deserve.

"When we build a rental property, we think about who will live there and what non-housing resources they might need to improve their situations," said Andrea Davis, HAND's executive director. "Taking over property management will allow us to close that loop and ensure that residents' needs are being met, both in their homes and in the broader community."

Expanding the HAND Team As part of this transition, HAND is expanding its team and is currently interviewing candidates for key positions. These new roles will enhance HAND's ability to bring creative solutions to affordable housing. Under the new structure, HAND will be better positioned to:

- Provide Proactive Resident Support
- Ensure Effective Management and Compliance
- Strengthen Financial Oversight and Accountability

What's Next? The transition process, currently underway, includes extensive planning and staff training to equip HAND's team with the tools and expertise required to manage its 11 affordable rental communities comprising 157 units. As a trusted housing provider, HAND will uphold its mission to create thriving communities and equitable housing options for all. "Our residents are at the heart of everything we do," Davis added. "This transition is about aligning our operations with our values. We are excited to take this step forward and continue building a brighter future for the communities we serve."

For more information about HAND's expansion into property management or to learn more about our mission and work, visit [www.handincorporated.org](http://www.handincorporated.org).

## 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.*

### FALL CREEK TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

Thursday, Feb. 6  
6:30 p.m.  
11595 Brooks School Rd. Fishers  
Community Room  
Agenda:  
Adoption of the 2024 Annual Report'

## Sheridan's Phi Beta Psi Sorority Shines



Front row: Tammi Hall, Judy VanMeter, Dorothy Bishop and Judy Ottinger. Second row: Kathy Bray, Elaine Cannon, Penny Millikan, Sandy Moore, Jodie Freeland, Pam Pickard and Beth Stewart. Back row: Sarah Godby, Kristi Defalque, Chalise Johnson, Pam Drury, Holly Anderson, Debra Price, Tina Kitchel, Cindy Railer, Suzanne Lyon, Judy Langdon and Tina Vawter.

The Sheridan chapter of Phi Beta Psi, Theta Alpha Alpha, finished 2024 having assisted 17 local individuals who had been diagnosed with cancer. Our gift cards to those individuals can be used for fuel to and from appointments or treatments, medications, or food

for them and their families to help ease some of their expenses.

Our annual holiday celebration of an Italian dinner, games, and gift exchange was enjoyed by 22 of our 30 members in December. It was a fun night of food and

fellowship for all who were able to attend. We look forward to this gathering every year.

We are preparing for an already busy 2025 by hosting our annual Euchre Night on Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at The Studio on Main, Sheridan. The cost

to play is \$20. Bring \$1's to pay the pig! Phi Beta Psi's community support is cancer research, Sheridan senior scholarships for students pursuing a career in medicine, and assisting community members facing cancer.

## Husky Invite Champs!



Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

The Hamilton Heights 6th grade boys' basketball team wrapped up their season recently by hosting and winning the annual Husky Invite. "The first round was a rematch against a very good Western team that had beat Heights just a couple of weeks prior," said Head Coach Eric Heuer. "The boys came out on fire and jumped to a quick 16-6 first quarter lead and led by 13 at halftime. The smothering defensive press fueled the offense which took Western by surprise. The second half remained more competitive as Western began to figure out the press. However, in the fourth quarter our Huskies kept their composure and made enough plays down the stretch for the win 42-37. For the championship game against the Carmel Greyhounds, the Huskies started off slow with a 9-5 deficit after the first quarter. However, after a 22-point second quarter the Huskies never looked back and took home the championship with a 49-38 win. It was a great season for the 6th grade boys' team. They improved greatly and the team played as one. "

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# At Home with Felix



**CARRIE CLASSON**  
The Postscript

It's been a big year for our cat, Felix.

Sometime in late 2023, Felix was scooped up off the street in Mexico by a teenager and brought to the home of her mother and aunt. I'm not sure how he was received when he arrived. They already had 11 dogs, at least a couple of cats and several birds. They gave him food and a home, and I imagine the teenager, Daniela, thought that the fostering arrangement would eventually become permanent.

But that's not what happened.

Daniela's aunt, Marcela, works at the environmental preserve where my husband, Peter, hikes every day, and one day he asked her, "Do you have a cat or a kitten looking for a home?"

Probably, the way Peter asked was a little less elegant, because Peter does not speak Spanish. But she did—have a cat, that is. She still had the cat her niece, Daniela, had brought home two months earlier.

Daniela and Marcela and Daniela's mother all came over in a taxicab with Felix to our little apartment and we met him. I expected he would be terrified in a new place with new people.

But Felix was not afraid. He sprawled across the couch and looked at all these people looking at him and seemed to feel he was right where he belonged. And so he came to live with us in February. Daniela came again when they dropped Felix off, and we could tell she was sad. But we promised to send pictures and take good care of him, and we have done both.

And Felix seems to love his new life.

Instead of sharing a house with several cats and a rotating cast of dogs and birds, he is the only nonhuman in our house. He plays games

with Peter and gets snacks several times a day. He talks a lot and has two people who listen to whatever he has to say, even if it is just his regular announcement of when he is going to have a bowel movement—which I'm sure is newsworthy as far as he is concerned.

"Meow! Meow!" he announces, before and after the big event.

"That's wonderful," I assure him. "Well done!" (I seriously doubt he would have had this quality of attention competing with 11 dogs.)

Today, we are "up north" visiting my parents, and Felix is with us. Katie, my parents' cat, does not care for Felix at all. Katie is annoyed with the casual nonchalance Felix exhibits wherever he is—the sense that he owns whatever home he is in and deserves whatever treats come his way.

Felix plays with Katie's toys, sleeps in her bed and eats up whatever snacks she may have left in her bowl. He watches the gray squirrels outside and sleeps on my mother's chair every time she carelessly vacates it. Felix is very much at home.

And it is good to be at home with Felix—wherever he is. I think he has lessons to teach me—as all animals do.

He has shown me that where we start may have very little to do with where we end up. He has shown me that it's possible to feel comfortable and enjoy even the most radical change in circumstances. He has shown me that life is full of surprises and it's the way we react that usually determines how good or bad this change might be.

And he's shown me that everything can be enjoyable, if viewed from the right perspective. Even if it's just a trip to the bathroom.

*Till next time,  
Carrie*

# Replacing Missing Tiles



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Funny Bone

I tend to lose stuff. Once, I lost a cell phone and found it in the freezer. Then, I misplaced my wallet and found it at the bottom of the dog food canister. There is a logical explanation for both of those incidents—sort of.

My wife has told me many times that I am clearly a loser. She's witnessed many of my misplacements, so I accept that label. But when her mother first met me, she told Mary Ellen I was a loser. She knew that after one visit. How perceptive.

To prevent further device separation, I bought a Tile. This ingenious product, about the size of a credit card, slips into your wallet and allows you to discover where you left your billfold by looking at a GPS map posted on your phone or computer. The screen gives the exact location of your valuables. Your cell phone also makes a beeping noise as you get closer to where your wallet is hiding.

The problem was that when I sat down anywhere, the pressure on my wallet in my pocket against the chair set off the Tile: BUZZ! BEEP! You've heard of a butt call. This was a trouser arouser.

This sound confirmed that my wallet was nearby. Of course, it was nearby. It was in my pants. This was an unnecessary alert. And very annoying. It kept sounding off one morning at breakfast until my friends asked me to remove the Tile from my back pocket and place it on the table. An hour later, I walked out of the restaurant without my Tile. I didn't realize it was missing until the following week. I had no idea where I left it.

Later that evening, my wife and I were headed out for dinner, but I couldn't find my wallet. Mary Ellen said: "Why not use your Tile to locate it?"

"I lost my Tile."

"Wait a second. Are you telling me you spent \$50.00 on a device to find your wallet and you then lost the device you bought to find your wallet?"

"Yup, you nailed it."

"Now what are you going to do?"

"I am going on Amazon to see if they make another techie item that I can buy to find the Tile that I bought to find things I can't find."

Later that week, I was fiddling with my phone. Suddenly, I got a prompt that said, "The last time you used your Tile was at Another Broken Egg Cafe three weeks ago. This is where our group meets for breakfast. I leave things there all the time, except a tip (just kidding)."

I retrieved my Tile from the café and discovered the battery was low, which is not rechargeable. I bought a new Tile and asked my AI program what to do next. They gave me a dozen steps to replace the dead tile with a fresh one. Years ago, I had an uncle who had a problem with booze and went for help. His Twelve Steps were probably easier to follow than the twelve I got from AI.

After Christmas, I returned a few items at a local department store and did a little browsing.

"Can I help you find anything?" the clerk asked.

If he only knew. 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 Paper of Montgomery County. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.*

# 'Geezers' Opens Thursday at Basile Westfield Playhouse

Beat the January blues and come laugh at the Basile Westfield Playhouse Thursday. The first show of the 2025 season, *Geezers* by Tommy Lee Johnston, is a funny, heartwarming drama about growth and wisdom, learning and loving, life and death.

Produced by Main Street Productions, Inc., *Geezers* will introduce you to some beautiful and wonderful old people who are enjoying their golden years in a retirement home. Jack, a pathologically shy, 27-year-old man, begins a job there helping the seniors with their daily needs. But it's the "geezers" who wind up helping Jack with his needs. On his road to an epiphany, Jack learns to crawl—then walk, then fly—with a wise group of mentors guiding him along.

Don't miss out on tickets for Thursday's opening night for just

\$10. Tickets can be purchased at the Box Office just before curtain or online at [westfieldplayhouse.org/showstickets](http://westfieldplayhouse.org/showstickets). The show runs through Feb. 16.

Director Lori Raffel has assembled a talented cast composed of stage veterans, local favorites, and new faces. Lori is also excited to announce that the playwright, Tommy Lee Johnston, will travel from Chicago and attend the show opening weekend!

Catch *Geezers* at the Basile Westfield Playhouse, 220 N. Union St. in the heart of downtown Westfield. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday shows begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. The theater opens one hour prior to curtain, and concessions will be available for purchase before curtain and during intermission.

## VB From Page A1

their social media platforms. The couple's New York Times-praised podcast "Couple Things," and their media network FamilyMade, provide resources, live events, and encouragement for families at all stages of life. Most recently, Shawn returned to the Olympics as a commentator for Yahoo Sports, continuing to inspire others through her journey both on and off the mat. PVF will announce the event's other celebrity co-host soon.

The voice of the fans will be heard! Fan voting for the rosters of the inaugural All-Star Match is now open. Fan voting will take place over the next two weeks and is open for all fans and followers of the PVF.

Fans can make multiple selections for the

teams, with the final rosters containing 12 players per team. Fans visiting ProVolleyball.com/vote will have the chance to select two players per position. The votes will be grouped among outside hitters, opposite hitters, middle blockers, liberos and setters, with fans being able to select two players per position. Every player on every team's roster is eligible and the top voters will earn automatic inclusion on the 2025 PVF All-Star rosters. Additional players will be selected by the coaches and the league office. All-Star Voting is powered by WIT, the leading digital fan activation platform for over 100 professional teams and league offices across North America, including several members of Pro Volleyball Federation.

*The Times of Noblesville presents...*

*Hosted by Dick Wolfsie*

March 18 - 24, 2025

# Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

For more information contact Collette

1-800-581-8942

Please refer to booking #1232517

**NOBLESVILLE BABE RUTH BASEBALL**

*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.

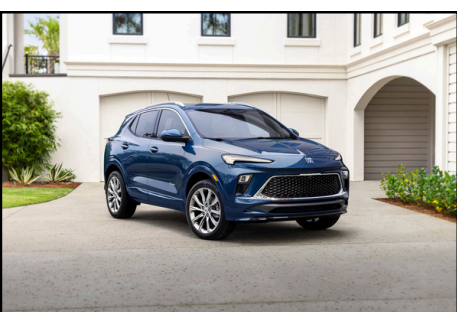
Team/Player photos will be taken at the Pancake Breakfast. Additional tickets for the League Pancake Breakfast will be available at the door for \$5 each.

**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](http://noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.sportsengine-prelive.com)

*Thank you for reading The Times!*

# 2025 Buick Encore GX Avenir Crossover Achieves The Trifecta Of Performance, Luxury, And Affordability



**CASEY WILLIAMS**  
Auto Reviews

It's not difficult to find a peppy turbocharged crossover. It's also not hard to find one that's affordable. And, there are a plethora of luxury models from all the fancy brands. However, it's not particularly easy to find all three in one package like the 2025 Buick Encore GX Avenir.

### Premium Buick Luxury

It actually shouldn't surprise you it comes from Buick. The premium GM brand has long been known for building cars with near Cadillac luxury for middle-class prices. The Encore GX Avenir is no different. It's smaller, sure, but much of the look and feel is shared with vehicles like the Cadillac XT4 and larger Buick Enclave. While built in Korea, there's a European flair to it as well.

Styling is based on the recent Wildcat concept car and it carries its auto show glitz with esprit.

Avenir trim, which is Buick's version of GMC's Denali, eschews trite tacked on portholes, but glams it up with a chrome mesh grille, 19" wheels, and roof rack. LED headlamps hide beneath squinty driving lamps while smoked lenses give the rear a sophisticated finish. It's a sculptural delight, looking fit on its tight footprint. Restyled red, blue, and white Buick logos shine like sculpted chrome ornaments at both ends.

The language of fresh luxury continues inside where the sweeping twin screens for gauges and infotainment appear as glass artwork rising from the contrasting color dash with faux stitching and plasti-carbon trim that have apparently replaced fake wood from Buicks past. Heated front seats, heated leather-wrapped steering wheel and dual-zone automatic climate control add comfort. Bose audio fills the cabin from devices connected via USBs, Apple CarPlay or Android Auto. Charge

wirelessly too. Active noise cancellation provides a Buick-quiet ride.

While the Encore GX feels quite upscale from the front seats, the second row is a little tight for full-size adults. Kids will love it, though. Cargo space would be snug with four people away for a week, but split/fold rear seats open a cavern for active college grads, young couples or empty nesters. Everybody stays safe with adaptive cruise, automatic emergency braking, and lane keep assist. Side blind zone alert, rear cross traffic detection, and a rearview camera mirror also do their parts.

### Peppy Turbo Performance

Tucked behind the flashy grin is a 1.3-liter turbocharged three-cylinder engine connected to a 9-speed automatic transmission. It's a peppy little sprite given 155 horsepower and 174 lb.-ft. of torque.

Add all-wheel-drive for all-weather capability. Fuel economy rates an acceptable 26/28-MPG city/highway, but digits starting with 3s should be expected. Chalk that up to a tall profile and AWD.

The turbo-three and 9-speed auto work together adeptly to stay in the right rev range for quick exits, but that's only part of the Encore's driving experience. It could use a proper four-wheel independent suspension to rival true luxury models, and adding magnetic ride control would be amazing, but there's little complaint about the compound crank rear suspension that soaks up all but the roughest pavement before doing a little jitter. It's perfectly pleasant during long-distance touring, eating Interstate for brunch, plus daily sprints to work or shopping.

With the Encore GX Avenir, you can get a stylish crossover that's athletic, luxurious, and

relatively affordable. In fact, the Encore GX starts at a seriously affordable \$25,940 and came to just \$37,085 optioned like a full-on luxury ride. Competitors include the Acura ZDX, Hyundai Kona, Nissan

Kicks, and Lexus NX.

*Storm Forward!*

Send comments to Casey at [AutoCasey@aol.com](mailto:AutoCasey@aol.com); follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

### Likes

- Gallant style
- Turbo engine
- Considerable luxuries

### Dislikes

- No sunroof
- Basic chassis
- Fuel economy

**2025 Buick Encore GX Avenir**  
Five-passenger, AWD Crossover

Powertrain: 1.3-liter T3, 9-spd trans

Output: 155hp/174 lb.-ft. torque

Suspension f/r: Ind/Compound crank

Wheels f/r: 19"/19" alloy

Brakes f/r: disc/disc

Fuel economy: 26/28 mpg city/hwy

Assembly: Bupyeong, Korea

Base/As-tested price: \$25,940/\$37,085

# Heights' Robotics Team Places in Top 5 in Ohio



Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Heights Middle School Robotics teams fared very well at Robotics Competition in Ohio.

Three of the Hamilton Heights Middle School Robotics teams qualified and competed in the finals at this year's Kalahari Classic VEX IQ Robotics Competition in Sandusky, Ohio in January. HHMS' top team, 214F, finished in 5th place (Royce Bowyer, Ryder Holt, Grayson Pickering, Linley Bryan). In addition, Team 214B (Mikko Kikta, Rylee Mellinger, Tommy Girolamo and JD Crask) won the Judges Award for their outstanding interview and effective communication skills while Team 214A (Wyndham Jung, Camden Millikan, Lilly

Higgins, Maddy Higgins, Levi VanAlstine and Reagan VanKirk) won the Build Award for the construction of their robot and for flawlessly documenting it in their engineering notebook.

Robotics club members from Hamilton Heights were among the hundreds of young bright minds from across the Midwest and beyond to compete for a chance to qualify for the world's largest international youth robotics event, VEX Worlds, set for April in Texas.

Tournament judges evaluate robotics teams based on how

their robots are designed, how they solve assigned problems, overall usability and the team's record of project management. In the interview phase, teams are evaluated on their explanation of the design process and strategy, teamwork, respect and professionalism along with feedback for improvement.

Teams, who are required to keep an engineering design notebook to explain their building process, advance in the competition based on their robot's performance and

professionalism.

The Kalahari Classic is set up similar to VEX Worlds to provide a fun, challenging, and high-level competition that draws elementary, middle, and high school teams from around the country. In addition, it qualifies two teams at each level for VEX Worlds — the tournament champions and winner of the excellence award. The tournament champions are whoever achieves the highest score, while judges determine the excellence award winners based on scores, interviews and their engineering design notebooks.

The Kalahari Classic is a VEX Robotics signature event that takes place annually at the Kalahari Convention Center in

Sandusky, Ohio. It is the second-largest youth robotics event in the United States.

Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words:

**Would You Like Fries With That?**

**The Noblesville Times is looking for clerical help. This could be the perfect job for part-time students all the way up to Baby Boomers looking for something to do.**

Basic data entry skills are required. Experience with QuickBooks is a bonus.

**E-mail [jobs@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:jobs@thetimes24-7.com)**

## Kroger Opens New Store in Fishers



Photo courtesy Kroger

**Mayor Scott Fadness (front row, far right) was on hand to help open the \$40 million investment.**

Kroger, the nation's leading grocery retailer, celebrated the grand opening of its highly anticipated new store in Fishers last week. The company invested nearly \$40 million to create a new shopping experience for Kroger customers in Hamilton County. This morning's ribbon-cutting at 7450 Fishers Station Drive marked the completion of a project that began last March.

The new Marketplace showcases the best of modern store design while preserving the traditions that make Kroger the preferred grocer of so many Hoosier families. Colleen Juergensen, President of Kroger Central Division, said, "This store shows our attention to the evolving needs of our local customers. Now, we can offer a wider selection of foods and features than were possible before. At the same time, everything we do revolves around three timeless principles -- fresh products, full shelves and friendly service. They're the foundation of everything we do."

Kroger continues to grow with the City of Fishers. The new Kroger Marketplace replaces what was the grocer's first store in Fishers, which opened in 1996 across the street from the new location. At 120,000 square feet, the new store is nearly twice the size of its predecessor. The expansion provides space for a Murray's Cheese shop, a Starbucks, a store-made popcorn café, even an apparel department. The aisles, too, are larger than the former Kroger across the street.

Mayor Scott Fadness helped to welcome the new store as an element of Fishers' work to refresh the busy western side of the city. "I'm excited to see the transformation of the Allisonville Road corridor continue with the opening of this new Kroger location," said Fadness. "Kroger is a great example of businesses that are joining us in our investment to refresh this vital corridor and western gateway to our city. The City is committed to continued investment to bring vibrancy that not only serves our residents, but also attracts visitors from neighboring communities to shop, dine, and recreate in Fishers."

The \$38 million devoted to the

new Fishers store and fuel center are part of \$56 million in investments Kroger made across Indiana in 2024. The grocer will continue such commitments in 2025, investing an additional \$25 million to further enhance the shopping experience for Kroger customers across the state this year.

The new store also boosted employment in the area, with 305 associates on its Kroger Marketplace team. Those associates, combined with their counterparts at two other Fishers Kroger stores, elevate the Kroger family to more than 800 people working in the city.

The opening also enabled Kroger to further its hunger relief commitment in central Indiana. The grocer presented a check for \$70,000 to Second Helpings. "Kroger's generous \$70,000 gift includes being the Presenting Sponsor of our Corks & Forks event on March 25, where they will offer a matching opportunity for attendees," said Second Helpings CEO Linda Broadfoot. "More importantly, this gift represents nearly 41,000 meals that Second Helpings can deliver in our community - many of them prepared with ingredients rescued from the 17 Kroger stores we pick up from regularly. Since our partnership began, Kroger has also donated more than 2.8 million pounds of food, making a real impact towards our shared goals of having less waste and less hunger in our community."

Kroger's donation to Second Helpings represents the latest boost to the Zero Hunger | Zero Waste plan, Kroger's commitment to eliminate hunger in the communities it serves. Since the plan's inception in 2017, Kroger has given more than \$1 billion to hunger relief services across the United States and 582 million pounds of surplus fresh food to help Americans in need. Through Kroger's partnerships, the Zero Hunger | Zero Waste plan has had a role in the delivery of more than 3 billion meals to serve struggling American families.

Work is under way now on a new Fishers fuel center at the Marketplace location. It is expected to open in the spring. No decisions have been made on the future of the former store across the street.

## Heights Senior Inks Tennis Deal at Johnson University



Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools / Jen Kauffman

**From left, Dad Adam, Kamden and Mom Susan.**

Kamden Colter, a senior at Hamilton Heights, has signed a letter of intent to play tennis for Johnson University in Knoxville, Tennessee this fall. Johnson University is a member of the Appalachia Athletic Conference and a National Christian College Athletic Association athletic institution. He is the son of Adam and Susan Colter.

For Colter, he was familiar with this private Christian college. "It was where my parents went and is an awesome campus," said Colter, a multi-sport student athlete (tennis, track & field) of his choice to continue his education and play tennis at the collegiate level. "I fell in love with tennis pretty quick and feel fortunate that I am good enough to take my game to the next level." A two-time team captain who earned four varsity letters, Colter plans to study music education with the goal of playing professionally and teaching private lessons.

Colter, who has been playing tennis for the past four years, honed his skills through participation as a member of Hamilton Heights boys tennis team, league play, many tournaments and daily practice. He credits his dad as

being a major influence in his development as a student athlete because he coaches and encourages him in practicing and being a better player each day.

"Kamden is a terrific athlete," said Coach Derek Ozolins. "He was a leader on and off the court that was willing to do whatever it took to help us succeed. Johnson University will be lucky to have him."

"Kamden has been a terrific role model as a student athlete at Hamilton Heights High School," added Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights Athletic Director. "His passion for the sport of tennis has been the catalyst that has provided this opportunity to play the sport he loves at the next level. We are very proud of him, and we wish him well at Johnson University."

Colter is a member of the Cicero Christian Church music group. He also works there giving music and tennis lessons. Colter, who said he always keeps God at the center of who his is and all he does, plans to continue to teach tennis and music lessons after college. "My success in sports, past and future, isn't for me but for Jesus," he added.

## Carmel Launches Transportation Survey

Carmel is looking for some valuable input. The City of Carmel has introduced a Transportation and Mobility Survey to better understand how people move around the city and help shape new potential transportation options.

In March of 2024, Carmel launched a Community Engagement Survey with results indicating that nearly two-thirds of the community desired better public transportation options.

In response to this component of the survey, city leaders engaged NineteenEleven Consulting, a firm specializing in community engagement for government agencies, to create a transportation-focused survey.

- How do you primarily travel

around Carmel and surrounding areas?

- How important do you think it is for Carmel to offer public transit service, even if you don't use it yourself?

These are just two of the questions covered in the survey, which takes about five minutes to complete online. Beginning now, through Friday, Feb. 21, city officials want to hear residents' thoughts on how they get around Carmel today and whether a public transportation option could improve the experience. Your confidential feedback will directly impact future planning decisions.

To access the survey, go to <https://publicinput.com/t48255>. It is also accessible in multiple languages, simply use the drop-down menu where indicated.

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