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TODAY'S VERSE

Nahum 1:7 The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him.

Hamilton Happenings

Hamilton Town Center's Family Spring Fling Carnival is going on now through Sunday. Family friendly activities include a wide range of rides, concessions, games with winnable prizes and so much more. Family friendly activities include a wide range of rides, concessions, games with winnable prizes and more. Pay One Price Wristbands are available for \$30 and include unlimited rides. All patrons under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Three Things You Should Know

- 1

The Hoosier Lottery has launched an America's Favorite Quiz Show "clue and response" lottery game featuring \$2 Jeopardy! Scratch-off and \$5 Jeopardy! Fast Play games. Players can win up to \$10,000 on the \$2 Jeopardy! Scratch-off and up to \$15,000 on the \$5 Jeopardy! Fast Play game. Estimated Overall Odds: \$2 Jeopardy! 1 in 4.30; \$5 Jeopardy! Fast Play Overall Odds 1 in 3.50.
- 2

NFIB's April jobs report found that 34 percent (seasonally adjusted) of small business owners reported job openings they could not fill in April, down six points from March, the lowest since January 2021. Overall, 56 percent of small business owners reported hiring or trying to hire in April, up three points from March. Eighty-five percent of those hiring or trying to hire reported few or no qualified applicants for the positions they were trying to fill. Twenty-eight percent of owners reported few qualified applicants for their open positions and 19% reported none. The percent of small business owners reporting labor quality as their top operating problem was unchanged from March at 19%.
- 3

The ACLU of Indiana has filed a lawsuit against Gov. Mike Braun over provisions in the newly enacted budget bill, HEA 1001, that change how members of the Indiana University Board of Trustees are selected. Indiana law provides a method at every other Indiana public university for alumni to select a number of the members of each university's board of trustees. Prior to the change in the law alumni of IU had the ability to elect three trustee members. But now, with the changes, the alumni have no role whatsoever. The suit, filed in Monroe Circuit Court, states that these sections of HEA 1001 violate the Indiana Constitution because they are "special legislation."

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!

This is the one year anniversary of the May 2024 Solar Storms, or Gannon Storm (named in memory of physicist Jennifer Gannon). This was one of the most powerful storms recorded, and certainly the biggest in two decades (at least since the 2003 Halloween solar storm). Solar flares, storms and geomagnetic storms usually go by unnoticed by most of us. However, they have the ability to cause quite a disruption on our home. So let's take a look at them this week . . . by the numbers!

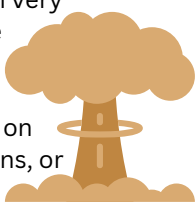
92,955,807

The number of miles from the earth to the sun. It's so far that it takes light more than eight minutes to travel the distance.



10,000,000,000

A solar flare is basically an eruption on the sun. They can range in size from very small to erupting with the force of 10 billion 1 megaton nuclear bombs. To put that in perspective, the bomb that fell on Hiroshima in 1945 had 15 kilotons, or approximately .015 megatons.



93,000

A solar flare can travel 93,000 miles above the sun's surface. They can also last for months at a time.

400+

space surrounding our planet. Our magnetosphere helps block solar and cosmic radiation. Man has been studying this for more than 400 years.

109-330,000

To understand how big the sun is, you would have to put 109 earths side by side by side to reach from one side of the sun to the other. In terms of mass though, the sun is 330,000 times bigger than the earth. (Fun fact – about 75 percent of the sun's mass is made up of hydrogen.



11 The sun or solar cycle lasts about 11 years. Scientists study changes in the star's activity and sunspots.

28 B.C.

That's when the first account of a sunspot was noted. It was observed by Chinese astronomers. (And if you want to know what a sunspot is, you just read it – a spot on the surface of the sun darker than the area around it.)

7,300

Doomsdayers worry that a solar storm could take out the 7,300 power plants in the U.S. Although this is possible, it is highly unlikely.

Grants Open (\$50K-\$500K) From IDEM

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management just announced the availability of grant funding for recycling projects from the Recycling Market Development Program. Eligible candidates may seek a grant ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000. Proposals are being accepted now through June 18.

Public and private businesses, local government, solid waste management districts, higher education institutions, and nonprofit organizations located and doing business in Indiana are eligible to submit proposals for funding. Proposals must show a need, an increase in recyclable material collection or utilization, a reduction in municipal solid waste shipped for final disposal, or improved partnerships with communities, including economic impacts and increased public awareness of recycling opportunities through tangible outreach and education efforts.

Projects should demonstrate sustainability and an understanding of the changing economy for recyclers and look at where monies can be used most effectively to increase statewide recycling.

Final funding determinations will be made this fall. To apply, visit idem.IN.gov/recycle/recycling-market-development-program/#grants. For additional information, please contact 800-988-7901 or RMDP.Grants@idem.IN.gov.

About IDEM: IDEM (idem.IN.gov) implements federal and state regulations regarding the environment. Through compliance assistance, incentive programs and educational outreach, the agency encourages and aids businesses and citizens to protect Hoosiers and the environment.

➡ See IDEM Page A3

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Getting up at the same time every day is very important to getting good sleep.

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"We journalists make it a point to know very little about an extremely wide variety of topics; this is how we stay objective."
Dave Barry

HONEST HOOSIER

How come the folks who have such problems with Donald Trump and all that he stands for don't have problems with politicians spending and wasting billions and billions of dollars, or leaving office as multi-millionaires?



TODAY'S JOKE

What did the boss worm say to the employee worm when he showed up late?
Where on Earth have you been?

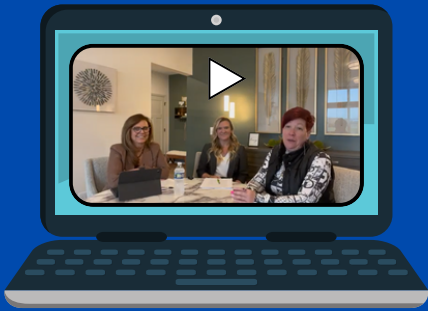
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WPD Promotes From Within



Billy Adams

The Westfield Police Department has promoted Captain Billy J. Adams to Assistant Chief of Administration, effective May 1, 2025. Adams steps into the role previously held by Assistant Chief Scott Jordan, who served in the position for more than 16 years.

“Change is difficult under any circumstance, but when you’re following in the footsteps of someone who has faithfully served the community for nearly 30 years, the challenge is even greater,” said Chief Shawn Keen. “The City of Westfield and our department are deeply grateful for Assistant Chief Jordan’s enduring dedication and leadership. We are also thankful to Assistant Chief Adams for stepping up to continue that legacy of excellence and integrity.”

Adams brings more than 17 years of experience with the Westfield Police Department to his new assignment, having served in various roles including patrolman, patrol sergeant, patrol lieutenant, and public

information officer, among other roles. He holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Saint Leo University and is a graduate of the Police Executive Leadership Academy, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Leadership Academy, and the Hamilton County Leadership Academy. He is also scheduled to attend the FBI National Academy in the near future.

Before joining WPD, Adams served as an active-duty military police officer in the U.S. Army and spent more than three years with the Department of Defense’s police force.

“I am honored to step into the role of Assistant Chief of Police to continue serving Westfield,” said Assistant Chief Adams. “Westfield is a remarkable community, and I am committed to working alongside our dedicated officers and staff to continue providing exceptional service and building strong community relationships. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead as we strive to keep Westfield safe and welcoming for everyone.”

The captain position will remain vacant for now as WPD transitions to a police merit commission.

Friends of County Parks, Westfield Partner on Decorative Crosswalks

The Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc. is proud to announce an award of a \$50,000 Active People Healthy Hamilton County grant to the City of Westfield to kick off its Decorative Crosswalk Program. This initiative is designed to promote active transportation options, fostering safe walking and biking within the community.

“FHCCI is proud to partner with the City of Westfield by providing this grant to initiate the City’s Decorative Crosswalk Program. Crosswalks encourage residents to use walking or biking as a means of active transportation to get to destinations. This new project ideally meets the criteria of our APHHC grant,” said April Williams, Executive Director of FHCCI.

The APHHC initiative encourages residents to value and utilize local parks and recreational resources while encouraging healthy lifestyles. The program is supported by generous sponsors such as True Rx Health Strategists, who helped make the grant possible through their support of FHCCI’s ‘On Par for Parks’ Golf

Outing. “At True Rx, we’ve always believed that health is about more than medicine; it’s about the daily choices people make and the environments that support them. As a family owned, pharmacist-led company, we’ve seen firsthand how movement and community can shape well-being. The work of Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc. helps make neighborhoods safer and more welcoming for people to walk, bike, and spend time outdoors. We’re proud to support something that makes a real difference for the health of families here in Hamilton County.” Eric Barker, Chief Health Strategist Officer, True Rx Health Strategists

The 7th annual On Par for Parks golf outing will be held at The Sagamore Golf Club on September 22, 2025. Community members and organizations are invited and encouraged to become sponsors and support local parks by visiting the FHCCI website. <https://www.friendsofhamiltoncountyparks.org/onparforparks2025/>

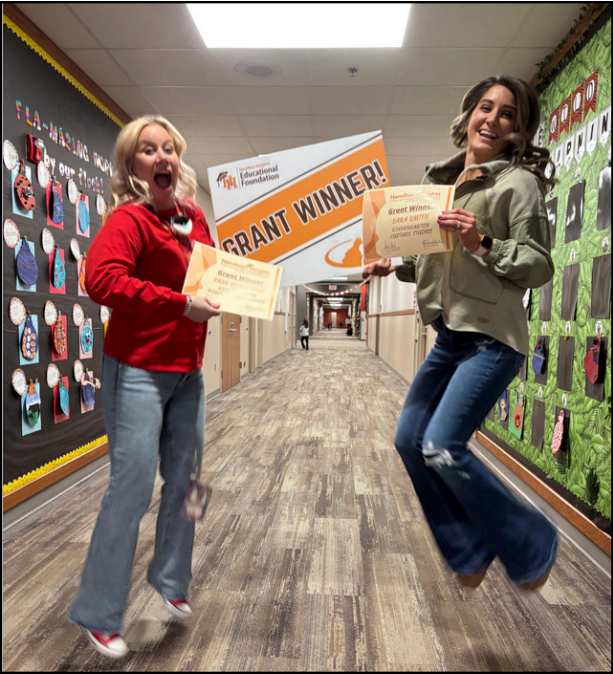


Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Everyone’s jumping to get in the HHEF Golf Outing! It’s scheduled for June 5 at Bear Slide.

Event Details:

Cost: \$125 per golfer (includes greens fee, cart, box lunch, two mulligans, and two drink tickets)

Lunch: Catered by Big Dog’s Smokehouse

Rain Date: Thursday, June 12

Registration: 9 a.m. | Shotgun Start: 10 a.m.

Special thanks to this year’s title sponsors: Beck’s Hybrids, Beaver Materials, and Blades Audio Video Security—whose generous support helps make this event possible.

Heights’ Golf Fundraiser June 5

Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation invites the community to its 36th Annual Golf Outing on Thursday, June 5 at Bear Slide Golf Course. Gather with friends, neighbors, and colleagues for a day of fun, networking, and friendly competition — all in support of the Foundation’s mission to enhance student achievement at Hamilton Heights.

opportunities. Over the years, the Foundation has reinvested thousands of dollars annually into student-centered projects and programs.

All contributions to HHEF are tax deductible, and 100 percent of the funds go directly to supporting students. Donations are accepted year-round to continue strengthening educational opportunities at Hamilton Heights. Register, sponsor, or learn more: bit.ly/hhef2025golfouting

Follow us: @hhedfoundation

As HHEF’s primary fundraiser, this long-standing event plays a vital role in providing grants to Hamilton Heights students and teachers, fueling innovation and impactful educational

Tat the Teacher!



Photo Courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

A celebration of growth—one tattoo at a time! To recognize student achievement in NWEA Reading and Math, Hamilton Heights Elementary School hosted Tat the Teacher, where second grade students earned a temporary tattoo for every point of growth. With an incredible 2,200 tattoos placed on teachers, this event turned progress into a fun and unforgettable moment! From left, Danita Mullins, Chelsea Kleyla, Kayla Tobias, Anna Adcock, Amy Waldron, Jody Boyd, Jennifer Tebbe, Ashley Mandery and Jenny Fleck.

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A Very Good Dog



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

The note from Marci was in Spanish, so I translated it to make sure I understood.

“Sorry to bother you, but I wanted to see if you could help us share this photo of a dog to see if anyone could adopt her. Her owner just passed away, and she was thrown out onto the street.”

The dog’s name was Muneca, which means “doll” in Spanish. Marci attached a photo of a dog with very long ears lying on the ground. Marci added, “She’s a very good dog.”

“That poor dog!” my husband, Peter, said.

Marci was the foster mother of our cat, Felix. Marci takes in stray animals and tries to find homes for them. She cared for Felix for two months before we adopted him. But Marci was caring for 12 dogs already. She did not have room for Muneca.

Peter and I didn’t know what we could do. We didn’t know anyone who could take a dog. So we did what people do when they want to get the word out—we posted a short story about this sad little dog on Facebook.

Immediately, lots of people put hearts next to her photo and wished her well. People shared the post. People asked me to keep them updated. Peter told a man who contacted him that Marci was an honorable and trustworthy person—and that Marci said that Muneca was a very good dog.

“I hope Muneca finds a home,” Peter said.

“I hope so, too,” I told him.

But, honestly, I was not hopeful. There are a lot of stray dogs in Mexico, and Muneca was no longer a puppy. We later learned that her owner was not an older person, as we assumed, but a young woman who died unexpectedly. The whole thing seemed terribly tragic.

The day after the post went up, I was taking my walk when my phone

made a sound. I never pay attention to my phone when I’m walking. But this time I did.

I stepped into a little shop and saw a message from Marci.

“I wanted to tell you that Muneca has already been adopted, in case you’d like to let anyone know. Thank you very much for your help.”

“Oh!” I said out loud. “That’s wonderful!” The man Peter had been messaging had adopted Muneca. Marci sent a photo of Muneca getting a bath and a video of the man walking her with his other dog. Both tails were wagging.

The young woman behind the counter of the shop looked at me curiously. “I am so happy,” I told her in Spanish. “I helped a dog to find a home. Her owner died, and she was on the street!”

“Oh!” the young woman replied in Spanish, “You mean Muneca?” She had seen the post on Facebook.

I was amazed. “Muneca is a famous dog!” I said. The girl laughed. She was happy this dog she had never met had found her new home. And so was I.

Social media is filled with a lot of hate and arguing and pointless posturing. I don’t blame people who choose to ignore it entirely. But I don’t think Facebook is a bad thing. Like most things, it all depends on how it is used. I reported that Muneca had found a home, and a whole lot of strangers were happy and relieved.

And I thought of what a funny world we live in—where there is so much hate and distrust, and where strangers can come together and find a home for a very good dog.

Till next time,
Carrie

Wolfsie Has a Major Photo Bomb



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

I got a new iPhone. It has a lot of new features which are wasted on me because I am a meat-and-potatoes kind of guy, so I don’t need a lot of bells and whistles.

However, the camera does have some neat photography enhancements, which I was particularly interested in, as we were going to Iceland and I wanted to bring home more than just a bad cold. As you will see, I don’t have an eye for photography, but I do have a foot for it.

I was sitting on the couch, my legs propped up on the coffee table, snapping photos and learning how to switch between landscape mode, portrait mode, night mode, slow-motion mode, and, for pastry fans, pie à la mode.

To test the camera’s precision and light sensitivity, I took a photo of the TV screen I was watching. But because I am a lousy photographer, it ended up as a photo of both my legs and feet. So, I deleted it. I thought.

After completing my self-tutorial, I went to Facebook to check on a few friends, and there was the photo I had just taken. How did it get there? What did I click? I had no idea. As perplexed as I was, I didn’t panic. There was nothing lascivious about the picture. Unless you have a thing for feet. I was innocent of any indiscretion. I was also confident that, even with my limited technical prowess, it would be easy to delete a photo on Facebook, but in this case, I discovered that I had inadvertently created a video for Instagram, called a reel. I could see my feet twitching.

Before I could respond to the problem, our friends Bob and Cathy called me. They saw the photo on Facebook and wondered why I was wearing white socks before Easter. Bob wanted to know

how many of my little piggies went to the market, and how many went to Instagram.

This is not my first goof online. Years ago, when I was testing my acumen with Twitter, I sent a message to myself with just my name to see if I was doing everything correctly. I also accidentally sent it to about 500 Facebook friends.

I got some irritating responses:

Bad column. No plot development.

It’s always about you, isn’t it?

Rotten story, hated the main character.

Dick, I used your name for a week instead of mine. You can have it back.

I tried and tried to delete the photo of my legs and feet, but I must have been doing something wrong because it wouldn’t go away. In the meantime, I had 50 likes, then 85, then 120. This yielded more responses than I had ever received for my weekly column.

Once again, I got annoying comments:

In a contest for the worst photographer in the world, you’re a shoe-in.

I usually get a kick out of your stuff, but this is ridiculous.

As they say in show biz: “Break a leg.”

And my favorite: “This photo stinks in more ways than one.”

Finally, the photo magically disappeared. I was tired of all the stupid leg and foot jokes, so I was happy the reel was finally amputated. I mean deleted.

– 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.

Carmel Announces Inaugural EidFest

The City of Carmel will host its first-ever EidFest on Saturday, May 31 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Civic Square. EidFest promises to be a vibrant event of culture and community celebrating the rich tapestry of Muslim heritage from around the world.

This event is free and open to the public. Activities include cultural performances, the art of henna, delicious cuisine from local restaurants, and opportunities to expand professional networks and connections with local businesses.

Our community members organizing EidFest represent more than 15 countries from around the world including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Guinea, Iraq, Libya and more and are excited to share their food, traditions and joy.

"EidFest is more than a celebration," said Ashhar Madni, Member of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Human



Relations, "it's about building bridges among cultures, a chance to come together as neighbors and a testament to the strength we find in diversity. We're proud to share our heritage and traditions with the Carmel community."

Eid-al-Fitr, one of two major Muslim holidays, commemorates the end of the holy month of Ramadan. This year, Ramadan began on February 28 and concluded on March 29. The second major Muslim holiday, Eid-al-Adha, honors the spirit of sacrifice and is observed later in the year—this year, it is projected to fall on Friday, June 6. The EidFest celebration, in partnership with the City of Carmel, highlights the diversity of our community.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Public Hearing of the Board of Commissioners of Hamilton County To Enter Into A Public-Private BOT Agreement Pursuant to Indiana Code 5-23

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Hamilton County, Indiana (the "Board of Commissioners"), will conduct a public hearing on May 27, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., local time, in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Courthouse, located at 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, IN 46060, to review the proposal and agreement for the construction, equipping, operation, maintenance, and transfer to Hamilton County, Indiana (the "County"), of a new building to be used by the County to provide safe transitional housing and recovery options for victims of domestic violence (collectively, the "Project") pursuant to Indiana Code 5-23. The purpose of the hearing is to hear the recommendation to members of the Board of Commissioners in order to make an award of a public-private agreement for the Project submitted by HC Shelter, L.L.C. The address and telephone number of the Board of Commissioners is 1 Hamilton County Square, Suite 157, Noblesville, IN 46060, telephone number 317-776-8493. This hearing is open to the public. The proposal for the Project and an explanation of the basis upon which the recommendation is being made are available for public inspection and copying at the office of the Board of Commissioners during regular business hours.

/s/ Todd Clevenger, Auditor
Hamilton County, Indiana
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From Page A1

About the Recycling Market Development Program: The Recycling Market Development Program operates under the Recycling Market Development Board as established by IC 4-23-5.5. The grant money for the program comes from the Recycling Promotion and Assistance Fund, an account generated by a per-ton fee on solid waste disposed at Indiana landfills. The fund supports source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting to prevent solid waste from permanent disposal.

Foreign Exchange Program Seeking Host Families

Families across the U.S. have a unique opportunity to experience a new culture right in their own homes. ASSE International Student Exchange Programs, a non-profit public benefit organization, is currently seeking warm and welcoming host families to open their homes to international exchange students for the upcoming school year.

Hosting an exchange student is a life-changing experience for families that fosters cultural understanding, builds lifelong friendships, while enriching local communities. Students, aged 15-18 years, come

from over 60 countries around the world, including France, Japan, Italy, Denmark, Australia, Spain and many more. The students are carefully selected based on their academic performance, English proficiency, and personal character, and they are eager to become part of an American family, attend a local high school, and share their own traditions.

During their stay, ASSE exchange students immerse themselves in American culture by living with and becoming part of a

volunteer host family while attending a local high school. This experience allows them to improve their English skills, form lifelong friendships, and gain a deeper understanding of American life and values. In return, host families and communities benefit from the unique perspectives and cultural exchange that these students bring.

“Being a host family isn’t just about providing a place to stay; it’s about making a student from another country part of the family,” says Saphia Lesch, ASSE Regional Director. “Many host families find that the experience is just as

rewarding for them as it is for the student. The bonds formed often last a lifetime.” “Exchange students bring energy, curiosity, and fresh perspectives to their host families and communities. They attend local schools, participate in activities, and become a real family member.”

Host families provide a safe and supportive home, meals, and encouragement, while students come with their own spending money and health insurance, ensuring that hosting is a rewarding and enriching experience without financial

burden. Anyone with a warm and welcoming home can host an exchange student! Host families come in many forms, including married couples (with or without children), single parents, young professionals, empty-nesters, same-sex couples, and retirees.

ASSE also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a

school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

Families interested in hosting an exchange student or exploring study abroad opportunities are encouraged to learn more and apply by visiting www.host.asse.com or contacting Saphia Lesch at (800) 736-1760 / midwest@asse.com.

Thank you for reading
The Times!

A Trip Through California’s Redwoods and Along its Scenic Coastlines Proves the 2025 Subaru Forester Hybrid Only Gains in Capability and Comfort





CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

I pull off the highway and into an off-road park. My guide is motioning me to drive half-way up a steep, rutted dirt hill. I stop, wait for the signal, and gently tip into the throttle. As the all-wheel-drive system shifts power and finds its footing, I gently step further into the throttle. The vehicle scruffs and chomps, but climbs. The 2025 Subaru Forester Hybrid did all of that on street tires and without engaging its Dual Mode X-MODE traction system.

I’m outside of San Francisco, slaloming amongst the redwoods and strafing surf near Half Moon Bay. It’s been a long day of curvy roads and fast highways, but the Forester in its element. It may be a hybrid, but it’s still a Subaru.

Fresh off a redesign for 2025, the Forester

appears more refined with its wind-swept face wearing squinty headlamps, black fender cladding, taillamps across the liftgate, and floating rear roof. Get it in Hybrid-only Daybreak Blue paint.

Inside, a new digital gauge cluster can switch from an analog-style display to a widescreen with navigation. Subaru’s tablet-style infotainment screen remains for controlling dual-zone automatic climate control, navigation, and devices connected and charged wirelessly. Praise actual buttons and knobs for volume, tuning, and key climate functions.

Beyond screens, the Forester Hybrid comes standard with heated seats, power moonroof, power rear gate, and reclining rear seats. Animal-free StarTex upholstery is standard on Premium, Sport, and Limited trims. Touring editions retain traditional leather.

Safety is enhanced by adaptive cruise, automatic emergency braking, and lane keep assist. Blind spot warning and rear cross-path detection are standard.

Fashion show aside, this trip is about putting miles under the Forester. Suspension tuning is focused on comfort, so while the Forester is competent on curvy roads, it’s no WRX. That said, it eats gravel roads and rough city pavement for snack. This generation Forester was substantially improved for a calmer traveling.

It drives better than the gas version too.This hybrid combines a 2.5-liter horizontally-opposed four-cylinder engine with two-motor generator units incorporated into the continuously variable transmission. Torque-shifting all-wheel-drive is, of course, standard. Unlike competitive

models that are essentially front-drive crossovers with rear electric motors, the Forester has an actual driveshaft heading aft.

The hybrid powertrain delivers 194 total system horsepower - 14 more than gas models. Fuel economy rates 35/34-MPG city/highway, 10-mpg better in the city.

On-road, the hybrid acts like an electric turbocharger to smooth power where and when you need it. On paper, the it only has 14-hp more than gas-only versions, but electric torque enhances acceleration, improves passing times, and keeps the transmission happy. Even when the engine shut down in “EV Mode”, I barely noticed.

Subaru owners love adventure, and they’ll get it with roof rails hold up to 700 lbs. of static weight – perfect for a tent. Engineers did have to claim spare tire space

for batteries, so there’s an inflator kit instead. Hope you don’t need that on the trail.

Which is where I began. The design brief was simple: Provide hybrid economy and performance without affecting the Forester’s cargo space or off-road capability. Virtually no Forester hybrid will be banging skid plates en-route to band practice, but it wouldn’t be a proper Subaru if it

couldn’t.

The Forester Hybrid starts at \$34,995 and ends around \$42,000 in Touring trim. While this one was built in Japan, all 2026 Foresters sold in the U.S. will be built in Lafayette, Indiana.

Storm Forward!

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

2025 Subaru Forester Hybrid

Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: 2.5-liter H4, hybrid
Output: 194hp
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 19”/19” alloy
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc
Fuel economy: 35/34 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Ota, Gunma, Japan
Base/As-tested price: \$35,000/42,000

It’s Motorcycle Awareness Month in Indiana

Governor Mike Braun has proclaimed May as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month in Indiana. This is in conjunction with a national campaign promoted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. As warmer weather arrives, more riders are taking to the streets after what is usually a several-month sabbatical during the winter. May presents the ideal time to remind motorists to look for motorcyclists, as well as offer tips for riders who have been inactive since last fall and could be a bit rusty.

Generally, Indiana records very few, if any, motorcyclist fatalities from November through April. With a mild winter and early spring, motorcyclists were out more than usual during those months over the last two years. Regrettably, we are again off to a tragic start with more than half a dozen fatalities prior to May. One of these was a

right-of-way crash that claimed the life of the rider and his passenger..

These are not merely numbers, they are human lives. These losses have tremendous ripple effects throughout their communities. We are talking about fathers, sons, mothers, daughters, friends, relatives, and co-workers. Crashes know no barriers and cross all gender, religious, race, and socioeconomic categories. This is a “problem”, and one that we must all address collectively.

We all understand that sometimes things just happen. However, most motorcycle crashes are avoidable. Multiple-vehicle crashes where a motorist violates the rider’s right-of-way would not occur if drivers took the time to not only look but truly see motorcyclists. Single-vehicle crashes where the rider loses control are usually the result of the operator exceeding their limits. Knowing and riding within your limits is the responsibility of each motorcyclist.

Riders, especially new riders, who have not had the benefit of formal rider education, as well as those who are unlicensed or improperly licensed, continue to be over-represented in crashes. Enrolling in recognized rider training and being properly licensed and endorsed are steps that reduce the likelihood of being involved in a crash.

ABATE of Indiana urges riders to be properly licensed and trained, continually develop and practice their skills, and be prepared to react to motorists who fail to see them. ABATE also asks drivers to be conscious of motorcyclists in traffic, allow riders ample space, and share the road courteously with all road users.

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Photo courtesy NHS Alumni Association / Betsy Reason

Seven NHS seniors were given a total of \$21,000 in scholarships from the NHS Alumni Association last week.

The Noblesville High School Alumni Association has been in existence for more than a century. Among its many achievements and celebrations are scholarships. This year, the organization was proud to award seven NHS Seniors scholarships in a total amount of \$21,000 – a record amount according to Past-President Karen

Pryor who handled the presentations for the organization.

In order to be eligible for a scholarship, students must have had a relative graduate from NHS.

This year’s recipients are Emmerson Dougherty, Addison Emmerson, Gracelyn Kinnamon, Atley Pittman, Mallory Stewart, Jack Strong and Isabella Wyatt.

These outstanding seniors have demonstrated high academic achievement with strong GPAs. They also engaged in numerous school and community activities. And they consistently displayed exemplary character, establishing themselves as respected and well-rounded students and individuals.

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 MAYOR’S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Monday, May 12, 2025
5:00 p.m., in the CPD Training Room.

CARMEL POLICE MERIT BOARD
Executive Meeting
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025, 4:00 P.M.
TRAINING ROOM/POLICE HEADQUARTERS/THREE CIVIC SQUARE
CARMEL, INDIANA
Agenda
1. NEW BUSINESS
Receiving Hiring Information
2. ADJOURNMENT

CARMEL POLICE MERIT BOARD
Regular Meeting
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025, 4:10 P.M. OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION - WHICHEVER IS LATER
TRAINING ROOM/POLICE HEADQUARTERS/THREE CIVIC SQUARE
CARMEL, INDIANA
Agenda
1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF MINUTES March 7, 2025 - Executive Session
March 7, 2025 - Special Session
2. RECOGNITION OF PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE POLICE MERIT BOARD
3. OLD BUSINESS
4. NEW BUSINESS
Hiring New Police Officers
Recognition by Merit Board
Signing the approved minutes.
5. OTHER BUSINESS
6. EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS
7. ADJOURNMENT

HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
One Hamilton County Square, Suite 13
Noblesville, Indiana 46060
DATE: Wednesday, May 28, 2025
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Hamilton County Commissioners’ Courtroom / County Council Chambers, First Floor, Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, Noblesville, Indiana
Agenda
1. Roll Call
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Communication/Reports:
4. Approval of Minutes – April 23, 2025
5. Old Business:
6. New Business
DOCKET NO. BZA-RV-0006-05-2025
A Development Standards Variance concerning Article 03, 4 of the Hamilton County Zoning Ordinance in order to: permit the reduction of the required minimum rear yard setback from 80’to 30’
Project Address: 23483 Newton Avenue
Noblesville, IN 46060
Parcel number(s): 07-07-02-00-00-007.001
Property is zoned: A-2
Size of property: 0.94 acres
Legal description: Acreage 0.94 Section 2, Township 19, Range 5
Owner: KGI Family Trust – Kevin Irion
7. Director’s Report:
8. Legal Counsel Report:
9. Next BZA Meeting - Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 7:00pm in the Hamilton County Commissioners’ Courtroom / County Council Chambers, First Floor, Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana
10. Adjournment

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Summer Favorites Return to Westfield

The City of Westfield is bringing a full line-up of summer events to Grand Junction Plaza (225 S. Union Street), offering fun activities for people of all ages. From outdoor fitness classes to hands-on nature programs and games on the lawn, there’s something for everyone to enjoy under the sun.

“Our city is fortunate to have a park and venue as fantastic as Grand Junction Plaza,” said Mayor Scott Willis. “My family and I are looking forward to getting out to enjoy the beautiful weather and support local businesses at our great events, and I hope yours will too.”

Due to State Road 32 construction, there are two easy ways to access Grand Junction Plaza; if coming from US-31, exit the Poplar Street/Shamrock Boulevard roundabout to the south and park at the temporary parking lot near Poplar and Park Streets. If accessing heading north, take South Union Street to Mill Street. Attendees are encouraged to review traffic flow updates regarding the 32 Connects project impacting travel on State Road 32 before planning their visit. For access to suggested detour routes, click [here](#).

Westfield Farmers Market, presented by Duke Energy
The City’s popular summer market is back and runs each Thursday through Sept. 4 (excluding July 3), and will feature local meat sellers, cheesemakers, and produce farmers, unique artisan vendors, food trucks, and fun for the entire family.

Creek Stomps
Beat the heat in the Grassy Branch Creek! All are invited to participate in this staff-led exploration opportunity on Thursdays from June 5 - July 31 (except July 3) from 10 – 11 a.m. where attendees will learn about watersheds, invasive species, ecosystems, and wildlife native to the area. All stompers will receive a small bucket and net to take home for further exploration.

An adaptive and accessible Creek Stomp experience, made possible by Colt Moving, will be available with water tables containing creek samples located near the creek for everyone to explore.

Space is limited so advanced registration is encouraged. Tickets are \$5 per person.

Jams at the Junction
The City’s premier outdoor concert series returns on June 6 with the upbeat sounds of Doogie Hazzard. All concerts begin at 7 p.m. Food trucks will be available, but attendees are also encouraged to grab carryout from any of our local restaurants near the park in an effort to Brave the Barricades.

A free parking shuttle

will be available from the Westfield Washington Public Library (17400 Westfield Blvd) to Grand Junction Plaza. Shuttle services will span from 6 - 9:30 p.m.

Jams at the Junction Schedule:

- June 6: Doogie Hazzard
- June 27: The 1985
- July 25: Groovesmash
- August 8: The Flying Toasters
- August 15: Fleetwood Gold

Kids Summer Series
The kids take over Grand Junction Plaza on Tuesday mornings. Every Tuesday in June and July (excluding July 1), kids of all ages are invited to the Plaza to dance and sing along with fun music, get their faces painted, play on the playscape, and more! The fun starts at 10 a.m. and is free for all!

Kids Summer Series Schedule:

- June 10: Mr. Mik – Jump for Joy
- June 17: Mr. Dan the Music Man
- June 24: TAG Art Dinosaurs
- July 8: Mr. Dan the Music Man
- July 15: Mr. Mik – Jump for Joy
- July 22: Magician Rusty Ammerman
- July 29: Mr. Mik – Jump for Joy

Movies in the Plaza
Bring lawn chairs, blankets, and your favorite takeout from a local restaurant or food truck to enjoy a movie under the stars! Gather your friends to watch a fun, family-friendly film on the Great Lawn at Grand Junction Plaza. Each screening begins promptly at 7:30 p.m.

Movies in the Plaza Schedule:

- May 28: Cars
- June 25: Moana 2
- July 30: Despicable Me 4
- August 27: Star Wars: The Force Awakens

Public parking is available in the parking lot at the southwest corner of Poplar Street and Park Street, and in designated on-street spots along Union Street and Mill Street.

Workout Wednesdays
The Westfield Parks & Recreation Department is teaming up with The Yoga Studio and Jazzercise for Workout Wednesdays on select Wednesdays throughout the summer. Open to participants ages 12 and up, these all-level fitness classes offer a fun and energizing way to get moving outdoors. Attendees can choose from two unique formats: Slow Flow Yoga with The Yoga Studio or Move to the Music with Jazzercise. Advanced registration is required.

Workout Wednesdays Schedule:

- June 11 at 8:30 a.m.
 - The Yoga Studio – Slow Flow Yoga program
- June 18 at 6 p.m.
 - The Yoga Studio – Slow Flow Yoga program
- June 25 at 8:30 a.m.
 - Jazzercise – Move to the Music program
- July 9 at 6 p.m.
 - Jazzercise – Move to the Music program

Wiffle Ball at the Plaza
Get ready to swing for the fences at Wiffle Ball at the Plaza, a series of free, family-friendly clinics hosted by the Westfield Parks & Recreation Department at Grand Junction Plaza on June 11, July 9, and July 23 from 10 - 11 a.m.

Perfect for all ages and skill levels, each session includes light stretching, basic skill-building, and a lively

game of wiffle ball on the Meadow Lawn Field—located just next to the playground. Whether you’re brand new to the sport or a seasoned backyard pro, this is a great way to stay active and have fun outdoors with the community.

Advance registration is free and encouraged.

Owl Pellet Dissection at the Plaza
Ever wonder what owls really eat? Find out at Owl Pellet Dissection at the Plaza, a hands-on educational program happening June 18 and July 16 from 10 - 11 a.m. at Grand Junction Plaza!

This unique event gives children ages 5 and older the opportunity to explore the fascinating world of barn owls through guided pellet dissections. Each participant will receive an owl pellet, gloves, and all necessary tools to examine real evidence of an owl’s diet.

This is a great interactive opportunity for families to learn about local wildlife and ecosystems. The program takes place indoors at the Pavilion building, located along Jersey Street at Grand Junction Plaza. Advanced registration is required. Tickets are \$5 per pellet.

State Bank Expands in Lapel

State Bank announced its acquisition of a new banking center in Lapel. State Bank’s investment in Lapel includes renovation of an historic building, now used for the Town Hall, into a full-service banking center. The new location in Lapel will meet the community’s local needs while complimenting the Bank’s strategic plan to further invest along the I-69 corridor.

“In the over 50 years I resided in Madison County, Lapel has never had a brighter future than what lies in front of it right now,” State Bank CEO Mike Baker said. “Our bank and its leaders are thrilled to partner with Lapel and its proud people to deliver locally based decisions through local bankers, committed to outstanding, personalized service with second to none digital products.”

“This is part of the Bank’s larger plan to build on the positive momentum already happening in Lapel and the surrounding area,” Matt Price,

President of State Bank said. “ Our investment will go beyond bricks and mortar and include investment in local people and organizations. We believe there is no substitute for locally based bankers, empowered to make decisions and equipped to serve customers, with an unrivaled digital platform.”

The acquisition will launch a new partnership with the Town of Lapel. “I’d especially like to thank the Bank for their commitment and willingness to be a genuine partner to our community,” Town Council President, Brian Robertson said. “On behalf of the Town of Lapel, I want to warmly welcome State Bank. We eagerly anticipate the opening of the new branch, further strengthening the fabric of the community.”

The new location is in the planning stages with the Bank’s design team and is expected to open in early 2026, subject to regulatory approval.

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.

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Councilman Mark Hall Shares Update on His Work



MARK HALL
Hamilton County Council

Welcome to the Timesheet. This column is a report of work done on behalf of the people of Hamilton County. It’s to be informative too, a place to learn about projects and how our county government works.

As your employee, it is important that you know what is being worked on as transparently as is possible in government. You hired me as your County Councilman, and my hope is that you will choose to be informed by regularly reading this column, getting involved, consider volunteering and by asking questions. Council meetings are at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center in downtown Noblesville. Meetings are also available to watch online for those unable to attend in person. Here is where my time this past month has been spent.

In addition to the County Council public meetings, April work included: a Board of Commissioners public meeting, a Regional Development Commission meeting, reviewing a Central Indiana Water planning meeting notes and watching a Noblesville Town Council meeting. The personnel committee met in person where we addressed salary reclassifications for prosecutors and job description changes for the Sheriff. The finance committee did not meet in April. The Insurance committee met where we reviewed an update on the performance of Riverview Clinics for County Employees.

This month I received nine constituent service requests and communications. One request was regarding the cleanliness of the County Sheriff’s vehicles. The constituent expressed concerns over how the cruisers looked and wanted to understand what the county did to wash the vehicles and keep them looking sharp. I did some investigating and looped the sheriff’s department in for questions and learned that the county doesn’t have a contract with any car wash service companies. Rather, we have a car wash bay that deputies, staff and command staff can use anytime to wash their county owned vehicles.

This was a purposeful decision rather than incur an estimated \$30K-\$50K annual cost for washing vehicles.

The second request was regarding the county property tax revenue annually and how much those figures have changed since 2022. The answer required some research, but the revenues were \$66MM, \$76MM and \$87MM in 2022, 2023, and 2024, respectively. The constituent was researching property tax revenue growth over these past few years.

The third request was concerning the sentencing of convicted criminals in Hamilton County Courts. How Hamilton County jurists sentence persons convicted of burglary and robbery against the state sentencing guidelines. This one is ongoing with research as I’ve communicated both with the prosecutor’s office as well as a Judge to better understand. To date, the research indicates that there are recommendations but no hard and fast guidelines. The constituent’s concern is that we have become too soft as a county and they feel as though the system is not punishing people, especially repeat offenders in line with the State of Indiana’s recommendations.

The fourth constituents’ inquiry had to do with their tax bill. This taxpayer experienced a substantial increase in their assessed valuation and wanted help to understand how it was arrived at and if it was accurate. Like most requests of this type, research with the assessor’s office is required and we discovered that in their situation the difference consisted of a new outbuilding and the increased value of a second outbuilding. I also encouraged the taxpayer to schedule time with the assessor’s office and go through their tax bill in detail asking for an explanation.

The balance of emails, messages and conversations were regarding the HCRUD (Hamilton County Regional Utility District) and its implication on Jackson Township. This included questions about the new development being considered in Jackson Township, reorganization and included comments expressing support for and opposition to the Utility district in general.

Noteworthy items from April include working with Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt and the

County Attorney, to look for ways to help offset the costs of testing to opt out of connection with the sewer if required. Also, meetings with Chief Mann and Deputy Chief Whitesell to get an update on constituent’s crime concerns.

The most noteworthy topic from April continues to be Property Tax reform. To be clear we need property tax reform. Potential changes in revenue require purposeful planning. For now, until we understand the final impact on Hamilton County, my position remains to pull back on long-term spending commitments that have not already been funded. Early in May I will be briefed in detail as to the expected impact on the county’s 2026, 2027 and 2028 budgets.

It was an honor to represent you this month at The Invest Hamilton County: Child Care Action Investment Kickoff meeting, at the National 911 Dispatchers Week celebration, at the Hamilton County 4-H Expo Building Renovation Sneak Peak Event and at the “Role of Indiana’s Leaders in ending hunger”, film screening and conversation.

This is my time sheet. This is where my time went during April 2025. While my job is primarily the financial oversight of the county budget, it is important that I understand the Board of Commissioners’ priorities and balance them with the stewardship of taxpayer dollars. That is the job, and I am excited to do the people’s business.

As a taxpayer myself, and listening to so many of you, our employers, it is important for the taxpayers to have access to all the information you want. I work for you and although you may not choose to do a deep dive into what your County Council does, it is important that you can always do so. Feel free to contact me at (317) 832-1104 or mark.hall@hamiltoncounty.in.gov with questions, feedback or if you would like to talk about county business.

Mark Hall is a Hamilton County Councilman and the Founder and CEO of TLX, Talent Logistix. He writes a monthly column in The Times detailing his work as a county councilman.



Photos courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Education beyond the classroom—Hamilton Heights High School CTE students step up to show what it takes to thrive in construction and engineering fields.

Heights Students Do More Than Play in Sandbox

The energy was high at Hamilton Heights School Corporation’s Sandbox recently as students in the Construction Trades Education (CTE) program stepped into the spotlight. The hands-on outdoor learning space, designed to provide students with real-world experience using heavy equipment, served as the perfect stage for an impressive demonstration of their technical skills, industry knowledge, and future career potential.

The event was more than just a showcase—it was an educational opportunity for teachers from other subjects to gain insight into the trades pathway and the dedication it takes to excel in this field. Through live demonstrations, students illustrated the complexities of operating heavy machinery, the precision required for construction work, and the valuable certifications they can earn during high school—all under the expert guidance of CTE instructor Kevin Sheets.

Senior Kendall Flanders enjoyed sharing his knowledge with other teachers to help them better understand what takes place in the Civil Engineering class.

For Ethan Miller, a sophomore, it was an opportunity to show his excellent hands-on skills at running equipment and to demonstrate how he is excelling in this area.

“Programs like this one are important to offer to make sure we are giving HHHS students the opportunity to prepare for a successful future career,” said Lori Hippensteel, Media Center Specialist. “The HHHS trades program offers students the opportunity to learn skills needed in the workplace and earn licensures and certifications that can be immediately used in the workplace.”

“Education is about watching students smile and enjoy being outside the traditional building, learning and growing in a trade,” Hippensteel continued. “We want them to find something they love and find a way to apply that love to their future career.”

“Working in The Sandbox was such a great PLC for all of us as



The hands-on learning experience is designed to provide students with real-world experience using heavy equipment.

teachers,” said Kelly Smith, Academic Intervention Teacher. “Not only was it a cool and unique experience, but it gave us all a chance to see some of the amazing things that come out of Kevin's program. It is really exciting to see the kids who may not be as into the academic side of school learn skills and trades that are going to set them up for life! I loved having students from the program show me flawlessly how to run machinery with effortless ease and seeing them get a chance to shine!”

“It was a great experience,” added Whitney Gray, HHHS Principal. “Fun for our staff to see what our kids in the construction pathway get to experience. Several students gave up their time teaching us how to operate these machines, and that was the coolest part. They were excited to share what they had learned, and they did a great job teaching!”

“I think this was important to show the teachers that may not be familiar with the program or did not know what they were actually doing out there how much actually goes into running a piece of heavy equipment,” explained Chris Wooldridge, who works for Bobcat of Indy and is a familiar face and resource for Heights’ CTE students. “Some people (not just teachers, but anyone) may think they are just taking the class to go and play with skid steers, but in reality they are getting tools that could easily land them a very good paying job straight out of school. We at Berry Companies and Bobcat of Indy are happy to invest in our

local communities with programs like this where we can be of assistance.”

“The whole afternoon showed our staff how the trades play a part in our overall curriculum,” said Kevin Sheets, who loved seeing how many educators attended this special event. “For some of the educators, it was their first time at the Sandbox, and they were blown away by what they saw the students do. Former Heights CTE teacher, Eric Fisher, now the Director of Talent Development for Indiana Constructors Inc., was also on hand to support the effort and build a story for his platform. It was a great day!”

By bridging classroom education with career-oriented training, the program empowers students with practical experience that translates directly into workforce readiness. Wednesday’s showcase reinforced the importance of skilled trades and celebrated the students' achievements, leaving educators with a deeper appreciation for the impact of CTE career pathway at Heights.

Hamilton Heights continues to lead the way in preparing students for future success, ensuring that hands-on programs like this one remain a cornerstone of their educational mission.

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