

■ TODAY’S VERSE

Isaiah 55:12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

■ ADOPT A PET Ellie Mae

Ellie Mae is looking for a home full of bird watching, cat naps, and an occasional cuddle! Ellie Mae is a 9-year-old female Domestic Short-hair who has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 5/11/24. She’s a little shy, but once she’s out of her shell, Ellie Mae is an affectionate and playful cat with a goofy personality. If you think this sweet girl might like to meet you, visit her anytime Monday-Tuesday or Thursday-Sunday from 12-5 PM. To meet Ellie Mae, please fill out an adoption application at [hamiltonhumane.com/adopt](https://hamiltonhumane.com/adopt).



Went to buy a birthday card the other day for a friend and realized the price of the card is about what I was going to spend on the present!



# The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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## BY THE NUMBERS

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 look at the month of June.

This week, we’re diving into one of the specific holidays for June – Juneteenth. Some people are still unclear on all the details of this relatively new / old holiday. So today, we take a look at Juneteenth . . . by the numbers.

## Annexed Land Makes Fishers 4th Largest City in state

The City of Fishers completed the annexation of 960 parcels in southeastern Hamilton County last week. The annexation represents approximately 3,000 residents, making Fishers the fourth largest city in Indiana, according to the latest population estimates published by Census.gov. Page 4.

The annexation process began in June 2024, with the Fishers City Council affirming the annexation unanimously in January 2025.

“It’s exciting to fulfill this component of our long-range annexation plans and officially welcome our newest Fishers residents to our community,” said Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness. “We look forward to serving this area and bringing efficient delivery of services and a high quality of life for thousands of residents who call southeastern Fishers home.”

The annexation includes the area bounded roughly by 113th Street to the north, the Hamilton-Madison-Hancock County lines to the east, the Rossana Village subdivision and parcels west to Flat Fork Creek Park on the southern border, and Cynthiae Road, Luxhaven subdivision, and Geist Park on the western border.

This area was previously within an unincorporated portion of Hamilton County, where Fishers already had zoning jurisdiction, provided sanitary sewer service, and provided Fire and EMS services to residents via a contract with Fall Creek Township. The timeline for transition to City services for the annexed area is as follows:

### Services already provided to the annexed area:

- **Utilities:** Sanitary Sewer
- **Fishers Fire Department:** Emergency Dispatch Response
- **Planning & Zoning:** Zoning & Permitting in Annexed Area, County Sign-Off No Longer Needed
- **Beginning June 1, 2025:**
- **Fishers Parks:** Programming & Facility Discounts
- **Fishers Health Department:** Access to Resident Services, Public Health Support
- **Engineering:** Roads, Bridges, & Sidewalks Incorporated into City Inventory for maintenance and Capital Improvement Planning
- **Fishers Police Department:** Emergency Dispatch Response, Patrol

### Fall 2025

- **Public Works:** Snow Removal, Road Maintenance (e.g. Pothole/Road Repair), Right of Way Maintenance (e.g. Fallen Tree, Dead Animal Removal)

### Beginning Jan. 1, 2026:

- **City Wide Trash Service:** Republic Services Trash & Recycling Services
  - **Utilities:** Fishers Stormwater Utility Services
- For more information on the annexation, visit [fishersin.gov/annexation](https://fishersin.gov/annexation).

### 6-19-1865

That is the date when a general in Texas declared an end to slavery by ordering that the Emancipation Proclamation be enforced in the state of Texas. This came just months after the end of the Civil War and almost half a year after Congress had started putting in place the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery nationally.

### 900

June 19, 1865, was exactly 900 days after the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect, 71 days after Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered and 24 days after the Confederate Military Department disbanded. (Thank you, Wikipedia!)

### 8th

The 8th annual Indy Juneteenth celebration takes place on Saturday, June 21 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.



Freepik

### 6-17-2021

That’s the date Juneteenth was officially made a federal holiday.

### 46-117

Joe Biden was the 46th president and worked with the 117th Congress to get the holiday passed.

## 5

Juneteenth is one of five federal holidays that are tied to a specific date. Can you name the other four? We’ll give you a second ...

OK, time’s up. They are:

New Year’s Day

**JAN. 1**

Independence Day

**JULY 4**

Veterans Day

**NOV. 11**

Christmas

**DEC. 25**

Good job! (We knew you knew them!)

### ■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**1.** Attorney General Todd Rokita along with Arkansas, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio and Texas won a court ruling permanently barring robocall scammer John Spiller from operating in the telecommunications industry and ordering him to pay more than \$600,000 in costs and attorneys’ fees for violating a 2023 court order. Spiller owned and operated several voice service providers that initiated and facilitated billions of robocalls, including to people whose numbers were on the Do Not Call Registry. Since January of 2021, Attorney General Rokita’s office has secured over \$200 Million in penalties against illegal and annoying robocallers.

**2.** Life insurance firm Beca Life has analyzed 2023 and 2024 data on annual personal income and the average monthly spend on healthcare. What they found is that in Indiana, a person’s average monthly income is \$5,317 and on average a resident spends \$1,040 on healthcare each month. This means 19.6% of a person’s income goes on healthcare costs every month. That doesn’t compare well to mountain states where residents pay a little above 10 percent. The worst state? West Virginia at 25 percent.

**3.** Does anyone hitchhike anymore, or is that a thing from the ‘70s? Apparently so because our friends at CashforCars.com, a nationwide vehicle-buying service, set out to find where that generosity still thrives. Which cities and towns are the most welcoming to those sticking out a thumb? The results, while offering a little nostalgia for simpler times, showed that Indiana had just one location included among the ranking – Ft. Wayne. Tops in the country? Cheyenne, Wyo.; Waco, Texas; and Fargo, N.D.

### Hamilton Happenings

New this year, Noblesville Schools is offering a free summer lunch program for all children in the Noblesville community under the age of 18. No registration is needed — just show up! Meals must be enjoyed on site. June 9 – July 17 Monday through Thursday 11:30 a.m. to noon Stony Creek Elementary School (1350 Greenfield Pike) <https://www.noblesvilleschools.org/departments/food-services/p-ebt-information>

### ■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

“No man stands taller than when he stoops to help a child.”

— Abraham Lincoln

### ■ JOKE OF THE DAY

In honor of Father’s Day this weekend, we share some “dad jokes.” Why don’t eggs tell jokes? Because they might crack up.





54 N. 9th St. Noblesville IN 46060  
**Main:** 317-773-9960  
thetimes24-7.com

# Westfield Schools Welcome New Assistant Principal

Jennifer Hunt has joined the Westfield Washington School system as the new Assistant Principal at Westfield Intermediate School.



Jennifer Hunt

Counselor Association in 2015. Her leadership credentials include a Principal License from Indiana Wesleyan University (2016), an Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree from Indiana State University (2022), and she is currently completing her Doctor of Education degree at Indiana Wesleyan University-National & Global, with an expected completion date in August 2025.

Hunt brings a wealth of experience, having dedicated 27 years to LaPorte High School, where she served in various educational and leadership roles. With a deep commitment to student growth and staff collaboration, she is excited to join the Westfield Intermediate team and contribute to a thriving learning environment focused on academic excellence, wellness, and career readiness.

Hunt’s educational background is both extensive and impressive. She holds a B.S. in Secondary Education (with a focus on English and Journalism) from Indiana University Bloomington and an M.S. in Education Counseling/Human Services from Indiana University South Bend. She also earned a Counselor Leadership Specialist Certification through the American School

Beyond her professional achievements, Jennifer values faith, family, and connection. She has been married to Dr. Greg Hunt for 21 years and is the proud mother of two daughters—Emily (18) and Kate (13).

“We are excited to welcome Jennifer Hunt to Westfield Intermediate School,” said Annette Patchett, Principal of Westfield Intermediate School. “Her extensive experience, dedication to student success, and lifelong commitment to learning make her an incredible addition to our team and the entire WWS community.”

# Community First Bank Earns Prestigious Honor

Community First Bank of Indiana is proud to announce that it has been named a recipient of the Indiana Bankers Association’s Commitment to Community C2C Award, a prestigious recognition celebrating outstanding community service and outreach by Indiana banks. CFB won in the category of banks with assets between \$750 million and \$3 billion.

The C2C Award, presented at the IBA Mega Conference on May 29, honors banks that demonstrate exceptional dedication to improving the lives of Hoosiers through meaningful service initiatives. This year’s award recognizes community service efforts performed during the 2024 calendar year, including ongoing projects that originated in prior years.

“We’re incredibly proud to receive the IBA’s Commitment to Community Award,” said Lainey Schroer, Vice President, Director of Marketing.



Community First Bank CEO Robb Blume accepts the Commitment to Community Award from Indiana Bankers Association CEO Amber Van Til. Photo courtesy Community First Bank of Indiana

“This award is meaningful to us because it reflects the heart of who we are—people who care deeply about serving our neighbors, supporting local causes, and investing in the well-being of the communities we call home.”

In 2024, Community First Bank deepened its

commitment to community impact by donating over \$174,000, collaborating with more than 100 nonprofits, and launching a nonprofit learning series to build long-term capacity for local leaders. With 71% of employees volunteering over 2,000 hours, CFB’s approach blends financial support, strategic partner-

ships, and hands-on service to meet the evolving needs of the communities it serves.

Community First Bank was selected by a panel of independent judges who evaluated nominees based on the impact, innovation, and sustainability of their community service programs.

## ■ GET ON BOARD WITH MILLER AMBASSADORS



The Miller Ambassadors program is an engaging, year-long learning experience for select Noblesville community leaders and school district parents to enjoy a deeper understanding of Noblesville Schools. Applications are open now for the 2025-2026 class! Learn more about the program, including a list of Ambassador graduates and apply (specific program dates and times included) by June 30 at <https://www.noblesvilleschools.org/>.

### The Times

Vol. 121 | Issue 65

Sen. Phil Boots, President  
Tim Timmons, Publisher  
**USPS Publication Number:** 391140  
**Annual Print Subscription:** \$89  
**Annual Online Subscription:** \$42  
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# Fishers Breaks Ground for Final Phase of \$750M Entertainment District

Mayor Scott Fadness, Fishers City Councilmembers and Thompson Thrift, a full-service real estate company, held a groundbreaking ceremony for The Union at Fishers District, the final phase of the master-planned development near Interstate-69 and 116th Street.

“The Union at Fishers District is a shining example of how thoughtful development can enhance innovation and an exceptional quality of life,” said Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness. “From modern workspaces and elevated living to exceptional dining and entertainment, The Union will enrich our community and create lasting experiences for residents and visitors alike. We are proud to see this final phase come to life in the heart of our city’s entertainment district.”

The Union at Fishers District will feature 57,000 square feet of retail, restaurant and entertainment space, 70,000 square feet of Class A office space, and The Union Flats, a 251 unit modern residential community.

The Union will be home to a variety of entertainment and lifestyle tenants, including:

- A 135-room AC Hotel

by Marriott

- Everbowl, a fast-casual eatery featuring smoothies and acai bowls
- Racha Thai, an upscale Thai restaurant
- The Oakmont, a modern American cuisine restaurant
- Renova Aesthetics, a medical spa
- Sweathouz, a cold plunge and infrared sauna studio
- Niku Sushi.Kitchen. Bar, modern Japanese cuisine
- Kitchen Social, craft cocktails and global cuisine
- Piedra, Flavors of Mexico, an upscale modern Mexican restaurant

“The Union at Fishers District represents the culmination of years of thoughtful planning, innovation and collaboration across our entire team,” said Ashlee Boyd, managing partner of Thompson Thrift Commercial. “By combining premier office, residential, retail and hospitality components into a single, walkable destination, we’re delivering a vibrant community that meets the needs of today’s residents and businesses alike.”

During the event, visitors enjoyed project highlights, heard from Mayor Scott Fadness and Thompson Thrift team members, and gathered to witness the ceremonial groundbreaking. This was followed by networking and refreshments from sponsors and future tenants The Oakmont and Everbowl.

“Fishers District has been the launching ground for many signature culinary experiences, and we are thrilled that The Union will continue to elevate the local dining scene, creating a place where people can gather, share and savor something truly special,” said Ryan Menard, vice president of development at Thompson Thrift.

The residential portion of the development, The Union Flats, will be a modern, upscale residential community vertically integrated above ground-floor retail. Set to welcome residents in late 2026, the 251 apartment homes will feature upscale finishes and access to resort-style amenities such as a resort-style swimming pool, outdoor entertainment kitchen, community grilling areas and electric firepits with

seating areas. Other community amenities will include a fully equipped fitness center with 24-hour access, bike storage, focus suites, a dog park with agility equipment, a pet spa with grooming station and much more.

Inside the studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartment homes, residents will find many of the luxury touches Thompson Thrift communities are known for, including elegant quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, side-by-side refrigerator, a full-size washer and dryer, large walk-in closets and energy-efficient LED lighting.

Thompson Thrift began work on the Fishers District development in 2015 and received a Monumental Award from the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce in 2020 for the inaugural phase. Once completed, the \$750 million development will span 123 acres and offer an array of multifamily, hotel, office, dining, shopping and entertainment options connected by well-designed walking paths that allow residents and visitors to explore the master-planned development on foot.

## 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

### About the program

Founded in the 1930’s by the Swedish Ministry of Education, ASSE International Student Exchange Programs, a non-profit, public benefit organization, is a trusted name in Cultural Exchange. Through its mission to promote global understanding and goodwill, ASSE creates life-changing opportunities for young people and their host families to experience different cultures, learn new perspectives, and develop lifelong friendships.

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.

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](http://www.host.asse.com) or contacting Saphia Lesch at (800) 736-1760 / [midwest@asse.com](mailto:midwest@asse.com).



The ribbon was cut June 3 on the first phase of the new Moon Park. Photo courtesy City of Westfield

## Westfield Unveils Phase One of Simon Moon Park

Westfield’s Parks and Recreation Department celebrated the completion of phase one of the Simon Moon Park redevelopment with a ribbon-cutting ceremony last Tuesday. Mayor Scott Willis and Parks and Recreation Director Chris McConnell made remarks at the event.

“From the outset, our

goal for Simon Moon Park was to revitalize this space and transform it into a park that meets the needs of our growing community,” said Chris McConnell, Director of Westfield Parks and Recreation. “I’m proud of the progress we’ve made and excited for the additional phases and improve-

ments already under way.”

Phase one introduces several key upgrades to the park, including:

- A reshaped pond
- A new boardwalk and bridge
- A redesigned sledding hill
- An expanded and re-configured parking lot

Future improvements

will include a sledding pavilion, outdoor classroom, accessible playground, park shelters, and additional amenities designed to support year-round recreation, exploration, and learning.

To learn more about the Simon Moon Park expansion project, visit [westfieldin.gov/simonmoon-park](http://westfieldin.gov/simonmoon-park).

## Duke Dedicates \$200,000 to Help Hoosiers

Duke Energy Indiana is dedicating \$200,000 to its Share the Light Fund to support customers facing financial hardship this summer. The funding aims to help families and individuals manage their energy costs amid rising temperatures and higher energy use.

“The financial assistance we offer through the Share the Light Fund helps connect customers in need to resources to help pay their electric bills and stay cool through the summer,” said Stan Pingar, president of Duke Energy Indiana. “We appreciate our longtime partnership with statewide community action agencies who help identify cus-

tomers in need and distribute the funds.”

Duke Energy works with the Indiana Community Action Association to provide up to \$300 to qualifying customers to help pay energy bills, deposits and reconnection/connection charges. Individuals should contact their local community action agency to see if they are eligible. Visit [incap.org/energy-assistance](http://incap.org/energy-assistance) to find a listing of service providers by county.

“High seasonal energy bills can cause financial strain for families experiencing economic hardship,” said Ed Gerardot, executive director of the Indiana Community Action Agency. “With the

support of partners like Duke Energy, we’re extending a helping hand to people who are facing tough times by connecting them with resources to offset their expenses and increase their financial stability.”

Over the last five years, Duke Energy shareholders, its employees and voluntary contributions from customers have provided more than \$4 million in bill assistance through the Share the Light Fund, which has helped support nearly 15,000 Indiana households.

Duke Energy offers more than a dozen tools and resources to help customers take control of their ener-

gy use – and save money – while trying to stay cool. They include:

- Usage Alerts that send customers a notification of how much electricity they are using and its cost so they can make adjustments before their billing period ends
- Free Home Energy House Calls, where energy professionals assess a home for efficiency and provide homeowners with a toolkit of energy-saving devices
- Interest-free payment plans and due date extensions for customers needing flexibility

■ To learn more about these programs, visit [duke-energy.com/Here-ToHelp](http://duke-energy.com/Here-ToHelp).

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**BZA Public Notice**

This notice is to inform you of a Public Hearing that will be held by the Town of Sheridan Board of Zoning Appeals on June 19, 2025, 5:30 PM, at the Sheridan Community Center, 300 E. 6th Street, Sheridan. The hearing will discuss the following:

a. 25-V-04 : 37 Homestead Drive, Sheridan

The Petitioner requests Variance of Development Standard to modify minimum lot area from ten (10) acres to zero and sixty three (0.63) acres; minimum lot width from three hundred (300) acres to one hundred sixty eight and ninety-nine (168.99) acres; minimum lot frontage from two hundred (200) acres to one hundred ten and eleven (110.11) acres; minimum front yard from one hundred (100) feet to ten (10) feet; minimum side yard from fifty (50) feet to thirty (30) feet in the AG1-General Agriculture District (Article 5.2 D, E, F, H.1, and H.2); and, to build an accessory structure within an Established Front Yard where none is permitted (Article 6.1).

Planner: Katie Ramirez, [kramirez@sheridan.in.gov](mailto:kramirez@sheridan.in.gov)

b. 25-V-05; 25277 Six Points Road, Sheridan

The Petitioner request Variance of Development Standard to allow an accessory building within an established front yard where none is permitted (Article 12.2iv).

Planner: Katie Ramirez, [kramirez@sheridan.in.gov](mailto:kramirez@sheridan.in.gov)

Written suggestions or objections may be submitted to the Sheridan Planning and Development Department at or before such a meeting held by the Town of Sheridan Board of Zoning Appeals. People interested in presenting their views in person, written or verbally, shall have the opportunity to do so at the above-mentioned time and place.

Hearing may be continued from time to time as found necessary by the Board of Zoning Appeals. A copy of the proposal is on file with the Department of Planning and Development at 506 S. Main Street and may be viewed during regular office hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. That file may also be viewed online at [www.Sheridan.in.gov](http://www.Sheridan.in.gov).

Sheridan Board of Zoning Appeals  
Jennifer Miller, Secretary

*TL22558 6/9 1t hspaxlp*

**APC Public Notice**

This notice is to inform you of a public hearing to be held by the Town of Sheridan Advisory Plan Commission on June 19, 2025, 6:30 PM, at the Sheridan Community Center, 300 E. 6th Street, Sheridan. The hearing will discuss:

a. 25-RZ-05 Satori Rezoning

Contour Land Group requests a rezoning of +/- 1.9 acres generally located on the SE corner of West Road and SR 47 from R2 to O1.

Written suggestions or objections may be submitted to the Sheridan Planning and Development Department at or before such a meeting held by the Town of Sheridan Advisory Plan Commission. People interested in presenting their views in person written or verbally shall have the opportunity to do so at the above-mentioned time and place. Agenda items may be continued from time to time as found necessary by the APC. A copy of the proposal is on file with the Department of Planning and Development at 506 S. Main Street and may be viewed during regular business hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. That file may also be viewed online at [www.Sheridan.IN.gov](http://www.Sheridan.IN.gov).

Sheridan Advisory Plan Commission  
Jennifer Miller, Secretary

*TL22559 6/9 1t hspaxlp*



# Attorney General Scrutinizes DEI at Butler, DePauw

Attorney General Todd Rokita has sent letters to Butler and DePauw universities concerning their respective diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies and practices, which may violate federal and state civil rights laws and the terms of the universities’ nonprofit statuses.

The letters follow a similar inquiry to Notre Dame University on May 9.

“The U.S. Supreme Court has made clear that racial discrimination of any kind in our education system is repugnant to our civil rights laws, even if done supposedly to help groups claimed to be disadvantaged or underrepresented,” Rokita said. “Hoosiers are rightfully concerned that some education institutions treat students, faculty, staff and others differently based on race under the guise of DEI or other. We are investigating to determine whether universities’ DEI programs are consistent with the law.”

Publicly available materials and statements from university leaders suggest that various aspects of Butler’s and DePauw’s operations may be governed by policies that treat individuals — including students, prospective students, faculty, staff and job applicants — differently based on the individuals’ race or ethnicity; employ race in a negative manner when making admissions or hiring decisions; or utilize racial stereotyping.

Racial discrimination of any kind in educational settings violates fundamental moral and legal principles that are enshrined in state law. Nonprofit universities that flout those principles and pursue race-based DEI initiatives may jeopardize their nonprofit status.

Rokita’s letters explain that racial discrimination by any nonprofit university cannot be squared with the public or charitable purposes that a nonprofit is supposed to serve.

The universities are asked to provide information about their admissions and hiring practices, including details about any changes made to their practices following the U.S. Supreme Court’s Students for Fair Admissions decision.

Rokita also requests documents showing what guidance the schools provide to faculty and admissions staff regarding DEI goals. Further, he asks the schools to explain whether and how race plays a role in their efforts to recruit, hire and enroll members of “underrepresented” groups.

Rokita said the universities’ responses to his inquiries will help determine whether further action is warranted to ensure the schools are operating consistent with the terms of their nonprofit statuses and Indiana’s legal and moral commitment to racial equality.

## Fishers Facility Honored

American Senior Communities has been recognized with 11 2025 Bronze – Commitment to Quality Awards during the national review by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living, including Allisonville Meadows in Fishers. This national recognition celebrates senior living communities exhibiting a high level of commitment to enhancing the lives of residents through quality care.

Cathy Bergland, AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Board Chair shared, “Starting the Quality Award journey is about more than recognition—it’s about building a culture that puts quality first. Congratulations to each recipient for embracing that commitment and setting the stage for continued success.”

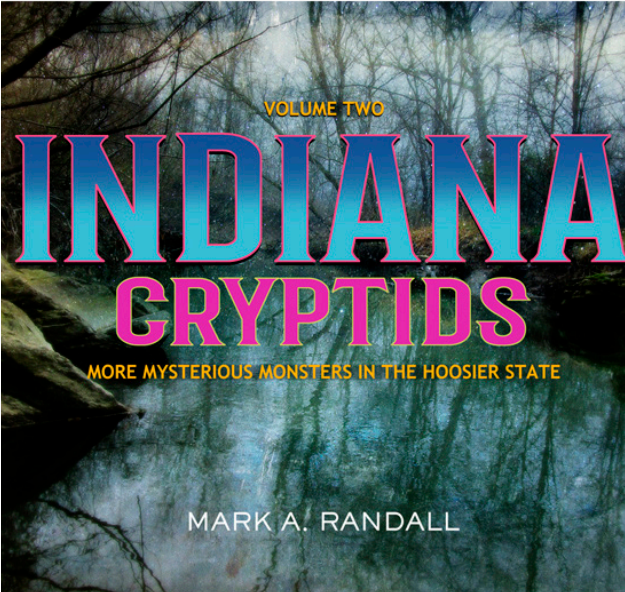
With these new recognitions, ASC now boasts 54 communities with active Bronze status, making it the #1 Bronze-level senior living provider in Indiana.

The Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award is the first of three progressive levels in the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program. This initiative recognizes long-term and post-acute care providers nationwide that are dedicated to continuous improvement and excellence in care delivery.

Each application is rigorously evaluated by trained experts using criteria based on the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, a nationally respected framework for performance excellence. The program supports providers in achieving superior long-term outcomes and enhancing residents’ quality of life.

Steve Van Camp, CEO of American Senior Communities, expressed his pride in the achievement: “We are deeply honored to be recognized at the national level. These awards represent more than recognition; they reflect a deep commitment to our culture of quality care and an unwavering commitment to our CARE values of Compassion, Accountability, Relationships, and Excellence. We thank and applaud our teams for their continued pursuit of excellence.”

The 2025 AHCA/NCAL National Quality Awards will be formally presented during the Elevating Excellence Awards Ceremony at the AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo: Delivering Solutions 25, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Tuesday, Oct. 21.



## Fishers Author Has New Cryptid Book

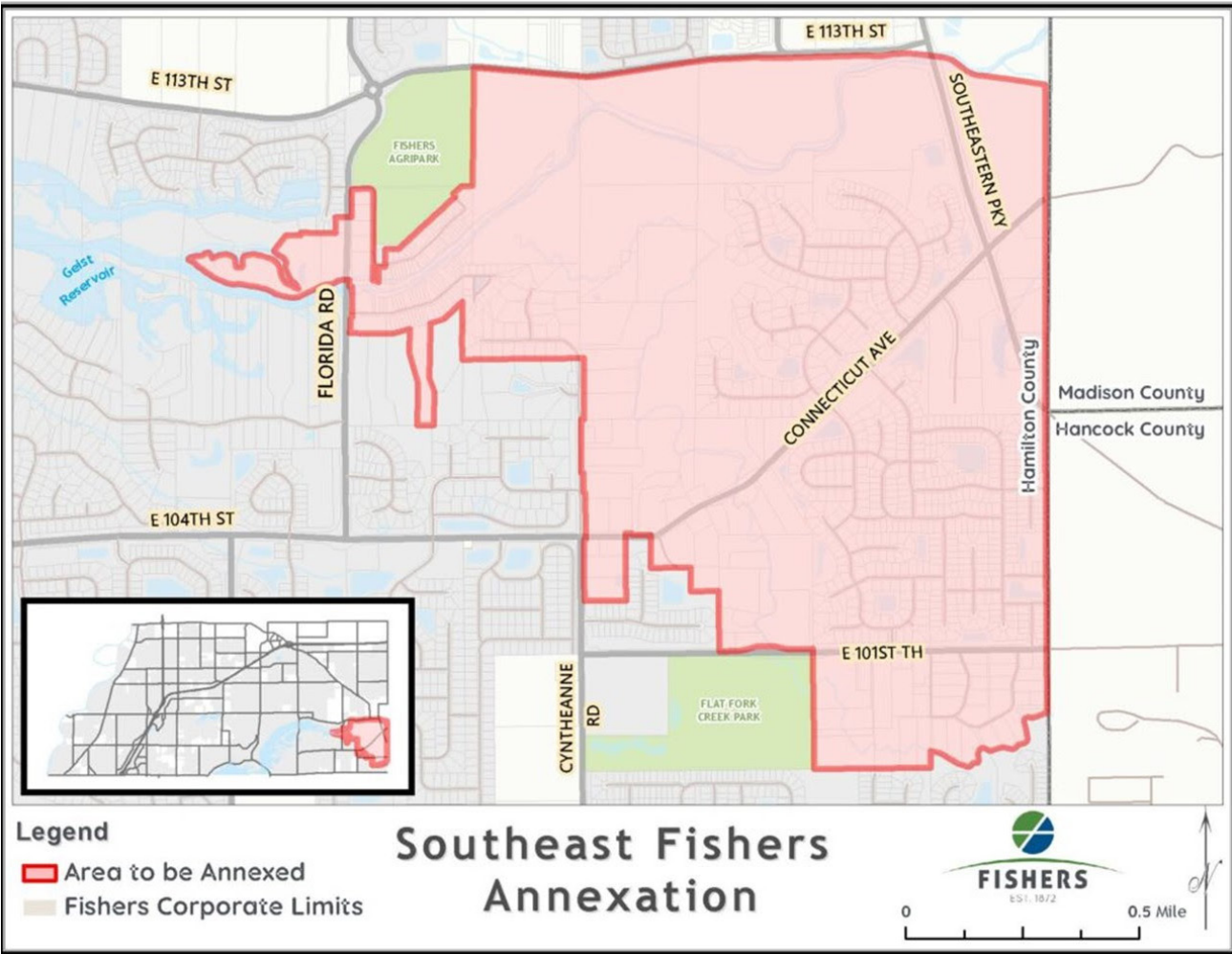
Indiana has a long, rich history of folklore and mythology. From Native Americans to the present day, fantastic tales have been told of sinister sea serpents, horrific hairy giants and wondrous winged creatures!

Fishers author Mark A. Randall now has a book that delves into all that and more – Indiana Cryptids, a 47-page paperback.

In this second volume, Randall uncovers 20 more of these cryptid critters depicted through detailed text and dramatic illustrations. To be sure, this will make a fine addition to your cryptozoological reference library. You will soon discover there are indeed more mysterious monsters in the Hoosier State!

Cryptids include: Beast of State Line Road, Cistern Creeper, Crawling Man, Elizaville Monster, Fluorescent Freddie, Giant Catfish, Goose Pond Monster, Greencastle Goatman, Gullywompus, Hollow Block Monster, Laughing Scarecrow, Long Lake Monster, Parke County Prowler, Pike County Monster, Prairie Creek Creature, Serpent of Horseshoe Pond, Shadow Beast, White River Bigfoot and Wild Child.

### ■ SOUTHEAST FISHERS ANNEXATION



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RED FLAG WARNINGS:

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YOUR INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE



# Dealing with the naked truth

This is a true story, but admittedly it did happen many years ago. I’m revisiting it this week because



Dick Wolfisie  
Columnist

I once again, I locked myself out of the house. This time it was in broad daylight, and I had all my clothes on, a distinct improvement from what I did about 20 years ago. It’s worth retelling the story...

I had just arrived home after giving a speech, pulled into the garage about 11:00 pm, and entered the house through the door inside the garage. Mary Ellen was asleep upstairs. I quietly went into the bedroom and undressed, but before putting on my sleeping shorts, I decided to run downstairs and grab a small bottle of fruit juice from the garage fridge. I retrieved

the drink and turned the knob to re-enter the house. The knob refused to budge. “No way,” I said to myself. And no clothes, either. I was locked out. Buck naked.

I panicked, banging on the door with both fists, bellowing Mary Ellen’s name. There was no response. I knew the bedroom door was probably closed and the ceiling fan was whirring. On a scale from one to ten to be heard, I would need to make a disturbance that was a seven on the Richter scale. Mary Ellen can sleep through anything. Except my snoring.

Wait, my cell phone was in the car! If I called Mary Ellen’s phone, that would surely get Mary Ellen’s attention. It rang and rang, but there was no answer. It went to voicemail. Out of habit,

I left a message: “Hello, Mary Ellen. If you get this, I’m in the garage with no clothes on. When you have a moment, could you come downstairs and let me in?”

I hated to be a pessimist, but I didn’t imagine she would check for messages at 11:30 pm. Now what was I going to do? I remembered that sometimes I leave the back door of the house unlocked. All I had to do was sneak around and go through the entrance on the deck. Buck naked.

I began to fully appreciate what my wife goes through when we plan an evening out. I needed to give some serious consideration to my wardrobe. But what was appropriate for this occasion? I had two choices: A lovely 40-gallon black garbage bag or the 34-gallon clear plastic bags. I look

terrible in black, but the other option seemed, well, redundant. Instead, I just opened the garage door and made my way along the side of the house; then, as I neared the backyard, I bolted toward the deck, up the steps, and into the living room.

The next morning, I decided not to tell Mary Ellen what happened. I wasn’t in the mood to be made fun of. But I had forgotten about that voicemail. She called me from work later that day...

“Dick, I just listened to the oddest message. Last night, about the time you were supposed to get home, there was a naked man in our garage. Now, who in heaven’s name could that have possibly been?”

“I haven’t the slightest idea, Mary Ellen.”

I figured she’d never find out. I didn’t leave my name on that voicemail.

# Always a Good Time to Dress Up



Carry Classon  
Columnist

My husband, Peter, doesn’t believe me, but I didn’t always dress up.

I would dress up for the holidays and for a special occasion, but the definition of “special” was fairly strict. It involved wearing nice shoes perhaps half a dozen times a year.

But I changed professions and identities a couple of times and, somewhere in there, I discovered that I could wear a lot of clothes I never imagined I could wear. And then I met Peter.

This is the part Peter disputes. “You were always a fancy dresser!” he says.

And he’s right; I’ve never had anything against dressing up. But I also never had many reasons to dress up until I met him. Peter appreciates it when I get dressed up.

“You can’t be too dressed up,” Peter will say. I’m not sure this is true, but I’ve decided to believe him.

And now that I’m older, I am having a lot more fun getting dressed up than I ever did when I was young. I think the expectations are different. When I was younger, I had this wrongheaded idea that there was a right way to dress up. I thought I would either hit the mark or miss.

Now that I’m older, I realize there is no one keeping score—there are no points off for getting it wrong. The only thing that matters is if I feel happy in whatever I am wearing, and maybe, if I can spread a little of that happiness to others.

“That’s a great dress!” Someone will holler on the street when I’m wearing something colorful and a little wild. I accept the compliment with a smile. “Terrific glasses!” someone else will say about my oversized blue shades.

It’s fun to remind people that dressing up is a choice. No one has provided me with a uniform, and I am going to enjoy this freedom.

I’m thinking about this tonight because I’m going out to dinner with friends, and I’ve

been planning what to wear. I had a fun, summery outfit all picked out that was a little flashy and perfect for a warm evening. But the evening had other plans, and it is going to be cold. I decided I was not going to let a little inclement weather spoil my plan to wear fun clothes.

And then I remembered the necklace.

I bought a crazy necklace in a park in Mexico. It was on a card table, being sold with a mishmash of other used jewelry. I have no idea where it came from—and I would love to know. It is large and asymmetrical and made of enormous, amber-colored crystals. It is not simply the gaudiest piece of jewelry I have ever owned—it is about 10 times gaudier than the gaudiest piece of jewelry I have ever worn.

And then I remembered the gold jacket. I actually own a gold fur jacket. It has been hiding in the back of the closet for five years. I thought it might make a good costume piece when I first was considering doing a show. It was used and very inexpensive and it has a lovely satin lining. And did I mention it was gold? And made of fake fur?

So, paired with a simple black dress, I think I have my evening’s ensemble sorted out.

Peter thinks I have always been a person who goes out to dinner in giant fake jewels and a gold fur jacket. I could argue with him, but there’s really no point because now he’s right. I do.

Till next time,  
Carrie

# HCLA Summit Focuses on Sports

There’s never been a bigger time for sports in Hamilton County. With championship-caliber facilities such as Grand Park and the new Fishers Event Center; teams like Indy Ignite, Noblesville Boom, Fishers Freight and Indy Fuel calling the county home; and major sporting events like the Pro Volleyball Federation’s All-Star Match, LIV Golf Indianapolis and Carmel Marathon driving tourism to the county; Hamilton County is quickly becoming a standout sports destination.

This momentum will serve as the topic of Hamilton County Leadership Academy’s annual Leadership Summit on Tuesday, June 24. This public event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Embassy Suites Conference Center in Noblesville. The summit will feature a panel of community leaders who each play a vital role in shaping the local sports industry. Panelists include Tim Bawmann, Team President of Noblesville Boom; Steve Henke, owner of Henke Development Group, LLC; and Indy Ignite player Carly Skjodt. Together, they’ll explore how access to sports drives economic development, enhances quality of life, and strengthens the identity of Hamilton County.



Freepik

“In Hamilton County, sports are building stronger communities—driving innovation, impact and collaboration,” said Diana Coyle, Executive Director of HCLA. “Through storytelling and strategic investment, athletics are shaping a vibrant future for all who live, work, and play here. This panel brings together leaders at the forefront of this momentum, offering insight into how we learn, connect, and lead through the power of sports.”

The event will also feature HCLA’s Distinguished Alumni & Honorary Alumni Awards. Each year, HCLA recognizes an alumni and community partner for their commitment and service to the organization and their impact in Hamilton County.

This year’s Distinguished Alumni recipient is Karen Radcliff, President & CEO of Hamilton County Tourism, Inc. For the past 30 years, Radcliff has helped to successfully build tourism markets for golf, weddings, youth sports, weekend leisure and small meetings. She also developed the strategic partnerships and research that led to building Grand Park Sports Campus—the nation’s most visited multi-sports venue.

Beck’s Hybrids CEO, Sonny Beck, will also be honored as the recipient of the 2025 Honorary Alumni Award. Under his leadership, Beck’s Hybrids has become the largest family owned retail seed company and the third largest seed brand in the United States, serving farmers in 19 states throughout the Midwest and Mid-South. Beck’s business emphasizes quality, service, and the importance of agronomic research to the future well-being of the American farmer.

The event is open to the public. Individual tickets and table sponsorships are available at HCLA.net. Registration closes on Friday, June 13. To learn more about HCLA, visit [www.hcla.net](http://www.hcla.net).

# Community First Expands With Strategic Hires

Community First Bank of Indiana is proud to announce the addition of four accomplished professionals to its team: Bryan Mitzelfelt, Rana Sayre, Scott Stars and Whitney Steltenkamp. These key hires reflect the bank’s continued growth and investment in excellence across Retail Banking, Human Resources, Commercial Lending, and Mortgage Services.

Elevating the Customer Experience in Retail Banking

Bryan Mitzelfelt joins as Vice President, Retail Sales Administrator, bringing 17 years of banking experience and a strong track record in sales and branch leadership, particularly in Hamilton County. A graduate of Indiana University Bloomington, Bryan is passionate about creating meaningful customer relationships. “I want

every person who walks into our branches to leave with a great experience—one they’d recommend to friends and family,” he shared. His focus on service excellence aligns with CFB’s commitment to delivering personalized, community-centered banking.

Building a People-First Culture

As Vice President, Director of Human Resources, Rana Sayre brings nearly four decades of HR expertise spanning talent management, training, benefits, and organizational development. Another IU Bloomington alumna, Rana holds both SHRM and HRCI certifications. “People are an organization’s greatest asset,” she said. “I’m excited to help CFB attract top talent and create the right environment for employees to thrive.” Her leadership will help shape

a workplace where people grow, contribute, and feel valued.

Fueling Local Business Growth

With 18 years in lending—14 of those in commercial—Scott Stars steps into the role of Vice President, Commercial Lender. A graduate of the University of Phoenix, Scott has supported small businesses nationwide with loans ranging from \$100,000 to \$30 million. Now focused on serving Hamilton County, he’s eager to help local entrepreneurs succeed. “I strive to be a trusted advisor to business owners, helping them scale and reach their goals,” he said.

Expanding Personalized Mortgage Solutions

Joining as Vice President, Residential Mortgage Sales Manager, Whitney Steltenkamp brings 27 years of indus-

try experience, with deep expertise across every stage of the mortgage process. A graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University, Whitney is also a dedicated community leader, serving as Treasurer of the Home Builders Association of Howard County since 2019 and as a Commissioner for the Kokomo Housing Authority since January 2025. “I’m passionate about building strong, service-driven mortgage teams that grow alongside the families they serve,” she said. “From the excitement of a first home to the transitions of retirement, our team is here to guide and support every step of the way.” Whitney will lead a team of local lenders offering flexible, people-first mortgage solutions across Howard, Hamilton, and Marion Counties.



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IN THE DRIVER’S SEAT

2025 Lincoln Nautilus Is The Glitzy, Artful, And Unabashedly American Crossover That Carries Its Rich History Into The Future

This luxury cruise starts at \$53,940, but came to a loftier \$79,545 in Black Label trim with hands-off driving.

While most luxury automakers copy BMW, Mercedes-Benz or Bentley, Lincoln just makes better Lincolns – vehicles that embrace the modern age, but share a collective memory of past icons. They’re a little bit glitzy, unabashedly American, and artfully styled. Take as evidence the 2025



Lincoln Nautilus Black Label mid-size crossover. Ours wears the Jet Appearance Package that greets with a tall black grille, blacked-out roof and trim, and 22” black-and-alloy wheels. Thin expansive taillamps have long been Lincoln tradition. There’s a lot of tall crossover here, but angled lower moldings and sculpted bodysides diminish the mass. Our luggage easily fit behind the hands-free liftgate. Lincoln introduced touch codes for keyless entry in 1980. This one has a touch screen on the door pillar, but you can also enter with a phone app. One of my husband’s favorite cars is the 1978 Continental Mark V, the razor-edged land yacht with its runway hood and tire hump rump. Lincoln tapped designers Bill Blass, Cartier, and Pucci for fashion flair. Givenchy editions were especially disco-chic with green velour upholstery. Our Nautilus is only slightly less garish wearing Redwood Venetian trim that flaunts tan suede-and-leather seats, wood applique on the dashboard, aluminum speaker grilles, and two-tone squircle steering wheel. Painted panels on front and rear consoles look like stamped sheetmetal from a post-war Lincoln. Lincoln advertised 4-way power seats



Photos Courtesy of Lincoln

■ UNDER THE HOOD Lincoln Nautilus Black Label	
Five-passenger, AWD Crossover	0-60 mph: 7.3s
Powertrain: 2.0-liter T4, hybrid	Fuel economy: 21/29 mpg city/hwy
Output: 250hp/280 lb.-ft.	Assembly: Hangzhou, China
Suspension f/r: Elect. Ind/Ind	Base/As-tested price:
Wheels f/r: 22”/22” alloy	\$53,940/79,545
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc	

in 1953; seventy years later we settle into 24-way power front seats with individually adjusted split bottom cushions. Front seats are heated, ventilated, and...massage. Rear seats and steering wheel are heated. There’s no convertible, but there is a power-opening panoramic roof to welcome sunshine. Ambient lighting and a choice of curated scents render our drive a boutique retreat. The 1949 Lincoln Cosmopolitan featured a one-piece panoramic curved windshield, but the Nautilus boasts an arching pillar-to-pillar display with a smaller touchscreen below. It’s like a wall of digital glass for displaying speed, navigation, safety systems,

weather and audio. Use the smaller screen to conjure directions, crank up the Revel 3D 28-speaker audio, and wirelessly connect and charge phones. Some functions are too many menus deep, but this video arcade is surprisingly intuitive And, buyers thought a miles-to-empty gauge was the height of computerization in the 1978 Continental! The Nautilus is available as a 30-MPG hybrid, but ours came with the 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine delivering 250 horsepower and 280 lb.-ft. of torque – enough to carry it 0-60 mph in 7.3 seconds. Combined with an eight-speed automatic transmission, it achieves 21/29-MPG city/highway.

By comparison, the titanic Mark V coaxed just 208 horsepower from a 7.5-liter V8. Weighing only 250 lbs. more than the Nautilus, it required another 4 seconds to reach 60 mph – and gets 8-MPG combined. Give me the turbo-four. And unlike those old floaty boats, the Nautilus has a chassis to match its engine. In Comfort mode, its adaptive suspension lightens for compliant highway driving, but firms nicely in Excite mode. Safety is enhanced by automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, and rear cross path detection. I’d like it better with a head-up display. Over Memorial Day weekend, my family took the Nautilus to a state park two hours away. After conjuring tunes for my daughter and engaging massagers for my husband, I rubbed my finger over cruise controls. The functions appear on the screen accompanied by a small blue steering wheel. After setting the speed, I wait for the indication to go hands off, sit back, and sip a soda. The Nautilus is driving itself. Lincoln channeled the best of its past and future with the Nautilus Black Label. Inflation-adjusted, a 1978 Mark V would have cost about \$60,000. You can buy a Nautilus for “just” \$53,940, but our gilded carriage came to a pricier \$79,545. Competitors include the Acura MDX, Lexus RX, Genesis GV80, and Cadillac XT5. Storm Forward! If you’re into Lincoln history, check out “The Lincoln Story: The Postwar Years” by Thomas E. Bonsall. It’s one of my favorite books! Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

