

■ TODAY’S VERSE

Psalm 16:8 I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

■ ADOPT A PET BELLE



Belle is looking for someone who enjoys a quiet night in as much as she does. This beautiful 15-year-old female Domestic Longhair has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 1/2/25. Belle may only have three legs, but that won’t stop her from playing, cuddling, and begging for delicious treats. If Belle might be the right companion for you, visit her at HSHC anytime Monday-Tuesday or Thursday-Sunday from 12-5 PM. To meet Belle, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt.

Near as I can tell, those Kings Hawaiian rolls are about the closest thing to eating grandma’s noodle dough I’ve run across in the last 60 or so years!



The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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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 con-

BY THE NUMBERS

nected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To bor-

row (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it’s just the num-

bers, ma’am! Summer is almost here – and so this week we visit our favorite season.

10:42 p.m.

The summer solstice in the northern hemisphere occurs at 10:42 p.m. our time this Friday, June 20. For those really keeping track, that happens on Saturday, June 21 at 2:42 UTC.

20-27%

Ed-ucators call it the summer slide – a phenomenon suggesting students might forget about 20 to 27 percent of what they learned over the course of the school year. Perhaps that’s one of the reasons summer breaks have gotten shorter?



93 Yes, we think it’s not enough but there are 93 days in summer. It all comes to an end – sadly – at the autumnal equinox which takes place on Sept. 22.

36 According to Rolling Stone magazine, 36 summer movies will be released this summer. That’s almost three a week. And hey, when it’s really hot, movie theater air-conditioning feels pretty good!

76 That’s the average temperature for the summer in the great Hoosier state. The average high is 85 and the average low 66. Any other Boomers remember when we were kids and summer days reached 90 and sometimes 100. What is this global warming thing anyways?

284 Remember summer vacations when we all piled in the family station wagon and went to see some part of America? Well, according to our friendly AI bot, the average family will drive 284 miles one way for a summer vacation now.

\$3.14 The smart folks at the U.S. Energy Information Administration predict the average price of a gallon of gas will be \$3.14 this summer – which is well below last year’s average of \$3.30.

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■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. The Chicken & Beer Festival Indianapolis returns for its 5th anniversary celebration on Saturday, Oct. 18 at University Park in the heart of downtown. Founded by local food-tech platform EatHere, this high-energy culinary festival has featured over 45 Indiana-based food and drink vendors, live music, and thousands of attendees for a day that celebrates culture, community, and bold flavor. Supported by organizations such as LISC Indianapolis, GangGang, Be Nimble Co, Bank of America, Visit Indy, Pacers Sports & Entertainment, and Indiana Sports Corp, the festival has grown from a grassroots concept into one of the city’s most anticipated culinary experiences—featuring minority-owned, ethnic-owned, and international chefs serving cuisines ranging from Filipino and Venezuelan to Indian and American comfort food.

2. Can long working hours lead to a high risk of occupational burnout nationally? According to a new study conducted by personal injury attorneys Phillips Law Firm, the answer is yes. States were analyzed and ranked based on four key factors: average weekly working hours, average weekly earnings, job quit rates, and fatal work injuries per 100,000 workers. Each state was assigned an index score out of 100 to determine their burnout risk. The results? Wyoming, West Virginia and Mississippi came in at the top. The great Hoosier state finished 10th.

3. Things are heating up for Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett. Republican members of the City-County Council are claiming serious omissions in the Fisher Phillips report on misconduct within the Hogsett administration, and want to dive further into the scandal. “This isn’t about politics, it’s about restoring trust, Republican and Minority Leader Michael-Paul Hart said. “The public deserves transparency, and survivors deserve accountability. We won’t allow facts to be buried or voices to be ignored.”

Hamilton Happening

Hamilton County Commissioner Steve Dillinger will deliver his annual State of the County address Wednesday, June 25 at the Embassy Suites in Noblesville. Hosted by the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce, the annual luncheon will offer residents and business leaders a detailed update on the county’s progress and future plans. The State of the County has sold out in past years and is expected to do so again. Attendees are encouraged to register early to secure their seat. Doors open at 11 a.m., with lunch served at 11:20 a.m. The program begins promptly at noon. Tickets are \$50 for Chamber members and \$55 for non-members. Registration is required and can be completed online at www.noblesvillechamber.com.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

“There’s no money in poetry, but then there’s no poetry I money, either.”
— Dorothy Parker

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What do you get when you cross a joke with a rhetorical question?

City Responds to Data Breach

According to a recent notice from the city of Noblesville, the city’s computer network was hacked and personal data was stolen. The city said that on or about Nov. 22, an intrusion was detected on the city network. The city said it immediately took steps to mitigate the threat, including taking some systems offline. The city brought in professionals experienced in handling these types of incidents to assist with the investigation and to assess the full scope of information impacted. Law enforcement was also brought in and on Nov. 27, the investigation revealed that personal information was accessed and acquired by an unauthorized party as a result of the intrusion. The personal information that was potentially impacted included first and last names with one or

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The

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May Housing Market Heated Up

The residential real estate market in Noblesville and throughout Hamilton County kicked into high gear in May, with home sales increasing and homes selling quickly. Median home sale prices in Noblesville also experienced a slight price decrease.

Noblesville

Closed home sales increased 12.9 percent, compared to May 2024. Homes sold in just nine days on average, remaining on the market four days longer than in May of 2024. The median home sale price decreased 1.7 percent to \$413,000 compared to this time last year. The median price per square foot for a Noblesville home increased 4.8 percent to \$173.

Hamilton County

Pended home sales increased 3.8 percent, compared to May 2024. Homes sold in just seven days on average, leaving the market in the same amount of time as May of 2024. Inventory increased 31.4 percent county-wide. The median home sale price increased 4.9 percent to \$461,503.



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Breach

Continued from Page 1

more of the following identifiers: Social Security Number, Date of Birth, Driver's License Number / State Id Number, and Medicare ID number. The city encourages individuals who may have been impacted to take steps to protect themselves against identity fraud, including placing a fraud alert / security freeze on their credit files, obtaining free credit reports and remaining vigilant in reviewing financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis. The notice said that the "city of Noblesville takes this matter seriously. We continually

evaluate and modify our practices and internal controls to enhance the security and privacy of the information we maintain, and we are taking steps to mitigate the risk to persons impacted by this incident. If you believe you were impacted and would like to enroll in one year of complimentary credit monitoring, please call our dedicated and confidential toll-free response line at (877) 721-1791." The response line is staffed with professionals familiar with what happened and will help callers on what they can do to protect themselves against misuse of information. The response line is available 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Stains on a long-worn marriage

The Wolfsie household is a happening place. Mary Ellen keeps asking, "What happened here?" She knows something has happened, but wants to see if I'm responsible. But she always knows it's me. I hear these words every day, sometimes more than once. The question arises when I am left alone at home or when Mary Ellen is in another room. That's when I spill something, then desperately try to clean up the mess I have made. I get dish towels, paper towels, a broom, and a scrub brush. I try spot remover, club soda, and lemon juice. I do not want my wife to know that once again I have soiled the floor or counter. But I have found that the cover-up is worse than the grime. Mary Ellen has ESP (Extraordinary Spot Perception). No matter how hard I try, she will walk near the stained area and make her proclamation, hoping to confirm that something is amiss, or should I say, a mess.

MONDAY: "Dick, what happened here?" "How can you possibly see that ketchup stain. I cleaned it all up with vinegar." "Yes, but it looks like you used red wine vinegar." TUESDAY: "What happened here?" "I was eating a cookie and some crumbs got on the floor. I thought I got it all up. I'm going to return the vacuum. It's just not picking up on the little things." WEDNESDAY: "What happened here?" I had dropped a small tub of chicken salad. Some of the oily stuff oozed out. Mary Ellen eyed the slippery floor, then noticed the cracked bottom of the container and asked, "What happened?" I denied doing it. If you are going to be a chicken, might as well do it with chicken salad. That's what's called being a filthy liar. THURSDAY: "What happened here?" "Nothing, I swear." "It's right after breakfast

and a big orange stain is on the tablecloth. You spilled juice, didn't you?" "What is this, Mary Ellen, another OJ trial?" FRIDAY: "Dick, what happened here? What's this spot?" This time I was prepared. "Let me tell you, Mary Ellen. Right here in Fishers, Indiana, in 1872, the city of Fishers was founded on that very spot you are questioning me about." SATURDAY: "Dick. What happened here? I see a yellowish-brown spot on the kitchen area rug." "Oh, that's an old pet stain. It's either Barney's or Toby's." "No, it's either French's or Gulden's. You had a hot dog for lunch." She is way too smart for

me. Then after a long week of very stained relationships between my wife and me, our friend Cathy called Mary Ellen to chat. Cathy has an even worse case of ESP. "Hi Mary Ellen, it's Cathy. What's been happening at your house these past few days?" "Pull up a comfortable chair. I have a lot to tell you." "Uh oh, has Dick been a bad boy?" "Let's just say his behavior has been spotty."

Dick Wolfsie is a retired TV personality, author, speaker, teacher and all-around good guy. His award-winning column appears here weekly.

Noblesville Celebrates Success of 13th Annual Fairyville

The 13th Annual Noblesville Creates Fairyville, presented by Duke Energy, returned to Noblesville Creates and Downtown Noblesville from April 23-26, 2025, for a four-day celebration of art, imagination, and environmental awareness. This year's theme, "Energizing the Earth," spotlighted the powerful connection between energy and nature, aligning with the mission of title sponsor Duke Energy. With most events free and activities for all ages, Fairyville 2025 enchanted the community while delivering meaningful impact: ■ Welcomed more than 1,300 visitors to the Noblesville Creates on 8th campus (Noblesville Creates is continuing to gather additional data on visitation and overall impact) ■ Provided a platform for 13 organizations to engage the public with Earth Day and conservation-focused messages ■ Celebrated the creativity of 27 Fairy House architects whose whimsical designs lined the beloved Fairy Trail ■ Engaged over 200 families in art-centered activities such as artist-designed crafts and whimsical tea parties ■ Connected 9 partner organizations with each other and with attendees for future collaboration

■ Offered 49 vendors an opportunity to showcase and sell their handmade goods ■ Provided employment opportunities to over 60 artists, including musicians, actors, and visual artists ■ Had over \$43,000 of economic impact in downtown Noblesville Attendees enjoyed beloved signature events including the Fairy House Contest, Fairy Tea Parties, the Earth Celebration Parade, and Fairyville After Dark, an exclusive VIP experience for adults. Due to weather, this year's Fairyville After Dark was hosted by HCAA and made possible with support from Bar Ellis and sponsorship from Martin & Martin.

Local businesses throughout Downtown Noblesville joined in the festivities with themed specials and pop-up events, further extending Fairyville's reach and magic. This community-powered event was made possible by the support of Duke Energy, Mini Minds, Four Day Ray Brewing Fishers, Guardian Care, Playground Productions, Musicologie, Josiah White's, Bar Ellis, Renewal by Andersen, Martin & Martin, Indy's Child, SLS Group, LLC, and Noble Coffee.

Trampas Whalin to Run for Judge

Trampas Whalin, a seasoned attorney and community advocate, has officially announced his candidacy for Superior Court 4, pledging to bring a continued steady, principled voice to the bench. He is running in the Republican Primary, which will take place on May 5. His campaign centers around three core conservative values: Respect, Reason, and Reliability. "Justice is more than decisions from the bench—it's how we treat people, how we interpret the law, and how we uphold trust," said Whalin. "I'm running to ensure every person who enters the courtroom is treated fairly and heard with dignity." Whalin emphasizes that these three principles will guide his judicial philosophy: ■ Respect — Treating every individual—regard-

less of background, income, or circumstance—with dignity and fairness. "Every voice matters. Every right deserves protection," Whalin said. ■ Reason — Applying the law with balance, compassion, and common sense. "The law should serve people, not intimidate them," he noted. "I believe in rulings that are thoughtful, fair, and rooted in the real world." ■ Reliability — Earning trust through consistency and impartiality. "The community deserves a judge who is always prepared, fair, and committed to justice without delay." With years of legal experience and deep roots in the community, Whalin pledges to bring integrity, transparency, and balance to the courtroom. Trampas Whalin is a Conservative Republican that has dedicated

his entire legal career to serving the people of Hamilton County. He began his practice at Adler Law Office in Noblesville after graduating with honors from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 2010. Today, he leads his own firm, Whalin Legal, where he continues to advocate for clients in the very areas of law that Superior Court 4 primarily handles: Criminal Law, Civil (Small Claims), and Family Law. Outside the courtroom, Whalin is a dedicated servant leader with deep ties to the community. He is a two-time President of Noblesville Elks Lodge #576, a past President of the Indiana West Central District Elks and currently serves as Chairman of the Indiana Elks Endowment Fund for Cancer Research. In the legal community,

Whalin remains highly engaged. He is the current Vice President of the Hamilton County Bar Association, an active member of the Indiana State Bar Association, and serves on the Hamilton County Community Corrections Advisory Board. He is also a member of the Indiana Public Defender Council, reinforcing his long-standing commitment to fair and accessible justice.

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Finding peace in nature’s embrace

EDITOR’S NOTE: We discontinued Randall Franks’ column and have heard from some readers you would like to see it back. Here it is this week. If you would like for us to continue publishing it, please let us know by emailing news@thepaper24-7.com and put Randall Franks in the subject line.

The mountains rise against a boundless blue sky, their green peaks painting a timeless portrait across my vision. I walk along a stream, its waters gurgling over smooth rocks, a soft melody that soothes my restless mind. In these moments, nature whispers a truth we often ignore: slow down, breathe, connect. Life, with its endless to-do lists and buzzing notifications, pushes us to rush, to chase, to conquer. Yet, here by the stream, where water flows without haste, I find tranquility—a reminder that

peace is not in the race but in the pause.

How often do we let busyness blind us to the world around us? We hustle through days, tethered to screens, forgetting we’re part of a larger ecosystem. The stream doesn’t need us to flow, but we need it to remember who we are. Psychologists tell us that time in nature reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, and sharpens focus. A 2019 study from Aarhus University found that children raised near green spaces have a 55% lower risk of mental health disorders. Nature isn’t just scenery; it’s medicine for the soul. Yet, in our haste, we risk losing this gift. We litter, pollute, and neglect the very systems that sustain us. The success of our environment mirrors our own—if the streams dry up, so does a part of us.

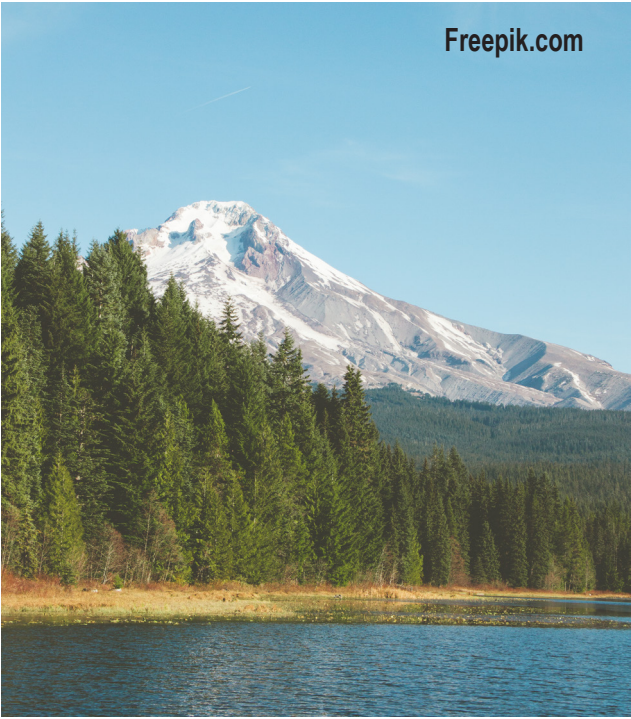
Last spring, I planted my garden, a ritual that roots me to the earth as surely as the seeds I sow. I turned the soil, dropped

in bean and tomato seeds, and waited. Some sprouted, their green tips bursting through the dirt like promises kept. Others withered, victims of nature’s whims. Yet, even in failure, I felt alive, working hand in hand with the creation my ancestors knew. Gardening isn’t just about food; it’s about partnership. The earth gives, but it asks for care in return—water, weeding, patience. My grandfather, a farmer, used to say, “You don’t own the land; you borrow it from your grandchildren.” His words linger as I pick up a stray plastic bottle from the grass, a small act of respect for the world I’ll pass on.

What do you do when you see trash on the ground? Do you pause to pick it up, or do you drive by, tossing wrappers out the window? These choices matter. The EPA estimates that Americans generate 4.9 pounds of waste per

person daily, much of it preventable. Every bottle we pick up, every trail we clean, stitches us closer to the world we inhabit. We don’t need grand gestures—start small. Walk barefoot in the grass, feel the earth’s pulse. Plant a seed, even if it’s in a pot on your balcony. Join a community cleanup or swap one car trip for a bike ride. These acts ripple, like water over rocks, shaping a future where nature and humanity thrive together.

The mountains still stand, unwavering, as I trace the stream’s path. Their quiet strength reminds me that we’re not separate from nature but woven into its fabric. In a world that demands speed, nature offers slowness, a chance to touch life with every fiber of our being. Let’s listen. Let’s walk lightly, pick up the trash, plant the seeds, and honor the earth that holds us. Our ancestors



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did, and those who come later will thank us.

Randall Franks is an award-winning musician, singer and actor. He is best known for his role as “Officer Randy Goode” on TV’s “In the Heat of the Night,” now syndicated. His latest 2024 #7 Global Amer-

icana album is “The American’s Creed.” He is a member of America’s Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame. His latest book is “Seeing Faith : A Devotional” He is a syndicated columnist for <http://randallfranks.com/> and can be reached at rfrankscatoosa@gmail.com.

Small space offers new perspective

My space is smaller than usual these days.

When my husband, Peter, and I bought a condo and moved to the city, Peter said we needed a little more room.

“I want two bathrooms!” Peter said. I’d never had two bathrooms in my home as an adult, but I was certainly fine with the idea in principle. Peter wanted a study where, in the mornings, he could do what he calls his “brooding.” This is when Peter comes up with his finest ideas, I believe, although I can’t confirm this because it is also the time of day when he prefers to be left alone to drink his coffee.

I also have a little office where I write. It has two doors which I keep wide

open, because I like to know what both Peter and my cat, Felix, are up to.

But when we got back from Mexico this past spring, our bedroom was flooded, and it has taken this long to get a contractor to begin work. So, two days ago, we moved our bed into my office.

Peter thought we’d move into his den, but he already has a hide-a-bed sofa, and he rolls his bike in there to put it away and, of course, there is the morning brooding to work around. So I thought it would be easier if we just moved the bed into my office. I measured the old bed that Peter had inherited from his parents and determined I had 4 inches to spare between the

footboard and the back of my office chair.

It has not been terrible, all in all.

Felix thinks that lounging in bed right behind me while I type is a great place to be. While I used to have a morning commute to work that was more than 20 feet, I have now reduced it to less than a foot, which naturally saves some time.

But more importantly, it’s given me a new look at my house. I now wake looking up at the art that usually hangs over my reading chair. There are masks collected from around the world hanging on the wall, and looking at them from the underside in the morning sun is a new experience. The morning light is now coming in from the side, but the moonlight is more direct.

And it all reminds me of other rooms and smaller places I have lived in the past. It reminds me of being in my childhood bedroom, where I also had a desk and a bed in close proximity. It reminds me of when, at 50, I packed everything into the back of a pickup truck and went to grad school. I lived in a converted garage with hardwood floors and had a very similar setup—with a private bath and a desk, a chair, a dog, a cat and a bed, all in one room. It was everything I needed.

That’s how I feel now. I have everything I need within easy reach.

And I wonder, as I lie in this small room, if at the end of my life I’ll again end up with everything I own in one small room. As I was thinking about it yesterday, it didn’t



seem like it would be so terrible to be permanently downsized to the point where all my possessions were within easy reach.

I started out with a smaller life. My life will probably end up smaller again. So right now, for a little while in between,

I am enjoying having everything I need within easy reach.

Till next time, Carrie

To see photos, check out [CarrieClassonAuthor](#) on Facebook or visit Carrie-Classon.com.

Historical Society Gets Boost from State Group

Through its Heritage Support Grants program, the Indiana Historical Society awarded more than \$49,000 to 16 local history organizations representing 14 Indiana counties – including \$3,700 in Hamilton County.

Hamilton County Historical Society received \$3,700 to create the Levinson Story Walk, a self-guided walking tour with signage and QR codes that highlight Noblesville landmarks connected with the influential Levinson family.

The program provides funding for high-priority projects in the areas of collections stewardship, capacity building, sustainability, and planning at local, county, and regional historical societies, museums, and sites across Indiana.

Heritage Support Grants are provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc. Learn more at www.indianahistory.org/grants.

Other grant recipients include:

Acting Ensemble, St. Joseph County

Acting Ensemble re-

ceived \$1,349.00 to fund scriptwriting and research for a play and exhibit about the South Bend Golden Hawks women’s professional football team, expanding access to the history of women’s sports in Indiana.

Adams County Historical Society, Adams County

Adams County Historical Society received \$4,999.00 to assist in the completion of a roof repair of the 1902 Charles A. Dugan mansion, which houses its collections, in an effort at preservation and sustainability as the mansion.

Cedar Lake Historical Association, Lake County

Cedar Lake Historical Association received \$4,999.00 to repair the flooring and ceiling in the dining room at Las-sen’s Resort as well as to install interpretive materials and chairs, enabling CLHA to continue developing its culinary heritage programming.

Chautauqua Wawasee, Kosciusko County

Chautauqua Wawasee received \$1,600.00 to

fund speakers for its 2025 “Digging Through History” program series which features presentations of Myaamia and Potawatomi history and culture to educate the public about Indiana’s Indigenous heritage.

Friends of the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County, Montgomery County

Friends of the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County received \$2,721.00 to purchase 14 data loggers and monitoring software to track environmental conditions across the Carnegie Museum which will ensure proper environmental conditions for their collections, as well as guide future HVAC upgrades.

International Circus Hall of Fame, Miami County

International Circus Hall of Fame received \$1,950.00 for the purchase of archival materials including photo album storage boxes, acid-free Tyvek, and photograph sleeves ensuring their collections will be preserved in a stable and archivally safe manner.

Jackson County History

Center, Jackson County

Jackson County History Center received \$4,999.00 to repair damaged soffits, rafters, and guttering on its Ball Museum helping to prevent water damage to artifacts and allow for continued public access to its collections.

Kosciusko County Historical Society, Kosciusko County

Kosciusko County Historical Society received \$4,916.25 to digitally photograph, print, and rebind 27 rare assessor’s plat books from 1880–1891 which will preserve records, allow for online accessibility of the records.

Pike County Historical Society, Pike County

Pike County Historical Society received \$1,990.40 to fund a conservation assessment of 187 Pike County courthouse books dated from 1833-1974 to address deterioration, develop a preservation plan, and prepare the collection for future digitization, ensuring future access.

Pleasant Lake Historical Society, Steuben County

Pleasant Lake Histor-

ical Society received \$4,027.00 to replace damaged flooring in its 1950s-era Barbershop, restoring the classic checkerboard design and ensuring safety for visitors and preservation of its collections.

Pulaski County Historical Society, Pulaski County

Pulaski County Historical Society received \$2,415.00 to purchase and install mountings for historic photos in a Pocket Park exhibit which will assist in the historical interpretation of county history.

Rush County Historical Society, Rush County

Rush County Historical Society received \$4,900.00 to restore a rare Penny-farthing bicycle from its collection, enhancing community engagement by connecting it with Rush County’s annual Wendell Willkie Day event, boosting historical interest among residents and visitors.

Shelby County Historical Society, Shelby County

Shelby County Historical Society received \$1,000.00 funding presenters for its annual

“Juneteenth: A Day for All” celebration which will allow for educational programming about black heritage in Shelby County, promoting an inclusive and educational experience.

The Indiana Album, Inc, Marion County

The Indiana Album, Inc. received \$2,000.00 to hire consultants for board leadership training which will strengthen governance practices, clarify leadership roles, and improve fundraising strategies, ultimately bolstering the organization’s long-term sustainability.

Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society, Lake County

Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society received \$2,433.00 to purchase archival storage materials which will ensure proper preservation of thousands of historical photographs and artworks and to prepare for a future climate-controlled storage space.

Guidelines and applications are available on the IHS website at www.indianahistory.org/grants or by calling the IHS at (317) 232-1882.



Home-A-Rama Returns to Westfield

The Builders Association of Greater Indianapolis is thrilled to announce that the 2025 Lee Supply Corp Home-A-Rama is returning to Chatham Hills in Westfield this fall! Mark your calendars for Sept. 11-14, 18-21, and 25-28 as some of Central Indiana’s premier custom home builders showcase stunning, state-of-the-art homes in one of the region’s most sought-after communities.

“We are thrilled to bring Home-A-Rama to Chatham Hills this year with a lineup of incredible builders who are raising the bar in design, detail, and innovation,” said Chris Hancock, BAGI’s Chief Executive Officer. “This event not only showcases the best in homebuilding—it’s also a celebration of community, creativity, and crafts-

Make yourself at home

The 2025 show is presented by BAGI and proudly titled by Lee Supply Corp, with support from industry-leading sponsors including McComb Pella Window & Door, 84 Lumber, and Centier Bank. The 2025 showhomes range from \$1.85M - \$4.59M.

Location: Chatham Hills, Westfield, IN

Dates: September 11–14, 18–21, 25–28, 2025

Open Hours: 12 – 8:00 PM daily (Ticket booth closes at 6:00 PM)

Tickets Available August 1: www.bagi.com/home-a-rama

manship. We can’t wait to welcome guests to experience these remarkable homes firsthand.”

Located in the heart of Westfield, one of Indiana’s fastest-growing cities, Chatham Hills offers a perfect blend of modern luxury and natural beauty. With its rolling landscapes, championship

golf courses, and vibrant community atmosphere, Chatham Hills provides the ideal setting for Home-A-Rama.

“Westfield is a city on the move – while we’ve had significant growth over the last decade, we’ve worked hard to ensure that Westfield remains a safe, welcoming city with



nationally recognized public schools and family friendly activities,” said Mayor Scott Willis.

Home-A-Rama attendees will have the opportunity to tour exquisite custom homes featuring the latest trends in architecture, interior design, and smart home technology. Whether you’re looking for inspiration, planning a future build, or simply love exploring high-



end home designs, this event is must-see. Stay tuned for more details on featured builders, ticket sales, and exclusive behind-the-scenes content as we count down to the 2025 Lee Supply Corp Home-A-Rama at Chatham Hills!

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Families with one or two kids can choose whatever cross-over they want, but when they hatch three or even four offspring, choices narrow. They're going to need three rows and a considerably larger barge. And, they're not created equally. While some claim to have seven seats, the rear bench is often better left to babies and puppies. Let's see if we can find a suitable ride that doesn't leave the driver bored. Let's go for a drive in the 2025 Toyota Grand Highlander Platinum Hybrid Max.

From the driveway, the Grand Highlander looks like a RAV4 that's been feasting on beer and brats, still looking sturdy, but definitely bigger than I remembered. Its hood, fronted by a grille and squinty LED headlamps sure to scare Corolla drivers, sits chest high. Viewed broadside, there's deft sculpting to hide its mass. Muscular curves, lower sill exaggerations, and a line that rises into the rear pillar are well placed – and all over 20" wheels. Running boards are a bit unnecessary, but add decoration, while roof crossbars let owners attach all kinds of paraphernalia. Stepping over the running boards, being careful not to dirty one's pants, passengers plop in a luxurious cavern trimmed in bronze, leather, and flatscreens. Our Platinum came with heated and ventilated front seats, heated rear captain's chairs, and power-opening panoramic moonroof. Tri-zone automatic climate control gives the rear its own controls. Crank up the JBL audio system for a



symphonic delight. Flatscreen gauges, head-up display, and 12.3" infotainment screen layer in technology, but keep it intuitive. Phones connect easily via wireless Apple CarPlay or Android Auto and charge wirelessly in the console. Every passenger, in all three rows, has access to USB charging ports. This rig is wired and connected. It's safe too with adaptive cruise, attention monitor, automatic emergency braking, and rear cross path detection. Front and middle rows are roomy, but what about the back bench? If

you truly want a roomy third-row seat, buy a Chevy Suburban or full-size van, but this Toyota's is livable. Kids fit better on long trips, but actual adults can perch comfortably enough riding to dinner or to the club for a round of partners golf. Space behind the third row is a little tight for a family's worth of luggage, but split-fold seats provide versatility once you figure out how to deploy them. Your V8-revving neighbor may taunt you for buying a hybrid family-mobile, but not for long. Combining a 2.4-liter

turbocharged four-cylinder gas engine with batteries and motors nets a stout 362 horsepower and 400 lb.-ft. of torque. Not long ago those were Corvette numbers, enough to propel the big wagon to 60 mph in 6 seconds. Better, it has a proper paddle-shifted six-speed automatic transmission for a normal driving experience. And, gas mileage? Think 26/27-MPG city/highway. All that, and it tows 5,000 lbs. Over the weekend, my family took our neighbor's family to a local festival. All six of us fit comfortably, with kids



■ UNDER THE HOOD	
LIKES	DISLIKES
■ Refined styling	■ Third-row entry
■ Luxury fittings	■ Seat folding
■ Hybrid performance	■ Rear legroom

2025 Toyota Grand Highlander Hybrid Max
Seven-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: 2.4-liter T4, 6-spd Hybrid
Output: 362hp/400 lb.-ft.
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 20"/20" alloy
Brakes f/r: Regen disc/disc
0-60 mph: 6.0s
Towing: 5,000 lbs.
Fuel economy city/hwy: 26/27-MPG
Assembly: Princeton, IN
Base/as-tested price: \$40,860/\$63,072

in the back. Despite the large wheels, it soaked up broken city streets with aplomb. It's not sporty, but can be pressed into a corner when necessary (or unnecessary). Finding a parallel parking spot wasn't easy given the Grand Highlander's considerable size, but the cameras and sensors helped guide her into port. The three-row crossover segment has become hotly contested among traditional models like the Chevy Traverse, Ford Explorer, and Honda Pilot plus newer entrants like the Kia Telluride, Subaru Ascent, and Volkswagen Atlas. None offer the Toyota's combination of space, luxury, and hybrid performance. Grand Highlanders start at a very-reasonable \$40,860, but came to \$63,072 amped to the max. Storm Forward! Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.