

■ TODAY'S VERSE

**Isaiah 12:2** Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

The Indiana Senate is accepting applications for the 2026 Senate Page Program, said State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville). Through the full-day program, students in grades six through 12 tour Indiana's Statehouse, listen to debates from the Senate floor and help staff with age-appropriate tasks. Students also have the opportunity to meet their state senator. The Senate Page Program will begin in January and continue throughout the legislative session. Pages are scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. They begin their day at 8:30 a.m. and are dismissed at 3:30 p.m. Groups serve together on Wednesdays. Indiana law permits eligible students to serve as a Senate Page one day per legislative session and receive an excused absence from school for their participation. Positions fill quickly, so it is important to apply early. Students or parents should submit an application corresponding with the date they would like to page. Once the application is submitted, the Senate Page Office will reach out to confirm the paging date and ensure all required participation forms are signed. For more information or to apply, visit [www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program](http://www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program).

# The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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## Christmas Movies 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!

*It's not beginning to look a lot like Christmas . . . it very much has looked like that for a while. We've got the snow, the ice, the wind chill . . . and of course the beautiful Christmas decorations. When we go inside to warm up, we've also got the opportunity to watch one Christmas movie after another after another after another. And that got us to thinking about Christmas movies. Just how many are there? Why are they so popular? How many of us watch them? We don't know any of these answers so we decided to dive into Christmas movies . . . by the numbers!*

**300-450**



Depending on what search engine you use, it looks like the good folks at the Hallmark Channel have released somewhere between 300 and 450 Christmas movies.

**1951**

Wondering when Hallmark created its first Christmas movie? Yup, 1951. That title was *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. It was part of the Hallmark Hall of Fame series.

**2000**

OK, maybe the Hallmark Hall of Fame series goes way back, but as for the movies we tend to think of when someone mentions Hallmark Christmas movies, those began production in 2000.



**15-20**

Before we leave Hallmark, we wondered how many actors appear over and over in Hallmark movies. It seems like the faces on the screen are pretty familiar. Our AI friends tell us there are 15 to 20 actors who are credited with roles in multiple Hallmark movies. Lacey Chabert is said to be in the most. But others right up there include Candace Cameron Bure, Danica McKellar (remember her from *The Wonder Years?*), Tyler Hynes, Andrew Walker, Nikki DeLoach, Holly Robinson Peete, Autumn Reeser and others.

**1,200+**

According to the IMDb (Internet Movie Database), there are more than 1,200 Christmas movies. However, every source we could find says that is a very low estimate and there are lots and lots more.



**No. 1?**

What's the top Christmas movie of all time? Well, that depends on your perspective and what you are using to measure. It's *A Wonderful Life* had the highest IMDb rating of

8.6. Although those ratings change, it was followed by *Klaus*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. In terms of dollars, 2018's *The Grinch* movie grossed \$538 million, making it the biggest box office smash. And in terms of favorites, well, again, it depends on each person. Several mentioned include *White Christmas*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Holiday Inn*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *A Christmas Story*, *Home Alone*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Elf*, *Little Women* . . . What's yours?

**84 to 110**

The average Christmas movie runs from 84 minutes to 110. The ones you see that were made for TV tend to be on the shorter side while the movies on the big screen go longer. With tickets to the movies costing around \$16-18, we would hope they are longer!

**No. 11**

And for those who partake in the eternal debate of whether or not *Die Hard* is a Christmas movie, we take no sides. But we will share this. *Rotten Tomatoes* lists the Bruce Willis classic as the 11th best Christmas movie of all time.

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**1.** Bryan Lee Fish, 33, of Mitchell, Ind., has been sentenced to 50 years in federal prison, followed by a lifetime of supervised release, after pleading guilty to three counts of sexual exploitation of a child and one count of possession of child sexual abuse material. According to court documents, between June 2022 and September 2023, Fish sexually abused three children under the age of 12, including a toddler, photographed the abuse, and distributed the images online. The investigation was conducted by the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, a multiagency task force led by the Indiana State. This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. If you are a victim of child sexual exploitation, please contact your local police department. Resources for victims of child exploitation can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdin/project-safe-childhood>

**2.** The Office of the Attorney General's Litigation Division has achieved favorable outcomes for the State of Indiana in all 13 jury trials it has defended this year — saving taxpayers more than \$1 million in those trials. Overall, the division has achieved more than \$36 million in taxpayer savings through successful advocacy, motion practice and trials during 2025. Attorney General Todd Rokita thanked Chief Counsel of Litigation Patricia Orloff Erdmann for her strong and effective leadership. For her part, Erdmann credited the individuals whose work she oversees. In 11 of the 13 jury trials, the litigation team defended the Indiana Department of Correction. In the other two cases, they defended the Indiana Office of Technology and the Indiana Department of Transportation.

**3.** It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Indianapolis International Airport. Throughout the holiday season, passengers will be able to enjoy the decorations throughout the terminal or snap a photo next to the \_NDY sign — with the holiday tree providing a festive backdrop — as travelers take off for their holiday travels. Travelers can enjoy special performances daily Dec. 12 — 24 starting at 11 a.m. Each day will offer a unique musical experience, celebrating the season with a mix of jazz, gospel, classical, pop, country, and instrumental ensembles. Blair Clark will open the Indy airport's 2025 holiday showcase, with young Hoosier pianists, and DJ Don's yuletide playlists. Performers range from Elias Gomez, the Indy Flute Choir, country favorite Tim Wright, Indy Klez, Carmel High School vocalists, the Cattlewood Singers, local jazz icons Brenda Williams and Valerie Phelps, pop newcomer Elizabeth Lee, and harpist Jan Aldridge Clark. Visit the airport's Facebook and Instagram pages for a complete lineup of the holiday music.



State Sen. Kyle Walker

## Sen. Kyle Walker Decides He's Not Running Again

State Senator Kyle Walker, a Republican from Lawrence who represents District 31 which includes portions of Hamilton and Marion counties, released the following statement on his decision to not seek re-election in 2026:

"Over the past six years, I have championed several pieces of legislation to support my constituents and all Hoosiers, bolster the communities in my district, and strengthen the state in a variety of ways.

"Perhaps one of the most meaningful measures that will benefit the residents of Fishers, I led the charge to change the state's local income tax distribution formula to ensure the city of Fishers receives a more equitable share of local income tax revenue. To support Fishers' innovative and growing economy, I helped secure funding for the Internet of Things (IoT) lab and supported the creation of a professional sports development area for Fishers to spur private investment and attract new entertainment amenities.

"For a statewide impact, I also authored the Sports and Tourism Bid Fund to help communities across Indiana access resources to host major events to stimulate local economic growth.

"In an effort to crack down on gun violence and make Hoosier communities safer, I led efforts to create the Indiana Crime Guns Task Force to trace and share information on firearms used in violent crime and bring violent criminals to justice quicker. I also spearheaded multiple laws to increase law enforcement agency communication, improve dispatch systems and public safety response times to save Hoosiers' lives, as well as enhance penalties for swatting.

"Over several years, to support Indiana's foster youth, I authored bills to provide tax credits to support foster care organizations, to help foster youth open bank accounts and get access to car insurance. In 2026, I'm working on a foster youth bill of rights to ensure young Hoosiers in foster care understand their rights and protections and have a voice in decisions affecting their lives.

"Because our veterans groups and fraternal organizations needed ways to raise funds to support their critical missions, I authored a modernized charitable gaming bill. And, on a lighter note, to support the state's tourism and restaurant industries — and for Hoosiers so inclined — I helped make "happy hour specials" legal again.

See WALKER Page 4



17 Shopping Days left to a very Honest Hoosier Christmas. Don't know if it's the most ever, but we surely need some joy in the world right about now, don't you think?

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."  
- Norman Vincent Peale

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What's the best thing to put into a Christmas cookie?

Your teeth!

# The TIMES

54 N. 9th St. Noblesville IN 46060  
Main: 317-773-9960  
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## ADOPT A PET MAMMOTH



Mammoth may have a big name, but he's a gentle, sensitive soul who's had a tough time adjusting to shelter life. This 1-year-old male domestic shorthair has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 10/9/25. He may act a little shy at first, but he's a sweet, tender-hearted companion who just needs someone willing to give him that extra second of kindness. To meet Mammoth, please fill out an adoption application at [hamiltonhumane.com/adopt](http://hamiltonhumane.com/adopt), then stop by HSHC anytime 12-5 PM daily (closed Wednesday).

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## Heights Revealing Distinguished Alums Soon



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD  
Guest Columnist

Hamilton Heights is proud to announce the launch of our Distinguished Alumni Program—a new initiative celebrating graduates who have made lasting contributions in their professions and communities. We are thrilled to share that our very first honoree has been selected! Their story reflects the pride, excellence, and legacy of Hamilton Heights. Stay tuned...the official reveal is coming soon, and we can't wait to honor this remarkable alum together.

In times of uncertainty, coming together as a community isn't just comforting—it's essential. Indiana 211 is a free, confidential service that connects Hoosiers to vital resources. Available 24/7/365, it serves as a lifeline for individuals and families seeking help with food, housing, health care, mental health support, transportation, and more. By simply dialing 2-1-1 or texting 898-211, residents can access a wide range of essential services tailored to their needs whether they are facing a short-term challenge or navigating an ongoing need.

This is a reminder that help is always within reach, and that Hamilton Heights is part of a broader network working to uplift and empower friends and neighbors in our community and beyond. I want to extend a sincere thank you for the collaborative efforts and shared commitment to ensuring no one in our community goes without. Many in-house initiatives support Heights families and students in need, especially during the holiday season.

Our student-led Food Pantry, located inside Door A of the high school, is open on the third Monday of each month from 4–6 p.m. It offers non-perishable and frozen foods, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items. Your support helps sustain this vital resource. Whether through a monetary gift or donating needed items, we are grateful for the students, staff, and community members who work together to keep the shelves stocked. Every contribution

strengthens our culture of care. For more information or to donate contact Lillian Morris at [lillianmorris@hhschuskiess.org](mailto:lillianmorris@hhschuskiess.org).

Another valued program at this time of year is the Giving Tree. A Heights tradition for decades, this program helps ensure there will be gifts to open on Christmas morning in homes where children might otherwise go without. Generously supported by staff and community members, the Giving Tree at the high school still has a few tags waiting to be claimed. If you are interested and able to help make the season magical for a family in need, we invite you to select a tag from the tree. Gifts are due by December 10. Stop by the front office for assistance with a tag. Thank you for your compassion, generosity, and willingness to brighten the holidays for others.

On Saturday, December 13, Hamilton Heights Band Boosters will host its annual Alumni Night and Holiday Party. Join us for an evening of spirited basketball and festive half-time performance by our award-winning band as the Huskies welcome the Benton Central Bison. The first game tips off at 6:00 p.m., and the Band Boosters will keep the celebration going with music, holiday cheer, and a party following the game. We look forward to welcoming back alumni, families, and friends for this special tradition.

The holiday season is a reminder of the strength we find in one another. Whether it's celebrating student achievements, supporting each other through challenges, or building traditions that unite us, our district continues to shine because of the people who call it home. #WeAreHuskies

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

## Time for Change!



DICK WOLFSIE  
Columnist

I admit I'm not very good with gadgets. I can't even switch my leaf vacuum into a leaf blower, and my microwave is stuck on the popcorn setting. I'm also having a heck of a time with the new parking meters that require credit cards. I told a police officer in downtown Indy the other day that I couldn't figure out how to get the blasted machine to accept my Visa card instead. "Join the club," he said. I'd like to. I hope they accept cash.

I miss the old parking meters. I miss fumbling for change in my pockets in a torrential rain; I miss going to a pharmacy and buying a pack of gum with a twenty-dollar bill, just to get some coins. But if you love nostalgia like I do, don't despair. With a little poor planning, you can still get one of those quaint little orange tickets on your windshield.

When I was a kid in New York, you could park for 10 minutes for a penny. Of course, you couldn't find a space, but at least it was affordable. My father still complained about parking being too expensive. He once told me that on the morning of March 5, 1947, it cost him 16 cents to park while my mother was giving birth to me. Okay, fine, but did he have to take it out of my first allowance?

The first working parking meters were installed in July of 1935 in Oklahoma. The first parking meters that didn't work were shipped to Cleveland in 1936 and are still there with burlap bags over them. In the 1930s, the meters in Chicago couldn't generate any profit. Most of the people who could afford to own cars in the Windy

City were bank robbers or jewelry store thieves, and the longest they ever parked anywhere was three to five minutes.

By the way, those original parking meters in Oklahoma angered some town residents who inserted a penny and were annoyed when they didn't get a gumball. Of course, the local women were happy because when they read the meter, they thought they had lost about 40 pounds.

Instead of these user-unfriendly meter boxes, why can't they make a card you could carry on your key-chain? After exiting your car, flash it in front of the scanner, and when you return, it will calculate your time in the spot and reset to zero. Your credit card would then be charged. No freeloader could use your remaining time. And here's a gift idea: You could purchase pre-paid cards. Suppose you have a relationship that is getting a little too serious. Why not give each other some space? How thoughtful—and subtle.

Finally, parking meter pricing should be tied to the cost of your car. For example, if you drive a \$150,000 Lexus, the fee to park downtown should be \$25.00 an hour. But if you have, let's say, a 2018 Elantra with a dent in the right passenger door and a license plate that says BARNEY8, you should just have to spring for a dime.

Just to pick an example totally at random.

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

## Westfield Joins AARP Network

The City of Westfield has partnered with AARP Indiana as the newest member of the AARP Age-Friendly States and Communities Network. Westfield joins more than 1,000 cities nationwide to earn the distinction and is the ninth community in Indiana to join.

"The City of Westfield is committed to helping older adults stay active and connected with their neighbors and the community as a whole," said Mayor Scott Willis. "Joining the Network will allow us to learn from other communities, as well as help other communities nationwide experiencing rapid growth like we are. It's a win-win."

The City's intention to join the Network was originally introduced as a proclamation at the October 27 City Council meeting. As part of the AARP Age-Friendly States and Communities Network, the City of Westfield will have access to resources aimed at improving livability for all residents, not just older adults.

By joining the Network, the City of Westfield has committed to a five-year cycle of continuous improvement. This is typically characterized by a 7-step process:

1. Establish a way to include older residents at all stages of the age-friendly process
2. Conduct a community needs assessment
3. Develop an action and evaluation plan based on the assessment results
4. Implement and work toward the goals of the plan
5. Assess the impact of implementing the plan and submit progress reports
6. Share solutions, successes, and best practices across the Network
7. Repeat

For more information about the AARP Age-Friendly States and Communities Network, visit [www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/](http://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/).

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**APC Meeting**  
This notice is to inform you the meeting to be held by the Town of Sheridan Advisory Plan Commission on December 18, 2025, 6:30 PM, at the Sheridan Community Center, 300 E. 6th Street, Sheridan has been cancelled.  
Sheridan Advisory Plan Commission  
Jennifer Miller, Secretary  
TL22976 12/8 It hspaxlp

**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 December 18, 2025, 5:30 PM, at the Sheridan Community Center, 300 E. 6th Street, Sheridan. The hearing will discuss the following:  
a. 25-V-10 1506 W 246th Street, Sheridan  
The Petitioner requests Variance of Standard to allow the minimum lot areas from ten (10) acres to two (2) acres in the AG1: General Agriculture District (Article 5.2 D).  
Planner: Katie Ramirez, [kramirez@sheridan.in.gov](mailto:kramirez@sheridan.in.gov)  
b. 25-V-11 37 Homestead Drive, Sheridan  
The Petitioner requests Variance of Standard to allow a minimum lot area of ten (10) acres to zero and sixty three (0.63) acres; minimum lot width from three hundred (300) feet to one hundred sixty eight and ninety-nine (168.99) feet; minimum lot frontage from two hundred (200) feet to one hundred ten and eleven (110.11) feet; minimum side yard from fifty (50) feet to thirty (15) feet; minimum rear yard from fifty (50) feet to ten (10) feet in the AG1: General Agriculture District (Article 5.2 D, E, F, and H.2)  
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. Hearings 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 the 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  
TL22977 12/8 It hspaxlp

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## 2026 MAZDA3 CARBON IS A SACHET OF CACHET WITH TOUCHES OF SPORTY SPICES

And it starts below half of today's average \$50,000 new vehicle price.



**CASEY WILLIAMS**  
*Columnist*

As we entered the new automotive season, the average price for a new vehicle crossed \$50,000. Even with a far-above-average salary, that's a lot of money. The good news, though, is this luxury compact starts well under average, and even with options checked, shimmies beneath the line.

It certainly doesn't look it as Mazda's designers are sorcerers at making affordable cars look expensive. From the way the hood delicately folds over the squinty headlamps to subtle use of chrome and black accents on our Carbon edition, there's an attention of detail that carries to the neat creases and curves that define the bodysides. It all seems to wrap around black 18" wheels. The tall decklid with squinty taillamps opens to a roomy trunk with seatbacks that are easily folded by pulling two tabs. Throw in all your gear and go.

You'll think you're in an Audi or Alfa Romeo when you slip into the heated red leather seats, grip the perfectly sized three-prong steering wheel, and gaze at big analog gauges. Where competitors employ acres of hard plastic, the 3 has padded red-stitched surfaces. Dual-zone automatic climate controls are artfully tucked into the dash beside vents for an integrated look. The infotainment screen looks like Italian glass, but is unfortunately controlled by the most frustrating joywheel in the business. Just give me a touchscreen.

Once you learn its tricks, however, it isn't actually that bad – especially with phones connected wirelessly through Apple CarPlay or Android Auto. A charging pad and

USBs in the console keep them running. There's no head-up display (optional), but gauges are clear. Our car doesn't have the Bose audio system either, but sounds good anyway. A power sunroof lets in light and fresh air. I wouldn't ride in the back cross-country, but there's enough legroom for a quick flip to dinner and it feels more upscale than expected.

Stay safe with adaptive cruise, automatic emergency braking, blind spot warning, lane keep assist and rear cross path detection.

You can get a turbo, but it's not necessary as our car's 2.5-liter four-cylinder delivered a peppy 186 horsepower and 186 lb.-ft. of torque through a six-speed automatic transmission. Torque-vectoring all-wheel-drive sharpens corners on sunny backroad days, but also stomps through snow and slick weather with poise. Unlike competitors that use buzzy and whiny continuously variable transmissions, this car's six-speed automatic with sport mode and paddles is spot-on. Fuel economy rates an efficient 26/34-

MPG city/highway.

But, it's on the road where the Mazda3 really hits its stride. The independent front, torsion beam rear suspension was designed to minimize cost, but strikes such a balance between firm handling and compliance over rough pavement that you would have to consult the spec sheet to realize the rear wheels are not independently sprung. Apparently, Mazda's engineers are sorcerers too. This car is a delight to drive, but is comfy when you just want to get to the office and back.

Rich and beautiful, its price is nothing dear. The Mazda3 Sedan starts at just \$24,550 and reached only \$32,710 equipped like a luxury sport sedan. In almost every way, it feels a cut above competitors like the Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla, Nissan Sentra, VW Jetta and Hyundai Elantra.

Storm Forward!

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

**LIKES**

- LUXURY STYLE
- BALANCED HANDLING
- FUEL ECONOMY

**DISLIKES**

- JOYWHEEL CONTROLLER
- SLUGGISH ACCELERATION
- NO HUD

**2026 Mazda3 Sedan Carbon**

Five-passenger, AWD Sedan  
Powertrain: 2.5-liter I4, 6-spd trans  
Output: 186hp/186 lb.-ft. torque  
Suspension f/r: Ind/Torsion beam  
Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy  
Brakes f/r: disc/disc  
0-60 mph: 7.5s  
Fuel economy: 26/34 mpg city/hwy  
Assembly: Hofu, Japan  
Base/As-tested price: \$24,550/32,710

# Living With Felix



**CARRIE CLASSON**  
*The Postscript*

that peeing in one place was less hassle.

I've had other cats, but I have never had a cat as athletic as Felix. He quite literally bounces off the walls. He gets up speed in the hallway, then hits the wall at a high rate of speed and ricochets onto another wall before tearing off in the opposite direction. He makes a ferocious sort of growl when he does this. It is very exciting living with Felix.

I don't know if he will ever be as cuddly as other cats I've had, and I don't really care. Felix likes to be petted but won't sit on a lap. He sleeps in the bed, but always far enough away so we can't touch him. He does not like being picked up or carried around, although he now tolerates it for a short while. Maybe living on the streets for a couple of years made him a little more independent. Maybe that's just how he is made.

But I think, as much as people and cats can understand one another, we've come to an understanding with Felix. He is part of our family. He misses us when we are gone. He always wants to know what we are doing. He purrs loudly and often. And he doesn't bite our toes anymore—at least not very hard.

*Till next time,*

*Carrie*

My cat, Felix, is lying at the foot of the bed. I wiggle my toes. Felix puts his teeth around them and I can feel the little points of his incisors. He lets me know he could bite—but he does not. That's because both Felix and I have learned a lot.

We have had Felix for almost two years. Before we adopted Felix, he lived for two years on the street—at least that is what the vet said. The vet said teeth do not lie, and Felix's teeth were two years old. My husband, Peter, is convinced that Felix is much younger because he was so small when we adopted him. And it's true, he became much bigger and more muscular once he started getting regular nutrition. But Felix knew nothing about living in houses or living with people and, to be honest, we knew nothing about living with Felix.

The first time Felix felt comfortable enough to sleep on the bed, he bit our toes—hard. He bit them as if he planned to bite right through them.

"OWW!" Peter yelled the first time it happened to

him. Peter took to wearing very heavy socks to bed. I'm not sure when or how it happened, but eventually Felix learned that those enticing little mice under the blankets were actually body parts that belonged to us.

The biggest problem wasn't the toes, however. It was that Felix had never used a litter box. He used it right away when we adopted him—but not all the time, and that was a problem. We put down plastic to discourage him from going in the corners. We hid our dirty laundry to prevent him from peeing in that. We took him to the vet. She explained that he had to be stressed. Only stressed-out cats don't use the litter box. Peter and I were skeptical.

Because Felix seemed entirely relaxed. In fact, when we caught him peeing where he shouldn't, he seemed totally chill. "What's the issue?" he seemed to be asking.

And again, I don't know how he figured it out, but eventually he just stopped peeing anywhere but his litter box. He isn't any less stressed. He just decided

## Well, It Is The BRICKyard!

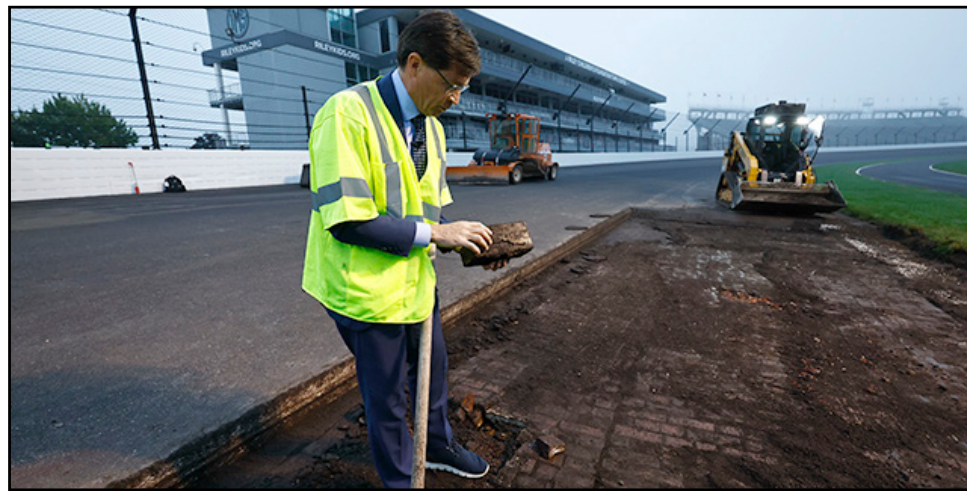


Photo courtesy Indianapolis Motor Speedway

IMS President Doug Boles looks at one of the bricks still in place under the smooth, paved oval of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. IMS is releasing a four-part miniseries documenting the repavement of the famed track as part of its flagship "Behind the Bricks" program beginning today. 8. A new episode will be released daily through Thursday. A full-length documentary with additional interviews and footage will be released Friday. Each episode can be seen on IMS social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, Threads, TikTok, X and YouTube. Fittingly, the release coincides with the time when the original brick paving project was completed in 1909.

THE TIMES

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## Carmel Clay Schools Honored in Computer Science

Computer Science teams from Carmel were among the schools recently honored at the 7th annual Nextech CSforGood Competition in partnership with the Indiana Department of Education.

About 200 projects were originally entered into the competition. Eighteen projects were showcased at the Indiana Statehouse.

Achieving a second-place designation was Carmel Clay Schools' Countsheep: an app that monitors biometrics, provides AI-powered personalized insights, syncs with school calendars and offers wellness tools to promote better sleep and mindfulness to empower users to prioritize students' health and well-being daily.

"We're always blown away by the creativity and skills demonstrated by these young CS leaders," said Nextech President Karen Jung. "This year is no exception. It's just a great day that indicates how Indiana's leadership in computer science education is making a big difference."

Indiana Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner spoke at the event.

"Our students' creativity was on full display as I met with competitors from across Indiana who are using technology to identify and solve community-level needs, such as developing an app to connect students to tutoring opportunities, a website to support early literacy, or a robot to remove leaves from storm drains" Jenner said. "Our primary goal in education is to set all students up for success as our future innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders. The students participating in today's competition demonstrate the incredible potential

of all students to make a positive difference when we empower them with the knowledge and skills they need to tackle our greatest challenges."

High Alpha, an Indianapolis-based venture firm that has launched more than 40 new companies and backed more than 100 founders, was a sponsor and will host the high school winning groups in February for a day of learning.

"We are optimistic that the students participating in CSforGood will become Indiana's tech entrepreneurs of the future," said Scott Dorsey, High Alpha's Managing Director. "We look forward to hosting these students at our facility and hopefully inspiring them to lean into technology career pathways."

The event was also sponsored by the Everwise Foundation and TechPoint, Central Indiana Corporate Partnership's industry-led growth initiative for Indiana's tech-powered economy.

"This event embodies the Everwise Foundation's vision to be a positive force in the communities we call home," said Jennifer Stansberry, Executive Director, Everwise Foundation. "We champion Lifelong Learning in all its forms, and it's exciting to support programs that help students build skills and confidence for the future."

TechPoint CEO Ting Gootee applauded the annual competition as well as policy and community leaders' work to instill CS skills in young Hoosiers.

"The world has embraced artificial intelligence tools in an unprecedented and pervasive way. Computer science skills are the basic

first layer needed to fully understand, use and improve the way tech, including AI, is used," she said. "These students already understand that and are using tech to improve their communities. It stands to reason they'll take that mindset into their continuing education and career experiences."

Teams win cash prizes, and educators win money as well, which is to be used to purchase tech for their CS programs. Winners come from elementary, middle and high schools.

The 2025 CSforGood Competition was open to all Indiana K-12 students, who were asked to use their imagination, creativity and tech skills to identify a problem in their school or community and to design a solution to it using computer science (such as an app, website or physical computing device.)

Sixty-six teams entered the competition in divisions of elementary, middle and high schools. Eighteen teams earned finalist status and showcased their CS team projects at the Indianapolis event. One from each division emerged the winner. Students earned \$50, \$100 and \$250 in each respective category. Teachers of the winning teams earned \$1,000 to go toward classroom tech needs.

When Nextech launched in 2014 to support CS curriculum needs in Indiana schools, only 18 percent of Indiana schools offered CS classes. Today, 91 percent of Indiana high schools offer a foundational CS course. Code.org's 2024 State of Computer Science Education Report recognized Indiana as one of just 11 states with a CS graduation requirement.

## County Health Department Launches Vaccine Survey

### Pregnant Women and Parents of Children 2 and Under Invited to Participate

The Hamilton County Health Department is inviting Hamilton County residents who are pregnant or parents/guardians of children ages 2 and under to take part in a brief survey about vaccines.

The survey is open now and will remain available until Dec. 19 at 11:59 p.m. Participation is confidential and takes only a few minutes to complete.

The survey aims to better understand local families' experiences, questions, and concerns related to childhood vaccinations. Responses will help the Health Department strengthen outreach efforts and improve resources that support parents and guardians.

"We want to hear directly from families across Ham-

ilton County," said Hamilton County Health Department Administrator Jason LeMaster. "Your honest feedback helps us understand what information you need and how we can best support you and your little ones as you navigate these early years."

To participate, please visit: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/tWz6GxsJ7u>

## WALKER

*Continued from Page 1*

"In addition to those efforts, I have worked with my colleagues on various efforts to pass responsible tax relief for families and small businesses, increase funding for education, strengthen public safety, and advance policies that support job creation and economic growth. I am proud of the work we've done to improve Indiana's business climate while also protecting taxpayers and preserving the values that make our state strong.

"Serving the people of Senate District 31 has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I will continue to represent my constituents until my term ends next November. But I will not seek reelection in 2026.

"As some of my colleagues, friends and family know, this is a decision I've wrestled with for sever-

al months. I am forever grateful for having the opportunity to represent the people of our district. This, however, is a season of change for me. Looking forward, I have also decided to start a new chapter in my professional career.

"Stepping away from this role, no doubt, what I will miss most are the people. From community meetings and school visits to conversations with small-business owners, teachers, first responders, and families across the district, this role has offered daily reminders of why public service matters. Hoosiers are thoughtful, engaged, and deeply committed to their communities, and representing them has been both humbling and inspiring.

"I remain fully committed to serving with the same focus and energy for the

remainder of my term, and to ensuring a smooth transition for the district's future leadership. But I also want to make this announcement now, in advance of the February filing deadline, so that potential candidates have some time to consider their interest and ability to serve this district.

"My commitment to my constituents remains steadfast and I want to sincerely thank the voters of District 31 for their trust and support. I am also grateful beyond words to my wife and family for their unwavering support, patience, and encouragement throughout this journey.

"In honor of those I serve, and for all the right reasons, we will run through the tape."

## Gaylor CEO Chuck Goodrich Honored

Gaylor Electric CEO Chuck Goodrich has been named Indianapolis Business Journal's CEO of the Year for companies with \$500 million-\$1 billion in revenue. As one of only six executives honored across all revenue categories, this award recognizes Goodrich's outstanding leadership, visionary approach and unwavering commitment to creating opportunities within the skilled trades.

His journey with Gaylor Electric began in 1991 as a college intern, where he learned the electrical trade through hands-on experience. After graduating from Purdue University with a degree in Construction Management, Goodrich returned to Gaylor Electric and steadily rose through leadership roles, becoming President in 2014 and CEO in 2018. Today, under his guidance, Gaylor Electric stands as the largest merit-shop electrical contractor in the

Midwest, employing more than 3,500 team members and generating \$750 million in annual revenue.

"Chuck's leadership reflects how we built Gaylor Electric from the ground up—integrity, innovation, and care for people. When I sold the company to Chuck, I knew he would not only preserve our legacy but elevate it to new heights. His vision and commitment have exceeded every expectation," said former Gaylor Electric Owner and CEO, John C. Gaylor.

Under Gaylor's leadership, Gaylor Electric achieved a historic milestone: being named Associated Builders and Contractors' National Contractor of the Year. It was also the first time any company has earned this distinction more than once. This achievement highlights the company's reputation for excellence, innovation, and



CHUCK GOODRICH

integrity in the electrical contracting industry.

His impact also extends beyond business success. He served six years in the Indiana House of Representatives, championing workforce development and education initiatives to expand opportunities for Hoosiers in construction and technical fields. His bipartisan legislative efforts and advocacy for lifelong learning have shaped a smarter, better-informed workforce across Indiana.

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# ▶ COLLEGE NEWS

A host of local students have achieved various honors at their colleges. The Times is proud to recognize these wonderful achievements.

## Albion College

Noblesville student Elaina Hendrix was selected as a member of Albion College's 2025 volleyball team. For her second season with the Britons, Hendrix will play as an outside hitter.

"We're definitely looking forward to the year," said Kristin Slamer de St. Aubin '07, who has led the volleyball program since 2012. "Our competition is some of the best teams in the country, but I'm looking forward to a championship season."

Hendrix is a sophomore at Albion College. Hendrix is the daughter of Crystal and Shawn Hendrix of Noblesville and is a graduate of Noblesville High School.

## Baldwin Wallace University

Fabiany Villasmil of Carmel was among over 500 first-year students welcomed to the Baldwin Wallace University campus this fall who earned more than \$9.4 million in merit scholarships. Villasmil, a graduate of

Carmel High School, majoring in theatre acting and directing and psychology, earned an \$18,000 Deans' Scholarship based on outstanding academic achievements in high school. In addition, Villasmil earned the Eileen Stevens Scholarship.

Greyson Johnson of Fishers, a graduate of Hamilton Southeastern High School, majoring in sport management and Spanish, earned the Edward & Diane White Explorations Scholarship.

## Georgia Tech

Shivani Narahari of Westfield has earned a Master of Science in Analytics from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Narahari was among approximately 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students who earned degrees during the Summer 2025 semester.

## Indiana University Kokomo

Indiana University Kokomo congratulates the 123 students who earned degrees in August 2025. The graduates represent 29 Indiana counties and six states. A number of those were from Hamilton County, including: Kelley Barresi, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, from Noblesville; Benjamin David

Earl, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, from Noblesville; Ethan N. Leslie, Bachelor of Science in Business, from Noblesville; Gurinder Sembhi, Master of Science in Nursing, from Noblesville; Elaina C. Anderson, Bachelor of Science in History and Political Science, from Westfield; Natalie Cole, Master of Business Administration, from Westfield; Olivia Miller Cope, Bachelor of General Studies, from Westfield; Brooke Jansen, Master of Business Administration, from Westfield; Madilyn Guffey, Master of Arts, from Carmel; Fengping Jin, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, from Carmel; Lily Njau, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, McCordsville; and Sai Charan Yallakara, Master of Business Administration, McCordsville;

## Bob Jones University

Conner Barfield, a resident of Noblesville, has been named to the Bob Jones University Bruins men's basketball team roster for the 2025-26 academic year. Barfield is a Senior majoring in Business Administration at BJU.

The reigning South Region champion Bruins men's basketball team begins its season marking the start of a new era under Head

Coach Tony Miller.

## Kettering University

Ronald Schwanke was named to Kettering University's Summer 2025 Dean's List. Schwanke, of Fishers, is majoring in Electrical Engineering.

The Dean's List recognizes overall academic performance based on the student's term grade point average (GPA). To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must satisfy the following requirements: be a degree-seeking student with a minimum term grade point average of 3.5, no grades below B, and a minimum of 16 earned credits for the term.

## University of Maryland Global Campus

More than 11,500 University of Maryland Global Campus students were named to the Dean's List for the summer 2025 term. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

The following local students were named to the Dean's List: Claire Uglum of Westfield, Brian Phan of Carmel, Matea Skegro

and Blake McDonald of Fishers and Oumar Diallo of Indianapolis. McDonald also earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. He was one of 3,800 students worldwide who earned degrees from UMGC in the term.

## Southeast Missouri State

Southeast Missouri State University proudly welcomes Luke Almodovar to their first semester as a Redhawk.

From Noblesville, Luke is stepping fearlessly into a community built on big dreams, bold support, and real-world experience. At SEMO, every student is backed by mentors who believe in their potential, challenged through hands-on learning from day one, and inspired to turn their passions into purpose-driven careers.

## University of Wisconsin-Madison

Just over 1,500 students received doctoral, bachelor's, master's, and professional degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August 2025, including Carmel's Kevin Bursaw who earned a College of Letters and Science, Master of Science-Cartography and Geographic Information Systems, Cartography and

Geographic Information Systems. Although the university does not hold a commencement ceremony in August, many graduates participate in the May or December ceremonies.

## University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

The following local students are among the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater scholarship recipients receiving financial awards for the 2025-26 academic year.

Ashnaya Gupta of Carmel, who is studying Human Performance, won the following scholarship(s): Roger & Lenoire Fish.

Preston Pekala of Westfield, who is studying Business, won the following scholarship(s): Faculty-Staff Endowment. In addition, Preston is a member of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater football team, which will compete in the NCAA Division III Championship for the 20th time in program history.

The Warhawks (8-2 overall), earned an at-large bid to the 40-team national tournament.

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