

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalms 88:2 Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

Sheridan Community Schools will be hosting a State of Finance Public Meeting. This meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 18, from 6-7:15 p.m. in the SHS Auditorium. Any community member is invited to attend and hear district leaders share an overview of the current financial outlook for SCS. Leaders will specifically focus on the impact of Senate Bill 1, a property tax reform bill, and the challenges the district will face in the months and years ahead. The meeting itself is designed to be informative and collaborative. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about where the district stands financially. Because SCS values community, that voice is essential as the district moves forward towards thoughtful and informed decisions that support students and ensure the continued bright future of the school system.

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Space, the Final Frontier 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!

Yes, most Boomers know those famous words from Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry, Sr.. "Space, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise. It's five-year mission . . ." From the 1960s and beyond, TV viewers have heard William Shatner and others utter those, or similar words. Today though, we are talking a look at a number of things connected to outer space. It seems that March 9 is a happening day in the skies above. So come on along as we explore space, by the numbers!



Photo courtesy Noblesville Schools

Noblesville Superintendent Dan Hile and Mayor Chris Jensen led the cheers last year.

Miller Palooza Back Baby Gala Event Friday

The Noblesville Schools Education Foundation is proud to host their largest annual fundraiser, Miller-Palooza, on Friday at Embassy Suites in Noblesville.

This historic school spirit themed fundraiser supports all ten Noblesville Schools and will further the Foundation's mission of promoting and investing in Noblesville Schools through grants, scholarships, strategic partnerships, and volunteer support. Miller-Palooza starts at 5:30 p.m. and will feature school spirit, food stations, spirits, a large auction, and awards honoring the second class of the Noblesville Schools Hall of Fame.

The event will also be celebrating 100 years of the Millers. The dress code is casual school spirit and vintage or throwback items are encouraged. NSEF volunteers are hoping to beat last year's numbers and raise over \$160,000 to support all 10 Noblesville Schools.

This is a 21+ event and tickets start at \$125 each. Tickets can be purchased at <http://onecau.se/miller-palooza> The Foundation expects an estimated 380 attendees and will feature many local businesses as sponsors.

The top presenting sponsor of the event is Blades Audio Video Security. Gold level sponsors are 4 & 1 Creations, Beaver Gravel, Craig & Christi Crosser, CSO Architects, Don Smock Auctions, Duke Energy, Ed Martin Automotive, Dr. Joe Forgey, and T&T Sales & Promotions.

The Noblesville Schools Education Foundation was created in 1987 to support Noblesville Schools by investing in academic excellence. NSEF is governed by a volunteer board of directors who give their time and energy to accelerate the Foundation's cause.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The longer you wait for the future, the shorter it will be."

Loesje

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What do you call a chicken that is staring at a lettuce?

Chicken sees a salad!



Congrats to all the teams who cut down the nets after sectional titles. You will remember this the rest of your lives.

1961

On this date in 1961, the Soviets launched Sputnik 9. What was noteworthy about that was it carried a dog (and a human dummy). This showed that the USSR was ready for manned spaceflight.

1974

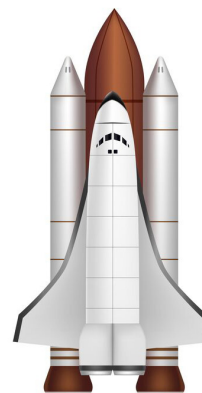
As good as 1961 was for the Soviets, they had a bad day on this date 13 years later when the Mars 7 spacecraft released early and a descent module missed the entire planet of Mars.

1997

It didn't involve any spacecraft, but an eclipse on this date in 1997 allowed sky-watchers in Asia to see the Comet Hale-Bopp during daylight hours.

2011

It was on this date that the Space Shuttle Discovery landed for the very last time after 39 successful missions. It first went up into orbit on Aug. 30, 1984.



\$93,000,000,000

The budget for the new Artemis program is said to be around \$93 billion. The initial goal of the program is to return humans to the moon. As most know, the launch that was scheduled for last month was scrubbed. NASA hasn't announced a new launch date, but it is expected to be in April.

\$25,800,000,000

The dollars spent on the entire Apollo program from 1960 to 1973 turned out to be around \$25.8 billion. Converted to today's dollars, that's about \$25-300 billion.

\$4,100,000,000

OK, last "B" number (we promise). Each of the first few Artemis launches will cost about \$4.1 billion.

4

That's how many crew are slated to go up in Artemis when it takes off.

19,446

The number of days since the last man walked on the moon to today. Know who it was? You get extra credit points if you correctly said Gene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt. By the way, Gene will celebrate his 83rd birthday in less than a week on March 14. Harrison is 90 and lives in New Mexico.



■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Farm Bureau welcome nominations for the 2026 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation. The award recognizes the preservation and ongoing agricultural use of historic farms and farm buildings in Indiana. Owners of more than 30 historic farms across the state have been honored with the award since it was established in 1992. Anyone, including farm owners, can submit a nomination for the Arnold Award, which will be presented during the Celebration of Agriculture at the Indiana State Fair in August. Submit nominations for the Arnold Award at indianalandmarks.org/john-arnold-award-rural-preservation. Deadline for nominations is April 30, 2026.

2. Indiana has earned a 'AAA' credit rating from major credit-rating agency, Fitch Ratings, for the 17th year in a row. The 'AAA' credit rating is the highest rating possible, emphasizing the state's leadership in disciplined fiscal management, economic resilience, and long-term financial stability. Fitch cited Indiana's strong fiscal management, low long-term liabilities, and disciplined budgeting practices as key factors supporting the State's top rating. The agency also affirmed the 'AA+' ratings on the State's appropriation-backed debt and school aid intercept program, along with the 'AA' rating on Indiana's counterparty obligation for the Ohio River Bridges/East End Crossing project.

3. Steven James Perkinson, 21, of Plainfield, has been sentenced to 10 months in federal prison, followed by three years of supervised release, after pleading guilty to intentional damage to religious property and making a false statement to an agency of the United States. According to court documents, on Nov. 18, 2024, Perkinson vandalized the sign in front of Maple Grove Baptist Church in Plainfield by spray-painting a pitchfork and the numbers "666" over the display, and by painting over the sign's cross symbol with an "X." Although Perkinson had no prior criminal record, he first came to the attention of the FBI in 2023 after posting on Instagram: "Now I just sit alone in my room for hours a day... Schools are meant for shooting up not learning..." Additional evidence recovered from his phone raised further concerns about violent ideation. Agents found searches for the "address of largest Jewish church in America," online messages claiming access to firearms and encouraging mass violence, photographs of Perkinson posing with recently deceased animals, and evidence that he had set fire to a dumpster.

The TIMES

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ADOPT A PET STRAWBERRY



Strawberry is sweet, goofy, and full of energy. This 3-year-old female Pit Bull Terrier has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 8/6/25. She loves people with her whole heart and can turn any moment into playtime. Strawberry's smart, curious, and always ready for the next adventure, especially if treats are involved! To meet her, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt to schedule a meet and greet.

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Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

David Atchison was a U.S. President, if only for a day.

President James Polk's grave at the Tennessee State Capitol.

Do You Remember U.S. President David Atchison?



ANDY CHANDLER
Columnist

For much of U.S. history, until the presidential transition of 1933, presidential inaugurations occurred on March 4. After that disastrous transitional which saw the Hoover and Roosevelt administrations simply ignoring each other during an economic meltdown that only got worse, the date was moved up to the Jan. 20 we have today.

Enter one of presidential histories' more unusual figures: David Rice Atchison, president for a day.

The problem started on March 4, 1849, which was a Sunday. President-Elect Taylor, refused to take the oath of office on the Sabbath. Outgoing President Polk was already on a boat sailing back to Nashville, Tenn. Polk's Vice President, George Dallas also left town. So who was President on the fourth?

No, it was not Alexander "I am in Charge Here"

Haig.

At the time, before we had the thorough presidential succession plan of the 25th Amendment, we had the Presidential Succession Act of 1792. Here power went from the president, vice president then senate pro tempore. This was loosely followed because sometimes, presidents like Tyler, Fillmore and Pierce went long periods without a VP. Van Buren ran for a second term without a VP candidate.

David Atchison, President for a Day.

For those wondering, according to some, he spent the day in bed sleeping off the previous day's party. The day went off without anything eventful.

A few years ago, my wife and I toured west Missouri / East Kansas. We found ourselves in a country cemetery about an hour

north of Kansas City in Plattsburg, Mo.

A visitor will enter the town cemetery on the gravel road, and there are signs pointing to Atchison's grave. However, with pretension, his family marker stands high above the others. Here, among the members of the family is a curious plaque at the foot of one marker: President of the United States for One Day. Sunday, March 4, 1849.

We took photos, laughed and drove off. Our visit could be judged almost as brief as his term in office.

Presidential nerds like me, dismiss the claim on the simple grounds that while President Polk's term ended, so did David Atchison's due to his term ending the same day.

There exist two alternative narratives for counterfactual debate. One, that the powers fell on the president-elect regardless of oath. Two, that we didn't have a president for a day.

I'm more inclined to pick option one. Today, per the 20th Amendment, the power falls on the president elect at noon on Jan.

20. In fact, in 1841, John Tyler didn't feel he had to take an oath of presidency when he succeeded after Harrison's death. For Tyler, power automatically transfers, and the VP Oath counts. It's part of the Tyler-Principal which he's known for. While President Tyler set the precedence eight years earlier. The 20th and 25th Amendments appear to affirm Tyler's decision a century later.

Regarding Sunday, since that time a work-around was created: as recently as 2013, President Obama was administered the oath privately on Sunday, then there was an inauguration ceremony the next day.

A closing thought is that while we take the increase importance of today's presidency for granted, in the 1849 we likely went a day without an acting president, and nothing happened.

Andy Chandler is a presidential historian and a museum archivist at Candles Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute and the Ernie Pyle WW II Museum in Dana Ind.

Heights Superintendent Shares Update



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Guest Columnist

Northern Hamilton County Community Partners are working to better understand the childcare and out-of-school needs of families across the Hamilton Heights School District. As part of this effort, we are inviting parents and caregivers to share their experiences related to childcare (ages 0-3), preschool (ages 3-5), and before- and after-school care and out-of-school opportunities (ages 5-18). To ensure accuracy and allow for follow-up if needed, the survey requests basic contact information; however, this information will remain confidential and will not be shared outside of this project. Your participation is completely voluntary, but your feedback will play an important role as we explore how to expand support and opportunities for Heights families. Access the survey at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS-d5PMF7nVMMwa8qci-u3aRYvbeLmfIjJpansCmWArCypqNVoSw/viewform?us->

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This work also comes at a meaningful moment for our community. This year marks the Boys & Girls Club's 75th anniversary—a milestone that carries deep personal significance for me. The Boys & Girls Club shaped my own family's story and has touched generations of young people in northern Hamilton County. Its legacy of mentorship, belonging, and opportunity continues to inspire the partnerships we build today to support children and families across our district.

Speaking of celebrations, March gives us a special opportunity to pause and recognize the extraordinary role the arts play in the lives of our students. National organizations have designated this month as Youth Art Month, Music in Our Schools Month, Theatre in Our Schools Month, and Dance in Our Schools Month—a collective reminder of how

essential the arts are to a well-rounded education.

At Heights, this isn't just a national celebration; it reflects what we believe at our core. The arts are part of our identity as a public school district. They give every student, regardless of background, ability, or experience, the chance to discover their voice, express their creativity, and connect with others in meaningful ways. These opportunities are possible because of the unique promise of public education: that every child deserves access to experiences that help them grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Every day, I see the impact of the arts in our schools. I see it in the confidence of a student stepping onto a stage for the first time, in the focus of a young musician learning a new piece, in the imagination captured on a canvas, and in the teamwork that unfolds during rehearsals and performances. These moments are not small—they shape who our students become.

Our arts educators are at the heart of this work. Their passion, creativity, and commitment create spaces where students feel safe to take risks, try new things, and discover talents they may not have

known they had. Their influence extends far beyond the classroom, and I am deeply grateful for the way they enrich the lives of our students and strengthen our school community.

We are also fortunate to live in a community that values the arts and understands their importance in a child's development. Your support—showing up to performances, celebrating student artwork, and encouraging participation—helps create an environment where creativity thrives. It reinforces the message that every student's artistic journey matters.

As we join schools across the country in celebrating the arts this month, I am reminded of how proud I am of our students, our educators, and our community. The arts are alive and thriving at Hamilton Heights, in our classrooms, our hallways, our stages, and our hearts. They enrich our district in ways that are visible every day, and they remain one of the most meaningful ways we help prepare our students for bright, successful futures. #WeAreHuskies

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

The Times

Vol. 122 | Issue 26

Sen. Phil Boots, President
Tim Timmons, Publisher
USPS Publication Number: 391140
Annual Print Subscription: \$89
Annual Online Subscription: \$42
To subscribe:
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2026 NISSAN ARMADA PRO-4X IS THE COMFY CURE FOR ARDUOUS COMMUTES AND GLACIAL CONVOYS

All the luxuries and a round of skid plates take your crew almost anywhere no matter the snow and ice



CASEY WILLIAMS
Columnist

It's been a tough winter, trudging through a foot of snow in Indiana before heading to Memphis to find 2-inches of ice and only one lane of slow-moving semis on Interstate 40. It's really trying my patience, these arduous commutes and glacial convoys. But I may have the cure to these winter blues: The 2026 Nissan Armada PRO-4X.

There have been a few generations of the Armada, the original based on the full-size Titan pickup, transitioning to this one based on the Nissan Patrol. Those are the white SUVs you often see with U.N. lettering in the world's most inhospitable places. No less capable, the Armada and its sister the Infiniti QX80 were recently redesigned and are far more domesticated.

You'll know the PRO-4X by its bulldozer black grille, 20-inch dark wheels, off-road tires, black roof rails and red accents manifesting in the logo, rear pillar stripe and tow hooks. It's a little bit sinister, but with a splash of joy. Extended fender flares, step bars and skid plates beneath enhance the big truck's all-road capability.

It's a bit more genteel inside where twin screens dominate the dash, layers of stitching add lush, and diamond-stitched seats with heat and ventilation keep front passengers climatically delighted. A thick leather-wrapped steering wheel, Klipsch audio, twin-panel sunroof and push-button gear selector add their vices. Connect and charge phones wirelessly via Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and a console pad. You can swipe the screen to change radio stations, but you have to click-click with small buttons to do it manually.

Access to the third row is pretty easy with the middle seats slid forward, and real adults can ride back there on short hops, but the twin captain's chairs are black car spacious with red stitching, their own zone of climate, four USBs and glass above. Storage behind the power hatch is pretty shallow, but click buttons to flip the seats down and enjoy a cavern of space. Four can travel like tsars with luggage behind them.

Powering this carnival is a 3.5-liter twin-turbo V6 scaring up 425 horsepower and 516 lb.-ft. of torque – routed to the four-wheel-drive system through a 9-speed automatic transmission. Easily tow up to 8,500 lbs. with pre-wiring, dash controls and trailer sway control. The drive mode selector configures the powertrain for virtually any condition while a locking rear differential maintains forward momentum. Drive the Armada as you wish because with fuel economy of 15/18-MPG city/highway, it doesn't much matter.

Even with a four-wheel independent adaptive air suspension that raises it up a couple of extra inches for off-roading, the Armada betrays its full-framed truck-based roots. You can raise it up a couple of inches to clear obstacles,

and it employs hill descent control to stay stable, but you always know you're driving a real truck. Fortunately, it's relatively short and turns tight, making trails...and parallel parking...a snap.

Nissan also invests heavily in safety systems, imbuing our Armada with forward collision warning, automatic emergency braking, blind spot avoidance, and lane keeping assist. There's even trailer blind spot warning and rear auto brake. Our vehicle had a lane-centering system that's essentially an automated hands-on cruise control, but did not come with the now-available hands-off system. Bummer.

You may have to snap for your fairy godmother to afford the Armada PRO-4X. Armadas start at \$58,840, but get it like our vehicle and you'll need \$80,020. That's a steep tab for a Nissan, but fair when compared against the Chevy Tahoe Z71, Ford Expedition Tremor, GMC Yukon AT4, Jeep Grand Cherokee and Toyota Land Cruiser.

Storm Forward!

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

LIKES	DISLIKES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOUGH STYLE POLISHED INTERIOR EXTREMELY CAPABLE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRUCKY RIDE RADIO BUTTONS ALL HANDS-ON
<p>2026 Nissan Armada Pro-4X Seven-passenger, 4WD SUV Powertrain: 3.5-liter TTV6, 9-spd Output: 425hp/516 lb.-ft. torque Suspension f/r: Adap Ind/Ind Wheels f/r: 20"/20" alloy Brakes f/r: disc/disc Towing: 8,500 lbs. Fuel economy: 15/18 mpg city/hwy Assembly: Japan Base/As-tested price: \$58,840/80,020</p>	

Telling a Story Never Grows Old



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

It takes a long time to write a book.

Actually, writing a book does not take that long. Getting a book sold and edited and published takes far more time than I imagined. But my waiting is finally over as this book, "Loon Point," that I started writing two and a half years ago, will be released at the end of the month.

I was sure I would be completely terrified on the eve of my first novel's release. I was sure that there would be a million things I still had to do, and a thousand regrets for things I should have done sooner, and at least a hundred things on my to-do list every single day. This has not proven to be the case.

The process has been remarkably smooth, and I have panicked far less frequently than I imagined I would. Instead, I have been touched by how sincerely folks have welcomed my first little novel. I've had quite a few newspapers review "Loon Point," and—for me—this is the hardest part. If the reviews were bad, I could say, "They make an excellent point. I could have done a better job!" But when the reviewer says nice things

about my writing, I find it hard to read. When the early reviews came out, I made my husband, Peter, read them first.

"What do they say?" I asked Peter.

"It's all good," he told me.

"That's what I was afraid of!" I find the whole thing terribly embarrassing.

But I love to hear from readers. I had a few early readers, and when they told me they stayed up late to finish, or stopped before they read the last chapter so the book wouldn't be done so soon—those comments made me want to cry.

The world doesn't need any more books—that's what many people will tell you.

There are more books printed every day than anyone could possibly read. I have piles of books I intend to read, and the possibility of ever getting to the bottom of the pile seems remote. I am more than a little aware that there is no shortage of reading material.

And yet, I'm glad I wrote this book. Because, two

and a half years later, I still believe the book will make people happy and perhaps feel a little better about the world they live in, or their neighbors, or their lives. And I still think it is funny.

There will never be another first book. This experience will soon be over and, with any luck at all, there will be another book and one after that. The uncertainty will be less pronounced. The fears will diminish.

But I don't think the excitement will ever end. Because telling a story never grows old. If I'd been born in a different place and time—if I'd been born long ago—I can easily imagine myself sitting by a fire at night and, when things seemed a little dull, or a little gloomy, or perhaps the folks gathered around the fire were a little scared, I would tell a story.

My story would not be important. It would not change anyone's life or change the world. But I think there must be an evolutionary advantage to a sense of humor. I think it somehow helps us to survive the hard times. For a few minutes that night, the darkness might not seem as impenetrable, the future might seem a bit less ominous, and we would find things to laugh about together.

And that is enough.

Till next time,

Carrie

Spartz' Bills to Reduce Costs for Farmers, Consumers

Rep. Victoria Spartz (IN-05) recently introduced a set of bills ahead of the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization aimed at lowering costs for farmers and consumers, improving equipment safety, and increasing transparency.

The Farm Freedom to Repair Act would ensure farmers have the right to repair the digital agricultural equipment they own, helping reduce costly delays and dependence on manufacturers for basic repairs.

The Farm Equipment Safety Act would exempt

off-road farm equipment from burdensome emissions regulations that have increased costs and complexity for producers, making it easier and more affordable for farmers to operate and maintain the equipment essential to their work.

The Checkoff Transparency Act would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to publish audits, budgets, and activities of commodity checkoff programs on its website, increasing transparency and accountability for programs funded by fees farmers are

forced by Congress to pay.

"We have been losing small farm operations at a rapid pace, with more and more market power accumulating in the hands of a few oligopolies which, in some sectors like meat processing, are even using farmers' own money — such as checkoff fees — to lobby against smaller farmers," Spartz said. "Unreasonable government regulations add further burdens, especially on smaller farmers and consumers. We have to start applying some common sense."



Providing an affordable and positive baseball experience for all young men ages 13-18

The 2026 Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball Season begins April 13, 2026 and ends on June 17, 2026.
(You do not need to be a Noblesville resident as we welcome ball players from surrounding communities).

There will be two Leagues: 13-15 year old Competitive League and 16-18 year old Competitive League.

Both 13-15 League and 16-18 League will begin play on April 13, 2026. A double-elimination tournament will be played June 7-17, 2026.
*Note: Dates subject to change due to weather or unforeseen circumstances.

Registration Fee: 2026 Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball registration fee is \$199 (plus processing fee applied at checkout) and includes team jersey and hat.

Player Evaluations: 13-15 year old players new to Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball or 13-15 year old players wishing to re-enter the team draft need to attend the player evaluation session scheduled for March 14, 2026 from 2 pm-4 pm at Noblesville High School. *More details to be provided at a later date.

Register today at:
noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.sportsengine-prelive.com

Interested in supporting our young men and helping with continued upgrades to our facility? Sponsor opportunities are still available!
Email nbrbcommunications@gmail.com for more information.

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Liar Liar Liar



DICK WOLFSIE
Columnist

People often ask if what I write is true. The honest answer is that all the columns are based on real events. But here's a good example of when I once stretched things a bit too far and still feel ashamed after all this time.

Years ago, we visited the Grand Canyon (that part was true). Then I explained how, before our return flight, I sent my digital camera through the security scanner (totally factual). And how it was stolen when I left it behind in my seat at the airport (correct again).

I wanted to write about this incident and intended to simply tell a story about how careless I am with my belongings. But when I returned from the trip, I ran into my friend George, who lives down the street.

"How was your vacation, Dick?" he asked.

"Oh, it was fantastic! Except my camera was stolen."

"What a shame. And with all your photos, huh?"

It's okay. I had my email address on the camera, so the thief sent the pictures back to me.

I don't know where that crazy idea came from. It just slipped out of my mouth. It wasn't just an exaggeration; it was a boldfaced fabrication. George got hysterical. He couldn't stop laughing. And I'm so addicted to the sound of people laughing that I left it at that.

George then sent out an email to friends and posted it on Facebook. People started messaging me, saying what a bizarre story that was. Others on the block approached me and said they thought it would be a perfect idea for a newspaper column. As I retold the incident, I embellished it. Then I shared it at church.

When I sat down that night to write my weekly column, I actually started to believe the whole thing myself. If you repeat something enough times, you start thinking it's the truth. Just ask any politician.

In my column, I even included the fake e-mail from the thief who supposedly stole my camera. I had already crossed over to the dark side—why not get a few extra laughs along the way?

Dear Mr. Wolfsie:

Thanks for leaving your camera unattended at the Denver airport. I've always wanted one like that. But when I started looking through those pictures, my heart went out to you. You have such a sweet-looking family, so I am e-mailing you all your photos. Your wife is lovely, but she'd look much better with shorter hair. At least in the photos where you don't cut off her head.

After the column was published, I received dozens of e-mails.

Dear Dick,

Your story was hysterical. You took a real-life negative experience and let us laugh at your expense.

Dear Dick,

Very funny column. This could only happen to you. Sorry about your camera.

Dear Dick,

Witty as always. We love the honesty in your writing.

The guilt was tearing me apart. I hoped the person who stole my camera would read the column and have the decency to email me my photos. I don't care about the stupid pictures; I just wanted to be an honest man again.

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

Still Time to Take in *Vanities*



Photo courtesy The Belfry Theatre and Indy Ghost Light

The curtain has gone up on the Belfry Theatre's production of *Vanities*, a poignant and humorous exploration of friendship, ambition and growing up. But it's still on stage through March 15 at The Cat Theatre in Carmel. Performances remaining are 13 at 8:00 p.m. and March 14 and 15 at 2 p.m. All performances take place at The Cat Theatre, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel, IN. Tickets are \$20 for adults and youth, and \$15 for seniors (64+). Tickets are available at thebelfrytheatre.com

Witham Hosts BBQ Fundraiser

The Witham Health Services Volunteer Organization will host a fundraiser with Jawbone BBQ on Wednesday, March 11, from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the ER entrance in Lebanon.

The menu will include pulled chicken, pulled pork, cheesy potatoes,

green beans with sausage, spinach salad and banana pudding. Jawbone BBQ will donate 10% of all sales from the event to the Witham Volunteer Organization. All proceeds from the fundraiser benefit the Witham Volunteer Organization Scholarship Program and various fund the need

initiatives for Witham Hospital.

For more information about this event or to learn about volunteer opportunities at Witham, contact Director of Volunteer Services Amy Mitchell at 765-485-8175 or amitchell@witham.org.

Carmel Forms Transportation Committee

Demonstrating a continued commitment to transparency, accountability and fiscal stewardship, Mayor Sue Finkam has signed an executive order establishing the Carmel Transportation Committee.

The newly formed committee will review and provide expert commentary on the City of Carmel's forthcoming Capital Improvement Plan and Program. By integrating resident expertise and legislative oversight, the Committee will ensure that the City's long-term infrastructure investments align with the community's needs and fiscal goals.

"The Transportation Committee, led by City Engineer Bradley Pease, will provide a vital layer of review for our infrastructure strategy," said Mayor Finkam. "This initiative ensures that we publish our Capital Improvement Plan with a precise focus on transparency and the responsible

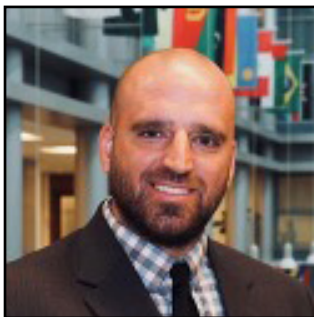
management of taxpayer dollars."

The Committee is comprised of five Carmel residents, each bringing a diverse range of professional backgrounds and community perspectives. Joining these residents are two members of the Carmel City Council, President Matthew Snyder and Councilor Jeff Worrell, ensuring a direct link between the advisory body and the City's legislative process.

"Bringing together technical leadership and resident voices allows us to vet our transportation priorities more effectively," added Pease (pictured).

Committee members are:

- Bradley Pease, City Engineer, Committee Chair
- Jamie Ford-Bowers, Founder, JFB LLC
- Jeff Hill, Vice President and Partner, A&F Engineering



City Engineer Bradley Pease

- Ruth Hook, Environmental Section Director, Burgess & Niple
- Jarvis Jointer, Founder and CEO, JQOL
- Lyndsay Quist, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Transportation
- Matthew Snyder, President, Carmel City Council
- Jeff Worrell, Councilor, Carmel City Council

Details regarding meeting schedules and opportunities for community involvement will be shared in the coming weeks.

Local Student, Educator Honored

Josie Liebke from Butler University was one of 28 first-generation Indiana college students who got a boost to their education funds this academic year and re-connected with influential educators who helped along the way after being named "Realizing the Dream" recipients by Independent Colleges of Indiana. These scholarship recipients, one from each of Indiana's private, non-profit colleges and universities, were celebrated at a ban-

quet on February 28 at the Eiteljorg Museum.

Made possible by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the scholarship program annually recognizes first-generation college students from ICI colleges and universities. Students are selected for the \$5,000 awards for outstanding achievement as they successfully advance toward completing their bachelor's degrees.

Josie selected Jed Mellott from Hamilton Southeastern High School as her influential educator.

To honor recipients, ICI created individual videos of each student describing what it means to them to be a first-generation college student and thanking the influential educator they have chosen to honor. Videos can be found at icindiana.org/rtd.

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Thank you for reading The Times!

Community Development Block Grants Open for Applications

The Office of Lieutenant Governor Micah Beckwith and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced the first round of Community Development Block Grants for 2026 is now open for applications.

The following programs are accepting applications.

- Blight Clearance
- Main Street Revitalization
- Public Facilities
- Stormwater Improvements
- Wastewater/Drinking Water

Detailed information on 2026 Round 1 updates can be found on the CDBG Resources page.

Proposal submissions will be collected via the electronic Grants Management System. Instructions on how to submit proposals can be found at in.gov/ocra/cdbg/cdbg-construction-grants/.

2026 Round 1 proposals are due on Sunday, April 5, by 11:59 p.m. ET via eGMS. Communities are encouraged to submit their proposals prior to 3 p.m. on April 3, as technical assistance will not be available after that time.

2026 Round 1 applications are due on Sunday, June 7, by 11:59 p.m. ET also via eGMS. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications prior to 3 p.m. on June 5, as technical assistance will not be available after that time.

Important Notes:

The deadline for in-kind



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler

Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith also serves as the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

request submission has changed to the proposal due date. Request for the use of in-kind match should be emailed to cdbg@ocra.in.gov no later than Sunday, April 5, at 11:59 p.m. ET. All requests are to be made in accordance with CDBG Policy Notice 2025-005: In-Kind Contribution Policy.

All income survey documentation should be submitted final approval in eGMS by the proposal due date. This change is to confirm the National Objective of Low-to-Moderate Income Area Benefit is being met by applicants using an income survey.

The deadline for all bonus point submissions has changed to the application due date. Request for bonus points should be uploaded with the application on eGMS no later than Sunday, June 7, at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Funding for all CDBG programs comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

and is administered by OCRA. The State of Indiana distributes CDBG funds to rural communities to assist units of local government with various community projects like improving infrastructure, downtown revitalization, public facilities improvements and economic development.

For further information on these programs, visit in.gov/ocra/cdbg or contact the assigned OCRA regional community liaison .

Under the leadership of Beckwith, who also serves as the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs' (OCRA) mission is to work with local, state and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to assist communities in shaping and achieving their vision for community and economic development. For more information, visit ocra.in.gov.

Simple Steps to Take Before Severe Weather Strikes



DARRIN WALTON
Guest Columnist

In the spring, Indiana weather can turn from calm to catastrophic in a matter of moments. Even though the weather is difficult to predict and impossible to control, there are steps you can take to reduce your risk, protect your property and recover more quickly if a damaging storm does strike.

As the executive director of claims at Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, I see how families and business owners are impacted by severe storms. Each spring, I hear individual stories and see the aftermath from a holistic viewpoint. Preparation can make a meaningful difference.

Understand and review your coverage

Commit to reviewing your coverages annually. You need to understand what your policy covers and what it doesn't cover. Take a look at your current deductibles, exclusions and coverage limits to get a lay of the land. Since construction costs rise over time, make sure you have the right level of coverage to reflect current rebuilding costs. Being underinsured can leave you financially exposed when it matters most.

Proactively protect what you can

A little bit of maintenance and planning can go a long way. If you have loose shingles, siding or gutters, secure them while you can. Also, keep an eye out for tree branches that are dead, snapped or have grown too long. They can break or fall during high winds and cause damage to your property.

Some things you can handle on the day of severe weather, as long as you're paying attention. If you know hail is in the forecast and you have a garage, make sure you can park inside. If you enjoyed a cook-out the day before storm warnings, don't forget that your patio furniture and grill can become projectiles during strong winds.

Make a list, check it often

A lot of homeowners have a hard time remembering everything they own when a loss occurs. I see it all the time, and it can add to the stress of the situation. It is in your best interest to go room by room to document everything you own and note when the items were purchased.

Talk with your agent about the best way to document your belongings. Some popular documentation methods include

checklist documents, spreadsheet tracking, photo and video logs, or dedicated mobile apps. After a storm that causes significant damage, clear documentation can significantly speed up the claims process and help ensure that you're compensated correctly.

Stock up supplies

Personal safety planning is the most important part of severe weather preparation. Make sure you know where the safest place to ride out the storm is in your home, typically a basement or away from windows in an interior room on the lowest floor. Keep a well-stocked emergency kit handy and fill it with essentials like water, snacks, flashlights and batteries, first-aid supplies and important documents. Also, make sure you have a way to stay informed about the weather, whether that's your phone or a dedicated radio.

Spring in Indiana can be one of the most beautiful seasons. I'm not urging you to expect the worst, but I do want you to be ready if severe weather strikes near you. These practical measures can help provide some peace of mind when the skies darken, and the sirens start shouting their warnings this spring.

Darrin Walton is the executive director of claims at Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, an insurance company headquartered in Indianapolis with offices in all 92 counties. Walton is an experienced claims professional with more than 35 years in the field.

Westfield Introduces Plan Tonight

The City of Westfield will introduce its draft Comprehensive Plan, Advancing Westfield: Looking to the Horizon, during the City Council meeting tonight at 7 p.m., beginning a public review and consideration process that will take place over the coming weeks.

The Comprehensive Plan is a long-range policy document that helps guide how Westfield grows and invests over the next 20 years. It brings together planning for land use, transportation, utilities, economic development, and quality of life into a single framework so future decisions are coordinated and consistent.

"This plan sets a clear vision for Westfield's future and a framework to guide smart decisions over time," said Mayor Scott Willis. "By growing with purpose, and not just reacting to growth, we can strengthen our tax base by bringing more commercial investment alongside housing and remain a world-class, sustainable community for generations to come."

Development of the draft plan began in 2024 and followed an 18-month process that included extensive

research, data analysis, and public engagement. More than 6,000 people—representing roughly 10 percent of Westfield's population—participated through public meetings, surveys, focus groups, steering committee work, and online workshops. City officials emphasized that the plan was intentionally built over time to ensure it reflects community input and long-term needs.

The plan introduces updates to the placetype map, which is used to describe the general character and function of different areas of the city over the long term. These updates reflect changes that have occurred since the City's previous comprehensive plan and are intended to improve coordination between land use, transportation, and infrastructure planning. Placetypes do not change zoning, approve development, or establish timelines for when development may occur.

City officials also emphasized that the Comprehensive Plan is designed to be a living document. After adoption, the City will conduct annual reviews to report on progress and ensure the plan continues to align

with community priorities. More detailed updates may occur approximately every five years, with a full plan overhaul anticipated every 20 to 25 years.

The draft Comprehensive Plan is currently under review and will move through the public process, including additional discussion and consideration by City Council, before any action is taken.

Public Process Schedule:
 March 9, 7 p.m.: Introduction at City Council
 March 11, 7 p.m.: Special Plan Commission Meeting with Public Hearing
 March 16, 7:30 p.m.: APC Meeting for formal recommendation
 March 23, 7 p.m.: Adoption Consideration at City Council

All meetings will be located at Westfield City Hall (130 Penn Street).

Residents are encouraged to learn more, review the draft plan, and follow along as the public process continues by visiting westfieldin.gov/2045, which will serve as the City's primary source of information throughout the review period.



Photo courtesy Indiana Landmarks

The Stine-Anderson Family Farm, a historic Clinton County farm southwest of Frankfort, won the award in 2025.

Historic Farms Sought for Rural Preservation Award

Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Farm Bureau welcome nominations for the 2026 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation. The award recognizes the preservation and ongoing agricultural use of historic farms and farm buildings in Indiana. Owners of more than 30 historic farms across the state have been honored with the award since it was established in 1992.

Anyone, including farm owners, can submit a nomination for the Arnold Award, which will be presented during the Celebration of Agriculture at the Indiana State Fair in August. The nomination is simple and asks for:

- A brief history of the

farm and description of its significant historic structures and features, such as the farmhouse, barns, agricultural outbuildings, and landscape elements.

- A description of how the farm's historic agricultural structures continue to be used in day-to-day farming operations, and how they have been preserved or adapted.
- High-res digital photographs of the farm and its preserved historic features. Historic images are also welcome.

The award winner receives an outdoor marker and feature coverage in Indiana Preservation mag-

azine. Indiana Landmarks named the award in memory of John Arnold (1955-1991), a Rush County farmer who successfully combined progressive agricultural practices with a deep respect for the historic and natural features of the rural landscape. The John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation honors those who share a similar commitment to preserving the landmarks and landscape of rural Indiana.

Submit nominations for the Arnold Award at indianalandmarks.org/john-arnold-award-rural-preservation. Deadline for nominations is April 30, 2026.

Public Notices Deadline: 11:00 a.m.
2 Business Days Prior to Publication:
legals@thetimes24-7.com

Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline
May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee In Addition
To The Cost Of The Advertisement

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Where can people find volunteer opportunities?

A: People can find volunteer opportunities that meet their needs at redcross.org.

Q: What is Red Cross Month?

A: Red Cross Month is a nationwide celebration in March to honor the people who deliver support when help can't wait. It began as a national call to action during WWII for individuals to address growing humanitarian needs. Now, it's a community tradition encouraging people to get involved at redcross.org. This year's campaign includes:

- The Red Cross is offering free A1C screening in March to test for prediabetes and diabetes on all successful blood, platelet and plasma donations, as part of its efforts to support the health of communities. No fasting is required; it's always important to eat a nutritious meal before giving blood. In addition, all who come to give blood, platelets or plasma March 1-31 will receive a \$15 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See RedCrossBlood.org/March for details.
- Financial donations made on March 25 for Disaster Relief will be part of this year's Red Cross Giving Day, which aims to bring together 30,000 supporters to help ensure families don't face disasters alone.

Q: What is Red Cross Giving Day?

A: Red Cross Month culminates with Red Cross Giving Day, which will be held this year on March 25. It's an opportunity for people to come together on one day to help families recover from a home fire or other disaster across the country. Donations can be made at redcross.org/GivingDay.

Red Cross Looking for Volunteers

People of all ages make up approximately 4,200 volunteers in the Indiana Region, including members of Gen Z who participate through nearly 20 Red Cross Clubs at universities and high schools across the Indiana Region.

Generation after generation – from Gen Z to the Silent Generation – our community has shown that compassion is one of its greatest strengths. In moments when help can't wait, volunteers of all ages and backgrounds come together to offer care, comfort and hope. Their commitment reflects a shared humanitarian spirit that connects us across time and continues to make a meaningful difference through our lifesaving mission – one that has supported families for more than half of our country's 250-year history.

This month during Red Cross Month, the Red Cross honors how people today deliver support when help can't wait. Every contribution matters – visit redcross.org to get involved by volunteering, making a financial donation, giving blood or taking a class in lifesaving skills.

A Growing Need for Volunteers

Today, our volunteers are mobilizing for nearly twice as many disasters as they did a decade ago, including home fires—the nation's most frequent disaster. As these emergencies continue to increase, the need for compassionate, well-prepared volunteers has never been greater. From severe storms to home fires, communities rely on a dedicated volunteer network ready to respond at a moment's notice. That's why the Red Cross is calling on more people to step forward—so no one has to face an emergency alone.

The Red Cross is proud that its volunteers reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. Individuals of all ages, backgrounds and experience levels are encouraged to get involved. Right now, the most urgent volunteer opportunities across the Indiana Region are:

Disaster Action Team (DAT): Support local families after a home fire or other emergency. DAT volunteers offer emotional care, emergency financial assistance and recovery

information to help households take their first steps forward.

Shelter Volunteers: Assist residents staying in emergency shelters by helping meet their immediate needs and connecting them with additional resources and services.

Blood Donor Ambassadors: Welcome and guide donors at blood drives, assist with registration, answer questions, share important information and provide support in the refreshment area.

Blood Transportation Specialists: Help save lives by delivering blood products from Red Cross facilities to nearby hospitals. If you enjoy driving, have some flexible time and like connecting with people, this role could be a perfect fit.

Make a difference in your community. Put on a red vest and become part of the Red Cross volunteer team. Visit redcross.org to learn more and sign up today. Free online training will be provided.

Local Students Serve as Senate Pages

State Sens. Brain Buchanan (R-Lebanon) and Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville) welcomed the following local students to the Statehouse who served as Senate pages.

- Cooper Black, from Noblesville, attends Noblesville West Middle School
- Aiden Chapin, from Noblesville, attends Noblesville West Middle School
- Jackson Edwards, from Noblesville, attends Noblesville High School
- Luke Habel, from Noblesville, attends Noblesville High School
- Jonas Harley, from Noblesville, attends Noblesville High School
- Hadden Irwin, from Noblesville, attends Noblesville High School
- Jack Trusty, from Noblesville, attends Noblesville West Middle School
- Emil Kucur, from Sheridan, attends Sheridan High School
- Liam Nguyen, from Carmel, attends Park Tudor School
- Prudence Peng, from Carmel, attends Carmel High School
- Julia Salib, from Carmel, attends Carmel High School
- Sophia Salib, from Carmel, attends University High School
- Amelia Smith, from Noblesville, attends Fishers Junior High School
- Kingsley Southard, from Noblesville, attends Acellus Academy
- Jack Trusty, from

Noblesville, attends Noblesville West Middle School

Pages spend a day at the Statehouse touring the historic building, observing debates from the Senate floor and interacting with their state senator.

Students in grades six through 12 participate in the page program on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the legislative session.

The 2026 Senate Page program has now ended. Parents interested in learning more about the program should visit www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program. Applications for the 2027 program will be available at the end of 2026.



Photo courtesy City of Westfield

If you go, be sure to stop by the Westfield Welcome tent to pick up their complimentary scavenger hunt card.

Shamrock Drop Returns to Grand Junction Plaza

Get ready for the big drop, Westfield! The City of Westfield's popular St. Patrick's Day celebration, Shamrock Drop returns to Grand Junction Plaza (225 S. Union Street) on Saturday, March 14, from 12 – 3 p.m.

This free, family-friendly event will have live Irish music, a scavenger hunt, live crafts, airbrush tattoos, and food and beer vendors. Themed carnival games are also available

for an additional cost—at attendees may purchase a Lucky Loot Card for \$10, which enables them to play any of the six carnival games. Every player is guaranteed to win a prize.

Attendees are encouraged to stop by the Westfield Welcome tent to pick up their complimentary scavenger hunt card. Once the scavenger hunt is complete, participants can redeem their Lucky Shamrock Duck at the final clue

location. At 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., a leprechaun will climb aboard a Westfield Fire Department fire truck and drop all the Lucky Shamrock Ducks from above. One duck will be chosen at random, and the owner of the winning duck will receive a grand prize generously donated by local Westfield businesses.

For more information about Shamrock Drop, visit westfieldin.gov/shamrockdrop.

Lions Learn About Cherish Center



Photo courtesy Noblesville Lions

Cherish Center Executive Director Wendy Gamble and Lions First Vice President John Einsfeld

The Noblesville Lions Club welcomed Cherish Center Executive Director Wendy Gamble to their February 25th meeting. Cherish Center is a nationally accredited child advocacy center in Hamilton County. Founded in 2009, the Center provides abuse intervention and prevention services in Hamilton and Tipton Counties. They manage 40-45 cases per month, totaling over 5,800 cases since opening. There are six staff, including forensic interviewers and family advocates. Cherish Center works with children as young as 2 years up to endangered adults of all ages. Staff work with law enforcement of all levels, the Indiana Department of Child Services, prosecutors, victim advocacy groups, medical and mental health professionals. They deal with cases of domestic violence, online grooming and sexual abuse, with most coming from DCS. Cherish Center is supported by grants from local, state and federal government, and they are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Donations provide everything from comfort items for children during interviews to trauma therapy sessions. To learn more about Cherish Center, go to www.cherishcac.org.

Letter to the Editor

Writer Urges Backing of Offshore Wind Power

Dear Editor,

President Trump does not like windmills. In December, his Interior Department issued stop-work orders for five offshore windfarms along the Atlantic coast, putting thousands of workers out of a job just days before Christmas.

Thankfully, in a little over a month, federal judges have ordered all the projects to move forward, putting workers back on the job and keeping the projects on track to power more than 2.5 million homes and businesses.

Right now, families across the country are shouldering the strain of unaffordable energy bills. Offshore wind is a clean, reliable, and ready-to-go solution. These five projects are already creating thousands of local jobs and helping to transition states away from fossil fuels.

This has been an intensely cold winter. Large portions of the country have been blanketed in snow and thousands of homes have lost power. While fossil fuel power plants struggle to stay on during winter

storms, offshore wind is a reliable energy source that helps communities save money and keep the lights on. In fact, offshore wind is strongest in the winter and at night - right when we need it most.

Donald Trump is only interested in lining his families pockets. I am calling on President Trump to stop his senseless attacks on offshore wind. Let the workers finish the job. Our future depends on clean energy.

Bradley Fackler
Fishers

**Thank you for
reading
The Times!**