

■ TODAY'S VERSE

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (NIV)

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

Tee off at the Westfield Chamber of Commerce's 23rd Annual Golf Outing on May 11 at Wood Wind Golf Course. The outing is open to all community members and organizations in Hamilton County, with a special discounted rate for Westfield Chamber Partners. Player spots for our 23rd Annual Golf Outing have sold out. If would like to be added to the waitlist, please reach out to dlacey@westfieldchamberindy.com! There are still plenty of sponsorship opportunities available for you to gain exposure at our most anticipated event of the year!



Gee, I kinda miss winter . . . NOT!!!

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Spring won't let me stay in this house any longer! I must get out and breathe the air deeply again."

Gustav Mahler

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Why do hummingbirds hum?
Because they don't know the words!

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Happy Days – It's Spring Again! 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!

OK, so we're a day late (well, maybe three) and as usual, a dollar short. But some of us are so happy to see Old Man Winter in the rearview that we just had to celebrate the arrival of spring . . . by the numbers.

171,000,000

That's the approximate number of travelers hitting the roads and open skies (if they can ever get through TSA long lines at the airport). According to the scary faceless AI expert, about 50 million of those are students on spring break.



\$820 to \$1,500

The per person cost for an average domestic flight and sea cruise, respectively.

30,000

A spring tradition – the Boston Marathon – is expected to draw about 30,000 runners. (And a month later, about 35,000 are expected for the Indy Mini-Marathon! Hoosiers take a backseat to no one!)

54

That's the average high temperature on March 20 in Indiana. The average low is 35. The record high for was 83 and was set just a few years ago in 2012. The low was a frigid 12 degrees back in 1965.

83

On the first day of summer, June 21, we can expect an average high in the low 80s. The average low is 64. The high-low records are 101 in 1988 and 41.



5

The top five states for spring break travel are (you know the first one) Florida, followed by California, Texas, Hawaii and Nevada.

1

The number one spot searched online for a possible spring break destination by Hoosier students is Destin, Fla.

93

The number of days from March 20 to the first day of summer, June 21.

65-110

We all know that spring features an increased awareness of tornadoes. While violent EF4 and EF5 tornadoes can have wind speeds of 200 to 300 mph, more common in Indiana are weaker EF0 and EF1 storms with wind speeds between 65 and 110.



20

That's the average number of tornadoes we get in Indiana each year – and they can occur any time. So yes, it's spring. But we should always be vigilant.

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Curt Cignetti, in celebration of Indiana University Football's epic undefeated National Championship season, has been named honorary Pace Car driver for the 110th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge. Cignetti will drive the all-new Chevrolet Corvette ZR1X – the most advanced Corvette ever, designed and built right here in the United States – to lead the field of 33 drivers to the start of "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing." Exact Pace Car details, including the one-of-a-kind Indianapolis 500 livery, will be unveiled at a later date. The 2026 Indy 500 is set for Sunday, May 24, with FOX's live coverage kicking off at 10 a.m.

2. Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales is reminding Hoosiers that Monday April 6th is the voter registration deadline for the upcoming Primary Election on Tuesday May 5th, 2026. Eligible Hoosiers who are not registered to vote are encouraged to take a few minutes now to ensure their voices are heard. Hoosiers can check their registration status, register to vote, or update their information by visiting "IndianaVoters.com" or by contacting their local county election office. Hoosiers can register to vote online at "IndianaVoters.com" until 11:59 p.m. on April 6th. Hoosiers have until the close of business on April 6th to register to vote in person at county election offices. Since taking office, increasing voter participation has been a major focus for Secretary Morales. According to the 2025 Indiana Civic Health Index, Indiana has the highest voter registration percentage in 14 years, now ranking 33rd in the country.

3. The Indianapolis International Airport is adding Avelo Airlines to its roster of airline partners. Avelo will begin service out of the Indy airport on June 18, launching service to two new nonstop destinations that were previously unserved from Indianapolis. Avelo becomes the Indy airport's 12th passenger airline and fourth ultra-low-cost carrier, expanding affordable flight options for business and leisure travelers. Avelo will begin year-round, twice-weekly service on Thursdays and Sundays to Concord, North Carolina (USA), and New Haven, Connecticut (HVN) – both of which connect travelers to major East Coast regions for business and leisure travel. Concord provides convenient access to the Charlotte metro area, including motorsports hubs and NASCAR team headquarters. New Haven is best known as the home of Yale University and is the second largest city in Connecticut, as well as part of the New York metro region, and it is a coastal city featuring 100s of distinct restaurants along with theatres, museums and shopping destinations.

Fairgrounds Fundraising Campaign Launched

\$4 Million Raised for Facility Improvements

The Friends of Hamilton County Extension has officially launched the public phase of its fundraising campaign to support improvements at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, part of the *Silos @ 37 Hamilton County: 4-H Fairgrounds and Events Center* project.

The campaign kickoff coincided with the organization's "Denim & Diamonds" event on Friday, March 6 where early donors were honored, including foundation donors - Sonny and Glendia Beck and the Beck Foundation, Gary Reynolds and the Reynolds Family and Charlotte and Forrest Lucas.

Several Seed Gift Partners were also recognized, including Hamilton County Tourism, Riverview Health Foundation, Duke Energy, Hamilton County Farm Bureau, Hamilton County Extension Homemakers and the Hamilton County Master Gardeners.

"It was a wonderful evening to gather with people who value Extension and want to see it continue to thrive in Hamilton County," said David Day, Chairman of the Friends of Hamilton County Extension Board. "We've made great progress, but there's more work ahead, and we welcome anyone who wants to be part of this effort."

Phase 1A of the project - a \$15 million investment funded by Hamilton County – was completed this fall and includes improvements to the exhibition center and llama barn as well as construc-

See **CAMPAIGN** Page 4

Sophomores Kick Off Different Fundraiser

The Class of 2028 at Hamilton Heights High School is kicking off its most interactive fundraiser yet: the "Buy a Day" Calendar Challenge – a simple, community-powered way to help fund their junior prom and future graduation celebrations.

Designed to turn small gifts into big impact, the challenge invites supporters to "fill the board" by purchasing dates on a 30-day calendar. Every square cleared brings the class one step closer to its goal.

How It Works:

Pick a Date: The donation amount matches the date. Example: April 5 = \$5, April 22 = \$22.

Pick a Meaning: Supporters are encouraged to choose dates that matter – birthdays, anniversaries,

See **KICK OFF** Page 4

The TIMES

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ADOPT A PET ANDY



Andy is the kind of dog who bonds deeply with his people and loves them for life. This 6-year-old male American Pit Bull Terrier has been available for adoption at HSHC since 8/10/25. Whether you're snuggling on the couch or going on a big adventure, Andy is always ready to spend time with you. To meet Andy, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt, then stop by HSHC anytime 12-5 PM daily (closed Wednesday).

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Vol. 122 | Issue 32

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Annual Print Subscription: \$89
Annual Online Subscription: \$42
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Andy takes a shot with his Canon at the bridge.



Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

Still Standing. One bridge. So much history.

'Walk Half a Mile in Someone's Shoes'



ANDY CHANDLER
Columnist

"Walk a mile in someone's shoes," the saying goes. It's true. I discovered more about the 1965 Civil Rights marches and of myself doing that.

Last year, I found myself in Selma, Ala. to walk the same steps the Selma to Montgomery marchers walked 60 years before on Bloody Sunday. We've seen documentaries, and many of us have watched the 2014 movie Selma.

I decided to go for a walk in Selma following the march route from the Brown Chapel AME Church all the way to the Edmund Pettus Bridge where the marchers were turned back by tear gas and club-wielding state troopers the first time. The distance is only about half a mile.

At the church is a bust of Martin Luther King Jr. that looks out over the street to greet any who would approach.

I started walking. Unlike future Congressman John Lewis 60 years earlier, I didn't have a backpack with overnight items anticipating my arrest. I had my Canon 5D MKIV and a

bottle of water.

I headed south past an apartment complex. There was a brisk wind that day, slightly different from the cloudy day the marchers encountered on Bloody Sunday. Perhaps a sign of things to come.

I turned right onto Selma Ave. The streets were empty. De Soto came through here in 1541 and noted the place for its iron ore. Since then industry has come and gone. It is sadly a town that is past its prime. Nowadays, people drive through without giving much thought to the people or events that happened on these streets. Why should they, we've progressed since then, haven't we?

I turned left onto Broad Street. There's a 30 mile an hour speed limit, but the cars were passing me like they were driving down an interstate. An elderly gentleman using a walker and his health aid walked by me. We waved at each other.

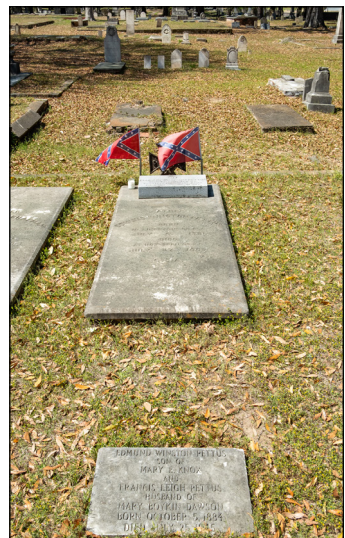
I looked off into the distance, and gasped, ahead are the steel girders and arches of The Edmund Pet-

tus Bridge. Constructed in 1940 to span the Alabama River, it was named after Confederate general, U.S. Senator and Klan Grand Dragon, Edmund Pettus. Pettus' grave is in nearby Old Live Oak Cemetery where it is constantly tended, and Confederate flags are placed around the marker.

I stopped for a few photos. Cars whizzed by without a care in the world. The arch design of the bridge made the sidewalk more of a climb than a casual walk. I'd seen the photos and video of the march but didn't realize how steep the grade was. The arch of the bridge hangs high above the water. One of the survivors told me that on Bloody Sunday people were forced to jump off the bridge into the water. That's a long way down, and it speaks to desperation.

I got to the top, and I had to take a minute: those marchers on Bloody Sunday could look down and see the state troopers and sheriff's deputies armed with billy clubs and tear gas who were there to stop them. Yet they marched into history. That's courage.

I got to the bottom, to the park that served as an address for marchers to register in the marches later that month. There is a message carved into a stone monument nearby: "... when your children ask their fathers, 'What is the meaning of these stones?'



Edmund Pettus was a Confederate general, a U.S. Senator and a Grand Dragon in the Klan.



Andy's walk began at the Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma.

You are to tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'

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

Double-Digit Increase Shines For Home Sales

The residential real estate market in Noblesville and throughout Hamilton County saw an increase in home sales last month, as inventory also increased – a positive outlook heading into the spring season.

According to F.C. Tucker Company, the Noblesville/Hamilton County market saw the following changes in February 2026:

In Noblesville in February:

- Closed home sales increased 28.4 percent, compared to February 2025.
- Homes sold in 27 days on average,

spending 14 more days on the market than this time last year.

- The median home sale price slightly increased 0.3 percent to \$400,000, compared to this time last year. The median price per square foot for a Noblesville home also slightly increased 0.6 percent to \$167.

In Hamilton County in February:

- Pended home sales increased 1.6 percent, compared to this time last year.
- Homes sold in 32

days on average, spending 16 more days on the market than this time last year.

- Inventory increased 22.3 percent county-wide.
- The median home sale price increased 4.5 percent to \$445,000.

Around central Indiana, real estate was on a slight rise in pended home sales, as prices remained stable and inventory continued to increase – a positive outlook headed into the spring season.

- Pended home sales increased 0.6 percent

compared to February 2025, with 2,556 homes leaving the market.

- Available housing inventory increased 17.8 percent compared to February 2025.
- Homes sold in a median of 42 days, spending 13 days longer on the market than this time last year.
- The median home sale price for the 16-county central Indiana region was \$295,000 - the same as in February 2025.

Spring Swing returns to the Bridgewater Club

The City of Westfield's popular family dance event, Spring Swing, returns to The Bridgewater Club on Saturday, April 18, for music, dancing and family activities.

Spring Swing combines the long-standing tradition of father-daughter and mother-son dances and adds a "Someone Special" category, open to any child and a parent, grandparent,

aunt, uncle, foster parent or other loved one. The addition allows families of all kinds to participate.

Each dance session will feature family-friendly music from a professional DJ, crafts, airbrush and balloon artists, snacks and refreshments, outdoor games and activities, and a professional portrait station by Tenth Street Photography. All activities

are included with admission.

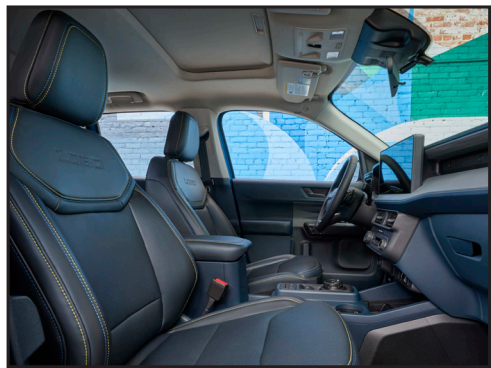
Tickets are required for each attendee and cost \$20 per person, regardless of age. Tickets go on sale Wednesday, March 18, at 10 a.m. and are expected to sell out.

Dance sessions include:

- Someone Special Dance: 2-4 p.m.

- Mother-Son Dance: 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- Father-Daughter Dance: 7-9 p.m.
- All ages are welcome, though the event is recommended for children ages 3-10.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit westfieldin.gov/spring-swing.



2026 FORD MAVERICK LOBO IS A SLAMMED PERFORMANCE PICKUP STRAIGHT FROM THE FACTORY

The Lobo employs torque-vectoring plus turbo power to heat up track days. It can actually haul too.



CASEY WILLIAMS
Columnist

Automakers get some of their best ideas by watching what customers do to their vehicles... and what comes off of designers' workstations when they feel inspired to play. Almost any type of vehicle can be their muse, but pickup trucks are especially fetching targets. Both of those inspired the Ford Maverick Lobo, a performance-oriented and urban-inspired trim on the popular compact pickup.

Your first clues this is not a basic Maverick are its street-savvy sinister looks. It looks like a garage project or inspired design from a top designer. A custom aero grille, body color trim, black 19" wheels, and height lowered a half-inch in the front and over an inch in the rear give it a completely different stance. Black Ford ovals confirm this is not a normal Maverick, but the versatile bed with underfloor storage, power outlet and sliding attachments indicate it's still able to do a little weekend work.

Given a long four-door cabin, it can also get the kids to school and fashionistas to art class.

Inspiration for the interior's blue and lime accents came from sneakers. Check stitching on the steering wheel, vegan leather seats and console cover. Air vents and door grabs add blue stripes. That's just fluffery for an attractive interior with bluish grained dashtops, swaths of contrasting gray chiseled plasti-stone, and deep door pockets that hold Yetis. It's beautifully rendered, but there's way too much hard plastic for a vehicle in this price range.

The vibe is high-tech with flatscreen gauges, 8-inch infotainment screen, and wireless console charging pad. B&O audio sounds crisp and will thump you silly. The power-opening sunroof and sliding rear window will be nice during warm spring days, but unfortunately, heated seats,

heated steering wheel, and dual-zone automatic climate control were more useful during this drive. Safety is enhanced by automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, blind spot warning, and emergency steering assist.

I found the screen super intuitive, but Ford should add a proper tuning knob to befriend the volume knob. Not everybody wants to click-click or swipe-swipe through stations. Flatscreen gauges are colorful, but the gray detached indicators for fuel and temperature levels are baffling. Bar graphs work fine, thanks.

You'd think from the rumbling engine burble that the Lobo has a super-charged V6 underhood, but alas, that's just piped-in sound. What's good for the Mustang is apparently good for the Maverick.

It doesn't really need fakery because the 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine is plenty peppy connected to the all-wheel-drive system through a 7-speed automatic transmission. Con-juring 250 horsepower and 277 lb.-ft. of torque, it runs 0-60 mph in about six seconds. Given the Maverick's performance focus, it is not available with the tow package, so keep campers and boats should be under 2,000 lbs. Fuel economy is rated a relatively frugal 21/30-MPG city/highway.

However, the Lobo comes with additional

performance tricks to fortify its exuberant attire. The lowered and tuned suspension enhances handling – as does a special Lobo drive model that allows rear torque vectoring and drifting on closed courses. Engineers also specified a larger radiator, transmission oil cooler, and front brakes from the European Ford Focus ST to guarantee hours of fun without fade. And even with all of the modifications, it rides and handles comfortably during long trips and everyday commutes. I'm sure the Maverick's hybrid powertrain wouldn't be nearly as fun, but I'd trade some trackside shenanigans for 40-MPG.

Want further proof of the Maverick Logo's cool vibe? It was named 2026 North American Truck of the Year at the recent Detroit auto show.

As expected, all of this exploit comes at a price. Base Mavericks start at a stellar \$28,145, but our Lobo pickup – despite its lowered profile – lifts to \$42,445. Still, try buying a Maverick and making the mods yourself. I think you'll find that a very fair sticker. If you want something a little larger, check out the equally angry F-150 Lobo.

Storm Forward!

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

LIKES

- SLAMMED STYLE
- DAILY UTILITY
- TRACK TRICKS

DISLIKES

- HARD PLASTICS
- NO HYBRID
- TOWING CAPACITY

2026 Ford Maverick Lobo

Five-passenger, AWD Pickup
Powertrain: 2.5-liter T4, 7-spd
Output: 250hp/277 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 19"/19" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Towing: 2,000 lbs.
Fuel economy: 21/30 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Hermosillo, Mexico
Base/As-tested price: \$28,145/42.445

My Plants Love Me



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

Since I had completely neglected them all summer, I didn't want to frighten them with too much attention. "Every three weeks should be fine."

"How much water?"

"I don't think it matters."

When I got back from Mexico, I swear those plants had doubled in size. They were too big to be in the living room over Christmas, so I moved them to the bedroom and stuffed them into a dark corner. I completely forgot to water them over the holidays. They expanded until the plants in all eight pots had combined into one giant organism. I had trouble reaching the window shade.

"Well, this won't do!" I thought.

I took a bread knife and cut off branches until they could stand on their own. Within a day (I am not exaggerating) those plants filled in where the missing branches had been.

I see no point in ever growing any other kind of plant.

I will have jade plants in the house and jade plants on the balcony. My speciality has been made clear. I grow jade plants. I don't try to grow anything else. My jade plants love me.

But I leave for Mexico next week and, I admit, I'm a little afraid of what they will do while I'm away.

Till next time,

Carrie

They say that some plants "thrive on neglect," and I never really believed it until now.

I have tried for years—decades really—to get things to grow, indoors and out, and I have pretty much failed at everything. Gardens languish without producing whatever they were supposed to produce. Houseplants die as they enter the house. The only plants I have success with are floral bouquets. (I am very good with cut flowers, but I acknowledge this does not count as gardening.)

So imagine my surprise when I discovered that there is a plant that appears to love me and my style of plant husbandry—that is to say, no care whatsoever.

I work miracles with the jade plant.

Now, I hear someone snickering because growing a jade plant requires no skill at all and, of course, they would be right. But the same has been said about the Christmas cactus. My mother still has a Christmas cactus she smuggled home in her suitcase from a trip to Sweden in the 1970s—I have killed off every one I have ever had. I have killed philodendrons—plants known to flourish wrapped around the un-insulated windows of college

apartments and neglected for semesters at a time. To assume that even the hardest plant is safe from my ministrations would be to underestimate my total inability.

But my jade plants survive. In fact, my jade plants might be trying to take over my home.

Like a deeply dysfunctional relationship, my jade plants reward me for forgetting about them, neglecting them and treating them badly. A near total lack of care and the lowest possible emotional involvement are disproportionately rewarded with growth. The guiltier I feel, the larger they grow.

It was my husband, Peter, who suggested I put them outside in the summer. I started with one, and it did well, so I ended up with eight. I put them in little pots on the balcony. The wind was harsh. The sun was strong. Pigeons sat on them. I forgot to water them. And those jade plants flourished.

I cut them back. I brought them into the living room before there was a hard freeze. When we went to Mexico, I asked someone to water them while we were away.

"How often?" he asked.



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:
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Dick is Fix-ated!



DICK WOLFSIE
Columnist

My doctor's office isn't very modern. I don't mean the high-tech diagnostic tools in his office. I'm talking about the magazines in the waiting room. Recently, I got the chance to read the last print edition of Newsweek from 2012. Last year, I also browsed through Life magazine just before my EKG.

One piece of reading matter that caught my attention was Family Handyman. Here were the cover stories:

MEASURE ONCE / PANIC TWICE

MY DRILL KEEPS SCREWING AROUND

I BUILT A GATE AND, YES, I NAILED IT

WHY MY DOOR AND I ARE BOTH OFF OUR HINGES

The lead story was: "Five Great Sawhorse Designs." I couldn't wait to read it because, off the top of my head, I could only think of four, none of which they mentioned in the article. Also, on the cover was

"How to Make a Screw Organizer from a Left-over Piece of PVC Pipe." I didn't want to read too much exciting stuff like this because it can temporarily raise your blood pressure before they slap the cuff on you.

I turned to a feature story about what to do if your Gorilla Glue gets hard in the tube, and also one on how to dig post holes in sandy soil. I read both of those carefully. After 46 years, Mary Ellen and I are always looking for something new to talk about.

This is my favorite: There was a three-page spread on "How to Cure a Sick Ceiling Fan." What would the fan be complaining about? Periodic dizziness?

One piece was called "Best Advice for DIYers." I thought it was about how to successfully drink beer and drill at the same time. Then I learned that a DIYer is a Do-It-Yourselfer. Another entry was titled: "How to Make a Hidden Cutting Board." I can never find ours when we need it, so I decided to

skip that kitchen improvement project.

"Maintaining Your Chimney" starts with a list of supplies you'll need, items commonly found around most houses. You need brushable crown sealer, chimney water repellent, and a stainless-steel chimney cap. I had all of that in the garage except for the brushable crown sealer, the chimney water repellent, and a stainless-steel chimney cap. Another article stated: "Trying to run fish tape through an insulated stud bay can be a nightmare." You have to have a pretty dull imagination if this is what you have had dreams about.

The regular monthly column was "How to Make Your Own Tools," a great way to save money. The author demonstrated how to take a long, flexible piece of tubing and attach a flashlight at the end for working in dark, hard-to-reach places, like during a do-it-yourself plumbing project. It was really a clever gadget, but I tore the page out and threw it away. My next colonoscopy is later in 2026, and with all the cost-cutting in medicine, the fewer doctors who know about this, the better.

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

KICK OFF

Continued from Page 1



Photo Courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Front row from left, Landon Hickman, Grace Reynolds, Jubilee James, Aleaha Trump and Celeste Wiegman. Second row from left, Abram Gould, Tyler Miller and Hans Frymier.

lucky numbers, or milestone moments.

Watch the Math Add Up: A fully completed 30-day calendar raises \$465. If the class fills eleven calendars, they'll reach nearly \$5,000.

"Instead of asking a few people for large sums, we are relying on the power of our community," the Class

of 2028 planning committee pointed out. "Whether it's one dollar or thirty, every square filled brings us closer to our goal." Students are encouraged to share their calendars with family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors — or even post their progress on social media — to help Clear the Board.

All calendars and do-

nations are due Monday, April 27. Cash or check (Checks payable to HHHS Class of 2028). All envelopes should be returned to Mrs. Wiegman in the Counseling Office.

To request a calendar or learn more about the fundraiser, please contact wiegman@hhschuskiies.org or (317) 984-3551 ext. 1050.

CAMPAIGN

Continued from Page 1



County Commissioners Mark Heirbrandt (left) and Christine Altman (red) with Sonny & Glendia Beck



Gary Reynolds



Sonny Beck

tion of a new Bicentennial Pavilion.

Future phases of the project include the construction of a new multi-purpose use arena, expanded educational classroom, and the development of additional climate-controlled build-

ings to support year-round programming. Plans also call for enhanced entrance features and the replacement of aging structures.

To date, the Friends of Hamilton County Extension has raised more than \$4 million in donations, grants,

and pledges to support ongoing improvements. For more information, including donation and naming opportunities, contact friendsofhamcoextension@gmail.com or call (463) 254-2022.

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Safe Zones Enforcement to Begin on I-74

The Indiana Department of Transportation announces the activation of its worksite speed control pilot program, known as Safe Zones, on I-74 in DeCATUR and Shelby counties.

Starting on Wednesday, April 1, Safe Zones enforcement will begin on I-74 in the construction zone between mile markers 113 and 134.

The program is currently active and will continue in the Clear Path I-465/I-69 work zone on the north-east side of Indianapolis, on I-70 in Hancock County and on I-65 in Jasper

County.

Once active, vehicles traveling 11 mph or more over the posted speed limit will receive a violation notice via mail. The first violation results in a zero-fine warning, followed by a \$75 civil fine for second violations, and a \$150 civil fine for third and subsequent violations.

The system documents vehicle speeds using truck-mounted speed timing devices as they pass through work zones. When a vehicle is traveling 11 mph or more than the posted speed limit, the system captures an image

of the vehicle's rear license plate. After data is validated, violations are certified and issued to the owner of the vehicle by mail. In accordance with state statute, collected fines go into the state's General Fund.

Signs are posted to notify drivers entering and exiting active worksites that speeds are being monitored by an automated system. Workers must be present at the time of an event for a violation to be valid. Violations may be paid online, by phone, or by mail. Payment is due within 30 days of a violation being mailed.

Indiana National Guard Facing Escalating Digital Threats

As states confront an increasingly volatile and sophisticated cyber threat landscape, the Indiana National Guard is implementing a multi-faceted strategy to bolster cybersecurity resilience for Indiana's critical infrastructure and fortify national security. Through strategic initiatives, legislative action, and public-private partnerships, the INNG is proactively addressing the real and growing danger of cyber warfare.

Maj. Chris Myers, The Indiana Air National Guard Director of Cybersecurity, recently attended a critical infrastructure executive leadership roundtable discussion on cyber threats and incident response. Critical energy infrastructure organizations and government agencies from across the U.S. discussed nation state threats with the goal of protecting U.S. citizens' livelihoods from the very real threat of mass cyber-attacks against the electrical grid, natural gas infrastructure, and water/wastewater industry.

The digital era has expanded the battlefield, with nation-state actors and cybercriminals alike targeting essential services such as energy, water, and transportation with increasing frequency and complexity. These malicious actors exploit vulnerabilities in our interconnected systems to conduct espionage, disrupt services, and undermine public confidence. Recognizing that a stag-

gering 85% of the nation's critical infrastructure is privately owned, the Indiana National Guard is championing a collaborative, whole-of-society approach to cyber defense.

A cornerstone of this strategy is the newly established Indiana Civilian Cyber Corps (ICCC), created by House Enrolled Act 1343. Now signed into law by Governor Braun and will go into effect July 1, 2026, the Adjutant General's Office has commenced the implementation of this volunteer force. The ICCC will be composed of vetted, trained, and experienced cybersecurity professionals who will advise, train, and assist in responding to cyber incidents across Indiana's critical sectors. This initiative significantly enhances the state's capacity to defend against and respond to cyberattacks.

"In an age where cyberattacks can have real-world consequences, from disrupting essential services to impacting our economy, a proactive and unified defense is not just an option, it is a necessity," stated Maj. Gen. Larry Muennich, the Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard. "The ICCC represents a vital public-private partnership, pooling expertise and resources to protect the infrastructure all Hoosiers depend on."

Furthering its commitment to readiness, the Indiana National Guard is organizing the "Hoosier

Cyber Defender" exercise. This annual event has been designated by several critical infrastructure partners as their primary exercise for the year, underscoring the value of collaborative training. These exercises are crucial for testing defenses, refining incident response protocols, and ensuring the Guard's cyber defense warfighting readiness against persistent threats.

To cultivate the next generation of cyber defenders, the INNG has partnered with Purdue University to host "Cyber Madness," a premier high school hacking tournament. This annual "Capture the Flag" competition provides a platform for Indiana's brightest young talent to demonstrate their skills in a competitive environment. "Cyber Madness" not only identifies promising students but also creates a direct pathway for them to pursue careers in both military and civilian cybersecurity sectors, addressing the critical nationwide shortage of qualified professionals.

These initiatives reflect the Indiana National Guard's comprehensive and forward-thinking approach to cybersecurity. By fostering robust public-private partnerships, defending critical infrastructure, and nurturing a future-ready workforce, the INNG is ensuring that Indiana remains at the forefront of cyber defense, prepared to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

No Kings Event Here Saturday

The Hamilton County Democracy Coalition will host a free community civic gathering on Saturday, March 28 from noon to 2 p.m. at Federal Hill Commons Park in Noblesville. The event will provide voter registration assistance, information about the upcoming primary election, and opportunities for residents to connect with local civic organizations.

The gathering is part of the nationwide "No Kings" civic movement, which emphasizes democratic participation and the principle that public officials are accountable to the people.

Organizers say the goal is to create a welcoming space where neighbors can learn how to participate more fully in civic life.

"This isn't about anger or division. It's about showing up," said Brian Jonason, president of the Hamilton County Democracy Coalition and co-host of the event. "We want people to leave the park knowing how to register to vote, how to find out who is on their ballot, and how they can get involved in their community."



The event will include speakers, music, and family-friendly activities.

Local organizations will also be present to provide voter registration assistance, information about the upcoming primary election, and opportunities to volunteer on campaigns or serve as poll workers.

Participating groups are expected to include organizations such as MAD-Voters, ReCenter Indiana, Fishers Resists, Carmel Indivisible, Noblesville Indivisible, Indivisible Westfield, Streetside Democracy Defenders, and Voices4Democracy.

Attendees will also be able to learn about community support initiatives, including resources for families navigating economic challenges and immigrant residents seeking information about local services.

"Some of our neighbors are scared right now," said Julie Roberts, director of HCDC and founder of Fishers Resists. "We believe the best response to fear is community. People showing up for each other, learning together, and reminding everyone who lives here that they belong."

Dr. Arrowood Shares Heights Update



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Guest Columnist

The Kiwanis Club and our Hamilton Heights Key Club Chapter have cooked up something truly fun. Together, they're hosting a community dance, Dancing with My Hero, this Sunday, March 22, for students and their families in grades K-8. The event features music, face painting, an obstacle course, and plenty of activities to keep families smiling all afternoon. In classic Kiwanis fashion, it's more than just a good time; it's a celebration of service, leadership, and the connections that make our community special. It also gives our Key Club students a chance to jump in, help out, and engage with families across Hamilton Heights while creating memories that bring our community even closer together.

The HHSC Monthly Update has officially returned following an extended hiatus. In case you missed it, you can watch it anytime by visiting our website at www.hhschuskiess.org.

This edition is packed with great stories from across the district. You'll hear about the HHMS Winter Guard, the winningest boys' basketball coach in HHHS history, award-winning HHHS Band members, our latest Husky Bean Award recipients, the new Hamilton County Historian—an HHHS alumnus—our State Champion in the FFA Forestry Contest, and our Unified Sports Program hosting the State Cornhole Championship.

Nominations for individual athletes, coaches, and teams for the Hamilton Heights Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2026 are being accepted through March 31.

Registration is now open for both new and returning students planning to attend Hamilton Heights for the 2026-27 school year. The 2026-27 HHSC transfer student application for out of district students is also open. The application deadline is May 1.

Speaking of open, we have opportunities for dedicated, student-centered individuals to join our Husky family. From the classroom to transportation, from support roles to specialized services, HHSC offers meaningful ways to make a difference every day. If you're passionate about helping students thrive, value a supportive workplace, and want to be part of a community that truly invests in its people, we'd love to meet you. Whether you're exploring a new career path or returning to work in education, there's a place for you at Heights. Bring your skills, your heart, and your commitment to students, and help us continue building a district where every learner feels seen, supported, and inspired.

With spring beginning and spring break approaching on March 30, I hope you'll take time to enjoy the season, breathe in the fresh air, and recharge. We look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday, April 13 — rested, renewed, and ready to finish the year strong together. #WeAreHuskies

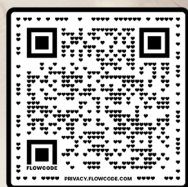
Dr. Derek Arrowood is the Superintendent of the Hamilton Heights School Corporation. His columns appear periodically in The Times.

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Illustration courtesy The Nicholas Family of Companies

The Nicholas Family of Companies has been selected as the developer for Westfield Ice Arena, located at Grand Park District in Westfield, Ind.

Developer Chosen for Westfield Ice Facility

The Nicholas Family of Companies recently announced it has been selected to develop, build and operate Westfield Ice Facility, a new multi-sheet indoor ice facility in Westfield, a northern suburb of Indianapolis. The facility will be a catalyst for further growth of the Grand Park District, a mixed-use development near the Grand Sports Campus in Westfield. It will also mark the first rinks at the Grand Sports Campus, a major youth sports destination for soccer, football, rugby, field hockey, lacrosse and baseball that hosts more than five million visitors each year.

Westfield Ice Facility will feature three NHL-sized stadium-styled rinks—with a potential fourth rink for future expansion—offering tiered seating for up to 3,500 spectators. The facility aims to deliver a “hat trick” of benefits for the region: prime ice time for youth and adult leagues, accessible public skating and elite-level instruction. Beyond the ice, the facility will function as a community hub, featuring a full-service restaurant, retail spaces, an academic lounge and outdoor activity areas.

“We are honored to partner with the city of Westfield and the Redevelopment Commission to bring this transformative project to life,” said Nick Papanicholas Jr., managing director and CEO of Nicholas Family of Companies. “Our firm brings a proven track re-

cord in the development, design, construction and management of ice arenas. This new Westfield facility will create opportunities for youth athletes and families, drive economic activity and serve as a year-round destination for local programming as well as regional and national events.”

The Westfield Facility is the fourth indoor ice arena to be developed or acquired by Nicholas in the past two years and its first outside the Chicago area. Other projects include Rosemont Ice Arena, a 103,000-square-foot facility with dedicated team spaces, a restaurant and bar in Rosemont, Ill., developed and built by Nicholas and opened last year; the 86,261-square-foot Elk Grove Ice Arena in Elk Grove Village, Ill., currently being built by Nicholas and opening this year; and the 63,000-square-foot Glacier Ice Arena in Vernon Hills, Ill., acquired by Nicholas last year. The firm also built and manages the Nicholas Sportsplex in Mount Prospect, Ill.

In its proposal for the facility, Nicholas emphasized its extensive ice arena experience and ability to coordinate design, construction and operations under a single point of accountability. The firm’s Nicholas & Associates division will serve as general contractor for the Westfield project. Its Spectate Group will manage and program the facility, and its Big Fish Hospitality Group will oversee food

and beverage offerings. City officials cited the project structure and relevant experience as factors in selecting Nicholas to lead the development.

The new Westfield Ice Facility is expected to attract regional and national ice hockey tournaments as well as other sporting events. Local programming will help develop a pipeline of youth athletes and include instructional classes, sports organizations, hockey and figure skating leagues, public skating, charity events and birthday parties. It also will generate significant economic impact for the region, including increased hotel, restaurant and retail revenue, as well as job creation and community engagement opportunities. The facility is expected to open in 2028.

Fueled in part by a new wave of female fans, the National Hockey League is consistently reporting higher revenue YOY, increased ratings and record-setting attendance, with arenas filled to more than 96% capacity. Youth hockey continues to grow, reaching record participation levels in 2024-25. There were 395,525 registered youth players, including 6,705 new youth members, marking an all-time high. The sport’s growth is especially strong among girls, with more than 98,000 players under age 18 now registered to play, according to USA Hockey.



Photo courtesy Sheridan Schools / Allison Waitt

Sheridan students, staff and grown-ups gathered for “Donuts with Grown-Ups.”

Sheridan has Donuts with Grown-Ups

In the early hours of the morning on Thursday, March 12, Sheridan students, staff and grown-ups gathered for “Donuts with Grown-Ups.” This biannual event gives students and their families a chance to come together and share a special morning together before the day gets on its way. Twice a year, the Sheridan Elementary PTO sponsors this event as an opportunity for SES stu-

dents and their grown-ups to visit the school, enjoy a light breakfast, and spend quality time with their students.

Held in the SES cafeteria, the atmosphere is always full of laughter and smiles as students spend a special morning with their favorite people. Sheridan Elementary School principal Valerie Roberts says, “Donuts

with Grown-Ups has fast become a family favorite, as our fantastic PTO now hosts one each semester! This allows all our K-5 families to visit our school and enjoy a special morning at school!” Donuts with Grown-Ups is both a chance to have a sugary treat and an opportunity to build memories that will last.

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