

■ TODAY'S VERSE

**Romans 8:18** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

The Noblesville High School Alumni Association's annual Alumni Banquet will be held at the Noblesville Schools Community Center this year. The Community Center is located on school property at 1775 Field Dr. The banquet is always held on the last Saturday in April. This year's date is April 25. Doors open at 5 p.m. In recent memory, the annual banquet had been held in the NHS cafeteria going back as far as the Harrison Street location. The association is still offering a free shuttle service in the parking lot along with wheelchairs for those needing assistance entering the building. Reservations to attend the banquet on April 25 are required at a price of \$25 per person. Registration Deadline for the Alumni Banquet is April 18. For Reservations, please contact Debbie Davis Bastin, [dlbastin53@gmail.com](mailto:dlbastin53@gmail.com) or (317) 459-1083. Monks Catering by Jeff Monks is providing the buffet and desserts and drinks are generously sponsored by Crandall's Carpet Cleaning and Beyond Elements Restoration.

■ ADOPT A PET PORKY PETE



Porky Pete is a little guy with big opinions, a big personality, and an even bigger love for his people. This 8-year-old male Yorkshire Terrier has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 2/16/26. Once he knows you, his softer side comes out fast. He enjoys being close, loves a good cuddle, and seems very content being held or settled right in your lap. He also has a thing for stuffies, which is pretty darn adorable. To meet Porky Pete, please fill out an adoption application at [hamiltonhumane.com/adopt](http://hamiltonhumane.com/adopt), then stop by HSHC anytime 12-5 PM daily (closed Wednesday).



T-minus 2 days and counting to the Big Tax Day! If you have to write a check to mail in Wednesday, don't be late. The IRS frowns on that. But think they'll hurry any sort of return along? Think all you want my friend.

# The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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## Devil Dogs 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!

**No one wants war, and we're reminded of that almost daily by what's going on in Iran. But if and when things get to that point, the United States has always been lucky to have the best military in the world. Coming up on April 27 is a day designated as Devil Dog Day, a reference to the U.S. Marine Corps. When the worldwide HQ of Sagamore News Media heard that, we knew we had to find out more . . . By The Numbers!**

### 4-27-1918

It was in a small woods around Chateau-Thierry in France in World War I. The French were joined by the U.S. 2nd Division, 4th Marine Brigade in a battle to stop Germany from advancing to Paris. The fighting was fierce. So fierce, in fact, that it got down to hand-to-hand combat. The Marines held the ground and did so so fiercely and so well that the German soldiers called them Teufelshunde, which we are told translates to Devil Dogs. The name has stuck with the Corps ever since.

### 9,700

But that battle resulted in almost 10,000 Allied casualties.



### No. 2

Despite the fierce reputation, did you know the U.S. Marine Corps is the second-smallest branch in the U.S. armed forces? They have around 175,000 active personnel with around 30,000 reserves.

### 1,300

Marines have a little more than 1,300 manned aircraft.



Photo courtesy US Marine Corps

### 35,000

At any given time, the Marines have around 35,000 men and women actively deployed around the world.

### 8 percent

Speaking of women, females make up only about 8 percent of the USMC personnel. A little less than that make up the officer ranks. That's the lowest percentage of any branch of the U.S. military.

### 150+

There's no question that the Marines create leaders. At any given time, there are 150 or more Fortune 500 companies have CEOs who came from the USMC.

### 7-11-1798

Yup, you guessed it. That's when The Corps was founded. But wait, that's not the whole story. July is when the current version of the Marines began. But the Continental Marines got their start back during the American Revolution – on Nov. 10, 1775.

### 1926

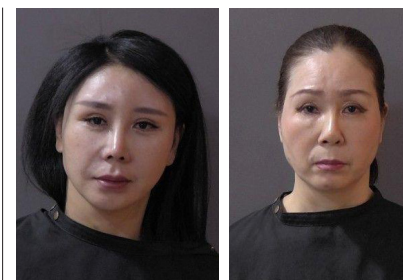
That's the year the snack cakes called Devil Dogs were founded by N.E. Drake Baking Co. in New York. The company is now owned by McKee Foods.

### ■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

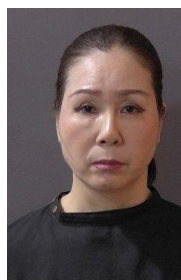
**1.** Understanding that every penny counts, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita said that his office will actively monitor fuel prices across the state to prevent price gouging and ensure drivers receive the full benefit of the relief following the temporary suspension of Indiana's gas tax. "With the suspension of Indiana's gas tax for the next 30 days, my office will closely monitor fuel prices to guard against any potential price gouging," Rokita said. "Hoosiers deserve the full relief intended by this emergency measure and we will use every tool at our disposal to ensure that the removal of the tax translates into lower prices at the pump – and that consumers are not taken advantage of during this time. "If a consumer suspects that a gas station in Indiana is still charging tax during the suspension, they should file a consumer complaint with our office."

**2.** By the time late winter rolls around, a lot of Americans start looking for signs that spring is finally on the way. The calendar might say it begins in March, but most people know that the real turning point comes later – that first stretch of mild air, longer evenings, and trees suddenly filling with leaves again. Curious about when that moment actually happens around the country, travel company Exoticca looked at when each state tends to experience its most convincingly "spring-like" conditions - the point when the season really starts to feel settled in rather than just beginning. To work it out, researchers analyzed the average timing of the last spring freeze in different parts of the country, since that's typically when winter finally stops threatening gardens and new growth. Because plants usually need a little time after the final frost to properly leaf out, the analysis also included a point three weeks later, when greenery tends to be more noticeably returning. The midpoint between these two markers was used to estimate each state's "springiest day" – the point when spring feels most clearly established. Indiana experiences its last freeze of spring on Saturday, April 18th. Its greenery return becomes more noticeable around three weeks later, on Saturday, May 9th. Based on these combined indicators, the state's "springiest day" is estimated to fall on Tuesday, April 28th.

**3.** A memorial service for someone who was a huge part of the Indianapolis Jazz Foundation and Indy Jazz Fest is set for Saturday. The Jazz community will remember Charlene Norwood who passed away on Thursday, March 19, 2026. Charlene's organizational skills, attention to detail, and caring personality made her the perfect fit as Volunteer Coordinator for the Indianapolis Jazz Foundation and Indy Jazz Fest. For over 15 years, Charlene was respected and adored by the volunteers as well as the IJF staff. Her presence behind the scenes and onsite at events will be greatly missed for years to come. Service for Charlene will be held on Saturday, April 11th at Greater Northwest Baptist Church, 3402 W. 62nd Street in Indianapolis. Visitation is at 10 a.m. followed by an 11 a.m. service. All are welcome.



Jianhua Bian



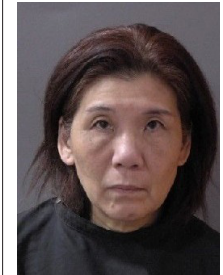
Lijuan Kong



Yuexia Zhou



Xiangmei Wen



Xuelian Lin



## NPD Busts Suspected Prostitution Activity

Noblesville Police busted what they say was a prostitution ring operating at three locations around the city.

From March 18 through April 6, police officials say the department received several complaints of alleged illegal activity occurring at three different businesses in Noblesville.

Based on the complaints, the NPD's Street Crimes Unit initiated an investigation that spanned several weeks. Detectives identified five suspects who were arrested on charges of prostitution, alleged to have taken place at their place of employment.

The five are 43-year-old Jianhua Bian of Noblesville, 48-year-old Xiangmei Wen of Noblesville, 56-year-old Xuelian Lin of Brooklyn, N.Y., 55-year-old Lijuan Kong of New York City and 44-year-old Yuexia Zhou of Noblesville. All five were charged with prostitution, a Class A misdemeanor. Bian and Wen were at Comfy Foot Spa, 14350 Mundy Drive. Lin was at Lucky Foot Spa, 17687 Cumberland Rd. and Kong and Zhou were at Longevity Foot Spa, 175 Sheridan Rd.

All suspects were transported and booked at the Hamilton County Jail. A charge is merely an accusation, and the defendant(s) is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

### ■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"One thing is clear: The Founding Fathers never intended a nation where citizens would pay nearly half of everything they earn to the government."  
*Ron Paul*

### ■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What do actuaries do to liven up their parties?

They invite an accountant over.

# The TIMES

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## NHS Holding Alumni Banquet in New Place

The Noblesville High School Alumni Association's Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new location for the annual NHS Alumni Banquet. For the first time, this year's banquet will be held at the Noblesville Schools Community Center. The Community Center is located on school property at 1775 Field Dr. The banquet is always held on the last Saturday in April. This year's date is April 25. Doors open at 5 p.m.

In recent memory, the annual banquet had been held in the NHS cafeteria going back as far as the Harrison Street location. The association is still offering a free shuttle service in the parking lot along with wheelchairs for those needing assistance entering the

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On behalf of the entire board, we hope to see many returning alumni along with new attendees and members this year as we celebrate 100 Years of the Millers and our 50-year graduating class, Class of 1976.



**Pvt. Williams got a wreath-laying ceremony, courtesy of an archivist.**



*Photos courtesy Andy Chandler*

**The cemetery is behind a retirement home in Jay County, Indiana.**

## Last Soldier Killed in Civil War Was Hoosier



**ANDY CHANDLER**  
*Columnist*

Portland, Indiana. May 2025.

Ask most people when the Civil War ended; they'll tell you it was when General Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. History buffs like an effect as great as the cause, complete with brave men. The last of the chivalry ends with two gentlemen meeting in a parlor. However, the Civil War didn't end with a dramatic crescendo and curtain call of important characters. It ended in a somewhat gradual and often confusing way.

Appomattox wasn't the largest surrender. That would happen a few weeks later outside of Durham, North Carolina, when General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered 89,000 soldiers to William T. Sherman.

Still, that wasn't the end. There are two candidates for the last battle: Palmetto Ranch on the U.S. / Mexico Border, fought on May 13 and Hobdy's Bridge in Alabama fought May 19. For the sake of discussion, I'll say it was Palmetto Ranch since that battle involved a known chain of command with orders given and received. The Confederates won that battle, meaning that the Civil War opened and closed on Confederate victories.

Last year was the 160 anniversary of the end of the Civil War. I'm big for dates and making sure that these dates are remembered. However, I'm sure that most people didn't realize that Palmetto Ranch occurred or that the last soldier killed in battle was a Hoosier, Private John J. Williams

There is scant informa-

tion on him, but here's what we know: he was born and raised in Jay County. In the fall of 1863, he enlisted and was assigned to Company B of the 34th Indiana Infantry Volunteer Regiment. Originally sent to New Orleans for occupation at the end of the war, he was later sent to Brazo's Santiago in Texas to secure the port near Brownsville.

It was near there on May 13, 1865, that Colonel Theodore Barrett attempted to take Fort Brown on the Rio Grande and make a name for himself. Reminiscent of the end of WWI, this action wasn't necessary. He took the fort, but it was during the counterattack a few hours later, that Pvt. Williams was killed. The Civil War's last battle casualty.

He was originally buried in New Orleans, but reinterred back in the Hoosier state, just north of Portland in the Jay County Farm Cemetery. What used to be the asylum is now a retirement home, and in the back is the cemetery.

I've been to multiple wreath laying ceremonies. William Henry Harrison's

in North Bend, Abraham Lincoln's in Springfield and Ernie Pyle's in Dana. Why not a wreath laying to this significant soldier who fought for the Union? Even if it was a one-person ceremony attended by me.

It was storming that day, and I spent an hour in a nearby Walmart getting out of the rain. I couldn't find a wreath, so I just settled on a small flower arrangement (artificial).

Then came a lull. I drove to the cemetery. The rain and lightning picked up again. Getting impatient; I tore out of my car, ran to the cemetery at a full sprint. His grave is obvious. I planted the arrangement in the ground, took a few photos, saluted, and ran back to my car.

The gesture was hardly symbolic, but I'd like to think it was reverent. There's no reason to forget these men.

*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.*

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Vol. 122 | Issue 41

Sen. Phil Boots, President  
 Tim Timmons, Publisher  
**USPS Publication Number:** 391140  
**Annual Print Subscription:** \$89  
**Annual Online Subscription:** \$42  
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## County Front and Center on Governor Appointments

Governor Mike Braun recently reached into Hamilton County and made multiple new appointments to various state boards and commissions. In the month of March, Governor Braun made a robust 99 appointments.

Here are the Hamilton County connections:

Appointments:

**State Psychology Board**

- Greg Hale

Reappointment:  
 Term expires 3/31/30

Hamilton County

- Alyson Harbor (Carmel Clay School Corporation)

Appointment:  
 Term expires 3/31/30

Hamilton County

**State Board of Animal Health**

- Larry Hopkins (American Sheep Industry Association)

Appointment:  
 Term expires 3/31/29

Hamilton County

**Manufactured Home Installer Licensing Board**

- Tomi Adams (A-Plus Property Management and Consulting, LLC)

Appointment:  
 Term expires 2/28/30

Hamilton County

**ABLE Board of Directors**

- Selina Stoller (City of Fishers)

Appointment:  
 Term expires 3/31/30

Hamilton County

**State Board of Massage Therapy**

- Laurie Hardin (Massage Envy)

Reappointment:  
 Term expires 2/28/30

Hamilton County

- Elizabeth Cain (Elite Health Resort)

Reappointment:  
 Term expires 2/28/30

Hamilton County

**Petroleum Storage Tank Financial Assurance Board**

- Kim Logan (State of Indiana)

Reappointment:  
 Term expires 2/28/28

Hamilton County

**Behavioral Health and Human Licensing Board**

- Jon Ferguson (Ascension St. Vincent)

Reappointment:  
 Term expires 1/31/30

Hamilton County

**Workforce Development Board**

- Penny Callaway (Indiana Wesleyan University)

Appointment:  
 Term expires 3/31/29

Hamilton County

- Tony Vespa (Vespa Group)

Appointment:  
 Term expires 3/31/30

Hamilton County

- Chuck Goodrich (Gaylor Electric)

Appointment:  
 Term expires 3/31/30

Hamilton County

**Guardianship Code Revision Task Force**

- Hannah Carlock (Indiana Association of Area Agencies on

Aging)

Appointment:  
 Term expires 12/31/27

Hamilton County

- Sara McClammer (Scout Advocacy LLC)

Appointment:  
 Term expires 12/31/27

Hamilton County

- Melissa Keyes (State of Indiana)

Appointment:  
 Term expires 12/31/27

Hamilton County

**Statewide Child Fatality Review Committee**

- Jolene Bracale (State of Indiana)

Appointment:  
 Serves at the pleasure of Governor

Hamilton County

**Serve Indiana Commission**

- Kathy Laesch

Appointment:  
 Term expires 3/31/29

Hamilton County

**Thank you for subscribing!**



## PRICED AT NEARLY \$90K, THE 2026 LINCOLN AVIATOR BLACK LABEL IS VERY CONTINENTAL

Supple leather, electronic chassis, twin-turbo power, etched wood and seat massagers spoil travelers.



CASEY WILLIAMS  
*Columnist*

In 1976, a top-of-the-line Lincoln Continental Mark IV Cartier was priced at \$88,000. Elvis ate them like popcorn, but for the rest of America, it was one the country's most expensive automobiles. A half-century later, we have the 2026 Lincoln Aviator Black Label, a three-row Explorer-based crossover with luxuries that make the old Continental seem like a Ford Granada. And if you don't know what that means, keep reading because this Lincoln is loaded.

The Mark IV aside, Lincoln was historically known for the understated elegance. That's also true of the Aviator. It has glitz in its grille and lower body accents, but there's a gracefulness to how the roofline recedes rearward as accented by thin chrome window strips. Large 22" wheels fill the sculpted body forms while taillamps wrap across the hatch. Even the Continental grille star is lit.

As big as the Mark IV was, it could barely squeeze six people in two sofas. The Aviator easily carries six, seven if three tiny tots are stationed out back. The third row powers down for disgusting amounts of luggage space behind the motion-sensitive power hatch, but real drama occurs forward.

There's no pillar-to-pillar screen like the Navigator or Nautilus, but it doesn't need one given crisp flatscreen instruments and intuitive center touchscreen. A wide head-up display puts speed, navigation, and safety system status high and light. Gears are selected via buttons while wireless phone connections and charging add convenience. Crank up the 28-speaker Revel audio system for aural nirvana. Rear passengers even have their own touchscreen for audio and

climate controls.

And there's still some old school cool with soft Scottish Bridge of Weir leather as in the 1956 Continental Mark II. Elvis would recognize its buttery aroma. Etched wood veneers the dash, doors and console while four-zone automatic climate control creates personal spheres of comfort. Front and middle rows are heated and ventilated. Front seats that look like Eames loungers are 30-way adjustable with their own massagers. It's all so ridiculous, but oh so glorious.

Under the Aviator's curvaceous hood is a 3.0-liter twin-turbo V6 engine, whomping out 400 horsepower and 415 lb.-ft. of torque, routed to the all-wheel-drive system through a 10-speed transmission. The old Mark IV's 7.5-liter V8 produced half that power and less torque too. Fully stomped, the big crossover surges from 0-60 mph in a brief 5.5 seconds. Fuel economy rates 17/25-MPG city/highway. All nice, but I'd still love to see the Aviator with a supercharged V8!

While the old Continental needed a captain and a skipper to pilot her curbside, the Aviator is a sport wagon by comparison. Its adaptive suspension system just rumbles over rough roads. Click the

drive mode into "Exite" to stiffen the suspension, tighten the steering, and sharpen the throttle. It's never harsh, but make weekend backroads a little more fun.

If you don't want to drive, you don't really have to. Safety is bolstered by automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, blind spot warning and rear cross path detection, but our Aviator also came with Ford's Blue Cruise system for hands-off touring on approved roads. Sensors insure you're paying attention, so no reading books or snoozing, but drivers can sit back and drink a cup of coffee while the world slips by.

Lincoln's most expensive car in America's Bicentennial year reached \$15,000, or \$87,700 adjusted for inflation. By comparison, the Aviator starts at \$56,910, rising to \$89,955 for our Black Label edition. That's not even the most expensive Lincoln today as Navigators easily top \$100k. Compare to the Audi Q7, Cadillac XT6, Genesis GV80, Lexus TX, Mercedes-Benz GLE and Volvo XC90.

*Storm Forward!*

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

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- ELEGANT STYLE
- HEAVENLY SEATS
- REFINED DRIVING

**DISLIKES**

- TIGHT THIRD-ROW
- NO V8
- WICKED EXPENSIVE

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# Wearing Sensible Shoes



CARRIE CLASSON  
*The Postscript*

Yesterday, I saw a woman trip on the pavement. She immediately turned to her husband and started to complain.

I couldn't hear all she was saying, but I was thinking there was really no point in complaining to your husband when you trip on the pavement. It might be your fault, or the fault of the pavement, or the fault of your shoes, but it almost certainly has nothing to do with your husband, and the odds are he is wearing sensible shoes.

San Miguel de Allende, where my husband, Peter, and I spend much of the winter, is a city that requires sensible shoes. The entire town is a World Heritage Site, which means that the things you see outside must look pretty much exactly as they did in the mid-1700s, unless there is some life-threatening reason to change them. Tripping on the pavement does not qualify as life-threatening.

Peter loudly lobbies for hiking poles. He says every person should be using at least one at all times and two if taking a hike of any length. Peter probably has a good point, but he is not going to win this argument

with most women, who are going out to dinner and carrying a purse and taking photos with a phone and possibly holding an ice-cream cone or a churro. Adding hiking poles to the ensemble is not going to be an option for most—in spite of Peter's well-intentioned entreaties.

I have noticed that footwear varies greatly by age. Young women will wear chunky, practical sneakers with dresses and pull it off with ease and charm. Slightly older women will wear more fashionable footwear and risk falling on the slippery, uneven, (but historically accurate) pavement. Women who are older yet will revert to chunky sneakers very similar to the ones their young counterparts are wearing. I can see a convincing argument for skipping the fashionable shoe phase and jumping right to the chunky sneaker phase, but I'm not there yet. And neither, apparently, was the woman complaining to her husband.

Perhaps we are in no hurry to reach the "I'm wearing chunky sneakers for the rest of my life" phase. Or perhaps we somehow relish the challenge of navigating the rounded, irregular

stones beneath our feet and making a triumphant entry into the restaurant, unscathed. Or perhaps we are slightly jealous of the women who come in from Mexico City who wear not just impractical shoes but shoes with towering narrow heels, and traipse about the city with a small dog under their arm as if there was no skill involved at all.

My suspicion is that there are women in parts of the world trained from a very early age to manage high-altitude heels and, like learning a foreign language, one will never master it effortlessly unless they begin young. This is surely true of women in Paris. My dearest girlfriend used to live in Paris, and I would fret over what to wear when I went to visit her. She told me before a visit in July, "Don't worry about what to wear. The streets are filled with tourists in ugly shoes."

Meanwhile, the men wear pretty much whatever they feel like wearing and manage the cobblestones much better. I agree it makes no sense. I believe my health and safety should come before anything as frivolous as fashion. I can imagine how effortless it would feel to walk after dark on slippery stones with a heavy rubber cushion beneath my feet.

But this does not mean that I'm ready for sensible shoes. Yet.

*Till next time,*

*Carrie*



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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.*

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# Thank you for subscribing!

## Dick's Cure for Leg Cramps



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Columnist

The piece I wrote about my nighttime leg, thigh, and hand cramps generated more emails than any other piece I've written. In the column, I complained about this persistent problem and mentioned that I had received a lot of advice from others who also suffered from it. Suggestions included: zinc, vitamin E, turmeric, potassium, vitamin C, acupuncture, biofeedback, folic acid, calcium, quinine, fiber pills, cauliflower extract, and yoga.

My college friend Marvin emailed me from Washington, DC and recommended magnesium. This is the same guy who, in 1970, advised me to take one more shot of gin while we were sitting on a second-story roof of a house getting drunk watching girls walk by.

My sister told me that her friend said pickle juice would do the trick. But what kind of pickles? I'm a pickle connoisseur. I can't name all nine Supreme Court justices, but I can rattle off 14 kinds of pickles.

And then the really bizarre emails started coming in:

"Dick, ever think of using soap?"

"Mr. Wolfsie, do you realize the importance of a bar of soap?"

"Hey, DW, a cake of soap can make a big difference."

At first, I was mortified. I'm not a hygiene fanatic, but I don't think I missed a shower all last year. Many of the emails contained a similar suggestion: To cure leg cramps, sleep with a cake of soap under your sheets. Maybe this was a grand conspiracy to entice me to do something really bizarre; then these folks could all laugh themselves silly about me. "Hey, Dick, do you know that despite the old saying, you CAN have your cake and sleep with it, too?"

I showed these emails to my doctor during my annual check-up that week. He said he often recommends pickle juice but hadn't mentioned it to me because he figured I had tried it on my own. "Everyone knows that," he said. Now, how would I know to drink pickle juice to cure cramps? Did I go to Harvard medical school

like he did?

Anyway, that evening I tried both ideas. I stuck a bar of ivory soap under the sheets and downed a bottle of the juice from a jar of Claussen garlic pickles. I was hoping Mary Ellen wouldn't notice, because she's always accusing me of falling for every wacky idea out there.

That night, as we went to bed, she said, "Dick, what's that strong soapy odor? And I also smell garlic. I will never fall asleep. I'll sleep on the couch."

"Look, Mary Ellen, I haven't mentioned recently the discomfort I've been feeling. Please don't think I'll believe every crazy suggestion people email me. That smell is just a bar of Ivory Soap I put between the sheets of the bed. And I also drank a glass of pickle juice an hour ago."

"Well, I don't know why you'd do such incredibly weird things. But at least it might cure those leg cramps."

That night, my leg, thigh, and hand cramps had virtually disappeared.

But I did have stomach cramps... from the quart of pickle juice I drank.

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

## Sheetz Announces Expansion Into Indiana

Sheetz, a leader in restaurant-quality food and convenience, announced official plans to enter the state of Indiana, marking a significant step in the company's long-term Midwest growth plans. Sheetz will open its first stores in the state in the greater Indianapolis area next year. Overall, Sheetz plans to build 100 store locations over the next 10 years in Indiana, investing nearly \$1 billion and resulting in the creation of more than 3,000 long-term jobs. Specific locations and opening dates for Sheetz's initial sites will be announced as the development process advances.

This announcement further accelerates Sheetz's impressive regional growth across key Midwestern markets. Since its first Ohio location opened nearly 30 years ago, the company has built a strong and expanding presence throughout the Midwest, including the opening of more than 25 stores in western Ohio in recent years, with several locations in the Dayton and Toledo markets.

Building on that momentum, Sheetz entered Michigan in 2024. Following the strong performance of its initial locations in southeast Michigan, the company expects to operate nearly 20 stores in the state by the end of this year. Later this year, Sheetz will also open a new state-of-the-art food preparation and distribution center in Findlay, Ohio, further supporting

its expansion across the Midwest and the state of Indiana.

"Over the past several years, we have received a significant number of inquiries from Indiana residents who want to see Sheetz in their communities," said Travis Sheetz, President and CEO. "This momentum has been reinforced by the enthusiastic response to our unique offerings in new Midwest markets. It is an exciting time for Sheetz, and we look forward to giving customers everything they need in one stop, creating quality jobs and being a positive force in the Indiana communities we serve."

Sheetz, a customer-focused, one-stop destination, is set to redefine the convenience experience in Indiana. The convenience chain will deliver customers a flavor-packed, restaurant-quality dining experience with mobile pickup lanes, indoor and outdoor seating, robust grocery offerings, spotless touch-free restrooms, free Wi-Fi and air, and a menu of award-winning food—all under one roof.

In fact, named a Best Regional Fast Food Chain by USA TODAY's 10Best Readers' Choice travel awards, Sheetz's locations will offer a Made-to-Order (MTO®) menu where customers can order any of Sheetz's customized specialty drinks or food items around the clock, including breakfast all day, subs, sandwiches, pizza, chicken, salads, cold brew,

milkshakes, smoothies and more.

Led by a mission to take care of people, Sheetz is also deeply committed to the communities it serves. In 2025, Sheetz was ranked in the top 10 of PEOPLE Magazine's "Companies that Care" list. This was the fourth consecutive year and the fifth time in six years that Sheetz has been named to this prominent list, which highlights the top companies in the U.S. that have succeeded in business while also demonstrating outstanding respect and care for their employees and communities.

Sheetz demonstrates its support for the communities it serves through charitable organizations and activities. This includes Sheetz For the Kidz®, an employee-driven non-profit organization which makes the holiday season brighter for more than 10,000 children each year. Additionally, Sheetz donates food from its store locations weekly through a longstanding partnership with Feeding America.

Sheetz is also a long-standing partner of Special Olympics, donating funds to the organization at each new store opening, providing food to help feed athletes at events, and supporting the organization through the volunteer efforts of many employees.

To mark its entry into

See **SHEETZ** Page 5

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR Westfield Man Urges Vote for Buck

Dear Editor,

As an 86-year-old resident of Hamilton County since 1984 I am offended and appalled by the scurrilous attacks on Indiana State Senator Jim Buck by his Primary opponent. Jim Buck has been in office for over thirty years because he represents our district in keeping with our wishes as his constituents. Age has nothing to do with this. Jim Buck votes for US, not for someone or something outside of our district. This vicious campaign against Jim Buck is funded by sources outside of our district. This means Jim Buck's opponent will not follow the wishes of those of us in the district

but will do the bidding of those who are funding the campaign against Jim Biuck from outside of our district. These forces criticize Jim Buck for not supporting the redistricting of Indiana in an attempt to eliminate two members of the U.S. House of Representative from the opposing party. Jim Buck voted the way we, his constituents, asked him to vote on this issue. During the 42 years we have lived here in Hamilton County we have never witnessed such a horrible and vicious campaign. The people of our district did not and will not fund such a horrible and vicious campaign. I urge all voters represented by Jim Buck to vote for Jim Buck in the May

5 Primary election. To do otherwise is to give away our right to be represented as we wish, and instead to be directed by someone or something outside of our district who will dictate to the opponent. If elected Jim Buck's opponent will be a puppet of these nebulous forces. Please vote for Jim Buck in the May 5 Primary Election to protect our interests and not those of someone or something else from outside of our district. Please do not waste your vote by voting for someone other than Jim Buck.

Steve Baranyk

Westfield

## FBI Joins Search for Missing Teen

FBI Indianapolis has joined the Owen County Sheriff's Office and the Indiana State Police in the search for a missing juvenile last seen in Owen County.

Lexie M. Mitchell, 17, was last seen around noon on March 31 at her home in Cunot in Owen County. Investigators are actively working to determine her whereabouts and are asking for the public's

assistance.

Mitchell is described as a white female with long red/auburn hair and blue-green eyes. She was last seen wearing blue jeans, a white windbreaker-style jacket, and white boots.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Indiana State Police Putnamville post at (765) 653-4114. Tips may be provided anonymously.



**If you see Lexie M. Mitchell, please call (765) 653-4114.**

**Public Notices Deadline: 11:00 a.m.**  
**2 Business Days Prior to Publication: [legals@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:legals@thetimes24-7.com)**

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# Tech Talk



Photos courtesy Noblesville Schools

**Noblesville Schools held a “Tech Talk” session last week at North Elementary, in partnership with the Hamilton East Public Library. Community members were invited to learn from district technology leaders about how to stay safe from online scams and were also able to get help with personal technology device support.**

## Child Predator Sentenced for Exploiting Children as Young as 12

Bobby Cyprus Linhart, 24, of Greenfield, has been sentenced to 40 years in federal prison, followed by a lifetime of supervised release, after pleading guilty to one count of coercion and enticement of a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity, three counts of sexual exploitation of a minor, one count of distribution of child sexual abuse material to a minor, and one count of possession of child sexual abuse material. Linhart has also been ordered to pay \$68,000 in restitution to the victims.

According to court documents, between April 2023 and March 2024, Linhart repeatedly targeted minors between the ages of 12 and 15 through social media platforms including Instagram, Telegram, Snapchat, and X. Using the username “maps.syb,” he contacted at least six identified minor victims and attempted to reach additional children.

Linhart employed grooming tactics such as feigning interest in the minors’ activities, complimenting their appearance, lying about his age, and offering narcotics in exchange for sexual acts.

Linhart coerced multiple children into producing and sending sexually explicit images and videos of themselves. He later distributed images and videos of children obtained from various victims to attempt to entice other minor victims. He also arranged in-person meetings with minors for sexual activity. Investigators determined that he traveled to at least two cities, including one out of state, to abuse his victims in person.

In one instance, Linhart used Instagram to groom a 12-year-old girl, persuading her to sneak out of her home to meet him. During the encounter, he provided her with marijuana and then sexually abused her.

investigators executed a search warrant at Linhart’s home in Greenfield and seized an external hard drive containing thousands of images and videos of child sexual abuse material.

“What makes this case especially disturbing is that Linhart not only targeted children online, but also attempted to, and in least one instance succeeded in, meeting his young victims in person for sexual activities,” said Tom Wheeler, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. “Protecting children from predators, particularly those who hide behind screens and operate outside the watchful eyes of parents, remains one of our highest priorities.”

“The facts and evidence of this case are deeply troubling, and our priority remains the protection of children and the pursuit of justice for victims. This investigation demonstrates what can be accomplished when local agencies, and federal law enforcement like Homeland Security

Investigations, and specialized investigative resources work in close partnership. These cases are labor-intensive and sensitive but coordinated efforts like this are critical to uncovering the full scope of the crime and holding offenders accountable,” said Hamilton County Metro Child Exploitation Task Force Lieutenant, Doug Baker.

Hamilton County Metro Child Exploitation Task Force (affiliate of the Indiana Crimes Against Children Task Force) and Homeland Security Investigations investigated this case. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Walton Pratt.

U.S. Attorney Wheeler thanked Assistant United States Attorneys Carolyn A. Haney and Kyle M. Sawa along with former Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany Preston, who prosecuted this case.

This investigation was conducted by the Indiana Internet Crimes Against

Children (ICAC) Task Force, a multiagency task force led by the Indiana State Police that investigates and prosecutes persons who use the internet to sexually exploit or entice children. Each year, Indiana ICAC investigators evaluate thousands of tips, investigate hundreds of cases, and rescue dozens of children from ongoing sexual abuse. Visit <https://www.in.gov/isp/icactf/> to learn more about their efforts.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys’ Offices and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
**City of Fishers**  
**Fishers, Indiana**  
**Intersection Improvement – Olivo Road and Southeastern Parkway**  
**General Notice**  
**City of Fishers (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:**  
**Intersection Improvement construction work in Fishers, Indiana**  
 Online Bids for the construction of the Project will be received for the project until April 21, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read at a special Bid Opening meeting at 11:00 am (local time) on April 21, 2026, in the Fishers Hamilton Conference Room, located at 1 Municipal Drive, Room 218, Fishers, Indiana 46038. The bid opening can also be joined virtually. No late bids will be accepted. Project Manuals will be available for purchase starting April 7, 2026.  
 Teams Meeting Bid Opening: Meeting ID: 214 245 275 955 5 Passcode: C5d5UJ6z  
 For special accommodations required for handicapped individuals planning to attend the public bid opening meeting, please call or notify the City of Fishers at (317) 595-3160 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior thereto.  
 In general, the Work shall be completed by State of Indiana certified/qualified Contractor and Subcontractors for the Project and consists of:  
 Intersection Improvement located at Olivo Road and Southeastern Parkway in Hamilton County, Fishers, Indiana.  
 Obtaining the Bidding Document  
 Project Manuals will be available for purchase starting April 7, 2026.  
 Bid Documents and Plans can be obtained digitally from the City of Fishers via QuestCDN at [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com) Reference Quest Number 10141551. To be considered a plan holder for bids, register with QuestCDN.com for a free Regular membership and download the bidding documents in digital form at a cost of \$42.00. Downloading the documents and becoming a plan holder is recommended as plan holder’s receive automatic notice of addenda, other bid updates and access to vBid, online bidding via QuestCDN. Contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or [Support@QuestCDN.com](mailto:Support@QuestCDN.com) for assistance in membership registration, downloading digital bidding documents and vBid questions. Interested parties may view the contract documents at no cost prior to deciding to become a plan holder.  
 To access the electronic bid form, download the digital bidding documents and click the ‘Online Bid’ button or Online Bidding ‘Available’ button on the bid posting page. Bids will ONLY be received and accepted through vBid via QuestCDN.com. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holder list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted.  
 All payments for Bidding Documents are non-refundable. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.  
 Pre-bid Conference  
 A mandatory pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on April 16th, 2026, at 1:00 pm (local time) in the Fishers Hamilton Conference Room, located at 1 Municipal Drive, Room 218, Fishers, Indiana 46038. Virtual attendance information is below:  
 Microsoft Teams Meeting Pre-Bid Conf: Meeting ID: 297 520 753 307 56 Passcode: Mf6Cd2uq  
 Instructions to Bidders.  
 For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.  
 Work shall be constructed under a Unit Price Contract.  
 A Bid Bond or certified check in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the amount bid must be submitted with each Bid. Performance and Payment Bonds each worth 100% of the Bid will be required of the successful Bidder.  
 Bidders shall assure that they have obtained complete sets of Drawings and Contract Documents and shall assume the risk of any errors or omissions in Bids prepared in reliance on incomplete sets of drawings and Contract Documents.  
 Bids shall be properly and completely executed on a State Board of Accounts Form 96 (revised 2013). Each Bid shall be accompanied by the Contractor’s Bid Attachments (included in the project manual and proposal packet). A Financial Statement (completely filled out and signed) shall also be submitted as required by Form 96.  
 Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the above scheduled time for the opening of bids or authorized postponement thereof. No bidder may withdraw any bid or proposal within a period of sixty (60) days following the date set for receiving bids or proposals. The City of Fishers reserves the right to hold any or all bids or proposals for a period of not more than sixty (60) days and said bids or proposal shall remain in full force and effect during said period.  
 Submission of a signed Bid by the Bidder constitutes acknowledgment of and acceptance of all the documents and terms and conditions of the Contract-Legal Requirements and Technical Sections of the specifications in the Project Manual.  
 The City reserves the right to waive any informalities or minor defects in bids or bidding procedure, or reject any and all bids, or to accept any bid as may be lowest responsive or most responsible as exclusively determined by the City of Fishers. The City of Fishers reserves the right to reject and/or cancel any and all bids, solicitations and/or offers in whole or in part as specified in the solicitations when it is not in the best interests of the governmental body as determined by the purchasing agency in accordance with IC 5-22-18-2.  
 A conditional or qualified bid will not be accepted. Award will be made to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder.  
 In accordance with Indiana Code 22-5-1.7-11, Contractors entering into a contract with the Owner will be required to enroll in and verify the work eligibility status of all newly hired employees through the E-Verify program.  
 In accordance with Indiana Code 5-22-16.5, Contractors entering into a contract with the Owner will be required to certify they are not engaged in business with the Government of Iran, as defined in IC 5-22-16.5.  
 The Contractor to whom the work is awarded will be required to furnish an acceptable Performance and Payment Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract price and must be in full force and effect throughout the term of the Construction Contract plus a period of twelve (12) months from the date of substantial completion.  
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### SHEETZ

Continued from Page 4

a new state, Sheetz has donated \$25,000 to Special Olympics Indiana, an initial step in building a partnership with an organization that plays a vital role in every community where Sheetz operates.

The typical Sheetz store location employs between 30-35 individuals. Sheetz was recently named to the 100 Best Companies to Work For® list by Great Place To Work and Fortune Media for the 11th consecutive year, underscoring Sheetz’s reputation as a top employer nationally.

Also ranking second in the most recent Best Workplaces in Retail list by Fortune, Sheetz

offers competitive pay and benefits packages to all employees, including medical and dental insurance, 12-week fully paid maternity leave, a 401(k) retirement plan, college tuition reimbursement, an employee stock ownership plan, flexible schedules, opportunities for advancement, quarterly bonuses, vacation time and more.

Sheetz currently operates 830+ stores across its seven-state footprint, which currently includes Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Maryland and Michigan. All locations are open 24/7, 365 days a year.

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<b>The Top 60 boys follow:</b>	Christian	Doron Harris, Lawrence Central	Colton Lindsay, Eastern (Greentown)	Levi Sawatzky, Goshen	Xavier Wilson, Fort Wayne Snider
Keaton Aldridge, Indianapolis Cathedral	Luke Ertel, Mt. Vernon (Fortville)	Marrius Harris, Evansville Bosse	Josh Malloy, Munster	Treigh Schelsky, Parke Heritage	Crishon Woodward, Brownsburg
Ta'Shaun Beatty, Monroe Central	Caleb Ferguson, Columbus North	Terrence Hayes, Jr., Gary 21st Century	Owen Marshall, Columbia City	Brady Scholl, Northridge	SELECTED BUT INJURED AND UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE
Camden Bell, Wapahani	AJ Foster, Loogootee	Reginald Hinton, Gary West	<b>Kai McGrew, Fishers</b>	Eli Segó, Triton Central	Brandon Addison, Brownsburg
Cooper Bock, Sullivan	Roosevelt Franklin, Indianapolis Washington	Shea Hollendonner, Centerville	Brennan Miller, Lawrence North	Dikembe Shaw, Crown Point	<b>Justin Curry, Noblesville</b>
Dorian Bowen, Evansville Bosse	Anthony Fresh, Charlestown	Edwin Holmes, Princeton	Jedidiah Minnett, Avon	Nick Shrewsberry, South Bend St. Joseph	Micah Norman, Milan
Dane Caldwell, Silver Creek	Grady Gardner, Martinsville	Johnnie Hudson, Calumet	Sherman Moss-Wright, Ben Davis	Cooper Sims, Pendleton Heights	Ethan Roseman, South Bend St. Joseph
Bryson Chapman, Evansville North	Landon Gilliatt, Plainfield	Tim Jones, Marion	<b>Landon Osswald, Hamilton Southeastern</b>	Julien Smith, Indianapolis Cathedral	<b>Luke Weemer, Hamilton Southeastern</b>
Jack Clark, Bloomington South	Brayden Goff, Northview	Tyrese Jones, South Bend Riley	Lane Pendleton, Brownstown Central	Noah Smith, Plainfield	SELECTED BUT UNABLE TO ATTEND ON APRIL 12th
Aiden Coffey, Shenandoah	Sam Gooch, Greencastle	James Kalala, Southport	Isaac Pickel, Parke Heritage	Peter Socci, Hebron	Alex DeWitt, Orleans
Kasen Daeger, Silver Creek	Kaden Grau, Westview	Gavin Keller, Hauser	Logan Pokorney, Chesterton	Joe Taylor, Roncalli Jarvis Tolbert, South Bend Adams	<b>Drew Haffner, Westfield</b>
Conner Daily, Linton-Stockton	Blake Gray, University	Brady Klopfenstein, Terre Haute North	Jake Prior, Heritage Hills	Jaron Upshaw, Michigan City	Bryce Wilcox, Southwood
Mason Darrell, Crown Point	DeZhon Hall, Indianapolis Attucks	JaShawn Ladd, Ben Davis	Landon Richmond, Columbia City	<b>Baron Walker, Noblesville</b>	
Monte' Dillard, Liberty	Korbyn Hammel, Kokomo	Keaton Lawson, Columbus East		Cameron Webster, Lawrence North	
	<b>Evan Harrell, Carmel</b>				

# County Well Represented in Hoosier Basketball Top 60

Hamilton County was well represented when Hoosier Basketball Magazine came out with their top 60 senior boys for 2025-26.

A total of seven players were chosen. They are: Baron Walker, Noblesville; Justin Curry (not participating), Noblesville; Drew Haffner (not participating), Westfield; Evan Harrell, Carmel; Kai McGrew, Fishers; Landon Osswald, Hamilton Southeastern; and Luke Weemer (not participating), Hamilton Southeastern.

All players were selected from approximately 1,500 senior players statewide. Statistical evaluation, game observation and statewide research were conducted during the season and throughout the state tournament to determine Hoosier Basketball Magazine's Top 60.

Two sessions of the Top 60 Senior Workout were hosted by Hoosier Basketball Magazine in conjunction with the IHSAA and the IBCA on Sunday at Marian University in

Indianapolis.

Half of the Top 60 boys, primarily from northern and southern Indiana, participated in the first session. The remaining players, primarily from central Indiana, will compete during the second session.

Hoosier Basketball Magazine's Top 60 Senior Workout is highlighted by the state's top two senior scorers— Blake Neill, Bloomfield (28.2 ppg) and DeZhon Hall, Indianapolis Attucks (27.7).

There are eight players who participated in the 2026 IHSAA state finals including five state champion players— AAAA Luke Ertel, Mt. Vernon (Fortville) along with AAA Keaton Aldridge and Julien Smith of Indianapolis Cathedral plus AA Isaac Pickel and Treigh Schelsky from Parke Heritage. Two players from Crown Point's AAAA runner-up team in Dikembe Shaw and Mason Darrell as well as Kaden Grau of AA runner-up Westview are among the participants.

All of the student-athletes who are pictured on the front cover of Hoosier Basketball Magazine are also recognized as Top 60 Seniors. They include Dane Caldwell, Silver Creek; Ertel, Mt. Vernon (Fortville); Evan Harrell, Carmel; Terrence Hayes, Jr., Gary 21st Century; JaShawn Ladd, Ben Davis; Kai McGrew, Fishers; Brennan Miller, Lawrence North; Neill, Bloomfield; Shaw, Crown Point; Nick Shrewsberry, South Bend St. Joseph; Noah Smith, Plainfield and Baron Walker, Noblesville. Justin Curry, Noblesville

is injured and unable to participate.

The on-court coaching duties are coordinated by co-directors Bobby Allen, Hamilton Southeastern and Christopher Hawkins, Indianapolis Attucks. Other outstanding Indiana boys' high school coaches from the IBCA have been invited to join the 2026 Top 60 staff—Justin Blanding (University), Brian Klein (Monroe Central) and Drew Schauss (Kokomo).

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## KENNY THOMPSON



With decades of experience as an award-winning sports writer and sports editor – most of it covering Purdue athletics – Kenny Thompson has a perspective and inside knowledge that few others have. Whether it's putting what's going on in the Big Ten in historical perspective or shooting straight from the hip on what's happening today, no one has a better take on Purdue and sports than Kenny!

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