

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 119:9-11 "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (NIV)

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

Hamilton County residents have an opportunity this spring to conserve water and reduce runoff through the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's annual rain barrel sale, now open for pre-orders. The program offers residents an easy way to collect and reuse rainwater from their rooftops, helping to reduce stormwater runoff that can carry pollutants into local streams and rivers. Pre-orders are open now through May 12, with pickup scheduled for May 19 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville. Barrels are available at an affordable cost and come ready to install, with components designed to connect directly to a home's downspout. Optional accessories, including stands, diverters, and linking kits, are also available. More information and ordering details are available at: www.hamiltonswcd.org/rainbarrels

■ ADOPT A PET PIPER BEA



Piper Bea is a quiet, gentle, and oh-so-easy-to-love cat with so much love to give. This 10-year-old female domestic shorthair has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 8/4/25. Whether she's making biscuits on her cardboard scratcher, chasing a string toy, or tracking down the elusive red dot, PiperBea knows how to keep things entertaining. If you're looking for a friendly, playful companion who's ready to settle into her forever family, Piper Bea is the perfect girl for you. She would love to meet you at HSHC anytime Monday-Tuesday or Thursday-Sunday from 12-5 PM. To meet her, please fill out an adoption application at hamilton-humane.com/adopt.



Did you know that today is National Tell A Story today? Yeah, like Donald Trump needs an excuse to tell another whopper. Go ahead Don, draw another line in the sand!

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."

Albert Einstein

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

How can you tell the weather is getting warmer?

There is a spring in people's steps.

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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They Don't Make 'Em Like They Used To 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!

Today we celebrate the anniversary of the birth date of Walter Benjamin Lantz. If you are of a certain age and Walt Lantz sounds a little familiar . . . but you just can't quite place it . . . think back to sitting on the floor in front of a small black and white TV screen and watching cartoons. Got it yet? Lantz was an cartoonist and animator and created Woody Woodpecker. So today, 127 years after his birth, we're happy to take a look back at a friendlier time when Woody Woodpecker and his friends ruled our television sets.

204 Believe it or not, there are 204 films featuring Woody. They came out between 1940 and 1972.

2 The very first Woody Woodpecker film in 1940 was called Knock, Knock. The very last one 32 years later was called Bye, Bye Blackboard.



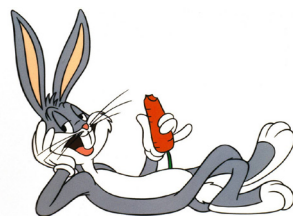
40 What was considered the Golden Age of Cartoons came along over a 40-year period. It began in the 1920s and lasted into the 1960s.



5 It's an arguable point, but most experts would agree that there were five big studios behind most of the bigger cartoons during the Golden Age. Disney produced a bunch, led by Mickey Mouse. Warner Bros. had Bugs Bunny and Donald Duck and others. MGM were led by Tom and Jerry. Fleischer and Paramount had Popeye the Sailor Man (and can you read that without hearing "toot-toot?") and Lantz had Woody.

1,000 If you were a fan of Merrie Melodies and the whole Looney

Tunes gang, then you probably are not surprised that there was about a thousand of the animated cartoons.



150+

Out of all those, Bugs Bunny was in more than 150.

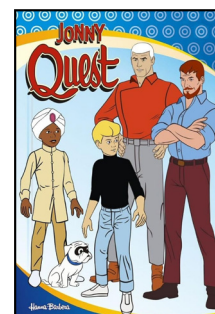
42 Remember Space Ghost? If you watched television cartoons in the early and mid-1960s we'll bet you do. Space Ghost starred in his own animated series and there were 42 episodes.

249 Another big player was Hannah-Barbera (the folks behind Space Ghost, the Flintstones, Scoopy Doo and others. Altogether the studio was responsible for 249 cartoon series.



99 OK, it wasn't from back in the day, but Warner Bros. came out with the Animaniacs in 1993 and Baby Boomers ate it up. There were 99 episodes made.

26 Remember Jonny Quest from 1964-65? There were only 26 episodes made.



3-22-94 Lantz passed away on March 22, 1994 at the age of 94. He is buried in Hollywood at Forest Lawn Memorial Park with other stars.

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. It may be a ways off, but it's worth planning for now. On Saturday, June 13 Hachette Book Group in Lebanon is having its annual \$1 book sale. There will literally be thousands upon thousands of brand new, hard-cover, best-sellers on sale for \$1 each. Car-pooling is highly encouraged and you won't believe the bargains there. The sale begins at 9 a.m. and ends promptly at 2 p.m. In addition, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Hachette has its Raising Readers Free Children's Book Giveaway. Hachette is located at 121 Enterprise Blvd. in Lebanon. This sale is worth the drive!

2. Does your child have a curious stuffed animal who loves adventures, new experiences, and making new friends? If so, make plans to send it to Teddy Bear Camp, May 11-22. Hosted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology, this "camp" will take the stuffed friend on an adventure they'll never forget. They'll travel the Hoosier landscape to learn about Indiana history, architecture, and archaeology and have photos taken that will commemorate their journey. This year, Teddy Bear Camp is driving the National Road. Also known as U.S. 40, it was the nation's first federally funded highway and cuts through the heart of Indiana from Terre Haute to Richmond. As such it has plenty of interesting stops for the stuffed animals to experience. During camp, DHPA staff will take the stuffed animals to a variety of sites along the road, taking plenty of photos at each stop. Some of these photos of the visits will be posted to DHPA's Facebook page ([Facebook.com/INdhp](https://www.facebook.com/INdhp)) and a digital photo album will be emailed to parents/guardians at the end of the journey along with an Indiana Junior Preservationist certificate. For more information and the registration form, go to on.IN.gov/teddy-bear-camp.

3. Indiana Gov. Mike Braun ceremonially signed SEA 285, legislation establishing a statewide prohibition on unauthorized camping on public land while connecting homeless Hoosiers to shelter, diversion and mental health services. The law prohibits unauthorized camping, sleeping, or long-term shelter on land owned by the state or a political subdivision. Before criminal enforcement moves forward, law enforcement must first determine whether emergency mental health detention is appropriate and, if not, provide a warning and information about available shelter and services. The purpose of the bill is not criminal action, but moving homeless Hoosiers toward social service networks to help them get needed services and stay safe. Before Braun's leadership with SEA285, Indiana's approach to the issue of homelessness had focused on housing-first legislation that has demonstrably not reduced homelessness. Under SEA285, a person may be charged only if at least 48 hours have passed since the warning and the person remains within 300 feet of the warned location. The law provides diversion options and provides defenses when no shelter or treatment bed is available within five miles or when a person has been recently released following an involuntary mental health commitment.

Humane Society Extends Adoption Hours Thursday

For the first time since 2023, the Humane Society for Hamilton County is extending its adoption hours to 7 p.m. on Thursday in celebration of National Adopt a Pet Day. The shelter hopes to use this day to rally the community in the face of a growing crisis that has affected shelters across the country for over two years: dogs in their care are deteriorating mentally and emotionally after months – and in some cases, over a year – of waiting for homes.

"It's heartbreaking to see just how long so many of our animals are forced to wait for a forever home," said Emma Nobbe, Community Engagement Manager. "We hope that our community will rally on a day that is nationally recognized for finding homes for shelter pets."

HSHC invites the community to join them for an after-hours event for National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day. For one day only, they are extending their adoption hours until 7:00 pm, and reducing all adoption fees for adult pets* to \$30, in the hopes of finding loving homes for the shelter pets in their care.

With hundreds of animals in the building, HSHC has pets of all breeds, ages, and personalities to choose from. Most importantly, the shelter may have the pet you've always dreamed of right behind one of their kennel doors.

Of all the animals who are waiting to go home, HSHC has identified six animals who are most in need. Adoption fees for these six featured animals will be waived, and the shelter is encouraging potential adopters to consider them first.

HSHC is offering \$30 adoptions* for adult dogs and cats during National Adopt a Pet Day on Thursday, April 30th. All adoptions include:

- Spay/neuter surgery
- Microchip
- Age-appropriate vaccinations and deworming, flea & tick treatment
- A wellness exam at a participating vet
- A starter bag of food
- Post-adoption support and resources
- A customized bone for all dogs, generously donated by HSHC volunteer Pat Lines
- A delicious Churu treat for all cats, generously donated by HSHC volunteer, Pat Lines

*Some exclusions apply

Adoption Event Details:

- When: Thursday, April 30th, Noon-7 p.m.
- Where: Humane Society for Hamilton County, 10501 Hague Road, Fishers, IN 46038
- Preview adoptable animals and apply early: hshcadoptions.com
- Bring your dog to meet adoptable dogs (if applicable)
- All household members must be present
- Renters must bring their pet policy documentation
- Government-issued ID required

The TIMES

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Westfield Mayor's Youth Council Cuts Ribbon May 13

The inaugural cohort of the Westfield Mayor's Youth Council will celebrate the completion of its civic project with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, May 13 at 7:45 a.m. at Grand Junction Plaza (225 S. Union Street). The students' project introduces solar-powered picnic tables, providing a sustainable and convenient new amenity for the community.

"I'm immensely proud of these students," said Mayor Scott Willis. "They identified an opportunity, presented a solution to City Council that would benefit the community, and collaborated with the appropriate city departments and vendors to accomplish their goal. They've set the bar high for future cohorts."

Established in 2025, the Westfield Mayor's Youth Council provides local high school students with hands-on leadership and civic engagement experience.

The ribbon cutting is free and open to the public. Mayor Scott Willis and Westfield Mayor's Youth Council President Jack Clark will offer brief remarks near the Café Building, followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony on the east side of Grand Junction Plaza. The students will also unveil a plaque commemorating their efforts.

Applications for the 2026-2027 Westfield Mayor's Youth Council cohort are open through April 17. To learn more or apply, visit westfieldin.gov/youthcouncil.

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Vol. 122 | Issue 47

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 Annual Print Subscription: \$89
 Annual Online Subscription: \$42

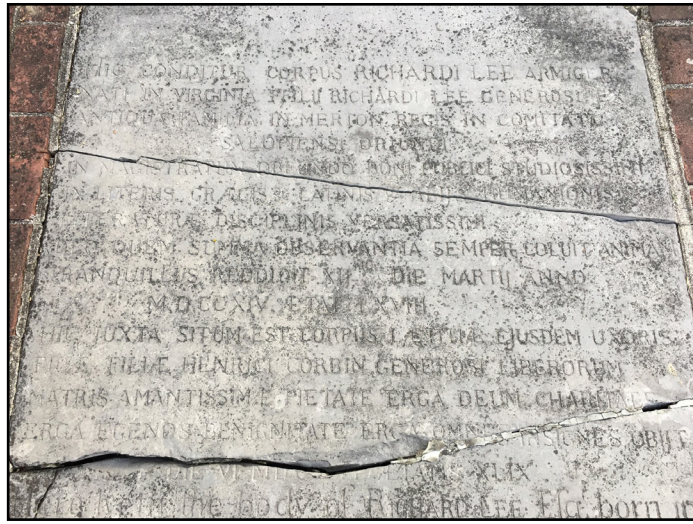
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The inscription is barely readable.



Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

A bronze plaque makes the site much more official.

An Architect of This Country Almost Forgotten in Corn Field



ANDY CHANDLER
 Columnist

"Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances.

That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."

Lee Resolution

What if I told you that the Declaration of Independence was simply that, a declaration, and not a legislative document? While most people are familiar with the line, "we hold these truths," spoken on July 4, 1776, it was the Lee Resolution voted on two days before that was the real article of independence. There's a reason John Adams proposed that Independence Day be celebrated on July 2. If Jefferson was the voice of Independence, Lee was its architect.

Now what if I told you the man who proposed independence was Richard Henry Lee, and that he is buried in a corn field?

Richard Henry Lee was born in 1732 in Westmoreland Co., Virginia. He was part of the famous Lee family whose members include Light Horse Harry

Lee and Robert E. Lee. At 16, he was sent abroad to study at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Wakefield, England.

Returning to the colonies in 1753, Lee pursued a career in politics. Lee was very much about what we today term self-determination. In fact, he drafted the Westmoreland Resolution of 1766, a grievance against the King's taxation, a full 10 years before the Declaration.

In 1774, he was elected to the Continental Congress where he signed the Articles of Association, the Declaration, and later, the Articles of Confederation. The only person to have signed more of the founding documents was Roger Sherman, who signed all four.

On June 7, 1776, Lee proposed the Lee Resolution, which was the legal motion by the Congress to seek Independence. During the month-long debate, a concurrent group, known as the Committee of Five, were meeting. They were Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Philip Livingston, and Roger Sherman.

So, the Resolution and Declaration existed concurrently: one, a legal document, the other, a proclamation. The Resolution was voted on July 2, and the Declaration was announced on the 4.

Lee returned home. Because of bouts of epilepsy, he couldn't fight. Eventually, he was elected back to the Congress and became President of the



Andy took the time to hold up an American flag, the ultimate reward for Lee's efforts.



As Andy points out, how ironic that this sits in the middle of a corn field.

Congress from 1784-85. During his time there, the Land Ordinance Act of 1785 was passed, opening the Northwest Territory to settlement.

Eventually, under the US Constitution, in 1792 Lee became the president pro tempore of the Senate during the 2nd Congress. He eventually retired due to illness later the same year and would pass two years later and was buried at the family estate.

Interestingly, the 1792 Presidential Succession Act placed the President Pro Tempore of the Senate behind the vice president in succession making him third in line to the presidency.

U.S. Presidents, have it good after death. Grant's Tomb, Garfield's Tomb and JFK on the hillside in Arlington to name a few. However, Signers' graves are in some bizarre places. George Clymer is buried under a parking lot in Trenton, N.J. Richard Stockton's gravestone is unidentified in Princeton.

George Walton and Lyman Hall are buried under a street in Augusta, Ga.

Lee would be buried in the old family cemetery just north of what is now Hague, Va. Land sales and the passage of time mean the property is now farmland and a cornfield.

One evening, after nearly getting arrested at Sherwood Forest (see my article on John Tyler), my wife and I drove out to the farm. The farmer didn't even bother to ask what we were doing and waved us through.

In the fading light, I got out an American flag and had a photo taken. How profound, the architect of our independence, who opened our territories to settlement, is now in a corn field.

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.

Lions Step Up For Hungry



Photo courtesy Noblesville Lions

The Noblesville and Westfield Lions Club, along with The Feeding Team distributed food from Gleaners to 160 families recently at Hamilton Heights High School. The next distribution will be April 28 at Harbour Shores Church from 4-6 pm.



2026 NISSAN MURANO PLATINUM BOASTS CONCEPT CAR STYLE AND GENERATIONS OF GOOD FAVOR

It may not be the most powerful luxury-ish crossover, but it is still pretty lush.



CASEY WILLIAMS
Columnist

I'm a fan of the Nissan Murano, a luxurious mid-size crossover with artsy-fartsy turntable style. It swoops and sweeps over a beautiful interior layered with lush. It's also expensive; the Platinum edition we just tested was over \$57,000. If you're perhaps a little younger and less financially flush than the typical Murano buyer, but still like all it represents, you might consider the 2026 Nissan Kicks SR AWD.

The Kicks, redesigned for 2025, had tough acts to follow. The Nissan Juke is one of my all-time favorites and the last-generation Kicks was very popular. None of those equaled all the Kicks SR offers.

It definitely has a younger look with horizontal strakes across its face, narrow LED headlamps, and stacks of driving lamps embedded between. Our SR edition adds 19" wheels and two-tone paint with a floating black roof. It's especially fetching in bright Arctic Ice Blue Metallic paint. Designers deftly disguised tall bodysides with aggressive sills that extend high into the doors. I like the futuristic rear taillamps that arch across the hatch.

As with owners of the larger Murano, having all of the latest style, comforts and technology matter. Like many new cars, the Kicks has a glassy 12.3-inch twin-screen arrangement with crisp digital gauges and touch-screen combined. Devices connect wirelessly via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto plus charge wirelessly in the console below. Automatic climate control, heated front seats, and a heated steering wheel add luxuries – as do a twin-panel panoramic glass roof and 10-speaker Bose audio system with speakers in the headrests.

Whether indulging in Laufey, Anka or Elvis, it sounded concerto fantastico.

Tap around to realize how posh the Kicks really is. There's some hard plastic if you tap your fingers, but most surfaces are soft-touch including the gray-and-red stitched panels on the doors, carbon fiber texture on the dash, and French-stitched coverings above. Check the gradient red checks on the seats. Very cool – and comfortable. SR editions add a red-stitched flat-bottom steering wheel, piano black accents, and red around the gear selector.

Go for a drive, however, and you'll find the Kicks is really just a tall sub-compact car.

On paper, a 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine producing 141 horsepower and 140 lb.-ft. of torque should give it some, well, kick, but it took a firm foot to convince the continuously variable transmission to whirl power through our vehicle's optional all-wheel-drive system. Drive modes flick between Normal, Eco, Sport or Snow. There's nothing sporty about any of the modes, but at least it gets a frugal 27/34-MPG city/highway.

The bumpy suspension will remind you this is a value-priced compact and not a luxury ride, but it's not as bad as it could be.

Base models come with a torsion beam rear suspension, which is fine for a small car, but our SR steps up with a fully indepen-

dent arrangement. It's still pretty harsh over rough city streets, but does a much better job of settling on the highway and provides a more engaging driving experience should you find yourself with curves ahead. As I found on a two-hour drive to see my sister, road noise definitely gets through. Yet, the Kicks is otherwise an acceptable appliance for carrying friends, family, or just your camping gear. Just look for smooth asphalt.

And, it does so safely adaptive cruise with lane centering, blind spot warning, lane keep assist, automatic emergency braking, and rear cross path detection with auto brake. You can't go hands-off, but Nissan's ProPilot Assist system features lane-centering for the next best thing.

Is the Kicks a Murano? Nope, but it is pretty cool with its flashy styling, four doors, all-wheel-drive, flip-down rear seats for luggage, and a cabin that feels very upscale. And, the price is considerably nicer starting at just \$22,430, rising to \$35,515 all-in. Competitors include the Chevy Trax, Honda HR-V, Hyundai Kona, and Subaru Crosstrek.

Storm Forward!

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

LIKES

- BRASH STYLE
- LOADED INTERIOR
- ALL-WHEEL-DRIVE

2026 Nissan Kicks SR

Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: 2.0-liter I4, CVT
Output: 141hp/140 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 19"/19" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Fuel economy: 27/34 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Aguas, Mexico
Base/As-tested price: \$22,430/\$35,515

DISLIKES

- SLEEPY TRANSMISSION
- HIGHWAY NOISE
- BUMPY SUSPENSION



Photo courtesy Noblesville Schools

The Inaugural Class of 2025 inductees included Dick Dellinger, Vickie Ely, Julia Kozicki, John Land, Bryan Mills, Tony Oilar, Rick Towle and Kathy Williams.

Hall of Famers Shine in Ceremony

Noblesville Schools inducted their first Hall of Fame class at a special dedication event Wednesday evening at their new Hall of Fame Courtyard.

Inaugural Hall of Fame Class of 2025 inductees include Dick Dellinger, Vickie Ely, Julia Kozicki, John Land, Bryan Mills, Tony Oilar, Rick Towle and Kathy Williams.

The district also recently announced their Class of 2026 honorees – Chris Beaver, Sally Crow, Fred Farley and Bruce Hitchcock. The Class of 2026 will have their dedication event this fall.

The district's new Hall of Fame Courtyard is located between the Noblesville Schools Community Center and Beaver Stadium, and features an honoree monument, walking path, reflection benches and landscaping.

The courtyard was funded out of construction project savings from a bond (loan) with no increase to the tax rate and no classroom dollars.

Generous donations also supported the courtyard, with Hagerman Group donating the concrete, and CCHA and The Peony Festival organization donating and planting peonies.

The Noblesville Schools Hall of Fame celebrates the legacy of those who have demonstrated exceptional service, support, accomplishments or contributions to Noblesville Schools, and is a collaboration between Noblesville Schools and the Noblesville Schools Education Foundation (NSEF).

Honorees are selected based on community nominations. Eligibility criteria, nomination guidelines and the application to nominate can be found here at <https://www.noblesvilleschools.org/community/noblesville-schools-hall-of-fame>

Having Ice Cream Tonight



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

I had a really good ice-cream cone this week.

I suppose this does not qualify as news, but I try not to eat too much ice cream, and I don't usually keep ice cream in my freezer because I have a tendency to eat it all right away.

I love ice cream. I have always loved ice cream. But I have noticed my tendency to eat it until my face goes numb and have avoided it. When I'm in Mexico, I walk by an ice-cream shop every night, where I have bought ice cream before. It is good. So almost every night, when I get to the ice-cream shop, I pause, and I ask myself, "Should I get ice cream tonight?"

Almost always, my wiser self says, "You don't really need ice cream tonight. Maybe tomorrow." And I don't buy ice cream.

But last night, after I had passed my usual ice-cream shop, I came to a gelato shop that I had ignored until now. I thought it looked a little fancy. I couldn't imagine gelato could be as good as the ice cream at the shop I had just passed. But this place was always busy, and tonight, for a change, there was no one in there but two employees stand-

ing behind the counter. I wandered in.

I looked for the smallest cone they had, and I said I would like one.

"What flavors?"

"What do you recommend?"

She suggested several and told me I could have up to four.

"On one little cone?"

"Yes!"

This seemed unusual. It was not a large cone. But I went ahead and ordered two kinds of chocolate, one with nuts and one without, and strawberry and mint. While one of the women took my money, the other one started scooping ice cream.

I had no idea it would be such a process.

Tiny slivers of gelato were scooped out in petal shapes and put in that cone, one by one, going around in a circle until the whole thing looked like a rose. It was too beautiful to eat. I had them take a picture of me with the cone first. But I had to eat it eventually because the petals were hanging over the edges of the cone like

the fully opened rose it resembled, and it would not be an exaggeration to say it was the best ice-cream cone I have ever had.

And now I wonder why I waited so long.

I try to eat good things. My reasoning is that nothing I possess is more important than my body, and I want to keep it in working order. So I generally eat well and that is usually pretty easy because I love vegetables more than anything.

But life requires more than vegetables. That's what I was thinking while eating my exquisite little ice-cream cone.

I vowed that from now on, I will eat ice cream that is worth eating. And I realized that this was no different from reading books that were worth reading, wearing clothes I loved to wear, and spending time with people who lit me up instead of pulling me down.

All of it was a choice about how to spend my time and attention, and all of it started with believing that life was too short to eat bad ice cream, and certainly too short not to eat ice cream at all.

I'm having vegetables again today, and I'll have vegetables tomorrow. But there is also a chance that I will have ice cream tonight.

Till next time,

Carrie

Thank you for subscribing!

Mugged on My Birthday!



DICK WOLFSIE
Columnist

Last month, I celebrated my 79th birthday. My wife and son tried to find me the perfect gift. But I am a very difficult person to shop for. I know this because my mother started telling me this when I was three years old.

To help them, I Googled "Gifts for men in their 80s." I still have a year to go, but I wanted to give my family a good start on the next decade.

Here was the first recommendation:

"The gift should convey to the celebrant that he is still loved, respected and appreciated.

I don't want to be a celebrant. It's bad enough that many consider me an irritant.

Another suggestion: "Why not a collage of stamps from that person's birth year. Can you think of a better present?" Yes. How about a gift certificate for my next colonoscopy? By the way, a postage stamp in 1947 was three cents, which was expensive in those days. That's why my father didn't want to send out my birth announcements.

Then there were also several ideas for personalized coffee mugs:

"What about an eye-catching cup with a list of all the famous people born on their birthday?" I thought that sounded like a good idea, so I did a little research about March 5 on AI. Amazing how many notables share my birth date.

Tang Gonghong (Chinese weightlifter)

Jef Eygel (Belgian basketball player)

Olusegun Obasanjo (former President of Nigeria)

But how long will that priceless gift last before someone swipes it?

Here's another hint: "A coffee mug decorated with the names of famous people who died on your birth date." I'm surprised Starbucks never thought of this. It seems tasteless, but it's nothing compared to their scones.

I Googled a list for those who said their final good-byes on March 5.

Jay Silverheels (Tonto on the Lone Ranger) on the

Lone Ranger)

Patsy Cline (Country singer)

William Powell (Movie star)

I'd suggest they add dictator Joseph Stalin, who also died on March 5. Anything to brighten up that mug.

Just before my birthday, Mary Ellen and I went to Cracker Barrel for dinner. I saw her eyeing one of those little books on the gift rack that features statistics from the year you were born. The stand starts with 2005 at the top, and the years work their way down the rack. By the time she reached 1947, she was on her knees. This is a marketing mistake. When you are a senior, everything you want to buy should be at eye level. If CVS stocked Depends on the lower shelf, they'd never sell a single package.

Mary Ellen ended up giving me a coffee mug:

TO MY FAVORITE SEPTUAGENARIAN

I don't like being in my '70s. It certainly doesn't sound as much fun as being a sexagenarian.

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

Baldwin Bill Signed

Legislation authored by State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville) to strengthen health care competition, establish a counter drone framework and modernize judicial security in Indiana was ceremonially signed into law by Gov. Braun today.

Senate Enrolled Act 189 builds on the federal No Surprises Act of 2021 by triggering a good faith conference between parties to negotiate a reimbursement agreement instead of conducting an Independent Dispute Resolution case, which will avoid delays in medical care and increased costs. SEA 189 also expedites care by prohibiting insurers from charging a fee for out-of-network care, which allows health care employers to provide care based on patient need and clinician expertise.

"Health insurance companies often use their power to force health care providers to use specific health insurance carriers, which often delays care that Hoosiers need in a timely manner," Baldwin said. "Senate Enrolled Act 189 will alleviate these

burdens and enhance competitiveness within Indiana's health care marketplace."

To address the threat of drones, Senate Enrolled Act 227 creates a federally compliant framework to allow law enforcement throughout the state to detect and respond to unauthorized drones only when federal law permits. The law also designates the Indiana State Police as the coordinating agency that sets training and approval standards and provides oversight and liability protections.

To strengthen judicial security, Senate Enrolled Act 291 repeals the existing Supreme Court Sheriff safety model and replaces it with a dedicated Supreme Court Marshal. The Court of Appeals would also be allowed to create their own marshal system, which would provide security for the Court of Appeals and Tax Court. These marshals will have multiple tasks, including protecting justices, judges, court staff, facilities and judicial residences. SEA 291 provides marshals limited police power while

on duty, which permits them to carry weapons, temporarily detain individuals to address security threats, and have access to law enforcement intelligence like criminal history records and threat assessments.

"As the risks to public safety continue to change, keeping Hoosiers safe is always a top priority for me," Baldwin said. "Senate Enrolled Act 227 ensures Indiana is prepared to respond to the threats drones present to large public events, airports and critical infrastructure, and Senate Enrolled Act 291 ensures judges can do their job without fear of intimidation and preventing tragic shootings like the one involving Judge Steve Meyer and his wife at their home."

To learn more about legislation Baldwin authored during the 2026 session, visit iga.in.gov.

Baldwin represents Senate District 20, which includes Noblesville, Carmel, Cicero and unincorporated areas of Hamilton County.



Photo courtesy City of Westfield

The council is now a permanent part of Westfield's civic structure and reinforces its commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

Westfield Formalizes Council on Disabilities

The City of Westfield has formally codified the Westfield Advisory Council on Disabilities into the City's municipal code, following a March 9 vote by the Westfield City Council. The action establishes the council as a permanent part of the City's civic structure and reinforces Westfield's commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

Nine members have been appointed to serve on the council. Each brings a direct connection to the disability community, including individuals with disabilities, family members, and professionals who support and advocate for accessibility.

Appointed members include:

- Nicole Southerland, Co-chair (3-year term)
- Bridget Lueken (2-year term)
- Danyele Easterhaus (2-year term)
- Jamie Pristasch (3-

- year term)
- Jamie Sterchi (2-year term)
- Kurt Deichmann (1-year term)
- Dr. Lindsay Tomamichel (1-year term)
- Mendi Cooley (3-year term)
- Theresa Abbenhaus (1-year term)

In addition to the voting members, several non-voting advisors will serve as liaisons between the council and City departments and township partners:

- Travis Stetnish, City of Westfield ADA Coordinator and WACD Co-chair
- Lt. Broc Larrison, Westfield Police Department
- Brook Hughes, City of Westfield Human Resources
- Jamie Goetz Mills, Westfield Washington Township Trustee
- John Capes, Westfield Parks and Recreation
- Lauren Gilling-

- ham-Teague, City of Westfield Community Development
- Marissa Barrett, City of Westfield Communications
- Division Chief Ryan Flora, Westfield Fire Department

The council will advise on issues related to accessibility, public safety, community engagement, and workforce development, helping ensure the needs and perspectives of individuals with disabilities are reflected in City planning and services.

As part of its initial work, the council will re-establish its mission, vision, and values to guide its efforts and identify priorities. The group will work in coordination with City departments and township partners to provide input and recommendations as Westfield continues to grow.

To learn more or get involved, visit westfieldin.gov/wacd.

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Photo Courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Hamilton Heights senior Owen Robey.

Hamilton Heights Baseballer Commits to Eureka College

Hamilton Heights senior Owen Robey is headed to Eureka, Ill. where he will continue his baseball career with the Eureka College Red Devils, an NCAA Division III program competing in the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference. He is the son of Abby and Wade Robey.

A two-year varsity letterman, Robey, #10, contributed to the Huskies as a pitcher and infielder, earning a reputation for consistency, work ethic, and leadership.

Robey chose Eureka College for its strong occupational therapy program, which provides a clear pathway toward medical

school. His long-term goal is to become an inpatient occupational therapist; a career he feels aligns with his strengths and desire to help others.

He credits his parents for their unwavering support and guidance throughout his baseball journey.

“I’m very thankful for my coaches and excited to play baseball in college,” Robey said, acknowledging the role they played in his growth as both a student and an athlete.

Outside of sports, Robey has worked at Sullivan’s Hardware and 10 West, experiences that helped him build responsibility

and confidence.

“Owen is a joy to coach and has a high baseball IQ and understands the game as much as anyone,” said Adam Hughes, Hamilton Heights Head Baseball Coach. He mixes pitches well and stays ahead in counts. Those attributes will help at the next level.”

“We are extremely happy for Owen who has been passionate about baseball for a long time and worked very hard to improve his game,” added Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights Athletic Director.

“Eureka College is getting a solid player with a very high ceiling.”



Photo Courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

From left, Little sister Sophia Comer. Father Travis Comer, Tyler Comer and mother Lisa Come

Heights Pitcher Signs With Bethel

Hamilton Heights High School senior Tyler Comer has signed a national letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career with the Bethel University Pilots in Mishawaka, Indiana. Bethel University competes in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and is a member of the Crossroads League. He is the son of Travis and Lisa Comer.

Comer, who wears #33 and excels as a pitcher, has been dedicated to baseball since kindergarten. Known for his quiet determination and consistent work ethic, he has spent years finding extra time before and after school to refine his skills. His commitment was recognized early in his high

school career when he earned the Husky Heart award as a freshman on the JV team.

Comer chose Bethel University for its tight-knit community, strong relationships among players and coaches, and its faith-based approach to academics and athletics. A faithful Catholic who attends Sunday services, he felt an immediate connection to the values and culture of the campus. A student with a clear sense of purpose, Comer plans to major in Exercise Science at Bethel as he works toward his long-term goal of becoming a physical therapist.

He credits his parents, friends, and coaches as the major influences in

his development as both a student and an athlete, noting their steady support throughout his baseball journey.

“Tyler is a dedicated and driven individual,” Adam Hughes, Head Baseball Coach. “He has worked the last four years on the field and in the classroom. He is just beginning to tap into his potential. His best baseball is ahead of him.”

“Tyler has been passionate about baseball for a long time,” added Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights Athletic Director. “He has worked tirelessly to improve his game so it’s exciting to see him earn this opportunity to play at the next level. We wish him well at Bethel University.”

Sheridan Library Has Busy May

BABIES/TODDLERS:

May 4, 11, 18 at 10:30am | Discovery Time (Ages: up to 3 yrs)

PRESCHOOL:

May 6, 13, 20, 27 at 10:30am | Little Learners Story Time (Ages 3-6)

GRADES K-5:

May 7 at 3:30pm | Afterschool Club: Star Wars Legos
May 26 at 3:30pm | Afterschool Club: Tinkers & Thinkers

GRADES 6-12:

May 19 at 5pm | Star Wars Jeopardy

ADULTS:

May 6, 13, 20, 27 at 11am | Needle Crafters
May 6, 20 at 3pm | Adult Bingo (sponsored by Robert Owen)
May 6 at 6pm | Pinners
May 19 at 5pm | Star Wars Jeopardy
May 20 at 5:30pm | Sheridan Readers: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

ALL AGES:

May 12 at 10:30am | Homeschool Meetup: Book Show & Tell
May 12 at 3:30pm | Fairy + Dinosaur Gardens
May 14 at 6pm | Family Bingo Night

SPL will be closed on Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day. For more information on programming and services, please visit: <https://sheridan.lib.in.us>

Renovation updates coming soon

Rokita: Court Victory Stops Sex Ed Problem

The 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals today sided with Attorney General Todd Rokita’s arguments and upheld an Indiana law that prohibits public schools from providing instruction on human sexuality to students in pre-kindergarten through third grade — delivering a strong victory for parental authority, childhood innocence and commonsense education priorities.

“This decision is a huge win for Hoosier parents and common sense,” said Attorney General Rokita. “Human sexuality should not be taught in public schools, period. These are sensitive topics best left to parents and families, not government employees in the classroom.”

In 2023 — the same year the law was enact-

ed — a first-year teacher from Indianapolis Public Schools sued the state. She claimed the law violated her First Amendment rights and was unconstitutionally vague. Just as a federal district court did previously, the federal appeals court rejected both those contentions.

“Our law is clear that primary teachers in public schools have only limited speech rights just like other public employees,” the court stated in its ruling. “Even more, their in-classroom instruction does not enjoy First Amendment protection.”

In other words, the people of Indiana — through their elected representatives — have the right and authority to make laws regulating the content of public school curricula.

Attorney General Rokita thanked Solicitor General James Barta and his team for their work on this case.

Tuesday’s decision represents the second time this week that the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled in Indiana’s favor. On Monday, it granted the state’s emergency motion to stay a preliminary injunction against Indiana’s commonsense law clarifying that college- and university-issued IDs cannot be used to vote. Only secure, government-issued IDs like Indiana driver’s licenses are accepted at the polls — a needed provision to close loopholes, prevent potential fraud by out-of-state or ineligible voters, ensure every ballot belongs to a verified Hoosier, and preserve public confidence in fair, honest, and transparent elections.

ABOUT HCLA

Established in 1991, Hamilton County Leadership Academy (HCLA) is the premier leadership program in Hamilton County. Through education and connection, HCLA empowers those who live and/or work in Hamilton County to positively impact their community.

Leadership Summit Coming June 18

Hamilton County Leadership Academy is thrilled to announce the panel of Hamilton County experts who will be speaking at the 13th Annual Leadership Summit, held on June 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Conference Center Noblesville.

It’s widely acknowledged that workplace culture plays a critical role in attracting and retaining high performers — but what culture is and how to build one that is strong and sustainable is less understood. This panel of Hamilton County experts are going to dig into those topics and much more:

- Bethany Gremel, Director of Culture and Brand Experience,

- Beck’s Hybrids
- Mandy Haskett, Leadership Consultant, ADVISA
- Mike Pote, VP of Strategic Initiatives, Gaylor Electric
- The discussion will be moderated by Heather Hass, CEO and Owner, ADVISA.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have this phenomenal panel of leaders from well-respected Hamilton County employers,” said Maria Kanger, Executive Director of HCLA. “Those who attend the Leadership Summit are bound to benefit from their wisdom and willingness to dig into key questions, like what is needed from workplaces in this particular moment, and how AI factors into

workplace culture.”

In addition to the panel discussion, the event will also feature HCLA’s Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni Awards. Each year, HCLA recognizes an alumni and community partner for their commitment and service to the organization and their impact in Hamilton County. Recipients of these awards will be announced at a later date.

The HCLA Leadership Summit is open to the public, and both individual tickets and sponsorships are now available for purchase. Tickets and sponsorships may be purchased here. Registration closes on Monday, June 1.

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Photos courtesy Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts

Much of the new lighting offers angle, focus and motion control along with greater brightness, sharpness and color flexibility.

Tarkington Gets Lighting, Safety Upgrades

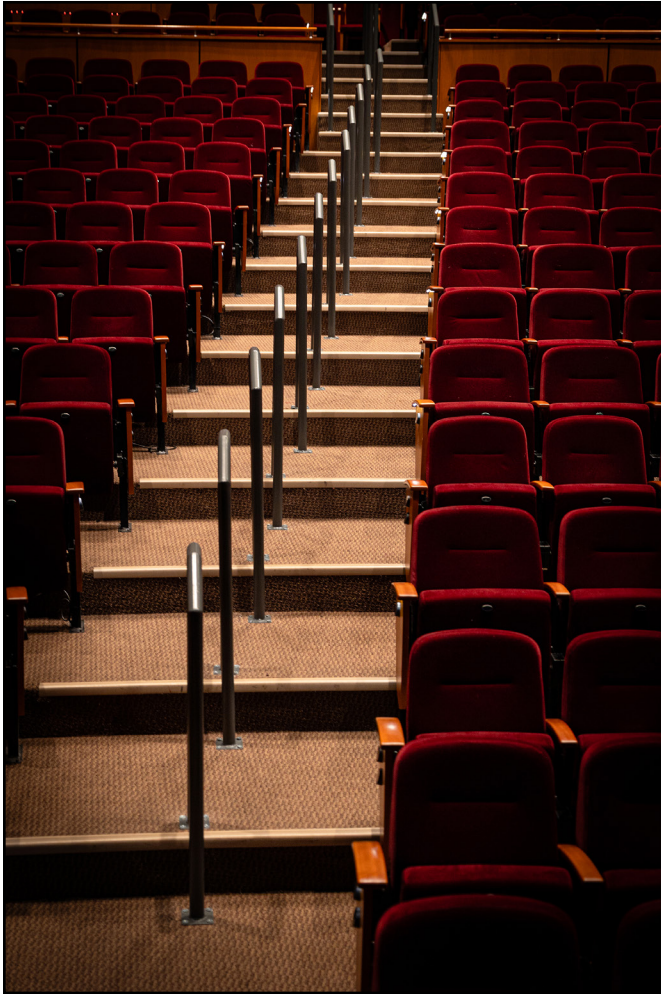
As Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts prepares to announce its upcoming 2026-2027 season, major upgrades have taken place at its mid-sized venue.

Visitors to the Tarkington, the 500-seat proscenium theater at 3 Carter Green, will notice new handrails in the aisles to enhance safety and accessibility, as well as a new, state-of-the-art LED lighting system bringing more vivid effects to performances.

Much of the original incandescent lighting system, a mix of moving and static fixtures tailored to various needs, has been replaced with High End Systems Halcyon Gold LED fixtures from employee-owned, Wisconsin-based manufacturer ETC, which offer angle, focus and motion control along with greater brightness, sharpness and color flexibility. All adjustments to the 88 fixtures can be made instantly from the ground console – even after sets have been constructed and a performance is underway on stage – which all but eliminates time-consuming manual work on lifts and ladders.

“We’ve really stepped up our game with these new capabilities, and that enables the artists and presenters to do the same,” said Tarkington Technical Director Joshua Hasty, who worked with Center Lighting Director Nick Brown and other colleagues to evaluate hundreds of products before selecting the new equipment. “We can respond quickly to their ideas and needs even if they’re in the theater for just one night.”

The LEDs use less energy, produce less heat on stage and require replacement far less often than incandescent lamps. The accompanying control console comes with digital modeling software that enables a lighting designer to create and experiment with setups even when offsite or when the stage is set for other productions.



Visitors to the 500-seat proscenium theater will notice new handrails in the aisles to enhance safety and accessibility.

“It’s insane, the stuff they’re coming up with,” said Hasty, who has worked more than two decades in the technical theater field and nearly 10 years at Allied Solutions Center. “The fact that you can predesign in a 3D model on your laptop, even when we don’t have access to the theater, that’s a huge benefit that we haven’t even taken full advantage of yet.”

Similarly, new LED lighting was installed two years ago to replace the aging system at the neighboring 1,500-seat Payne & Mencias Palladium. Major capital improvements on the campus are funded with support from the Carmel Redevelopment Commission and the City of Carmel.

To complement the larger music hall, the Tarkington was designed for theater and dance productions, with stage wings, a fly system, special stage flooring and other features. It is housed across Carter Green in the James Building, which also includes the Studio Theater, a black box space with flexible seating and

stage configurations. Civic Theatre is the principal resident company at “The Tark,” though the venue hosts a wide range of arts performances and community events.

As for the handrails, the Tarkington’s stadium-style seating area has stairstep aisles at the center and sides where patrons sometimes stumble while coming and going, said Krista Layfield, Allied Solutions Center’s Front of House Manager. Now, continuing a series of accessibility upgrades on the campus, sleek steel handrails have been installed down the middle of each aisle to help people maintain their balance. REI Real Estate, which manages the James Building, collaborated on the project.

“The ushers were so happy when they saw the handrails, and the feedback has been very positive,” Layfield said. “We want our venues to feel as safe and welcoming as possible, and this is a simple but impactful way to make a difference for our patrons.”

CALENDAR: COMEDY

Michael Blaustein: The Taste Me Tour – The Final Leg
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Tickets from \$29.50; on sale 10 a.m. April 17

Becky Robinson: The Beasts in Me Tour
8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Tickets from \$30.50; on sale 10 a.m. April 17

Comics Coming to Carmel

Two comedians known for their viral online videos will be part of the upcoming season at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts.

Michael Blaustein will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, on the final leg of The Taste Me Tour. Becky Robinson will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, on her The Beasts in Me Tour. Both shows will take place at the Payne & Mencias Palladium as part of the 2026-2027 Center Presents Season sponsored by Allied Solutions. The full season will be announced May 18.

Tickets starting at \$29.50 for Blaustein and \$30.50 for Robinson are available now, at TheCenterPresents.org, or in person at the Payne & Mencias Palladium’s Fifth Third Bank Box Office at 1 Carter Green.

Blaustein, one of the fastest-rising stand-up per-

formers working today, is a comedian, actor and writer known for his high-energy delivery, audience interaction and relatable observations about modern life. His viral video clips have amassed over 900 million views on social media. Blaustein is co-host of the hit comedy podcast *Stiff Socks*, on which he and fellow comic Trevor Wallace “go do weird stuff, and then talk about how weird that stuff was.”

Robinson is an L.A.-based comedian, writer, actor and voiceover star best known as Entitled Housewife, an outspoken golfer character she developed through a series of online videos. Entitled Housewife’s antics have racked up millions of views across social media, leading to an international touring career, a mention in Deadline’s “15 Comedians to Watch in 2025” and a self-produced comedy special, *Becky Robinson: Entitled*. She voiced the



Becky Robinson



Michael Blaustein

lead character Parker J. Cloud on Nickelodeon’s animated series *Middlemost Post* and was a regular on MTV’s *Wild ‘N Out* with Nick Cannon, among other TV appearances.

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