

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (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 ARIZONA



Arizona is a senior sweetheart with the sweetest frosted face that melts hearts with just one look. This 8-year-old female Pit Bull Terrier has been available for adoption at HSHC since 2/20/26. She loves her toys and will proudly prance around with one like she just won a prize. Every now and then, she'll even flip it into the air just for fun, and it's absolutely adorable to watch. To meet Arizona, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt, then stop by HSHC anytime 12-5 PM daily (closed Wednesday).



Enjoy life now, today, right now all you soon-to-be graduates. You know pretty much everything today. In a few years, you'll see things differently.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Set your own sail."

Jim Rohn

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Remember to always give 100 percent . . . unless you're at a blood drive!

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Getting Numbers from the Cone Zone 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!

Thanks to our friends at the Indiana Department of Transportation, we bring you a look at the numbers that make up the 2026 roads and highways construction and maintenance season. And like our friends at INDOT, we kindly ask all of us to slow down and pay extra attention when entering what we kiddingly call the Cone Zone. Truth is, without all those workers doing the good work they do, Indiana highways and byways would be much more challenging to drive on. So please keep that in mind while we peruse the cone zone . . . by the numbers!

\$2,600,000,000

Yup, that number begins with a B. In Indiana this year, our government will be spending more than two-and-a-half billion dollars on Hoosier transportation infrastructure.

6,297

That's how many miles of roads will be resurfaced or replaced.

2,441

And that's how many miles will be chipped and sealed.

4

There are four Safe Zones sites currently active in the following locations:

- Clear Path I-465/I-69 in Marion County
- I-65 in Jasper County
- I-70 in Hancock County
- I-74 in Decatur and Shelby counties

To learn more about Safe Zones, visit SafeZonesIN.com.



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler

1 The top spot in the state – the Indiana Governor's Chair – is occupied by one guy – Mike Braun. And here's what he had to say about all this work.

"Drivers across the Hoosier State will encounter orange barrels and active work sites this spring and summer. Making improvements to our state's transportation infrastructure is critical to boosting economic growth and quality of life, and it takes all of us slowing down and paying close attention to ensure safety for everyone on the road."

1,075

More than 1,000 projects are planned on state highways, U.S. routes and interstates this construction season in Indiana.

130

Of those 1,075 projects, 130 of them are designed to improve traffic flow and safety.

674

Yup, almost 700 Hoosier bridges will be replaced or repaired.

11

Pay attention if you don't want to get a speeding ticket to this one. Indiana's worksite speed control pilot program, known as Safe Zones, continues to be an investment in safety for all Hoosiers. Research from Purdue University shows from August 2024 to July 2025, excessive speeding, or vehicles traveling more than 11 mph over the posted speed limit, decreased 34% for passenger vehicles and 41% for commercial vehicles in enforcement sites between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. At individual sites, reductions of 70 to 80% have been documented.



16 and 1,500

These are the most important numbers. Sixteen people died and more than 1,500 were hurt in Indiana work zones, according to Secretary of Transportation and Infrastructure Matt Uebelhor. "While we've seen improvement in these numbers in recent years, there is still work to be done. We are asking for help from drivers to continue bringing these numbers down by slowing down, avoiding distractions behind the wheel, and driving unimpaired, especially in work zones."

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Rust diseases caused by *Gymnosporangium* spp. are now active across Indiana and are beginning to show on susceptible rosaceous hosts including serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), crabapple (*Malus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus*), and quince (*Cydonia*). The Indiana Department of Natural Resources says these diseases cycle between junipers and broadleaf hosts, with infections occurring during spring leaf emergence and expansion. Cedar-quince rust is also now becoming visible on juniper stems as orange cankers and swellings. Scouting should focus on two host groups. On junipers, inspect stems and twigs for orange gelatinous spore horns, branch swellings, or cankered tissue. On deciduous hosts, monitor newly expanded leaves, petioles, and fruiting structures for bright orange-yellow lesions, distorted tissue, or early leaf spotting. Wet spring weather and prolonged leaf wetness continue to favor infection and disease development.

2. Also from our friends at the DNR, Indiana's migratory bird hunting seasons for 2026-27 have been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The hunting seasons include those for mourning dove, waterfowl (i.e., ducks, coots, mergansers, and geese), woodcock, snipe, and sora rails. The white-fronted goose season and bag limit are separate from those for other geese. The white-fronted goose season is closed during the first and second Canada goose segments but opens at the same time as the other geese seasons during the third segment. The daily bag limit is two white-fronted geese. The Canada goose and brant daily bag limit is five. There are no changes in duck bag limits from 2025-26. The scap daily bag limit remains one during the first 15 days of the duck season, and two for the rest of the season. The possession limit for all migratory birds is three times the daily bag limit, except for light geese, for which there is no possession limit. Find more information about the migratory gamebird hunting seasons and regulations at on.IN.gov/gamebird-seasons.

3. Purdue University has received a \$7 million commitment from alum Bill McFadden (BS industrial management '68) and his wife, Sharon, to support College of Engineering scholarships. The gift will establish an endowment called the Sharon and Bill McFadden Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the endowment is to provide merit-based scholarship funds that will be used to encourage and incentivize careers in engineering, recruit top talent, and maintain student excellence throughout the College of Engineering programs in West Lafayette and Indianapolis. McFadden began his career with Grumman Aerospace, now Northrop Grumman, where he worked on engineering reports for projects including the F-14 Tomcat jet and the original NASA lunar landers. After earning an MBA from Loyola University Chicago, he held executive roles in banking and with the financial consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers before retiring from S&P Global as a director.

About the Humane Society for Hamilton County

HSHC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It is not a United Way Agency and is not affiliated with any other animal welfare group in the United States. The mission of the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) is "Saving Lives. Educating Communities. Completing Families." HSHC serves as both the animal control facility and Humane Society for Hamilton County, and as such, receives partial funding (approximately 21%) from Hamilton County to fund the first 10 days of an animal's basic care. The remainder of HSHC's annual operating budget is primarily funded by individual donations. HSHC is one of the only open-admission, truly "No-Kill" organizations in the United States. Its "No-Kill" philosophy is not defined by reaching an arbitrary live placement rate of 90%, often referenced by national animal welfare groups. HSHC embraces the true definition of "No-Kill" on which the movement was originally founded. As such, it does not euthanize animals for time, space, treatable injuries, illnesses, or rehabilitatable behavior issues, regardless of age, breed, disability, or special needs. HSHC is one of the very few open-admission, municipal shelters in the U.S. that still operate with this philosophy while consistently achieving an average live placement rate of 98% since 2014. For more information, please visit www.HamiltonHumane.com.



Wine, Wags & Whiskers On Saturday

The stage is set for the Humane Society for Hamilton County to host their first major fundraising event of the year – Wine, Wags, & Whiskers. On Saturday, May 9, at 502 East Event Centre in Carmel, guests are invited to eat, drink, and save lives!

According to HSHC's Events Manager, Jennifer Dant, this fundraiser is critical to the support of the shelter's daily operation. "As one of the only truly no-kill shelters in Indiana, the funds raised at this event are essential to helping us find forever homes for the thousands of Hamilton County animals who come to us unwanted or in critical condition," explained Dant. "You can make these second chances possible by purchasing a ticket to Wine, Wags, & Whiskers."

This year's event promises an unforgettable evening of fine wine, flavorful food, adoptable animals, and exciting ways to support the lifesaving work of the Humane Society for Hamilton County.

Enjoy a variety of tastings, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and decadent desserts. Throughout the night, participants will have the opportunity to browse and bid on an impressive silent auction, purchase specialty wines featuring

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The TIMES

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County Launches New Online Procurement Portal

Hamilton County has launched a new online Procurement Portal powered by OpenGov, providing vendors with a centralized platform to view bid opportunities, receive notifications, and submit proposals electronically.

The new system modernizes the County's procurement process through a fully web-based solution that allows vendors to easily register, track solicitations, and respond to requests for proposals (RFPs), bids, and other purchasing opportunities.

Through the portal, vendors can:

- Register to receive notifications when new opportunities are posted
- View current and upcoming solici-

tions

- Submit proposals electronically
- Receive updates, amendments, and access automatically

Vendor registration is completely free, and businesses interested in working with Hamilton County are encouraged to register and subscribe to notifications to stay informed of future opportunities.

The new platform is designed to improve efficiency, enhance transparency, and expand access to businesses interested in partnering with Hamilton County.

Vendors can register and access the new Procurement Portal on the Bid Opportunities and Solicitation | Hamilton County, IN webpage.

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indianafuneralcare.com

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(317) 636-6464
8151 Allisonville Rd.
Indianapolis

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Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

The author and archivist at the grave of Thomas Posey.

John Gibson is buried in Carroll County, near Lafayette.

Indiana Celebrates 226 Years on May 7



ANDY CHANDLER

Columnist

On May 7, Indiana will be celebrating the 226th anniversary of its establishment as a territory, with its current established boundaries. In 2022, I set out to visit the grave of every Indiana governor. It was an enlightening journey and helped me understand history through their perspective and the times in which they lived. How did Samuel Bigger attempt to balance a deficit? How did Oliver P. Morton keep the State together despite it barely electing Lincoln in the 1860 election? These are the men who have governed Indiana, the state. However, who made it a state?

According to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, statehood could be achieved by two qualifiers. 1) A voting population of 60,000 people or more. 2) Ratification of a State Constitution.

There were four men who held the position of governor of the Indiana Territory before it became a state. As one would expect, I've been to their graves. I'll skip William Henry Harrison since he's been covered.

General Arthur St. Clair. Before Indiana was a Territory, it was part of the Northwest Territory, and St. Clair was its governor. Despite experience as the president of the Continental Congress (1787) he proved ineffective and commanded the worst military defeat of U.S. forces by Native Americans in 1791 at Ft. Recovery. The one silver lining of his administration was that he was absent enough that Territorial Secretary William Henry Harrison was able to get administrative experience for his future role in Indiana.

St. Clair is buried in Greensburg, Penn., next to a concert venue in a park. Originally founded as Old St. Clair Cemetery in 1818, the property was abandoned in 1888. Eventually the city took over and in 2002 made it into a park. Most of the interments went to other cemeteries, but St. Clair stayed.

Thomas Posey. Posey spent his childhood as George Washington's next-door neighbor. He was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. During the Revolution and ensuing Indian Wars, he was a staff



Arthur St. Clair is buried in Pennsylvania.

officer with General "Mad" Anthony Wayne.

Posey was appointed territory governor in 1813 to replace William Henry Harrison. As governor, he organized the court jurisdictions and approved the State Bank. Scorned by most of the legislature for his pro-slavery leanings, he lost to Jonathon Jennings in 1816 in his bid to be the first state governor. He spent the last two years of his life as an Indian Agent in Southern Illinois. He is buried in a cemetery outside of Shawneetown, Ill.

John Gibson. Gibson was appointed governor general at the tender young age of 60 and served in that role from July 1800 to January 1801 when Harrison arrived in Vincennes. As territorial secretary, he was somewhat of a filler when Harrison was out of town and in the interim 1812-13 period between Harrison and Posey. Gibson's language skills proved invaluable during Harrison's treaty nego-

tations with the Native Americans. His final act as governor was to oversee the move of the territorial capitol from Vincennes to Corydon in 1813.

Gibson remained Indiana Territory Secretary until statehood in 1816. He returned to Pittsburg, Ind. and died in 1822. For having a significant role in Indiana history, his grave marker in Allegany Cemetery is rather unobtrusively placed on the side of a hill.

In the State Archives are documents preserved in a temperature-controlled room pertaining to this time. To my surprise, the territorial seal has the presidential eagle on it, a reminder of Indiana's territorial years. More than likely, these documents were drafted by Gibson.

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.

Carmel, Fishers Make National Lifestyle List

Not every dream lifestyle comes with a billionaire price tag.

While places like Beverly Hills, Malibu, and Coral Gables dominate the imagination, they exist in a different economic universe - one that's increasingly out of reach for even high earners. For most Americans, the real aspiration isn't extreme wealth, but something more grounded: space, comfort, and a sense of balance.

To explore what that looks like today, Calgary Homes, a real estate platform, surveyed 3,023 people, asking them which "middle-class" lifestyles they envy most. By intentionally excluding ultra-wealthy enclaves, the study highlights places that feel genuinely attainable - revealing where people believe you can still have it all, without needing a nine-figure net worth.

To those of us in Hamilton County, it's no surprise that Carmel and Fishers made the list. About the

only surprise is that Noblesville did not. Carmel came in at No. 104 with Fishers at 113. Zionville was the only other Indiana community listed and it came in at 108.

Carmel
Roundabouts, an ambitious Arts & Design District, and some of the best public schools in the Midwest have earned Carmel a reputation as one of the most enviable places to raise a family. The city has invested heavily in walkability, green space, and community infrastructure, creating a lifestyle that feels both polished and welcoming. Families here enjoy the rewards of thoughtful planning-beautiful neighborhoods, excellent schools, and a community that takes pride in what it's built together.

Fishers
One of the fastest-growing cities in Indiana, Fishers attracts young families with highly rated schools, thoughtfully planned neighborhoods, and a community that's invest-

ed in creating something special. The Nickel Plate Trail, a growing downtown district, and a calendar of community events foster connection and local pride. A lifestyle where homeownership, career growth, and quality time together aren't competing priorities-they're all part of the package. It's the kind of place people describe when they're explaining what they've been working toward all along.

Zionsville
Brick-paved Main Street, boutique shops, and a historic village atmosphere make Zionsville the kind of place people picture when they imagine the ideal American hometown. The schools are nationally ranked, the neighborhoods are safe, and the community takes real pride in preserving the charm that makes it special. Families here enjoy a lifestyle rooted in tradition, connection, and the simple pleasures of small-town living done right.

The top 10 most envied

middle-class lifestyles in the U.S. in 2026 are:

#1. Colorado Springs, Colorado

America's most envied middle-class lifestyle is that of Colorado Springs. With over 300 days of sunshine a year and the Rocky Mountains as a backyard, Colorado Springs offers an outdoor lifestyle that few cities can match. A strong military presence and growing tech sector provide economic stability, while the cost of living is more attainable than in many other Colorado markets. Excellent schools, abundant trails, and a family-oriented community make this a place where the middle-class dream still feels within reach.

#2. St. Augustine, Florida

As the nation's oldest city, St. Augustine offers a sense of history and character that's impossible to manufacture. The walkable downtown is filled with independent restaurants,

See LIST Page 4



2026 CHEVROLET TRAX MAY BE GM'S LEAST-EXPENSIVE MODEL, BUT THERE'S NOTHING CHEAP ABOUT HOW IT DEVOURS DRIVES SHORT AND LONG

After using up her Honda Odyssey, Casey's sister picks fine points of her new little Chevy crossover.



CASEY WILLIAMS
Columnist

My sister called a couple of weeks ago. Her Honda Odyssey that she loved and raised three kids was nearing its end...at over 250,000 miles! She still has tuition payments and dorm fees for my niece and nephews, so she needed a new car that was affordable, but also efficient, stylish and fun-to-drive. She found a Chevy Trax at the right price and asked what I thought. I said, "Buy it!"

By coincidence, I had a Trax scheduled for a round-trip from Indianapolis to Memphis and back, hauling tail across cornfields, city freeways and undulating hills through Corvette country and Music City on the way. I've tested the sporty RS trim before, but chose my sister's middle-class LT instead.

It does without the RS' red flourishes and black chrome grille, not to mention 19" wheels, but the LT looks just as handsome wearing 17s with flashes of chrome decorating the Camaro-inspired grille. Compared to its ungainly predecessor, this longer and lower version throws even more attitude than the similar Buick Envista. It's pretty stealth in our car's Sterling Gray Metallic paint, but is clearly inspired by the more upscale Trailblazer, Equinox and Blazer.

If there's Camaro on the outside, Corvette seeped inside with the twin-screen arrangement for gauges and infotainment. Devices connect via wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto or click into USBs. Our LT trim had cloth seats and rubber steering wheel, but even during 800 miles of driving, the seats were supportive. Tap around and you realize the textured dash is hard plastic, seats are manually adjusted,

and there's only one zone for the automatic climate control, but the cabin is hushed with active noise cancellation.

One of my favorite parts of the Trax is its 1.2-liter turbocharged three-cylinder engine that delivers a peppery 137 horsepower and 162 lb.-ft. of torque. And unlike many competitors, it routes that power through a proper six-speed transmission instead of a CVT. All of this allows the Trax to keep steam in reserve through the hills and shift like it cares when it doesn't. It only comes in front-drive, so check the similar Trailblazer if you need all-wheel-drive. Fuel economy is rated 28/32-MPG city/highway. My sister claims over 40-MPG on the highway.

On paper, the chassis doesn't look sophisticated, but where some competitors bump and thump over pavement, the Trax behaves much more like the larger Equinox or Blazer. It soaks up long roads with comfortable motions, but even when flicked through the twists or tossed over rough pavement, seems balanced and sophisticated. GM is adept at developing chassis. Four-wheel disc brakes are right-now ready. You'll barely notice the torsion beam rear suspension that keeps

costs low.

Even in this value-conscious crossover, safety was a priority. Our Trax included forward collision alert, automatic emergency braking, and rear cross traffic warning. Lane keep assist and blind spot warning kept me alert no matter the road or distance.

I asked my sister for things she likes and doesn't like about her Trax. On the pluses, there's plenty of room in the back seat and it drives very nice on the highway. Fuel economy is better than expected. Negatives include refocusing quite a distance from instruments to infotainment screen while driving. Especially for the price, she's very happy.

And, what about that price? The least expensive Trax costs a bargain \$21,700. Our LT came to just \$23,200. What a deal. You'll agree when you drive the Hyundai Venue, Kia Soul, Nissan Kicks, or Volkswagen Taos.

Storm Forward!

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

LIKES	DISLIKES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPORTY DESIGN STYLISH INTERIOR TURBO-3 ENGINE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INTERIOR PLASTICS ONE-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL NO AWD
<p>2026 Chevy Trax LT Five-passenger, FWD Crossover Powertrain: 1.2-liter T3, 6-spd Output: 137hp/162 lb.-ft. torque Suspension f/r: Ind/Torsion beam Wheels f/r: 17"/17" alloy Brakes f/r: disc/disc Fuel economy: 28/32 mpg city/hwy Assembly: Changwon, Korea Base/As-tested price: \$21.700/\$23,200</p>	

400 Square Feet Is More Than Enough



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

Last week, we thought we would leave our little place in Casa de los Soles.

If you've read my column, you know about this place my husband, Peter, and I stay in while in Mexico. The interior of our apartment will set you right back to the 1980s. The Formica countertop has seen better days. I write in a corner of the living room and have exactly 6 inches between the back of my office chair and the end of the couch. Peter measured our apartment, and it is 400 square feet—and that includes a rather large bedroom.

So, last week, we decided to look around for a place with a little more space. We told our landlord, Jorge, we were thinking about doing this, and he said he understood, and we went looking at apartments.

We did not make it easy on ourselves. In addition to loving this particular place, we love the neighborhood it is in, and the street it is on, so our circle of investigation was small. When we heard of an apartment for rent just a block away and on the same street, we were very excited.

The apartment was much bigger. It had a fireplace and a rooftop terrace. It had two bedrooms and a full dining room. It would need a little work, but we were very excited. We met with the landlord two days later.

But later that night, I started to think about what we would have to do to live in that apartment. There was nothing on the walls. There was not a lot of furniture. The couch looked a little worse for wear. The furniture on the roof needed replacement. None of it was big stuff, but it added up.

We'd have to pay an electric bill. If we wanted housekeeping, we'd have to figure that out and pay for it. We'd have to get our water and our gas delivered. We'd have to get the garbage out on the curb on the right days at the right time—which, in the center of an old town with cobblestone, one-way streets, is not as easy as it sounds.

I lay in bed that night and thought of all the things I don't have to worry about now, like having regular

internet and a front desk that will accept our deliveries and someone on staff if we ever have a medical emergency.

Then I thought about the things that give me such joy here: the lively restaurant below, which will deliver lunch right to our door. The staff that will store my computer monitor and my clothes and take them out again when we arrive. The bouquet of flowers that is always waiting for me when we check in. The going-away party that the entire staff throws for Peter and me when we leave at the end of the season. And the kindness of Jorge, our landlord who, whenever we have a request, no matter how unusual, will say, "Certainly!"

I thought of how very easy my life was in 400 square feet, how free of worries, and of how much writing I had accomplished sitting at my little green Formica desk with the fresh flowers in front of me.

I talked to Jorge the next day. "We love this place too much to leave!" I told him. And I felt tearful.

Then I looked with fresh eyes at my 400 square feet and realized there was a lot I could do in this space. Because right now, 400 square feet is more than enough.

Till next time,

Carrie

WINE

Continued from Page 1

adoptable HSHC animals, and take a chance to win big with their Jackpawt raffle featuring \$1250 worth of scratch-offs and \$1250 in popular retail gift cards.

If your glass leans more toward bourbon than bubbly, you're in luck. This year, HSHC is adding a brand new Bourbon Toss, in addition to their classic Spirits Pull. Toss a dog collar, lasso a bottle of bourbon, and head home with a prize that

supports shelter pets in need.

General admission tickets are \$95. For reserved seating and access to the exclusive VIP Black Cat Club, you can purchase a half table (4 guests) for \$750 or a full table (8 guests) for \$1,500.

Visit WineWagsandWhiskers.com for more information and to purchase tickets. Attendees must be 21 or older for admission and to

purchase tickets.

Wine, Wags & Whiskers is graciously sponsored by Delta Faucet, RNDC, Current Publishing, Curran Architecture, Veg ER, Fetch-Pet Insurance, VCA Animal Hospitals, Harrah's Hoosier Park Casino, PODS Moving & Storage, Zurich American Insurance Company, Ed Martin Automotive, and Tito's Vodka.

SKYLAKE Adventures is Indiana's first large-scale adventure park, designed for all ages to explore, play and reconnect year-round. Located in Sheridan, Indiana, SKYLAKE opens the first wave of water features in June 2026 with a six-acre white sand lake, WIBIT water obstacles courses, and X-Tower water slide, and rentable aqua cabanas along with on-site experiential amenities. A high ropes course and all-season tubing area will open later. SKYLAKE is located off of US 31, just north of Grand Park in Hamilton County.

Adventure Park Announces Opening Date

SKYLAKE Adventures announced recently that it will open to the public on June 4, marking a major milestone for Indiana's first large-scale adventure park. Tickets are now available online at skylakeindiana.com and in person at Drop-light Grand Park Sports Campus in Westfield.

Nearly five years in the making, SKYLAKE is entering its first wave of completion, debuting a collection of water-based attractions designed for a wide range of ages and activity levels. The park is centered around a sparkling six-acre

lake featuring white sand beaches, rentable aqua cabanas, an interactive WIBIT water obstacle course, and an X-Tower with multiple water slides.

Future phases – which will be presented as "waves" – will expand the park's offerings to include a three-story high ropes course, a year-round tubing hill, and seasonal programming aimed at families and visitors to Central Indiana.

Located near Droplight Grand Park Sports Campus, one of the Midwest's busiest youth sports destinations,

SKYLAKE is expected to welcome thousands of visitors annually and contribute to the region's growing mix of recreational and entertainment options.

"We're excited to open on June 4 and introduce visitors to SKYLAKE for the first time," said Sean Howard, co-founder of SKYLAKE. "We've designed this to be a destination people can enjoy more than once, with something new to experience each visit."

To purchase tickets and learn more about the park and its operating hours, visit www.skylakeindiana.com.

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It's Nobody's Vault



DICK WOLFSIE
Columnist

I recently received in the mail (Yes, the real mail) a notice from Chase Bank informing me of a very distressing policy change. The note begins: "Thank you for being a valued customer." This introductory phrase always scares me. It's usually followed by something like: "Our bank was robbed, and it was your money they stole."

Then this: "We wanted to let you know that we will no longer renting safe deposit boxes." Initially, I thought this was great news. Finally, something for free. Isn't that why they began their letter by thanking me for being an awesome (Okay, valued) customer?

This struck me as very odd, like getting a note from your kennel saying they no longer have room for dogs. Or from Kroger telling everyone there is no longer space on their shelves for Rice Krispies. Isn't one of the original purposes of a bank to keep your valuables safe? Like in a vault.

No explanation was given for why this was happening. They told me to visit

my branch and "formally close the box." Why does this event have to be formal? I haven't worn a tux in years, and I wasn't going to rent one just to see my marriage license.

I was also informed in the letter that if I do not close my box within the next 30 days, they will drill it open and "carefully remove the contents." I was glad to hear that because I wouldn't want anyone to rough up my birth certificate. After all, it's almost 80 years old.

They go on to say that if they remove any contents, they will be securely stored in a vault "in accordance with state retention laws." I already have enough retention problems at my age, and I wasn't banking on this kind (Don't excuse the pun). By the way, what vault are they using to store my valuables? And why can't they just keep my stuff in that vault? I think that is a very reasonable request.

Next, I turned to AI, my source for the latest dubious information. I asked CoPilot if they had any

idea why Chase was doing this. Their first explanation was that this service was not a money-maker for banks because many people have gone digital with their storage. What a great idea! I'll just upload my father's Bronze Star from WWII. If you hack me next month, just look for the folder MY FATHER'S BRONZE STAR. Don't blame me if your printer jams.

Banks also claim that the boxes increase personnel costs. Huh? I put my stuff in. I take out my stuff. I look at my stuff and I put my stuff back in. I'm the one doing all the work.

Now I have a final question. What are the banks going to do with all these unused safe deposit boxes? How about places for paper clips, rubber bands, and thumbtacks? And, of course, loose change.

And what about all the room they'll now have in the private viewing areas? Why not open a coffee shop? Maybe a Star BUCKS. How about a liquor store, a Fifth THIRST Bank? Expect it to be pricey.

They'll make you fill out a deposit SIP.

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

LIST

Continued from Page 2

shops, and landmarks, while nearby beaches add the coastal lifestyle that draws people to Florida in the first place. Families who want more than cookie-cutter subdivisions find a community here with genuine identity, strong local pride, and a quality of life rooted in something deeper than sunshine alone.

#3. Hilo, Hawaii

On the Big Island's lush eastern coast, Hilo offers an authentic Hawaiian lifestyle far removed from resort tourism and crowds. Waterfalls, farmers' markets, and a diverse local community define daily life, while the cost of living remains more accessible than in most of the state. Families drawn to natural beauty, a slower pace, and a genuine sense of place find Hilo rewards those willing to embrace island living on its own terms.

#4. Greenville, South Carolina

Falls Park, a revitalized Main Street, and a walkable downtown that's earned national acclaim have transformed Greenville into one of the South's most enviable mid-sized cities. The culinary scene rivals cities twice its size, the surrounding Blue Ridge foothills provide year-round outdoor access, and the cost of living allows families to truly enjoy what the community offers. Sophistication without pretense, Southern hospitality with cosmopolitan flair - Greenville has become the place people describe when they're explaining what a city can be.

#5. Fort Collins, Colorado

A thriving craft beer scene, Colorado State University, and easy access to the Rocky Mountains make

Fort Collins one of the most desirable mid-sized cities in the West. The cost of living remains more manageable than in Boulder, while the community offers excellent schools, a bikeable downtown, and a culture that prioritizes outdoor living. Families who want mountain access, intellectual energy, and a town that still feels approachable find Fort Collins hits the sweet spot.

#6. Chapel Hill, North Carolina

The University of North Carolina brings ACC basketball passion, world-class healthcare, and an intellectual energy that shapes every aspect of life in Chapel Hill. Franklin Street's restaurants, bookstores, and cafes create a walkable social hub, while the surrounding neighborhoods offer tree-canopied streets and strong schools. Southern hospitality meets academic ambition in a community where education, culture, and quality of life intertwine - Chapel Hill offers a lifestyle that feeds both heart and mind.

#7. Peachtree City, Georgia

Over 100 miles of golf cart paths connect neighborhoods, schools, shops, and restaurants, making Peachtree City unlike any other suburb in America. Kids grow up with an independence that's rare today, carting themselves to friends' houses and after-school activities through a community designed around safety and connection. The lifestyle here is unique and family-centered, drawing those who want something different from the typical suburban experience - and inspiring envy from everyone who visits.

#8. Ann Arbor, Mich-

igan

The University of Michigan brings world-class culture, Big Ten athletics, and an intellectual energy that permeates the entire community. A walkable downtown filled with bookstores, cafes, and locally owned shops creates a lifestyle that residents find endlessly engaging. Small-city charm paired with big-city offerings, top-tier schools, and a community where curiosity and creativity thrive - Ann Arbor is a place that stimulates the mind and nourishes the spirit.

#9. Kapolei, Hawaii

Known as Oahu's "Second City," Kapolei has grown from open fields into a thriving community with new schools, shopping centers, and employment opportunities that provide a viable alternative to the Honolulu commute. The neighborhoods are newer and thoughtfully planned, attracting young families looking to put down roots in Hawaii. Beaches, hiking, and island culture remain easily accessible, while daily life feels spacious and connected - the version of Hawaiian living that families dream about actually achieving.

#10. Midlothian, Virginia

Rounding out the top 10, Midlothian has comfortable neighborhoods, highly rated schools, and a high-value lifestyle - it's the kind of community that friends and relatives ask about with genuine curiosity. This is where families build the life they've been working toward - homeownership, college savings, and annual vacations. Midlothian represents the achievable version of success, the lifestyle that's envied precisely because it's within reach.



Photo courtesy Rep. Victoria Spartz's Office

Under one-size-fits-all EPA regulations, farm diesel engines were swept into burdensome emissions standards, adding unreasonable costs to farmers.

Spartz Amendment to Make Farming, Food More Affordable Passes House

Rep. Victoria Spartz's amendment to exempt large farm tractors, combines, and sprayers from unreasonable EPA emissions standards, such as DEF, passed the House on a bipartisan basis and was included in the final passage of the Farm Bill.

"I appreciate my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who stood with American farmers and con-

sumers to pass this common-sense amendment," said Rep. Spartz. "While I'm disappointed that some chose to side with large corporate interests over the hardworking families who feed our country, this is a meaningful win for farmers and consumers."

Under one-size-fits-all EPA regulations, farm diesel engines were swept into burdensome emissions

standards, adding unreasonable costs to farmers, causing damaging delays, creating fire hazards, and leading to higher prices at grocery stores. Farm machinery and input costs have surged by 30% to 100% in just the last five years, pushing food prices higher and putting family farms on the brink of widespread bankruptcies.

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Commercial Construction Firm Eyes Westfield

Nicholas & Associates, the construction management and general contracting arm of Nicholas Family of Companies, recently announced it will be opening its fourth U.S. office, Nicholas East in Indiana. The company has hired Mark Garrison as vice president of Nicholas East to help expand its construction footprint in the state and is currently scouting office sites in Westfield. Nicholas & Associates' headquarters is located in Mount Prospect, Ill, which serves the Chicagoland area, while Nicholas North focuses on Wisconsin and Nicholas South is located in Florida.

One of Nicholas Family of Companies' largest projects in Indiana is Westfield Ice Facility, a multi-sheet indoor ice facility in Westfield featuring a pro shop and a range of indoor and outdoor dining options. Under a single point of accountability, the firm will develop, build and operate the facility. Its new Nicholas East office will serve as general contractor for the project, while its Spectate Group will manage and program the facility, and its Big Fish Hospitality Group will oversee the venue's food and beverage offerings.

"A big project needs a big presence," said Nick Papanicholas Jr., managing director and CEO of Nicholas Family of Companies. "Nicholas East will deliver the distinctly different and deliberately personalized service our public and private clients have come to expect. This expansion reflects the strength and dedication of our employees, whose contributions have helped build our reputation, brand and national presence. Their commitment has been instrumental in making this growth possible."

Garrison will take the lead on the Westfield Ice Facility project, bringing more than 10 years of experience in real estate development and construction, and will support efforts to expand the company's portfolio of work in Indiana beyond the ice facility. Most recently, he served as director of development at LG Group for eight years, leading active projects and overseeing execution from entitlement through delivery while serving as the primary liaison for investors, equity partners and key stakeholders. He previously worked as a construction project manager with the company.

"Mark is known for building deep, long-lasting relationships that deliver win-win outcomes," continued Papanicholas. "A new office requires strong leadership, and he brings experience with more than \$1 billion in mixed-use and multifamily projects. Mark is widely recognized for bridging design and execution, optimizing cost and schedule, and building high-performing teams. And as a Westfield resident, he brings a strong local network that will help Nicholas & Associates quickly establish a foothold in the market."

Garrison holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Purdue University.

"While I've spent much of my career in Chicago, Indiana has always been home, making this opportunity especially meaningful," said Garrison. "I look forward to leading Nicholas & Associates' expansion in Indiana, building on the company's strong foundation and delivering high-quality development and construction projects that create a lasting impact for our clients and the communities we serve."

Westfield Launches 311 Reporting Tool

The City of Westfield has launched Westfield 311, a new digital tool that makes it easier for residents to report issues and request city services through the city's website or mobile app.

"My goal is for residents to feel empowered and more connected to their local government," Mayor Scott Willis said. "I view this new resource as a tool for the City to keep improving and be more accountable in how we serve our community."

Through Westfield 311 and SeeClickFix, residents can report nonemergency issues such as potholes, broken sidewalks, and streetlight outages. They can also request services such as snow removal or ask for information. Requests can be submitted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and users can track the status of their requests in real time.

Westfield 311 and SeeClickFix are for

non-emergencies only. In an emergency, call 911 for immediate help.

SeeClickFix is available as a free download in the Apple App Store and Google Play. After creating an account, residents can submit requests directly to the city and receive updates as their issue is being addressed.

To report an issue, request a service, or create an account, visit westfieldin.gov/311.

Sip & Shop Series Begins Again in Carmel

Spring shopping gets a refreshing twist as Carmel City Center launches its 2026 Sip & Shop Series on Saturday, May 2 from 12–3 p.m. Guests are invited to enjoy an afternoon of exclusive promotions, shopping, and complimentary beverages throughout the Shops at Carmel City Center.

Visitors can stroll the district while sampling complimentary rosé wine tastings and a Lemon Spritz specialty cocktail at Alternate View, Baseline Social, Little Tulip Tree, Out of the Blue Polish Pottery, and Fishman Fine Jewelers. For those seeking a nonalcoholic option, Andrew Porter Fine Clothiers will offer a sparkling pink lemonade mocktail.

In addition to sips, guests can take advantage of special in-store promotions, including:

- 30% off eyewear at

- Alternate View 60% off select bras, panties, sleepwear, swimsuits, and Saxx Underwear for Men at Uplift Intimate Apparel
- 15% off storewide at Baseline Social
- Shop a sidewalk sale at Little Tulip Tree
- Buy two or more clothing pieces and receive 25% off shoes or belts (up to \$150) at Fringe & Form

Families are also encouraged to stop by Kits & Kaboodle from Noon to 1 p.m. for a special appearance by local author Jennifer McRoberts, who will host a reading of her children's book *A Field of Wishes*. Children can also enjoy a hands-on paper flower craft to celebrate the season.

Shoppers can further enhance their visit by entering to win a \$75 gift certificate at participating retailers,

including Kits & Kaboodle Classic Toys, VERVE, and Uplift Intimate Apparel.

The Sip & Shop Series will continue throughout the year with additional events scheduled for June 13 (12–3 p.m.), September 12 (11 a.m.–3 p.m.), and November 7 (2–6 p.m.).

Gather your friends and celebrate the arrival of spring with an afternoon of sipping, shopping, and community at Carmel City Center!

Carmel City Center is located at the southwest corner of City Center Drive and Rangeline Road. Parking is available along the street and surface parking is available on plaza level (accessible from City Center Drive) and in the underground garage (accessible from Range Line Road as well as City Center Drive) and in the Veterans Way garage.



CSO Board Chair Nancy Sutton, right, read a letter from Mayor Sue Finkam expressing her gratitude for the musicians' impact on the CSO and the Carmel Community.

Musicians Retire After 50 Years With CSO

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra celebrated two of its longest standing musicians at its final concert of the 2025-2026 season. Ann Manship and Jan Brill retired at the end of what was their 50th season with the CSO. At the "Symphonic Odyssey" concert, CSO Board Chair Nancy Sutton read a letter from Mayor Sue Finkam expressing her gratitude for the musicians' impact on the CSO and the Carmel Community.

Mayor Finkam's letter said in part, "On behalf of our community, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation and warmest congratulations to each of you as you take the stage tonight for your final performance with the Carmel Symphony Orchestra. Reaching 50 years of service is an extraordinary milestone, and doing so as two of the Orchestra's original members makes this moment even more meaningful."

Mayor Finkam continued, "For 50 years, you have each been pillars of the Carmel arts community. Your artistry and unwavering commitment have helped shape this organization into the premier resident orchestra for the City of Carmel. Your musicianship has inspired audiences, supported generations of fellow artists and contributed immeasurably to the cultural growth our city is proud to celebrate today."

Both Manship and Brill are original members of the CSO, performing since it incorporated as a non-profit in 1976, helping it grow into a fully professional organization. Manship and Brill have seen many wonderful performance venues and positive changes with the CSO throughout the years, making it a wonderful lifelong avocation.

In addition to a framed copy of the letter from Mayor Finkam, Brill and Manship received a glass trophy, CSO logo blanket and lifetime season tickets to the CSO performances. They also received many heartfelt handwritten notes from fellow musicians and CSO staff and board members.

Manship played violin for the CSO and had early training at home from her mother who was a professional violinist and teacher.



Jan Brill



Ann Manship

Manship decided her love of science would serve her best and decided to go to Purdue University for Pharmacy. While at Purdue, Ann performed with the Purdue Orchestra and Lafayette Symphony. When she finished school in 1975 and began working at a retail pharmacy in Carmel, she saw a call out for the Carmel Symphony.

Manship's daughter wrote her a message upon her retirement saying, "Congratulations on your retirement from the CSO after 50 years as a violinist. You played while raising active kids. You played while working full-time leading a team of pharmacists. You played because you simply loved it. We saw that after every rehearsal and concert. Through your dedication to the CSO, we learned the importance of feeding your passions even when life becomes demanding."

Brill has been a significant part of the CSO since its founding in 1976, reflect-

ing a lifelong dedication to music and community. Beyond the symphony, she continues to share her talents as a musician, playing in the church orchestra at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis and performing with two musical trios. Rooted in a family tradition of education, Jan devoted 18 years to teaching private music lessons and earned recognition as an award-winning educator in the Westfield Washington Schools.

Brill's daughter also had words of thanks to her mom that said, in part, You and dad spent so much time helping the organization grow, sustain, and thrive in addition to your cellist contributions, and you have inspired so many young musicians through your efforts. Growing up around music inspired many of our family traditions and created four generations of cellists. These will be core memories for the rest of our lives.





State Rep. Danny Lopez (R-Carmel) (sixth from left) joins Gov. Mike Braun (sitting, center) for the ceremonial signing of Senate Enrolled Act 160 on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at the Statehouse in Indianapolis. Lopez sponsored the new law to address growing local antisemitism concerns and combat the spread of targeted hate propaganda. Also pictured are bill author State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette) (fourth from right), bill co-sponsor State Rep. Tim Yocum (R-Clinton) (third from right) and other stakeholders.

Governor Signs Lopez Bills

Two new laws co-authored and sponsored by State Rep. Danny Lopez (R-Carmel) were recently ceremonially signed by Gov. Mike Braun. These laws focus on expanding childcare in Indiana and keeping communities safe through strengthening public safety.

affordable, high-quality childcare is critical to supporting working families and strengthening Indiana's economy," Lopez said. "This new law will help ensure more Hoosier parents can find reliable care, giving their children a strong start while allowing them to stay in the workforce."

sider wearing a mask while committing a crime an aggravator in sentencing, and it makes malicious littering in our communities a crime.

"Sadly, the number of acts of antisemitism seems to be on the rise in Hamilton County and across the state, it is critical that law enforcement and judges have every tool they need to crack down on this horrific behavior," Lopez said.

Ceremonial bill signings showcase legislation passed during the 2026 session and are a way for lawmakers, stakeholders and those directly impacted to come together and reflect on how these new laws will benefit Hoosiers.

Lopez represents House District 39, which includes a portion of Hamilton County.

House Enrolled Act 1177, which Lopez co-authored, seeks to expand access to high quality childcare for Hoosier families by incentivizing a larger number of employers to provide these services for their workers. Businesses are eligible for the credit if they offer an employer-run childcare facility for their employees or if they contract with a facility or provider to offer care. Under this law, the credit can be used to help pay for related costs such as operating a childcare facility, employee training and higher wages for staff.

Lopez also supported the State Budget Committee's recent approval of \$200 million in additional investment to expand access to childcare for low-income families. Legislation to allow for this additional investment was passed during the 2026 legislative session.

Additionally, Lopez carried Senate Enrolled Act 160 in the House, a bill to address growing local antisemitism concerns and combat the spread of targeted hate propaganda in Hamilton County and across Indiana. It gives judges the ability to con-

"Expanding access to



Photo courtesy Indiana Artisan Gifts & Gallery

The special mom-themed scavenger hunt is part of the monthly second SaturDate events at Indiana Artisan Gifts & Gallery.

Celebrate Mom With Art Scavenger Hunt

This Mother's Day weekend, take a cue from Mom's adventurous spirit and join Indiana Artisan for Mission: Mom-Possible. The special mom-themed scavenger hunt is part of the monthly second SaturDate events at Indiana Artisan Gifts & Gallery. Mark your calendars for May 9, from 1-5 p.m. in the Carmel Arts & Design District.

organization's store. Once you've completed the hunt, turn in the entry form for a chance to win an amazing gift collection—all hand-crafted by talented Hoosiers, many of whom are moms themselves!

The prize pack, made possible through a Carmel arts grant, includes:

- A stunning pulled glass flower by Lisa Pelo
- Luxurious goat milk soap by Rose Brown
- A beautiful fused-glass tray by Anna

- Lee Chalos-McAleese
- A unique pine needle basket for rings and trinkets by Connie Moolenaar
- A tasty package of Chocolate Starlet Cookies, prayerfully baked by the Sisters of St. Benedict

Join Indiana Artisan Gifts & Gallery for an afternoon of fun, creativity, and community connection at 22 N. Rangeline Road, Carmel. Make this Mother's Day a mission impossible to forget.

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