

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Proverbs 3:11-12 NIV

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.



Hello, June. You are the month that starts summer, that saw the great crusade on D-Day and the month where baseball and hot dogs just seem to be better. Welcome back old friend!

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

The 2026-27 lineup at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel is full of amazing talents and activities this summer. Here are a few of the events coming up soon:

**BHI Senior Living Songbook Series**

Songbook Academy in Concert – July 18

**Drewry Simmons**

**Vornehm Jazz Series**

Brian Simpson, Jackiem Joyner and Jessy J – July 31

**JPMorganChase Spotlight Series**

Stewart Copeland: Have I Said Too Much – Aug. 2

**Printing Partners Encore Series**

Art Garfunkel – July 24

**Special Events**

Harry Connick, Jr. – July 20

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside."

Maud Hart Lovelace

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Little Johnny said, "Hey Mom! It's June. Let's take a trip to the beach, I could really use some vitamin sea!"

■ ADOPT A PET SAMSON PETE



Samson Pete is smart, active, and always looking for something to do. This 8-year-old male Siberian Husky has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 3/28/26. He's friendly, social, and happiest when he can be a part of all your daily adventures. To meet Samson Pete, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt, then stop by HSHC anytime 12-5 PM daily (closed Wednesday).

Welcome to June!

Make it a great month!

# The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

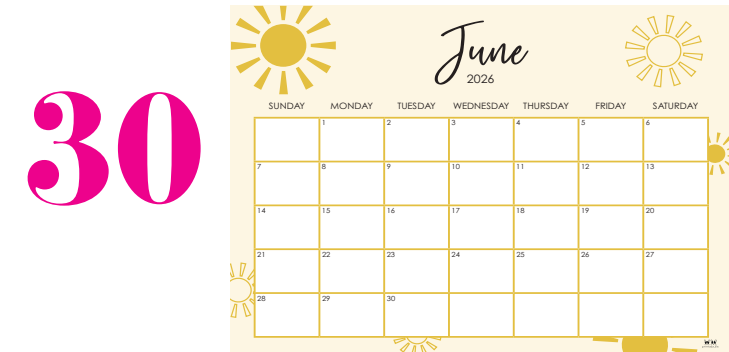
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June, June Makes Us Swoon...

## 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!

**Memorial Day may be the month when summer UNOFFICIALLY begins, but June is the month when it REALLY happens. For all those warm-weather lovers out there, June is also the month where you can pretty much bet your bottom dollar that the snow is absolutely and positively done! (Yes, it CAN snow, but it's as rare as . . . well, snow in June.) And for you cold-weather lovers, it's one month closer to breaking out the sweater again (we don't understand, but to each his own . . . we guess). So, with all that aside, your favorite Monday edition is over the moon, singing a tune and popping a balloon to take a look at June . . . by the numbers**



30

What's that old rhyme, thirty days hath September, April, June and November . . . Yes, the month of June is only 30 days long.

We can officially wave goodbye to spring when we go to bed on Saturday, June 20. Because when MOST of us wake up to go to church Sunday, June 21 . . . it's official-ly summer!

6-21-26

4:24 a.m.



We say MOST of us because some folks get up way before the crack of dawn. Summer officially begins at 4:24 a.m. on Sunday, June 21 this year. The bigger question is, why would anyone get up that early if they don't have to? Then again, ask a fellow Baby Boomer and they'll likely tell you they don't know why, they just do. We understand.

3

Speaking of seasons, meteorologists divide the year into four seasons and so meteorological summer actually begins . . . drum roll, please . . . today! June 1 is the start of summer. Sept. 1 is the start of fall. Dec. 1 is the start of winter and . . . well, you get the drift.

23.5



The summer solstice begins when our planet's orbit sees the North Pole at its maximum tilt of just about 23.5 degrees toward the sun. And that does not take a rocket scientist to understand that's why it's warmer. (Did we mention we like warm weather?)

Without going down to the nano-seconds and such, the longest day of the year is today with roughly 14.5 hours of sunlight! Good news for us, bad news for lighting bugs who have to wait up way past their bedtime.

14.5



19.5



That's how long the sunlight lasts in Anchorage, Alaska. And of course up at the Arctic Circle, it's just 24 hours . . . and then some!

Wondering how many solstices there are a year? Just two. Summer and winter. And we don't have to worry about the cold one until Dec. 21 (at 3:49 p.m.)

2

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**1** Governor Mike Braun ceremonially signed HEA 1210, a new law the state says will protect Hoosier taxpayers, strengthen transparency and expand property tax relief for Hoosier veterans. For Hoosier veterans, HEA 1210 provides a major expansion of property tax relief. Under the new law, totally disabled veterans are eligible for a 100% deduction of the assessed value of their homestead, meaning they will not owe property taxes on their primary residence. The benefit also applies to eligible surviving spouses who do not remarry. The law also creates new property tax credits for eligible veterans, including a \$350 local property tax credit for wartime veterans with at least a 10% service-connected disability and a \$250 local property tax credit for veterans age 62 or older with at least a 10% disability. Eligible surviving spouses may also qualify. These credits are stackable for a total possible savings of \$600 for veterans.

**2** Whether the Red Cross or Versiti, officials are explaining that blood supplies are critical. Did you know that collecting blood has become increasingly challenging. According to our friends at Versiti, only about 3 percent of the population donates blood, yet nearly 70 percent of people will need blood in their lifetime. Every successful blood drive matters more than ever, and your efforts truly make a difference for patients and families in our community. Versiti is currently booking the 2026 schedule and are in urgent need of additional blood drives during the winter months, when donations are traditionally lowest. If you are interested in having a blood drive, please reach out Jennie Bean at jbean@versiti.org

**3** Indiana Governor Mike Braun announced that Merrell Bros. Inc., an environmental services company specializing in sustainable biosolids management, plans to expand its headquarters operations in Kokomo, creating 35 new, high-wage jobs by the end of 2028. Merrell Bros. will invest \$16.5 million to expand its long-standing Kokomo facility and fleet of equipment, constructing and equipping a 40,000-square-foot expansion that will more than double its manufacturing and administrative office footprint. The increased space will allow the company to expand its manufacturing capabilities to deliver state-of-the-art biosolids treatment technologies to the industry. This expansion enables Merrell Bros. to meet increasing demand from municipalities, industries and agricultural operations nationwide. Merrell Bros., established in 1982, plans to begin construction this year and is actively hiring. New positions include senior accountants, engineers, fabricators, CAD designers, project managers and operations staff with average wages more than 50% higher than the Howard County average.

# The TIMES

54 N. 9th St. Noblesville IN 46060

Main: 317-773-9960  
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## VBS Set at Emmanuel United

Vacation Bible School begins today and runs through Friday at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Noblesville. The program, for ages 4-10, takes place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

each evening. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact Director Angie Hadley at (317) 773-4406 for more information. Emmanuel is located at 16000 Cumberland Rd. in Noblesville.

## Westfield Sets Advisory Council on Veterans Affairs

The City of Westfield is taking another step to support and honor local veterans and military families through the creation of a new Advisory Council on Veterans Affairs. The Westfield City Council voted on Tuesday evening to establish the seven-member advisory body.

The Advisory Council on Veterans Affairs will serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council, and City departments on policies, programs, and initiatives impacting veterans, active-duty service members, and military families. The council will help strengthen coordination between the City and veteran-serving organizations, improve awareness of available resources, and foster greater community engagement and recognition of military service.

The resolution outlines several goals for the council, including supporting veteran-focused events and ceremonies, including Memorial Day and Veterans Day, identifying gaps in services and resources, promoting public awareness of military service, and recommending initiatives that help make Westfield a more veteran-supportive community. The council will also work to improve communication and outreach efforts to veterans and military families living and

working in Westfield. "Our veterans and military families have sacrificed greatly in service to our country, and this council is one more way we can ensure they feel supported, connected, and valued here in Westfield," said Mayor Scott Willis. "This group will help us better understand the needs of our veteran community while also creating opportunities to recognize their contributions and strengthen the partnerships that serve them."

The council will consist of seven voting members appointed by the Mayor and Westfield City Council. Membership will aim to reflect diverse military service backgrounds and include individuals with experience in areas such as veteran services, healthcare, workforce development, and community engagement.

Community members interested in serving on the Advisory Council on Veterans Affairs are encouraged to submit their interest at [westfieldin.gov/veterans](mailto:westfieldin.gov/veterans). The City is seeking veterans, military family members, and individuals passionate about supporting the veteran community who are interested in helping shape programs, outreach efforts, and initiatives that positively impact Westfield's military-connected residents.

# WHS Grads Rock Steady

Westfield High School's Class of 2026 leaves behind a legacy of excellence, leadership, service, and student achievement across academics, athletics, performing arts, and student organizations.

During commencement, Principal Alicia Denniston reflected on the class's impact and the many ways students embodied the district's mission of becoming Life Ready.

"This is a class that has embraced leadership and has modeled the values of the Westfield Way: kindness, respect, positivity, and gratitude," Denniston said during her address to graduates. "You have truly made WHS history."

The Class of 2026 celebrated significant accomplishments both inside and outside the classroom.

### Academic Achievement

The graduating class included numerous students recognized for exceptional academic performance:

65 Distinguished Graduates (grade point average of 4.3 or higher)

36 Honored Graduates (grade point average between 4.2-4.29)

2,117 AP exams taken, including this year's testing cycle

89% AP passing rate thus far  
166 AP Scholars thus far

### Athletics

WHS athletics teams achieved multiple milestones during the school year, including:

Football earning the state runner-up title

Girls volleyball becoming regional champions

Girls cross country winning sectional and regional championships

Wrestling winning a sectional championship

Gymnastics earning the program's first-ever sectional championship

Boys tennis earning a first-ever sectional championship

Girls tennis winning both the HCC Championship and Sectional Championship

### Performing Arts

WHS performing arts students also delivered historic performances and recognitions:

Illumination earned 3 grand championships, 4 best vocal awards, 3 best choreography awards, 6 people's choice awards, and 1 best crew award

Westfield Band and Guard Class of 2026 earned a collective 17 state finals appearances

The band program celebrated its 60th state finals appearance this spring

Students appeared in 8 World Championship finals

Students earned a collective 372 gold medals at State Solo and Ensemble

WHS theater productions were recognized for outstanding set build and design

### Clubs, Leadership, & Student Organizations

Student organizations continued to make a meaningful impact on both the school and broader community:

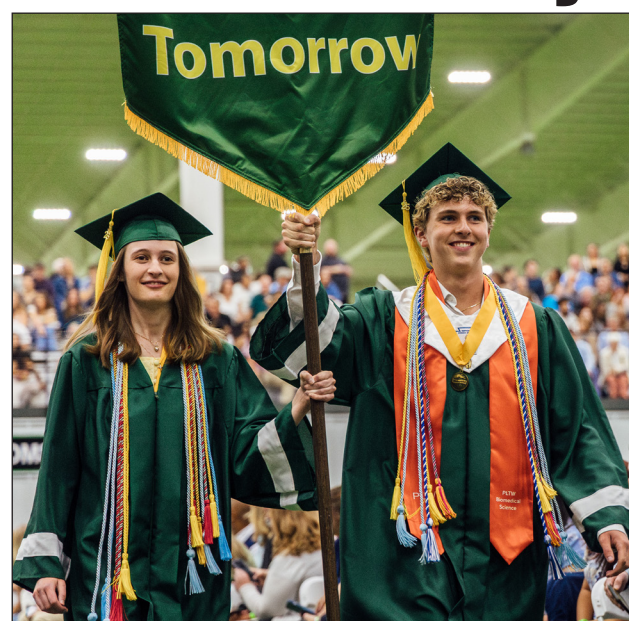
Dance Marathon raised over 117,000

WHS Best Buddies was named Outstanding High School Chapter for the state of Indiana

WHS yearbook earned statewide recognition through Quill and Scroll's Yearbook Excellence Contest

Sham-Rock-Botics qualified for the state championship

WHS eSports League of Legends won the Indiana State Championship



Photos courtesy Westfield Washington Schools  
There were 65 Distinguished Graduates with a GPA of 4.3 or higher.



The class accounted for more than 2,100 AP exams taken.



In the performing arts track, WHS had another banner year.

FCCLA earned first in the state in restaurant management

Speech and Debate finished fifth in overall sweepstakes

DECA had 117 students qualify for state competition and a record number qualify for nationals

In addition, a record number of students participated in internships throughout the community, gaining hands-on experiences

connected to future careers and Life Ready learning.

As graduates prepare for their next steps, the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 reflect years of hard work, collaboration, perseverance, and growth.

"Once a Rock, Always a Rock," Denniston told graduates. "I look forward to seeing where life will take you and how you will change it."

## Dr. Arrowood Shares Update

Please join me in congratulating this year's Building Level Teachers of the Year: Sarah Julian (HHES, 3rd Grade), Kellie Combs (HHMS, ELA 6/ELA 6 Honors), and Wendi Russell (HHHS, English). Each of these outstanding educators was selected for the way they elevate learning, inspire students, and reflect the values at the center of our mission every day. One of these remarkable individuals will be named our District Teacher of the Year and will represent Hamilton Heights at the Indiana Teacher of the Year competition in Indianapolis this fall.

We are also proud to recognize our Building Level Support Staff of the Year honorees: Wendy Sauerteig (HHES Secretary), Charity Powell (HHMS Instructional Assistant), and Adam Hughes (HHHS Instructional Assistant). These dedicated team members were chosen for their unwavering commitment to students, their reliability, and the positive impact they make across their buildings. Our District Level Support Staff Member of the Year is Austin Bragg (HHSC Transportation Mechanic), whose dedication and exceptional service strengthen our schools in countless ways.

The 2026 District Teacher of the Year will be formally announced at our Year End Banquet as we celebrate the

people who make Hamilton Heights such an extraordinary place to learn and grow.

Nominations are now open for the Hamilton Heights Athletic Hall of Fame – Class of 2026. This annual tradition honors the athletes, coaches, and teams whose dedication, character, and accomplishments have shaped Husky athletics and inspired generations of students. If you know an individual or team whose impact deserves to be celebrated, we encourage you to submit a nomination.

Hamilton Heights High School has once again earned recognition as a performance-qualified high school for 2026-2027! This distinction reflects strong academics, engaged students, and innovative learning — giving HHHS added flexibility to design programs that best support student success. This recognition reflects the exceptional work of our teachers and staff, the commitment of our students, and the support of a community that believes deeply in the power of public education.

As we head into summer break and leave the more structured days of the school year, the shift in routine can bring new challenges for some of our students. More time online, less supervision, and changes in daily structure can increase exposure to unsafe



Hamilton Heights School News  
Dr. Derek Arrowood

situations or harmful people. Schools provide safety, stability, encouragement, and trusted connection for many children, and those vulnerable students remain at the forefront of our minds.

To support families during the months ahead, we are sharing several resources that may be helpful. This includes a new Be BRAVE campaign, which offers simple, practical guidance to help students stay safe online. You'll also find parent resources on recognizing online grooming, information about reporting concerns to the CyberTipline (1-800-THE-LOST), and additional reporting options available to both students and adults. The ChildHelp National Child Abuse Hotline provides phone, text, and online chat support for anyone who needs help or guidance. Please feel free to share these resources with any child or family who may benefit.

Let's move into summer united in our commitment to keeping every child safe, supported, and surrounded by caring adults. #WeAreHuskies

## The Times

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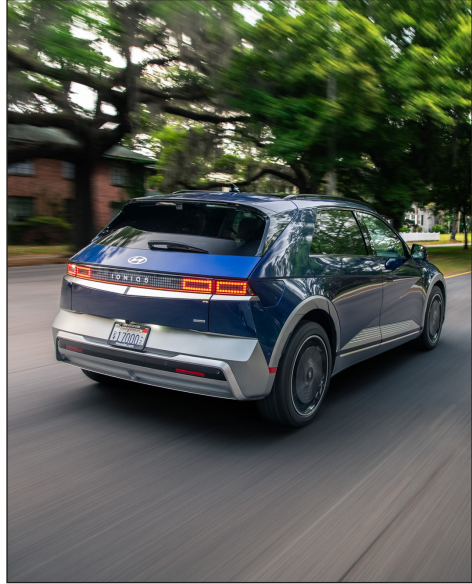
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Techno-cool hatchback styling accompanies an EV that's easy to own – starting at \$35,000.

## 2026 Hyundai Ioniq 5 EV Hits Gen-X Senses of Nostalgia While Creating a Cool Crossover

I have to admit that when I first saw this car in photos, I thought it looked stupid. I mean, as a Gen-Xer I liked the '80s vibe, but it was a shock in a sea of sleek futuristic Teslas and Mercedes. Its platform-mate the Kia EV6 had a more advanced aesthetic. However, after seeing and spending time with the IONIQ 5 in actual daylight – and moonlight - I've come to like it very much. It's also a very nice to drive, so let's get in the 2026 Hyundai IONIQ 5 Limited.

It gets its design honestly as it was based on Korea's first mass-produced and exported car, the Hyundai Pony. A basic little compact hatchback that debuted in 1975 and held court through the '80s was styled by the maestro Giorgetto Giugiaro at Italdesign. You might know some of his other work like the DeLorean DMC-12, Volkswagen Rabbit, BMW M1 and Lotus Esprit. He also designed the Geo Spectrum I drove in college, so maybe I deep-conscious the IONIQ 5's forms.

Of course, this crossover's style is considerably more advanced than the old Pony. It looks small in photos, but is tall and wide with a longer wheelbase than the full-size Palisade SUV. There's more dimension too with square LED headlamps, origami side creases, and full-width pixelated taillights. Our Limited edition sports black 20-inch wheels, roof rails and panoramic glass. Swaths of corrugated silver along the rockers visually reduces the car's height. It's both retro and futuristic.

Interiors are essentially rolling lounges that bring peace and tranquility. Like a classic mini-van, you step in at a comfortable height, the floor is wide and flat and there's good visibility all around. Hyundai stepped up with twin infotainment screens,

wireless phone connections, and phone charging pad on the utility pod between front passengers. USBs are seemingly everywhere and there's a 120v household outlet for second row voyagers.

Beyond technology that would have astounded this 1980s technophile, the IONIQ 5 impresses with luxuries like heated front and rear seats, heated leather-wrapped steering wheel, and Bose audio. Hi-Tex seating surfaces look and feel like leather, but are easily washable synthetic. There's too much hard plastic on the doors and dash, but it looks good. Rear passengers can stretch their legs while reclining their seatbacks. Luggage capacity under the sloping hatch is a little tight, but split/fold rear seats enlarge it considerably to carry bicycles, COSTCO hauls, or your kids' band instruments.

Twist the column knob and whir away with only a hint of motor whine and tire noise. It feels effortless with 320 horsepower and 446 lb.-ft. of torque, all driven to the road through dual-motor all-wheel-drive. Zip off 0-60 mph in under 5 seconds. Quite quick.

You probably care more about range and recharge times. In Limited trim with AWD, the IONIQ 5 claims 269 miles between charges. Typical of Hyundai, charging times are brief, allowing 10-80% in 20 minutes on a DC fast charger or about 7.5 hours on 240 volts at home. It's now NACS-compatible for easy access to Tesla Superchargers, but you'll need an adaptor

for OG chargers like the one in my garage.

As for safety, everybody is protected by automatic emergency braking, blind spot warning, lane keep assist, and rear cross traffic alert. Side exit assist keeps passengers from stepping into traffic. I really appreciate the car's head-up display for speed, safety, and navigational aids, but I'd also love hands-off cruising. Can't have everything!

As an '80s kid, I get all of the styling references and period vibe, but also appreciate how every inch of the IONIQ 5 amasses a car right for this decade. A base price of \$35,000, or \$50,815 for our luxurious Limited, puts it against the Chevy Equinox EV, Ford Mustang Mach-E, Nissan Leaf, Subaru Solterra, Toyota bZ and Tesla Model Y.

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

- Likes
- 1980s vibe
  - Smooth power
  - Serene interior

- Dislikes
- Hard plastics
  - Limited luggage
  - Hands-on cruising

**2026 Hyundai IONIQ 5 AWD**  
Five-passenger, AWD Crossover  
Powertrain: Li-ion batteries/dual motors  
Output: 320 hp/446 lb.-ft.  
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind  
Wheels f/r: 20"/20" alloy  
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc  
Driving range: 269 miles  
0-60 mph: 4.8s  
Fast charge (10-80%): 20m  
Assembly: Ellabell, GA  
Base/As-tested price: \$35,000/\$50,815



## Casey Williams

Columnist

# What We Remember

"I suppose I have to start packing," my husband, Peter, said. It is always so hard to leave. Packing up from San Miguel de Allende is not a terribly difficult process because we leave the art on the walls and the dishes in the cupboard and, this year, a brand-new beautiful couch sitting in the apartment. We know that the hotel housekeeper, Lulu, will keep a watchful eye on everything.

So it should not be so hard to leave, yet it always is. Our stuff stays behind, and we leave with memories.

There is a principle in psychology which says that in order to slow time, you need more novel experiences. Childhood seems to last a long time because everything is new and everything is a first. As we age, we do more of the same things. This makes one day blend into the next, and one week into the one after that, and before we know it, 10 years have passed without it seeming like any time at all.

Coming to San Miguel, we find ourselves doing things we've never done before on at least a weekly basis—and this is unusual for a couple of people who are fond of our routines.

I write every day. I have friends who complain about this. "You should come to yoga!" they insist. "You should go to the hot springs!" "You should take an art class!"

Please join me in congratulating this year's Building Level Teachers of the Year: Sarah Julian (HHES, 3rd Grade), Kellie Combs (HHMS, ELA 6/ELA 6 Honors), and Wendi Russell (HHHS, English). Each of these outstanding educators was selected for the way they elevate learning, inspire students, and reflect the values at the center of our mission every day. One of these remarkable individuals will be named our District Teacher of the Year and will represent Hamilton Heights at the Indiana Teacher of the Year competition in Indianapolis this fall.

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The 2026 District Teacher of the Year



## Carrie Classon

The Postscript

They think I should make exceptions to attend morning events—events that occur right smack in the middle of my writing time. Occasionally I do. But 9 days out of 10, I am at my desk writing.

My friends' reaction to this is either to tell me that I am very disciplined or very boring. I don't think either one is true (although I will accept that I might be a little dull). I write every day because I enjoy it, and most of my enjoyment comes from getting better and getting things finished. It's no more complicated than that.

Peter is very much the same way about his morning hikes. Peter gets positively grouchy if he is deprived of daily exercise, not because he has a gun to his head, but because his long, strenuous hike is what makes him feel good.

Fortunately for both of us, there is no shortage of things to do and see in the afternoons and evenings, and last night, we had a going-away gathering of friends and neighbors.

We called it a book launch, although after two and a half months, I no longer think of "Loon Point"

will be formally announced at our Year End Banquet as we celebrate the people who make Hamilton Heights such an extraordinary place to learn and grow.

Nominations are now open for the Hamilton Heights Athletic Hall of Fame – Class of 2026. This annual tradition honors the athletes, coaches, and teams whose dedication, character, and accomplishments have shaped Husky athletics and inspired generations of students. If you know an individual or team whose impact deserves to be celebrated, we encourage you to submit a nomination.

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As we head into summer break and leave the more structured days of the school year, the shift in routine can bring new challenges for

as launching. It's more like a ship out at sea. It has left me behind on shore and is off having amazing adventures with all its readers.

But I read from "Loon Point" one last time, and the violinist David Mendoza played, and we served food to friends. Everyone met someone they had never met before, and friendships were forged and a lot of fun was had.

Then Sebastian (who, unlike most of our guests, grew up in San Miguel) came out of the kitchen and announced, "It will rain soon."

Everyone looked up at the blue sky in surprise. Fifteen minutes later, it began to pour.

We said our good-byes. We promised to get together again. Every person headed off to a different life in a different place.

I knew we would never meet again—not in quite that way, not with that exact group of people, not for that meal or that experience. And I will remember last night for all of those reasons.

Till next time,  
Carrie  
*Carrie's debut novel, "Loon Point," is now available at both local and online retailers.*

some of our students. More time online, less supervision, and changes in daily structure can increase exposure to unsafe situations or harmful people. Schools provide safety, stability, encouragement, and trusted connection for many children, and those vulnerable students remain at the forefront of our minds.

To support families during the months ahead, we are sharing several resources that may be helpful. This includes a new Be BRAVE campaign, which offers simple, practical guidance to help students stay safe online. You'll also find parent resources on recognizing online grooming, information about reporting concerns to the CyberTipline (1-800-THE-LOST), and additional reporting options available to both students and adults. The ChildHelp National Child Abuse Hotline provides phone, text, and online chat support for anyone who needs help or guidance. Please feel free to share these resources with any child or family who may benefit.

Let's move into summer united in our commitment to keeping every child safe, supported, and surrounded by caring adults. #WeAreHuskies

# Man Who Didn't Stop for Directions Changed History



**Andy Chandler**  
Columnist

Could a faulty 17th century map and an arrogant explorer who didn't bother to ask for directions really lead to Texas being claimed as part of the US during its 1836 fight for independence? Could it have led to the second international war the United States ever fought? Could a failed colony of French settlers have meant the difference between Texas being a Spanish speaking culture versus French speaking culture? Yes.

History is rarely a cause and effect, and it's rarely the linear spiraling of a grand plot. Mostly, it's the result of dumb luck or sheer stupidity.

Enter René Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle. For ours sake: La Salle.

Born into aristocracy in 1643 in Rouen, France, La Salle originally was accepted into the Jesuits, in 1660. After arriving in New France in 1666 (yes, those three digits are correct) he was released from his vows citing "moral weakness." One can only guess he enjoyed chasing adventures, and something else.

La Salle was an explorer, and in 1682, he completed the journey the 1540 De Soto Expedition and the 1672 Jolliet-Marquette Expedition started on to travel the entire Mississippi from Lake Michigan to now New Orleans.

The Sun King Louis XIV of France was so impressed that in 1684 he sent La Salle with four ships and 300 people to start a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi in present day New Orleans.

This was not the Mississippi expedition.

In an odyssey that resembles the Final Destination and the Saw movie series combined: one of the ships was captured by pirates, another sank due to a drunken captain, and a third turned around and headed back to France. La Salle over-shot the Mississippi by 500 miles and sent a group of men ashore to explore near what is now Galveston Bay, most likely thinking they were at the Mississipp-

pi. Those men were never heard from again.

This left La Salle with one ship, the La Belle, and about 140 of the original 300 settlers near Port Lavaca, TX. He established Fort St. Louis and set out exploring to find the Mississippi. Still unwilling to stop for directions; he went the wrong way again, west, and made it as far as Goliad before turning around.

The colony failed. The La Belle ran aground and was destroyed. La Salle was shot by his own men in 1687, and in 1689 the colony had scattered to the four winds. Fifteen of the original settlers survived and fled to France, Illinois Territory, and New Spain.

Though a failure in every way imaginable, the La Salle expedition was consequential. Strategically, the expedition's failure bought Spain time to settle Eastern Texas. France would finally settle New Orleans in 1718. This is why the culture and language of Louisiana is very French/Creole, and the culture and language of Texas has its roots in Spain.

Though the whole region would flip multiple times, most notably in 1763 with the Treaty of Paris and the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, the cultures continued.

Also, though the expedition failed, the land claim by La Salle fueled an argument the US settlers made in 1835 during the Texas Revolution and again in 1846 during the Mexican War, that Eastern Texas was theirs at the Louisiana Purchase.

That argument violated the 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty, but... Manifest Destiny!

All this is because someone two centuries earlier misread a map and didn't stop for directions.

In 1996, divers discovered the wreck of the La Belle in Matagorda Bay. In an extreme feat of recovery, what remained of the hull was recovered, along with over a million artifacts. Those artifacts are housed at the Bullock Museum of Texas History in Austin, where the stabilized remains of the hull are the centerpiece



A view of Galveston Bay where La Salle sailed.

Photos courtesy Andy Chandler



The marker tells the story of the shipwreck.



During the excavation of the ship, human remains were discovered.

of the exhibits.

In closing, because of circumstances surrounding the failed colony, no human remains existed. The bodies in fields were eaten by scavengers, and graves were unmarked. That is until the La Belle was discovered. During the excavation of the ship, human remains were discovered. After receiving permission from

the French government, the remains were buried in Texas. If the reader goes to the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, they should go up the hill immediately visible when they come through the gates. At the foot of that hill are the remains of one of the men of the La Belle. Although unknown, he was one of the first Europeans to set foot in Texas with the

intention of permanently settling. Coincidentally, at the top of the same hill is the grave of Gene Cernan, the last man on the moon. Two explorers from different centuries, and lands forever linked by discovery.

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.

## Humane Society Launches Matching Campaign

The Humane Society for Hamilton County announced its annual June Matching Campaign to raise highly needed funds for the thousands of animals that come through their doors in need of care and shelter. During the month of June, every online or in-person donation is doubled up to \$150,000.

Thanks to the shelter's Advisory Board, Board of Directors, and other individual donors, HSHC has the opportunity to raise \$300,000 in just 30 days. From June 1 through June 30, community members will have the unique opportunity to double their impact and give every animal in the shelter the chance to live, love, and be loved.



Courtesy Photo

All funds donated to HSHC's June Matching Campaign support animals like Asher, who represents one of hundreds of animals that come to the facility every year in critical need of medical care.

"Every donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$150,000," said Community Engagement Manager Emma Nobbe. "For the month of June, your \$5 donation will become \$10, \$20 will

become \$40, \$50 will become \$100-- with all proceeds providing essential care, medical treatment, and shelter for the 4,000 animals who come through our doors each year."

To support the Humane Society during

the month of June, community members and rescue supporters can make donations online at [hamiltonhumane.com](http://hamiltonhumane.com) or visit the shelter in person at 10501 Hague Road in Fishers, Indiana.

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**THE TIMES**

# Age Young Advice

I have just received my 175th issue of AARP magazine. That's how I keep track of my age.

On the front of the magazine is a striking photo of Eva Longoria, who in the picture doesn't look a day over 17. But apparently, she is 51, which made her barely eligible to be featured on the cover. One of the stories highlighted right next to her lovely face is this:

**8 TESTS WILL REVEAL HOW QUICKLY YOU ARE AGING**

In the story, there is a series of questions compiled by the AARP to compare how old you tell people you are with what your body and lifestyle might indicate. If you want to feel younger, you can either take their advice for personal improvement or lie in your answers. One of those options worked for me. I'm 58 now.

The first instruction is based on this question: **HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR WALKING PACE?** The study suggests that people who said "brisk" will live longer, according to the Mayo Clinic. I think it's hard to judge your own speed. I tell people I "run" two miles every day. When I say this, Mary Ellen frowns and makes a slight correction. "He does not run. He lumbers." The research also says that if I increased my pace a bit, it would lead to "longer leukocyte telomeres in my white



**Dick Wolfsie**  
Columnist

blood cells." That was the motivation I needed.

The next test was titled: **CAN YOU SCRATCH YOUR OWN BACK?** This is, apparently, a method for measuring your physical flexibility, which is a good indicator of your lifespan. They ask you to extend your left arm over your right shoulder, then place your other hand on your back and see how close you can bring the fingers of each hand together. I think I got that right. Points are awarded based on the distance between the hands.

I was desperately trying to score well on this exam when Mary Ellen walked into the room...

"What in heaven's name are you doing?"

"I want to see how long I will live."

"Well, it looks like you are about to choke yourself to death, so I'm gonna say about 90 seconds."

Here's another: **STAND UP, SIT DOWN, LIVE LONGER**

In this procedure, you have to sit in a chair without armrests, cross your arms, and time how long it takes you to complete

five repetitions of standing up and then sitting back down. I have to admit I had some trouble standing up, but sitting back down was easy. I guess I'm in better shape than I thought.

Another suggestion they make is to maintain social contact with people younger than you, which can lead to a more positive perception of aging. This has not been a problem for me. I play pickleball, and I'm about the oldest on the court. In my book club, I'm the senior member, and at the mini marathon a few weeks ago, I was one of the oldest people sitting there watching.

Finally, I want to give a shout-out to the dedicated scientists who put this study together. The lead researcher is Dr. Zhe He, Director of the Institute for Successful Longevity. He is from China. They must be fans of both Abbott and Costello and baseball over there because when the committee announced that the good doctor would be the opening speaker, they put this on the poster outside the auditorium.

HE'S ON FIRST



Photo courtesy Ivy Tech Hamilton County

Pictured above (left to right): Front Row, from left, Ashley Mack, Christiale Feuatsap Kenne, Maria Zerpa, Charlie Satterfield, Abdu Eleida, Lucy Bundy Back Row, from left, Co-Advisor Amanda Bremmer Babic, Haley Phifer, Haele Edens, Stella Song, Landon Brown, Peter Damick, Eala Romano, MacKenzie Johnson, Naomi Townsend, Co-Advisor Semere Sebhato

## Ivy Tech Hamilton County Inducts Achievers in Phi Theta Kappa

Ivy Tech Community College Hamilton County's Beta Omega Epsilon chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society recently celebrated student success through its third annual induction ceremony.

On Wednesday, April 22, the chapter inducted 53 students into the international honor society, which recognizes academic excellence among students at two-year colleges. To be eligible, students must complete at least 12 credit hours and maintain a minimum of 3.5 grade point average. Since its founding at the Hamilton County campus three years ago, the Beta Omega Epsilon chapter has welcomed a total of 151 student members.

Members of the chapter represented Ivy Tech Hamilton

County at the Spring 2026 Indiana Regional Phi Theta Kappa Conference and Awards held in Columbus, Indiana. Students participated in educational sessions focused on time management, imposter syndrome, and the role of artificial intelligence in today's digital scholarship environment.

Additional honors were announced at Indiana's 2026 Hallmark Awards event including:

**Beta Omega Epsilon Chapter Awards:**  
Three Star Level Chapter Recognition Hoosier Service Award

For its food drive benefiting the Noblesville Township Office Reach Reward For outstanding achievement in membership acceptance and student engage-

ment  
**Individual Awards:**  
The Susan Jackson Award

Presented by chapter advisor Amanda Babic, to Haele Edens for exceptional contributions to the chapter  
The New Advisor Award

Presented by Jill Stewart, to Amanda Babic for her leadership, dedication, and impact on student development

Founded in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is the largest honor society in higher education, with more than 3 million members and over 1,200 chapters worldwide. The organization provides recognition, scholarship opportunities, and leadership development for high-achieving community college students.

## NDC Awards Beth Niedermeyer Scholarship to Harsimran Kaur

Noblesville Diversity Coalition is proud to announce Harsimran Kaur as the recipient of the Beth Niedermeyer Scholarship.

This year, NDC received 22 applications from graduating seniors who are helping build a more welcoming Noblesville. The annual scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of Noblesville High School who exemplifies the core values of NDC and the leadership qualities of Dr. Beth Niedermeyer: humility, courage, respect, and collaboration.

Harsimran demonstrated these values through her leadership on the NDC Student Board, the Mayor's Youth Council, and her work helping organize and support local events that celebrate diversity, including the community Culture Fair.

In her application, Harsimran wrote that "a community is only truly welcoming when every voice is heard, and empathy is turned into action." She shared that her experiences taught her the importance of stepping outside her comfort zone to advocate for others and help ensure that everyone feels included.

After high school,



Harsimran Kaur

Harsimran plans to continue living these values as "an active changemaker rather than a silent observer." Whether through campus initiatives, community events, or future professional work, she hopes to help create spaces where people feel seen, valued, and safe.

Harsimran will attend Purdue University's John Martinson Honors College, where she plans to study Biomedical Health Sciences on the pre-med track. Her dream is to become a physician who helps bridge cultural gaps in medicine and ensures patients from all backgrounds feel respected, understood, and safe.

"Harsimran reflects the kind of leadership

this scholarship was created to honor," said Dana Randall, NDC Board President. "She leads with humility, acts with courage, treats others with respect, and understands that building belonging requires collaboration. We are proud to celebrate her and excited to see the impact she will continue to make."

NDC's mission is to educate, celebrate, challenge, and inspire Noblesville to be a more welcoming community that embraces all cultures and identities. Through the Beth Niedermeyer Scholarship, NDC continues to invest in young leaders who are helping carry that mission forward.

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