

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Jeremiah 17:7-8

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream..."



Some companies are "rounding up" your bill to the nearest mark so your change doesn't have to include

pennies. For a big corporation, I wonder how much that will help their bottom line?

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

It's well known to Noblesville and Hamilton County that Grammy Award winning artist and Noblesville native Steve Wariner is talented. Heck, everyone knew that back in the 1970s when he was walking the halls of NHS. His Hall of Fame and Grand Ole Opry music career only reinforced it. But what few know is that Steve has been drawing and painting for as long as he's been making music and he's pursued these parallel passions for the majority of his life. Painting is his sanctuary and his escape and now, at 71, he will stage a stunning 60-piece solo art exhibit that spans more than 30 years of his artistic work. Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center in Tennessee will shine a spotlight on Wariner's visual art in The Flip Side: Paintings by Steve Wariner. The solo exhibit, on view June 21 through July 26, is his largest to date and will feature 60 of Wariner's works in oil, acrylic, watercolor, encaustic and mixed media. The Flip Side is a colorful collection establishing Wariner as a virtuoso of the paint brush, representing the most prominent and retrospective display of Wariner's artworks since 2013's Wariner's Watercolors at the Tennessee State Museum.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June."
Unknown

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What happens when ice cream gets angry?
It has a meltdown.

■ ADOPT A PET PEBBLES



Pebbles is a sweetheart with a silly side and a heart just bursting with love. This 3-year-old female Pit Bull Terrier has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 3/7/26. She's always ready to make a new friend and is very serious about giving kisses. Spend even a few minutes with her, and you'll see just how much she wants to love you and be loved right back. To meet Pebbles, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/ adopt, then stop by HSHC anytime 12-5 PM daily (closed Wednesday).



The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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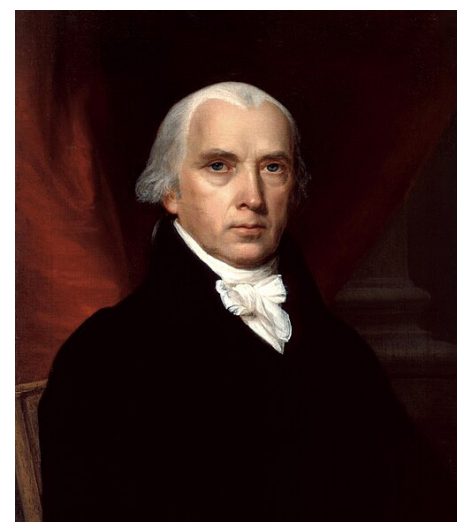
10 Rights Did Not Make Anything Wrong BY THE NUMBERS

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!

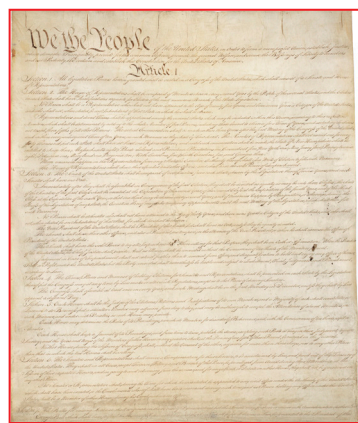
Did you know that on this date in 1789 Mr. James Madison, the man who 20 years later would become our fledgling nation's fourth president, introduced a dozen proposed amendments to our Constitution and that those would eventually turn into what we know as the Bill of Rights? Madison would become known as the father of the Constitution. He, arguably more than any other founding father, led the way to what became the U.S. Constitution. So today, in honor of Mr. Madison, we take a look at the Bill of Rights . . . By The Numbers!

As mentioned, Madison proposed 12 amendments but only 10 were ratified by the states. The two that did not make the grade initially? One was a mathematical formula that would have increased the House of Representatives as our country's population grew (more on this in a moment). The next one would forbid Congress from giving themselves a mid-term pay raise. Madison believed that Congress shouldn't be able to give itself a raise without input, namely an election where their constituents could vote them out if they didn't agree. Before you get too excited, Congress added the 27th Amendment that allowed them to do

12



10



The number of amendments that were ratified initially – and the ones we know as the Bill of Rights. We know (wink, wink) that you remember all 10 from those history lessons in school. But just to refresh, here they are:

- First:** Five freedoms are protected here – speech, religion, assembly, petition and (our favorite) press!
- Second:** Protects the right to bear arms
- Third:** Stops "quartering" soldiers in private homes
- Fourth:** Doesn't allow unreasonable search and seizure
- Fifth:** Rights to a grand jury, due process, stops double jeopardy and gives just compensation for property taken
- Sixth:** The right to a speedy trial by an impartial jury and the right to legal counsel
- Seventh:** Gives the right to a jury trial in federal cases worth more than \$20
- Eighth:** No cruel and unusual punishments, including excessive bail or fines
- Ninth:** Somewhat of a catchall – says that we humans have more rights than listed above
- Tenth:** Gives the states and people rights the federal government doesn't have (And aren't you proud of us – no editorial comments – other than sharing which one is our favorite. Believe us, it was tempting!)



12-15-1791

These 10 amendments are ratified by three-fourths of the states and officially become the law of the land.

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Marc Tuttle, president of Right to Life of Indianapolis and one of Indiana's most prominent pro-life advocates, died suddenly on June 2. Tuttle had served as president of Right to Life Indianapolis for 18 years, and he was widely regarded as a leading voice for the protection of unborn children throughout Central Indiana and the state. "Marc was more than a leader to this organization," said Tom Hirschauer, board president of Right to Life of Indianapolis. "He was a passionate advocate, a steadfast servant of life, and a dear friend to so many of us. His dedication to the cause of protecting the unborn was unwavering, and his presence will be deeply missed." Under Tuttle's leadership, Right to Life of Indianapolis organized numerous rallies at the Indiana Statehouse and worked closely with state legislators on behalf of unborn children and vulnerable mothers. He was instrumental in building the annual Indianapolis March for Life into one of the largest pro-life gatherings in Indiana, drawing thousands of participants each year.

2. U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Illinois State Director Jesus Ortega announced that the agency provided Clay County with an \$800,000 grant to construct a new medical building for the Clay County Hospital. The Clay County Hospital is a county-owned hospital governed by the Clay County Board. "Under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump and Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, USDA Rural Development is committed to improving access to rural healthcare," said Ortega. "This project is an example of how Rural Development is working to ensure that rural residents across the state have access to quality and affordable healthcare." USDA provided the county with an \$800,000 Community Facilities grant for its new 5,267-square-foot medical building in Louisville, Illinois. The new building has allowed Clay County Hospital to expand operations, offer additional primary care hours and begin offering behavioral health services. The new medical building serves more than 1,130 residents of Clay County providing access to additional healthcare services.

3. Indiana Governor Mike Braun announcement that Boston Scientific Corporation will establish a new global medical device distribution facility in Plainfield highlighted the creation of up to 300 new, high-wage jobs. The new operation bolsters Braun's life sciences initiative – a commitment to investing \$1 billion over 10 years in agricultural and life sciences – and the BioHeartland. Boston Scientific, a global leader in medical device technology, anticipates investing approximately \$138 million to construct and equip a 500,000-square-foot facility at the Plainfield Innovation Park to support and enhance its US-based distribution and logistics operations. The new facility will feature state-of-the-art technology, light manufacturing and incorporate necessary processes and operations for regulatory compliance. The company expects to break ground later this year. Once complete, the facility will be responsible for global distribution of medical devices, helping Boston Scientific provide solutions that treat more than 48 million patients annually.

The TIMES

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World Cup Watch Party Happening

Michelob ULTRA is inviting soccer fans to raise a glass and celebrate the world's biggest game at three upcoming World Cup Watch Party events, immersive fan experiences featuring live match screenings, ice-cold refreshments, games, and community spirit. Three World Cup Watch Party events will take place at the FORUM Credit Union Plaza at Fishers Event Center in Fishers, Ind., on:

Friday, June 12 | Gates open at 8 p.m., game starts at 9 p.m. (USA vs. Paraguay)

Friday, June 19 | Gates open at 2 p.m., game starts at 3 p.m. (USA vs. Australia)

Thursday, June 25 | Gates open at 9 p.m., game starts at 10 p.m. (USA vs. Turkey)

These events are FREE admission, with no tickets or prior registration required.

Free surface parking is available for spectators. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for comfortable seating, and weather-appropriate gear (sunglasses, ponchos, etc., as it is an outdoor open-air venue).

The World Cup Watch Party will bring together passionate supporters for a high-energy viewing experience complete with giant screens, interactive fan activations, exclusive giveaways, and premium Michelob ULTRA offerings. Fans will have the opportunity to cheer on the United States men's national soccer team alongside fellow supporters in a stadium-inspired atmosphere designed to capture the excitement, passion, and camaraderie that make the tournament a global phenomenon. Various food and beverage options will be available to purchase

Women's Learning Circle brings Series to Ag Community

Women landowners, farmers, and conservation-minded community members are invited to participate in a three-part Women's Learning Circle series designed to provide practical information, resources, and connections for managing farmland and working lands.

Hosted by The Nature Conservancy's Women4theLand program in partnership with the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District and local conservation partners, the series will bring together women landowners and female conservation professionals in a welcoming, informal setting focused on learning, discussion, and peer networking.

The sessions will be held at the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District office in Noblesville and will explore key topics affecting agricultural land stewardship and long-term conservation planning.

The 2026 series includes:

Soil Health and Water Quality – June 17

Conservation Values and Challenges – July 15

Steps for Creating a Plan + Visit to a Local Farm – Aug. 12

Each session will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes a light break-

fast and complimentary lunch.

While each learning circle can be attended independently, the sessions are designed to build upon one another and provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of conservation opportunities, challenges, and planning strategies for their land. The information presented is relevant to all types of farming operations and landownership situations.

"Women own or co-own a significant portion of Indiana's agricultural land, yet many have had limited opportunities to connect with conservation professionals and other women facing similar land management decisions," said Heather Bacher, Women4TheLand coordinator. "These learning circles create a supportive environment where participants can ask questions, share experiences, and gain practical knowledge to help them achieve their conservation goals."

Participants must register separately for each session. Registration and additional information are available at www.women4theland.org/upcoming-events. Assistance with registration is available by contacting Heather at heather@women4theland.org or (317) 514-4634.

Ready To Be a Miller Ambassador? Apply Now

Ready to be a Miller Ambassador? The program is looking for a few good people – but hurry, the deadline to apply is June 30.

Applications are open now for the Noblesville Schools Miller Ambassadors community learning and leadership program. If you are not familiar with the Miller Ambassadors, it is an engaging, year-long learning experience for select Noblesville community leaders and school district parents to enjoy a deeper understanding of Noblesville Schools.

Program participants are exposed to all facets of running a district, including business management, academics, student services, operations and more.

Class members have the opportunity to:

Gain first-hand knowledge of how Noblesville Schools functions

Experience the engaging learning style used with students

Participate in a dialogue with leadership on education issues

Develop an understanding of how Noblesville Schools has created a unique culture of educational excellence that is studied by other high-performing school districts

Ambassador graduates are partners in sharing Nobles-

ville Schools' vision throughout the community and will be invited to continue to engage with the district through future project team and input gathering opportunities.

Miller Ambassador classes are small by design to allow for quality interaction and discussions, and candidates must apply and be selected to participate.

For each class, we choose a variety of community leaders and a parent representative from each of our ten schools. Strong candidates are active in the community, well respected by others, a supporter of public education, and in a position to be a positive, helpful advocate and communicator for Noblesville Schools. If candidates are not selected the first time they apply, they are encouraged to apply again for a future year.

The Miller Ambassadors time commitment is two hours each month for nine months. Classes meet from either 7:30-9:30am or 8-10am on one Thursday of the month (excluding June, July and December). Class members who are accepted into Miller Ambassadors will be given a schedule and asked to fully commit their attendance to the program.



Applications are open now for the Noblesville Schools Miller Ambassadors community learning and leadership program!

Class sessions take place in a variety of locations throughout the district and involve listening, reading, discussing, and walking while touring build-

ings. For more information, go to <https://www.noblesvilleschools.org/community/miller-ambassadors>

Heights Student Turns Passion for Drone Into Thriving Business Before Graduation

Hamilton Heights High School senior Connely Schuster walked across the graduation stage on Saturday with something few students his age can claim: a fully established and growing business built from a passion he discovered long before senior year. As the founder of Schuster Drone Media, he has transformed a love of photography, videography, and technology into a professional venture serving real estate agents, companies, and clients across central Indiana.

His journey began with a simple interest in cameras and editing. After experimenting with toy drones as a kid, he saved enough money to purchase his first professional drone, a DJI Mini 3. "I was able to get incredible photos of Morse Reservoir and sunsets," he said. "That encouraged me to keep going."

The turning point came when his mother, a real estate agent, asked him to take aerial photos for one of her listings – and insisted on paying him. "That's when I realized the potential," he said. With an interest in construction and homes, he earned his FAA Part 107 license, allowing him to fly commercially and officially launch his business.

From there, Schuster Drone Media took off. He created a website, designed logos, and began working with additional clients, including real estate agents and even a technology company testing lidar tracking capabilities. One of his proudest projects was capturing drone footage for his cousin's wedding, where he produced a social-media-ready video and a 3D model of the couple.

Balancing entrepreneurship with a full high school schedule has been no small feat. In addition to running his business, he has been active in band, indoor percussion, robotics, and National Honor Society. "It hasn't been easy," noted Schuster. "But having study hall time



Photos Courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Hamilton Heights alum Connely Schuster launched and grew his own drone media business before even crossing the commencement stage.

and weekends helped me stay on top of schoolwork while still finding time to shoot and edit content."

The Hamilton Heights community has played a meaningful role in his journey. He recently earned the \$1,000 School of Hard Knocks Scholarship from a local company, Aviato, support he plans to use for college or reinvest in his business. "The community has been amazing," he added. "Their encouragement means a lot."

"What Connely has accomplished is extraordinary. He didn't wait for opportunity – he created it," said HHHS Principal Whitney Gray. "Watching one of our students take a passion, develop it into a skill, and then build a business from the ground up is inspiring. We are incredibly proud of his accomplishments and excited to see how he continues to grow as in college and an entrepreneur."

While Schuster prepares to attend Indiana University Bloomington to study Computer Science in the fall, he plans to continue operating Schuster Drone Media on weekends and breaks – and even expand into the Bloomington real estate market. "Owning my own business has given me responsibili-



Connely Schuster

ty and optimism for the future," he pointed out. "I'm confident I'll find my place in the industry as my business continues to grow."

His advice to other students dreaming of turning a passion into a business is simple: "Start making connections early. Build something mission-driven that clients can trust. And find a balance between schoolwork and your passion."

For Schuster, the motivation is clear every time he launches his drone: "I love seeing the finished product – and seeing my clients happy with how their house turned out."

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Courtesy of Mazda

It only seats five, but can tow 5,000 pounds and swallow a cavern of cargo for family travels

2026 Mazda CX-70 is Much Like a Grown-Up's Mazda3 Hatchback

One of my all-time favorite compact cars is the current Mazda3 Hatchback, a car that proves style and performance don't have to be expensive. It takes a sporty stance, but the sensuousness of how the rear body wraps over the wheels and around its rump is seductive artistry. But, it's not really large enough for families. Take its finest attributes, blow it up a few sizes, toss in carnal luxuries and you have the 2026 Mazda CX-70 Platinum Plus.

Mazdas definitely have a family look. Large Italianesque grilles flanked by squinty headlamps project fury while beautifully bulging fenders flow into tall bodysides and sculptural rear quarters shaped by the spirit of Michelangelo. There is an echo of Mazda3 in the execution, but the CX-70 dwarfs average humans and needs all of its 21-inch wheels to fill the flanks. It's handsome, but looks somewhat awkward from some angles.

Since the CX-70 is essentially a three-row CX-90 with only five seats, the interior is cavernous. Open the power hatch, flip down the rear bench, and you could seemingly park a sports car back there. You can't, but five do indulge in sued Nappa leather seats – heated and ventilated up front, heated in back. A power steering column with heated bi-color leather wheel seduces drivers.

Sitting behind the wheel, there's a lot of Mazda3 in the simple dashboard with dual-zone automatic climate controls tucked beneath. Of course, this dashboard is sued. Flatscreen gauges and head-up display complement the 12.3-inch screen embedded in the dashtop. I wish Mazda would dispense with its decrepit joywheel controller



Casey Williams Columnist

and confusing menus, but key functions can be accessed via touch. Phones connect through wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Toss them in the console to charge wirelessly too. Listening to the 12-speaker Bose audio system under the twin-panel sunroof, you might not care.

It would take pages to fully describe all of the CX-70's crash avoidance technology, however automatic emergency braking, rear cross path detection with auto brake, driver attention monitor and safe exit warning are my favorites.

Mazda definitely took its own path with the CX-70's powertrain. Under the hood is a 3.3-liter turbo-charged inline-six engine mated to an 8-speed automatic transmission. Inline six engines are inherently balanced and refined – and efficient, delivering 23/28-MPG city/highway. You won't want for power either as the engine conjures 340 horsepower and 369 lb.-ft. of torque, enough to tow 5,000 lbs. of camper or speedboat. All-wheel-drive handles the slick stuff.

There's plenty of power, but the turbo, transmission turning and throttle response make it difficult to modulate in city traffic. It always wants to gallop. While the Mazda3 has an incredibly refined suspension, the CX-70 feels a little clunky over broken pavement. Every city bump seemed to reverberate, but then I found the freeway where the big wagon

settled and handled like a much smaller vehicle, harnessing the engine's power to leap forward through traffic.

For the CX-70, not all roads are created equally, but its style and luxuries are worthy of all. I think I'd go for the three-row CX-90 if my money was involved, but the lighter vehicle with huge cargo area does impress. I'd like the turbo and throttle to become better friends, but power and performance are delights. So, how much does it cost? Base models start at a very fair \$42,750, but climb to our Premium Plus's more luxurious \$59,825. Also consider the Subaru Ascent, Kia Telluride, Honda Passport, Toyota Highlander and Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Storm Forward!
Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @Auto-Casey.

- Likes
- Elegant style
 - Luxury interior
 - On-highway performance
- Dislikes
- Low-speed throttle
 - Harsh suspension
 - Five seats?

2026 Mazda CX-70 Premium Plus
Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: 3.3-liter T16, 8-spd
Output: 340hp/369 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 21"/21" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Towing: 5,000 lbs.
Fuel economy: 23/28 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Hofu, Japan
Base/As-tested price: \$42,750/59,825

“On the Shoreline”

I spent last week with my parents, which is always fun.

My father has been having trouble with his legs, and tasks that involve getting up from the ground are hard for him, particularly if the ground is steep or slippery—and that is a pretty accurate description of the shoreline where the dock lives over the winter.

But we both thought the dock should get in the water, and I told my dad I'd help, so we made our way down to the shoreline to tackle the project.

We had a few things working against us.

The ground, as I mentioned, is very steep, and it was slick with last year's leaves. The dock had wheels at the end and was tacked on to a frame on the hill. It had to be loosened from the frame so it could slide down into the water. This is a task that used to take my dad no time at all, but instead of doing it himself, he had to instruct his daughter on how to do it, and his daughter has no demonstrable engineering skills.

And that wasn't the full extent of the problem, because my dad's eyesight is not good, so he couldn't really see what I was up to. He had to describe what I should be doing without being able to see if I was doing it.

Then the last screw holding the dock in place got stuck. I am sure that screw was stuck due to



Carrie Classon The Postscript

operator error (I use a screwdriver approximately once every five years) but whatever the cause, the screw was jammed and the whole thing was hung up. We surveyed the situation.

“I don't think it's coming loose,” my dad concluded.

“What if we hit it with a hammer?” I suggested. Hitting things with hammers was something I felt qualified to try.

“No...” My dad was thinking. “Can you just push it?”

My dad suspected there wasn't much holding the dock in place and, once it was free, it would merrily roll down the hill on its own accord.

“I don't know if I can push it. But I can kick it.” And so I did. I sat on my butt in the slippery leaves, and I kicked the dock. The little chunk of two-by-six with the one remaining screw holding it in place split into two, and the dock came loose with a mighty “whoosh!” and rolled down the hill.

Fortunately, both my dad and I were out of the way.

“I don't know where that block went,” I told my dad.

“Forget about it,” he said.

We got the dock into the water. It was a little cattywampus, but it was more or less ready for another season.

“I might need to get a kid to help me with some things this fall,” my dad said, as if this was a major concession at 92. He thanked me for helping him and apologized for needing the help.

“Dad, we all do as much as we can, for as long as we're able.”

“I guess that's so.” That night, I saw a boat trolling along the shoreline as the sun set.

“Hey, Dad, there's a guy fishing right off the end of the dock.”

“I hope he knows the rules,” my dad said.

“The rules?” “He's gotta leave half of whatever he catches at the end of the dock for me.”

“We'll have to put up a sign on the shoreline so he knows the rules,” I told my dad.

“We'll have to do that,” my dad said.

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

Carmel Cutting Ribbon Just Before CarmelFest



The City of Carmel and Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation invite the community to celebrate the opening of the Monon Boulevard Phase 3 expansion. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held on Friday, July 3, from 11:30 a.m. to noon at the new music-themed Monon Boulevard playground, just before the start of CarmelFest.

The Monon Boulevard Phase 3 expansion extends the boulevard two blocks south of the existing corridor, creating a new connection between Walnut Street and City Center Drive. The \$14 million project, funded by the City, transforms a multi-use trail through a former rail corridor into a vibrant public space featuring a 12-foot-wide paved trail, open green space, and a landscaped row of screening trees, similar to the Midtown Greenway.

Serving as the centerpiece of the expansion is a \$2 million, music-themed playground located near the Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts and adjacent to the future Great American Songbook Museum. Designed

to inspire creativity and play, the destination playground reflects Carmel's commitment to arts, culture and family-friendly recreation.

Additional Phase 3 improvements include widened pathways and sidewalks, new roadways, upgraded stormwater infrastructure and community gathering spaces.

“Monon Boulevard continues to evolve as one of Carmel's signature community spaces,” said Michael Klitzing, Director of Parks and

Recreation/CEO. “Phase 3 builds on that vision by creating new opportunities for recreation, connection and community.”

Following the ribbon-cutting featuring Mayor Sue Finkam, guests are encouraged to continue the celebration at CarmelFest, Carmel's annual Independence Day festival, with live entertainment, family activities, food vendors, fireworks and a patriotic parade.

This event is free and open to the public.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Legal Notice

Board of zoning appeals

The Cicero/Jackson Township Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on June 18th, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Cicero Town Hall located at 70 N Byron Street, Cicero, Indiana 46034, in order to hear the following petitions:

Docket No. BZA-0626-18-NC

A Development Standards Variance application has been submitted seeking relief from Article 10.5 Sign Standards of the Cicero/Jackson Township Zoning Ordinance, regarding the property located at 770 S Peru Street, Cicero IN 46034 in order to: allow a monument sign to be five (5) feet from the property line. Whereas Article 10.5 Sign Standards states that a monument sign shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet from the property line in the Neighborhood Commercial District “NC”.

Docket No. BZA-0626-19-NC

A Development Standards Variance application has been submitted seeking relief from Article 4.2 Neighborhood Commercial District Standards of the Cicero/Jackson Township Zoning Ordinance regarding the property located at 770 S Peru Street, Cicero IN 46034 in order to: allow the lot coverage to exceed 60%, whereas Article 4.2 states that the lot coverage shall not exceed 60% in the Neighborhood Commercial District “NC”.

Project Address: 770 S Peru Street, Cicero, IN 46034
Legal Description: Acreage .25 Section 19, Township 4, Range 4
Parcel number: 05-06-01-02-08-012-000

The petition may be examined at the office of the Cicero/Jackson Township Plan Commission, 331 E. Jackson St., Cicero, IN 46034.

Interested parties may offer an oral opinion at the Hearing. Comments or letters may be mailed to Cicero/Jackson Township Plan Commission at PO Box 650, Cicero IN, 46034. Comments may also be emailed to publiccomments@townofcicero.in.gov.

Comments must be received by 10:00am on the Monday prior to a scheduled meeting day.
The Hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

Petitioner's Name: Antica Italia/Wendee Gilbert Reed/Troy Reed – Scott Schuler
Date: 5/21/2026
TL23320 06/08 1t hspaxlp

THANK YOU FOR READING THE TIMES!

Rockville Has Connection to Republic of Texas

Howard County Named After Short-Lived Ambassador



Andy Chandler
Columnist

While most people associate Rockville with the Covered Bridge Festival, it's also a town that has a unique relationship with the Republic of Texas. About a quarter mile from the courthouse is the old city cemetery, established in 1824. Left of the flagpole, and a few yards down the path are three prominent markers. One of them is in honor of Tilghman Howard, Ambassador (Charge D'Affairs) from the United States to The Republic of Texas.

When we think of an ambassador, we think of someone who goes on a mission from the president of the United States to lands far off and to embassies with high walls staffed by Marines. While that modern image befits the modern age, one must remember, any country that the United States has a diplomatic relationship with has an ambassador. Texas was its own country for a time.

Tilghman Howard was born on Nov. 14, 1797, in Easley, S.C. He moved to Knoxville, Tenn. in 1816 and was admitted to the bar in 1818. After years of

practicing law, he moved to Bloomington, Ind., in 1830 and eventually to Rockville in 1833.

Being a Jacksonian Democrat, he was appointed by President Jackson to serve as Attorney for the State of Indiana (1833-1839). He served a year as Congressman from Indiana's 7th district until his resignation to run for governor in 1840.

He ran as the Democrat candidate for governor of Indiana and lost to Whig candidate Samuel Bigger.

In June of 1844, while on a trip to Washington DC, he met with President John Tyler. Tyler appointed Howard charge d'affairs to Texas. By his own account, the appointment was because of his friendship with Texas President Sam Houston dating back to their time in Tennessee. However, it's my opinion that Tyler wanted a Democrat to smooth the turbulence between him and Secretary of State, John C. Calhoun, while the 1844 annexation was being negotiated. The prior secretary of state, Tyler's go-to man, Abel Upshur was blown up in the Princeton Explosion and



Tyler and Calhoun were not working out. It's important to note that a charge d'affairs is an ambassador that has limited

powers to only administer an embassy and not to promote policy in a host country.

Howard was off to Texas. On July 4th hundreds from the Town of Rockville showed up to his farewell, and many accompanied him to Montezuma where he departed down the Wabash River. He arrived at Washington-on-the-Brazos on Aug. 2, 1844, and presented his credentials to secretary of state and future

Texas Republic President Anson Jones. Having already contracted yellow fever in Galveston en route to Washington-on-the-Brazos, he died on Aug. 16, having only served two weeks.

Eventually, Howard's body was returned to the United States and is buried in the family plot at Rockville Cemetery.

Howard County, Indiana is named after him.

This brings me to the two spots I explored to learn more about him. He's buried in Rockville Cemetery, which is about half a mile down the road from my house.

In March, while on a road trip to Texas, I visited Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park and talked to the residential historian. We surmised that more than likely, Howard stayed at the Washington Hotel for his fortnight there and most likely passed away in the hotel. Being that it's next to the office of the secretary of state, probability says, he died at the Washington Hotel.

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.

The Victim Mentality

EDITOR'S NOTE: This opinion piece is from the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, a nonprofit education foundation focused on state and municipal issues. IPRF is free of outside control by any individual, organization or group. It exists solely to conduct and distribute research on Indiana issues. Opinions expressed in signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the editors, the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, or its board of directors. Nothing in this journal, whether in print or pixels, is an attempt to aid or hinder the passage of any bill or influence the election of any candidate.

Parents who set boundaries, teachers who allow consequences, leaders who demand competence and churches that preach endurance all reinforce agency rather than fragility.

In every era, people face hardship. What changes is how societies respond. Ancient cultures — especially Greece, Rome and early Christianity — emphasized agency, resilience and personal responsibility. Today, many of our institutions promote the opposite: a victim mentality that externalizes blame, demands validation and weakens character. History suggests that tough love — accountability, endurance and honest feedback — builds stronger individuals and societies than coddling ever could.

Ancient Greece and Rome were built on the expectation that individuals would master themselves and meet hardship without complaint. Greek literature offers clear examples. In

Homer's Odyssey, Odysseus faces betrayal, shipwreck and divine hostility, yet he responds with cunning and perseverance rather than self-pity. Aristotle taught that human flourishing (eudaimonia) comes not from comfort or favorable circumstances, but from cultivating virtue through disciplined action.

Stoicism turned these ideas into a practical ethic. Its central insight—the dichotomy of control — held that peace and strength come from focusing on one's own judgments and actions while accepting external events without resentment. Epictetus, born a slave, insisted that circumstances do not define us; our responses do. Marcus Aurelius echoed this as emperor: real power lies over one's mind, not outside events. Seneca viewed hardship as training, not injustice. Roman history itself provided living models. Cincinnatus left his farm to save the Republic, then immediately returned to the plow — embodying duty over personal grievance. Regulus kept his word to Carthage even at the cost of torture, showing that honor and responsibility transcend suffering.

Early Christianity deepened rather than rejected this framework.

Scripture consistently frames suffering as formative. Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers, rose through betrayal and imprisonment by refusing self-pity and choosing faithfulness instead. Paul, beaten and imprisoned repeatedly, rejected self-pity and emphasized personal responsibility. Jesus endured the cross without resentment, praying forgiveness for His killers. The Christian message does not deny injustice, but it rejects wallowing. Believers are called to accountability, forgiveness and endurance, trusting that trials produce character.

Together, these traditions built durable cultures by elevating responsibility over resentment.

Modern Western culture has largely inverted these values. Younger generations increasingly interpret hardship through the language of grievance. Schools emphasize emotional safety over resilience. Families shield children from failure. Governments expand entitlements framed around identity and historical harm. Even churches often replace calls to repentance and endurance with therapeutic affirmation.

Social media accelerates this shift by rewarding public grievance with attention, status and institutional response. Victimhood becomes not just a way of interpreting life, but a source of moral authority.

A powerful driver of this mindset is Marxist thought. Karl Marx framed history primarily as a struggle between

oppressors and oppressed. Later thinkers expanded this framework beyond class to race, gender, sexuality and other identities. Where ancient and Christian traditions saw hardship as a challenge to overcome, Marxist-influenced frameworks treat it as permanent proof of victim status requiring institutional rescue.

The result is competitive victimhood. Social capital flows to those who can most persuasively claim oppression. Responsibility shifts away from individual agency toward governments, corporations and schools. Instead of cultivating resilience, this system incentivizes dependency.

A victim mentality does not heal individuals or societies; it erodes them. It is associated with poorer mental health, lower achievement, reduced forgiveness, and deepening social division. When institutions reward grievance with benefits, apologies, or exemptions, claims of victimhood multiply. Dependency grows, while initiative declines.

Societal cohesion also suffers. Dividing people into permanent categories of "oppressors" and "victims" breeds resentment on all sides and undermines the shared responsibility necessary for a functioning democracy.

This logic appears clearly in debates over reparations for historic injustices such as slavery. While slavery was a moral atrocity, demanding financial compensation or privi-

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leges generations later based solely on ancestry reframes history as a permanent victim claim. This approach ultimately weakens the very groups it claims to help by discouraging the agency and resilience that ancient wisdom and Christian teaching promoted.

The same mentality damages families. Rising numbers of young adults now sever relationships with parents or siblings over perceived grievances or emotional harm. Instead of working through conflict with forgiveness, accountability and endurance, victimhood culture promotes permanent rupture. Families—the most basic source of resilience—fracture, leaving individuals more isolated and dependent on external validation or government programs.

Tough love works because it aligns with what historically produced strength: clear standards, manageable hardship and the expectation of growth. Parents who set boundaries, teachers who allow consequences, leaders who demand competence and churches that preach endurance all reinforce agency rather than fragility.

None of this denies real injustice. Some suffering is not deserved and compassion mat-

ters. But when life is primarily framed through a lens of victimhood, individuals are robbed of their power. Resilience is replaced with resentment, and growth with grievance.

The choice before us is both personal and cultural. Individually, we must reject the temptation to become victims and reclaim what is ours to control: our actions, responses and character. We must endure what we cannot change and grow stronger through it.

Culturally, we must abandon policies, education systems and habits that reward grievance and instead champion responsibility, resilience and tough love. Only by recovering the ancient wisdom of agency and the Christian call to endurance can we rebuild strong families, a confident nation and a people capable of meeting real challenges.

The age of fragility is not inevitable. It is a choice — and it can be reversed.

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Down Under

My home office is downstairs. It was just a cellar when we moved into this house in 2018, but we invested a little money to fix it up, so it became a basement. I guess you could call it a finished basement. Well, it will be finished, if we ever finish paying the mortgage.

Apparently, it wasn't finished enough. A designer we hired said that for a few extra bucks, she could add a few finishing touches, and then we could truthfully call it our lower level. We didn't have that kind of money, so it's still a basement.

Our original plan was to make it a beautiful room for entertaining guests, sipping white wine, and discussing good books. That hasn't happened. I occasionally invite people downstairs to see my huge Laurel and Hardy statues, and my wife once let the neighborhood yoga group practice Balasana, Uttanasana, and Savasana. (By the way, that last one is called a corpse pose, and it scared me half to death when I peeked in on the class. Did I leave the gas on?)

In my office, I have lots of my TV memorabilia on the wall. I'm in every single photo. Then there are photos in the rest of the cellar that Mary Ellen took on our vacations, and



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later had them blown up and framed. I am not in one of these pictures. Fair is fair.

This all reminded me of the last basement in our previous home.

We had a pool table that I bought in 1998. We seldom played pool. We used the cue sticks to wrangle cobwebs from the ceiling. I stored a dozen suitcases under the base, and the top of the table became a perfect nesting area for a year's supply of Campbell's Soup. Each side pocket held a flashlight. Corner pockets? Duct tape, Scotch tape, masking tape, and electrical tape. And my wife said we'd never use the pool table. Jeez, what a pessimist.

We finally decided to get rid of the exercise bike because we couldn't hang enough clothes on the handlebars to make it worthwhile.

Two years ago, Mary Ellen thought we should get a ping-pong table. That Christmas Eve, I told her I had a

surprise for her in the basement...

"Oh, that's great," she said. "Did you get rid of the Laurel and Hardy statues?"

We played ping pong once. We took a break when the score was 9 to 6. We hope to finish the game before race day. Right now, it is the perfect place for 16 cans of Bush's Baked Beans.

Let me sum up the current state of our lower level. We have an exercise bike that needs a little exercise, a rowing machine that has been left adrift, and a ping-pong table that is seldom pinged or ponged.

We do have a treadmill that Mary Ellen uses quite often, mostly to catch up on *Outlander* and *Call the Midwife* episodes on her iPad while walking. I also use it religiously, which means only on Sundays for 10 minutes after church.

I told Mary Ellen it was about time we finished the table tennis game that we started.

But first, I have a whole lot of baked beans to eat.



Photo courtesy Center for the Performing Arts

A local resident performs at the Payne & Mencias Palladium during April's World Voice Day celebration.

Karaoke Night June 18 at Palladium

Inspired by the success of its annual all-ages World Voice Day celebration, Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts is offering a new opportunity for local residents 21 and older to share their talents on its grandest stage.

Adults of all abilities are invited to join in the inaugural Karaoke Night, set for 8-10 p.m. Thursday, June 18, at the Payne & Mencias Palladium, 1 Carter Green. Tickets are pay-what-you-can with a \$10 minimum, on sale now at TheCenterPresents.org or (317) 843-3800. All proceeds benefit Allied Solutions Center's arts and educational programming.

The event is a chance to walk literally in the footsteps of Tony Bennett, Dionne Warwick, Sting, Sheryl Crow, Wynton Marsalis, Glen Campbell,

Steve Martin, Rita Moreno and countless other legendary artists who have performed on the Payne & Mencias Palladium stage.

Registration to sing starts at 8 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis, with karaoke beginning at 8:30 p.m. Snacks and a full bar will be available onstage for purchase until 10 p.m. Locally based AMS Entertain-

ment is providing the DJ services.

Creating performance opportunities for the public has been a tradition for over a decade at Allied Solutions Center, which hosts a free event each April in observance of World Voice Day, an international celebration of the human voice. The 2027 World Voice Day celebration is scheduled April 16.

White River Wind Symphony to Celebrate America's 250th

The White River Wind Symphony will present its 10th annual Sounds of America concert on Sunday, June 28, at 4 p.m. at Legacy Bible Church in Fishers. This year's special theme, in celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America, will be a musical history of our nation through song and narration. This is a quality performance with prices at \$20 for adults and children under 18 are free!

Featured soloists will be Julie Lyn Barber performing the "Sandy

Patti" version of the Star Spangled Banner and a trumpet trio—Keith Whitford, Rich Jeffries, Darlies Jones—performing the premiere of a new arrangement of God of Our Fathers by conductor Dr. Keith Kunda, written specifically for this concert. Also included in the concert will be the White River Symphony Chorale performing a 12-minute mini-musical entitled What Price Freedom? accompanied by the wind symphony, which is the professional concert band in Fishers.

This special event

will also include two narrators, plus Dr. Mike Linville reading from important documents from our nation's history. Dr. Kunda, conductor, said, "This concert will be the culmination of three years of planning of content and personnel. Everyone will leave with a new appreciation for the gift we have been given to live in the United States of America."

Tickets are available at FishersMusicWorks.org or at the office of Legacy Bible Church, 13490 Howe Road, Fishers on weekdays.

Kroger Offering Free Ice Cream

The Kroger Co. is restoring iconic tastes of summer to the frozen aisle with Kroger Brand's flavor-packed, limited-time All-American Ice Cream Collection. Now on shelves, the crave-worthy collection delivers the unmistakable tastes and traditions that define summer across the country — one creamy spoonful at a time. To celebrate, Kroger is bringing back its long-awaited free summer solstice pint offer on Friday, June 19 for the sweetest deal of the season.

"Summer is all about bringing people together to create memories that last a lifetime, and we're excited to capture that fun and nostalgia through our new All-American Ice Cream Collection," said Ann Reed, Group Vice

President of Our Brands at Kroger. "We've loved seeing customers come back year after year for their free pints and now, we're going bigger than ever by giving away 100,000 pints."

From making a road trip diner stop for cherry pie to sharing a banana split after a day in the sun, each flavor is inspired by the traditions and tastes that define an American summer:

Seventh Inning Swirl: Caramel popcorn flavored ice cream with praline peanuts and caramel swirls.

Sweet As Cherry Pie: Cherry pie flavored ice cream with tart cherry swirls and pie pieces.

Banana Split Social: Strawberry banana ice cream with pineapple chunks and chocolate swirls.

The All-American Ice

Cream Collection flavors are timeless, but the pints are limited, so be sure to stock up while supplies last.

Ahead of summer solstice on June 21, customers can grab a free pint to enjoy on the longest day of the year by visiting FreeKrogerIceCream.com to download their limited-time, single-use digital coupon, available exclusively on Friday, June 19, starting at noon, while supplies last. Customers can redeem the coupon to try one of the new All-American flavors or a classic Kroger Brand ice cream pint, such as Kroger® Cookies 'N Cream Ice Cream or Kroger® Rocky Road Ice Cream. The coupon is redeemable at many Kroger Family of Stores locations from Friday, June 19 through Friday, July 3.

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