

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 68:4-5

“Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds—his name is the Lord—and rejoice before him. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.”



Carmel's very own Steve Inskip celebrated a birthday yesterday. The CHS grad can still be heard most mornings in NPR's Morning Edition. Happy Belated, Steve!

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

The Noblesville Times is making some significant changes. The Monday and Friday publications are going to be merged into the Wednesday editions for now. The Times will continue to publish through the month of June on Wednesdays.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

“You will forever be my always.”

Swapna Rajput

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What did one flip-flop say to the other?
You're sole-mate material.

■ ADOPT A PET CELINE DION



Our Celine Dion may not be the Queen of Power Ballads herself, but we will admit that she does have a particularly melodious purr. This 15-year-old female Domestic Longhair has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 4/24/26. While she can be selective about her roommates, Celine has lived with other cats in the past and has proven herself to be a loyal, loving feline companion. To meet Celine Dion, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt to schedule a meet and greet.



The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Kroger Celebrates Grand Opening of New Marketplace Store in Noblesville

Kroger is growing again, opening another multimillion-dollar investment in central Indiana. The grocer's newest Kroger Marketplace is now open in Noblesville after its Friday morning ribbon-cutting celebration. The highly anticipated new store showcases the best of modern store design while preserving the traditions that make Kroger the preferred grocer of so many Hoosier families.

Mike Goodwin, President of Kroger Central Division, said, “This store shows our attention to the evolving needs of our growing communities and local customers. We work hard every day to offer the best stores and best possible shopping experience. Two essential principals will drive everything we do here – and at every Kroger store. We will provide the quality you trust and the value you love.”

For Kroger, this store is distinctive because it is not replacing an older



Photo courtesy Kroger

Kroger's investment of \$40 million resulted in a new Noblesville store and 300 jobs.

building. It is brand new, marking Kroger's recognition of the vibrance in Noblesville and Hamilton County. At approximately 120,000 square feet, the new store features a bright

and colorful interior with an array of products that will be instantly popular with neighbors -- a Murray's

See Kroger Page 8

Branna Coming Back Home to Hoover

Kevin Costner got me thinking. What if we had our own field of dreams? Our Hoover clan still has a few acres to its name and my dream is to move back home. I'm not talking about baseball...we're building a house!

I remember the pure joy it gave my mom and dad in 1965 to watch the brick-and-mortar unfold on that 2 acres east of Morse Reservoir. Every week, our wee family of three would visit to see the progress made and walk through what would someday be our forever home. Who knew that 60 some years later I, too, would get to realize that same dream. The only thing that could make this sweeter is if mom and dad were still here to see it happening again. Now that would be a dream come true.

Let me just put this out

there... I am in no way a picky person. I'm a meat-and-potatoes, home-grown kind of gal. I don't need the white picket fence, but the farmhouse look is where I'm leaning. The Hoover homestead my grandparents built no longer stands at the corner of Hague Road and 196th Street, so my hope is to recreate a little retirement home in its scaled-down image. I'm aiming for essential, not exemplary. Stairs are no longer an option. Rather, a one-story reposeful ranch is right up my alley.

Ah, but building can be foreboding! Why not move into a ready made residence to tweak to our own taste? We've been floundering with floor plans and delving into a deluge of details between boundless builders. Are we considering careful-



Branna Shores
Can You Relate?

ly-crafted crown molding? Nope. Three-car garage, you say? Two will do. And finding the finest fixtures and trendiest tiles? We'll pass. Insisting on energy efficiency and wondrous windows - check! Cutting costs without cutting corners - you bet. Seeking the solace of a sunny Florida room and having my own island (in my cozy kitchen, that is) - a definite maybe! Truly though, it's all about the ambience and the acreage that called to my ancestors. Best bonus - we'll have two other family homesteads bordering us.

See Branna Page 6

Summer Days and Nights in the '60s



Paula Dunn
From Time to Thyme

As I was walking on one of Noblesville's old brick sidewalks the other day, it hit me that they were the very same bricks I used to walk on to go to school eons ago.

Yikes. Before I knew it, I was in the throes of a full-fledged attack of nostalgia, mentally drifting back to the 1960s and all the fun I used to have during the summers of my grade school years.

I played outside after dark a lot – whenever the mosquito fogger didn't come down the alley and cut my evening short.

Usually, I hung out with the Collins kids who lived next door. Sometimes we'd catch lightning bugs; sometimes we'd play games with some of the other neighborhood kids, like Hide-and-Go-Seek or its cousin, Kick the Can.

Whatever we did, it was always a good time because we never would have done it during the school year.

My daytime hours were primarily occupied by bicycle rides, and visits to the Noblesville Public Library and the Forest Park pool. It bums me out that the library and the pool are both history now.

(Yes, I know Noblesville still has A public library and there's still A swimming pool at Forest Park – one that's a whole lot fancier than what we had in the 1960s, in fact –

See Paula Page 2

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. The U.S. Postal Service will observe Juneteenth on Friday, June 19. All Post Office locations will be closed. Regular mail delivery and retail services will resume on Saturday, June 20. Customers are reminded that when Post Offices are closed, they can still access many postal products and services through usps.com and self-service kiosks available in select lobbies nationwide. Many self-service kiosks are available 24/7, offering customers flexibility and convenience even when Post Offices are closed. For more information on USPS services, visit www.usps.com.

2. Right to Life of Indianapolis has named Chris Eckhart as interim president of the organization, effective immediately. The board of directors made the decision to put Eckhart into the interim position following the sudden passing of President Marc Tuttle on June 2. Tuttle led Right to Life of Indianapolis for 18 years. “It has been providential to have Chris on our board as an active and engaged member who is willing to take on this vital role,” said Tom Hirschauer, board chair of Right to Life of Indianapolis. “The last thing Marc Tuttle would want is for his passing to hinder the work he so courageously led. Our organization will go on, and it will go on in his memory.” Eckhart, a current board member, has agreed to serve as the interim president for an initial 90-day period. The immediate focus is ensuring continuity of leadership and support for the mission of Right to Life of Indianapolis during this period of transition. The board does plan to conduct a formal search for a permanent president.

3. Seventeen individuals will compete for seven Indiana FFA state officer spots during the 97th Indiana FFA State Convention. The individuals elected will fill roles as president, secretary, northern region vice president, southern region vice president, treasurer, reporter and sentinel. As part of officer duties, those elected will oversee the development of chapters and provide direction during events and contests. They will also visit FFA chapters, host career and leadership development events and execute leadership conferences. The 2026–2027 Indiana FFA State Officer Candidates are as follows: Baron Riley, Crothersville FFA, Claire Linette, Jasper FFA, Dallas Quick, Boonville FFA, Duncan Baitz, McCutcheon FFA, Elizar Aldaz, Tri-County FFA, Ethan Sheets, Clinton Central FFA, Garrett Schwering, North Decatur FFA, Hayden Stookey, Tippecanoe Valley FFA, Jaylynn Goodwin, Southridge FFA, Jeanna Crawford, Franklin County FFA, Jentri Wallace, Rushville FFA, Jessie Frazee, Fountain Central FFA, Kaitlyn Kalbaugh, William Henry Harrison FFA, Katie McClain, Carroll (Flora) FFA, Khloe Hinojosa, Warsaw FFA, Olivia Shidler, Clay City FFA and Stone Stauch, South Putnam FFA.

The TIMES

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Proposals Sought for Arts Commission Project

Indiana-based artists are invited to submit proposals for New Works, an annual commission program now in its sixth season at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts.

New Works is an initiative to promote and sustain local artists and arts communities by supporting the creation of new works in various disciplines. A panel of judges will select one winner in the visual arts and three winners in the performing arts, which can include music, dance, theater and other fields. The winning proposals will receive \$2,500 each to create and premiere the works during a livestreamed public event June 5 at Allied Solutions Center's Tarkington theater. The winning visual arts piece, which can be two- or three-dimensional, will be displayed for one year in the main lobby of the Payne & Mencias Palladium concert hall.

The theme of any proposed work must align with one or more of Allied Solutions Center's organizational Core Values: excellence, innovation,

integrity, collaboration and inclusion. The work cannot have been created prior to September 2026 and must not be performed publicly prior to the June 2027 premiere. Artists of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. There is no application fee.

The submission deadline is 11:59 p.m. Sept. 4. Further details and application instructions are available at TheCenterPresents.org/NewWorks. Questions can be emailed to NewWorks@TheCenterPresents.org. Awards will be announced in February.

The 2025-2026 New Works commissions were awarded to musician-composer Mina Keohane, musician-composer Brandon Meeks, dancer-choreographer Saki Morimoto, choreographer Justin David Sears and painter Kyle Ragsdale. Video of the May 30 premiere event at the Tarkington is viewable on the Center's YouTube channel.

New Works is supported by the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation.

Westfield Honoring Underground Railroad in Art

The City of Westfield, in partnership with GANGGANG, has selected Indiana-based multidisciplinary artist Aaron S. Coleman to create a transformational public art installation that honors the city's historical ties to the Underground Railroad and the Quaker families who helped guide enslaved individuals on their path to freedom. 900 North Studios is the fabrication partner that will bring Aaron's vision to life.

The commissioned artwork, titled *Hold the Stars*, will be installed at The Grand on Main development located at the southeast corner of State Road 32 and Poplar Boulevard. The piece was selected through a competitive RFPQ process that prioritized historical resonance, artistic excellence, and community connection. The project represents a significant investment in public art, storytelling, and placemaking in Westfield.

Hold the Stars will serve as both a visual landmark and an immersive gathering space. The sculpture is designed as two monumental, cupped hands emerging from the ground, creating a partially enclosed environment where residents and visitors can sit, reflect, gather, and engage directly with the installation. Integrated seating and tactile surfaces encourage exploration and contemplation while creating a welcoming communal experience.

Inspired by Westfield's role in the Underground Railroad, the artwork incorporates references to the Big Dipper constellation, historically used by freedom seekers to locate the North Star while traveling north



Photo courtesy City of Westfield

Indiana-based multidisciplinary artist Aaron S. Coleman will create a transformational public art installation in Westfield.

toward liberation. Through symbolism, craftsmanship, and scale, Coleman's design reflects themes of resilience, protection, care, and guidance — connecting the city's past to its present and future.

Crafted from native white oak using traditional steam-bending techniques commonly associated with shipbuilding, the installation further ties together historical narratives and regional craftsmanship traditions. The work will also include an ADA-accessible circular base featuring an illuminated stainless steel star map highlighting the seven stars of the Big Dipper.

Coleman, born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Indianapolis, is nationally recognized for work spanning printmaking, sculpture, and installation. Influenced by hip hop, street art, and historical inquiry, his practice recontextualizes imagery and objects to explore historical memory, systemic power, and the contemporary Black experience in America. Coleman earned degrees from

the Herron School of Art and Design and Northern Illinois University and currently serves as the Kenneth E. Tyler Endowed Chair in Printmaking at IU Indianapolis. Coleman has also been a featured artist at BUTTER, GANGGANG'S an all-black fine art fair that gives 100% of the proceeds back to the artist.

"Public art has the power to tell the stories that define a community, and this installation does exactly that," stated Westfield Mayor Scott Willis. "Hold the Stars will create a meaningful place for residents and visitors to gather, reflect, and connect with an important part of our history."

The selection process included extensive consideration of how the artwork could thoughtfully honor Westfield's unique historical identity while creating an engaging civic experience for generations to come. Community input and historical context played a central role throughout the process, ensuring the final installation reflects both local heritage and contemporary artistic

vision.

"Hold the Stars is a beautiful opportunity for truth and history to come alive in masterful artistic expression. We could not be prouder of BUTTER Alum Aaron Coleman and his vision for this story. This site will become a cultural destination for public art seekers, tourists, and learners of all ages," said Mali Simone Bacon and Alan Bacon in a joint statement. "Projects like this are critical for preservation, community memory, and insight into the future. The arts, history and culture are inextricable. We are proud to partner with the City of Westfield to uphold long-standing values of togetherness, sustainability and progress and appreciate their investment in the arts."

Once installed, *Hold the Stars* is expected to become a defining cultural landmark for Westfield and a destination for residents and visitors alike — inviting reflection, education, and connection through public art.

Installation is anticipated in Summer 2027.

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PAULA

Continued from Page 1

but it's not quite the same.)

MY library was the old Carnegie library on the southeast corner of Tenth and Conner, where Noblesville's City Hall stands today.

Mom always parked the car on the south side of the building in the paved area the library shared with the Evans, Godby and Trout funeral home, then we'd enter the library through the basement door that led to the children's department.

I never even saw the adult area upstairs until I became old enough to check those books out, but I didn't mind. Although the basement was kind of dark and dingy, there was something comforting about it — and it had all those neat books!

Helen Couch was the Children's Librarian then. She did a great story time and I'm sure she was a nice lady, but she intimidated the heck out of me. I was always afraid she was going to kick me out for talking too loudly. (Back then, we were told to whisper in the library. Whatever happened to that?)

There was a Summer Reading Program, but we never got neat prizes like they hand out today. We put stickers on a page to represent the books we read and when the page was completed, it was displayed in the library. I think I got a certificate one year. Maybe a bookmark. That was it.

I have even stronger memories of MY swimming pool, a kid-

ney-shaped affair built at the north end of Forest Park in 1931. I didn't learn until years later that the Hamilton Chemical Company had previously occupied that site, or that the pool's bathhouse had originally contained the company's laboratory, where they concocted an anti-hog cholera serum.

Between Red Cross swimming lessons, private swimming lessons and afternoons just goofing off in the water, it's a wonder I didn't turn into a permanent prune. (All those lessons were because we spent two weeks on a Minnesota lake every year. Mom wanted to make darn sure I was a good swimmer.)

When I think of the old pool, I think of picking my way

around a mass of bodies on beach towels as I inhaled the combined scents of Coppertone Suntan Lotion, freshly popped popcorn and chlorine.

Music from the concession building was always playing in the background — tunes like "They're Coming to Take Me Away, Ha-Haaa" and Nancy Sinatra's "These Boots are Made For Walkin'." (Songs from 1966 apparently left an indelible impression on my brain.)

Then there's my one and only jump off the high dive.

But, maybe that's better forgotten.

Paula Dunn's From Time to Thyme column appears on Wednesdays in The Times. Contact her at younggardenerfriend@gmail.com

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All Day, Everyday!
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Heights Superintendent Shares Update

As we close another remarkable school year, I am filled with deep gratitude for the dedication, partnership, and unwavering support that define our Hamilton Heights community. This year has been marked by meaningful growth, memorable achievements, and countless moments that reflect the heart of who we are as a district—committed to nurturing, challenging, and celebrating every student.

A cherished tradition that marks the close of each school year is our annual End of Year Employee Recognition Breakfast. For three decades, this gathering has brought together past and present staff to honor service milestones, celebrate exceptional contributions, and pay tribute to those retiring after years of devoted service.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our 2026 retirees for their collective service to the district. Each has played a vital and valuable role in shaping the lives of countless students and families. Their dedication, compassion, and daily commitment to student success have left a lasting impact on our schools. We wish each of them the very best as they begin this next chapter.

HHHS: Laura Towle, English/French Teacher (38 Years of Service); Rob Towle, Spanish/Math Teacher (38 Years of Service); Wendi Russell, English Teacher (23 Years of Service); and Kevin Sheets, Construction Trades Teacher (4 Years of Service)

HHMS: Kelly Stroup, 5th Grade Teacher (38 Years of Service) and Kellie Combs, 6th Grade Teacher (7 Years of



Dr. Derek Arrowood
Superintendent
Hamilton Heights
School Corp.

Service)

Food Service: Cynthia Mead, Café Worker (8 Years of Service)

Transportation: Charlotte Wilson, Bus Driver (13 Years of Service)

Sarah Julian was named the 2026 District Teacher of the Year and will represent Hamilton Heights at the Indiana Teacher of the Year competition in Indianapolis this fall. Charlotte Horning has been nominated for the IDOE 2026 School Food Service Employee of the Year, a testament to her dedication and the care she brings to students each day. Congratulations!

The Lights Over Morse Lake Scholarship Pageant is now recruiting contestants for its 2026 program, and we are pleased to help share this opportunity with eligible young women in the Hamilton Heights, Sheridan, Noblesville, or Westfield communities. The Miss Lights Over Morse Lake Scholarship Pageant is more than a pageant—it is a leadership and scholarship experience that helps young women build confidence, strengthen communication skills, serve their community, and form lasting friendships.

Participants will also have the opportunity to represent the Lights Over Morse Lake Festival and compete for the prestigious title of Miss Indiana State Festivals. Students and families can learn more about eligibility and important dates here.

Looking ahead to next school year, I want to remind families that Indiana state law requires students to be up to date on their immunizations—particularly in Kindergarten, 6th grade, and 12th grade—by the 20th day of school to avoid exclusion on day 21 (September 1, 2026). To make this process easier, the Hamilton County Health Department will host a back-to-school vaccination clinic at Hamilton Heights Middle School from 1–6 p.m. on July 29 as part of Middle School Husky Connect Day. Families can register and review important information about required vaccinations and what to expect at the clinic here. Questions? Contact the HCHD at 317-776-8500.

Finally, we salute the Class of 2026. You have grown, persevered, and led with purpose, and we could not be more proud of the young adults you have become. As you step into your next chapter, may you carry forward the confidence to pursue your goals, the courage to embrace new opportunities, and the determination to make a difference wherever life leads you. Thank you for allowing Heights to be part of your journey. #WeAreHuskies

Dr. Derek Arrowood is the Superintendent of the Hamilton Heights School Corporation. His columns appear periodically in The Times.



Photo courtesy Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation
Monon Mixers offer those 21 and over exclusive after-hours access to The Waterpark's attractions, along with alcoholic beverages from local vendors.

Carmel Hosts Adults-Only Monon Mixer Series

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation invites adults to make a splash this summer during Monon Mixers, a series of adults-only events at The Waterpark in Carmel, 1195 Central Park Dr. W.

Held on select Friday nights throughout the summer, Monon Mixers offer guests ages 21 and older exclusive after-hours access to The Waterpark's attractions, along with planned activities and alcoholic beverages from local vendors.

Monon Mixers will take place from 8-10 p.m. on June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, Aug. 7, and Aug. 14. Admission is \$25 per

person and includes access to The Waterpark's amenities, including The Wall, plunge slides and the FlowRider® surf simulator.

Space is limited and advance registration is required, so be sure to register early!

Selected Monon Mixers will also feature special themes:

July 10: Christmas in July

Aug. 7: Back to School Night

Guests may reserve a private cabana for an additional fee of \$55. Cabana rentals are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants will receive an

email one week prior to their scheduled event with cabana reservation details.

Local drink vendors will be on-site offering alcoholic beverages for purchase, and concessions will be available from a limited menu. Outside food and non-alcoholic beverages are permitted. Glass containers and outside alcohol are prohibited.

In the event of inclement weather, guests will automatically be enrolled in the next available Monon Mixer. If the final event of the season is canceled due to weather, refunds will be issued.

Duke Energy Steps Up for Ivy Tech

The Ivy Tech Hamilton County campus received a \$35,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to expand workforce training programs that prepare students for high-demand careers critical to the county.

The award, granted in May 2025, supported instruction and student success initiatives within the campus' skilled trades programs, including Welding Technology, Industrial Technology, Construction Technology, and Building and Property Maintenance.

"This investment reflects Duke Energy's commitment to the future of Hamilton County," said Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Career Link, Dr. Christina Collins. "When local companies invest in education, they invest in their own workforce. Partnerships like this ensure our students are prepared to step into critical roles that keep our economy moving."

As Hamilton County continues to grow, so does the demand for skilled workers in energy, infrastructure and advanced trades. Employer investment in education plays a critical role in closing skills gaps and ensuring businesses have access to qualified talent. Grants like this one strengthen the connection between classroom learning and real-world workforce needs, creating a sustainable pipeline of job-ready graduates.

The long-term im-

pact includes increased enrollment and completion in energy-related trades programs, expanded career readiness initiatives, and a stronger regional workforce prepared to meet evolving infrastructure and technology demands. Local employers benefit from a steady stream of highly trained graduates ready to contribute on day one, while students gain access to stable, well-paying careers that support long-term financial mobility.

"At Duke Energy, we understand that meeting workforce demand requires proactive partnership," said Mark LaBarr, Government and Community Relations Manager. "By support-

ing Ivy Tech Hamilton County, we are helping build a strong pipeline of skilled professionals who will power our local industries for years to come. Education and industry must work hand in hand to sustain economic growth."

Through partnerships with community-minded companies like Duke Energy, Ivy Tech Hamilton County continues to lead in workforce development, ensuring the county's economic momentum is supported by a highly skilled and locally trained workforce.

For more information about workforce programs at Ivy Tech Hamilton County, visit ivytech.edu/hamco.

Westfield Announces Third Annual "The Double" Walk/Run

Westfield Youth Assistance Program is excited to announce its third annual Walk/Run event, "The Double," will be held on Saturday, August 8, at Cool Creek Park from 8 to 10 a.m. Packet pickup runs from 8-8:30 a.m., with the actual walk/run beginning at 8:30 a.m.

"The Double" is a 2-mile family-friendly Walk/Run event, with the name referring to both the two-mile closed-loop course and the desire for WYAP to double their impact in Westfield. Overall, "The Double" aims to be a vibrant event that brings together residents of Hamilton County and Westfield to support WYAP. The event will host additional fun activities including a soccer rebound tech board brought by our proud partner and sponsor Sogility. "The Double" is expected to have 200+ participants.

"The Double has become more than a race. It's an opportunity for our community to come together in support of local youth and families," said Dan Morrow, WYAP



Photo courtesy WYAP

Interested in being a sponsor? Email klogan@westfieldyap.org.

board member and event committee chair. "The event reflects WYAP's mission of strengthening families and helping young people succeed through mentoring, early intervention, and access to critical resources. The support generated through The Double helps make that work possible."

Registration is now open on the Walk/Run website, with special early-bird pricing of \$30 per individual through June 30, when it will switch to \$35. Registering families can select 'Multi-Person Pricing' to receive a discount on registrations for 3-6 people for \$70 with special early-bird pricing through June

30, when it will switch to \$80.

Proceeds from "The Double" will help support WYAP's services, including mentoring, tutoring, mental health supports, camps, and other enrichment activities. WYAP has seen a drastic increase in need as Westfield has continued to expand rapidly. "The Double" is a great way to help continue to meet this growing need and is a phenomenal opportunity to connect with the community.

If you are interested in sponsoring the 2026 "The Double" Walk/Run or other WYAP events or services, please email klogan@westfieldyap.org.

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Symphony on the Prairie Starts June 26

Get ready for another unforgettable summer during the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's Kroger Symphony on the Prairie season! The 2026 lineup features an exciting lineup of orchestral favorites, blockbuster film music, and high-energy tributes, with 24 performances across 11 weekends of live music offering something for everyone against the scenic backdrop of Conner Prairie Amphitheatre in Fishers. From rock classics and iconic film scores to the patriotic tradition of Star-Spangled Symphony, this year's lineup is sure to make your summer sizzle. From classic hits of the 1960s and 70s to contemporary pop and rock, the ISO offers music for the whole family to enjoy. The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra will be performing in the first 11 concerts.

PACK YOUR PICNIC & BRING YOUR FRIENDS! Did you know that patrons can bring their own food, drink, and lawn chairs into the Conner Prairie amphitheatre? Plus, non-reserved parking is free.

SEASON LINEUP: *featuring the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Fri., June 26 | Saturday, June 27 – Face 2 Face: A Tribute to Billy Joel and Elton John*

Taking turns at an onstage piano, the dual tribute artists of the Billy Joel/Elton John Face 2 Face Tribute Show conjure the beloved songsters in both sound and image alongside the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and conductor David Baker.

Thursday, July 2 | Friday, July 3 | Saturday, July 4 – Star-Spangled Symphony*

Patriotic favorites with celebrated tenor Jim Cornelison (Chicago Blackhawks, Indy 500), the Indianapolis Opera Chorus, fireworks, cannons, and more! Celebrate the USA's 250th birthday!

Friday, July 10 – Music of Star Wars*

A phenomenal musical journey through the music of the Star Wars franchise. Relive iconic moments from John Williams' legendary scores and enjoy the beauty of Conner Prairie.

Saturday, July 11 – Serpentine Fire: The Music of Earth, Wind & Fire*

A celebration of one of the best-selling bands of all time.

Friday, July 17 – Back to the 80s* This power-packed evening of the decade's #1 hit songs includes "The Power of Love," "Time After Time," "Material Girl," "Everybody Wants to Rule the World," "Higher Love," "I'm Still Standing," "Addicted to Love," and many more unforgettable melodies.

Saturday, July 18 – Summer Breeze: Yacht Rock Classics*

Set sail on a musical journey where the smooth sounds of the '70s and '80s come to life in a unique orchestral experience, blending together the lush harmonies and iconic melodies of yacht rock legends like Hall & Oates, Toto, Christopher Cross, The Doobie Brothers, Jimmy Buffett, and Steely Dan.

Friday, July 24 – Music of Harry Potter: An Evening at Hogwarts*

Relax under the stars with the Music of Harry Potter, a magical evening celebrating the musical highlights from this iconic film series!

Saturday, July 25 – Disney in Concert: A Dream Is a Wish*

Well-loved music performed by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly. Featuring high-resolution film clips from some of the best-known films ever including the music of Frozen, The Little Mermaid, Lion King, Beauty and the Beast, The Princess and the Frog, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, and Aladdin, and more. The ISO will be joined on stage by four vocalists for a night of Disney movie magic!

Friday, July 31 – Always, Adele

Starring powerhouse vocalist Sarah Stallman and a top-tier six-piece band, the show brings Adele's greatest hits to life with incredible attention to detail.

Saturday, Aug. 1 – Let's Sing Sabrina / Let's Sing Harry

This double bill pays tribute to pop

powerhouses Sabrina Carpenter and Harry Styles!

Friday, Aug. 7 – The Fab Four: The UL-

Friday, Aug. 21 – Troubadours: A Tribute to James Taylor and Carole King Music is brought

Friday, Aug. 28 – The Boy Band Night The ultimate live tribute to the biggest boy bands of all time—

Petty Concert Experience

Minneapolis-based Free Fallin, The Tom Petty Concert Experience has successfully toured the country since 2007 and played before thousands of fans at many festivals, fairs, venues, and concerts in the U.S. and Canada.

Saturday, Sept. 5 – The Phil Collins Experience

The Phil Collins Experience is a high-energy, multimedia tribute production that brings the legendary music of Phil Collins and Genesis vividly to life. Celebrated across the U.S. as the most authentic Phil Collins tribute, this electrifying show recreates the sights, sounds, and emotional impact of Collins' iconic performances, featuring beloved hits like "In the Air Tonight," "Against All Odds," and "Sussudio."

Sunday, Sept. 6 – EagleMania

Since their inception, EagleMania has been thrilling audiences all over the country with their stunning five-part harmony and their uncanny ability to emulate the unmistakable sound of The Eagles.

For more information on Kroger Symphony on the Prairie or other Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra concerts, visit IndianapolisSymphony.org

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

- Gates open at 6 p.m. | Concerts begin at 8 p.m.
- Purchase tickets or tables at IndianapolisSymphony.org, the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office, or at most central Indiana Kroger stores. For phone purchases, call 317-639-4300. Buy tickets to three or more concerts and receive an automatic 10% discount!
- Patrons may bring their own food and beverages or enjoy on-site refreshments, including beer, wine, and spirits.
- Reserved seating, table rentals, and Huntington Bank Sunset Lounge tickets are available in limited quantities.
- Purchase tickets for three or more concerts and automatically receive a 10% discount (available online or through the Box Office).

Groups of 30 or more receive a 10% discount on tickets. Email groups@indianapolisymphony.org for more information.

imate Beatles Tribute

With uncanny, note-for-note live renditions of Beatles' classics such as "Can't Buy Me Love," "Yesterday," "A Day In The Life," "Twist And Shout," "Here Comes The Sun," and "Hey Jude," the Fab Four will make you think you are watching the real thing.

Saturday, Aug. 8 – The Heart of Rock & Roll: America's #1 Huey Lewis & the News Tribute

Since 2013, The Heart of Rock & Roll (THoRR) has been the world's only truly authentic tribute to the legendary Huey Lewis & The News—delivering the sound, look, and unstoppable energy that made the originals icons.

Friday, Aug. 14 – Hollywood Nights: The Bob Seger Experience

This 9-piece New Jersey-based powerhouse has set out to re-create everything about Bob and his music right down to the smallest detail.

Saturday, Aug. 15 – The Australian Bee Gees

After 24 years and over 6,500+ performances in over 55+ countries, The Australian Bee Gees Show is the toast of Las Vegas. The show has been in residence at Excalibur Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip since February 2011 and has been voted twice as The Best Tribute Show in Las Vegas.

to you by two bands joining together for an unforgettable performance: Home Again—A Tribute to the Music of Carole King, and Steamroller—The Music of James Taylor.

Saturday, Aug. 22 – One Night of Queen

Gary Mullen & The Works—featuring Gary Mullen on vocals, David Brockett on guitar, Malcolm Gentles on keyboards, Jon Halliwell on drums and Alan McGeoch on bass guitar—will have you dancing in the aisles during their show, while the band pays tribute to the stage theatrics, showmanship, and music of arguably the greatest rock band of all time: Queen.

delivering a high-energy, full-band show that recreates the moves, the moments, and the melodies that defined a generation. From Backstreet Boys and NSYNC to One Direction and Jonas Brothers, every performance is all-live, no tracks, and packed with fan-favorite hits.

Saturday, Aug. 29 – Private Eyes: A Tribute to Hall & Oates

Delivering the timeless music from the best-selling duo of all time, this Los Angeles-based band is the only Hall & Oates tribute to feature sonically accurate renditions of all the greatest hits as well as choice fan favorites.

Friday, Sept. 4 – Free Fallin: The Tom

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State Updates Defective Product List

Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers to over 40 recalled products during the month of May. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission listed recalled items in multiple areas, from furniture, to sporting equipment, to children's toys, and more.

"With summer coming and the weather warming up, a lot of us are eager to get outside and enjoy being active," said Rokita. "That's exactly why it is so important to make sure the products we're using -- whether it's outdoor furniture, sports gear, kids' toys, or even water bottles -- are safe. A few quick checks can help keep the fun going without any serious risks."

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports the following products were recalled in May:

Furniture:

Joy Furniture Recalls Talan and Royce Living Room Furniture Sets Due to Risk of Serious Injury from a Fire Hazard: The power switch on the sofa, loveseat, or recliner can malfunction and overheat posing a risk of serious injury from a fire hazard.

Walmart Recalls Mainstays 9-Drawer Fabric Dressers Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards; Violates Mandatory Standard for Clothing Storage Units: The recalled dressers are unstable if they are not anchored to the wall, posing tip-over and entrapment hazards that can result in risk of serious injuries or death to children. The dressers violate the mandatory safety standard as required by the STURDY Act.

Giantex Recalls Lounge Chairs Due to Amputation Hazard: Consumers can place their fingers in a pinch point, when adjusting the lounge chair, posing an amputation risk.

PandaEar Recalls Portable Hook-On Chairs Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Fall Hazard; Violates Mandatory Standard for Portable Hook-On Chairs: The recalled portable hook-on chairs violate the mandatory standard for portable hook-on chairs because the crotch restraints can be removed without the use of a tool and infants can fall through an opening, posing a deadly fall hazard.

World Bright International Limited Recalls Agio Menlo Woven Patio Swings Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Fall Hazard; Sold at Costco: The swing seat can detach from the frame while in use, posing a risk of serious injury or death from a fall hazard.

Minka Lighting Group Recalls Bardon Series Pendant Light Fixtures Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from an Impact Hazard: The recalled light fixture's frame can detach from the pendant downrod during installation, posing a risk of serious injury or death from an impact hazard.

Svnntaa Bed Rails Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Entrapment and Asphyxiation Hazards; Violates Mandatory Standard for Adult Portable Bed Rails; Sold on Amazon by Eokeanon: The recalled bed rails violate the mandatory standard for adult portable bed rails because users can become entrapped within the bed rail or between the bed rail and the side of the mattress, posing a serious entrapment hazard and risk of death by asphyxiation. The bed rails do not meet structural stability or retention strap requirements, posing a fall hazard. Furthermore, the bed rails' push pins and push pin holes are incorrectly sized, posing a laceration hazard.

EVLWZL and Gunugu Mattresses Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Fire Hazard; Violates Mandatory Standard for Mattress Flammability: The mattresses violate the mandatory flammability standard for mattresses,

posing a risk of serious injury or death from fire.

Sport:

Missry Associates Recalls Misco Sports Light-Up Racket Sets Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violate Mandatory Standard for Toys: The racket sets violate the mandatory standard for toys because the screw on the racket used to secure the battery compartment does not remain attached when opened, and the button cell batteries in the shuttlecock can be easily accessed by children. If button cell or coin batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, including internal chemical burns, and death.

Missry Associates Recalls Misco Sports Badminton Toy Sets Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violates Mandatory Standard for Toys: The Misco Sports Badminton Toy Sets violate the mandatory safety standard for children's toys because the shuttlecocks contain button cell batteries that can be easily accessed by children. When button cell or coin batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, internal chemical burns and deaths.

Multi-Purpose Helmets Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Head Injury; Violates Mandatory Standard for Bicycle Helmets; Sold on Temu by Foubeaka and Genius: The recalled helmets violate the mandatory safety standard for bicycle helmets because the helmets do not comply with the positional stability and certification requirements. The helmets can fail to protect the user in the event of a crash, posing a serious risk of injury or death due to head injury.

BRP Recalls Can-Am All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) Due to Risk of Serious Injury and Death from Crash Hazard: The ATV's speed limiter control can malfunction, causing unexpected speed and acceleration, posing a serious risk of injury or death from crash hazard.

Amazon Recalls Amazon Basics 55 Lbs. Adjustable Dumbbells Due to Impact Hazard: The weight plates can fail to engage completely during weight adjustment and dislodge from the dumbbell handle when used, posing an impact hazard.

Resistance Bands Recalled Due to Serious Injury from Impact Hazard; Imported by HomeProGym: The recalled resistance bands can forcefully separate from the handle during use, posing a risk of serious injury from impact hazard.

Favoto Bicycle Helmets Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Head Injury; Violate Mandatory Standard for Bicycle Helmets; Sold on Amazon by Favoto: The recalled helmets violate the mandatory safety standard for bicycle helmets because they do not comply with the positional stability, labeling and certification requirements. The helmets can fail to protect the user in the event of a crash, posing a serious risk of injury or death due to head injury.

Toys/Equipment:

MiniWarGaming and Primal Horizon Disc Magnets Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Ingestion; Violate Mandatory Standard for Magnets; Imported by MiniWarGaming: The magnets violate the mandatory safety standard for magnets because the high-powered magnets fit within CPSC's small parts cylinder and are stronger than permitted, posing a deadly ingestion hazard to children. When high-powered magnets are swallowed, the ingested magnets can attract each other, or other metal objects, and become lodged in the digestive system. This can result in perforations, twisting, and/or blockage of the intestines, blood poisoning and death.

Daoen Recalls Zen Magnetic Promotional Ball Sets Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Magnet Ingestion; Violate Mandatory Standard for Toys: The recalled magnetic balls violate the mandatory standard for toys because they are loose high-powered magnets, posing an ingestion hazard to children. When high-powered magnets are swallowed, they can attract each other, or other metal objects, and become lodged in the digestive system. This can result in perforations, twisting, and/or blockage of the intestines, blood poisoning and death.

Lil Pick Up Recalls Youth All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Crash and Burn Hazards; Violates Mandatory Standard for ATVs: The recalled youth ATVs violate the federal mandatory ATV safety standard, posing a risk of serious injury or death. The youth ATVs fail to meet mechanical suspension requirements, and the reverse indicator light fails to illuminate, posing a crash hazard. The parking brakes fail to hold, posing a collision hazard. Additionally, the surfaces near the footwell can reach high temperatures, posing a risk of severe burns.

ABC Trading Recalls Children's Toys Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violates Mandatory Standard for Toys: The recalled children's toys violate the mandatory standard for toys because they contain button cell batteries and the compartments that hold the batteries can be easily accessed by children, posing a deadly ingestion hazard to children. When button cell and coin batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, internal chemical burns and death.

Orb Funkee Squeeze Toys Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Asbestos Exposure; Imported by The Orb Factory: The recalled Orb Funkee squeeze toys may contain fibrous tremolite (asbestos) in the sand, which can cause adverse health issues if inhaled.

Cosyland Children's Tower Stools Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury and Death from Entrapment and Fall Hazards; Imported by Cosyland Official: The recalled tower stools can collapse or tip over while in use, and a child's torso can fit through the openings on the front and back sides, posing a risk of serious injury and death due to tip over, fall and entrapment hazards.

Guidecraft Children's Standing Towers Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury from Fall Hazard: The platform inside the recalled tower can loosen over time, causing it to become unstable or detach, and ultimately posing a fall hazard to young children.

Tiyol Pull String Teething Toys Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Choking; Violates Mandatory Standard for Toys; Sold on Amazon by ZW Creations: The recalled teething toys violate the mandatory standard for toys because the silicone strings are smaller and longer than permitted. The silicone strings can reach the back of the throat and become lodged, posing a risk of respiratory distress and becoming a deadly choking hazard.

ZMC Group Recalls Multiple Light Up Toys Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violate Mandatory Standard for Toys: The recalled toys violate the mandatory safety standard for children's toys because the toy contains button cell batteries that can be easily accessed by children. If button cell or coin batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, including internal chemical burns, and death.

Rainbow Wall Toys Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Choking

Hazard; Violate Mandatory Standard for Children's Toys; Sold on Amazon by Justforjoyful: The recalled toys violate the mandatory safety standard for children's toys because the drumstick that is attached to the xylophone component has a spherical end that can pose a choking hazard.

Electronics:

Tzumi Electronics Recalls SLF Sauna Blankets Due to Fire and Burn Hazards: The recalled sauna blankets can overheat, posing fire and burn hazards.

Lithium Coin Batteries Recalled Due to Battery Ingestion; Violates Federal Statute for Child-Resistant Packaging of Coin Batteries; Imported by Proudly American Store, of Canada: The recalled coin batteries are not in child-resistant packaging and do not bear the warning labels required under Reese's Law. When button cell or coin batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, internal chemical burns, and death.

Bethlehem Lights Recalls Bethlehem Lights 10-inch Illuminated Ribbon Spheres Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Fire Hazard; Sold by QVC: The LED lights on the recalled illuminated spheres can overheat, posing a risk of serious injury or death from a fire hazard.

Lithium Coin Batteries Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violates Federal Statute for Child-Resistant Packaging of Coin Batteries; Imported and Sold on Amazon by LiCB: The recalled coin batteries are not in child-resistant packaging and do not bear the warning labels required under Reese's Law. When button cell or coin batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, internal chemical burns, and death.

EEMB USA Recalls Battery Pouches Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violate Federal Statute for Child-Resistant Packaging of Coin Batteries: The lithium coin batteries are in pouches that are not child-resistant as required under Reese's Law. If a child swallows button cell or coin batteries, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, including internal chemical burns and death.

Outdoor:

Giantex Recalls Giantex and Costway Portable Steam Saunas Due to Burn Hazard: The sauna's steam diffuser can be positioned too close to a consumer's body, allowing hot steam to come in contact with user, posing a burn hazard.

Petzl America Recalls ASTRO BOD FAST, ASTRO SIT FAST and CANYON GUIDE Harnesses Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Fall Hazard: The recalled harness' D-ring can release, allowing the attachment point to open, posing a risk of serious injury or death from a fall hazard.

Petzl America Recalls SIMBA and SWAN EASYFIT Harnesses Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Fall Hazard: The recalled harnesses are missing rivets in the FAST LT PIN-LOCK buckles, causing the buckles to open, posing a risk of serious injury or death from a fall hazard.

Superbobi Pool Drain Covers Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Entrapment and Drowning Hazards; Violates Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act; Manufactured by Remy&shop: The recalled drain covers violate the entrapment protection standards of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA), posing entrapment and drowning hazards to swimmers and bathers.

Generac Power Systems Expands Recall of Generac and DR Power Electric Start Pressure Washers Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Carbon Monoxide Hazard;

Includes Additional Models: The electronic start/stop button on the pressure washer can malfunction and self-start, posing a risk of serious injury or death due to carbon monoxide poisoning, if the unit is in a confined space.

Accessories:

Luminous Fidget Spinner Balls Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violates Mandatory Standard for Toys; Sold on Amazon by Anzmtosn: The recalled toys violate the mandatory safety standard for toys because the mini flashlight included with the fidget spinner balls contains button cell batteries that can be easily accessed by children. If button cell or coin batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, including internal chemical burns, and death.

Drinkware:

ABC Trading Recalls WSDZ Light-up Glasses Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Battery Ingestion; Violate Mandatory Standard for Consumer Products with Button Cell Batteries: The recalled glasses violate the mandatory standard for consumer products with button cell and coin batteries because the button cell batteries can be accessed easily by children, posing an ingestion hazard. Additionally, the packaging and product do not have the warnings required under Reese's Law. When button cell or coin batteries are swallowed, the ingested batteries can cause serious injuries, internal chemical burns, and death.

ZWILLING J. A. Henckels Aktiengesellschaft Recalls Electric Water Kettles Due to Risk of Serious Injury Due to Burn Hazard: The kettle's handle can loosen and separate from the kettle, causing hot contents to spill, posing a risk of serious injury due to a burn hazard.

Analemma Water Bottles Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Laceration and Ingestion Hazards; Imported by New Earth Technologies d.o.o.: The recalled water bottle's inner glass liner can break, posing a risk of serious injury or death from laceration and ingestion hazards.

Natural Pigments Recalls Rublev Colours Gum Turpentine and Mineral Spirits Bottles Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Child Poisoning; Violates Mandatory Standard for Child-Resistant Packaging: The gum turpentine and mineral spirits contain turpentine and low-viscosity hydrocarbons, respectively, which must be in child-resistant packaging, as required by the Poison Prevention Packaging Act. The bottles are not child-resistant, posing a risk of serious injury or death from poisoning if the contents are swallowed by young children.

Clothing:

Allura Imports Recalls Youth Sweatshirts with Bobcat Logo and Drawstrings Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Strangulation Hazard; Violates Federal Regulations for Children's Upper Outerwear: The drawstrings in the recalled clothing can get caught on objects and cause death or serious injury to children from strangulation. The sweatshirts are in violation of the federal regulations for children's upper outerwear and present a substantial product hazard.

If you believe you recently purchased a recalled product, stop using it, and check its recall notice (linked above for all products). Then follow the notice's instructions, including where to return the product, how to get the product fixed, how to dispose of the product, how to receive a refund for the product, or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.

To view recalls issued in May, visit the Consumer Protection Safety Commission website.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals for Horton Road Reconstruction Project will be received by the City of Westfield, Indiana, at the Westfield Public Works Building, 2706 E. 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana, 46074 until 11:00 a.m., local time, on Friday, June 26th, 2026. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received later than the above time and date will be returned unopened. No conditional bids will be considered.

Project generally includes road reconstruction, subgrade treatment, maintenance of traffic, and striping of Horton Road within the City of Westfield.

Bids shall be properly and completely executed on the Proposal Form obtainable at the office of the Owner. Each bid shall be accompanied by Form 96 Contractor's Bid for Public Works, including Non-Collusion Affidavit as prescribed by the State Board of Accounts, completely filled out, signed, and notarized as required by the statutes of the State of Indiana, Section III of Part II of Form 96 titled "Contractor's Financial Statement," and acceptable bid security. The bid security shall be a certified check made payable to the Owner or satisfactory bond by an incorporated surety company in good standing and qualified to do business in the State of Indiana in an amount equal to 5% of the bid, said deposit being for the purpose of ensuring the execution of the contract for which bid is made. Any bid not accompanied by the above required items shall be deemed to be a non-responsive bid by the Owner.

No consideration for escalation on prices can be considered; therefore, contractors are advised to not include any such escalation clauses in their proposal for this project.

The Contractors to whom work is awarded shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, and they shall be acceptable to the City of Westfield, Indiana.

No bidder may withdraw their proposal within a period of 60 days following the date set for receiving bids. The City of Westfield, Indiana reserves the right to retain the three lowest bid proposals for a period of not more than 90 days, and said proposal shall remain in full force and effect during said time. The City of Westfield, Indiana further reserves the right to waive formalities and to award the contract to the lowest and most responsible bidder or bidders, all to the advantage of the City of Westfield, Indiana, or to reject all Proposals.

The Contract Documents and drawings will be available to all interested parties from: Repro Graphix, 437 North Illinois Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or at eplanroom.reprographix.com.

Please direct all questions regarding this project to Michael Pearce, City of Westfield, Department of Public Works, 2706 E. 171st Street, Westfield, IN 46074, (317) 473-2917, mpearce@westfield.in.gov

By: Michael Pearce, City of Westfield
TL23328 06/10 6/17 1t hspaxlp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Noblesville Common Council Noblesville, Indiana

The Noblesville Common Council will hold a public hearing on the 9th day of June 2026. This hearing is to consider annexation into the City Limits of Noblesville as per property described in "Exhibit A". The property is located in the 18100-18400 block of Little Chicago Road and contains approximately 93 acres in Noblesville Township. The public hearing will be conducted beginning at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at the Noblesville City Building, 16 S. 10th Street, Second Floor Council Chambers, Noblesville, Indiana.

Current Zoning of the subject property is "R3/PD Single-Family Residential Planned Development" zoning district and will remain as currently zoned and will include the adjacent full rights-of-way for Little Chicago Road and Mill Creek Road. Attached as "Exhibit B" is a summary of the fiscal plan. This is the City's plan for extending services to the newly annexed area. The City will provide, upon request, a copy of the fiscal plan in its entirety after the plan's adoption and may be obtained at the Planning and Development Department in City Hall at 16 South 10th Street, Suite B140, Noblesville, Indiana.

Questions or comments may be directed to a staff member of the Noblesville Planning and Development Department at 16 South 10th Street, Suite B140, Noblesville, Indiana during the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday or by the calling 317-776-6325.

TL23331 6/17 1t hspaxlp

BRANNA

Continued from Page 1

To our east and west, we will be blessed!

The hubby and I are hankering for a homey, peaceful place where we can watch our glorious gaggle of grandkids gallop across our green acres while we elder folks kick back and watch with delight. We want to be sipping on sweet tea while working our way toward that perfect peace, finally found on our fetching little family farm. Little House on the Prairie has nothing on us, and we're certainly not the Walton's. We are simply the Shores, setting sail back 'Home on the Range!'

Can You Relate is a column from Noblesville High School grad Branna (McCarty) Shores. Branna believes that "HOME is where your story begins." A Noblesville native and proud alum of NHS and Purdue, she is a professional speaker, advocate for mental health and work / family balance and retired social worker. Branna is the mother of two grown daughters, six precious grandchildren and wife of one brave husband! Her passions include singing, writing and sharing the lighter side of life through lessons learned, both personally and professionally. She can be contacted at branna18@gmail.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received:

By: Carmel Clay Schools
5201 East Main Street
Carmel, IN 46033

For: West Clay Elementary School Roof Replacement
3495 West 126th Street
Carmel, IN 46032

At: Carmel Education Services Center
5201 East Main Street
Carmel, IN 46033

Until: 10:00 AM (local time), July 1, 2026

Bid Opening: Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00AM (local time), at the Carmel Education Services Center, 5201 E. Main Street, Carmel, IN 46032.

All work for the complete construction of the Project will be under one or more prime contracts with the Owner based on bids received and on combinations awarded. The Construction Manager will manage the construction of the Project.

Construction shall be in full accordance with the Bidding Documents which are on file with the Owner and may be examined by prospective bidders at the following locations:

Office of the Construction Manager
The Skillman Corporation
3834 S. Emerson Avenue, Building A
Indianapolis, IN 46203
The Skillman Plan Room
www.skillmanplanroom.com

Prime and Non-Prime Contract Bidders must place an order on www.skillmanplanroom.com to be able to download documents electronically or request printed documents.

There is no cost for downloading the bidding documents. Bidders desiring printed documents shall pay for the cost of printing, shipping and handling. Reprographic Services are provided by:

Eastern Engineering 9901 Allisonville Road, Fishers, IN 46038, Phone 317-598-0661.

WAGE SCALE: Wage Scale does not apply to this project.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on June 18, 2026 at 11:00AM, local time, at West Clay Elementary, 3495 W. 126th Street, Carmel, IN 46032.

Attendance by bidders is optional, but recommended, in order to clarify or answer questions concerning the Drawings and Project Manual for the Project.

Bid security in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The successful Bidders will be required to furnish Performance and Payment Bonds for one hundred percent (100%) of their Contract amount prior to execution of Contracts.

Contractors submitting bids for the performance of any Work as specified in this building Project should make such Bids to Carmel Clay Schools. Contractors are advised that the Contract as finally entered into with any successful Bidder may be entered into with either the School Corporation or the Building Corporation or certain portions of the Contract may be entered into by both the School Corporation and the Building Corporation.

The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid (or combination of Bids) and to waive any irregularities in bidding. All Bids may be held for a period not to exceed 60 days before awarding contracts.

CARMEL CLAY SCHOOLS

By: Tabitha Hughes, Capitol Projects Manager, Facilities

TL23333 6/17 6/24 2t hspaxlp

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and the Hamilton County Council will meet on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in Conference Room 1A in the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square Noblesville, Indiana 46060. Meeting will begin with Executive Session for Implementation of Security Systems IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(C), Purchase or Lease of Real Estate IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(D), Discussion of Pending Litigation IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(B), Discussion of Personnel Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(7), and Discussions with Attorney Subject to the Attorney Client Privilege IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(19). Public work session to discuss county business will immediately follow the Executive Session, if needed.

/s/ Todd E. Clevenger
Hamilton County Auditor

TL23329 6/17 1t hspaxlp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Noblesville Common Council Noblesville, Indiana

The Noblesville Common Council will hold a public hearing on the 9th day of June 2026. This hearing is to consider annexation into the City Limits of Noblesville as per property described in "Exhibit A". The property is located in the 4800 - 5200 block of E. 191st Street containing +/-163 acres in Noblesville Township. The public hearing will be conducted beginning at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at the Noblesville City Building, 16 S. 10th Street, Second Floor Council Chambers, Noblesville, Indiana.

Current Zoning of the subject property is "R3/PD Single-Family Residential Planned Development" zoning district and will remain as currently zoned and will include the adjacent full rights-of-way for E. 191st Street and Moontown Road. Attached as "Exhibit B" is a summary of the fiscal plan. This is the City's plan for extending services to the newly annexed area. The City will provide, upon request, a copy of the fiscal plan in its entirety after the plan's adoption and may be obtained at the Planning and Development Department in City Hall at 16 South 10th Street, Suite B140, Noblesville, Indiana.

Questions or comments may be directed to a staff member of the Noblesville Planning and Development Department at 16 South 10th Street, Suite B140, Noblesville, Indiana during the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday or by the calling 317-776-6325.

TL23332 6/17 1t hspaxlp

CLASSIFIEDS
WORK!

Itching to Know What Dick Wrote? Read On

This marks my 27th year writing a weekly humor column. That's over 1400. pieces. It's tough to come up with a new idea each week, so I sometimes steal an idea. From myself. Yes, I will very occasionally go back to a really good column from decades ago and rewrite it. Sometimes, completely.

But here's the interesting part: It takes me longer to update an old favorite than to come up with a completely new idea. I spend a lot of time rephrasing sentences to make a funny line even funnier. The rewritten column is better, often much better. I am annoyed with myself for not thinking of doing it that way two decades ago. I hope that means I'm improving.

The truth is, there

are only a finite number of topics to write about, but there are myriad ways to write about them. I have written columns about my bad memory, poor hearing, and forgetfulness many times. All aging humor writers expound on these topics. Occasionally, I do steal an old funny line from myself. Who's going to sue me? Me?

Years ago, I wrote about my lack of acuity with Twitter and Facebook. It was funny in 2010 when I was flummoxed by this technology. And I still am baffled. So, creating a new column from that old concept works, since technological changes keep the topic fresh. Plagiarizing myself is tricky work.

Why am I telling you this? Because I was



Dick
Wolfsie
Columnist

curious whether what I wrote about exactly 25 years ago this very week still holds up to scrutiny after all these years. The column was about my wife's poison ivy. She was very prone to it back then, but I can't update that column because she hasn't been afflicted that way in 25 years. And because my column is always (loosely) based on something that recently happened, I wouldn't feel comfortable pretending she once again

had the affliction. So, sadly, you will never see any version of that column in print again.

But wait. There were a few parts worth repeating. Here's a part of our conversation from the spring of 2001 (Yes, 25 years ago). At the peak of her unattractiveness, she questioned my feelings for her while she was covered in unappealing rashes. (This was 100% true.)

"Dick, will you still love me while I look like this?"

"This is silly, Mary Ellen. Wouldn't you still care for me if I started to lose my hair and gained 20 pounds?"

"I've already proven that. Listen, Dick. I want you to treasure me no matter how I appear. Look me in the eyes and tell me that."

"I'm having a lot of trouble just finding your eyes. Mary Ellen, no matter how many red, disgusting blotches you have on your face, anyone can tell how beautiful you were...are. How beautiful you ARE."

By Sunday morning, Mary Ellen looked 100% better, so I decided that if I showed her a little affection, I'd be forgiven...

"Well, Dick. Sounds like you are itching for a little romance? Have you got that little compulsive to-do list you make out every morning?"

"Yes."

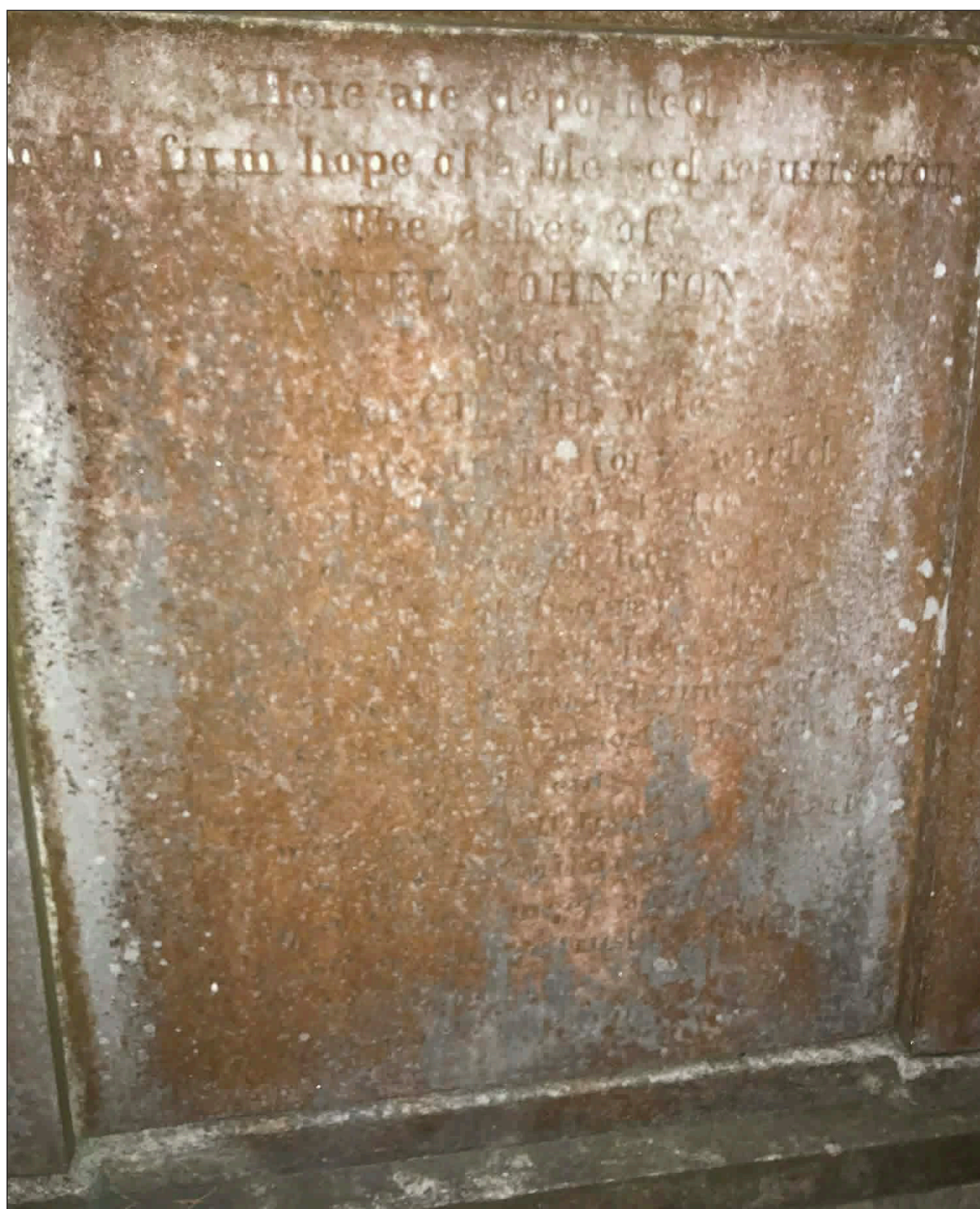
"Scratch me off it."

It is unlikely you will ever see an improved version of this column in print. Why? Mainly, because my wife will probably not get poison ivy again.

But if she does, you'll be the first to know.

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The Other Tea Party



**Photos & Copy By
Andy Chandler**

History is often written by the one who holds the pen and feels something is worth writing about. While that statement might come across as a tautology, it's a twist on history being written by the victor. However, in the above statement is a truth that history is often the teaching of one important event, while there exists in the periphery, another event of equal importance that doesn't get mentioned.

Americans have heard of the Boston Tea Party: Bostonians engaging in cultural misappropriation and dressing as Native Americans to throw tea into Boston Harbor. However, most Americans haven't heard of another tea party that occurred the following year a few hundred miles south in Edenton, North Carolina.

The Edenton Tea Party. I certainly hadn't heard of the Edenton Tea Party until my wife mentioned it while we were vacationing in North Carolina a few years ago.

My wife is distantly related to the Declaration Signer Joseph Hewes, so she had done enough research on him to know he was engaged, and his fiancée Isabella Johnston died days before their 1766 wedding. My wife originally was searching for Isabella's grave in Edenton when she mentioned to me that Penelope Barker was nearby.

"Who's that?" said the history nerd.
"She organized the Edenton Tea Party."

ton Tea Party." Replied an even nerdier history nerd.

It was already dark when we showed up at the Johnston Plantation Cemetery on that July Fourth evening. We were on a time crunch, so we decided to use our cell phone flashlights and walk to the cemetery.

Walking around an abandoned plantation at night, with flashlights: what could possibly go wrong? Now the question the reader is dying to know, were we trespassing? It was a public access road, so no.

About 50 yards from where we parked our cars, we found the cemetery, and found a way in. In the cemetery are some of North Carolina's elite. James Iredell, one of the first six Supreme Court Justices, is buried there. Also buried there is Samuel Johnston, the first Governor of North Carolina. His daughter Isabella Johnston is buried without a marker. However, as my wife remarked, "you feel a certain closeness to someone when you are standing on the same spot famous people stood at when they wept."

Back to Penelope Barker, tea party organizer. We found her grave next to Associate Justice Iredell and Governor Johnston.

Born in 1728, Penelope Padgett-Barker lived in Edenton for her whole life. Married three times, she had five children and was stepmother to four more. Being that she was married to three different merchants, their ships that came

and went out of Edenton didn't just carry goods, but ideas. She was a woman ahead of her time, literate and unfettered by many of society's expectations that women should be silent and subservient.

I learned that she organized Edenton's Tea Party in October of 1774, to protest taxation on goods. In protest, 51 of the town's women signed a resolution to not drink tea because the taxes on that tea were used to appoint judges who were sympathetic to the Crown. In a time when King George III was seen as anointed by God himself, the act was at best sedition, and at worst treasonous. This was a big deal and was praised in the newspapers in the Colonies at the time. However, after the Revolution, this episode faded into history until the first writings about it showed up in 1892.

I decided to research further for this article and realized that this was uniquely different from the Boston Tea Party for a multitude of reasons. For starters, the 51 women who signed the pact, didn't hide their identities. In fact, a copy of the pact was sent to London to be published; we still know who they are.

Secondly, during a time when women's voices were not welcomed in politics, there is an argument to be made, and I'll affirm it, that this was perhaps the first formal organized protest and act of women's activism in what is now the United States.

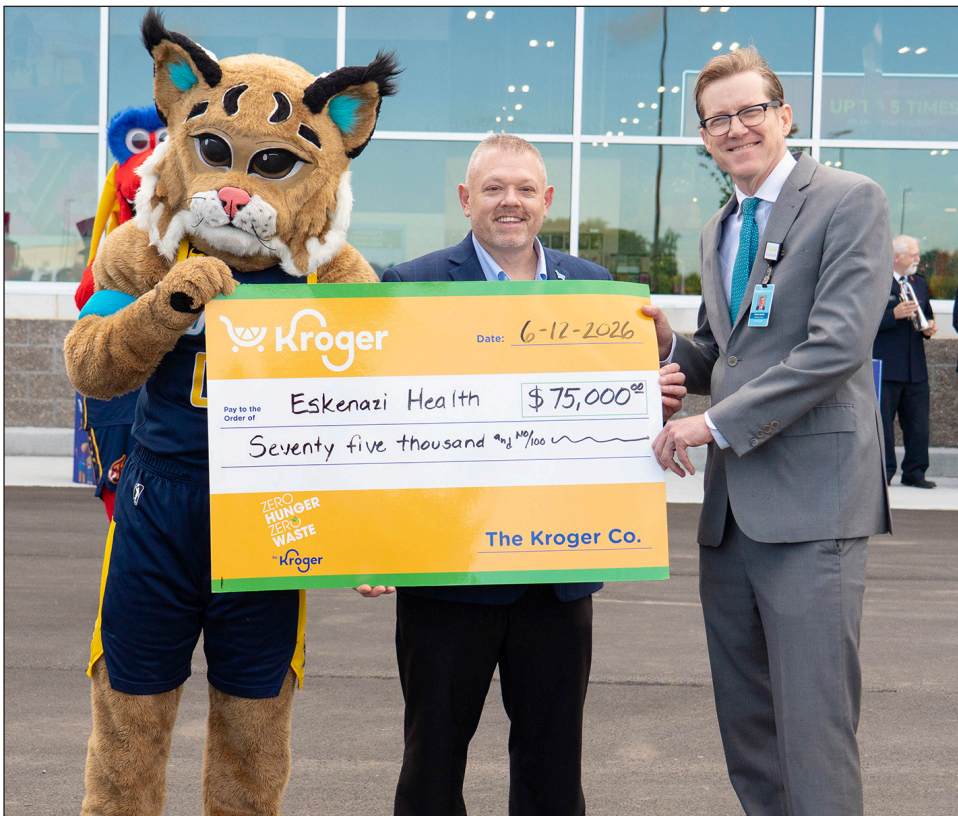


Photos courtesy Kroger

Kroger presented a check to Prevail for \$5,000.



Kroger presented a check to Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank for \$10,000.



Kroger presented a check to Eskenazi Health for \$75,000.

KROGER

Continued from Page 1

Cheese shop, Starbucks, a store-made popcorn café, even an apparel department. The aisles are also different in this Marketplace store, wider than usual, making shopping even more comfortable.

“We are excited to welcome Kroger Marketplace to Noblesville’s east side. This new location expands access to quality groceries and provides additional shopping options for our growing community,” said Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen. “Beyond its investment in our local economy and workforce, Kroger has demonstrated a strong commitment to giving back through initiatives that support our residents, including efforts to help address food insecurity. We are grateful for Kroger’s partnership and look forward to the positive impact this store will have on our community for years to come.”

Kroger’s investment of nearly \$40 million in Noblesville created more than 300 jobs at the new store. And more stores are coming. Construction projects are underway

now in Zionsville and Crawfordsville. Many existing stores will be remodeled to enhance the shopping experience of their customers. Combined, 2026 is a \$200 million year for Kroger construction engineers. Mike Goodwin says, “I love the opportunity to extend the Kroger brand, offer more jobs and make lives better wherever we go.”

Today’s ribbon-cutting also enabled Kroger to further its hunger relief commitment in central Indiana, continuing its support of the Eskenazi Health Fresh for You Market, presenting \$75,000 for its operation. They followed that donation with contributions to provide meals at Noblesville’s Boys & Girls Club and to Prevail which serves victims of abuse and crime. Kroger then presented gift cards to support the educational services of Teacher’s Treasures in Indianapolis. Altogether, Kroger’s charitable contributions today exceeded \$100,000.

The opening ceremony ended with a major food donation to Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank.

Members of the Noblesville High School football team helped load \$10,000 in high-demand products for struggling families in the area.

“We are incredibly grateful to Kroger for their generous donation of \$10,000 worth of food to Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank,” said Suzanna Hobson, Executive Director of Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank. “This incredible support directly strengthens our mission to fight hunger within Hamilton County by providing healthy, nutritious food to our neighbors that are food insecure.”

Kroger’s donations in Noblesville represent the latest boost to the Zero Hunger | Zero Waste plan, Kroger’s commitment to eliminate hunger in the communities it serves. Since the plan’s inception in 2017, Kroger has given more than \$1 billion to hunger relief services across the United States and has had a role in the delivery of nearly 4 billion meals to families in need.

FHS Black Leaders Club Sponsors Juneteenth Jubilee



Photos courtesy Fishers Arts Council

The 7th Juneteenth Jubilee takes place at Conner Prairie from 5-8 p.m. Friday.



Last year, more than 2,000 individuals enjoyed the Jubilee with their families.

Fishers High School’s Fishers Black Leaders Club, with support from Fishers Arts Council and Conner Prairie, are presenting the 7th Juneteenth Jubilee at Conner Prairie from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, June 19. This free-to-the-public annual student-managed event features Black owned businesses, visual artists, culinary artists, community resources, as well as talented performing artists.

Our Entertainment sponsors, Accent Coatings and Mays Chemical, help us bring to the stage national touring artist B.I.G.S.T.E.V.E 513, local recording artist Skyp, spoken word artist Angela Barnes, along with returning Jubilee favorites: Erick Oneal Fisher and Deezy Not Nice. DJ Mr. Kinetik serves as our emcee for the event to keep the celebration moving. The Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by J. Rosamond Johnson and James Weldon Johnson, will be performed live by Abigail Ngene at 5:20pm.

Juneteenth Jubilee has been created and organized by students from Fishers High School’s FBL club since 2020 and this is the 4th year it will be held at Conner Prairie. Last year over 2,000

individuals enjoyed the Jubilee with their families. Juneteenth is an important celebration for the students of FBL at Fishers High School.

“Juneteenth marks the celebration of freedom for many African American people,” says Gianna Fowler, one of the student organizers. “It celebrates liberty and independence.”

Sondos Mertami sees how history is shared through the day. “Juneteenth is important to the Fishers community because it brings people together and raises awareness of the holiday allowing people to learn about the history behind it!”

This year’s Jubilee includes a variety of activities for all ages, including an interactive drum circle with Joyful Noyze, face painting, bounce houses, and yard games – all for free. Vendors offer a wide selection of items from jewelry to baked goods, body-care to clothing, art, and more. “There’s a little bit of everything,” says Fowler, “and this is a great opportunity for the community to come together.” Conner Prairie will also provide semi-guided tours to select areas during the event. Community resources and nonprofits at the event include Fishers Health

Department, Hamilton East Public Library, Fishers PRIDE, and the Institute for Quality Education.

“Conner Prairie is proud to work alongside of the Fishers High School Fishers Black Leaders and the Fishers Arts Council for another exciting Juneteenth Jubilee,” says Ryan Spencer, Vice President and Chief Programs Officer at Conner Prairie. “Uplifting talented students in our community while celebrating Juneteenth with our African-American community is a privilege and joy.”

Les Reinhardt, Executive Director of Fishers Arts Council says, “Having the opportunity to work for these incredible student leaders is an inspiration. We are proud to support these students and the amazing event they create for the community year after year. They decide what will be offered, coordinate with the vendors and entertainment, create educational materials, partner with businesses and fundraise. It’s truly amazing to see the power of what our youth can make happen in Fishers.” The arts council has been working with the FBL Club students on the event every year since they were first invited back in 2022.



From Page B3 to Top of Boilermaker Basketball



**SPORTS,
SPORTS, &
MORE SPORTS**
with Ken Thompson

It had been 12 years since the last time Purdue men's basketball coach Matt Painter went all in on a recruit like he did with Tyler Zeller in 2007.

Painter's target was 7-1 five-star center Hunter Dickinson of DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, Md.

Like any good recruiter, Painter had a Plan B in 6-11 four-star center Ryan Kalkbrenner of St. Louis and a Plan C in 6-9 power forward Ben Carlson of Woodbury, Minn. Kalkbrenner was ranked 75th in the Class of 2020 by 247Sports and was regarded by that organization as the premier shot blocker in the nation. Carlson was rated 82nd.

For a while, it appeared Dickinson had a mutual interest in the Boilermakers.

The first mention of Dickinson as a recruiting target came in the Oct. 9, 2018, edition of the Lafayette Journal and Courier. The headline stated "Top 20 Dickinson likes that Purdue is prioritizing him."

"They talked a lot about Isaac Haas and how they developed him," Dickinson told Jason Jordan of USA Today Sports. "They said that I'm a lot more skilled than he was so they feel like they could take me even further. They play a lot through their bigs and that would, obviously, be good for me."

Purdue continued to press for Dickinson, especially after landing commitments from future NBA lottery pick Jaden Ivey and Pennsylvania Mr. Basketball Ethan Morton.

"From the beginning, they've been saying I'm the key piece to the class," Dickinson told Nathan Baird of the Lafayette Journal and Courier in its May 13, 2019 edition.

Dickinson also noted he shared a kindred sense of humor with Painter. Dickinson acknowledged a basketball relationship with Ivey. The duo took their official visits to West Lafayette and Notre Dame together.

But something changed between May and October.

Just like when Zeller chose North Carolina 12 years earlier, Purdue fans were disappointed to learn the Boilermakers were not among Dickinson's final four schools when he went public with his list on Oct. 3, 2019. Duke, Florida State, Michigan and Notre Dame made Dickinson's cut.

By this time, Plans B and C were gone. Kalkbrenner committed to Creighton on Sept. 23. Five days earlier, Carlson selected Wisconsin.

Dickinson committed to Michigan on Dec. 20, citing his relationship with head coach Juwan Howard. "I believe that he will develop me and get me to reach my full potential," Dickinson told Evan Daniels of 247Sports.

Painter's Plan D turned out to be one of the greatest players in college basketball history.

The first mention of Zach Edey in the Lafayette Journal and Courier came on Nov. 10, just a few days before national signing day. Mike Carmin reported that

the 7-3 center attending IMG Academy in Florida had chosen the Boilermakers over Baylor and Santa Clara.

Edey's commitment was so underwhelming that Carmin's story was placed on Page B3 of the Sunday sports section.

"They have a really good reputation with people of my stature," Edey told Carmin. "When I went there, it felt right in my gut."

Edey was originally part of the 2021 class but moved up a year when he moved to IMG Academy from Toronto, Canada. Edey said he was offered a scholarship by Purdue in early October, presumably days after Dickinson eliminated Purdue from consideration.

While Purdue's development of A.J. Hammons, Caleb Swanigan, Isaac Haas and Matt Haarms didn't impress Dickinson, Edey called that history "a strong selling point."

Edey, Ivey and Morton signed their letters of intent on Nov. 13. In one of the all-time understatement, Painter told Baird that Edey "is somewhere between Isaac Haas and Matt Haarms."

With apologies to Haas and Haarms, that's like saying my basketball skills are somewhere between Michael Jordan and LeBron James.

"He's got tremendous upside and can move really well for someone his size," Painter said of Edey. "He can get up and down the court and has a really good feel for what is happening on the floor. He isn't just a low-post player and that is something that is developing with his size. We are really looking forward to helping him develop and working with him."

By the time Edey arrived in West Lafayette, he stood 7-4 and weighed 285 pounds. One obstacle to playing time as a freshman was gone as well. Haarms surprised Painter by entering the transfer portal in April. He enraged Painter by telling a Rivals.com

reporter that he was looking for "a place where I can showcase an NBA-ready skill set."

Haarms would never sniff the NBA. Edey on the other hand ...

His first game in gold and black was a sign of things to come. Edey scored 19 points on 9 of 10 shooting to lead Purdue past Liberty 77-64 at the Space Coast Challenge in Melbourne, Fla. The next night, Edey again led Purdue with 17 points in an 81-70 loss to Clemson in the championship game. Edey was selected to the All-Tournament team.

Edey would average 8.7 points and 4.4 rebounds as a freshman playing behind Trevion Williams. Those totals jumped to 14.4 points and 7.7 rebounds as a sophomore when Edey became a starter. Williams became the Big Ten's Sixth Man of the Year, averaging 12 points and 7.4 rebounds.

The NBA began to take notice of Edey during his junior season, when he averaged 22.3 points and 12.9 rebounds a game to win his first unanimous National Player of the Year honors as well as the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Pete Newell awards as the nation's best big man and Big Ten Player of the Year honors.

On his way to taking Purdue to the 2024 NCAA title game, Edey became the first player since Oscar Robertson in 1960 to lead the country in scoring and make a Final Four. Edey also became the first player since UCLA's Bill Walton in 1972 and 1973 to sweep the six major National Player of the Year awards in consecutive seasons.

Defying the widespread belief that the NBA is no longer a big man league, Edey went ninth overall to the Memphis Grizzlies in the 2024 NBA Draft. He made the NBA All-Rookie first team after averaging 9.2 points and 8.3 rebounds. Edey was putting up 13.6 points and 11.1 rebounds a game when his second NBA season was



Zach Edey

ended by injury after just 11 games.

As for Dickinson? He transferred to Kansas for a big NIL payday after three seasons at Michigan. In five collegiate seasons (thanks to the extra COVID year granted by the NCAA), he averaged 17.4 points and 9.2 rebounds.

Dickinson was not taken in the 2025 NBA Draft and played five games with the New Orleans Pelicans this past season on a two-way contract that saw him play much of the year with the NBA G-League Birmingham Squadron.

Kalkbrenner played all five seasons at Creighton, winning the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award in 2025. After averaging 14.5 points and 6.8 rebounds for the Blue Jays, Kalkbrenner went 34th overall to the Charlotte Hornets in the 2025 NBA Draft. He started 31 games as a rookie this past season, averaging 7.6 points and 5.5 rebounds.

Carlson started two games in two seasons at Wisconsin before playing his final two years at Utah. He averaged 5.6 points as a senior.

Next time: The conclusion of our series with yet another decommitment changing the future of Purdue basketball.

Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.

Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – Why Don't We Have a Minimum SS Benefit?

Dear Rusty: I think we should have a Social Security baseline of \$2,500 for each person. When I retire, my Social Security benefit will not be enough to survive. There are many of us who worked low paying jobs all our lives because we raised families and only started saving later in life. Considering all the money our government wastes on other countries and welfare programs for people who have not worked, it seems unfair that they will not reward those of us who contributed to society all our lives.

Signed: Needs More Social Security.

Dear Needs More: For information, the concept of a "minimum" Social Security benefit is not new and, indeed, already exists -

but it is one which few beneficiaries qualify for. The so-called "special minimum benefit" was meant to lift low-earning workers above the poverty line, but less than 32,000 SS beneficiaries (out of about 59 million retirees) currently qualify. That's because Social Security's benefit formula turns out to be more generous because it is based on lifetime earnings (wages), while the "special minimum benefit" program is based on consumer prices. That causes the SS benefit formula to provide a higher SS benefit than is provided by the "special minimum benefit" option. In other words, people get a higher benefit because their SS benefit is based upon their actual lifetime earnings vs. an artificially created special minimum benefit. In short, the existing SS benefit formula usu-

ally provides more than the established "special minimum benefit."

The SS benefit program is based on each person's average monthly income over their lifetime. However, it is very important to understand that the program is also designed to provide a higher monthly benefit to those with a lower lifetime income. Thus, the percentage of "replacement income" for those with lower lifetime earnings is more than it is for those with higher lifetime earnings. Typically, a lower-lifetime income person will get about 40% of their average pre-retirement monthly income as their Social Security benefit, whereas a higher-income person will get about 20% or less of their pre-retirement monthly average income. In this way, Social Security is

already a "progressive" program. But it's important to understand also that Social Security, from its beginning, was never meant to provide 100% of a person's income needs in retirement. Thus, each beneficiary should plan to supplement their retirement income in other ways (such as retirement savings, investment income, working longer, working part-time, etc.).

Having said that, it is also important to know that Social Security is a completely self-sustaining program and not dependent on general public funding, which would make it more susceptible to political shenanigans (imagine giving re-election seeking politicians easy access to Social Security's separately held resources). While it is certainly true that the government spends freely on "welfare



ASK RUSTY

Social Security Advisor

programs" for those who have not worked, Social Security is not a program which is dependent on government largesse. Rather, it is a benefit which is earned by working and contributing to the program, which provides retirement benefits based upon each person's average lifetime work income.

If you expect financial difficulties when you retire, I encourage you to visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging (www.benefits-checkup.org). Here you can enter your zip

code and find many public programs which you might be eligible for where you live, including assistance with healthcare costs, housing, utilities, etc.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.



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