





PLASTIC DREAMS — QUEEN —

from Page 1

When a ball was in play, fielders had the option to throw it at the base runner, and if contact was made before the runner reached the base, the runner was called out (this, too, would make Major League games more interesting). The plastic ball was as harmless as a sweat-bee sting.

Hours later, we'd be in the middle of some game — the 20th of the day? — our faces tilted to the stars upon hearing that glorious plastic pop of bat meeting ball, our eyes searching for a well-hit Wiffle ball sailing through the cool night like a polyurethane comet high above our field of plastic dreams.

If you listened closely enough, you could hear the breathy sound the ball made — part whistle, part wheeze —

as it passed overhead.

Chasing the sound, you dove shirtless and heroically belly-surfed across the slick night grass, looking up just in time to see the white sphere descend in quirky motions and land in the bare fold of your up-turned hands.

As the batter moaned in despair and the automatic pitcher cheered and the chiggers chewed your skin and your belly burned from the slide, you knew you would never experience a more memorable game-winning catch in your life — and one day when you were much older and terribly nostalgic, you would write about it.

Contact: [scottsaa-man@gmail.com](mailto:scottsaa-man@gmail.com). Scott's column collections are available on Amazon.

# Hello, Hamilton County

[paulpoteet.com](http://paulpoteet.com)

## CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Sundays at 11:00 in Celebration Hall

LIVESTREAMED

### Noblesville First United Methodist Church

You are invited to join the contemporary worship service in Celebration Hall (Door 2, 7). The service is offered at 11 a.m. every Sunday and features high-energy contemporary praise music from the LIVE Praise Band, scripture readings, a sermon message, engaging prayer time, and weekly Holy Communion, prayer rails, and candle lighting. Everyone is welcome to join each Sunday.

When asked how this experience with a group of 20 other girls who might not have known each other prior to entering into this contest, Hittle said she's made new friends.

"A couple of friends that I didn't even get on court, I've gained friendships," Hittle told The Reporter. "I'm so excited to stay in touch with them over the years. Even Brooke [Miller] and Grace [Allee] — they are younger than me, but I have connections with them from school and past pageants."

Being a part of the group of 21 privileged participants is something that these young women will take and use for the rest of their lives. This will prepare them for numerous situations.

"By numerous standards, I will gain the experience of talking with older people in my internship," Hittle said, "because I've been able to talk to more people and gain experience of communication. I didn't have that before."

Hittle continued, "This is going to prepare me by responsibility, keeping up with my duties that I will have. I don't like talking about myself too much. I'm not a pride person."

Queen Faith's Court

Prior to the announcement of the queen and her court, Miss Congeniality is awarded. This year, Miss Congeniality has been awarded to Laura Wertz.

Asking Wertz what the title of Miss Congeniality means to her, she beamed with absolute pride.

"To me, it's a term of endearment from my peers," Wertz said ecstatically. "Miss Congeniality means that you, as a person, represent kindness and compassion toward your friends and people that are around you."

Wertz continued, "Throughout the fair, I hope to embody that and



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Hamilton County's 2022 4-H Queen Faith Hittle shown here with her court, which includes (standing, from left) Miss Congeniality Laura Wertz, 4<sup>th</sup> Runner-up Alexandra Matthews, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up Grace Allee, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up Anna Clark, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner-up Brooke Miller. Congrats to all the contestants!

be able to meet a lot of new people and spread happiness and joy."

One noticeable thing just before awards were announced was that all contestants joined hands in unity, showing they were there for each other no matter the outcome.

"I love all of the girls so much," Wertz said. "They are all just really kind and funny. I have had such an amazing time getting to know each and every one of them. It's just been a really cool experience and I encourage everyone that can, to participate in it."

The contestants were judged in three areas. Earlier in the day, they were scored on their professional attire for their interview with the judges. Then, in front of a crowd of nearly 300, they were judged on their formal wear in evening gowns. This portion was based on their modeling,



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Outgoing Queen McKinely Underhill talks with a young 4-H fan. Come back in a few years, kiddo! Maybe you, too, can have a shot at the crown.

stage presence and poise they showed while being asked a question by pageant host Adam Good.

Also joining the 2022 Hamilton County 4-H Queen Court are 4<sup>th</sup> Runner-up Alexandra Matthews, 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner-up Brooke Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up Grace Allee and 1<sup>st</sup>

Runner-up Anna Clark.

4-H Fair Queen Faith Hittle and her court will be on-hand throughout the fair when it opens on Thursday, July 14 and goes through Monday, July 18.

Keep up to date on all happenings with the Hamilton County 4-H Fair with The Reporter.

I was born and raised right here in Noblesville. I grew up in a home without domestic violence or assault - it wasn't something I saw, or even heard about. But when I was introduced to Prevail of Central Indiana, I was shocked by the number of individuals who are affected by domestic violence. In 2018 alone, Prevail helped more than 4,000 clients in Hamilton County (nearly 80 percent of clients are women and children). Domestic violence and abuse are hard topics to discuss, so you don't often hear about them. But at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, we're breaking the taboo and raising awareness for Prevail, an organization that helps families in Hamilton County.

- Mike Bragg, GM of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville

To help Hamilton County families affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse, you can donate the following items:

- Individually packaged snacks
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# 11 Hoosier food banks receive \$1M in state funding

## Gleaners getting \$318K

### The REPORTER

Indiana Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced Wednesday that 11 Indiana food banks will receive a combined total of \$1 million to support their efforts in feeding Hoosiers in need.

"This funding provided by the Indiana General Assembly will go far in assisting Hoosiers with food and other basic necessities," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, who also serves as the Indiana Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Food banks and pantries are vital in their communities around the state, and they cannot do their work without adequate funding and volunteers. I am proud to support their efforts in making Hoosier families and seniors more food secure."

According to **Feeding Indiana's Hungry**, while the long lines outside of food banks and food pantries may not have been as noticeable in 2021 as the year before, nearly one in six Americans received food assistance from the charitable sector last year.

"Our member food banks continue to see clients in numbers well above 2019 levels," Feeding Indiana's Hungry Executive Director Emily Bryant said. "New and pressing challenges, including war abroad and inflation and higher costs of food, gas and other necessities are impacting the ability of individuals and families, especially with lower incomes, to make ends meet. For any Hoosier to be unsure from where their next meal will come is unacceptable. We're grateful for the support of the General Assembly, Lt. Gov. Crouch

and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture for providing additional support to our members to enable them to increase their capacity and ability to serve their communities."

ISDA Director Bruce Kettler says he is hopeful this increased funding will go a long way in supporting these organizations.

"I am proud that this vital funding flows from the General Assembly through our department to assist these food banks in providing food and nutritional assistance to those who need it most," Kettler said.

The funding was provided by the Indiana Legislature, as part of its biennial budget. The distribution amounts were determined using **The Emergency Food Assistance Program** (TFAP) fair share percentages for Indiana, which captures poverty and unemployment levels in each county.

"As the COVID-19 emergency came under control in terms of food insecurity, another took its place. Soaring food, fuel and housing prices are affecting many Hoosier families," Food Bank of Northwest Indiana CEO Victor Garcia said. "Our neighbors know they can turn to the emergency food assistance programs provided by the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana. Simply put, support from our partners at ISDA have helped our organization sustain the unprecedented number of friends and neighbors that need a helping hand."

Visit [isda.in.gov](https://isda.in.gov) to learn more about the Indiana State Department of Agriculture Department. Visit [feedingindianahungry.org](https://feedingindianahungry.org) to learn more about Feeding Indiana's Hungry.

what they want to make it, but I'd look in the junk pile and just come up with something."

Ernie told The Reporter he and his late wife, Dottie, never sold any of this art, but they did give away a great deal of it.

"If you make something, it's fun to make it, but if you've got to make it for somebody else, that's work," Ernie said with a smile and a light chuckle. "I've got a lot of friends who do all kinds of good stuff for me. They spend their winters in Florida and I'd always have a bunch of stuff sitting in their yards when they got back. I can't do that anymore. I'll be 94 years old Saturday."

Ernie said he started his art by making birds sculptures from shovels. Then he began making little alligators from files.

"Just little things," he said. "It wasn't no big plan or anything. I just started doing things and here it is."

The man who refused to sell his art says he prefers to be paid in the enjoyment others get from his work.

"I tell people I don't even have to be here. Just come up and look around," Ernie said. He also noted that people from farther away are more likely to stop to enjoy his sculptures.

"We have a lot of out-of-state people stop," Ernie said. "It seems like local people aren't much for stopping. I don't know if they're afraid to or what."

At 94, and with a heart condition, Ernie has trouble keeping up with the maintenance his art requires.

"I can do a little something, but after I do it, I've got to sit down and rest," Ernie said. "I can do a little more and sit down a rest. I just can't get out there to paint and maintain things like I used to. I finally got out this morning and got some spraying done."

*Editor's note: That day, temperatures topped 99 degrees by afternoon.*

"I'd come in and ask my wife, 'do you know what a butterfly looks like?' When she'd say she did, I'd say, 'Well draw me up one about so big,'" he said while holding his hands over two feet apart. "She'd drawn it and I'd go out and make one."

Ernie's late wife, Dottie Taylor, passed in August of 2019 at the age of 92. He speaks of her with an obvious fondness and keen sense of humor.

"I was married 62 years



Reporter photos by Stu Clampitt  
Walking around Ernie's property can be an adventure, with sculptures from just a few inches tall to 12 feet. See more photos at [ReadTheReporter.com](https://ReadTheReporter.com).

before I lost my wife," Ernie said. "We had a terrible personality clash. Terrible. We stayed together because whomever left had to take the kids. So, we just stuck it out."

### He counts everything in cheeseburgers

Ernie was born just before the start of the Great Depression, which gave him a perspective few can still appreciate.

"I came up through that Depression and there was times when we didn't hardly have enough to eat," Ernie told The Reporter. "Later, I lied about my age and joined the Army. I was in Italy when I was just 17 years old. Those two things taught me to keep my life simple and whatever you do, be damned sure you're able to eat."

That perspective has led Ernie to value simple things.

"I remember on time all me and my sister had to eat was parched corn. Thank God for that - it will keep you alive - but you don't want to eat that the rest of your life," Ernie said. "So I count everything in cheeseburgers. Everybody tells me I need a new car or I need a new truck. I think about how many cheeseburgers that would buy you. I'd rather

have the cheeseburgers!"

### Simple joys

Ernie said he has honestly been very successful in life, but he places no value on "fancy things."

"I'm just happy with who I am and what I've got," Ernie said. "That's what my dad used to tell us in the Depression. We didn't have a damn thing. We didn't even have shoes to wear. He'd say, 'Be happy with who you are and what you've got.' That didn't mean a thing back in those days, but it means everything in my adult age because I'm just a happy man."

It is a lesson he tried to pass along to visitors.

"I tell everybody when they have young people in here, 'Queen Elizabeth and Donald Trump ain't no better off than I am,'" he said. "I've got a place to eat and sleep. I've got transportation. I've got doctors' care. I eat three meals a day. Ain't nobody any better off than I am. I'm super rich. That's the way I feel about things. It's a simple life, but it's a good life."

He said the only bad habit he has left is a fondness for chewing tobacco.

"That's probably not the healthiest thing in the world,

but it's kept me going longer than most people get to go. At my age, still living by myself, I've got my hands and my feet, I can still walk, I still like to look at them pretty girls," Ernie said. "I'm good."

Ernie ended The Reporter's visit by reciting a poem about a man from another era who lived in Tennessee and was worrying about getting old.

*I's been fretting about the future and things I's been told  
About what happens to us folks when we go to getting old.*

*So I took a little trip to the eastern part of the state  
And gazed at all that pretty scenery until the time was getting late.*

*Gosh, what beautiful forests, like a rainbow in the sky!*

*I can't explain my feelings, but I couldn't help but cry.*

*All those beautiful trees. Flowers everywhere.*

*My heart welled up with praises 'cause my Lord had put 'em there.*

*Now I's not fretting any longer 'cause there's one thing that I see:*

*If the good Lord made them mountains, He can sure take care of me.*

**Food Banks getting state funding**

- Community Harvest Food Bank: \$101,400
- Dare to Care Food Bank: \$37,400
- Food Bank of Northern Indiana: \$115,000
- Food Bank of Northwest Indiana: \$97,700
- Food Finders Food Bank, Inc.: \$93,900
- FreeStore Foodbank: \$9,000
- Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc.: \$318,200
- Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Inc.: \$42,600
- Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central IN, Inc.: \$77,500
- Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank, Inc.: \$44,000
- Tri-State Food Bank, Inc.: \$63,300

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# Enjoy best of art, shopping, music today at *Meet Me on Main* in Carmel

**The REPORTER**

Come to the Carmel Arts & Design District from 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 11 for Allied Solutions’ *Meet Me on Main*. Make your way to Main Street and Range Line Road for an evening of art, shopping, music, and more.

*Meet Me on Main* is the City of Carmel’s monthly “second Saturday” event to highlight local galleries, restaurants and design-related businesses in the District. Art galleries and businesses will feature special events specially planned to enhance the art and design-related features of the District.

**Special Community Activity**

Nancy Keating of Mosaic Gardens and Carmel Art on Main Gallery and Gifts will host a Chip-in Community Mosaic on the plaza at Main Street and Monon Greenway. You can start “chipping in” at 4 p.m.

\*\*\*

Visit the art galleries and businesses to enjoy their special offers, as well as special activities in the Arts & Design District:

- Live music stationed along the sidewalk throughout the district: Adam Gross, in front of Aura Self & Soul Care (312 W. Main St.); Jeff Reed, next to Carmel Chocolate Café (45 W. Main St.); Classical Music Indy, in front of Indiana Artisan (22 N. Range Line Road)

- Free make and take crafts in the breezeway next to Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream (111 W. Main St.)

- Free caricatures in front of Circle Real Estate (30 W. Main St.)

- Carmel Fire Department community display next to Vitality Bowls (110 W. Main St., Ste. 115)

- New featured artists and special events at various art galleries along Main Street and Range Line Road

There will be an opportunity to register to win one of three \$100 gift cards by visiting participating merchants and dropping your name and contact information into a special drawing that will take place the following week. The gift cards are from select Carmel Arts & Design District businesses. Be sure to visit as many galleries and shops as possible to increase your chance to win.

Visit the following galleries and businesses for your chance to win one of three \$100 gift cards:

- Soori Gallery, 33 E. Main St.



Photo provided by Tina Mangos

**Be sure to stop by the Carmel Arts Council Children’s Art Gallery today during *Meet me on Main*. Nick Mangos, caricature artist and illustrator, will show kids how to draw from 4 to 6 p.m.**

- Magdalena Gallery of Art, 27 E. Main St. #100
- Indiana Artisan Gifts & Gallery, 22 N. Range Line Road
- The Olive Mill, 10 S. Range Line Road
- Carmel Arts Council – The Children’s Art Gallery, 40 W. Main St.
- All Things Carmel, 110 W. Main St. #104
- Art on Main Gallery & Gifts, 111 W. Main St. #140
- CCA Gallery & Gifts, 111 W. Main St. #135
- Kuaba Gallery, 404 W. Main St.
- Aura Self & Soul Care, 312 W. Main St.

**Indiana Artisan Gallery**  
**Indiana Artisan Gifts & Gallery**, 22 N. Range Line Road. Silk artist Carrie Wright considers herself living proof that it’s never too late to follow your dreams. She left a career in corporate America more than a decade ago to pursue her artistic passions. Be awed as she transforms silk into a colorful piece of art that could become a garment, pillows, scarves or a host of other artful pieces. She will paint from 5 to 9 p.m. at Indiana Artisan.

\*\*\*

**Special Offers**

- **All Things Carmel**, 110 W. Main St., #104. The store will be promoting the upcoming Brews & Barrels event, Brews on the Boulevard, by sampling some local craft beer creations from 5 to 9 p.m.

- **Xchocol’Art**, 228 W. Main St. Here is your chance to be a chocolate chef at the Make Your Own Bar workshop. Pour beautiful dark chocolate and add your favorite ingredients – dried fruit, nuts, cookies, even flowers. You will take home three bars to share with friends and family. While your bars are drying, Xchocol’Art staff will talk about all things chocolate.

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**Main Street construction**

Construction continues on 1st Avenue NW north of Main Street. Please continue to drive with caution. Access to the Sophia Square parking garage is open via Main Street.

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A map of the gallery locations and more information about *Meet Me on Main* activities can be found at [CarmelArtsAnd-Design.com](http://CarmelArtsAnd-Design.com).

Public parking is available in the Carmel Lions Club lot (141 E. Main St.), Sophia Square parking garage (entrance off of 1st Ave. NW), Indiana Design Center parking garage (200 S. Range Line Road) or on-street. [Click here](#) to download the Arts & Design District parking map.

**About the Carmel Arts & Design District**

The Carmel Arts & Design District is the Midwest’s premier arts and design destination. Home to more than 200 businesses, including art galleries, restaurants, antique dealers, design showrooms, boutiques and creative service providers, the Carmel Arts & Design District promises to stimulate the senses. The Indiana Design Center is housed in the Carmel Arts & Design District. In addition, hundreds have taken advantage of the wide variety of housing opportunities and call the Carmel Arts & Design District home.

**Art on Main Gallery & Gifts**

**Art on Main Gallery & Gifts**, 111 W. Main St., Suite 140. Art on Main has a terrific front room exhibit this month by master painter Randall Scott Harden. Titled “From Italy with Love,” the exhibit features oil paintings inspired by his recent travels to Italy and runs throughout the month of July. In addition, Art on Main features new original art, jewelry and gifts for July by its 20 Indiana artists. Stop in and see what’s new.

**CCA Gallery & Gifts**

**CCA Gallery**, 111 W. Main St., Suite 135. The featured artists for July at CCA Gallery include the beautiful paintings of Christine Jones and the wonderful ceramics of Cassie Kobets. Meet the artists at the reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Discover what inspires them and enjoy refreshments.

## When it comes to whole-body health, don’t ignore your skin

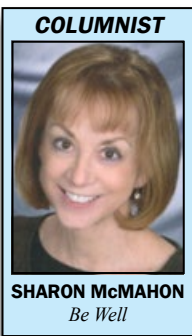
“In a thousand years, archaeologists will dig up tanning beds and think we fried people as punishment.” – Olivia Wilde, actress

While my article quotes are usually from philosophers, sages, and the like, I found this one to be both on target and rather humorous even though this is a very serious topic.

I would be shocked to learn of anyone who had not heard from many sources of the link between sun damage and skin cancer. I also find it at least surprising to learn that many people seem to either not believe the statistics or shrug their shoulders in pursuit of the “glowing tan” – and unfortunately, most of those people are female.

If you are of a “certain age” as I am, you may just be at the beginning of the experience of seeing the results of sun damage. Make no mistake that regardless of your heritage or skin type, we are all susceptible to sun damage that may lead to skin cancer and melanoma.

In my case, although I am 1/16 Native American (before you call me Pocahontas, I do have proof) my Celtic DNA has persevered and my pale, freckled skin has never cooperated fully with tanning. As a child, I did get a bit of a slight tan, but that was after many hours outside and mostly at Forest Park Pool. Great memories, but during the



SHARON MCMAHON  
Be Well

teenage years we used lots of baby oil and iodine while “tanning” – some of you relate to that and others (younger!) reading that may say “WHAT?” Yes it’s true, sigh, we did it. Thankfully I was never a fan of the tanning beds, another source of skin damage and skin cancer. Combine sun and smoking (ick) and talk about double trouble! I won’t even go down that road – not enough space in this column!

In recent years, having come to my senses about many things, I have made sure to see my dermatologist annually. A couple of years ago, she noted something that she felt required further inspection and was thus removed for a biopsy – a very small item that had gone unnoticed by me. She explained that it might be a melanoma, so of course, I was on pins and needles for about a week until I learned it was benign and thankfully, gone. However, that incident has reinforced my determination to be more watchful and to indeed see my dermatologist every year at least.

Remember, and this is quite important, be vigilant about wearing sunscreen, checking your skin, and see your doctor because, thankfully, most skin cancer issues can be resolved early if you follow the recommendations. There is a plethora of “bottle tans” now available on the market, so that

may be option for you to explore while in search of a “healthy” tan!

Lastly, I did learn something very surprising from my dermatologist: *Most skin cancer issues among adults result from sun exposure at a young age: childhood through early teen years.*

Well, for me and others, there is little I can do about that, but I encourage you to make sure that all children in your care or over whom you may have influence are regularly wearing sunscreen and limiting time in the sun. I know – easier said than done, but it is vital to their health and well-being as well as their future. (*And, please, do not allow your dogs to “enjoy” the hot summer sun; they cannot perspire as we do, and the hot pavement will burn their sensitive footpads.*)

We all love summer, and if you are like me and you enjoy feeling the breezes and seeing the sunshine out your windows, the long days of summer, and sometimes feeling some warm rays on your skin, then enjoy our brief summertime season here in Indiana, but care for your largest organ – your skin. Good food, good sleep, less stress, and sunscreen make for a healthier you – enjoy!

**Sharon McMahon, CNWC**  
*The opinions expressed in this article are not intended to replace advice of your personal physician or licensed health professional. Please consult your physician for any issues you may have related to nutrition or fitness activity.*

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# Songbook Academy concerts will feature five Hamilton County students

## The REPORTER

Twelve Indiana students – including five from Hamilton County – are among the national finalists who will perform in three upcoming public events during the Great American Songbook Foundation's annual Songbook Academy, taking place this year July 20-23.

From hundreds of applicants in 19 states, only 40 were selected to attend the weeklong music intensive at the Center for the Performing Arts, where entertainment industry professionals and leading arts educators school them in the history and performance of timeless popular songs, jazz standards and classic show tunes.

This year's entertainment industry mentors will include Songbook Foundation Founder Michael Feinstein, Broadway/TV actor Shereen Ahmed, jazz and blues singer Nicole Henry, Broadway performer James T. Lane, jazz singer-musician Aubrey Logan and crossover singer Anthony Nunziata.

Now in its 13th year, the Songbook Academy is returning to an in-person format after two seasons online. In addition to the many classes, workshops and activities for the students, this year's schedule includes the return of three public events that have become perennial favorites for local audiences. For the first time, fans can choose to enjoy the performances in person at the Palladium concert hall or online from the comfort of home.

Tickets are on sale now at [TheCenterPresents.org](http://TheCenterPresents.org), by calling (317) 843-3800, or by visiting the Fifth Third Bank Box Office at the Palladium. The events are:

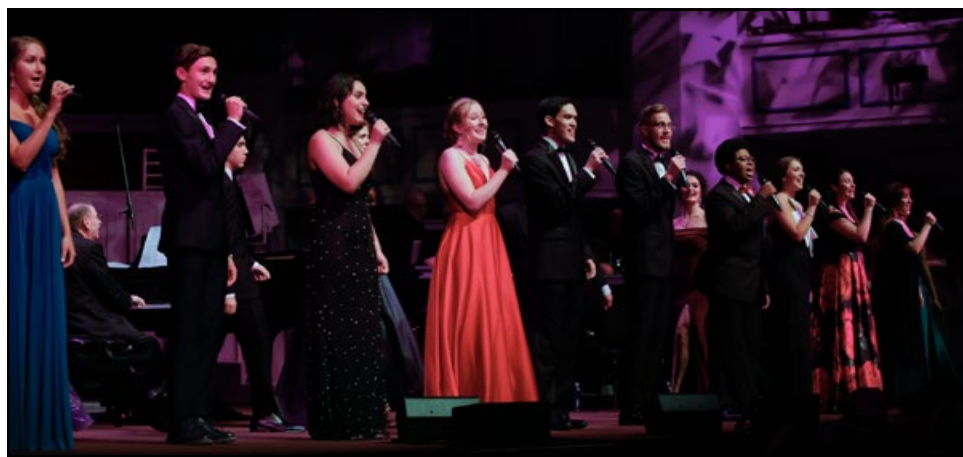


Photo provided

## Public Masterclass

Ten randomly selected participants will perform and receive real-time critiques from artists Michael Feinstein and Nicole Henry.

- 2 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, at the Palladium and online

- Free (On-site tickets and livestream registration are pay-what-you-can with no minimum price. Proceeds support the Great American Songbook Foundation.)

## Songbook Showcase

Each of the 40 national finalists will have a turn in the spotlight to perform a selected song.

- 2 to 5 p.m. Thursday, July 21, at the Palladium and online

- Free (On-site tickets and livestream registration are pay-what-you-can with no minimum price. Proceeds support the Great American Songbook Foundation.)

## Songbook Academy in Concert

- 7 p.m. Saturday, July 23, at the Palladium and online

- On site: Tickets from \$25

- Livestream: \$10 (pay-what-you-can, \$10 minimum)

The July 23 concert will

be an expanded multimedia production featuring all 40 singers in solo and ensemble performances to celebrate their growth over the course of the week, including a tribute to late Broadway icon Stephen Sondheim led by emcee Michael Feinstein. Awards and honors will be presented throughout the evening,

and a giant video screen will display interview clips and behind-the-scenes footage from this year's academy. A performance by 2013 Songbook Academy alumna Melinda Rodriguez – winner of the annual Ella Fitzgerald Jazz Vocal Competition and competitor on Season 17 of NBC's *The Voice* – will welcome the new class to the

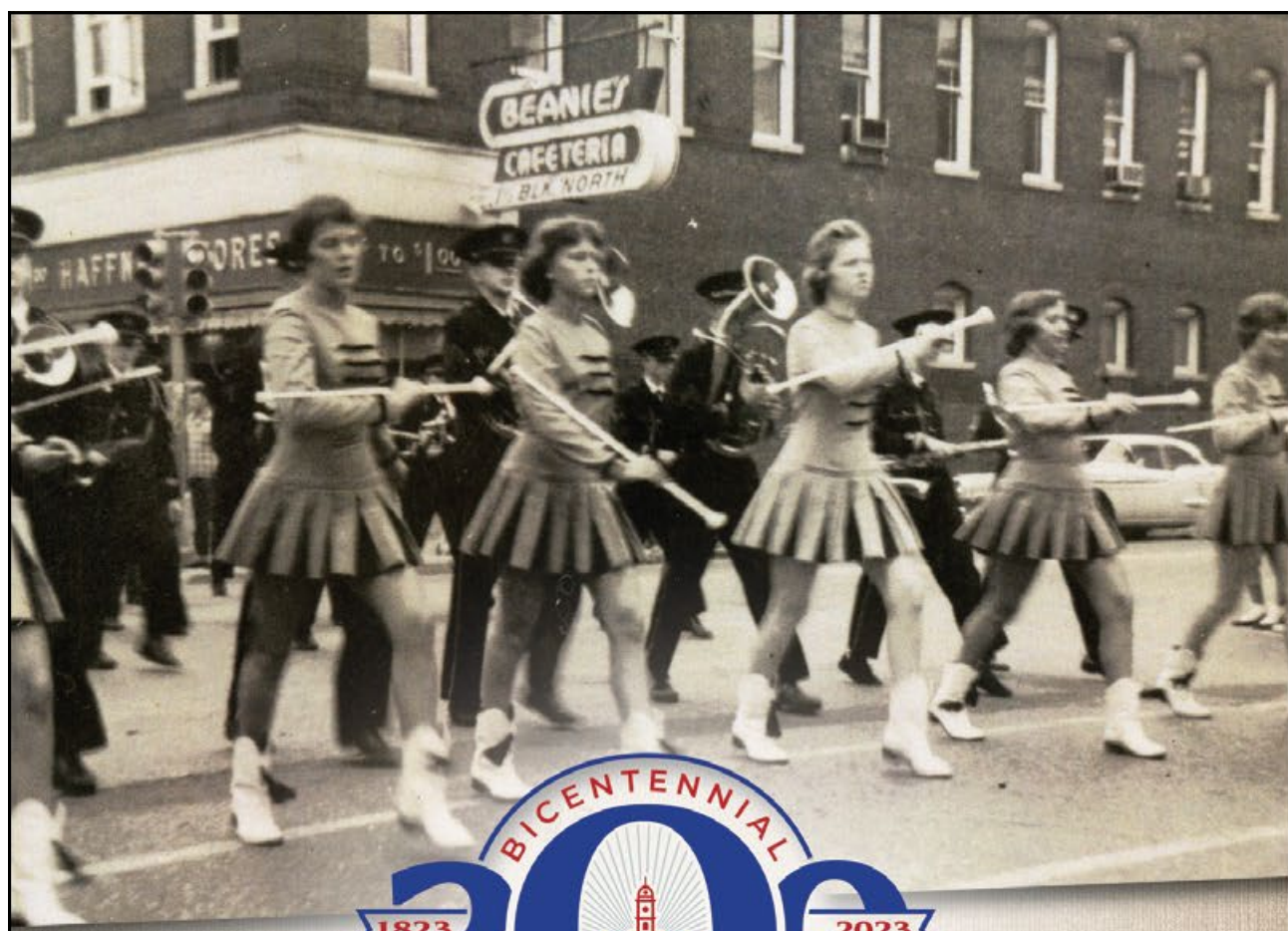
Songbook Alumni Network.

The Songbook Academy is sponsored nationally by the Efroymsen Family Fund and also supported by the City of Carmel and Salon 01. The Songbook Academy in Concert performance is part of the Center for the Performing Arts' Hoosier Village & The Barrington of Carmel Songbook Series

and the 2022-2023 Center Presents Season in partnership with Allied Solutions. The Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation Mentor Champions support the involvement of the national faculty teams who guide and support the students throughout the week. More information is available at [TheSongbook.org](http://TheSongbook.org).

## Songbook Academy finalists from Indiana

- **Ayaan Abbasi, Carmel**; Carmel High School graduate, incoming freshman at Indiana University
- **Ian Brooks, Avon**; rising senior at Avon High School
- **Izzy Casciani, Zionsville**; rising junior at Zionsville Community High School
- **Emmaline Colvin, Carmel**; rising junior at Carmel High School
- **Jonathan Grimes, Avon**; Avon High School graduate, incoming freshman at Indiana University
- **Seth Jacobsen, Carmel**; rising senior at Carmel High School
- **Gemma Rollison, Indianapolis**; rising senior, homeschooled
- **Maxwell Rutherford, Mooresville**; Mooresville High School graduate, incoming freshman at IU/PUI
- **Lauren Sciaudone, Westfield**; rising senior at St. Theodore Guerin High School
- **Cooper Trigg, Monrovia**; rising senior at Avon High School
- **Sarah Warf, Carmel**; Carmel High School graduate, incoming freshman at Indiana University
- **Meghan Warmuth, Indianapolis**; rising senior at Avon High School



## Time Marches On

Don't let our 200th pass you by

Become an official participant in Hamilton County's **2023 Bicentennial** fanfare.



Organizations are invited to incorporate the Bicentennial into existing or new programming. All official participants receive valuable planning and promotional benefits.

**PLUS: Micro-grants of up to \$500 are available.**

Organizations must apply to participate on or before August 1, 2022.

## Letter to the Editor

Illinois reader: Let's hold off on the atta-boys until the peril has truly passed

Dear Editor:

After my father's hip replacement, he noted how encouraging the medical staff was during his rehabilitation. Even routine steps with the walker, he said, were praised. I experienced the same treatment after my own hip surgery and was grateful for it. I never missed walking until I couldn't walk.

COVID-19 has been a crash course in "you never miss the water until the well runs dry." Simple pleasures we took for granted disappeared. Even littering habits changed. Parking lots and Forest Preserve trails once riddled with fast-food containers were strewn with discarded facemasks.

Despite a few blips, I believe the federal government and CDC have provided reasonable guidance during the pandemic. While occasional commendation for our sacrifice is welcome, I have one suggestion: Next time, maybe hold back on lifting restrictions and praising us for an extra week or two. We're impatient by nature, but with earlier cooperation from us, and less politicizing over facemasks, COVID might have been closer to a memory by now.

We live in a trophy syndrome society that celebrates out of proportion to what was actually accomplished. That's not our medical community's fault, it's just reality.

Doctors, next pandemic, make us beat the virus first. THEN tell us what a good job we did.

**Jim Newton**  
Itasca, Ill.

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to [News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com). Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.

**Got a question about your subscription to The Reporter?**

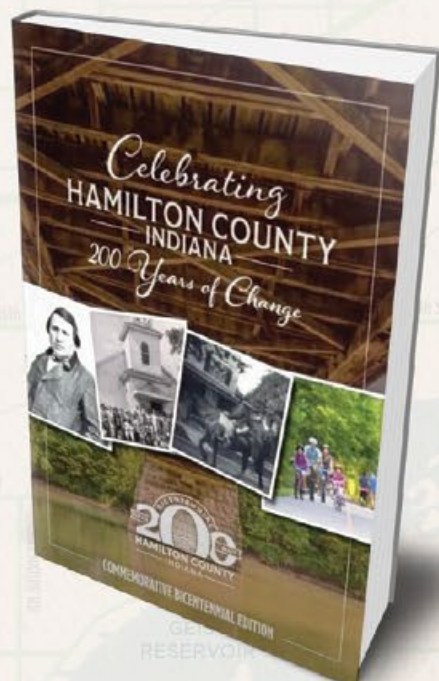
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## Celebrating Hamilton County, Indiana: 200 Years of Change

**DEADLINE: AUG. 5, 2022**

- **Pre-Order** the official full-color photographic history book (\$37.50)
- **Purchase a Page** to feature your business, organization or story (details at: [hamcoturns200.com/our-book](http://hamcoturns200.com/our-book))



[hamcoturns200.com](http://hamcoturns200.com)



# Hamilton County 4-H Fair Schedule

Saturday, July 9 – Monday, July 11



## SATURDAY, JULY 9

Fair Office open 8 a.m. to noon

8 a.m.: Setup day on 4-H Fairgrounds

### Llama Barn

9:30 a.m.: Check-in for 4-H Dog Agility

10 a.m.: 4-H Dog Agility Show

## SUNDAY, JULY 10

Fair Office open 3 to 6 p.m.

### Exhibition Center

4 to 6 p.m.: Check-in for 4-H Achievement Resume, Arts & Crafts (Fine Arts, General Crafts, Llama Craft, Models, Needlecraft), Creative Writing, Home Environment, Gift Wrap, Photography, Reading, Sewing, Travelogue

\*\*ALL exhibitors will enter Hall A East Doors and exit Hall C East Doors.\*\*

### Annex Building

4 to 6 p.m.: Check-in for 4-H Aerospace\*, Child Development, Electric, People In My World, Recycling & Scrapbook

\*NOTE: 4-H Aerospace members MUST pre-enroll for Rocket Launch during Aerospace check-in.

\*\*ALL exhibitors will enter East Door and exit West Door into 4-H Commons.\*\*

### O.V. Winks Building

4 to 6 p.m.: Check-in for 4-H 1/16th Tractor Notebooks, Beekeeping, Beef Barbecue Posters, Bicycle Posters, Chicken Barbecue Posters, Entomology, Floriculture Posters & Notebooks, Forestry, Garden Posters, Genealogy, Geology, Health, Shooting Sports, Small Engines, Soil & Water Conservation, Sportfishing, Strawberry Posters, Tractor Maintenance Posters, Veterinary Science, Weather, Wildflowers, Wildlife, Woodworking, and ALL Animal Posters (Beef, Cats, Dairy, Dogs, Goats, Horse & Pony, Llama, Pocket Pets, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep & Swine.)

ALL POSTERS ARE CHECKED IN TODAY (except Computer Posters)

\*\*ALL exhibitors will enter

Breezeway East Door and exit West Doors.\*\*

## MONDAY, JULY 11

Fair Office open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Exhibition Center Conference Room

7 p.m.: 4-H Council Meeting

### Exhibition Center (Hall A)

8 to 8:30 a.m.: Check-in for

4-H Computer (ALL LEVELS)

8:30 a.m.: Open Judging (ALL LEVELS) for 4-H Computer, Reading, Travelogue, 4-H Achievement Resume (Beginner); Closed Judging for 4-H Creative Writing (ALL LEVELS)

9 a.m.: Open Judging for 4-H Achievement Resume (Intermediate)

10 a.m. Open Judging for 4-H Achievement Resume (Advanced)

\*\*Achievement Resume, Computer, and Travelogue will be displayed in the O.V. Winks Building after judging.\*\*

\*\*Creative Writing and Reading will be displayed in Exhibition Center Hall C after judging.\*\*

### Exhibition Center (Hall B)

8:30 a.m.: Open Judging for 4-H Sewing Grades 3 (Wearable & Non-Wearable), 4-H Sewing Grades 8-12 (Wearable & Non-Wearable)

9:15 a.m.: Open Judging for 4-H Sewing Grades 4 & 5 (Wearable & Non-Wearable)

10 a.m.: Open Judging for 4-H Sewing Grades 6 & 7 (Wearable & Non-Wearable)

### Exhibition Center (Hall C)

8:30 a.m.: Closed Judging for 4-H Arts & Crafts – Fine Arts

8:30 a.m.: Open Judging (ALL LEVELS) for 4-H Ceramics, Gift Wrap, Home Environment, Llama Craft & Needlecraft

### Annex Building

8:30 a.m.: Open Judging for 4-H Electric (Level 1)

9:30 a.m.: Open Judging for 4-H Electric (Level 2), 4-H People In My World (ALL LEVELS), 4-H Recycling (ALL LEVELS)

10:30 a.m.: Open Judging for 4-H Electric (Level 3)

11 a.m.: Open Judging for 4-H Electric (Level 4 & 5)

1 p.m.: Open Judging for 4-H Aerospace,

Child Development, Scrapbook (ALL LEVELS)

### O.V. Winks Building

8:30 a.m.: Closed Judging for 4-H 1/16th Tractor Notebooks, Animal Posters, Beekeeping, Bicycle Posters, Entomology, Forestry, Genealogy, Geology, Shooting Sports, Soil & Water Conservation, Sportfishing, Tractor Maintenance Posters, Veterinary Science, Weather, Wildflowers, Wildlife

### O.V. Winks Building, West Entrance

8:30 a.m.: Open Judging for 4-H Small Engines

### Llama Barn & Show Arena

3:30 p.m.: Check-in for 4-H Dog Obedience

4 p.m.: 4-H Dog Obedience Contest



# Veterans in crisis don't have to go it alone, support is available

## The REPORTER

Throughout the year, it is important to recognize our country's veterans and the sacrifices they have made – even once they are back on U.S. soil.

According to the Veteran's Association, the suicide rate among veterans is 1.5 times that of the general population, and it is estimated that more than 20 veter-

ans die by suicide every day. New veterans have a 93 percent higher risk for suicide than the general public.

In numerous studies conducted by the VA, a variety of factors that may increase the risk of suicide, especially where multiple factors exist, some of these include:

- Acute psychosocial stressors

- Insomnia
- Mental health conditions like anxiety disorder, manic depressive disorder, depression, and PTSD
- Substance Abuse

If you are a veteran in a mental health crisis and you are thinking about hurting yourself, or if you know a veteran who is in need, please get help right away. To connect with a Veterans

Crisis Line, day or night, call 800-273-8255, then select 1. You can also text 838255. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-8255.

The Jason Foundation is another valuable resource to learn about the warning signs associated with suicide and how you can help. Visit [jasonfoundation.com](http://jasonfoundation.com) for more information.

# Noblesville First UMC DivorceCare can help

## The REPORTER

Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St., is offering a program called DivorceCare to help those in need of healing from separation and divorce.

The program will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. beginning Tuesday, Aug. 23 and will run for 13 weeks, but people can join at any time.

Child care may be provided for children of participants with adult registra-

tion. Please give three days of advanced notice.

These sessions will be held in the church building. Participants should enter Door No. 1 and then meet in the church parlor.

Divorce is one of the most painful experiences you can face. So many emotions. So many challenges. You don't have to go through it alone. DivorceCare offers support, answers, and practical tools to help you manage the many stresses of sepa-



ration and divorce and find healing.

All are welcome to this support group which features practical suggestions and reassurance through video interviews with nationally known experts. Each session offers a time for discussion and sharing

during each meeting giving everyone a new sense of community and support. New participants are welcome anytime.

More information can be found at [noblesville-first.com/divorcecare](http://noblesville-first.com/divorcecare) or [divorcecare.org/groups/search](http://divorcecare.org/groups/search).

# Soil conservation on upward trend in Indiana

## The REPORTER

According to a recent conservation survey, Hoosier farmers planted an estimated 1.5 million acres of overwinter living covers in the late fall of 2021, matching the record 1.5 million acres planted in 2020, according to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

Overwintering living covers, such as cover crops and small grains like wheat, are known for their environmental benefits. Cover crops and small grains help increase organic matter in the soil and improve overall soil health by adding living roots to the soil additional months out of the year. Cover crops also improve water infiltration into the soil, while other covers, like legumes serve as natural fertilizers. The 1.5 million acres of living covers planted sequestered an amount of soil organic carbon that is the equivalent of 819,941 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Although the conservation transect does not differentiate between cover crops and small grains, Indiana farmers typically plant fewer than 300,000 acres of small grains annually, so cover crops vastly dominate the 1.5 million estimated acres. Except for corn and soybeans, cover crops are planted on more acres than any other commodity crop in Indiana. Cover crops are typically planted in the fall

after harvest and are utilized to protect the soil and keep roots in the ground throughout the winter, which improves soil health and helps filter water runoff.

The conservation transect is a visual survey of cropland in the state. It was conducted between March and April 2022 by members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership, including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Purdue Extension, as well as Earth Team volunteers, to show a more complete story of the state's conservation efforts.

"By increasing our cover crop practices each year, we are ensuring that we provide healthier soil for the next generation," said Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, who also serves as the state's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "I am proud of the collaborative efforts being done by our farmers and leaders in Indiana agriculture."

As a result of the cover crops and other overwintering covers planted last year, it is estimated that 2.1 million tons of sediment was prevented from entering Indiana's waterways, which is enough sediment to fill more than 597 Olympic-size swimming pools. Overwintering



Photo provided

Cover crops like the one seen here help preserve and fortify soil health.

covers also prevented 5.1 million pounds of nitrogen and over 2.5 million pounds of phosphorus from entering Indiana's waterways.

The conservation survey also showed that about 70 percent of farmed acres were not tilled, and 18 percent of farmed acres had employed reduced tillage after the 2021 harvest. This early spring survey is not intended to quantify pre-planting tillage.

"Indiana farmers continue to help lead the way through their dedication to conservation farming," said Jerry Raynor, state conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Indiana. "The work being done by farmers throughout the state to promote soil health through no-till farming and the planting of cover crops will have positive impacts

for generations to come. We are committed to continuing to help farmers help the land through financial assistance and free conservation technical assistance as they implement these practices and more to help conserve this vital resource."

Indiana State Department of Agriculture Director Bruce Kettler said he is excited to see what the future holds for soil conservation in Indiana.

"As recent surveys have proved, soil conservation remains an integral part of how Hoosier farmers care for their land and the work they do," Kettler said. "With this increasing trend of cover crop acres and soil health, future generations are in trustworthy hands."

Click here to see the results from the survey. To visit the Indiana Conservation Data Hub, click here.

## — COUNTY —

### INFORMATION SYSTEM SERVICES DEPT MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County GIS Policy Committee will hold a hybrid meeting at 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at the Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana (Conference Room 1A). The purpose of this meeting is for discussion of GIS projects.

Call-In Meeting Information (Audio only)  
Conference phone number: (219) 225-8177  
Conference ID: 261 405 908#

/s/ Robin M. Mills  
Hamilton County Auditor

R990

7/9/22, 7/11/22

### INFORMATION SYSTEM SERVICES DEPT MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County ISS Board will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 as a hybrid meeting via TEAMS and in Conference Room 1A. The purpose of this meeting is for discussion of ISSD projects.

/s/ Robin M. Mills  
Hamilton County Auditor

R991

7/9/22, 7/11/22

IFI and Life Church Present

# TOWN HALL



AG  
TODD ROKITA

July 12 : Life Church Noblesville





# Where is Officer Carey?

*A spa day for Carmel's favorite police officer*



Photo courtesy Daniel Plonski

Generally speaking, you don't usually lose your head when going for a little "rest and relaxation" at a spa or retreat, but Carmel's well-known man in uniform is experiencing just that while getting some spiffing up at the sculptor's studio in New Jersey. Restoration of the lifescale bronze by Seward Johnson is taking place at The Johnson Atelier. The sculpture is having the antenna repaired and all coloration refurbished. He should be back in place in August, patrolling and greeting visitors 24/7, looking and feeling his best. (Above) Jessica Petty, restoration artist at The Johnson Atelier, works on the 'Oh, it's you, Welcome' sculpture.

## Business Cards

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## Meeting Notices

The Carmel Plan Commission will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square, Carmel.

The Hamilton County Airport Authority Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The Noblesville Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

The Noblesville Common Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

**Thanks for reading The Reporter!**

## Indiana labor department says 'YES' youth employment system proving successful

### The REPORTER

Last July when Senate Enrolled Act 409 went into effect, Indiana entered into a modern era of tracking youth employment.

The new law did away with work permits for Indiana's minor employees and established a new Youth Employment System (YES) to register and account for employment of minors under 18 years old. Now, a year later, nearly 10,300 employers have registered more than 167,000 minor employees.

Bureau of Youth Employment Director David Bennett with the Indiana Department of Labor credits the YES system success to the bureau's efforts in designing the system, conducting stringent testing, and launching the system in plenty of time to train employers and prepare schools to communicate the change with students and parents.

"Modernizing the law and the process has been an answer to some frustrations that employers, schools and families endured for years," Bennett said. "But the YES registry streamlines the hiring process for employers and minor employees, making it easier for all involved."

Employers can access the YES registration app via a desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone, and registering minor employees only takes about two minutes. Upon termination of employment, the employer must remove the minor's information from the YES active-employee registry. The employer will have three business days to complete each action.

Schools continue to have the opportunity to monitor which employers are hiring minor employees in their communities via YES and can request public information in the

system specific to their students. This enables schools to continue to collaborate with employers to balance a student's employment and academic performance throughout the school year.

The new YES requirement does not impact the state's work-hour requirement for minors, and all employers must still comply with the **Teen Work Hour Restrictions and Prohibited and Hazardous Occupation restrictions** for minors.

The law change, found in **Indiana Code 22-2-18.1-26**, occurred during Indiana's 2020 legislative session, and most changes went into effect in 2020, with the exception of the work permit elimination and new registration system which was given until July 1, 2021, to go live.

[Click here](#) for more information about the new state requirements and the YES registry.

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**84th Annual Fish Fry**  
**July 22, 2022**

Lunch served 11:00 am-1:30 pm.  
Dinner served 4:30 pm-8:00 pm

Pre-Orders Start July 1  
[carmellions.org](http://carmellions.org)



# Indiana law banning second-trimester abortion procedure will take effect

## The REPORTER

A federal judge is allowing an Indiana law largely banning a second-trimester abortion procedure to take effect following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to end the constitutional protection for abortion.

U.S. Senior Judge for the Southern District of Indiana Sarah Evans Barker's order signed Thursday lifts the injunction she issued in 2019 blocking the law against the procedure that the Republican-backed legislation called **"dismemberment abortion."**

Barker granted a request from the **Indiana Attorney General's Office** to lift her order, writing that the Supreme Court's decision last month overturning the landmark *Roe v. Wade* ruling removed the "linchpin holdings" for her analysis.

The law prohibits doctors

from performing dilation and evacuation abortions unless to prevent serious health risk or save the life of the mother. A doctor violating the law could face a felony charge, punishable by up to six years in prison.

Barker, however, declined to lift her injunction against a 2017 Indiana law that would require parents to be notified if a court allows a girl younger than 18 to get abortion without parental consent. She cited procedural reasons, pointing out that the challenge of that law was **pending** with the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago.

Indiana could have **more sweeping abortion restrictions** by sometime next month as the Republican-dominated state legislature is scheduled to begin a special legislative session on July 25.

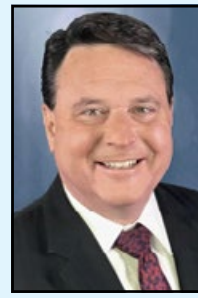
## Attorney General Todd Rokita chalks up win in historic case that lifts "dismemberment abortion" injunction

### Submitted

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita on Friday announced an historic legal win in his work to protect the lives and liberty of the unborn.

After the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision, Rokita immediately filed a motion to lift the current injunction on dismemberment abortions, which occur well after the unborn baby is fully developed. **A federal district court granted that motion Thursday.**

"The court's ruling this week vacating its earlier injunction that permitted this gruesome procedure to continue is an exciting battle victory in our war to defend the unborn and protect women," Rokita said. "My office will continue to take all necessary steps to limit abortion, assist mothers, empower families to choose life, and ul-



Rokita

timately protect the lives of the unborn."

In a separate case, Rokita on Friday filed a motion with the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals to reestablish the parental notice requirement for minors to have an abortion. A district court ruled Thursday that it did not have jurisdiction to consider that motion.

"Indiana has a long

history of defending life," Rokita said. "I'll continue to do everything in my power to protect unborn children and the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of their mothers."

Rokita has made it a priority to advance the pro-life movement throughout his time in office and continues that work daily. While many states may refuse to take necessary action to protect life, Rokita says, Indiana is paving the way without hesitation.

## Thanks for reading!

## See 'Broadway Under the Stars' with ISO at Conner Prairie

### The REPORTER

Join Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly for this exciting performance of your Broadway favorites, featuring music from *Les Misérables*, *Company*, *Wicked*, *Funny Girl*, *Moulin Rouge*, and more. Two concerts are scheduled for 8 p.m. each evening on Friday, July 15 and Saturday, July 16 at Conner Prairie, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers.

Special guest vocalists include Nick Adams, Tiffany Gilliam, Jim Hogan, Shereen Pimentel, Katie Swaney, and the ISO Pops Chorus.

General admission lawn seats, reserved seating, tables, and seats in the Huntington Bank Sunset Lounge are available for purchase.

**Click here** to buy tickets now.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. each evening at Conner Prairie. Gates open at 6 p.m. Proof of a negative COVID-19 test or COVID-19 vaccine will not be required to attend. Masks are optional at Conner Prairie. For more information regarding the policies of Conner Prairie and to review the FAQ, please visit the **ISO website**.

### About Jack Everly

A North American leader in symphonic pops, Jack

Everly is Principal Pops Conductor of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. He is widely known for his innovative approach to programs that have brought new audiences to the time-tested and beloved pops genre.

During his tenure in Indianapolis, he has added positions as Principal Pops Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Principal Pops Conductor of the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Ottawa, Canada, and the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra. He has conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall and appears regularly with The Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom Music Center.

Maestro Everly is the Music Director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's annual AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration*. Started in 1986, AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* combines orchestra arrangements, singers, dancers, costumes and staging to form a Broadway-style musical extravaganza. Everly has led the ISO in its first Pops recording, *Yuletide Celebration, Volume One*, that included three of his own orchestrations.

**About Kroger Symphony on the Prairie**

Date-specific tickets must be purchased for each concert. Visit the **ISO's website** to purchase tickets and visit the **Conner Prairie FAQ page** for more information. You can also contact the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at (317) 639-4300. Special thanks to generous partners at Kroger for their continued support of Symphony on the Prairie. The ISO is also grateful for the continued support of Huntington Bank as the Presenting Sponsor of the Sunset Lounge.

## SHARE YOUR NEWS!

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Date-specific tickets must be purchased for each concert. Visit the **ISO's website** to purchase tickets and visit the **Conner Prairie FAQ page** for more information. You can also contact the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at (317) 639-4300. Special thanks to generous partners at Kroger for their continued support of Symphony on the Prairie. The ISO is also grateful for the continued support of Huntington Bank as the Presenting Sponsor of the Sunset Lounge.



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## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

*By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.*

*By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.*

*By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.*

Hebrews 11:29-31 (NIV)

## Dora E. Rodriguez-Baker-Hughes September 15, 1954 – July 6, 2022

Dora E. Rodriguez-Baker-Hughes, 67, Mooresville, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 6 at her home with her daughter Melanie by her side.

Born to Juan and Maria Rodriguez of Texas on September 15, 1954, the apple of her father's eye, Dora came to Indiana with her parents where she graduated from Ben Davis High School. She received her undergraduate degree in education from IUPUI before attending Ball State University, where she earned her Master's.

Dora served as an educator in the Foreign Language department for over 30 years at Carmel High School. While there, she also tutored and worked to make sure her students had every opportunity. Over the course of her career, Dora received many awards for her exceptional teaching.

Smiling to the end, Dora wrote several books in Spanish. Her true joy was in the love for her family, her grandchildren, and Mauser, her German Shephard. She was a shining inspiration to all, especially her family and students.

Dora is preceded in death by her parents, Juan and Maria Rodriguez; son, Beau Rodriguez; and brother, Johnny Rodriguez.

She is survived by her sons, James Baker and Johnny Rodriguez; daughter, Melanie Tinsley; brothers, Robert Rodriguez and Danny Rodriguez; sisters, Norma Livey-Wainwright (Scott), Diana Mosteller (Louis), Mary Frederick (Marvin), Frances Stewart (Donny), and Rosa Berry (Bill); grandchildren, Taylor Johnson (Nick) and Haley Tinsley; nieces, Maria Reagan (Jacob) and Felicia Jines (Chris); along with many more nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will gather to receive visitors from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12 at Carlisle Branson Funeral Service & Crematory, 39 High St., Mooresville, Ind. Funeral services will be at noon the following day, Wednesday, July 13, at Carlisle Branson. Burial will follow at West Newton Cemetery, 6701 W. Milton St., West Newton, Ind.

Final arrangements and services are entrusted to Carlisle Branson Funeral Service & Crematory, Mooresville. Please visit [CarlisleBranson.com](http://CarlisleBranson.com) to share a favorite memory or to sign the online guest registry.



# Home prices still climbing across central Indiana region

Hamilton County home sale prices reach average of \$471K

### The REPORTER

June 2022 was a promising month for central Indiana home buyers with all 16 central Indiana counties experiencing, yet again, significant increases in available housing inventory.

Monthly real estate statistics from F.C. Tucker Company revealed that central Indiana housing inventory increased 61.3 percent compared to this time last year, while pending home sales decreased 6.4 percent compared to June 2021, and year-to-date home sale prices increased 14.4 percent.

The average June home sale price for the 16-county region was \$339,489, an increase of 17.8 percent compared to June 2021.

Pending home sales decreased, down 6.4 percent compared to this time last year.

Available housing inventory increased, up 61.3 percent compared to June 2021.

In June 2022, 4,109 central Indiana homes were purchased, down 6.4 percent from the 4,391 sold in June 2021. Specifically:

- Montgomery County showed the greatest increase in pending home sales

with 25.5 percent growth compared to June 2021.

- Johnson County pending sales had the greatest decrease with 17.7 percent fewer homes sold in June 2022 compared to this time last year.

The year-to-date sale price of homes in central Indiana continued its upward climb:

- Decatur County recorded the highest average year-to-date home sale price increase at 31.1 percent.

- Boone County had the highest average year-to-date home sale price in the region at \$476,403.

- Homes sold in 18 days on average, which is 18.2 percent faster than in 2021. Homes in Shelby County left the market nine days, or 31.0 percent faster than in 2021 – the greatest decrease of the 16-county area.

Central Indiana experienced a 61.3 percent increase in overall available home inventory June 2022, with 1,393 more homes available for sale than in June 2021. All 16 counties saw an inventory increase in June 2022.

- Putnam County had the largest inventory increase – up 178.9 percent compared

### Hamilton County's Real Estate Market

Hamilton County continues to see an active residential real estate market.

According to F.C. Tucker Company, the county saw a 12.0 percent decrease in homes sold in June 2022 compared to this time last year. Housing inventory increased, up 90.8 percent compared to June 2021.

Home sale prices increased, up 14.7 percent, year-to-date, to an average sale price of \$471,004.

to June 2021.

"Inventory has increased yet again in June as more new listings enter the market," said F.C. Tucker Company CEO Jim Litten. "Although home prices are still higher than this time last year, we should start to see some stabilizing trends in the coming months signaling a more even-keeled market with even more available inventory and homes spending more time

on the market."

Of the pending home sales in the region last month, five were priced \$2,000,000 or higher; 39 were priced \$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999; 427 were priced \$500,000 to \$999,999; 1,284 were priced \$300,000 to \$499,999; 1,250 were priced \$200,000 to \$299,999; 904 were priced \$100,000 to \$199,999; and 200 were priced at \$99,999 or less.

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Sports



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Sports Editor Richie Hall

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The Noblesville boys soccer team triumphed in the Class 3A state championship game last season. The Millers will play at Fishers to begin Sectional 8 play in this year's post-season.

# Fall post-season prep already underway

The REPORTER

While student-athletes and coaches are enjoying some time off this week, the preparations have already begun for the 2022 IHSAA fall sports season.

The IHSAA announced the post-season groupings for each sport during its June 23 Executive Committee meeting. The golf post-season was covered in Friday's edition of the Reporter, so here is a look at the post-season groups and routes for the other fall sports.

BOYS TENNIS

The sectional groupings for Hamilton County boys tennis won't be changing. Hamilton Southeastern will host Sectional 45 this season, welcoming teams from Fishers, Hamilton Heights and Noblesville. Carmel will host Sectional 53 at its own Todd Witsken Tennis Center, with Guerin Catholic, University and Westfield also competing there.

The only difference will be in the regional round. The Carmel winner will go to Kokomo, as usual. However, the Southeastern champion will compete in what is nominally the North Central regional, but it will take place at a different site this year. That site has yet to be announced.

The semi-states are in their usual places: The Kokomo winner goes to Culver Academies, while the North Central winner plays at Homestead. State quarter-final matches take place at Carmel and Center Grove, with the semi-finals and championship matches

at a site to be determined.

GIRLS SOCCER

There are no changes for the big schools in girls soccer this season. In Class 3A, Noblesville hosts Sectional 8, competing with Anderson, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Muncie Central and Pendleton Heights. Meanwhile, Westfield will host Sectional 10, welcoming Arsenal Tech, Carmel, Crispus Attucks, North Central and Zionsville.

In Class 2A, Hamilton Heights travels to Yorktown to play in Sectional 24, along with Centerville, Delta, Jay County and New Castle. Guerin Catholic will host Sectional 26, competing with Bishop Chatard, Brebeuf Jesuit, Indianapolis Washington, Lebanon and Speedway.

In Class 1A, Sheridan travels to Tipton for Sectional 37, also joining Eastern, Rossville, Taylor and Tri-Central. University plays in Sectional 42 at Cardinal Ritter, competing with Covenant Christian, International, Riverside and Traders Point Academy.

As for the regionals, the IHSAA began a new format last year where one team travels to another team for the semi-final game. Last year, the odd-numbered sectional winner hosted the semi-final, so the pattern should be that the even-numbered team will host this season. This means all local sectional champions except for one will host the semi-final; the Sectional 37 winner would play at the Sectional 38 (Lafayette Central Catholic) winner's field.

ette Central Catholic) winner's field.

In the 3A regional championship games, the Sectional 8-Sectional 7 winner plays at Kokomo, while the Sectional 10-Sectional 9 winner plays at Carmel. In 2A, the Sectional 24-Sectional 23 winner plays at Norwell, while the Sectional 28-Sectional 27 winner plays at Bishop Chatard. In 1A, the Sectional 37-Sectional 38 winner plays at Taylor, with the Sectional 42-Sectional 41 winner playing at Knightstown.

The semi-states take place at Kokomo, South Bend St. Joseph, Evansville North and Seymour.

BOYS SOCCER

The Class 3A Sectional 8 boys lineup is the same as the girls. Fishers hosts this year, welcoming Anderson, Hamilton Southeastern, Muncie Central, Noblesville and Pendleton Heights. As for Sectional 10, Carmel's Brian Murray Stadium will be the host site, with Crispus Attucks, Herron, North Central, Shortridge, Westfield and Zionsville also competing.

Guerin Catholic and Hamilton Heights will both compete in Class 2A Sectional 26, which takes place at Tri-West. Brebeuf Jesuit, Cardinal Ritter and Heritage Christian will also play at that site.

As for Class 1A, Sheridan will play in Sectional 39 at Anderson Prep Academy. Liberty Christian, Muncie Burris, Taylor and Tri-Central are also slated to compete there. University

heads to Park Tudor for Sectional 40, along with International, Metropolitan, Seccina and Tindley.

In the regional round, all but one local sectional champion would host a semi-final game, the only exception is the Sectional 39 winner playing at the Sectional 40 winner's field. As for the championship games: The Sectional 8-Sectional 7 winner plays at Kokomo, while the Sectional 10-Sectional 9 winner plays at Carmel. The Sectional 26-Sectional 25 winner plays at Bishop Chatard, and the Sectional 40-Sectional 39 winner plays at Taylor.

The semi-states take place at Kokomo, South Bend St. Joseph, Evansville North and Seymour, same as the girls.

CROSS COUNTRY

The cross country post-season routes are the same as last year.

Noblesville hosts Sectional 19, which also includes Carmel, Guerin Catholic, Hamilton Heights, Lebanon, Sheridan, Tipton, Tri-Central, University, Western Boone and Westfield. Fishers and Hamilton Southeastern will travel to Pendleton Heights for Sectional 15; other schools competing will be Alexandria, Anderson, Anderson Prep Academy, Blue River Valley, Elwood, Frankton, Lapel, Liberty Christian and Shenandoah.

The top five teams from each sectional advance to the regional round. Noblesville will also host Regional 10, along with sectional

qualifiers from Brebeuf Jesuit. Pendleton Heights sectional qualifiers will run at the Delta regional, which will also host qualifiers from the Delta sectional.

Noblesville regional qualifiers advance to the Shelbyville semi-state, while Delta regional qualifiers head to Huntington University to compete in the New Haven semi-state. The state meet will again be at the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course in Terre Haute.

VOLLEYBALL

Hamilton Southeastern will host this year's Class 4A Sectional 8 tournament. The lineup is the same as always, as the Royals welcome Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville, Westfield and Zionsville.

Guerin Catholic hosts Class 3A Sectional 27 this season, with Bishop Chatard, Hamilton Heights, Heritage Christian, Herron and Shortridge also competing. In Class 2A, Sheridan and University travel to Sectional 43 at Park Tudor, with Cascade and Covenant Christian also there.

The Southeastern sectional winner will travel to Noblesville for Regional 2 action, while Guerin Catholic's champion plays at Monrovia for Regional 7. The Park Tudor winner will play at Regional 11 in Cascade. The Noblesville regional winner will play in the north semi-state at either Plymouth or Frankfort, while the

other two will compete in the south semi-state, with matches at Columbus East and/or Jasper. The state finals again take place at Ball State University.

FOOTBALL

There were some big changes to the football sectional groupings this year, especially with the Class 6A schools.

Fishers and Hamilton Southeastern have been moved to Sectional 3, and will play with Fort Wayne Northrop and Homestead. Meanwhile, Carmel, Noblesville and Zionsville were moved to Sectional 4, joining Westfield in that group. The champions out of those sectionals will play each other in the Regional 2 game.

In Class 3A, Guerin Catholic and Hamilton Heights will play in Sectional 28. Other teams in that group are Bishop Chatard, Maconaquah, Northwestern, Oak Hill, Peru and Tippecanoe Valley.

In Class 1A, Sheridan will compete in Sectional 45. The other teams in that sectional are Anderson Prep Academy, Hagerstown, Indiana School for the Deaf, Monroe Central, Tindley, Union City and Wes-Del.

Before they get to the post-season, the football teams will have nine weeks of regular-season play. The Reporter will take a look at each team's regular-season schedule in its Sunday edition.

## How 'robot umpires' could change baseball

The REPORTER

Could umpires become the next target of planned obsolescence?

So-called 'robot umpires' recently debuted in the minor leagues, and the commissioner of Major League Baseball says it could soon make its way to the majors.

Purdue University Professor of American Studies Rayvon Fouche says robot umpires are a computer-aided system that allows for the tracking of the baseball to determine balls and strikes. This technology is a potential way to make these calls smoother, more efficient and more effective.

However, Fouche says variables such as batter

height and movement can make what seems like a simple task more complicated. While the strike zone is a defined space, it varies slightly from batter to batter.

Don't expect the technology to upend umpires' standing in the game, though.

Fouche says human umpires bring a level of experience and flexibility that cannot be easily replicated by a technological substitute. He compares baseball to a theatrical event where players and umpires make mistakes as a part of the game.

Fouche says that human umpires make the game more entertaining and are vital to the understanding of what baseball is.

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Hamilton County Reporter All-County  
Girls Track & Field Teams 2022

Athlete of the Year:  
Kiana Siefert, Noblesville



Kent Graham / File photo

Noblesville senior Kiana Siefert is this year's Hamilton County Reporter Girls Track Athlete of the Year. Siefert was consistent all throughout the season, winning sectional and regional titles in the 300 hurdles, then finishing as a state runner-up in that event. She would earn three state medals, also taking fourth in the long jump and fifth as part of the 4x400 relay team, in addition to an 11th place finish in the 100 hurdles.

FIRST TEAM			SECOND TEAM		
Name	School	Grade	Name	School	Grade
Hannah Alexander	Noblesville	Sophomore	Lauren Bailey	Carmel	Senior
Elia Blackmore	HSE	Freshman	Aubrey Baldwin	Fishers	Senior
Emersen Carlisle	Carmel	Senior	Rebecca Belanger	Carmel	Freshman
Olivia Cebalo	Carmel	Freshman	Elizabeth Butler	HSE	Freshman
Brinkley Cooper	Noblesville	Freshman	Princess Campbell	Westfield	Junior
Jocelyn Davis	HSE	Junior	Ella Ewing	Hamilton Heights	Sophomore
Ally Elsbury	HSE	Senior	Rosiebella Fiabema	HSE	Senior
Riley Flynn	Noblesville	Freshman	Ashlyn Guerrant	Carmel	Sophomore
Bridget Gallagher	Guerin Catholic	Junior	Rylee Hassan	Noblesville	Junior
Paige Hazelrigg	Noblesville	Junior	Jamie Klavon	Carmel	Senior
Ciara Kepner	HSE	Freshman	Brooke Lahee	Noblesville	Junior
Jasmine Klopstad	Carmel	Junior	Allie Latta	HSE	Senior
Malina Miller	Noblesville	Junior	Laina Lillge	Noblesville	Junior
Jehnea Mirro	HSE	Senior	Olivia Mundt	Carmel	Freshman
Summer Rempe	Noblesville	Sophomore	Megan Mybeck	Fishers	Senior
Audrey Ricketts	Carmel	Sophomore	Grace Newton	HSE	Junior
Daniela Rios Rojas	HSE	Senior	Emily Norris	Carmel	Freshman
Kate Rollins	Noblesville	Freshman	Maggie Powers	HSE	Sophomore
Lani Samms	Carmel	Sophomore	Taylor Reagor	Carmel	Senior
Ella Scally	Fishers	Senior	Alivia Romaniuk	Carmel	Senior
Kiana Siefert	Noblesville	Senior	Anna Runion	Fishers	Senior
Sanai Smith	HSE	Sophomore	Vera Schafer	Fishers	Senior
Cambell Wamsley	Carmel	Junior	Kelsey Smith	Hamilton Heights	Senior
Regan Wans	HSE	Senior	Liz Smith	Westfield	Sophomore
Kara Wenzler	Carmel	Sophomore	Ella Wilhelm	HSE	Senior

MLB standings

WNBA  
standings

Friday's games		
Cincinnati 2, Tampa Bay 1		Detroit 7, Chicago White Sox 5
Baltimore 6, L.A. Angels 4		Milwaukee 4, Pittsburgh 3
Miami 5, N.Y. Mets 2		Philadelphia 2, St. Louis 0
N.Y. Yankees 12, Boston 5		Colorado 6, Arizona 5
Atlanta 12, Washington 2		Houston 8, Oakland 3
Texas 6, Minnesota 5		San Diego 6, San Francisco 3
Kansas City 4, Cleveland 3		L.A. Dodgers 4, Chicago Cubs 3
		Toronto 4, Seattle 2

No Friday games				
Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
Chicago	16	6	0.727	-
Las Vegas	15	7	0.682	1.0
Seattle	15	8	0.652	1.5
Connecticut	14	8	0.636	2.0
Washington	14	10	0.583	3.0
Atlanta	10	12	0.455	6.0
Los Angeles	10	12	0.455	6.0
Dallas	10	12	0.455	6.0
Phoenix	10	14	0.417	7.0
New York	9	13	0.409	7.0
Minnesota	8	15	0.348	8.5
Indiana	5	19	0.208	12.0

American League					National League				
East	W	L	PCT.	GB	East	W	L	PCT.	GB
N.Y. Yankees	61	23	0.726	-	N.Y. Mets	52	32	0.619	-
Tampa Bay	45	38	0.542	15.5	Atlanta	50	35	0.588	2.5
Boston	45	39	0.536	16.0	Philadelphia	45	39	0.536	7.0
Toronto	45	39	0.536	16.0	Miami	40	42	0.488	11.0
Baltimore	41	44	0.482	20.5	Washington	30	56	0.349	23.0
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB	Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Minnesota	47	39	0.547	-	Milwaukee	48	37	0.565	-
Cleveland	40	41	0.494	4.5	St. Louis	45	41	0.523	3.5
Chicago White Sox	39	43	0.476	6.0	Chicago Cubs	34	50	0.405	13.5
Detroit	36	47	0.434	9.5	Pittsburgh	34	50	0.405	13.5
Kansas City	31	51	0.378	14.0	Cincinnati	30	54	0.357	17.5
West	W	L	PCT.	GB	West	W	L	PCT.	GB
Houston	55	28	0.663	-	L.A. Dodgers	54	29	0.651	-
Seattle	42	42	0.500	13.5	San Diego	49	36	0.576	6.0
Texas	38	43	0.469	16.0	San Francisco	41	41	0.500	12.5
L.A. Angels	38	47	0.447	18.0	Arizona	37	47	0.440	17.5
Oakland	28	57	0.329	28.0	Colorado	37	47	0.440	17.5

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