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**THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023**  
 ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN  
 CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD




**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
 Today: Periods of showers and storms, especially in the morning. Temps falling into the 50s in the afternoon.  
 Tonight: Scattered showers and storms.  
 HIGH: 64    LOW: 41



# Women of Westfield ready to accept new VIP members

**The REPORTER**

Board executives at Women of Westfield (WOW) have announced they will now establish a paid membership criteria so the organization can begin building additional programming, events, training and growth opportunities for its members.

WOW was created in 2019 and its goal is to help bring women together and build empowering relationships among the people who work and live in Westfield.

"We are thrilled that our membership has grown tremendously over the past several years, but now that we are established in the community, our members want more," WOW Founder and Washington Township Trustee Danielle Carey Tolan said. "Establishing a mem-



**The Women of Westfield group exists to help bring women together and build empowering relationship among the people who live and work in the city.**

bership criteria will allow us to provide opportunities which will help build and support our mission."

The new membership criteria will now include a VIP level for an annual fee of \$50. Benefits include discounts to WOW events, various WOW merchandise, discounts at participating local businesses, access to VIP mingles and early event registration, in addition to the Social Membership perks. The Social Membership, including general communication, social media access, quarterly newsletters, and text reminders, will remain free but members must sign up at [WomenOfWestfield.com](http://WomenOfWestfield.com).

To become a VIP member, visit the WOW website. Perks and benefits for VIP members may be added throughout the year, so watch your inbox for updates.

## Action at auction

I love to go to auctions. Unfortunately, more things are done online these days. I miss the fellowship, a found treasure, and sometimes a chance to help others.

As a young man I went to the auction of the estate of a local farmer who had been killed in a farming accident. A new drill that he had purchased a day or two before he died still had the store tag on it. \$19.59. Bidding surpassed \$100.00. Most of the items went the same way as neighbors provided a helping hand under the guise of an auction.

After I was married, my wife and I ran an antique store in Westfield. Most of our items were purchased at the local auctions we attended. It was a weekend adventure and a very enjoyable time of fellowship together. Go out for breakfast. Attend the auction. Go out for lunch. Move stuff to the store. Eat out for dinner. The store closed when children changed our priorities.

**COLUMNIST**



**RAY ADLER**  
*Ask Adler*

See Auction Action . . . Page 2

# Gaylor electric apprentices sweep ABC's National Craft Competition

**The REPORTER**

The Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) National Craft Championships were held in Kissimmee, Fla., on March 16. This competitive arena provides opportunity for craft apprentices from across the country to demonstrate their construction knowledge, superior skills, and safe work practices.

These individuals competed for top honors in the constantly growing field of construction professionals. The competition required an intensive two-hour exam, as well as a six-hour, hands-on, practical performance test.

Gaylor Electric's team swept



the Commercial/Industrial category, bringing home individual medals of gold, silver, and bronze. Additionally, the Commercial Team received the bronze medal, and the Utility champion took home a silver medal and the overall Safety Award.

These National Craft Championships represent the future of the construction industry and highlight the career opportunities that construction can provide.

## Hamilton County will invest in language assistance

**The REPORTER**

Hamilton County has partnered with LUNA Language Services to provide interpretation and professional translation services. The subscription service will allow Hamilton County employees to contact a native linguist to help translate for individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP).

"Our community is changing and we're serving more immigrants, refugees, and non-native speakers," said Steven Rushforth, Hamilton County's Safety and Risk Manager. "We want to ensure we can provide top-notch service to our entire community regardless of fluency in the English language."



**Rushforth**

See Language . . . Page 2

# Democratic candidates help clean up Westfield

**The REPORTER**

Tuesday, March 21 was the day after spring officially began, and two Westfield City Council candidates took to the streets for some community spring cleaning.

The Alexis for Westfield and Gary for Westfield campaigns took time away from campaigning to work with the City of Westfield's Public Works Department to help keep the community beautiful. Both campaigns organized their staff and volunteers to help pick up trash in the city, starting at Western Way and 146th Street and ending at the intersection of Greyhound Pass and the Monon Trail.

Campaign representatives said they hope their efforts will inspire citizens across Westfield to get more involved in beautifying the community.

"Helping to keep Westfield clean is important because it's an outward reflection of our city's pride – and Shamrocks have a lot of pride in Westfield," At Large City Council Candidate Gary Lane said. "Guests to our city will see the state of our public spaces before anything else, so it's nice to be a part of making sure we put our best



**(Back row) Tina Larson, Max Lane, Brooke Patz, Shelly Brown, Jennifer Kocolowski, Alexis Lowry, Pat Brown, Evelyn Davis, Becky Lane, Gary Lane, Jamie Hobbick, and Chris Hobbick. (Front row) Wyatt Larson, John Patz, Cooper Lane, Sawyer Larson, Eryn Lowry, Dominic Lowry, and Caroline Patz.**

foot forward."

District 4 City Council Candidate Alexis Lowry said it was a labor of love.

"I am a big believer in taking care of the things you love," Lowry said. "As a life-long resident, there is not much I love more than the city Westfield, which has given so much to me and my family."

Lane said he saw it as a chance to show some appreciation to city employees.

"I think it is clear that we have a really dedicated Public Works department in Westfield," Lane said. "This was an opportunity to show them some appreciation with a helping hand, and a chance to make a small, immediate improvement which I'm all about. You also never know how soon you'll get a chance to enjoy decent weather again this time of year!"

Lowry said giving back to the city is very important to her.

See Clean Up . . . Page 2

## Will recent bank failures affect you?

By **STU CLAMPITT**  
[news@readthereporter.com](mailto:news@readthereporter.com)

Many experts are telling you the banking system is sound, even though the failure of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) is the second-largest collapse in U.S. history, and that collapse came hand-in-hand with two other major fallout: Signature Bank in New York and Silvergate in San Diego.

The Reporter reached out to both ReJoyce Financial President and CEO Alexander Joyce and Community First Bank of Indiana's President and CEO Robb Blume to look for some answers for our readers. Our conversation with Joyce is below and answers from Blume can be found on Page 3.

ReJoyce Financial, 881 3rd Ave. SW, Suite 100, Carmel, is a full-service financial planning firm focusing on tax planning, tax filing, estate planning, traditional financial planning and wealth management.

"When I first heard it, I was definitely not surprised, and in fact, I think there is a lot more to come," Joyce

See ReJoyce . . . Page 3



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SCAN ME

## GAYLOR

“The ABC Craft Championship is an outstanding platform to showcase how rewarding a career in construction can be,” Gaylor Electric President & CEO Chuck Goodrich said. “The Craft Championships are a great opportunity for us to attract the next generation of merit shop craft professionals.”

“It is an honor to compete at the National ABC Craft Championships,” said Rob Griffith, Chief Operating Officer of Performance Excellence of Gaylor Electric. “Our representatives train for this competition. As an organization, we build and develop winners through our world-class education program and send best of the best to this prestigious competition.”

**About Associated Builders and Contractors**

ABC is a national construction industry trade association established in 1950 that represents more



than 21,000 members. Founded on the merit shop philosophy, ABC and its 69 chapters help members develop people, win work, and deliver that work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work. Learn more at [abc.org](http://abc.org).

**About Gaylor Electric**

Gaylor Electric delivers

on its Cornerstone of Reliable Resources, Outcomes, Insights and Genuine Care for People; dedicated to Innovation, Quality and being Measurement-Centric accountable. Gaylor Electric is comprised of multiple national production and innovation-driven locations that provide innovative industry expertise, and client-focused solutions. As

the Highest Performing National Contractor of Excellence, Gaylor Electric offers design-build electrical construction, 24/7 on-demand electrical support, and utility service. Gaylor Electric's teams provide an unparalleled commitment to cultivating strong business relationships, resulting in continued client loyalty. Learn more at [gaylor.com](http://gaylor.com).

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## AUCTION ACTION

My children's great-grandfather's auction seemingly had few items of interest to me. There was one item. I was particularly interested in a charming little writing desk. It was in great condition and very well built. I looked for a manufacturer's name on the underside and in the middle drawer but couldn't find anything showing the source of the desk. I clearly wanted it. I vowed to myself to bid whatever it took. I knew exactly the short wall in our house where it could go. The style fit our 1858 farmhouse decoration. The coloring matched our other items. All systems were on go. Bidding started at \$100. I didn't want to seem too eager. Numerous cries of the auctioneer failed to elicit a bid so I signaled I would pay a dollar. Realizing that nobody else wanted it, the auctioneer struck it off

to me immediately.

I was moving it to my vehicle when Great-grandpa John approached. “Oh, I see you bought Grandpa Long's handmade desk.” A family heirloom, hand built by my children's great-great-grandfather! An emotional treasure for only a buck.

My mom and dad also loved auctions. Dad paid \$0.50 at a Markel, Ind., auction house for the dog bowl in use and placed just outside the entry door. That piece is now in the Heisey Museum in Newark, Ohio. Mom bought a miscellaneous box for \$1 because she wanted a book in the box. She found \$100 cash in the book.

I guess Forrest Gump was right. Auction life is a box of chocolates and you never know what you're going to get.

from Page 1

## CLEAN UP

“I hope that everyone gets the chance to go out into our city and do their part to keep Westfield beautiful,” Lowry said. “This is a specific way to give back to our community and is also an opportunity to remind all of us to be more mindful about our everyday actions, especially as it relates to how we get rid of our trash.”

They also took time to clean up a yard for one older couple in Westfield.

“I was asking Public Works about it because it is across the street from Kroger on Spring Mill and 161st,” Lowry told The Reporter. “They said it's

not technically city work because all the trash was on people's property.”

Lowry knocked on the door to ask if she and her volunteers could help clean up that yard.

“It was an elderly couple and they said, ‘Please! We can't keep up with it,’” Lowry said. She plans to talk to Kroger about it because she was told the trash was from bins at the store that sometimes overflow, then wind will take trash into the couple's yard across the street. Once it is on private property, it becomes the responsibility of the homeowner to clean up.

“My next step is to go

talk to Kroger to see what we can do long-term to help them,” Lowry said.

Lane asked The Reporter to thank everyone who came to help them clean up a portion of Westfield on Tuesday, especially since the entire event was organized in under 24 hours.

“We had a bigger turnout than we were expecting,” Lane said, “Many hands made light work and it as nice to see the impact that everybody made.”

Lowry and Lane are the first Democratic candidates to run in the city in 17 years.

Lowry is a foster mom, small business owner, and

youth sports coach looking to bring a new perspective to Westfield.

Lane is an engineer with an MBA who says he has spent the last 15 years of his career finding efficient solutions to complex problems and is ready to bring innovation to Westfield.

If you would like to help with the next community cleanup day in Westfield, email Gary Lane at [Gary4Westfield@gmail.com](mailto:Gary4Westfield@gmail.com) or Alexis Lowry at [Hello@AlexisForWestfield.com](mailto>Hello@AlexisForWestfield.com).

To learn more about their individual campaigns, visit [Gary4Westfield.com](http://Gary4Westfield.com) and [AlexisForWestfield.com](http://AlexisForWestfield.com).

from Page 1

## LANGUAGE

The service will also help county government meet requirements for Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity that receives federal funds. That includes service to persons with limited English proficiency.

LUNA provides services in over 200 languages including American Sign Language (ASL). It estimates there are more than 100 different languages spoken in different dialects in Indiana alone.

The on-demand service will provide county employees with an interpreter over video or phone as needed.

“LUNA even offers industry-specific language expertise in a wide range of professional topics,” Rushforth added. “For example, our nurses at the Health Department will now have access to a translator with medical knowledge to avoid confusing, and potentially harmful communication errors. The same goes for others dealing with legal documents.”

from Page 1

Thanks for reading the  
Hamilton County 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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Check back often for updates to the Indiana Peony Festival's weekend of events.

The Indiana Peony Festival is grateful for the continued support of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville



# Q&A with Community First Bank of Indiana’s President & CEO Robb Blume

## The REPORTER

To provide a perspective from inside the banking industry, The Reporter reached out to Community First Bank of Indiana about the recent bank failures. President and CEO Robb Blume provided clear and direct answers to all our questions.

**Q: To the best of your knowledge, what caused the Silicon Valley Bank failure?**

**A:** There were several contributing factors to the Silicon Valley Bank failure.

First, the bank’s deposits were highly concentrated in start-up, tech-related, venture capital and crypto-currency related ventures backed by venture capital funds. Their deposit base was highly concentrated in these large depositors, with 93.9 percent of deposits being uninsured.

When rates were low, their customer base was able to access low-cost funding and built large cash balances with the bank. During the same time period, the bank’s management was investing excess funds (funds it was not able to directly loan to borrowers) in longer term Treasury securities and mortgage-backed securities.

When interest rates increased, capital became scarce and depositors began making large withdrawals from the bank. The large volume of withdrawals necessitated the bank liquidate those longer-term investments, resulting in approximately \$1.8 billion in losses to the bank. This resulted in bank regulators shutting down the bank.

**Q: And what about Signature Bank in New York and Silvergate in**

## San Diego?

**A:** The Signature Bank failure had some similarities to Silicon Valley Bank, in that it was a “crypto-centric” bank, with high concentrations of deposits, resulting in a high level of uninsured deposits (89.7 percent).

When news of the SVB failure became known, large depositors of Signature Bank began to move deposits to larger financial institutions, with over \$10 billion being withdrawn on Friday. This led to a Sunday shutdown of the bank by regulators.

Silvergate, which is being classified as an orderly wind down, was the first of the three banks to signal problems when it announced its orderly wind down. Silvergate was also very concentrated in the crypto industry.

**Q: Should the cryptocurrency market or the Federal Reserve’s recent interest rate increases be a concern for your bank or your customers?**

**A:** In the case of Community First Bank of Indiana, our funds are used to fund primarily loans to small business, homeowners and consumers. Our investments in treasuries and mortgage-backed securities total less than 1.5 percent of our asset base, so our exposure to the unrealized losses suffered by Silicon Valley Bank are extremely limited and should not be of concern to our customers.

**Q: What happens when a bank fails?**

**A:** The answer to that depends greatly on regulators. In the case of both Signature Bank and Sili-



Blume

con Valley Bank, the regulators have indicated that all depositors will receive 100 percent of their funds, although possibly with some delay. Frequently, the FDIC will work to find a purchaser of a failed bank, resulting in continued operations. In the case of a wind down, such as Silvergate, the plan would be to sell off assets, such as loans, investments and real estate. Funds raised from those sales would be used to pay depositors and creditors, with the bank ceasing to exist once assets are sold and liabilities paid.

**Q: What happens to someone’s money when a bank fails?**

**A:** Once again, the answer to this question depends greatly on actions taken by the regulators. If they elect to protect all deposits, as they have done in the cases of SVB and Signature, then depositors recoup 100 percent of their funds. If another institution purchases the failed bank, they may elect to make the depositors whole, as well. In rare instances, uninsured deposits may be lost or only partially repaid.

**Q: What can our readers do to help protect their money from bank failures?**

**A:** First, don’t panic. The current situation is not reflective of the overall strength of the banking industry. Across the board, banks of all sizes remain healthy and well capitalized. The three banks currently in the news, with their high deposit concentrations and focus on tech and crypto, had business models far, far different

than community banks in the Midwest.

In the case of SVB, the need to liquidate long-term securities investments created a huge loss. In my estimation the chances of these circumstances occurring in a large number of community banks is extremely unlikely.

Don’t be afraid to ask questions of your bank. Ask about deposit concentrations, the level of uninsured deposits, liquidity planning and levels of long-term securities investments.

**Q: Are any of the factors that contributed to the recent bank failures likely to place your institution or your customers in a difficult position? Why or why not?**

**A:** There are not. About the only thing Community First Bank of Indiana has in common with the three banks being discussed is that the word “bank” is in our title.

We do not have any investments in cryptocurrency, nor do we facilitate crypto trades or warehousing for any of our customers. Our deposit base is highly diversified, with our uninsured deposits being less than 15 percent of total deposits. Our investment portfolio is relatively low, limiting our interest rate risk in that area.

I believe that the greatest risks presented to community banks by the current situation are continued focus on the three “outliers” that have experienced difficulties and the possibility of increased regulation on smaller banks.

*You can learn more about Community First Bank of Indiana and find a branch near you online at [CFBIndiana.com](http://CFBIndiana.com).*

## ReJOYCE

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Joyce

told The Reporter. “The biggest reason and how I have been coaching clients is debt. Interest rates and debt are inverse. A lot of banks hold their debt in debt securities. Very little would be secure treasury. What happens when rates and inflation go up is it causes an inverse relationship with debt securities. By definition, rates go up and debt goes down. Bonds are debt.”

Joyce said he has noticed debt securities [bonds] that several years ago were rated AAA have been falling until they have become high risk.

“There is a Fed fund rate and a call rate, and they will call that debt,” Joyce said. “If interest rates go up to a point where it is not affordable anymore, they will just default on it, which is exactly what happened.”

According to Joyce, the debt portfolios for all three banks were heavily invested in corporate debt.

“A lot of this – because rates went up so aggressively and so fast – is a lot of real estate,” Joyce said. “There were a lot of mortgage-backed securities. Especially with variable loans as it’s hiking up, there is not enough money to pay that, so they will default. That’s exactly what’s happening, and I think there’s more to come. I think insurance companies have done it right because they have sleeved out billions of dollars not just in their own holdings, but they have gone to treasuries, so they can follow it a bit more to keep up.”

For all three recent bank failures, there has been much talk about the level of investment each had in the cryptocurrency market. The combination of investing in crypto in a volatile climate and the recent federal funds rate increases contributed heavily to at least one of these banks failing.

Joyce said he sees high financial risk for people who have invested in either crypto or anything with a variable rate right now.

“There is significant risk,” Joyce said. “This is a recession. The definition of a recession is three negative quarters of gross domestic product. We’re there. They didn’t say it was the Great Recession of 2008 and 2009 until it was over. This is history and it’s happening right in front of our eyes. The Fed is fighting inflation with the only thing they have in their holster, which is interest rates. They are going to keep raising rates because it is the only thing they can do to fight this inflation down.

“The issue for individuals with wealth getting ready to retire or who plan to retire in today’s economy is they are going conservative,” Joyce said. “With the inverse relationship between debt securities bonds and the length of maturity, there are two ways debt has risk. Length of maturity, which is going back to the banks. They are out a long time on their duration. So you have duration risk, which in the bond market is really bad, and you have interest rate sensitivity.

When you add those two things together, rates go up, bonds go down – you have duration risk and you have default risk. That is what’s happening in our world right now and I think it’s going to get worse.”

Joyce explains that many people who see this happening and don’t want to lose money will shift to bonds.

“If they don’t understand the inverse relationship – again, rates and duration – what happens is as they shift out of equities because they don’t want to lose money, now they’re in something that is losing more money. The biggest issue, just like why the banks default, is they can never get it back.”

Because of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) guarantees, most people will not lose any of their personal money when a bank fails.

“The federal reserve is going to back that up,” Joyce said. “People are not going to lose their money because the bank fails and the FDIC is going to take over.”

In this instance, there is the issue of a presidential executive order to guarantee deposits that were in excess of the FDIC insurance limit. That is controversial decision that exceeds the capacity of this article because of the eventual cost to taxpayers.

“This is a weird time in our industry,” Joyce said. “What I always say is just make sure you are dealing with the right type of advisor. Number one, get advice. I don’t teach preschool kids, I’m not an architect, I’m not an engineer, I don’t change my own oil, I don’t do my own roofing. I trust somebody. It takes a little time to poke around and put a little trust in the process and hold them accountable from the little bit of knowledge I have of the industry. The same things goes with ours. This is not a do-it-yourself thing. It is far more complex. For people who invest who have this fear, this is no longer, ‘buy some IBM, buy some Apple, buy some Microsoft and let it ride.’ This is not that anymore.”

To make certain your money and your potential investments remain safe not only now, but also in the future, Joyce recommends doing your due diligence not only to know enough about the industry to ask the right questions, but also to ensure you are seeking advice from the right source.

“Just make sure the advisor you have is appropriate for what your expectations and goals are,” Joyce told The Reporter. “Active management is winning the race. This is no longer a passive play when you are losing money on both sides of your portfolio. Not only seek professional advice, but make sure the advisor you are seeking advice from is the right style or the right type of advisor that is best for your *current* need.”

You can learn more about ReJoyce Financial and contact someone from the team online at [ReJoyceFinancial.com](http://ReJoyceFinancial.com).

# Sen. Braun: “Hoosiers and responsible community banks should not be on the hook for bailing out Silicon Valley Bank”

## The REPORTER

Senator Mike Braun released the following statement on protecting Hoosiers and Indiana’s community banks from bearing the costs of the Biden Administration’s bailout for Silicon Valley Bank.

“Community banks and their customers in

Indiana should not be on the hook for bailing out Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank for their risky financial decisions,” Sen. Braun said. “President Biden created this



Braun

chaos with his inflation bomb spending agenda, and now he wants Hoosiers to pay for his coastal elite bailout through increased fees at their banks. I’m exploring legislative actions to make

sure the costs of this bailout don’t get passed onto regular Americans.”

Our newsgathering partners at WISH-TV Channel 8 have in interview about Braun’s stance on preventing community banks from paying for a bailout. You can read their story at [this link](#).

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*\*Pre-registration preferred at  
[MyHamiltonCountyParks.com](http://MyHamiltonCountyParks.com)*

Taylor Center of Natural History  
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(317) 774-2574



For a list of events visit  
[hamcoturns200.com](http://hamcoturns200.com)





# Everybunny loves a good Cicero Spring Marketplace



Photo provided by Cicero Friends of the Park

Cicero Friends of the Park held their first annual Spring Marketplace on Saturday, March 18 at Red Bridge Park in Cicero. According to President Jackie Hayden, more than 200 people attend and 21 vendors participated. Cicero Friends of the Park provided a delicious box lunch for a donation. The Easter Bunny from Royal Events was very popular, and the star of the Marketplace. (Above, from left) Amy Wolfe, Lisa Stokes Bear, the Easter Bunny, Crystal Bannon, Emily Pearson, and Jackie Hayden.

## Duke Energy offering over \$300,000 in energy assistance for low-income customers

### The REPORTER

More than \$300,000 in financial assistance is available to Duke Energy Indiana customers who may be struggling to pay their energy bills. The funding is made possible through Duke Energy's **Share the Light Fund**, which brings together customers and communities to help individuals and families in need. Qualifying Duke Energy customers can receive up to a \$300 credit annually on their account.

Over the last five years, Duke Energy has supported more than 12,000 Indiana households with more than \$3 million in energy bill assistance. The company works in partnership with the Indiana Commu-



nity Action Association to distribute assistance funds. Customers should contact their local community action agency to see if they are eligible. [Click here](#) to find a listing of service providers by county.

Customers interested in helping their neighbors in need will soon be able to easily make a donation to the Share the Light Fund by rounding up their monthly bill amount to the nearest dollar.

In an effort to expand support for low-income customers, Duke Energy

Indiana will also begin reducing the security deposit amount for customers eligible for the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**. In addition, when Indiana's winter disconnection moratorium ends on March 15, LIHEAP-qualified customers carrying a past-due balance will be auto-enrolled in a special, extended installment plan.

These new measures are the latest steps in a companywide effort to pair long-standing programs with creative, new

approaches to assist customers and communities in need. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Duke Energy stood up a dedicated team to work in collaboration with government agencies at the state and federal levels to increase customer assistance and expand participation in energy efficiency programs and services. This work includes proactive engagement to educate customers of their eligibility for LIHEAP dollars to help offset energy bills.

Duke Energy offers several other tools and resources to help customers take control of their energy use and save money. To learn more about these programs, visit [duke-energy.com/HereToHelp](https://www.duke-energy.com/HereToHelp).

## Falling fuel prices could lower electric bills

By CAMILA FERNANDEZ  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](https://www.wishtv.com)

Your electric bill may be lower this summer. AES and Duke – two of Indiana's largest utilities – are asking for rate reductions. After experiencing a rise in energy costs, AES and Duke Energy have said that lighting up your homes is going to be cheaper.

AES Indiana has asked the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission for a decrease in utility bills for a second time.

If approved, the monthly bill for a residential customer will drop 16.5 percent or

\$23.09 per month on average. The new rate would go into effect this June.

"We're able to offer that savings to our customers and we're holding on to that positivity," said Kelly Young, the public relations director at AES Indiana.

Duke Energy Indiana says it has also asked state regulators for a decrease. If approved, the new monthly bill for a typical residential customer would amount to \$26 per month, which would go into effect in April.



Barbknecht

McKenzie Barbknecht, the spokesperson of Duke Energy Indiana said, "So, we've filed for two rate decreases. We passed along about a 5.5 percent decrease in electric rates for residential customers in January and we're asking state regulators to approve a second decrease of about 16 percent of low rates today."

These companies say this decrease is thanks to falling fuel prices.

Michael Hicks is an economist at Ball State Uni-

versity. He says the lower rates are also caused by smaller demands from consumers.

"They see that the cost of the energy they're buying is lower and they want to pass those savings back on to consumers because A, it's good business practice," Hicks said. "B, if they don't then they're Indiana utility regulatory commission will find out in six months will say look you'll have to reduce your prices."

Officials with these companies say while they're happy prices are going down, there's a chance costs will rise again later on.

# Tri Town Parks Bicentennial Scavenger Hunt

March 27 through April 17 you can win up to \$100 by completing the **Tri Town Parks Bicentennial Scavenger Hunt**. This will help you learn a little more about our local parks and hopefully enjoy some time while doing so. The entries will be judged by Cicero Friends of the Park. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

Click on Hamilton County Bicentennial Cicero Events at [ciceroinc.org](https://ciceroinc.org) to find the scavenger hunt list.

**Weather is unpredictable ... Paul Poteet isn't.**  
**Your Hometown Weatherman!**



The 2023 Hamilton County  
Passion Play

*Behold  
the Lamb*

produced by  
Behold the Lamb Ministries, Inc.  
an independent 501c3 nonprofit ministry

Noblesville High School  
Performing Arts Center

Wednesday, March 29 - 7:00 pm

Thursday, March 30 - 7:00 pm

Friday, March 31 - 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 1

11:00 am & 5:00 pm

**A Spectacular Live  
Theatre Tradition  
Since 1991!**

Ticket Required for Admission - Seating is Limited  
Order FREE tickets online at  
[beholdthelamb.com](https://beholdthelamb.com) or

**1-800-965-9324**

Tickets limited to 8 per order. Ticket processing fees applicable and are non-refundable. Due to the length of the production, intensity of scenes, and special effects, children ages birth through four are not permitted in the Performing Arts Center. Childcare is not available.

**BeholdTheLamb.com**

**NICKEL PLATE  
EXPRESS**

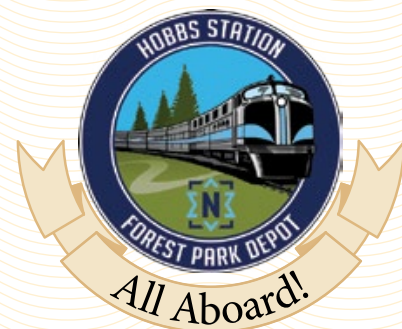
**ENJOY THE RICH HISTORY  
OF RAIL TRAVEL!**

Sit back and enjoy the sights, sounds  
and experience of a ride in our  
1950s Santa Fe equipment.

The Nickel Plate Express operates on  
12.5 miles of the former Nickel Plate  
Road between Noblesville and Atlanta.

Excursions board out of Noblesville  
at 825 Forest Park Drive.

**NickelPlateExpress.com**



## Easter Express

A farmer has misplaced some eggs and is pretty sure they are somewhere on the train! Come share in a little rail adventure as you roll through the countryside to see the trees in bloom while enjoying a snack and a springtime story. Family Rides that last 65 minutes and include the train ride and on-board story, a special signature drink and cookie.

April 1, 2 & 8

**NickelPlateExpress.com for Tickets**

### Cinco de Mayo Express

All aboard for a 2-hour train ride featuring tacos from Texy Mexy and a special tequila tasting. A limited drink menu featuring margaritas, beer and wine will be available for additional drink purchases.

May 5 at 6 p.m.

**NickelPlateExpress.com for Tickets**



An incident occurred.  
This man is wanted.  
You can help CPD.



Photos provided by City of Carmel  
The Carmel Police Department (CPD) is investigating an incident that occurred at the Carmel Clay Public Library at approximately 6:33 p.m. on Feb. 13. As part of the investigation, CPD is attempting to identify the individual pictured above. If you have any information on this individual, please call Detective Devenport at the Carmel Police Department at (317) 571-2500 or Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana at (317) 262-8477 (TIPS). Please reference CPD case number 23-11461.

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

Diversity Dance Festival

April 11th - 17th

Anderson Madison County

www.andersonmadisoncounty.com

# Belfry’s *The Great Gatsby* showcases good character portrayals & fine theatrics

Most of us are familiar with the enduring American classic, *The Great Gatsby*. First published in 1925, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s intriguing novel has since appeared as a film (four different versions), a television movie, and an opera as well the stage adaptation by Simon Levy. Levy’s insightful version has been produced dozens of times and has found its way to the Theatre at the Fort stage presented by Noblesville’s Belfry Theatre Productions.

Directed by Andrea Odle, the Belfry’s offering at Theatre at the Fort is an artful telling of the story with tableaux songs and some quality performances. The young cast has many fine moments mixed in with the interesting technical aspects of the show. Especially noteworthy is the selection of period costumes by Judy McGroarty and Addie Taylor. The effective set design by Mason Odle provides just the right surroundings for any scene.

Samuel Smith takes the title role, and although his vocal power could use a boost, I felt he found some

COLUMNIST

KEN KLINGEMEIER  
*A Seat on the Aisle*

nice features of his character in his portrayal. Rachel Bush takes on the object of Gatsby’s attentions, Daisy Buchanan, with a good understanding of her plight, while Mike Liphardt’s turn as her husband Tom Buchanan was impressive and striking in its strength.

Troy Bridges and Tessa Gibbons are paired up as Daisy’s cousin Nick Carraway and her pal Jordan Baker, and both do very commendable work in their roles. Jessica Hawkins adroitly appears as Tom’s “other woman” Myrtle Wilson, and Jackson Stollings aptly portrays her betrayed husband George. Erin Chandler, Zach Thompson, and Nicholas Maudlin round out the cast with a variety of roles.

Director Odle keeps the action moving with a well-thought-out scheme of flowing set changes which take a bit to get used to but maintain the forward flow of the play.

Finally, the three standard bugaboos I often find in many community theatre offerings are indeed present at times here. Volume (projection, please), pacing (hit those cues) and timing (this seems to be especially problematic in emotional scenes – keep feeling, but keep speaking) are aspects mostly for a director to look after, but also for the actor to



Photos by Rob Slaven / Indy Ghost Light Photography  
(Top) Rachel Bush as Daisy Buchanan and Samuel Smith as Jay Gatsby. (Above) Troy Bridges as Nick Carraway and Tessa Gibbons as Jordan Baker.

be aware of.

**Bottom line:** This is a beautiful show to see with a lot of good portrayals and Fitzgerald’s wonderful story as its center. The cast and crew accomplish some fine theatrics with room to get better.

Belfry Theatre’s *The Great Gatsby* continues at

Theatre at the Fort through March 26 with evening shows on Friday and Saturday, and matinees on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Ticket information is available at [TheBelfryTheatre.com](http://TheBelfryTheatre.com).

Read more great play reviews from *A Seat on the Aisle* at [asota.wordpress.com](http://asota.wordpress.com).



Photos provided by City of Carmel  
Two of Carmel’s roundabout sculptures, “Grace, Love and Joy” (left) and “Homage to Hoagy” (right), are due for some touch-up paint work.

## Carmel roundabout sculptures due for touchups at no expense to taxpayers

Submitted by  
City of Carmel

The City of Carmel not only works hard to build and install beautiful sculptures inside many of its roundabouts, but the city also takes the extra step to make sure those sculptures are maintained over time.

Recently, it came to the attention of city officials that a few of these sculptures need some touch-up maintenance. Work has already begun to ensure these sculptures continue to look beautiful. The work will have a temporary impact on traffic.

Here are the details:  
**Grace, Love and Joy**  
Old Meridian Street & Pennsylvania Street

The most recent annual inspection of “Grace, Love and Joy” – a large rose sculpture at Pennsylvania Street and Old Meridian Street – resulted in the finding that pink paint was peeling from the surface of the roses.

The source of this issue has been traced back to the paint used on the sculpture. The impacted flower petals were taken down to be stripped and repainted at no cost to the City of Carmel.

This work is estimated to take two weeks.

**Homage to Hoagy**  
City Center Drive & 3rd Avenue SW

The most recent annual

inspection of “Homage to Hoagy” – the musically themed sculpture that is in the roundabout at City Center Drive and 3rd Avenue SW near the Palladium – determined that in places, the gold paint needs to be touched-up.

This was also traced to an issue with the paint that was used on the sculpture. The plan is to use a lift to access the areas affected and repaint where necessary. This work will also be done at no expense to the City of Carmel, but may involve some traffic restrictions during the process, which should take about one week to complete.

## CPD seeks three people who are keenly aware of camera locations



Photos provided by Carmel Police Department  
The Carmel Police Department (CPD) is investigating a theft which occurred at approximately 6 p.m. on March 16 at Target, located at 10401 N. Michigan Road, Carmel. As part of this investigation, CPD is attempting to identify the three individuals pictured above. If you have any information regarding the identity of these individuals or this incident, please call Officer J. Fike at (317) 571-2500, or Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana at (317) 262-8477 (TIPS). Please reference CPD case number 23-19589.

WESTFIELD LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

Texas Hold'em

"Poker for Sight" Tournament

Friday and Saturday  
APRIL 14TH & 15th, 2023

1st PLACE \$10,000 CASH

GUARANTEED:  
Over \$25,000 in Prizes!

ENTRY:  
\$135 Cash at the Door

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS:  
Receive a discount on your Buy-in for reserving your seat early. Details and registration at [lionspoker.org](http://lionspoker.org).

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EXCITING AWARDS

"Tournament Champion" Medallion

2-9 Place Silver Finalist Medallion

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2000 Pleasant St. Noblesville, IN

Approved by the state of Indiana Charity Gaming Division Permit #011908

Join Us

for an evening of fun and magic!

As we thank those that help make FeedingTeam a success.

Tuesday, April 25th at the Mill Top Banquet & Conference Center in Noblesville

5 - 645pm Catered Buffet Dinner & Mingling

7pm - Honoring Hosts & Volunteers

730 - 830pm - Entertainment featuring Magician, Jon Mobley

For tickets or to sponsor:

<https://one.bidpal.net/feedingteam2>

OR

[Charity@FeedingTeam.org](mailto:Charity@FeedingTeam.org) 317-832-1115





## 2023 BICENTENNIAL APRIL EVENTS

### HAMILTON COUNTY BICENTENNIAL TRAVELING EXHIBIT | FREE

April 1-7 | Hamilton North Public Library, Cicero  
 April 8-14 | Monon Community Center, Carmel  
 April 15-21 | Hazel Dell Elementary School, Noblesville  
 TBD | Hamilton Heights Elementary School, Arcadia  
 TBD | Jackson Township Trustee, Arcadia

### WATERCOLORS IN THE INDIANA ROOM

April 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Maker Space at Hamilton North  
 Public Library, West Brinton Street, Cicero | FREE

HNPL Art Instructor Lor MacNorton will lead participants in painting of local, historic class portraits and photographs from the Indiana Room of the Cicero Library. Participants may donate their creations to the library; best of the donated paintings will be framed and hung in the Indiana Room.

Register at [hnpl.lib.in.us](https://hnpl.lib.in.us).

### NICKEL PLATE HISTORY EXPRESS

April 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Hobbs Station  
 Forest Park Drive, Noblesville | \$20

Celebrate the history of the towns stations along the Nickel Plate line! Get on board at Hobbs Station in Noblesville's Forest Park, travel north through Cicero, Arcadia and Atlanta. Once in Atlanta, disembark for a break and refreshments, then travel back for a round-trip experience. *Tickets selling fast on [nickelplateexpress.com](https://nickelplateexpress.com).*

### JACKSON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL TOUR OPEN HOUSE

April 15, 2-5 p.m. | Hamilton Heights Student  
 Activity Center, 420 W North St., Arcadia | FREE

Beginning April 1, use your smartphone to scan QR codes to unlock the past with this interactive walking tour designed by students from Hamilton Heights Schools featuring videos about historic buildings in Jackson Township. Maps available online soon! Join us at the Open House on April 15.

### HAMILTON HEIGHTS ATHLETIC EVENTS

April 19, 5-8 p.m. | Hamilton Heights High School  
 State Route 19, Arcadia | FREE

Learn about the evolution of girls sports at Hamilton Heights and their new Unified Sports initiative where students with all levels of intellectual and physical abilities play on the same teams. Come watch Softball, both Track and Unified Track meets, tennis match, and a throwback baseball game, honoring all of the past schools that came together to create the Hamilton Heights School Corporation.

### DAY AT RED BRIDGE PARK

April 21, 7-9 p.m. | Red Bridge Park, Cicero | FREE

Festivities will include a showing of the Ball State PBS Special "Now Entering Cicero" as well as an outdoor showing of a Hoosier Hot Shots movie! Join them for local music and be sure to enjoy a meal at local restaurants offering historically inspired desserts at discounted prices.

### ATLANTA'S HISTORY SHOWCASE

April 22 & 23 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. | Atlanta Town Hall  
 East Main Street, Atlanta | FREE

The Town of Atlanta is taking a dive into their rich past by going back in time! Mail a historic postcard, and tour historic homes and businesses downtown. On Sunday, attend a church service with the three Atlanta area churches. Afterwards, enjoy activities and ride the caboose.

### VINTAGE BASEBALL MATCH

April 22, 1-4 p.m. | Bishop's Park, East 256th St.,  
 Arcadia | FREE

Hamilton County Parks will host a vintage-style baseball game. There will be displays on the history of the park, along with a kettle corn vendor and other activities. Bring a picnic lunch and get your "baseball cards" signed by the players!

### JACKSON TOWNSHIP CEMETERY LANTERN WALK

April 22, 7-9 p.m. | Cicero Cemetery  
 Morse Court, Cicero | FREE

Hamilton Heights High School theater students will showcase research on people buried in cemeteries around Jackson Township as participants walk through the cemetery, Lanterns at each headstone will guide your way along the path.

### ARCADIA AND THE HOOSIER HOT SHOTS

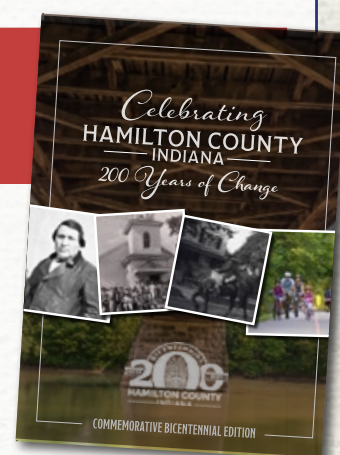
April 28, 6 a.m.-5 p.m. | Remnant Coffee Shop,  
 West Main Street, Arcadia | FREE

Join the Town of Arcadia as they celebrate the historic local talent of the Hoosier Hot Shots. In the 1930s, their band was nationally famous for their radio shows and "talkie" movies with their well-known tagline, "Are you ready, Hezzie?"

### JACKSON TOWNSHIP SIGNATURE EVENT

April 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 Arcadia Christian Church,  
 State Route 19, Arcadia

As a way to celebrate the end of a month that commemorates all things Jackson Township, the township will organize an event to remember! Bring the family and have your photo professionally taken for free as part of the "Faces and Families of Jackson Township" Collection. Also come for the debut of the Jackson Township Fire Department restored original fire engine, partially funded by Hamilton County Bicentennial funds. A mini-parade will begin at 12 p.m., and there will also be an arts show. Finally, bring your copy of the *Hamilton County Bicentennial* book to have it signed by students from Hamilton Heights who contributed to the epilogue.



Access the entire **2023**  
**Bicentennial Event Lineup**  
 and get event/program details:  
***HamCoTurns200.com***

### Bicentennial Partners



HAMILTON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS







# Attorney General Rokita announces legal victory against real estate fraud operation in Indianapolis

**The REPORTER**

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita announced Tuesday that his office has filed two separate Assurances of Voluntary Compliance with all respondents related to an ongoing real estate fraud operation in Marion County.

“The Office of the Attorney General is pleased to have reached a settlement that will provide resolution to this matter,” AG Rokita said. “This settlement ensures consumers are adequately compensated for their losses and Hoosiers are protected from the possibility of future harm.”

AG Rokita thanked deputies attorney general, investigators, and Indiana legal services attorney for their leadership.

The respondents are as follows:

- **Axia Holdings, LLC**
- Berkeley Asset Fund, LLC
- Darko Ventures, LLC
- Darko Ventures LLC-S
- Midwest Holdings-Indianapolis, LLC

- Ashley Heindl
- James S. Bleier, Jr.
- **Joe D. Fall III**

The respondent, James S. Bleier, Jr., who is a licensed real estate broker, faced a separate broker licensing action in connection with the alleged activities of the companies and their agents over a course of years, including, but not limited to, the following allegations:

- An alleged conspiracy by and among respondents and their agents to locate properties at risk of tax sale, create falsified heirs and heirship affidavits to obtain title, and finally the filing of a quiet title action to “wash” the title so that it could be sold free and clear of any liens or other claims to title. In certain instances, this had the effect of disinheriting heirs to the property following the death of their loved ones. The Attorney General also obtained evidence of the alleged use of falsified or forged documents that were recorded by respondents for the purpose of obtaining title of properties not owned by them.

- An alleged conspiracy to defraud an elderly Monroe County woman by attempting to leverage an allegedly forged purchase and sale agreement against her to force the sale of her property at a vastly reduced price compared to its market value. One of the respondents sued the woman, who was in a nursing home at the time, attempting to force her sale of the home using the fraudulent purchase and sale agreement. Thankfully, with the assistance of Indiana Legal Services attorney Carl Greci, the woman successfully defended herself from the suit and was able to maintain possession of the home.

- An alleged conspiracy to defraud an elderly Indianapolis woman who suffers from short term memory loss by convincing her to sign a \$50,000 note payable to respondent company Midwest Holdings-Indianapolis.



Rokita

According to evidence obtained by the Attorney General the loan was allegedly never intended to be paid back.

- An alleged use by respondents of forged mechanic’s lien release documents in order to avoid a dispute with a former contractor – making it impossible for that contractor to collect on monies he claimed he was owed by using his forged signature on a lien release just prior to the property being sold.

Under the terms of the settlement, respondent companies agree to voluntarily dissolve. James S. Bleier, II, one of the Respondents, has agreed to the voluntary surrender of his real estate broker license within 10 days.

Respondent Ashley Heindl is subject to a seven-year prohibition from seeking licensure as a real estate broker in the State of Indiana and is likewise prohibited from drafting or

negotiating documents in connection with a real estate transaction in which she is not a party.

Respondent Joe D. Fall III is likewise subject to the similar restrictions for a period of 10 years under a separate Assurance of Voluntary Compliance.

In addition, respondents will collectively pay \$75,000 in consumer restitution to be distributed to certain victims who filed complaints with the Indiana Attorney General’s Office. All the respondents denied any wrongdoing in connection with the settlements.

The Homeowner Protection Unit of the Consumer Protection Division conducted a thorough investigation into the matter and worked diligently to reach a fair and just resolution for all parties involved. The courts where the matters were filed will maintain jurisdiction for a period of two years in order to ensure compliance with the terms of the respective settlements.

“The mission of the

Homeowner Protection Unit is to protect the rights of all individuals involved in the housing market, including tenants, homeowners, and aspiring homeowners, by investigating and redressing deceptive acts in connection with mortgage lending and violations of relevant state and federal laws. We strive to ensure equal access to housing opportunities for Hoosiers and promote the proper functioning of homeowner’s associations. We work closely with law enforcement agencies at all levels to ensure justice is served and homeowners and tenants are protected.”

AG Rokita thanks and commends Deputy Attorney General Kelsey McKnight and Investigator Natalie Christy for their excellent work on this case.

Hoosiers are encouraged to contact the Office of the Indiana Attorney General about any suspected scams or scam attempts. Consumers can file a complaint by visiting [indianaconsumer.com](http://indianaconsumer.com) or calling 1-800-382-5516.

# Experience the world without leaving your home

## Hosts needed for international high school students throughout Indianapolis area

**The REPORTER**

In an age when international relations are often tenuous, AFS-USA, a leader in international high school student exchange for 75 years, is focused on providing opportunities for intercultural exchange that can help lead to a more just and peaceful world.

AFS-USA invites families and individuals from the Indianapolis area and surrounding communities to become hosts for international students for 12 weeks, a semester, or an academic year.

Hosting provides individuals, families, high schools, and communities with opportunities to learn about the unfamiliar by exploring a diversity of cultures, all while sharing their own culture with a young person from a different country.

“AFS-USA nurtures active global citizens who make the world a better

place,” AFS-USA President and CEO Tara Hofmann said. “Every new AFS student is another global citizen in progress – an individual primed to help build a more just world that reflects peace and fellowship. The impact doesn’t stop with the students. Host families’ lives are transformed by students from across the globe and host communities gain greater cultural diversity.”

Exchange students represent nearly 80 countries and cultures, including Kenya, Ukraine, Egypt, Türkiye, Italy, Germany, Chile, Thailand, and more. They are among the more than 1,000 international AFS students hosted in the U.S. each year.

AFS-USA host families represent a broad range of U.S. cultures, including individuals and families of multi-national/ethnic backgrounds, those with and without children, those who are members of the LGBTQ+ community, and more.

In addition, AFS-USA has a more than 50-year partnership with the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), which offers numerous sponsored scholarships for international students to study abroad in the U.S. including the following programs:

- **Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (KL-YES):** Through the U.S. Department of State’s YES program, high school students from countries with significant Muslim populations live and study for an academic year in the United States. Participants live with a host family, attend an American high school, acquire leadership skills, and engage in activities to learn about U.S. society and values; they also help educate Americans about their home country and culture.
- **Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX):** Jointly funded and managed

by the U.S. Department of State and German government, CBYX provides full scholarships for German students to live and study abroad in the U.S. for an academic year. Participants live with a host family, attend an American high school, acquire leadership skills, and engage in activities to learn about U.S. society and values; they also help educate Americans about Germany and German culture.

- **Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX):** Through the U.S. Department of State’s FLEX program, high school students from Europe and Eurasia live and study for an academic year in the United States. Participants live with a host family, attend an American high school, acquire leadership skills, and engage in activities to learn about U.S. society and values; they also help educate Americans about their home country and culture.

Once students and host families are matched, they receive ongoing support from trained staff and are welcomed into their local chapter of dedicated volunteers, alumni, and fellow host families. One thing that sets AFS-USA apart is the network of almost 3,000 volunteers throughout the U.S. Many volunteers have hosted international exchange students or studied abroad with AFS and will support families, students, and schools in gaining the most from their hosting experience.

Hosts are expected to provide their student(s) with a bed, meals, and support and encouragement throughout their program. Students arrive with their own spending money and medical coverage.

“These students attend local high schools, participate in local community life, and are encouraged to share aspects of their culture,”

Hofmann said. “They also discover first-hand what it’s like to live in America and form lasting friendships that create enduring links between the U.S. and other countries. In many cases, the bonds that form between AFS students and their host families last a lifetime.”

AFS-USA is the largest organization within the international AFS network that includes 54 partners around the globe.

**For more information**

Those interested in hosting an AFS Exchange Student are encouraged to contact 1-800-AFS-INFO or visit [afsusa.org](http://afsusa.org) for more information. For those interested in studying abroad [please browse the programs](#) and apply now to start your journey. You can also get involved as an AFS-USA Volunteer. Visit [afsusa.org/volunteer](http://afsusa.org/volunteer) to get started or learn more about opportunities to make a difference.



## Representative Victoria Spartz

### Constituent Services



#### Help with Federal Agencies

I can help you when dealing with federal agencies, including:

- Social Security issues
- Medicare claims
- Veterans benefits
- Passport assistance
- IRS questions



#### United States Flag Requests

Obtain commemorative flags flown over the United States Capitol from my office.



#### Military Academy Nominations

High school students in our district may contact my office to request a nomination to attend one of our nation’s service academies.

Anderson Office (765) 639-0671

Carmel Office (317) 848-0201

[www.spartz.house.gov](http://www.spartz.house.gov)





# Nickel Plate Express

with Big Caboose Players and 4th Hawk Media

## Presents

# Murder on the Luau Express

## June 24th & 25th

The ever-popular Murder Mystery is back for a one-weekend only Luau Express. Enjoy a train ride to Atlanta, Indiana where you will disembark for dinner from 9th Street Bistro, music and maybe even a murder. Purchase your tickets NOW as these tickets sell fast. You don't want to miss this tropical adventure.

Our special luau guests will exit the train for a buffet-service three-course dinner and music. Will there be a murder during dinner? If so, who did it? Guests will mingle and ask questions as the sleuth their way through finding out what happened.

Tickets and Information available at  
[www.nickelplateexpress.com](http://www.nickelplateexpress.com)





## Sharon Grubaugh

January 28, 1943 – March 19, 2023



Sharon Grubaugh, 80, Carmel, passed away on Sunday, March 19, 2023, at Wellbrooke of Westfield. She was born on January 28, 1943, to Lowell and Opal (Reedy) Ballard in Noblesville.

Sharon graduated from Noblesville High School in 1961 and worked as an insurance underwriter and real estate broker. She loved her dogs, cats and horses, and spending time with her cousins.

Sharon is survived by many cousins and her special companion cats, Patrick and Poppy.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, James Grubaugh.

Per Sharon's request, there will be no services. A private burial will be held at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

## Cheryl Jan Ellis

November 17, 1946 – March 14, 2023



After a courageous and miraculous battle with glioblastoma in 2019, wherein she never lost her independence and hope for survival, Cheryl Jan Ellis passed peacefully on March 14, 2023, at age 76. Her youngest daughter Kelly at her side and oldest daughter Jocelyn were entranced by the Aurora borealis mid-flight.

Cheryl is known for her charismatic and kind spirit, gentle unmeasurable strength, playful and quirky wit, and mostly for her creative ability, an artist of all media. Cheryl's talented artistic portfolio spans from her Grade 2 desk, sketching for classmates in Noblesville. Where she traveled north to Canada and through the years started in fine artistry, to sculpting, millinery, acting, modeling and furthermore started teaching art in her grandsons' classrooms and beyond in her community. Retiring from the United Way Peterborough in 2011, she spent countless hours volunteering with Transition Town, Market Hall Peterborough, and many more local initiatives and talent.

In 2021, Cheryl devoted herself as a loving and valued member of Peterborough's Seventh-day Adventist Church, recently having attained the ordination as Church Deacon. Her dedication and love for God, Church members, and the very important role she played in the daily activities of the Church were evident in the blessed life she lived. She touched the heart and soul of everyone she met, and her presence will be deeply missed.

The love she gave will be forever cherished by her daughters, Jocelyn Miller and Kelly Rossignol (Kris Chu); her grandchildren, Reese Rossignol and Nola Chu; and the many dear friends and family members, hold onto many loving memories to revere. Cheryl is predeceased by her parents, Robert "Bob" Ellis and Dorothy Ellis, and will be fondly remembered by Bob Holmes; her sister, Marla Holmes; and her nephews, Robert "Rob" and Arnold Holmes.

Cheryl's Celebration of Life Service will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, 2023, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 649 Romaine St., Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. Please join us early for a Visitation, a Service and Reception will follow thereafter.

The family would like to encourage donations instead of flowers to be made to the PrimRose Donkey Sanctuary in Cheryl's memory at [primrosedonkeysanctuary.com/donate.htm](http://primrosedonkeysanctuary.com/donate.htm).

Condolences: [ashburnhamfuneral.ca](http://ashburnhamfuneral.ca)

## Jonathan Duane Tongate

February 8, 1960 – March 18, 2023



Jonathan Duane Tongate, Westfield, passed away at his home on Saturday, March 18, 2023. John was born on February 8, 1960, to Jerry Richard & Johnsie May (Smith) Tongate in Greenfield, Ind. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Jerry Wayne.

John was an amazing father and grandfather to his children and grandchildren. John worked for Ace-Air Inc. for over 27 years and was a proud member of the Sheet Metal Local 20.

John loved his family and friends, and he loved the time he got to spend with them. He loved to cook out, help out with projects, always loved to polish a Harley out at L.A. Cycles, and he loved his routine of taking Paition to school and playing I-spy the whole way.

John is survived by his wife of more than 40 years, Patricia (Messer) Tongate, two sons, Jon-Paul and Matthew; three grandchildren, Jordyn Leslie, Brooklynn Kelly, and Paition Lucille; a great-granddaughter, Emersyn Quinn; and his siblings, George David, Margaret Ruth, and Richard Allen.

He was loved very much and will be greatly missed ... often!

Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 24, 2023, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville.

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

## Annette Marie Mayhew

January 19, 1942 – March 20, 2023



Annette Marie Mayhew, 81, Westfield, passed away on Monday, March 20, 2023, at Copper Trace in Westfield. She was born on January 19, 1942, to O.L. and Barbara (Welly) Cooper in Warren, Ohio.

Annie worked as an X-ray tech for over 20 years and owned a clothing boutique, Annes of Logansport. She lived the majority of her life in Logansport and moved to Westfield in 2015. Annie loved to travel, especially to Europe. She was very proud of her grandchildren; grandson, Myles is currently serving active duty in the U.S. Navy, and she was looking forward to grandson, Benjamin, joining the Navy as well.

Annie was a devout Catholic and a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel where she volunteered at the food pantry. She enjoyed going to the American Legion, loved her card group girls, loved to cook, and enjoyed a good glass of wine. Annie was very opinionated and had her own way of loving people.

She is survived by her daughters, Mechelle (Rob) Hillman and Mellissa (Steve) Boggs; stepdaughter, Kenan (Dorian) Mayhew; grandchildren, Myles (Lili) Hillman, Benjamin Hillman, Cagney Chentnik, and Paige Kiefaber; great-grandchild, Link Reagan; as well as several nieces & nephews and great-nieces & great-nephews.

In addition to her parents, Annie was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Mayhew, a U.S. Marine; son, Matthew Chentnik; and her sister, Cathleen Rynerson.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m., with services at 7 p.m., on Monday, March 27, 2023, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Legion Post 155, 852 W. Main St., Carmel, IN 46032; or American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 681405, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1405 ([cancer.org](http://cancer.org)).

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

*Then I saw another angel flying in midair; and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."*

*A second angel followed and said, "'Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,' which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."*  
Revelation 14:6-8 (NIV)

## Janet Lee Hammill

February 15, 1955 – March 22, 2023



Janet Lee Hammill, Fishers, died peacefully in her home on March 22, 2023. She was predeceased by her parents, Ernest K. Figenbaum, Jr. and Eleanor Lee, of Lexington, Mass. She led a full life and died at the age of 68.

Janet is survived by her only child, Jared T. (Courtney) Hammill of Fishers. She loved her two grandchildren, Matthew and Lizzie, dearly. She is also survived by her siblings, Ernest Karl Figenbaum III (Debbie), Nancy Davies (David), and Sandra Shedwick (Drew). Janet had many dear nieces, nephews, and cousins, too. Family was dear to Janet.

She was a graduate of Clarion University and earned a Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. After working over 40 years for several companies (Westinghouse, Dow Chemical, Nova Chemical, G.E., Alcoa, and Rohm and Haus), Janet was the proud owner of her own consulting business, J L Hammill Consulting, LLC. She earned a Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt. She was also an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania.

Janet loved to travel and has enjoyed trips to Paris, London, Dubai, Belize, and Japan. She also had many friends in her previous hometowns of Pittsburgh, Pa., King of Prussia, Pa., Williamstown, Mass., Philadelphia, Pa., Houston, Texas, and Bridgeville, Pa. She was a former Girl Scout and member of the Rainbow Girls.

Janet served on the Altar Guild in several of the Episcopal churches she attended, including St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mt. Lebanon, Pa. She has chosen to be cremated and interred in the columbarium of this Church next to her parents at a date to be determined.

Janet will be missed by all the people whose lives she touched.

In lieu of flowers, please plant a flower in your garden. God gave us flowers and Janet appreciated them greatly.

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

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Softball



Westfield’s Cara Snedeker (at the plate) and Carmel’s Jayden Kleiner were part of a home run derby that took place at the Shamrocks’ softball field on Wednesday. Both hit homers during the Shamrocks-Greyhounds game, which Westfield won 13-9.

Rocks rollick to victory against Greyhounds

**The REPORTER**

A home run derby broke out at the Westfield softball field on Wednesday.

The Shamrocks hosted Carmel in a rollicking game, eventually winning 13-9. The Greyhounds took a big early lead before Westfield came back with six runs in the bottom of the third inning, then made another big run in the sixth inning to clinch the victory.

It was all Carmel in the first two innings. Hope McDonald hit a single to get on base in the first inning, then Lily Sullivan sent her home with a home run. In the second inning, Jayden Kleiner batted in Mia Flemming. Later, McDonald homered, also scoring Sophie Esposito, who got on with a fielder’s choice.

With that, the Greyhounds led 5-0. But the ‘Rocks took over in the third inning. Westfield loaded the bases, then Cara Snedeker nailed a grand slam into center field. Makayla Watson, Annika Lawrence and Maggie Roh all scored. Chloe Tanner tied the game with an RBI double to score Grace Feltz, then Grace Fanelli doubled home Shea Voss to give the Shamrocks a 7-6 lead.

Carmel came back in

the top of the fourth inning, as McDonald blasted a two-run homer into left field, also scoring Kleiner. Westfield answered that with its own two-run home run: Ava Kainrath sent one into center field, also getting Roh home. Avery Banas scored in the fifth inning to give the ‘Rocks a 9-7 lead.

Kleiner opened the sixth inning with yet another home run, and the ‘Hounds were within 9-8. Westfield added to that lead in the bottom of the sixth: Snedeker led off with a base hit, then Kainrath smacked her second home run of the day, putting Westfield up 11-8. Fanelli would later single on to base, then Allie Dolenc got in on the hit parade, nailing a left field homer. Carmel got one runner back when Lucy Broughton scored on an RBI groundout, but another groundout ended the game.

Fanelli finished the game with three hits for the ‘Rocks. Tanner pitched the complete game, striking out six. McDonald and Kleiner both had three hits for Carmel.

Westfield is 2-0 and plays Friday at North Central. The Greyhounds are 0-2 and host Mount Vernon next Wednesday.

WESTFIELD 13, CARMEL 9									
Carmel	AB			R	H			RBI	
Sophie Esposito	3			1	1			0	
Hope McDonald	3			3	3			4	
Lily Sullivan	4			1	1			2	
Gracyn Erickson	4			0	1			0	
Alex Longstreth	4			0	1			0	
Lucy Broughton	3			1	2			0	
Mia Flemming	4			1	1			1	
Katy Smith	2			0	0			0	
Kayden Dierks	1			0	0			0	
Jayden Kleiner	3			2	3			2	
Totals	31			9	13			9	
HR: McDonald 2, Sullivan, Kleiner. 2B: Broughton, Flemming.									
SB: Kleiner.									
Carmel pitching	IP			R	ER			H	
Broughton	2			6	5			3	
Erickson	4			7	7			8	
Strikeouts: Erickson 3, Broughton 1. Walks: Broughton 2, Erickson 1.									
Westfield	AB			R	H			RBI	
Maggie Roh	3			2	1			0	
Grace Feltz	0			1	0			0	
Cara Snedeker	4			2	2			4	
Ava Kainrath	3			2	2			4	
Chloe Tanner	4			0	1			1	
Grace Fanelli	4			1	3			1	
Allie Dolenc	3			1	1			2	
Avery Banas	4			1	1			0	
Makayla Watson	3			1	0			1	
Samantha Breau	3			0	0			0	
Annika Lawrence	0			1	0			0	
Shea Voss	0			1	0			0	
Totals	31			13	11			13	
HR: Kainrath 2, Dolenc, Snedeker. 2B: Tanner, Banas, Fanelli.									
SB: Feltz. HBP: Kainrath.									
Westfield pitching	IP			R	ER			H	
Tanner	7			9	8			13	
Strikeouts: Tanner 6. Walks: Tanner 2.									
Score by innings									
Carmel	2	3	0	2	0	1	1-9	13	1
Westfield	0	0	6	2	1	4	x-13	11	0

Basketball

Rosters named for first IndyStar boys’ All-Star ‘Futures Game’

**The REPORTER**

Three Hamilton County boys basketball players were among those that have been named to the rosters for the inaugural IndyStar boys’ All-Star “Futures Game,” games director Mike Broughton announced Tuesday.

The Futures Games, one each for boys and girls, are a new aspect of the Indiana All-Star basketball program. The Futures Games will pair teams of current Indiana freshmen, sophomores and juniors in a North-South format. The first Futures Games will be played Saturday, June 10 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. The girls’ game is set for noon, and the boys’ game will follow about 2 p.m. The IndyStar Indiana All-Stars will host the Kentucky senior All-Stars later the same day in Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

All three county players will compete on the North team. They are Westfield junior Trey Buchanan, University junior Sabien Cain and Fishers sophomore Jalen Haralson. Other players on the North lineup includes Wapahani junior Isaac Andrews, Kokomo junior Flory Bidunga, Tipton sophomore Grady Carpenter, Brownsburg junior Kanon Catchings, Fort Wayne North junior Brauntae Johnson, South Bend St. Joseph sophomore Chase Konieczny, East Chicago Central sophomore Dominique Murphy, Chesterton junior Justin Sims and Fort Wayne Concordia junior Ajani Washington.

Junior K.J. Windham and sophomore Mark Zachery IV of Ben Davis as well as sophomore Azavier Robinson and freshman Brennan Miller of Lawrence North each has been selected to the South team for the inaugural boys’ Futures Game.

Those four players will be joined by Brownstown Central junior Jack Benter, Indianapolis Attacks sophomore Dezmon Briscoe, Franklin Community junior

Micah Davis, Evansville Christian junior Josiah Dunham, Evansville Bosse Tary Howell, Greenfield-Central sophomore Braylon Mullins, Bloomfield freshman Blake Neill and Heritage Hills sophomore Trent Sisley to complete the South team.

Kirk Manns of Seymour is the head coach and Jackson Williams of Greenwood Christian is the assistant coach for the South team. Clint Swan of Crown Point is the head coach and Cliff Hawkins is the assistant coach for the North team. Manns is 171-135 in 14 seasons as a varsity head coach, including 43-47 in four seasons at Seymour. Williams is 36-17 in two seasons at Greenwood Christian. Swan is 376-224 in 26 seasons overall, including 238-152 in 17 years at Crown Point. Hawkins is 561-392 in 42 seasons overall, including 64-33 in four years at Tipton.

Rosters for the inaugural IndyStar girls’ All-Star “Futures Game” were announced on Feb. 16.

Players and coaches for the All-Star Futures Games are picked by a Futures Games committee chaired by Broughton. Players who are juniors also are eligible for selection to the 2023 Indiana Junior All-Stars that will be selected later by an Indiana Basketball Coaches Association committee chaired by Brandon Bradley of Kankakee Valley.

The Indiana All-Stars program was founded in 1939 when the Indiana boys’ All-Stars played the state champion Frankfort Hot Dogs. The All-Star series with Kentucky began in 1940, and the girls’ portion of the All-Stars was added in 1976. The Junior All-Stars, boys and girls, were added in 1996.

The Indiana portion of the All-Star Games is organized and produced by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association. The Indianapolis Star, with its IndyStar brand, is the title sponsor.

Carmel boys volleyball prevails over Franklin Community

The REPORTER

The Carmel boys volleyball team won a five-set match at Franklin Community on Wednesday, 29-27, 25-22, 16-25, 23-25, 16-14.

The Greyhounds are 5-2 and host Hamilton Southeastern tonight.

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As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man. Prov. 27:19

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Softball

Fishers fall to Tri-West in season opener at home

The REPORTER

Fishers dropped its opener on Monday, falling to Tri-West 10-3 in a home game.

The Bruins led 5-0 midway through the sixth inning, before the Tigers got on the board. Brooke Johnson doubled in Jenna Grubb for Fishers' first run of the game. The Tigers added two more runs in the seventh inning when Hannah Trueblood's single sent Taylor Duplessis and Hannah Kinder homer.

Kate Murray pitched six and two-thirds innings, striking out eight.

Fishers hosts Warren Central on Friday.

TRI-WEST 10, FISHERS 3					
Fishers	AB	R	H		RBI
Jenna Grubb	3	1	1		0
Hannah Trueblood	3	0	1		2
Sophie Schoch	4	0	1		0
Azstryd Alexander	3	0	1		0
Brooke Johnson	3	0	1		1
Kate Murray	3	0	1		0
Taylor Duplessis	2	1	0		0
Kendall Jordan	3	0	0		0
Ashtin Grubb	3	0	1		0
Hailey Kinder	0	1	0		0
Totals	27	3	7		3
Score by innings					
Tri-West	1	0	0	0	4
Fishers	0	0	0	0	1
2B: Johnson, A. Grubb. SB: Duplessis, Alexander. HBP: Duplessis.					
Fishers pitching	IP	R	ER	H	
Murray	6.2	10	10	11	
Mckinzie Horoho	0.1	0	0	0	
Strikeouts: Murray 8. Walks: Murray 5.					

Golden Eagles caught by Lebanon at season opener

The REPORTER

Guerin Catholic opened its softball season Tuesday at Lebanon, falling to the Tigers 9-7.

The Golden Eagles got their first runs in the top of the first after Anna Mauch blasted a home run. Lauren Brady and Lucy Kemp also scored. Lebanon cut the lead to 3-2 after two innings, but Guerin Catholic got those runs back in the top of the fourth. Lilli Everts scored on Brady's RBI groundout, while Haleigh Abbott was sent home by Madi Cain's sacrifice fly.

Lebanon took over in the bottom of the fourth inning, pouring in seven runs to lead 9-5. Kemp

LEBANON 9, GUERIN CATHOLIC 7					
Guerin Catholic	AB	R	H		RBI
Lauren Brady	4	1	1		1
Madi Cain	3	0	2		1
Lucy Kemp	4	3	3		2
Anna Mauch	4	1	4		3
Natalie Eiler	4	0	0		0
Kate Brady	3	0	1		0
Lilli Everts	3	1	0		0
Haleigh Abbott	3	1	1		0
Lainey Rott	3	0	0		0
Totals	31	7	12		7
Score by innings					
Guerin Catholic	3	0	0	2	1
Lebanon	1	1	0	7	0
HR: Kemp 2, Mauch. SB: K. Brady. SAC: Cain.					
GC pitching	IP	R	ER	H	
Eiler	6	9	3	9	
Strikeouts: Eiler 1. Walks: Eiler 4.					

homered to open the fifth inning and hit another home run in the seventh, but the Tigers were able to

hold on for the win. Mauch went 4-for-4 at the plate, while Kemp was 3-for-4.

Frankton beats Hamilton Heights at Grand Park

The REPORTER

Hamilton Heights dropped its first game of the season Wednesday, falling to Frankton 4-2 at Grand Park.

The Eagles scored two runs in the top of the first inning and held the lead from there. Lily Roush doubled

in Hailey Hall in the fourth inning for the Huskies' first run, then Kaylee Rhoton scored on an error in the seventh inning.

Lily Cash pitched five and one-third innings, striking out five.

Heights is 1-1 and hosts Lapel on Friday.

FRANKTON 4, HAMILTON HEIGHTS 2					
Heights	AB	R	H		RBI
Lily Cash	3	0	0		0
Hailey Hall	2	1	0		0
Lily Roush	2	0	1		1
Melanee Forrester	2	0	0		0
Kaylee Rhoton	3	1	1		0
Kassidy Schakel	3	0	0		0
Isabel Morrow	3	0	0		0
Morgan Ottinger	3	0	0		0
Savannah Warwick	3	0	1		0
Totals	27	3	7		3
Score by innings					
Frankton	2	0	0	0	2
Heights	0	0	0	1	0
2B: Roush. SB: Hall. SAC: Forrester. HBP: Hall.					
Heights pitching	IP	R	ER	H	
Cash	5.1	4	1	11	
Roush	1.2	0	0	0	
Strikeouts: Cash 5, Roush 3. Walks: Cash 4.					

Meeting Notices	
The Carmel Clay School Board of Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2023, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St., Carmel.	The Mt. Vernon Community Schools Building Corporation will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2023, at the Mt. Vernon Administration Building, 1806 W. State Road 234, Fortville.
The Mt. Vernon Community Schools Board of Trustees will meet in a work session from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2023, at the Mt. Vernon Administration Building, 1806 W. State Road 234, Fortville.	The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District Board will meet at noon on Monday, March 27, 2023, in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.
A regular meeting will follow from 7 to 9 p.m.	

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The Hamilton County Reporter

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Hamilton Heights School Administration Building, 410 W. Main St.

**CARMEL**  
Carmel Lions Club, 141 E. Main St.  
St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 10655 Haverstick Road


**CICERO**  
Cicero Christian Church, 1715 Stringtown Pike  
Harbour Shores Church, 8011 E. 216th St.  
Indiana Academy, 24815 State Road 19  
Laura Hayden's School of Dance, 7830 E. 236th St.  
The Pizza House, 11 N. Main St.

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Christ the Savior Lutheran Church, 10500 E. 126th St.  
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Life Church Fishers, 9820 E. 141st St.

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Christ Lutheran Church, 10055 E. 186th St.  
Deer Path HOA Community Building, 12109 Wolf Run Road  
Feeding Team Headquarters, 485 Sheridan Road (State Road 38)  
First Christian Church, 16377 Herriman Blvd.  
First Presbyterian Church, 1194 Maple Ave.  
Freedom Church, 1361 Christian Ave.  
Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St.  
Hamilton County Fire Fighters Local 4416, 399 S. 14th St.  
IDES (International Disaster Emergency Service), 20545 Riverwood Ave.  
Koteewi Park – Taylor Center of Natural History, 12308 Strawtown Ave.  
Legacy Christian School, 470 Lakeview Drive  
Life Church, 2200 Sheridan Road (State Road 38)  
Moose Lodge, 950 Field Drive  
Morse Beach FOP Lodge, 7201 E. 196th St.  
Noblesville School Admin Building, 18025 River Road  
Open Door Church, 20545 Riverwood Ave.  
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 9900 E. 191st St.  
Promise Road Elementary School, 14975 Promise Road  
Restoration Church, 772 N. 10th St.  
Roundabout at SR 37 & Strawtown Avenue (23297 Lafayette St.)  
Union United Methodist Church, 19090 Deshane Ave.  
Victory Baptist Church, 2021 Cicero Road (State Road 19)  
Wayne Township Volunteer Fire, 18441 E. Durbin Road

**SHERIDAN**  
Issachar Church, 501 E. Main St.

**WESTFIELD**  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 4283 E. 191st St.

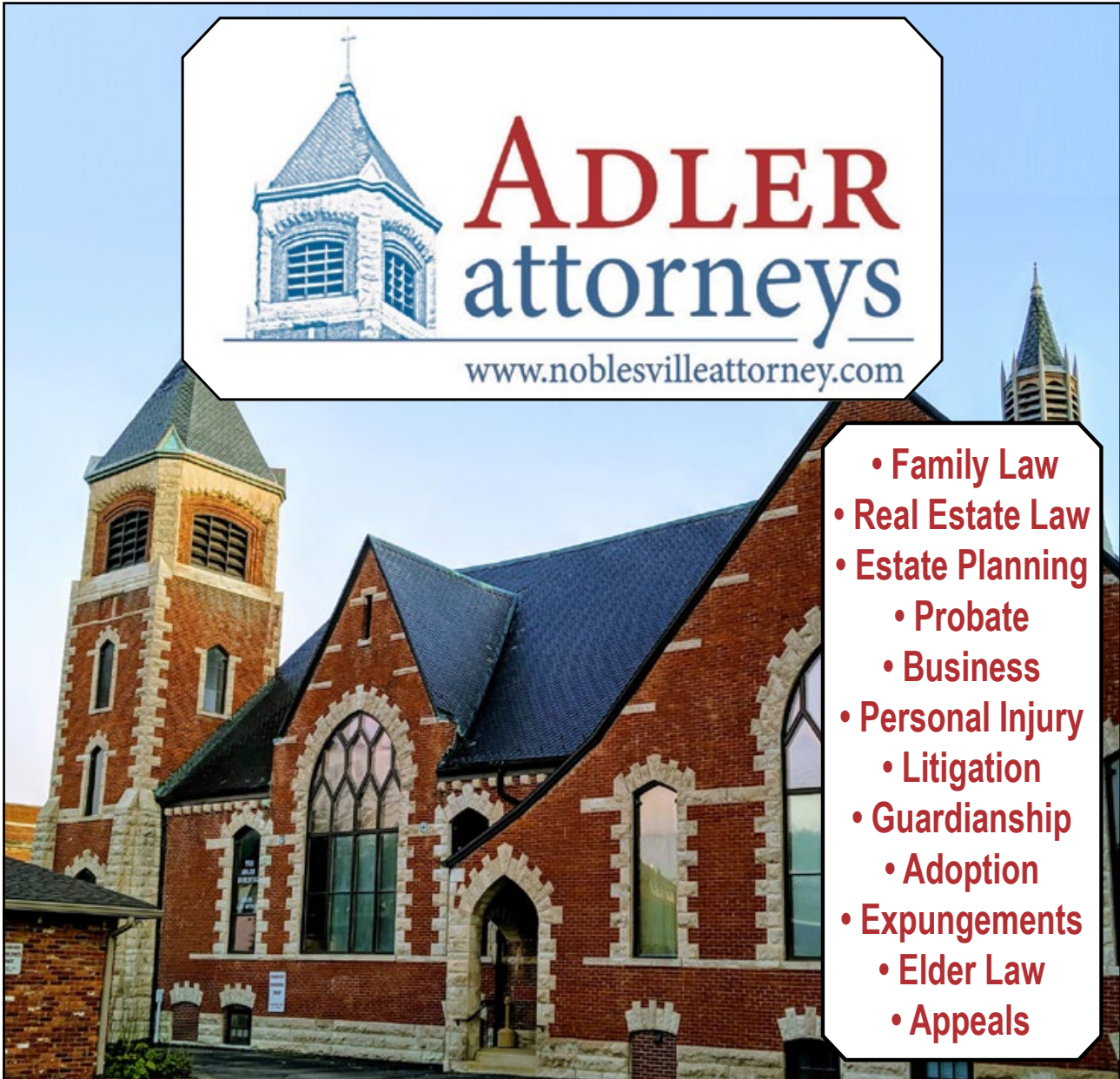


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Basketball



Kent Graham / File photo



Richie Hall / File photo



Kent Graham / File photo

Carmel senior Sam Orme (left), University junior Sabien Cain (center) and Fishers sophomore Jalen Haralson (right) all earned IBCA/Franciscan Health “Supreme 15” All-State honors for the 2022-23 boys basketball season.

# Three Hamilton County boys players earn “Supreme 15” All-State honors

The REPORTER

Carmel senior Sam Orme, University junior Sabien Cain and Fishers sophomore Jalen Haralson were among the 15 seniors and 15 underclass boys' basketball players have earned IBCA/Franciscan Health "Supreme 15" All-State honors for 2022-23, it was announced Wednesday.

The IBCA also named Large School All-State teams (15 seniors, 15 underclass) and Small School All-State teams (15 seniors, 15 underclass).

The "Supreme 15" is the top honor awarded, and players were voted to that group without regard to school size. The Large School and Small School all-state teams are secondary accolades -- the Large School group including players from Class 3A and Class 4A schools and the Small School group including players from Class A

and Class 2A schools. Players who make the Supreme 15 are not considered for Large School or Small School honors.

In addition, 90 more seniors and 90 more underclass players were selected honorable mention all-state. The honorable mention laurels are awarded without regard to school size.

The other players voted to the 2023 IBCA/Franciscan Health Supreme 15 Senior boys team are, listed alphabetically: Xavier Booker, Indianapolis Cathedral; Markus Burton, Penn; Myles Colvin, Heritage Christian; Zane Doughty, Ben Davis; Joey Hart, Linton-Stockton; Logan Imes, Zionsville; Mason Jones, Valparaiso; A.J. Lux, Crown Point; Ian Raasch, NorthWood; JaQualon Roberts, Bloomington North; Sheridan Sharp, Ben Davis; Jaron

Tibbs, Indianapolis Cathedral; Brandon Trilli, Munster; and Ashton Williamson, Gary 21st Century.

The other players voted to the 2023 IBCA/Franciscan Health Supreme 15 Underclass boys' team are, listed alphabetically: Isaac Andrews, Wapahani; Jack Benter, Brownstown Central; Flory Bidunga, Kokomo; Dezmon Briscoe, Indianapolis Attucks; Kanon Catchings, Brownsburg; Brauntae Johnson, Fort Wayne North; Carter Kent, Jennings County; Chase Konieczny, South Bend St. Joseph; Tyler Parrish, Chesterton; Kellen Pickett, Fort Wayne Blackhawk Christian; Azavir Robinson, Lawrence North; Justin Sims, Chesterton; and Trent Sisley, Heritage Hills.

Noblesville's Luke Almodovar and Westfield's Alex Romack were both voted to the senior Large School All-State team.

Three more county players (all juniors) were named to the underclass Large School All-State team: Westfield's Trey Buchanan, Noblesville's Aaron Fine and Guerin Catholic's Robert Sorensen. Another Noblesville junior, Hunter Walston, was an underclass Honorable Mention.

The IBCA/Franciscan Health All-State teams are selected through a process organized by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association and presented by Franciscan Health Sports Medicine.

All IBCA-member head coaches have the opportunity to nominate players. A panel of 20 IBCA coaches -- 16 from the current regional areas, three district representatives (one each from IHSAA Districts 1, 2 and 3) and the committee chairman -- then meets to review the nominations, vote and finalize the selec-

tions.

Those on the IBCA all-state committee for 2023 included chairman David Wood, former coach at West Lafayette, plus Chris Benedict of Whitko in District 1, Chris Hawkins of Indianapolis Attucks in District 2 and J.R. Holmes of Bloomington South in District 3.

Completing the voting panel were Mike Hackett of Munster, Ryan Osborn of Carmel, Mark James of Perry Meridian and Jim Shannon of New Albany in Class 4A; Aaron Wolfe of NorthWood, Matt Kostoff of Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger, Bobby Allen of Guerin Catholic and Gene Miller of Washington in Class 3A; Kent Chezem of North Judson, Matt Luce of Wapahani, Aaron Spaulding of Eastern Hancock and David Benter of Brownstown Central in Class 2A; and Scott Bowersock of

Washington Township, Brian Klein of Blue River Valley, Keith Witty of Edinburg and Josh Thompson of Barr-Reeve in Class A.

Franciscan Health Sports Medicine is making a financial contribution to the IBCA Scholarship Fund as the presenting partner of the IBCA all-state teams. As part of the partnership, Franciscan Health Sports Medicine will provide plaques to Supreme 15 honorees and certificates to players receiving Large School All-State, Small School All-State or Honorable Mention All-State recognition. Those items will be made available to each recipient's coach during April, allowing his coach to present the award to each player prior to the end of the 2022-23 academic year.

The IBCA thanks Franciscan Health Sports Medicine for being a partner in this annual project.

Lacrosse

## Carmel girls beat Guerin Catholic in overtime, Westfield boys fall to Brebeuf Jesuit

The REPORTER

The Carmel girls lacrosse team won an all-county game over Guerin Catholic 10-9 in overtime on Tuesday.

The Golden Eagles led 6-3 at halftime before the Greyhounds led 9-8 late in the contest. Guerin Catholic scored to send the game into overtime, but Carmel's Brekin Hare got the winning goal two minutes into the extra period.

Hare finished with three goals and one assist, with Tori Tomalia also adding two goals and handing out two assists. Sophie Mock scored two goals, handed out one assist and had five draw controls. Olivia Slowey, Elle Tomalia and Avery Goehl each scored as well.

Guerin Catholic stats were not available.

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Westfield's boys la-

crosse team lost a tough game to Brebeuf Jesuit 8-7 on Wednesday.

The Braves won the game with a last-second goal. Theo Dager had three goals and one assist for the Shamrocks, while the defense had a solid game.

In the junior varsity game, Westfield won 6-0. Evan Kondrat scored two goals, and goalkeepers Josiah Dekruyter and Hayden Buck combined for the shutout.



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