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HAMILTON COUNTY
REPORTER

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023
 ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN
 CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD




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TODAY'S WEATHER


Today: Partly sunny.
 More clouds in the afternoon.
 A passing shower is possible in the afternoon.
 Tonight: Mostly clear.
 HIGH: 52 LOW: 24



One Shamrock's heart for service

Westfield's own Asher Galan recognized for nearly 200 hours working to help those with disabilities

By AMY ADAMS
For The Reporter

When eighth-grader Asher Galan first stepped into Sandy O'Neill's Life Skills classroom at Westfield Middle School (WMS) last year as part of the Peer Facilitation Program, he had no idea what to expect.

O'Neill has been teaching at WMS for about five years in a class tiered according to her students' needs and cognitive abilities. She also oversees the school's Peer Facilitation Program which allows seventh and eighth graders to volunteer in special education classrooms as an elective.

"Each quarter we have about 30 students who choose to participate," O'Neill said. "It is an absolutely phenomenal program and such a huge asset here at the middle school."

Asher initially thought that he had signed up for an elective working in the school office.



Photo provided by Stephanie Becher, Joseph Maley Foundation
In addition to his work with the Peer Facilitation Program at Westfield Middle School, Asher Galan (front row, center) is a member of the Joseph Maley Foundation puppet troupe.

See Asher Galen . . . Page 2

Upgrades coming to Noblesville's Forest Park

Playground will be remodeled & new fitness area for adults

The REPORTER
The south playground in Forest Park will close Monday, April 3 to be remodeled. The area is expected to be under construction until the end of May.

"Playgrounds, trails and other parks amenities are not only an added value to a community but an expectation, which is why Noblesville is dedicated to investing in these quality of life areas," Mayor Chris Jensen said. "The new equipment will be for ages 2 to 12 as well as a new adult fitness aspect to make it a well-rounded playground for all ages."

The playground design was created by Recreation InSites and features Kompan play equipment. The city is keeping two structures: the Kompan Double Tower that was installed last year as a replacement piece for another structure and the popular Expression Swing, which allows the user to sit face-to-face with their small child while swinging together.

"The anchor to the new playground design is Kompan's custom Giant XL tower connected by a net bridge to the Giant medium sensory tower with a tree and nature theme, allowing users to explore the wonderful world hidden in the forest of trees at Forest Park," Parks Director Brandon Bennett said.

"This is a complete renovation of the entire playground, including the surfacing."



Bennett

See Forest Park . . . Page 2



Photo provided by Hamilton County Parks & Recreation
Elected officials, civic leaders, parks board members, leadership and staff, as well as family and friends gathered to honor past Hamilton County Parks Board President Terry Prather, who is holding a replica of the upcoming park sign which will bear his name.

Past County Parks Board President Terry Prather honored for his decades of service

The REPORTER
Former Hamilton County Parks and Recreation (HCPR) Parks Board President, Andrew "Terry" Prather, was recently honored at the department's administrative office in a special ceremony and reception.

The event was attended by a large contingency of elected officials, civic leaders, parks board members, leadership and staff,

as well as family and friends of the humble man who has served the community he loves for more than five decades. Guests gathered to recognize the selfless contributions Mr. Prather has made, beginning with his coaching in the Carmel Pups youth football program and leading up to the leadership role he undertook during the early, formative years of the county

parks department.

During the ceremony, County Commissioners Christine Altman and Steve Dillinger issued Mr. Prather the prestigious Hamilton County Continental Award, and County Council members Brad Beaver, Mark Hall, and Steve Nation were on hand to present him with a plaque containing a formal declaration of appreciation from the

council on behalf of the Hamilton County community.

HCPR Director Chris Stice presented the past parks board president a commemorative medallion for Mr. Prather's 37 years of uninterrupted service to HCPR.

The highlight of the evening came when the commissioners,

See Prather . . . Page 3


Previewing Jackson Township's "Lantern Walk"

The REPORTER
The Hamilton Heights High School theater students will hold a "Lantern Walk" through Cicero Cemetery from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 22. The walk will include 12 stops at the gravesites of important folks in the history of Jackson Township.


The Reporter will publish a short biography of each of the 12 individuals in our online editions from Wednesday to Saturday for three weeks, concluding April 15.

Ryan White is featured in today's edition.

"I am Ryan White. I was diagnosed with AIDS in 1984 after receiving the virus from a contaminated blood transfusion to treat my hemophilia. I faced intense discrimination from my Kokomo community



Ryan White
 December 6, 1971 – April 8, 1990
 Residence: Cicero
 Contributions: AIDS Awareness



in a time of fear and misunderstanding about the disease, and I was kept from attending school. My family and I moved to Cicero in 1987, and I was welcomed at my new school, Hamilton Heights. Before I arrived, the school corporation developed an acclaimed AIDS education campaign. I raised national awareness while battling the disease and spoke before the Presidential Commission on the HIV epidemic. I was named Sagamore of the Wabash for my advocacy, and the Ryan White CARE Act, providing funds for HIV/AIDS treatment, was passed by Congress shortly after my death."

Source: Ryan White Historical Marker
Interpreted by Charles Wedmore

Mitch Daniels joins Liberty Fund in Carmel

Former governor & Purdue president will serve as Distinguished Scholar & Senior Advisor

The REPORTER
The Liberty Fund, 11301 N. Meridian St., Carmel, announced Monday that Mitch Daniels will join the Liberty Fund as a Distinguished Scholar and Senior Advisor. He joins the Liberty Fund after serving as President of Purdue University from 2013 to 2022.

At Purdue, Daniels led transformative change and was recognized as one of the most innovative university presidents in America. During Daniels' tenure, Purdue froze tuition, reducing student borrowing by 32 percent.

Daniels served as Governor of Indiana from 2005 to 2013. After inheriting a nearly \$800 million deficit, Governor Daniels left Indiana with a budget surplus, reserve funds equal to nearly 15 percent of annual spending, and its first AAA credit rating. Under his leadership, Indiana moved near the top of every national ranking for business attractiveness. His emphasis on government efficiency and performance measurement



Daniels

See Daniels . . . Page 3



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APRIL 14th & 15th 2023
 Hamilton County Fairgrounds
 Proceeds Support Lions Club Charitable Projects



FOREST PARK

from Page 1

Bennett said the playground is adding new swings, elevated balance pods, an Inclusive Twister, preschool springers, and other surface climbing elements. The new design also adds an adult fitness area outside of the playground so adults or caregivers can exercise while watching their kids on the playground.

“The surfacing will be updated to Forever Lawn, which is an artificial grass surface with impact attenuation capabilities that will make the playground more accessible and maintenance friendly,” Bennett said. “We are excited to bring this playground to Forest Park and hope that it meets our

goal of creating a themed regional destination that serves as a unique play experience for its users and has that ‘wow’ factor.”

In the past few years, the parks and recreation department has removed three playground pieces that were determined in need of replacement by Certified Playground Safety Inspectors on staff. It was further determined that the overall playground needed to be updated.

“We are remodeling this playground for several reasons, but the main reason is the safety of the older equipment as many components are wearing out and either need replaced

or removed,” Bennett said. “Doing this renovation also allows the city to upgrade the surface to a modern and accessible surface that will eliminate many maintenance concerns with the existing safety surface.”

The north playground at Forest Park will remain open during construction. Timing for the south playground remodel was scheduled based on availability of the new equipment and weather conditions conducive for the construction work. The city also has playgrounds at Dillon Park, Finch Creek Park, Federal Hill Commons, Seminary Park and Southside Park; in addition to a



Rendering provided by City of Noblesville

disc golf course, two skate parks, six Pickleball courts, three parks with basketball courts, two tennis courts, four sand volleyball courts and over 127 miles of trails, connector sidewalks and greenways throughout the community.

ASHER GALAN

from Page 1

“When I walked in, I was really nervous,” Asher said. “There were a lot of people I had never met before. But, almost instantly, I began to feel safe and accepted because they were all so nice and welcoming. They weren’t judgmental at all.”

Since that first day, Asher has elected to spend 45 minutes a day, Monday through Friday, for five of his eight quarters at WMS, helping in O’Neill’s classroom.

“He’s just been wonder-

ful,” O’Neill said. “We have such an eclectic variety of personalities and abilities in the classroom. It’s been wonderful to have someone so open-minded and willing to work with anyone and do anything.”

Last year, Asher worked with students in an adaptive PE setting. This year, he has been helping while the students are doing science experiments, cooking, and crafting.

“The best part, to me, is that Asher can tell you any-

thing about any of the kids,” said Asher’s mother, Holly Galan. “He gets excited about what they accomplish.”

The feeling seems to be mutual.

“It’s really in character for him,” said Asher’s father, Alan Galan. “He’s got that personality that really draws kids in.”

Alan tells about one evening when his family went to the movie theater and saw one of the students from O’Neill’s classroom.

“Asher went over to talk

to him,” Alan said. “You could just see how excited this student was to see Asher and give him a fist bump.”

Joanne Tedesco kept hearing her daughter, who is in O’Neill’s class, talk about Asher each day when she came home from school.

“I have a heart for kindness, so I decided I had to find out who this kid was,” Tedesco said.

Tedesco discovered that Asher is not only involved in the Peer Facilitation Program, but he is also a troupe member with the Joseph Maley Foundation Puppets.

The puppet program, which falls under the Joseph Maley Foundation’s education pillar, teaches middle school students to voice child-sized puppets who have disabilities so that they can present skits about awareness, acceptance, and respect.

Three of the seven puppet troupes in the Indianapolis area can be found at WMS. Each of the more than 20 WMS eighth-grade puppeteers has been nominated by a teacher as a good representative of inclusivity and acceptance.

In addition to learning puppeteering skills, students in the puppet program also learn about a wide variety of disabilities.

“A big part of the program training,” said Stephanie Becher, lead education manager for the Joseph Maley Foundation, “is hearing directly from people with

disabilities, like cerebral palsy or spina bifida, who come and speak with the kids.”

In addition to performing pre-written skits, the puppeteers participate in question-and-answer sessions where they must be ready to answer questions on the spot about the disabilities of their puppets.

“Each student does deep dives on the disabilities of their particular puppets,” Becher said, “but all of the puppeteers learn about all of the disabilities in case they have to step in for another puppet.”

Asher has voiced puppets Mary Ann who has Down syndrome and Brenda who has dyslexia and has performed at Shamrock Springs and Oak Trace elementary schools.

“Asher has been an outstanding ambassador for the program,” said Angela Hoffman, WMS media specialist and puppet program sponsor. “For him to be involved as a peer facilitator on a daily basis, this is an avenue where he continues his work as an advocate for people with disabilities.”

After learning about all the time that Asher has put into helping those with differing abilities and helping others to understand them better, Tedesco decided to take action.

“People need to know about this kid!” she said.

Tedesco serves as chair of the Westfield Mayor’s Council on Disabilities, which was

formed in 2022 to make a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities in Westfield. As a result of her recommendation, Westfield Mayor Andy Cook recognized Asher at the city council meeting on March 13 as a Westfield Mayor’s Council on Disabilities Ambassador.

It’s no wonder that Asher was also named WMS Student of the Month for March, as well.

Holly Galan said that having teachers at WMS who really encourage him and give him positive feedback has made a difference for Asher.

“Watching Asher grow in his confidence has been amazing,” O’Neill said. “He has grown to understand what the students need and how to de-escalate situations, but he has also grown in his confidence of who he is.”

As he moves to Westfield High School next year, Asher plans to follow a computer science path, but he intends to continue his work with special education students. He looks forward to participating in Unified Track which joins students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team.

Tedesco said she hopes Asher will inspire everyone in the community, from other students to city officials.

“Asher was put into an unfamiliar environment of kids with disabilities,” Tedesco said. “It changed his life.”



APRIL 1
11 AM - 2 PM
ASA BALES PARK



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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

Hamilton County Bicentennial putting spotlight on Jackson Township in April

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission has announced its lineup of grant-funded events for April 2023.

Jackson Township, located in the middle of the northern section of Hamilton County and home to Atlanta, Arcadia, and Cicero, is being celebrated during April. All three towns and the surrounding areas have tons of history waiting to be celebrated.

During April, the Bicentennial Commission will highlight Jackson Township events from cemeteries to vintage sports to the train ... and more. The traveling exhibit will also tour during the month. You can see details and other events on the online calendar at hamcoturns200.com/events.

Watercolors in the Indiana Room
April 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Maker Space at Hamilton North Public Library
West Brinton St., Cicero
FREE

Hamilton North Public Library Art Instructor Lor MacNorton will lead participants in modern recreations of local, historic class portraits and photographs from the Indiana Room of the

Cicero Library. Participants may donate their creations to the library; the best of the donated paintings will be framed and displayed. Register on the [library's website](#). The event is limited to 25 participants, so sign up soon.

Nickel Plate History Express
April 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Hobbs Station, Forest Park Drive, Noblesville
\$20

Celebrate the history of the town stations along the Nickel Plate line. Get on board at Hobbs Station in Noblesville's Forest Park and 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 are selling fast at [NickelPlateExpress.com](#).

Jackson Township Historical Tour Open House
April 15, 2 to 5 p.m.
Hamilton Heights Student Activity Center
420 W. North St., Arcadia
FREE

With your smartphone and QR codes, you can unlock the past with this interactive self-guided driving tour. Students from Hamilton



Heights Middle School have put together videos about historic buildings and places in Jackson Township. Signs installed in front of these buildings give participants the chance to see history, and on April 15, several of these buildings will be open to the public, including the mini-museum at the Student Activity Center in Arcadia.

Hamilton Heights Athletic Events
April 19, 5 to 8 p.m.
Hamilton Heights High School
FREE

Learn about the evolution of girls sports at Hamilton Heights and the new Unified Sports initiative where students with all levels of intellectual and physical abilities play on the same teams. Watch softball, both track and Unified Track meets, tennis, and a throw-

back baseball game.
Day at Red Bridge Park
April 21, 7 to 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 a Hoosier Hot Shots movie. Join for local music and be sure to enjoy a meal at local restaurants offering historically inspired desserts at discounted prices. Scavenger hunt prizes will also be given out on this date. Open through April 17, find the instructions for the hunt at ciceroin.org/event/hamilton-county-bicentennial.

Atlanta's History Showcase
April 22 & 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Atlanta Town Hall
FREE

The Town of Atlanta is

taking a dive into its rich past by going back in time. Mail a historic postcard and tour historic homes and businesses downtown. On Sunday at 9:30 a.m., attend a church service with the three Atlanta area churches. Afterwards, enjoy activities and ride the caboose.

Vintage Baseball Match
April 22, 1 to 4 p.m.
Bishop's Park
East 256th St., Arcadia
FREE

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation 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 to 9 p.m.
Cicero Cemetery
Morse Court, Cicero
FREE

Help honor those who have passed by remembering the impact they made on the community. Hamilton Heights High School theater students will showcase research on people buried in cemeteries around Jackson Township and will portray these notable citizens as visitors walk through the cemetery. Lanterns at each headstone will light your way along the path.

Sheridan Elementary Bicentennial Celebration
April 27, 7 p.m.
Sheridan Elementary School
FREE

The second and fourth grades will be joined by the First United Methodist Church Chancel Choir for a Bicentennial Celebration concert that showcases historical songs throughout time.

Arcadia & The Hoosier Hot Shots
April 28, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Remnant Coffee Shop
West Main Street, Arcadia
FREE

Join the Town of Arcadia for a display of a newly created timeline of the town's history. You can also celebrate the historic local talent of the Hoosier Hot Shots. In the 1930s, the band was nationally famous for its radio shows and "talkie" movies with the well-known tagline, "Are you ready, Hezzie?"

Jackson Township's Signature Event
April 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Arcadia Christian Church
FREE

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's restored original fire engine, partially funded by the Hamilton County Bicentennial. A mini-parade will begin at noon, and there will also be an arts show hosted by Hamilton Heights Schools.

Finally, bring your copy of the Hamilton County Bicentennial book to have it signed by students from Hamilton Heights who contributed to the epilogue.

About the Bicentennial
The Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission was established by the Hamilton County Commissioners as the official oversight agency for the 200th anniversary of the county in 2023. It will do so in partnership with the Hamilton County Historical Society, Hamilton County Tourism, Inc., and lead sponsor Duke Energy. For more information, visit hamcoturns200.com.

PRATHER

from Page 1



Photo provided by Hamilton County Parks & Recreation
Mr. Prather's daughters Andrea and Kim (left) and wife Donna (right) flanked Terry while proudly displaying the replica park sign mementos they received during the special recognition ceremony.

council members, parks board members, and leadership informed Mr. Prather that the county was bestowing upon him the honor of renaming River Road Park to Prather Park. He and his wife Donna and their daughters Andrea and Kim were then presented scaled-down replicas of the park's future entrance signs that will feature the Prather name.

HCPR officials stated that the timing of the park's public rededication ceremony and on site unveiling of its new signage will be announced at a later date.

Learn more about HCPR at MyHamiltonCountyParks.com, call (317) 770-4400, or follow the department on [Facebook](#).

Congratulations, Terry Prather!
Hamilton County thanks you for your work to give residents a better quality of life.



Photos provided by Hamilton County Parks & Recreation
(Above) Mr. Prather (left) receiving the county's coveted Continental Award from Commissioners Steve Dillinger and Christine Altman. (Below) County Council members Brad Beaver (left), Steve Nation (second from right), and Mark Hall (right) presented Mr. Prather a Hamilton County Council Appreciation Award for his decades of community service.



DANIELS

from Page 1

led to many state agencies, including the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Department of Child Services, and the Department of Corrections winning national performance awards.

Daniels' work with the Liberty Fund will focus on the creation of educational programs and partnerships that will strengthen Liberty Fund's existing educational programs. He will begin his work with Liberty Fund on April 1.

"I have watched for decades as the Liberty Fund, with impeccable scholarship and fidelity to principle, has labored to keep lit the lamp of freedom, and spread understanding of its historical and intellectual underpinnings," Daniels said. "Now, with individual liberty under relentless threats foreign and domestic, I'm grateful for the Funds' invitation that I try to assist it in its noble and essential mission."

"Our Board couldn't be more excited to have Mitch join our organization," said Nathan Feltman, Liberty Fund's Chairman of the Board. "Mitch's long-standing commitment to the prin-

ciples of individual liberty, as well as his work in the private and public sectors, made him the perfect choice for Liberty Fund's first ever Distinguished Scholar."

The Liberty Fund was founded in 1960 by Pierre F. Goodrich, an Indianapolis businessman and lawyer. Liberty Fund conducts its own educational programs to encourage research and discussion on the values and institutions of a society of free and responsible individuals.

These programs focus on the place individual liberty has in an intellectual heritage evident from ancient times and continuing through current times. The programs are intended to enrich understanding and appreciation of the complex nature of a free society and to contribute to its preservation.

As a tax-exempt, private operating foundation, Liberty Fund's purposes are educational. Liberty Fund fulfills its mission through its conference program, web properties and by publishing books pertaining to liberty.

For more information, visit LibertyFund.org.

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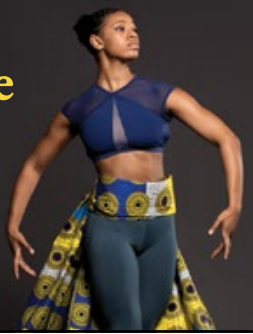


SCAN ME



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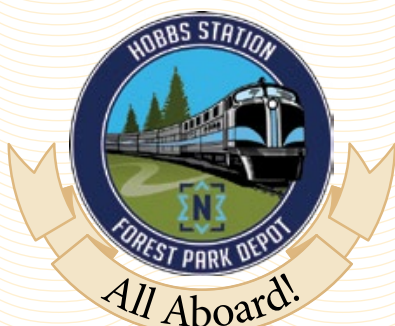
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Excursions board out of Noblesville at 825 Forest Park Drive.

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Peony Brunch Express

Join Nickel Plate Express and Andy's Housepitality as we kick off the Indiana Peony Festival with a one-of-a-kind peony themed brunch on the rails. Board the historic 1956 Nickel Plate Express train for a 90-minute ride while dining on a scrumptious brunch served up by Andy's Housepitality. This round-trip train ride will depart and return from Hobbs Station at Forest Park Depot in Noblesville.

April 29

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

Murder on the Luau Express

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. .

June 24 & 25

NickelPlateExpress.com for Tickets

Thanks for reading!

Property tax rate steady, but increased assessments mean you'll likely pay more

Several of our local governing units and public officials have proudly claimed recently that property tax rates in Hamilton County will not increase this year. That's fine; we all appreciate that. It's largely due to the county's continued rapid expansion of the property tax base.

However, most folks will find their tax bills, which will be arriving soon, are higher – some quite a bit higher – and luckily for some, not a whole lot.

Many property owners

will not notice the increase because they have their taxes escrowed. But they will increase.

It's because of higher assessments placed on land or homes through annual trending of property values. Of course, this comes about because the county is a “hot” market with sales of most property rising rapidly. Assessments are based on what the market is doing in your area.

Not so widely made known to the public is the effect of those assessment increases and the value of

major new construction, which cumulatively make up the tax base.

Hamilton County is in a unique position compared to some of our neighboring counties in that our tax base has expanded tremendously in recent years, and local government bodies benefit greatly from it. Our larger communities, school districts and the county government itself collect millions of dollars more each year on tax rates that remain static.

The fact is that local governmental units in a growing area could afford to actually reduce tax rates enough to offset the effects of higher individual assessments and still collect more

tax revenue because of all the new building added to the tax rolls each year.

That's if budget-making officials wished to do so.

This situation has been pointed out previously in this *County Line* column.

So, don't be fooled this April 1, or soon after when tax bills arrive.

When you are told tax rates are remaining unchanged, it can still mean higher property taxes for most of us.

Columnist Fred Swift has worked in newspapers for decades. He has been sharing his opinions in the pages of The Reporter since it began. Email him at swift-fred19@gmail.com.

County joint work session: big dreams

As mentioned in my column after the March Council meeting, there are a myriad of projects that the County is pursuing. These projects are in various stages from conceptual design to construction documentation. Many of these projects are supported within departmental budgets while others require funding outside of the normal revenue streams for the County.

These projects have been referred to as “major projects” and while you and I may be extremely interested in a resurfacing or culvert replacement, these major projects have greater impacts that help improve commerce, support economic development, improve quality of life, or support public safety. Most of these major projects are transportation focused, but we also have several building (vertical) projects in queue.

A joint session of the County Commissioners and Council was called on March 13 to help prioritize these projects so that the Council could strategize solutions within our fiscal plan.

Projects that appeared to have joint support included support for a corridor improvement along 191st Street in Westfield, an Ohio Road corridor study, Cherry Tree Road repairs, the expansion of the Judicial Center, and improvement of the 146th Street and Hazel Dell intersection. These items are already built into our fiscal plan, so there was not much conversation regarding this other than a request for ongoing budget updates so the fiscal plan can be a working document.

The Public Safety Training Center seemed to have support but that was tied to it being able to be funded from the Public Safety LIT (Local Income Tax).

There was much debate regarding the 141st Street and State Road 37 intersection that bid over budget back in 2022. Some wish to fund the project 50/50 with the City of Fishers while others want to see how the “Right-in, Right-out” improvement works that was done as an interim solution. Either way,

this project will go back out to bid in the INDOT letting this fall and that debate will surely be rekindled.

The last project of focus is the anticipated County Fairgrounds renovation. As previously discussed,

the Council approved a \$15 million bond to support Phase 1 of this project. This money was provided with the explicit direction that the Council would not entertain additional financial support due in part to current construction escalation but primarily because this is not a statutory responsibility. I would say that this is a “want” and not a “need.”

Six months later at our March Council meeting, the County Fairgrounds leadership has returned to Council requesting an additional \$11 million to finish out Phase 1 of the project. The Commissioners have prioritized this project ahead of the Judicial Center expansion and 146th Street and Hazel Dell. In total, this project will ultimately cost in excess of \$70 million, and those numbers have not yet been adjusted for inflation. The \$11 million request did not move forward for vote due to the lack of a motion by any member of the Council.

The County Fairgrounds is a wonderful asset for many people. It doesn't support the same number of people as your traditional community youth sports groups, but it does have a value on the community. When I ask around, most everyone likes the idea of a fairground but wants a county fair to go along with it, including rides and games, and have a safe place for Hamilton County residents. It also supports some tourism opportunities and there is no doubt that, if expanded, it could be a much better tourism destination for meetings and conventions. However, some may argue that the private sector could be meeting that need.

Herein lies the dilemma for many: do we support this expansion or not? If money was not an issue, this project would already be moving forward, but we have to be

cognizant of our decisions and the impact that has on our county.

Overall, the Commissioners and Council support the County Fairgrounds. We have set aside \$15 million to support upgrades to the facility, but to put taxpayer dollars into a project like this when we have statutory responsibilities that need to be met and construction escalation that is sending projects over budget seems irresponsible.

I recognize this, which is why I presented an idea in 2022 that would fund Phases 1 and 2 without an impact to County taxpayers. That idea did not move forward, but I was able to get additional information to substantiate this idea. My idea, which I believe has support of the Council, is to seek a developer through a build, operate, transfer (BOT) agreement (Indiana Code 5-23-2) to build a fairground elsewhere in the county and operate until the County purchases it at an agreed upon price.

I know what you're saying – how would that be less expensive? The secret is what we do with the existing fairgrounds, which is bordered on the north by the future Pleasant Street and to the east by the future expansion of SR 37. Once those projects are complete, the highest and best use would be mixed-use and/or corporate and will be some of the most valuable property in the county for redevelopment.

By working with our jurisdictional partners, the County could create a TIF district that would allow for real estate tax increment to be collected, which is currently \$0, and used for projects around this area or to relocate existing tenants (the different fairground entities) to the new fairgrounds. I met with the County financial consultants and walked through this plan, and everyone agreed that this would work. The proceeds from our bond would net \$30 million toward the fairgrounds and leave additional money to support improvements to the intersection of Pleasant Street and SR 37, as well as support the economic development of the Pleasant Street fairgrounds site similarly to how most cities

utilize TIF. With the existing bond revenue and this plan, the net savings to taxpayers to build out Phase 1 and Phase 2 would be just shy of \$50 million.

As I know I will be vilified for even making this suggestion, I seem to be the only one willing to be honest about the sheer fiscal challenges of moving a project like this forward. This is the kind of stuff I've done my whole life, and I have brought forward a plan to build the fairgrounds that this County deserves. Is it what everyone wants? No, but you don't get what you want without a bit of sacrifice.

I welcome a better plan, healthy debate, or discussions with those involved, but I also recognize that I have a duty to the whole county. I joined the Council to get more control of the project planning and execution. I want to implement positive changes to our processes and am always looking outside the box for the best solutions. What I have found in my first term is that government is reluctant to change, and in many cases for good reason as we shouldn't make huge commitments that bind the county without proper due diligence.

In the end, the decision is not up to me or Council. Moving this facility is a decision that will be made by the Commissioners with input from the Farm Bureau, Purdue Extension, and other leadership of the fairgrounds. I'm merely putting forth a way to finance the project.

If the items mentioned above are of interest, please reach out to me or any member of the County Council. As always, I am thankful that the Hamilton County Reporter for publishing my Council updates and a special thanks to you, the readers, and residents of Hamilton County, for reading it and being engaged in the discussion. Our county is better because of you. I welcome your questions at ken.alexander@hamiltoncounty.in.gov.

Ken Alexander represents District 4 on the Hamilton County Council, which includes Adams and Washington townships, and part of Clay Township. He currently serves as the President of the County Council.

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 ciceroin.org to find the scavenger hunt list.

Noblesville Lions Club inducts Cheryl Helton



Photo provided by Noblesville Lions Club
At last Wednesday evening's meeting, the Noblesville Lions Club inducted Cheryl Helton as its new member. She was brought to the club by her Lion Sponsor, Jen Carr. (From left) Club Secretary Julia Kozicki, Lion Cheryl Helton, and Lion Jen Carr.

Northern GOP Club invites you to meet with candidates

The REPORTER

Attention all Republican men and women: the Northern Hamilton County GOP Club invites you to a dinner meeting on Thursday.

The Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Sheridan Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., Sheridan. The cost is \$20 for non-members and free for members and sponsors.

Dinner will be a baked potato bar, complete with toppings, salad, and drink,

and dessert.

Please come meeting your elected officials and Republicans running for office.

County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt will serve as the guest speaker, and several local elected officials and candidates will be available to meet and speak with you.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Club President Emily Pearson at emily.pearson317@gmail.com.

Being healthy: it takes time to get it right

"Everything is hard before it is easy." – Goethe

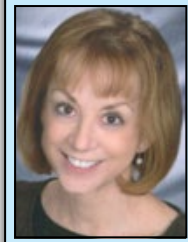
When I read/hear/view about all the wonderful "weight loss" programs that abound in our Western society today, I am saddened by the number of people who literally buy in to the multi-billion-dollar industry which frequently promises miraculous results – and in a very short time, of course!

To the best of my knowledge (and in my Christian belief) authentic miracles are recorded only in the Holy Bible. To the best of my memory (although I am not a biblical scholar!) weight loss is not recorded as one of those miracles ...

That brings me to the topic of this column.

We have become a society which expects, and even demands, instant results. From the growing/preparation of our foods – hav-

COLUMNIST



SHARON McMAHON
Be Well

ing the "dream home" – to wrinkle removers and everything in between, we want it *now*. Generally, the effects of smoking, eating poorly, a sedentary lifestyle and inactivity take a while to actually become visible. Yet the general population expects remarkable results in a short period of time. Lose 20 pounds in a month – sure! Nine inches off the hips in a matter of weeks – why not?

It seems to me, with the number of fitness centers, weight-loss programs, workout DVDs, and the high-tech fitness equipment available, that 70 percent of Americans should not be overweight.¹ Let's take a look at some of the possible reasons why this might be the case.

Grocery "super stores" are filled to the brim with many aisles of processed, sugar-heavy, chemical-lad-

den items. The next time you are tempted to toss one of these items in your cart, be sure to check out the expiration date. The further out the date, the more wary you should be of that particular "food" product. A shelf stable food item dated months ahead is cause for concern.

Additionally, if you live in any area of the country that claims to be a city or town, you don't have to travel far to access a "fast food" establishment. Although it is true that some of these provide salads and some pseudo-healthy alternatives, too many of us frequent them far too often.

Also, I must confess that I have a tendency to take a quick look at the grocery carts of those shopping around me ... sorry folks! In doing so I am often appalled at what I see, which is all too often overweight parents shopping with their children and pushing a grocery cart full of junk foods. I find this very sad as this not only adds empty calories in

the children's diet, but the unnecessary chemicals can interfere with their learning and cognitive growth.

There is a modern, proverbial adage: "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." I do believe this in relation to the above topic. People are frequently derailed when they find they are unable to obtain their fitness goals in a short period of time, and/or stay consistent with the healthy lifestyle required to maintain their goal. Don't let the "quick fix" mentality undermine your efforts and determination to be healthy, fit, and energetic. You *can* do it!

¹Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

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.

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 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

ReadTheReporter.com

You Are Loved & Valued!



When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? (Psalm 8:3-4)

Our world is often cold, unfeeling, uncaring and unappreciative. But amazingly our Creator cares about us and loves us. Would you like to know more about a God

who looks from heaven and cares you? Let us help you come to know the loving merciful Jehovah who wants to bear your sorrows.

At the **Stony Creek Church of Christ**, we assemble on Sundays and Wednesdays to seek a better understanding of Jesus and His ways. You are encouraged and invited to join us for those studies or call for a private study.



Stony Creek Church of Christ
"First Century Christianity in the Twenty First Century"

15530 Herriman Blvd., Noblesville

(317) 219-5852

Sunday Bible Study 10:00 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm



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.

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.*

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.

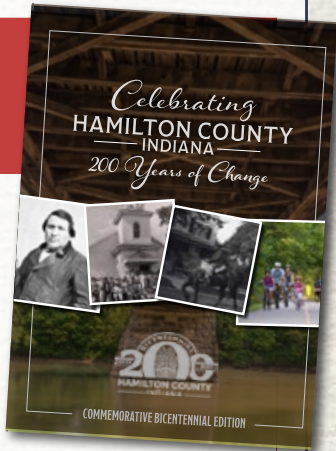
ARCADIA AND THE HOOSIER HOT SHOTS

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

Mr. Leprechaun helps Noblesville Lions have some “tail twisting” fun



Photo provided by Noblesville Lions Club

Lions Club meetings always finish with a little fun. Lion Mark Bachar is the club “Tail Twister” and finished last Wednesday’s meeting as Mr. Leprechaun. He had a little game with the club members on a Final 16 drawing. He always seems to come up with a candy bar treat or other sweet surprise for the winners!

Collective Beauty made Emerald Partner of Westfield Chamber

The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber of Commerce has announced that Collective Beauty has upgraded to an Emerald Level Partner, the Chamber’s \$2,500 partnership level.

Collective Beauty is a premier salon and spa located on State Road 32 in Westfield just across the street from Field Brewing. Collective Beauty takes pride in its extraordinary client relations and luxury services and strive to be your new, all-in-one salon and spa for your personalized beauty needs.

Learn more at CollectiveBeautySalonSpa.com.



Lawmakers send gender transition ban for minors to governor’s desk

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

LGBTQ+ rights supporters threatened legal action Monday after lawmakers sent Gov. Eric Holcomb the first bill of the session targeting transgender youth.

The Indiana House voted along party lines Monday afternoon to approve **Senate Bill 480**, which bans hormone therapy, puberty blockers, or surgery for gender transition purposes for anyone under age 18.

If it becomes law, anyone undergoing such treatment would have until the end of this year to discontinue it. The House’s vote comes a month after the Senate gave the bill its approval.

The bill has drawn fierce opposition from supporters of LGBTQ+ rights. In two different committee hearings, parents of transgender youth said **they will move out of the state if the bill becomes law**, citing fear of their transgender children returning to a cycle of self-harm if they are cut off from

gender transition care.

Rep. Chris Campell, D-West Lafayette, said, “This legislation violates the sacred relationship between a parent and a child. How can the state prohibit parents from securing medical treatment for their children to medically-accepted standards?”

Throughout the debate, the bill’s supporters cited the need to protect children from harmful effects of surgery and pointed to cases of people who underwent gender transition treatment but later regretted it.

“Many of the kids who were rushed down the path to transitioning have regrets and still live with the pain of their decisions. I want to do what’s right for kids,” House bill sponsor Rep. Joanna King, R-Middlebury, said.

Doctors from IU Riley Children’s Hospital told lawmakers during the public hearing stage they do not perform gender transition surgery on minors and globally-accepted standards of

gender-affirming care do not condone it.

A 2015 survey of nearly 28,000 transgender adults conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality found that while some people do detransition, they accounted for a total of 8 percent of the population who responded to the survey.

Most cited pressure from parents or family as the reason they did so, while 5 percent of those who detransitioned, or 0.4 percent of the total transgender population, said they detransitioned because they no longer felt it was right for them.

Gov. Eric Holcomb has not yet publicly indicated where he stands on the bill. He will have seven days to act on the bill once it is formally presented to him.

If he vetoes it, lawmakers already have more than enough votes for the simple majority needed to override him. The ACLU said in a statement it will pursue legal action if the bill becomes law.

Don’t miss Wayne-Fall Lions Club’s Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

The REPORTER

The Wayne-Fall Lions Club will hold its annual all-you-can-eat Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, at the Club’s location, 11940 E. 191st St., about three miles

east of State Road 37 at Deshane Avenue and Victory Chapel Road.

The menu includes special pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, coffee, juice, and milk. Cold cereal will also be available, as well as syrups and peanut butter for

the pancakes.

Please come and join for breakfast, brunch, or lunch. Money doanted at the breakfast will help fund various community projects of the Wayne-Fall Lions Club.

Carry-out will be available.

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 317-832-1115



Request for Art

Old or New – Photography – Paintings
Sketches – Sculptures – Literature – Mixed Media

Calling all ARTISTS!

Show us Jackson Township through your eyes!

Submit your item to be displayed in the
Jackson Township Art Gallery
for the Hamilton County Bicentennial

Items due by Monday, April 17, 2023

This Signature Event will be held on
Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Free Entry

All ages welcome

Artwork will be displayed at the discretion of the event committee

For more info call (317) 984-3826
or email Clerk@JacksonTownshipTrustee.com

Registration form online at
www.JacksonTownshipTrustee.com



**JACKSON TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE'S OFFICE**



The Reporter



Westfield Professional Fire Fighters endorse Scott Willis for mayor

Submitted
Republican Scott Willis, current Westfield City Councilor and candidate for mayor, announced on Tuesday the endorsement of the Westfield Professional Fire Fighters.

“Public safety is without a doubt the most important job of a mayor and certainly a top priority for my administration,” Willis

said. “I am excited and honored to receive the vote of confidence and endorsement from the Westfield Professional Fire Fighters.”

Following a vote by its members, Ryan Herron, Westfield Professional Fire Fighters District Vice President, said, “Westfield Professional Fire Fighters have endorsed many candidates over the years, but Scott Willis

stands out because of his record on public safety and his commitment to Westfield. Scott understands what it takes to keep the citizens of Westfield and first responders safe. His work has been notable which earned him an overwhelmingly positive vote for our endorsement.”

Willis notes that with the rapid growth Westfield is ex-

periencing, it has been a huge challenge to keep up with the infrastructure and public safety needs of the community.

“My top priorities as mayor go hand in hand: investing in public safety and expanding and diversifying Westfield’s commercial tax base,” Willis said.

Learn more about the candidate at [WillisForWestfield.com](#).

Finkam receives endorsement from Carmel FOP Lodge 185

Submitted by Carmel FOP Lodge 185
After conducting a poll of members, Carmel FOP Lodge 185 has announced its endorsement of mayoral candidate Sue Finkam in the upcoming Republican primary election.



Finkam

“The men and women in law enforcement put their lives on the line to ensure our communities remain protected,” Lodge 185 Vice President Matthew Broadnax said. “The police officers protecting the City of Carmel are some of the finest in the nation. The efforts of these officers have had a direct impact on the City of Carmel being named the safest and best place to live in America. Sue Finkam has proven herself to be a friend, partner, and advocate for our members. We are encouraged by her tireless dedication to public safety and know she will continue to make safety a top priority for the City of Carmel.”

Learn more about the candidate at [SueFinkam.com](#).

Mayor Jensen endorses Darren Peterson’s re-election to Noblesville Council

Submitted
Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen has endorsed At-Large City Councilor Darren Peterson for his re-election campaign.

“Darren has demonstrated excellent leadership skills, having served as both Vice President and President of the City Council,” Mayor Jensen said. “I fully endorse his candidacy for re-election. Darren is committed to the residents he represents, and he consistently puts in the effort and dedication required to get the job done. Darren’s experience as a long-term Noblesville business own-

er and architect offers a valuable and distinctive perspective to the council.”

For the last four years, Peterson has led economic development initiatives in Noblesville and navigated the more than \$1 billion in new private investment in the city, all while working hard to preserve the history and character of Noblesville.

Peterson also serves on the Plan Commission, Architectural Review Board, Council Finance Committee, and Downtown District Committee. He is the founder and President of Peterson Architecture, a

full service architectural and planning firm that was founded in downtown Noblesville over 25 years ago.

Locally, Peterson has been the board President of Nickel Plate Arts for the last five years and current board President of Keep Noblesville Beautiful. He has been the driving force behind activating under-utilized spaces, creating events that celebrate the community, expanding arts programming, and executing several successful events and projects in Noblesville.

Learn more at [ElectPetersonNoblesville.com](#).



Photo provided

Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen (left) said Darren Peterson’s leadership skills and proven commitment to the city are exactly why voters should keep him on the Common Council.

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Weather is unpredictable . . . Paul Poteet isn't.

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Sign your name on the beam of new Fishers Municipal Arts Complex



Be part of Fishers' next chapter and sign your name on a beam for the new Fishers City Hall & Arts Center, which is set to open next year. The beam will be available to sign after 1 p.m. today, March 29, just north of the construction site at 1 Municipal Drive. Stop by anytime to sign the beam, but it will only be out for a week or so before it will need to be installed, so act fast and don't miss your chance. Once complete, the three-story Fishers Arts & Municipal Complex will have a dedicated first floor to the Art Center, a dynamic arts education facility and theatre in partnership with the Indianapolis Art Center. The second and third floors of the building will hold municipal offices. [Click here](#) to learn more about the project, which is expected to be completed in 2024.

Rendering provided by City of Fishers

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

**Hamilton County
Reporter**

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THE BEST
LOCAL NEWS & SPORTS COVERAGE
IN HAMILTON COUNTY

Man struck & critically injured along I-465 near Meridian Street

The REPORTER

According to Indiana State Police, a man was struck and critically injured in the westbound lanes of Interstate 465 near Meridian Street in Carmel on Tuesday morning.

First responders from the Carmel Police Department, Carmel Fire Department, and Indiana State Police responded to reports of a person struck at approximately

11:41 a.m. Upon arrival, they found a man severely injured lying on the ground unresponsive. Paramedics gave emergency medical aid at the scene and transported the man to an area hospital in critical condition.

Indiana State Police Crash Reconstructionists responded to the scene to conduct an investigation. Preliminarily, it appears the injured man was driving a car west-

bound on I-465 near the 30.7 mile marker when he struck the median concrete wall, disabling his vehicle. It appears the man got out of his vehicle and crossed the three lanes of westbound traffic on foot to the right shoulder. For unknown reasons the man re-entered the right lane of I-465 and was struck by a semi-tractor trailer. The driver of the semi immediately stopped and stayed on scene

to speak with investigators.

As of press time, the circumstances of the crash are still under investigation, and the injured man is listed in critical condition at a local hospital.

The right two lanes of I-465 were closed in the area for two hours while the investigation was conducted, and the wrecked vehicles were removed. All lanes reopened Tuesday afternoon.

AG Todd Rokita sues restorer of vintage Volkswagens for failing to perform work

JB Bugs accused of taking more than \$227K from 19 consumers

The REPORTER

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita announced on Monday a lawsuit against defendants accused of failing to perform work after taking payments from customers seeking restoration of vintage Volkswagen vehicles.

Operating under the name JB Bugs, the company not only failed to do the work it promised but also gave false updates to consumers about work that was supposedly in progress, the lawsuit states.

"As a Volkswagen Thing and Bug enthusiast myself, I understand the love poured

into these vehicles by their owners," AG Rokita said. "Unfortunately, scammers play on these kinds of passions to defraud people of money, but we will keep working to protect Hoosiers and hold businesses accountable."

Defendants named in the lawsuit are JB Bugs Trick & Truck Shop LLC and Palm Principals LLC – both operating under the name JB Bugs – and owners John Bragg and Melanie Goode.

After customers paid JB Bugs significant sums



Rokita

of money for the restorations – and received assurances the work was in progress – they eventually learned the company's building was vacated and their vintage vehicles missing.

In total, AG Rokita's complaint alleges that 19 consumers paid JB Bugs \$227,000 without JB Bugs restoring the consumers' vehicles or providing any refunds. The complaint alleges the defendants violated the Indiana Deceptive Consumer Sales Act's pro-

hibition on deceptive and unfair business practices.

AG Rokita is seeking restitution for the affected consumers and civil penalties against the defendants.

Defendant John Bragg is also facing criminal charges in Indiana for his actions at JB Bugs. He was recently located and arrested in North Carolina.

Anyone who believes they have encountered wrongful business practices in Indiana is encouraged to file complaints with AG Rokita's office at [in.gov/attorneygeneral](https://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral).

[Click here](#) to read the complaint.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God's wrath is completed. And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God and sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb:

"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

Revelation 15:1-4 (NIV)

Meeting Notices

The Atlanta Redevelopment Commission will meet to accept the 2022 Annual Report and to adopt a Declaratory Resolution at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2023, at Atlanta Town Hall, 105 E. Main St., Atlanta.

The Carmel Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a combined Hearing Officer meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2023, in the Caucus Rooms on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square, Carmel.

The Atlanta Town Council will hold a public meeting to discuss the Atlanta Ball Diamond at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 795 S. Central St., Atlanta.

Send Meeting Notices to:
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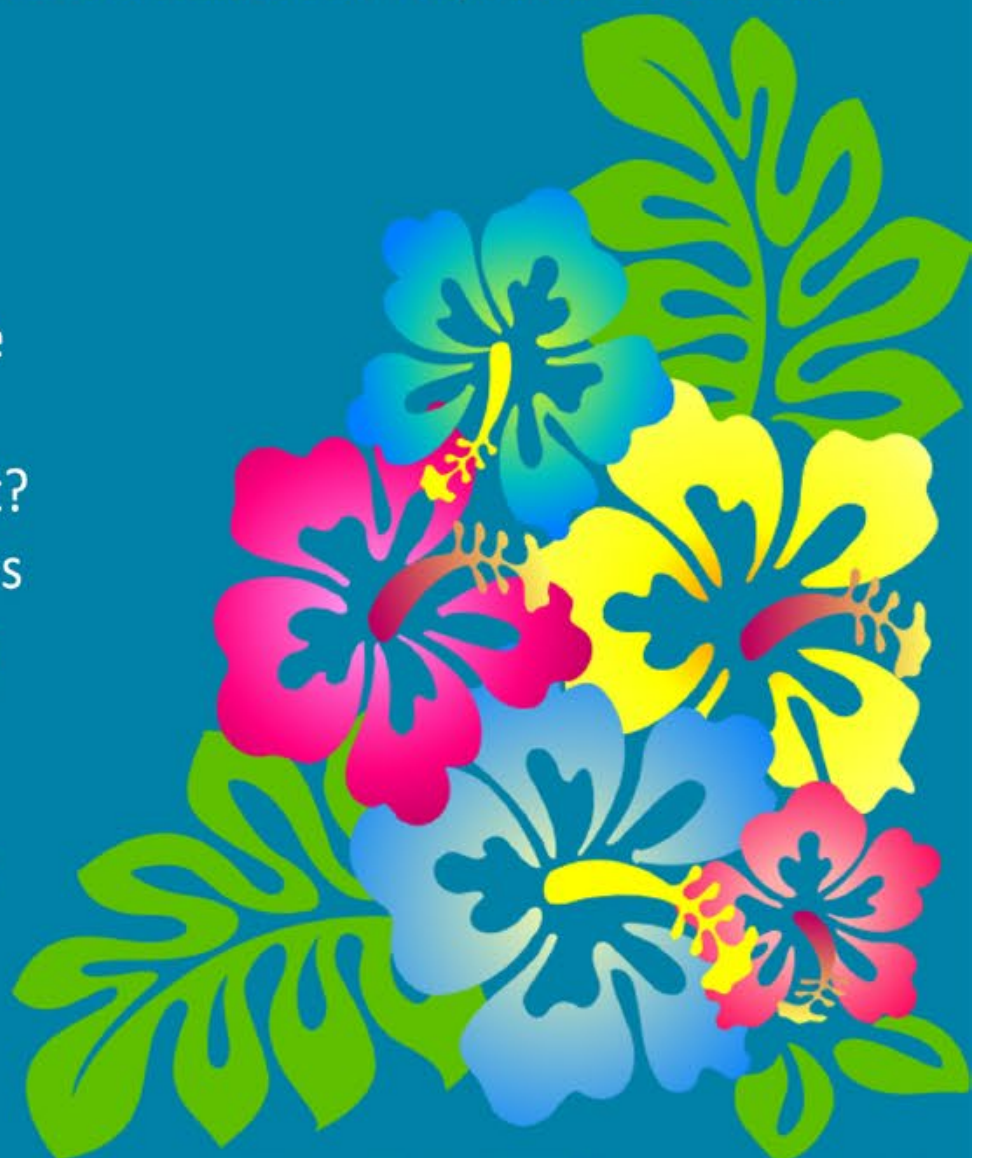
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Hamilton County teams dominate Hoosier State Relays

Carmel, Noblesville & Southeastern girls prove it's easy as 1-2-3

By **CRAIG ADKINS**
For The Reporter

BLOOMINGTON — While spring sports teams are gearing up for a full season of being outdoors, track and field teams throughout the state gathered last Saturday at Indiana University's Gladstein Fieldhouse in Bloomington for the Hoosier State Relays to get an early season test against some of the state's top competition.

In both the Large and Small school division, Hamilton County schools were well-represented in a majority of the events.

Brownsburg grabbed the overall championship for the boys in Large school with 50 points, followed by Fishers and Carmel tying for second at 49 points each. The remaining county schools has respectable finishes as Westfield was seventh, Noblesville 11th, and Hamilton Southeastern 13th.

Girls teams went 1-2-3 for Hamilton County in the order of Carmel, Noblesville, and Hamilton Southeastern, while Westfield was 16th and Fishers 20th.

Fishers' Sam Quagliaroli was fourth in the boys 3200 meter run, while Caden Click (Noblesville) and Tate Meaux (Fishers) also grabbed top 15 times.

In the girls 3200 race, seven county girls finished in the top 20. HSE's Elizabeth Butler (eighth) and Maggie Powers (ninth) and Liz Smith of Westfield (10th) rounded out the top 10. Nadia Perez (12th) and Brooke Lahee (14th) from Noblesville, along with Carmel's Emersyn Weaver (15th) and Charlotte Konow (20th) gave Hamilton County a great distance presence.

Tyler Tarter from Fishers finished first in the 60 meter hurdles with a run

of 8.05 seconds. HSE's McKenzie Loftin (9.31) and Lucy Hauser from Westfield (9.34) were neck-and-neck for sixth and seventh, respectively in their 60 meter hurdles race.

Robert Seay (Fishers) ran a 6.88 60 meter dash for third. Three were top seven in the girls 60. Princess Campbell (Westfield) was third, Emily Norris (Carmel) sixth, and Westfield's Tbi Fapetu seventh in a very tight girls race.

Carmel's boys team took the 4 x 800 meter relay race with a time of 7:48.51, while Westfield (third), Noblesville (fifth) and Hamilton Southeastern (10th) also were in the top 10.

The Greyhounds also won the girls 4 x 800 relay in 9:22.25, with Noblesville just behind in second at 9:23.20. HSE (sixth) and Westfield (23rd) also had good runs.

The boys 4 x 200 meter relay got five county schools in the top 15, including Fishers (fourth), Carmel (ninth), Noblesville (10th), Westfield (14th) and Southeastern (15th).

The girls 4 x 200 relay got Carmel (second), Fishers (fourth), Westfield (seventh) and HSE (10th) all in the top 10.

Carmel finished third in the boys distance medley, followed by Fishers in sixth, Noblesville 10th, and Westfield 18th. The girls medley was won by HSE with a time of 12:19.86.

The boys 4 x 400 meter relay featured four top 10 finishers with Fishers (third), Westfield (fourth), Carmel (sixth) and Noblesville (eighth), along with HSE back at 17th.

Carmel won the girls 4 x 400 relay in 3:56.26. The Royals were sixth, Millers seventh, while Westfield (17th) and Fishers (23rd)



Reporter photo by Kent Graham
The Carmel girls track & field team won the championship for the Large School division last Saturday at the Hoosier State Relays. The Noblesville team placed second and Southeastern finished third.

wound up further back.

The field events are slightly limited being indoors, with their being no discuss until outdoor season begins.

The boys pole vault only had one in the county that place. Will Johnston (Noblesville) was fifth with a vault of 14'3". Noblesville also had three girls place. Delaney Teachnor was fourth at 11'6" with Linley Burman and Laina Lillge tying for seventh with heights of 11'0".

Noblesville's Malina Miller won the high jump with a best leap of 5'7". The Millers' Rylee Hassan was eighth, along with HSE's Chloe Senefeld (13th) and Mallory Kixmiller of Fishers at 15th.

Carmel's Aydrian Caldwell took sixth in the boys

high jump, topping out at 6'3".

HSE's Michael Griffith was second in the long jump and teammates Silas Newton (11th) and Lamine Sall (15th) helped the Royals pick up some points. Carmel's Aydrian Campbell was 11th. The lone placer in the girls long jump was Carmel's Gabriela Grande Rosas at fifth.

Westfield's Tom Ewing picked up an indoor shot put win with a best throw of 57'3.25". Carmel's Drew Franklin was second, throwing 55'11". HSE's Alexander Boothby was eighth and Fishers' Joel Gates 10th.

Noblesville's Hannah Alexander threw for a fifth-place finish and Fishers' Macey Miller wound up 20th.



Reporter photo by Kent Graham
Summer Rempke and Malina Miller accepted the runner-up trophy for the Noblesville girls team.

See Relays . . . Page 14



Reporter photos by Kent Graham
The Carmel (left) and Fishers (right) boys track & field teams tied for second place with 49 points in the Large School Division at the Hoosier State Relays.

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Scott Lidskin returning as Westfield girls cross country head coach

The REPORTER

Westfield Athletics has announced that Scott Lidskin will come back to lead and serve as head coach of the Westfield High School (WHS) Girls Cross Country program. He is taking over for Whitney Bevins who stepped away to focus on other activities.

Lidskin began his coaching career in 1996 at Westfield. In his 23-year career at Westfield, his teams earned four IHSAA state cross country championships, one state runner-up, and 11 top 10 team finishes. He also guided three squads to top 20 finishes at the Nike Cross Country National competitions.

Lidskin began his running career at Glenbrook

South High School in Illinois. He placed runner-up in the Illinois state cross country finals his senior year. From there, he went on to Butler University and earned four MVP awards as the university's top runner in each of his cross country seasons. After graduation, he earned a sponsorship from ASICS and ran professionally. Additionally, he has written a book about coaching titled, *SISU: Lessons from the Cross Country Course*.

"We are excited to have Coach Lidskin back to lead our girls cross country program," WHS Athletic



Lidskin

Director Andy Tebbe said. "He is a pillar for Westfield Athletics and embodies everything we value. His success as a coach is well documented and his leadership skills and character will mentor and foster growth in the next generation of runners at WHS. We are blessed to have Coach Lidskin back to lead the program where he accomplished so much success over his first stint of 23 years coaching."

Coach Lidskin is married to Kristin Lidskin and they have two daughters, Ella and Amelia. He is also an English teacher at WHS.

RELAYS

from Page 13

Guerin Catholic's boys finished second as a team with 48 points, while Hamilton Heights' boys were 10th with 18 points in the Small Schools division. The Golden Eagles' girls tied for third and the Huskies' girls were also 10th.

Guerin's Grace Boivin was a 19th-place finisher in the 3200 meter run.

Heights' Ella Ewing sped her way to third place in the 60 meter hurdles.

Guerin Catholic's boys were third in the 4 x 800 relay, and similarly, their girls were fourth in their race.

Both the boys and girls 4 x 200 relay teams were seventh. Heights' boys were 16th, but it was the Husky girls who were fifth.

The Golden Eagles' boys distance relay won with a time of 10:40.48 and Heights was 20th. Guerin Catholic's girls distance medley finished second, while Hamilton Heights was 15th.

Both of Guerin's 4 x 400 relay teams grabbed third-place finishes. Heights boys were 17th and University's girls were 22nd in the event.

Hamilton Heights' Peyton McQuinn took home the pole vault title, launching 14'6" for the win.

Waverly Woolever of Hamilton Heights was a sixth-place finisher in the high jump, along with Guerin's Kori Dues at 13th.

Guerin also got two high jumpers into the top 16 with Daniel Ernst (12th) and Sefrin Smith (16th).

Ella Ewing (Heights) had a good long jump performance for fifth and Guerin's Mia Chang 11th.

Heights' Colin Wilson was second in the shot put and teammate Josh Brown was 19th.

Guerin Catholic's Maris Bulger threw shot for 11th place for the girls.



Reporter photo by Kent Graham
Tyler Tarter of Fishers won the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 8.05 seconds.



Reporter photo by Kent Graham
Malina Miller of Noblesville won the high jump with a best leap of 5'7".



Reporter photos by Kent Graham
(Left) Ella Ewing of Hamilton Heights captured third place in the 60 meter hurdles. (Right) Robert Seay of Fishers finished third in the 60 meter dash with a time of 6.88 seconds.

CIWSL

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Graphic provided

Sogility partners with Central Indiana Women's Soccer League

The REPORTER

Sogility and the Central Indiana Women's Soccer League (CIWSL) have announced a partnership to bring world-class training technology and competitive soccer opportunities to adult women in central Indiana.

Sogility and the CIWSL agreed to promote both businesses equally to encourage women to continue to play the game of soccer at a competitive level.

"The CIWSL has been a staple in women's soccer in the state of Indiana for 40 years," Sogility CEO Jimmy Carson said. "We are extremely excited to partner with them moving forward to provide their players a place to play indoor soccer and provide them and their families a place to train."

CIWSL President Jody Toth said, "I was very impressed with Sogility. I wish it would have been around

when my girls were growing up and learning the game!"

CIWSL provides year-round competitive soccer opportunities for adult women in central Indiana.

About Sogility

Sogility's mission is to increase soccer players' skills, confidence, and physical development with personalized training through the use of technology and individualized data monitoring. Learn more at sogility.net.

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