

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023

ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN
 CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Partly sunny. Scattered showers and storms, mainly in the afternoon. Some could be severe.
Tonight: Scattered showers and storms.
HIGH: 89 **LOW:** 70



Noblesville Lions induct new officers for 2023-24



Photo provided by Noblesville Lions Club

On Wednesday evening, the Noblesville Lions inducted new officers for the new Lion year. Helping with the induction was Scott Smith of the Indiana Lion Foundation. The new officers are as follows: **Walt Scheid, President; Jeff Kozicki, First Vice President; Kim Luckey, Second Vice President; Steve Shaw, Secretary; George Long, Treasurer; Tim Baker, Membership; Jake Doll, Marketing & Communications; Mark Bachar, Tail Twister; Jen Carr, Lion Tamer; John Grimes, Chaplain; and Julia Kozicki, LCIF Coordinator.** The Board of Directors includes **Joe Arrowood (two years), Joe Connerley (one year), Gene Beck (one year), and Bob Minton (two years).**

Where did the mental load come from?

I'll never forget my folklore professor telling us during a class at Indiana University about how men and women were considered equal a century or more ago in the U.S. A man's role of either working outside of the home or farming was no better than a woman's role of taking care of the home and children. Both were essential for a family to thrive and do well.

COLUMNIST



AMY SHANKLAND
Perfectly Imperfect

I'm not sure how true that was, but the concept sounded great to me. I'm glad, however, that women have more choices today. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, in 1920, 21 percent of people in the U.S. workforce were women. Today, that number has risen to almost 50 percent. As more women have entered the workplace, however, various home and parenting responsibilities haven't been shifting accordingly.

Men are taking on more hands-on parenting tasks than their fathers before them. I remember my mother marveling at John's parenting skills 22 years ago when our oldest was just a newborn. He had left our table at a restaurant to change Jonathon in the men's restroom.

"Your father never once changed a diaper," she commented.

I laughed to myself as I remembered Dad asking Mom once where the forks were in our house. He was a good provider, a loving husband, and a great father. Other than handling our finances, he left the rest of the home and childcare responsibilities to Mom. She didn't work outside the home and did a wonderful job with me and my siblings.

See *Mental Load* . . . Page 2

Northern Hamilton County Chamber names Tonya Hyatt as executive director

The REPORTER

Northern Hamilton County Chamber, an affiliate of OneZone Chamber, announced Thursday that Tonya Hyatt will serve as the Executive Director.



Hyatt

Hyatt brings an extensive background of working collaboratively with organizations to grow their businesses while also improving their communities. She will take on responsibility for the operational aspects of the organization, along with oversight of member acquisition and retention,

member services, and events.

"I am thrilled and honored for this opportunity to advocate for the businesses, communities, and people of Northern Hamilton County," Hyatt said. "Great things are happening in this great section of the county, and I am excited to represent the Northern Hamilton County Chamber as the new Executive Director."

Hyatt holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Purdue University and has served in various professional roles throughout her career, including



NORTHERN HAMILTON COUNTY CHAMBER
 AN AFFILIATE OF ONEZONE CHAMBER

an accountant and senior financial analyst for large multi-hospital systems and as an Operations Coordinator for Community Growth with a focus of growing businesses and improving its respective community. She is a community focused leader with a passion to build strong networks and communities and has a long history of community advocacy and volunteering. Currently, she serves on the Noblesville Youth Assistance Program Board and is

a Coach for Girls on the Run.

"We are excited to welcome Tonya as the Executive Director of Northern Hamilton County Chamber," Northern Hamilton County Chamber President Jack Russell said. "Her knowledge of rural communities mixed with her passion to serve make her the perfect person to serve our mission of helping businesses and communities thrive in the northern part of our county."

Storms play havoc with power across state

Hamilton County among lightest impacted by sweeping outages

The REPORTER

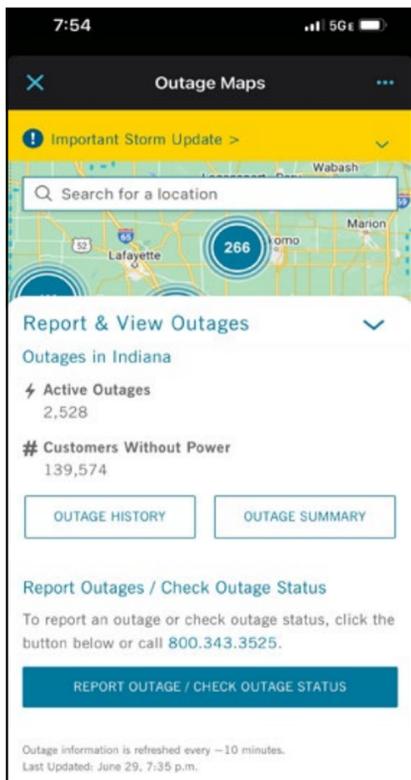
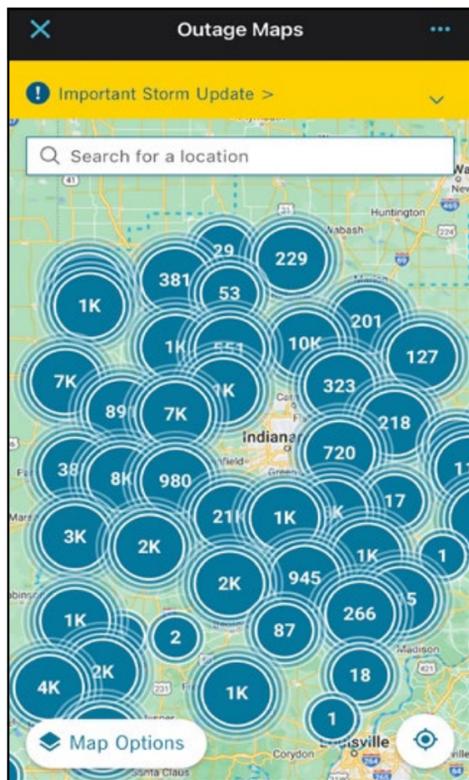
Following Thursday afternoon's strong thunderstorms that swept across the state and Hamilton County, nearly 140,000 Duke Energy Indiana customers were without power as of 8 p.m.

The Reporter reached out to Duke Energy with questions about how long customers could expect to wait to have power restored and what customers can do to stay safe.

Q: With over 2,500 Indiana outages and just under 140,000 customers without power as of 8 p.m. Thursday, how long might it take to get everyone back in service? Could parts of this outage go on for days?

A: Duke Energy crews are actively working to assess damage, make repairs and restore power as quickly as possible. Restoration times will vary across our service territory. Specific time estimates will be provided for those signed up to receive **Outage Alerts**. This information is also available on our **Outage Map** where customers can get an estimated time of restoration for their specific location.

Duke Energy focuses on restoring power in a sequence that enables power restoration to public health and safety facilities and to the greatest number of customers as safely and quickly



The Duke Energy Indiana map was riddled with outages at 8 p.m. Thursday evening, and nearly 140,000 customers were without power. As of press time early Friday morning, 106,637 customers were without power, including about 3,000 in Hamilton County.

as possible. A typical sequence of activities, many of which occur simultaneously, is as follows:

- **Public safety situations** – locate downed power lines and

make sure electricity is no longer flowing through the wires

- **Transmission, substation equipment and main distribution lines** – these serve large

numbers of customers and large geographic areas and must be restored first to keep electricity

See *Outages* . . . Page 2

HAMILTON COUNTY Leadership Academy
 learn. connect. lead.

Hamilton County Leadership Academy announces Class of 2023 graduates

The REPORTER

Earlier this month, the Hamilton County Leadership Academy (HCLA) added 34 community leaders to their alumni ranks. With this graduating class, HCLA's more than 30-year legacy grew to over 850 alumni who have and continue to make their mark in Hamilton County.

HCLA has officially announced the graduates of the HCLA Class of 2023:

- Ramona Adams | The Center for the Performing Arts
- Ali Alvey | Beaver Gravel
- Stephanie Amick | Agape Therapeutic Riding
- Ed Bukovac | Citizens Energy Group
- Jamar Cobb-Dennard | Indiana Business Advisors
- Todd Crosby | Eli Lilly and Company
- Christi Crosser | Nova 29, LLC
- John DeLucia | Citizens State Bank
- Dustin Dixon | Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
- Laurie Dyer | T&T Sales and Promotions, Inc.
- Brad Fruth | Becks Hybrids
- Roz Harris | Fit Chicks
- John Helling | Hamilton East Public Library
- Sam Hughes | Church Church Hittle + Antrim
- Dave Hyatt | Riverview Health
- Travis Lovett | Krieg DeVault LLP
- John Mann | Noblesville Police Department
- Harley McCorkle | Duke Energy
- Kathryn McLaughlin | Community Health Network
- Brian Mills | ADVISA
- Jennifer Neher Sommers | Conner Prairie
- Kathy Pelletier | The Children's TherAplay Foundation, Inc.
- Jennifer Penix | Carmel Education Foundation
- Stephanie Perry | City of Fishers
- Julie Pettypool | Browning
- Anita Rogers | Hamilton County Community Foundation
- Steven Rushforth | Hamilton County Government
- Jack Russell | OneZone Chamber of Commerce
- Jen Scheck | Dentons Bingham Greenbaum LLP
- Sarah Shields | Hamilton Superior Court
- Bailey Spitznagle | City of Westfield
- Dr. Jennifer Wheat Townsend | Noblesville Schools
- Leah York | Talbott Talent

See *HCLA* . . . Page 2

Opens July 14

The Tony Award-Winning Musical Extravaganza!

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SOPHISTICATED LADIES
Based on the music of Duke Ellington

"I'm Beginning To See The Light"
"Don't Get Around Much Anymore"
"It Don't Mean A Thing"

OUTAGES

flowing from power plants to neighborhoods

• **Essential facilities** – emergency service and critical infrastructure such as hospitals, law enforcement, fire departments and water treatment facilities

• **Distribution lines** – we work to get the largest number of customers back on as quickly as possible

Q: What made this set of storms different enough to cause outages on this scale?

A: The impact of high winds has resulted in scattered outages throughout our service territory caused by damage to smaller feeders as opposed to a large concentration of outages, which can be addressed with repairs to major transmission or distribution lines as well as substations.

Q: Do you have sufficient manpower for safe efficient repairs after an incident on this scale?

A: Duke Energy contin-

uously monitors the weather and we've been tracking the path of the storm throughout the week. We have been making plans to ensure line workers, damage assessors, and vegetation crews are ready to respond. Our team is well-prepared and have ensured that equipment, supplies, and inventories are ready. They are continuing to respond to outages as quickly and safely as they can.

Q: Other than patience, what advice do you have for customers right now?

A: Stay away from power lines that have fallen or are sagging. Consider all lines energized, as well as trees, limbs, or anything in contact with lines. Report all power

line hazards to Duke Energy at (800) 343-3525 or contact your local emergency services agency.

Customers who experience an outage can report it the following ways:

- Visit duke-energy.com on a desktop computer or mobile device.
- Use the Duke Energy mobile app.
- Text OUT to 57801.
- Call the automated outage reporting system at (800) 343-3525.

There is an interactive **Outage Map** where customers can find up-to-date information on power outages, including the total number of outages system-wide and estimated times of restoration.

MENTAL LOAD

from Page 1

from Page 1

Men have made progress, and my husband and several of our male friends are a great example of this. But research finds that even as more women enter the work force and men take on more chores, there's still a burden many women seem to carry all by ourselves: the mental load.

Why? As my other son Jacob would say, blame society. Women typically adopt this mental labor because our mothers did it and so did our grandmothers. We also worry that the blame for any family or domestic failures will fall squarely on us.

What about same-sex couples raising children today? According to a May 2018 *New York Times*

article, research has consistently found that same-sex couples divide up chores more equally. But when gay and lesbian couples have children, they often begin to divide things as heterosexual couples do, according to new data for larger, more representative samples of the gay population.

Though the couples are still more equitable, one partner often has higher earnings, and the other one has a greater share of household chores and childcare. The article states that this shows these roles are not just about gender.

What's the bottom line? Work and much of society are still built for single-earner families.

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HCLA

"I have been inspired by this experience and by every member of this class," HCLA Class of 2023 Dean Karen Radcliff said. "I am thankful for the time and devotion people spent participating in such a positive way. I am delighted by the connections I've made with new friends and colleagues. And I am proud of my part in building something that felt bigger and more

meaningful together than it would have been experienced as individuals."

The HCLA program is made possible by the support of community partners with a special thank you to Duke Energy and the Hamilton County Community Foundation who served as the Program Sponsors for the Class of 2023.

HCLA's legacy will continue to grow as prepa-

ration for the HCLA Class of 2024 is in motion. A formal announcement of the next cohort will be made in July.

About HCLA

HCLA is a 10-month program for professional and community leaders who live or work in Hamilton County. Class sessions cover a wide variety of topics that affect the operations of the county. Participants receive learning

in the areas of government, education, criminal justice, arts, culture, business, industry, and much more.

Graduates of the program have a deeper knowledge and understanding of Hamilton County, create meaningful, life-long connections with their peers, HCLA alumni, and community leaders, and gain clarity around how to lead and make an impact in their backyard.

from Page 1

Representative Victoria Spartz
Constituent Services



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FOR MORE DETAILS

Ivy Tech honors Cicero's own Kim Kaiser as Top Dual Credit Faculty Member

The REPORTER

Ivy Tech Community College honored Kim Kaiser of Cicero as one of 19 individuals across the state selected to receive the second annual Excellence in Dual Credit Instruction President's Awards, the highest honor for Ivy Tech dual credit faculty.

Winners were announced at a special ceremony on June 14 in Indianapolis and the event concluded with the 2023

Statewide Award recipient, Dr. Christine Herr of Ivy Tech Richmond.

The College honored each one of the winners for their excellence in instruction and their positive impact on the dual credit students that they served during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Kaiser, who teaches at Hamilton Heights High School, was chosen out of over 100 dual credit instructors at Ivy Tech Hamilton

County to receive the award.

"Kim is a wealth of vibrant energy and knowledge," said Nicol Bradberry, Department Chair for the School of Business, Logistics, & Supply Chain at the Hamilton County Campus. "She displays compassion for her students and continues to shine with new collaborative ideas not



Kaiser

only with students, but partners within Hamilton County."

"Dual credit faculty provide students with skills, knowledge, and competencies aligned with clear career pathways and seamless college transfer," Ivy Tech President Sue Ellspermann said. "Dual credit programming taught by credentialed high school

faculty is of tremendous value to our students and our state. By helping students earn post-secondary credentials while in high school, we're accelerating Indiana's economic growth and Hoosier prosperity."

"Our dual credit faculty go above and beyond to ensure our students receive the best value for their education and pair that with innovative approaches to ensure the possibility of a post-secondary credential,"

Interim Vice President of K-14 and Strategic Initiatives Monica Hingst said. "This award recognizes instructors who best demonstrate excellence in instruction and exemplifies the mission of Ivy Tech."

The Excellence in Dual Credit Instruction President's Award is modeled after the College's President's Award to recognize College faculty and adjunct faculty members from Ivy Tech locations throughout the state.

Saturday's for the kids at Lights Over Morse Lake

The REPORTER

Saturday, July 1 is Kids Day at the Lights Over Morse Lake Festival in Cicero.

- **3-on-3 Basketball Tournament:** 9 a.m. at Community Park, 139 Stringtown Pike
- **Princess/Superheroes & Face Painting:** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Hamilton North Public Library Pavilion, 209 W. Brinton St.
- **Barnyard Party Pals:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Community Park
- **Carnival:** Behind the

Hamilton North Public Library, noon to 11 p.m. \$25 per day, all day - \$3 off coupon.

- **Tethered Hot Air Balloon Rides:** 7:30 p.m. to sunset at Cicero Christian Church, 1715 Stringtown Pike. \$15.
 - **Cicero Friends of the Park Bingo:** 5 to 7 p.m. at Community Park Picnic Shelter. \$1 per game with cash prizes for the winners.
- New this year is the inaugural "Pickleball Blast" Tournament at 9 a.m. Saturday in Community Park. All proceeds benefit Central



Indiana Teach One to Lead One, a community mentoring group. For more information or to register, go to lightsovermorselake.org/pickleball-tournament.

Finish the evening by listening to the high energy,

multi-genre band The Bishops from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Hamilton North Public Library Pavilion.

For more information and a complete festival event listing, visit lightsovermorselake.org.

Sheridan Public Library has full July calendar

Submitted

The Sheridan Public Library, 103 W. 1st St., has all sorts of fun activities available for all ages. See the list below and visit sheridan.lib.in.us for more information. Support your local library!

Preschool

- July 6 at 10:30 a.m.: Storytime Smile with Dentist, Dr. Roy
- July 12 at 11 a.m.: Storytime-IDES (International Disaster Emergency Services) (ages 3 to 6)
- July 12 at noon: Touch A Truck (open to the whole family) IDES
- June 13 at 11 a.m. Parachute Play (ages 2 to 4)

Grades K-5

- July 6 at 10:30 a.m.: Storytime Smile with Dentist, Dr. Roy
- June 12 at 11 a.m.: History Smashers: Underground Railroad: Bryan Glover with Roberts Settlement

Grades 6-12

- June 13 at 4 p.m.: Zombi Apocalypse Training. Water Filtration: Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Adults

- July 5, 12, 19, 26 from

11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: Knitting Club

- July 11, 25 at 1:30 p.m.: Euchre Club
- July 19 at 5:30 p.m.: Sheridan Readers Book Club: The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean

All Ages

- July 7 at 6 p.m.: Summer Concert Series: Ma Bell with Bigg Higg Food Truck
- July 14 at 6 p.m.: Summer Concert Series: Elizabeth Lee Trio with The Love Bug Food Truck
- July 20 at 5:30 p.m.: Pizza Party for Summer Reading Completion (Choose 1 Day)
- July 21 at 11:30 a.m.: Pizza Party for Summer Reading Completion (Choose 1 Day)
- July 21 at 6 p.m.: Bingo Night
- July 28 at 1 p.m.: End of Summer Splash (Family Event)

For more information on programming and services, please visit sheridan.lib.in.us. The Summer Concert Series is sponsored by Adams Township.

Allison Crosbie of Fishers graduates from Wichita State

The REPORTER

More than 2,060 students completed a total of 2,293 degrees at Wichita State University in spring 2023.

Allison Crosbie of Fishers earned a Master of Arts degree in Spanish.

Wichita State University is Kansas' only urban public research university, enrolling almost 22,000 students between its main campus and WSU Tech, including students from every state in the U.S. and more than 100 countries.

Vineeth Reddy Kareddy of Fishers graduates Northern Illinois University

The REPORTER

Over 2,200 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in May.

Included among the graduates was Vineeth Reddy Kareddy of Fishers, who earned a Master of Science in Management and Information Systems.

Through its main campus in DeKalb, Ill., and education centers for students and working professionals in Chicago, Hoffman Estates, Naperville, Oregon, and Rockford, NIU offers more than 100 courses of study while serving a diverse and international student body of about 19,000.

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Local chambers of commerce welcome Dr. Rachel Kartz for July 'Eggs & Issues'

The REPORTER

Dr. Rachel Kartz will be the presenter for Eggs & Issues in July.

Eggs & Issues is a monthly morning program with presenters and topics that make an impact in Hamilton County. This program is made up of One-Zone, Northern Hamilton County, and Westfield Chamber of Commerce and is presented by Church Church Hittle and Antrim.

Dr. Rachel Kartz serves Ivy Tech Hamilton County as interim Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. She joined the College in 2014 as Assistant Department Chair and Assistant Professor of English. She has held successive roles at the College since then, serving as English Department Chair and then Dean of the School of Arts, Sciences and Education, achieving Full Professor during this time.

Dr. Kartz has over 15 years of experience in

higher education. Prior to Ivy Tech, she taught at the University of Indianapolis,



Kartz

Gonzaga University, Spokane Falls Community College, and Eastern Washington University.

Raised in Milwaukee, Wis., she was the first in her family to attend college. She has a bachelor's in business administration and human resources from Marquette University, a master's in creative writing from Eastern Washington University, and recently defended her dissertation for her doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from Indiana State University.

This event will be held at from 8 to 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 14 at Chatham Hills, 1100 Chatham Hills Blvd., Westfield.

Registration is required by noon on Friday, July 7. Members and non-members are invited to attend, and the cost is \$28. Reservations can be made at onezonechamber.com or by calling (317) 436-4653.

Change in law allowing minors in restaurant bar areas still carries restrictions

The REPORTER

A longstanding Indiana law will change effective Saturday, July 1 in an effort to expand family dining space in Hoosier restaurants.

The law previously prohibited minors under 18 years of age from dining in the bar area of a restaurant. But on Saturday families will be able to dine with their minor children under age 18 in a bar area – but for the sole purpose of consuming food.

“The law is still restrictive in that the minor child must be in the company of a parent, guardian or family member who is 21 years of age or older, seated at a

table or booth, and the minor is there for dining only,” said Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commissioner Jessica Allen.

Minor children may not be seated at the bar top, and the establishment must have a retail alcohol permit to allow family dining in a bar area. Bars and taverns that allow smoking may not allow any minors on the premises at any time.

Previously, the law allowed minors ages 18 to 20 seating in a bar area specifically for dining only. The amendment removes the age limit.

[Click here](#) to see a copy of the amended law.

Noblesville Lions Club inducts new member

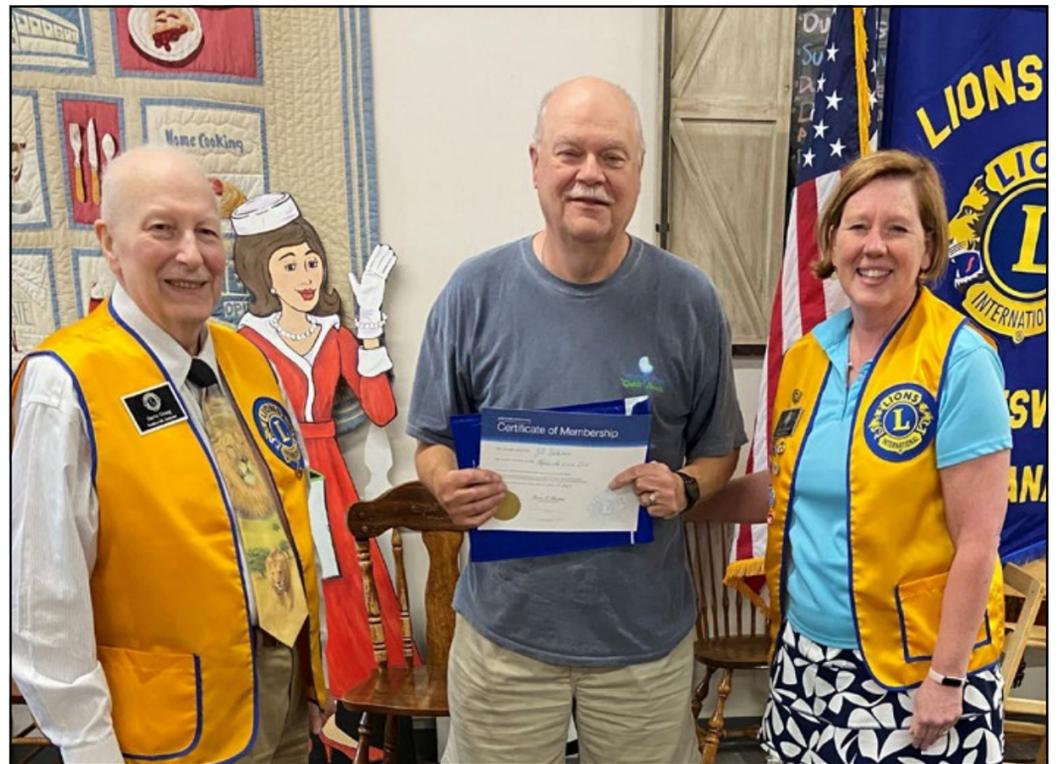


Photo provided by Noblesville Lions Club

On Wednesday evening, the Noblesville Lions Club inducted Jeff Stutesman as a new member. Jeff was inducted by Lion Julia Kozicki and is sponsored by Steve Craig. As a new member, Jeff quickly saw all the activities the club is involved with, and the friendships that can be developed. (From left) Lions Steve Craig, Jeff Stutesman, and Julia Kozicki.

Duke Energy Foundation adds \$100K to 'Share the Light' fund

The REPORTER

The Duke Energy Foundation is dedicating an additional \$100,000 in financial assistance to Indiana customers who may be struggling to pay their energy bills this summer. The funding is made possible through the company's **Share the Light Fund**, which helps individuals and families in need.

“The summer months can mean high temperatures

and energy use,” Duke Energy Indiana President Stan Pinegar said. “The financial assistance we offer through the Share the Light Fund helps connect customers in need to resources to help pay their electric bills as they use more power to cool their homes.”

Duke Energy works with the Indiana Community Action Association to distribute funds to qualifying customers to help pay energy bills,

deposits, and reconnection/connection charges. Customers can receive up to a \$300 credit annually on their account. Individuals should contact their local community action agency to see if they are eligible. [Click here](#) to find a listing of service providers by county.

Duke Energy offers a number of tools and resources to help customers take control of their energy use – and save money

– while trying to stay cool. Energy and bill management programs, including Budget Billing and Usage Alerts, inform customers when their bills may be higher than normal so they can make adjustments. The company also has a host of energy efficiency programs, including free home energy assessments.

To learn more about these programs, visit duke-energy.com/HereToHelp.



Find the best route to your destination thanks to Hamilton County Tourism

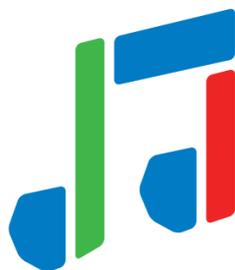
The REPORTER

With construction season in full swing, thus making it ever more challenging to travel around Hamilton County, our friends at Hamilton County Tourism have compiled this handy guide.

Below you will find links to road projects in each of the four major cities in the county, as well as county projects like the Streamline 146th plan. Even a link to state projects through INDOT is included. Thank you, Hamilton County Tourism!

- [Carmel road projects](#)
- [Fishers road projects](#)
- [Noblesville road projects](#)
- [Westfield road projects](#)

- [Streamline 146th Hamilton County road projects](#)
- [INDOT projects across the state](#)



KIDS CONCERT SERIES

TUESDAYS
10 a.m.

July 11, 18, 25

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Legal experts say affirmative action ruling reverses decades of precedent

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Experts in constitutional law on Thursday said the Supreme Court's ruling against affirmative action will change how colleges admit students.

In a 6-3 ruling Thursday in the case of *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*, the Supreme Court ruled admissions programs specifically targeting racial and ethnic minorities violate the **Equal Protection Clause**.

Writing for the court's majority, Chief Justice John Roberts said, "Eliminating racial discrimination means eliminating all of it. And the Equal Protection Clause, we have accordingly held, applies 'without regard to any differences of race, of color, or of nationality' – it is 'universal in [its] application.'"

Prof. Jennifer Mason McAward, a professor at the Notre Dame University School of Law and the director of the Klau Institute for Civil and Human Rights, said the ruling means race can still come up but it can never again be used as an admissions factor. Neither benefits nor burdens can be allocated based on race under any circumstances. She said court's ruling goes against

at least 20 years of precedent. "Before today, the court had been really deferential to universities, saying we need a diverse class to get the best educational benefits that flow from diversity, and the court today is much more tepid on the concept of diversity," she said. "They call it 'inescapably imponderable.'"

Prof. Steve Sanders, an IU law professor who specializes in the 14th Amendment, said affirmative action cases over the past 20 years have consistently held quotas were unconstitutional but racial diversity among incoming classes of college students was still worth pursuing. Those rulings, in turn, largely followed the 1978 *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* ruling. Subsequent rulings had limited affirmative action in other areas but had preserved it in higher education. He said Thursday's ruling doesn't force colleges to go completely race-blind but it will change how admissions operate.

McAward said Roberts made clear in the ruling the court's decision only applies to higher education admissions. Still, she said the ruling likely could affect hiring for government jobs, among other things.

Rep. Earl Harris, Jr., a Democrat from East Chicago,

Ivy Tech releases statement following SCOTUS' ruling

The REPORTER

The following announcement is a statement on behalf of Ivy Tech President, Dr. Sue Ellspermann of Ivy Tech Community College, regarding Thursday's U.S. Supreme Court decision on college and university admissions.

"Ivy Tech is an open admissions institution. This decision will not affect our admissions process. Ivy Tech will continue our commitment to ensuring all Hoosiers have high value post-secondary and career opportunities."



Ellspermann

the chair of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, echoed that sentiment. He said race has historically had a negative impact on a student's ability to get into college and affirmative action had provided protections against that issue. A review of **college enrollment data by the Urban Institute** found college enrollment declined among students of color in states that passed laws against affirmative action. Harris said this will exacerbate worker shortages.

"Look at us (in Indiana) now. **We have a nursing shortage**," he said. "You don't think that those decisions made

by those people decades ago to tell Black people not to pursue nursing aren't having an impact on us now? They are. That's what's going to happen to us in the coming years and coming decades."

Roberts wrote the ruling does not prevent colleges and universities from considering race under any circumstances. A student could, for example, discuss in an essay how they overcame racial discrimination and a school could consider whether to admit them based that. Harris said there's no guarantee that will happen since there's no mandate to do so.

Where can I find THE REPORTER?

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SHERIDAN

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Speedway 511 S Main St.
Sheridan Valero 1001 S White Ave.

CARMEL

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Circle K 545 S Range Line Road
Speedway 1708 E 116th St.
Kroger 1217 S Range Line Road

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Circle K 8924 E 116th St.
Circle K 11601 Allisonville Road
Circle K 9611 Allisonville Road
Speedway 14091 Trade Center Drive
Speedway 8895 E 116th St.
Speedway 7235 E 116th St.
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Community News

Hope Bible Fellowship invites you to Ice Cream Social

Hope Bible Fellowship of Noblesville invites the community to an Ice Cream Social to be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 29, at 2350 Conner St. Come enjoy free ice cream, play yard games, get your face painted, and make new friends. Learn more at HopeBibleFellowship.net or call (317) 678-9017.

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Photo by Kyle Fisher / WISH-TV

A shooting was reported at about 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the Speedway gas station at 7235 E. 116th St., west of Allisonville Road.

Fishers police locate person of interest in fatal gas station shooting

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
WISH-TV | wistv.com

A person of interest in the fatal shooting of a woman on Wednesday afternoon at a Fishers gas station and convenience store has been taken into custody, police said Thursday night.

Authorities by Thursday night had not yet publicly identified the woman. She was found dead in a van next to a gas pump.

Sgt. Tom Weger, a

spokesman for Fishers Police Department, said Joshua Alexander Farmer was taken into custody without incident. The department had issued an alert earlier Thursday in its search for Farmer.

Weger did not immediately confirm information received by News 8 that Farmer was taken into custody Thursday night in an area immediately southeast of the North Split in downtown Indianapolis. He said more information will be

released Friday.

The shooting was reported about 5:20 p.m. Wednesday at the Speedway gas station at 7235 E. 116th St. That's west of Allisonville Road.

Weger said Wednesday that a suspect fled the scene in another vehicle. The suspect and the woman may have been in a relationship, he says. He also believes that this shooting was not a random act.

The police spokesman also said Wednesday that

the last fatal shooting in Fishers was just under three years ago.

Fishers was ranked the nation's fourth safest suburb in a survey released in June from SmartAsset. The property crime rate in Fishers — 672.49 per 100,000 residents — was among the lowest in the study (29th), while its violent crime rate of 77.63 incidents per 100,000 residents is lower than nearly 84 percent of the suburbs evaluated.

Fishers creates \$250 fine for businesses that make a lot of frivolous 911 calls

By KODY FISHER
WISH-TV | wistv.com

The Fishers City Council has agreed to create fines for nuisance businesses that take up unnecessary police resources with too many 911 calls.

Fishers Police Chief Ed Gebhart said last Tuesday, "We're not talking about emergencies. We're not talking about victim-type stuff. What we're talking about is 911 accidental hang-ups that are repeatedly requiring two officers to get out of a proactive mode of patrolling, and go over and check a business that we have checked numerous times. So, things like that nature."

Police are not naming specific businesses yet because they haven't started working with those businesses on the issue, and

the officers don't want to call out the businesses.

Mayor Scott Fadness told I-Team 8 that, over the last year, more than 50 businesses had more than 10 911 calls in a 90-day period and over 20 businesses had over 15 calls.

Here is how the ordinance will work:

- At seven calls in a 90-day period, the business gets a warning letter.

- At 10 calls, they get another letter and start having sit-down meetings with public safety officials.

- Businesses start getting fined \$250 after 15 911 calls during a 90-day period.



Gebhart



Fadness

The Republican mayor said the move is not about the money.

"We're not interested in the financial component of it, other than it motivates certain individuals to come forward and be a part of the collaboration," Fadness said.

If a business is working with the city's public safety team to reduce 911 calls, the leaders said they won't fine them.

Fadness said, "Sometimes a business just has more 911 calls than others. In that particular case, they'd be found in compliance with the plan and

they would not be eligible for any fines. It's really for those folks that show no desire, no interest, and no willingness to work hand in hand with public safety. Those are the individuals that would find themselves eligible for a fine."

By reducing needless 911 calls, the police chief said his officers can do what they're meant to do.

"The key to prevention in crime is to have our officers patrolling, actively looking for crimes in progress, or most importantly preventing crimes in progress," Gebhart said.

No matter how many calls businesses currently have, Gebhart said, the count will go back to zero when the ordinance goes into effect on Aug. 1. The city council approved the measure during its meeting Monday night.

Dear Muscular Dystrophy

A letter to Muscular Dystrophy on the eve of my 49th birthday. This has been a lifelong journey ...

Dear Muscular Dystrophy,

At times you dazzle me, showing me the heights of human love and

kindness, and at other times you take me to the deepest, darkest parts of my soul. I have silently pleaded, please just let this end. I don't want to do this anymore. I'd like to say that was a one-time thought, but you've made it impossible to tell that as a truth.

I want to love you because you are a part of me, but you make it so hard at times. You feel like a best friend when I achieve feats that seem impossible due to my physical weakness, but also you feel like my worst enemy living inside of my body when you fail me, and I'm once again lying on the floor.

You robbed me of big chunks of childhood joy, while I sat in silent envy of my friends, as I watched them effortlessly turn cartwheels, run and jump.

You are stuck to me like glue during the countless hours in waiting rooms, operating rooms and rehab facilities.

You have no doubt made me a mental champion, stronger than I could ever be without you. If they made trophies for staying mentally strong for 49 years, I think I'd win one.

You've been my greatest and toughest teacher.

For so long, I didn't even know your name. I begged for you to reveal yourself to me, but you made me wait. You taught me patience, even when I didn't want you to. When you finally introduced yourself to me, it was like I had known you all along.

You've easily caused me more pain and tears than anything else in my life. You've taken me to the lowest depths of loneliness many, many times, but also like a trusty sidekick, you sat with me in those pits

of despair until I pulled myself out.

You've introduced me to some of the finest and smartest doctor's around, if only to frustrate them because they couldn't "figure you out". Your elusive ways

dumbfounded them.

You are slowly stealing from me things I once could do, and for that I am angry with you, while simultaneously, I'm grateful for ever being able to do those things.

You've been a teacher to my children who get a front row seat to your ugliness, as well as your beauty.

You've relentlessly stripped me to the core of my confidence, only to later restore it, as I spoke to a crowd of hundreds of people, proudly introducing us together.

You have, most importantly, brought me to a place of ultimate, spiritual connection, as I confidently and assuredly walk my life's path, and for that, I thank you.

You ignite within me a fight to eradicate you, not just for me, but also for the many others who also know you well. In the same thought, I wonder what life would look like without you. Would I miss you?

You have forced me to walk humbly courageously day in and day out. I had no choice, but to finally accept you if I wanted to live life to the fullest. I'm glad that we finally got there together. One day, I hope to say goodbye to you in this lifetime, but I do think, "yeah, I'd miss you", if only to remember the good you have brought to my life.

Amy Shinneman lives life with a condition called *Bethlem Myopathy*, which is a type of *Muscular Dystrophy*. She likes to help others by showing how she lives well with a debilitating condition. She was born with this disease, so it's the only way she knows life. She continues to work on embracing herself and using that to help others.

Thanks for reading!

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Attorney General Rokita oversees eight investigations leading to charges as part of nationwide healthcare fraud takedown

The REPORTER

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita announced on Wednesday that his office has played a key role in a major nationwide enforcement action against doctors, nurses, and other licensed medical professionals for alleged participation in healthcare fraud schemes. The Office of the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) conducted eight criminal investigations in alleged Medicaid fraud, leading to charges against nine individuals.

"In Indiana, Medicaid benefits are intended to help provide needed medical care for disabled and low-income Hoosiers," AG Rokita said. "Unfortunately, unscrupulous providers all too often try to divert these resources to serve their own selfish desires. In the process, they scam their fellow taxpayers whose hard-earned money supports these programs. Our team of lawyers and investigators will continue to hold accountable all those who illegally try to defraud the system."

In the eight cases, the Indiana Attorney General's MFCU investigated licensed healthcare professionals and medical offices where suspected illegal activity occurred.

In all the mentioned cases, AG Rokita's attorneys are prosecuting the alleged crimes with assent of the local prosecutors' offices in the counties where the alleged crimes occurred.

These investigations are part of a nationwide initiative led by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Following are summations of cases in which Indiana's MFCU investigators participated. In each case, the fact that a person has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation, and these persons are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The abbreviations "LPN" and "RN" designate licensed practical

nurses and registered nurses, respectively.

In Bartholomew County, LPN Erin McMillan, 44, Columbus, Ind., is charged with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud; furnishing false or fraudulent information; and failure to make, keep, or furnish a record – all Level 6 felonies. Among other things, the complaint alleges that video footage was viewed by staff at the facility where McMillan worked showing her removing medications from the narcotic box and then never leaving the area to go administer the medications. Staff also allegedly observed her walking back behind the nurses' station and putting items into her personal bag. This case is being prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Grainne Kao of the Indiana MFCU.

In Hancock County, RN Wendy Hahn, 52, Indianapolis, is charged with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud and furnishing false or fraudulent information – both level 6 felonies. She was also charged with theft as a class A misdemeanor. The complaint alleges that Hahn was arrested in Rush County on different charges, and the arresting officer, in searching her vehicle, found controlled substances packaged for patients. The police relayed that information to the Indiana MFCU, which opened an investigation into the origin of the medication. MFCU Investigator Jack Beckley was able to connect the medication to a Hancock County facility. This case is being prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Grainne Kao of Indiana MFCU.

In Hendricks County, Heather Heugel, 37, Plainfield, Ind., is charged with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud; furnishing false or fraudulent information; and failure to make, keep, or furnish a record – all Level 6 felonies. It is fur-



Rokita

ther alleged that in a statement, Heugel stated she did not have an explanation for these errors and had not been making the best decisions. This case is being prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Grainne Kao of the Indiana MFCU.

In Lake County, Kandice Duke, 43, Merrillville, Ind., is charged with two counts of Level 6 Felony Obtaining a Controlled Substance by Fraud/deceit or Subterfuge. Duke is alleged to have stolen narcotic pain medication prescribed for two residents at a Crown Point facility while she was working as an LPN. It is further alleged that during the course of the investigation Duke admitted taking the pills for her personal use. This case is being prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Maureen O'Donnell of the Indiana MFCU.

In LaPorte County, Traci Lindfors, 50, Michigan City, Ind., is charged with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud; furnishing false or fraudulent information; and failure to make, keep, or furnish a record – all Level 6 felonies. The complaint alleges, among other things, that Lindfors withheld medication from residents at the facility where she worked in order to keep the medication for herself. This case is being prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Grainne Kao of the Indiana MFCU.

In LaPorte County, RN Victoria Lee Bell, 57, Michigan City, Ind., is charged with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud and failure to make, keep, or furnish a record – both Level 6 felonies. Among other things, the complaint alleges that Bell admitted to stealing medication. This case is being prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Grainne Kao of the Indiana MFCU.

In Madison County, RN Melissa Lou Fannin, 43, Hartford City, Ind., is charged with obtaining a

controlled substance by fraud, furnishing false or fraudulent information, and possession of a narcotic drug – all Level 6 felonies. It is alleged that Fannin, while working at a hospital, dispensed hydromorphone at a rate 155 percent higher than the next RN in the same unit and was taking controlled substances for her own use. This case is being prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Grainne Kao of the Indiana MFCU.

In Marshall County, Daniel Tanner, 52, is charged with aiding, inducing, or causing the practice of medicine without a license – a Level 5 felony; issuing invalid prescription for legend drugs by a practitioner – a Level 6 felony; and aiding, inducing, or causing practicing nursing while license suspended or revoked – a Class B misdemeanor. His brother, David Tanner, 55, is charged with practicing medicine without a license – a Level 5 felony – and practicing nursing while license suspended or revoked – a Class B misdemeanor. These charges are in connection with their operation of Concierge Medicine of Marshall County. It is alleged that Daniel Tanner, a nurse practitioner, owned and operated Concierge Medicine and employed his brother David Tanner as a nurse, despite David's nursing license having been indefinitely suspended since 2005. The case is being prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Anwarzai with Indiana MFCU. This matter was investigated by Indiana MFCU and the Indiana State Police.

AG Rokita expressed gratitude to the investigators and attorneys of his Indiana MFCU team for their hard work on these cases.

The Indiana Medicaid Fraud Control Unit receives 75 percent of its funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under a federal grant. The remaining 25 percent is funded by the State of Indiana.

Sen. Mike Braun leads bipartisan bill to fix part of Medicare billing structure, saving billions

The REPORTER

On Thursday, U.S. Senators Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), and John Kennedy (R-La.) will introduce their bipartisan bill to fix part of the Medicare billing structure that allows hospital systems to charge high hospital rates for care received at off-campus outpatient facilities.



Braun

Due to Medicare's billing structure, even if care is received at an off-campus outpatient facility, it can be billed as though the care was provided at the main hospital campus. This means the higher hospital rate is charged.

This issue has become more prevalent as more and more small physician-owned practices and off-campus facilities are acquired by larger hospital systems. In 2020, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that taxpayers will pay close to \$40 billion in excess costs to Medicare due to exorbitant facility fee payments over the next decade.

This billing practice is allowed to happen due to a provision in the 2015 Bipartisan Budget Act. This law established "site-neutral" payments under Medicare for services received at off-campus outpatient departments but exempted most hospitals.

The senators decided a solution is needed to fix this billing issue and provide more transparency on where care is actually provided and billed.

Sens. Braun and Hassan's Site-based Invoicing and Transparency Enhancement (SITE) Act would end the 2015 Bipartisan Budget Act site neutral exceptions, prevent off-campus emergency departments from charging higher rates than on-campus emergency departments when standalone emergency facilities are lo-

located in close proximity to a hospital campus, require that health systems establish and bill using a unique

National Provider Identifier number for each and every off-campus outpatient department, direct HHS to treat outpatient departments as subparts of the parent organization and to issue these subparts unique provider identifiers, and remove liability for services rendered for payers that are not billed in accordance with this section's requirements.

The bill will use the savings from this fix to help fill the nursing shortage, by creating a graduate nursing education program that would provide payments for training costs.

"Hoosiers know our health care system is broken, and one problem we can fix right now is services at off-campus outpatient facilities being billed to Medicare at higher hospital rates," Sen. Braun said. "Fixing this problem will save taxpayers 40 billion over the next decade, and this bill will apply some of those savings to fixing our nursing shortage by creating a new program to pay for training."

More information

The SITE Act would ensure that Medicare reimburses care fairly for off-campus services, regardless of who owns the provider. Specifically, the bill would:

- End exceptions to the 2015's Bipartisan Budget Act site-neutral payment requirements, which exempted most facilities from fair billing requirements.

- Prevent off-campus emergency departments from charging higher rates than on-campus emergency departments when standalone emergency facilities are located in close proximity to a hospital campus.

See Medicare . . . Page 11

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MEDICARE

from Page 10

- Require that health systems establish and bill using a unique National Provider Identifier number for each and every off-campus outpatient department.

- Direct HHS to treat outpatient departments as subparts of the parent organization and to issue these subparts unique provider identifiers.

- Remove liability for services rendered for payers that are not billed in accordance with this section's requirements.

Patients across the country also face barriers to health care access due to staff shortages. Health care providers across the country are struggling to hire and retain qualified nurses to staff their facilities, and hundreds of thou-

sands of new nurses will need to be trained over the next decade to meet our evolving health care workforce needs. The SITE Act would respond to these needs by reinvesting savings from this bill into a national nurse training program, which would:

- Create a graduate nursing education program to provide payments for qualified advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) training costs.

- Support a network of regional partnerships between hospitals, clinical training sites, and schools of nursing.

- Create 20,000 training positions per year, phased in over six years.

- Appropriate \$100 million for the program.

McNally joined by nearly 100 supporters at campaign launch

Submitted by McNally for Indiana

On Wednesday night, Matt McNally, an Afghanistan veteran, former naval aviator, and candidate for the Indiana House of Representatives in 2022, celebrated his 2024 campaign launch with a packed house of 90 supporters at Union Brewing Company, 202 Gradle Drive, Carmel.

"So many people have asked me why I decided to run for office - why I am fighting to be able to serve my community again," McNally said in his speech. "Here is my answer: I feel a responsibility to run. It's because of the oath I took to the Constitution of this country as a Naval officer."

In addition to being a 22-year veteran, McNally is a passenger airline pilot and a resident of Westfield. He has deep roots in the community. He serves on the board of the Westfield Kiwanis Club and as the Senior Vice Commander of local VFW Post 10003.

The event was hosted by two veteran statesmen of Hoosier Democratic politics: the Honorable Brad Ellsworth and the Honorable Baron Hill. Ellsworth served Indiana's 8th District from 2007 to 2011; Hill served Indiana's 9th District from 1999 to 2005 and again from 2007 to 2011. Both Congressmen shared their belief in McNally's ability to start the blue wave in Hamilton County next November.

"Matt McNally is a candidate dedicated to public service, not political ambitions," Ellsworth said. "That's exactly the kind of candidate that Democrats can run to win all across Indiana."

"Matt McNally is Hamilton County's own Roger



Photo provided

(From left) Former Congressman Baron Hill, Matt McNally, Donna McNally, Tim McNally, Former Congressman Brad Ellsworth, and Eric Ellsworth.

Bannister." Hill said. "Before Roger Bannister ran a four-minute mile, no one thought it could be done. After he accomplished it, everyone started running four-minute miles. No one thinks a Democrat can win in Hamilton County, but they're wrong. Matt McNally's going to do it and then the rest of the county is going to follow."

"Every day, Matt McNally blows me away with his dedication to this community and to this race," said his campaign manager, Megan Ruddle. "Matt is not letting anything stop him from winning in '24, so get ready for the leanest, meanest campaign Hamilton County has ever seen."

In addition to Ellsworth and Hill, the event was attended by Indiana House Minority Leader Phil GiQuinta, State Senator JD Ford, and State Representatives Maureen Bauer, Ed Delaney, Justin Moed, and Victoria Garcia-Wilburn.

"So I want you to know that just like last year, I am determined to knock on the most doors, recruit the most volunteers, talk to the most voters and lead this community to vote not just for me, but for the vision of a better Indiana we all share," McNally said.



Photo provided

(From left) State Rep. Maureen Bauer, Matt McNally, State Sen. JD Ford, and State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn.



Photo provided

reach out to the campaign can email helo@mcnally-forindiana.com or call the campaign headquarters at (317) 218-7679.

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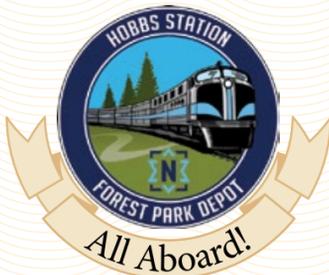
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IMCU makes \$1,907 donation to Ascension St. Vincent Foundation

The REPORTER

Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU) recently presented a check for \$1,907 to Ascension St. Vincent Foundation as part of an ongoing debit card give back program.

The partnership allows members to show their support of the Ascension St. Vincent Foundation by signing up for and using an Ascension St. Vincent debit card. Every time the card is used as a signature-based transaction, Ascension St. Vincent Foundation benefits. The more cards that are in use, the larger the contribution. Since beginning the program in 2017, Ascension St. Vincent Foundation has earned \$11,373 through this IMCU giveback program.

IMCU Business Development Office Abbi Cassady, IMCU College Park Branch Manager George Bible presented the check to Jennifer Loepker, Corporate Giving and Development Officer at Ascension St. Vincent Foundation, on June 14



Photo provided

(From left) IMCU Business Development Office Abbi Cassady, IMCU College Park Branch Manager George Bible, and Jennifer Loepker, Corporate Giving and Development Officer at Ascension St. Vincent Foundation.

at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital.

The card is available for issue to members at IMCU's 32 Indiana locations. The Ascension St. Vincent debit

card is free to members with a free checking account and can be issued immediately via IMCU's Instant Issue program, which allows members to receive their

debit card on the spot. To support Ascension St. Vincent Hospital, those interested should visit an IMCU branch or go to imcu.com for details.

Kathy Lynn Cook

July 12, 1964 – June 28, 2023

Kathy Lynn Cook, 58, Cicero, passed away on June 28, 2023, at her home.



She was born on July 12, 1964, in Dayton, Ohio, to Orville Lee, Sr. and Lois Ann (Fultz) Ball.

Kathy attended and was a graduate of Noblesville Christian School. She married Perry Lee Cook on September 7, 1985, and they were blessed with a daughter, Kristina (Keith) Weesner of Noblesville; and sons, Ryan (Nicole)

Cook of Cicero and Zackary (significant other, Lauren Powell) Cook of Cicero. Additional survivors include her brother, Ronnie Ball of Frankton, Ind.; plus grandchildren, Kaiden, Lily, Eastin, Jaxin, and Raylin.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Roger Ball and Orville Lee Ball, Jr.

Kathy was a food service manager for Noblesville Middle School and was currently working her 22nd year as food service manager at Beck's Superior Hybrids near Atlanta, Ind.

Kathy enjoyed golf cart rides around Cicero and vacations at the beach. She dearly loved her family and treasured spending time with her grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 30, 2023, at Cicero Cemetery with Pastor Mark Knapp officiating.

Arrangements are entrusted to Hartley Funeral Homes Cicero Chapel, Cicero, where you may send condolences at hartleyfuneralhomes.com.

Jeannine Rae Combest

November 26, 1949 – June 27, 2023

Jeannine Rae Combest, 73, Indianapolis, formerly of Elkhart, Ind., was called home by our Lord on June 27, 2023, after suffering a short illness. She was at peace and looking forward to being with her beloved husband and best friend, Mike. They were married on September 30, 1972. Michael was called home on November 2, 2009.



Her life began November 26, 1949, in Goshen, Ind. She was born to Harold Sr. and Vera (Murray) Knowles (may they rest in peace).

Jeannine was the baby of her family of four. Preceding her in death was her oldest brother, Jim Knowles (may he rest in peace). She is survived lovingly by her brother, Bill Knowles and sister, Janice (Dan) Ryan. She was raised in Shipshewana and graduated from Westview High School. Jeannine was one of the finest employees of the Kroger Company, managing in many aspects of the deli bakeries. She retired after 37 years of service. Jeannine was a sports fan, loved NASCAR racing, Indianapolis Colts, and college basketball. She was quick-witted and enjoyed sharing laughter!

Jeannine is also, most lovingly survived by her daughter, Penny Henderson and three beautiful granddaughters and two precious great-grandchildren. We pray all her loved ones find peace in this difficult time and will find comfort in all the good memories.

A graveside service will be held at noon on Monday, July 10 at the Keightley Cemetery in Shipshewana, Ind. Condolences: randallroberts.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died.

Genesis 5:21-27 (NIV)

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Donna Bussell

Meeting Notices

The Carmel Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, in the Council Chambers at Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square, Carmel.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Council Sheriff Committee will meet to discuss Sheriff's Office business at 8 a.m. on Monday, July 17, 2023, at Rosie's, 68 N. 9th St., Noblesville.

The Reporter: Accurate. Balanced. Local.

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“A total team commitment”

Guerin Catholic girls tennis team keeps community service at forefront

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

The Guerin Catholic girls tennis team is a program on the rise, with a veteran coach, talented athletes and consistent rankings in the state's top 30.

It also has a tradition, one that's just as – if not more important to the team than wins and losses. The Golden Eagles team puts together yearly service projects that help those in the community in need.

“Sometimes we do more than one,” said Guerin Catholic coach Becky Ragsdale. “It just depends. We usually let our seniors be involved.”

Those seniors select a project, and the team tries to finish that project before the season starts. “But during the season, if there's a need within our community, we'll go ahead and do another service project,” said Ragsdale.

The projects are varied, but all of them center on helping people and bringing comfort to those who may be going through a tough time.

“We've visited the Bridgewater nursing home,” said Ragsdale. One project involved sending cards to people who are battling a terminal illness. “That was well-received,” said Ragsdale.

“We have good kids,” said Ragsdale, who has been coaching the GC team since 2015. “They're just so thoughtful and compassionate and caring. It's just an amazing accomplishment. It's not about wins and losses for our team, it's about giving back to our community.”

This year's Guerin Catholic service project involved making hand-made blankets for people who are patients in infusion at the IU Health Joe and Shelly Schwarz Cancer Center. It's a project that's very close to Golden Eagles assistant coach Lynn Trott, as she is a cancer survivor.

“It's important to me to be able to pay back a facility that saved my life,” said Trott, who volunteers at the center.

“She reached out to me in early December of last year wondering if the IU Health Schwarz Cancer Center would be open to a donation of handmade fleece blankets,” said Ann Bredensteiner, Manager of Integrative Health and Volunteers at the center. “Lynn has been a volunteer at the cancer center and she knows first-hand what kind of impact a donation like this means to our facility. We en-

thusiastically said yes.”

The girls on the team took the project very seriously. They spent one of their Saturdays in the Guerin Catholic media center making the blankets, and Ragsdale said the players used their own babysitting money to buy the supplies.

“This has been such a meaningful service project that we will probably do it again next year,” said Ragsdale.

Hannah Dilley was one of the senior captains on the Golden Eagles team.

“It was a really good learning experience to learn how to plan things like this and organize a large group, because we never had as many tennis girls as we did this year,” said Dilley. “It was a lot more planning and making sure everyone was concluded. But it worked out really well.”

“Sometimes people have never had a handmade gift, let alone a handmade gift at a time they're facing a health crisis,” said Trott. “I think it's rewarding for our girls and out staff to give back to the community and show them how important it is to show compassion for people in times of need.”

The team made 30 blankets for the center – “It took three carloads to bring the blankets over,” said Trott. Each one contained a handwritten card as well.

“It's a total team commitment,” said Ragsdale. “Our parents get involved, our team moms get involved, our coaches are there, everybody takes this very seriously. Our administration, they support us. Our principal let us come to school late.”

The blankets got a very positive reception from the patients.

“There were so many different types of blankets to choose from,” said Bredensteiner. “There were blankets with all different types of motifs and colors. The patients absolutely loved them.”

“That was really cool to see where all of our work was going,” said Dilley. “We packed all the blankets into the trunks of a few cars. We talked to the director, and she told us how meaningful everything was and how much of an impact it makes.”

“Our goal was just to make these blankets and hopefully provide some kind of comfort and make somebody's life a little happier,” said Ragsdale. The coach said both the school's principal and the team got what she called a “lovely note” from a patient named Suzanne thanking the GC girls



Photo provided

The Guerin Catholic tennis team's donations of blankets were well-received by the IU Health Schwarz Cancer Center. (From left) Ann Bredensteiner, Manager of Integrative Health and Volunteers; GC assistant coach Lynn Trott, and players Hannah Dilley, Emma Oakley, and Lauryn Reifel.



Photos provided

(Above) Junior varsity Purple and Gold Coach Jennifer Clouse, Assistant Coach Lynn Trott and Head Coach Becky Ragsdale show off one of the blankets made by the Guerin Catholic girls tennis team. (Right) For this year's project, the team crafted hand-made blankets and delivered them to patients at the IU Health Joe and Shelly Schwarz Cancer Center.

for what they did. The note read: “Moments like yesterday can be a healing balm to the emotional scars cancer can bring to a person.”

“That brought us all to tears,” said Ragsdale. “When we got this note from this lady, it was just like, unbelievable.”

Ragsdale told her girls to “take this feeling with you” and realize it was a feeling of doing something good for other people, “and that's when you know you've made a difference.”

“I applaud the Guerin athletes for their team efforts not only in sports but off the court as well,” said Bredensteiner. “It was such a kind gesture to come together as a team to make blankets and handmade cards for our patients. The ladies took a lot of time and care cutting, tying and organizing this project. We are grateful for the team's compassion and thoughtfulness.”

The project made an impact on the team, and the coaches still remember some of the patients, such as Suzanne – “she's still in our thoughts and prayers,” said



Photo provided

Members of the Guerin Catholic girls tennis team spent a Saturday afternoon hand-crafting blankets for the IU Schwarz Cancer Center. (Front row) Anna Kolb and Kara Buehnerkemper. (Back row, from left) Katie Kolb, Meredith Mattingly, Grace Quigley, Lillian Quigley, Courtney Bassi, and Addison Gruesser.

Trott. “We're still thinking about her and we hope her recovery's going well,” said Ragsdale.

Trott was one of those patients, so this project has additional meaning for her.

“As a grateful patient of IU Health, it's super mean-

ingful to me to be able to pay it forward, and to watch our girls experience that moment when something they had a hand in organizing is very meaningful to me as well,” said Trott. “I think the girls were able to experience first hand that feeling of compassion when they

recognized all the hard work that went into making this project happen and see the benefits of others receiving the blankets.”

Anyone wishing to volunteer at the IU Health Joe and Shelly Schwarz Cancer Center can visit iuhealth.org/North-volunteer.

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Golf

Four county boys heading to Junior Championship semifinals

The REPORTER

An all-Hamilton County semifinal lineup at the Boys State Junior Championship is still possible, if the weather would just cooperate.

Play continued Thursday at the Indiana Golf Association's Howard Bailey Junior Golf Tour event, which is taking place at Purdue University's Kampen-Cosler Course. Even with the weather de-

lays, the tournament was able to get the Round of 16 matches finished, and two quarterfinal matches were completed.

Four Hamilton County players advanced from the 16s to the quarterfinals, with each one making it to a separate match. Westfield had two of those winners: Alec Cesare beat Evansville's Luke Johnston 6&5 and Will Harvey defeated Mon-

rovia's Titus Boswell 2 up. Noblesville's Jacob Modleski reached the quarterfinals with a 3&2 victory against Garrett's Carter Demske. In the lone all-county Round of 16 match-up, Carmel's Jackson McCullough got past Fishers' Cole Starnes in 19 holes.

Two other Westfield golfers made it to the Round of 16. Matthew Shull fell 4&3 to Bloomington's Nick Bellush,

while Jake Cesare lost to Tipton's Maverick Conaway 2 up.

In quarterfinal play, both Harvey and Modleski were able to finish their matches with victories and advance to the semifinals. Harvey was a 4&3 winner over Crown Point's Sam Carraher, while Modleski beat Bellush 3&2.

At last report, Alec Cesare was leading Middlebury's Silas Haarer 2 up after 11 holes. McCullough and Conaway were playing another quarterfinal match, which was all square after 13 holes before it was halted.

The tournament is scheduled to finish tomorrow with the semifinal and championship matches.

Carmel & Fishers just keep swimming at Phillips 66 nationals

The REPORTER

Action continued Thursday night at the IU Natatorium as the Phillips 66 National Championships reached its third day of competition.

Two Carmel swimmers were part of the "A" final in the women's 100 butterfly race. Kelly Pash, a Greyhounds graduate who just finished her senior year at the University of Texas, placed fifth in that event with a time of 57.53 seconds. Alex Shackell, a junior-to-be at Carmel, was just a few hundredths of a second behind her, placing sixth in 57.59 seconds.

Another Carmel swimmer competed in the "B" final of the women's 50 backstroke. Berit Berglund, a four-time high school state

champion in the 100 backstroke, placed fifth in her Thursday race, clocking in at 28.49 seconds. Berglund just graduated from Carmel and will swim this coming school year at Texas.

In the men's 400 medley race, Kyle Ponsler, a Fishers graduate who just finished his freshman year at North Carolina State, took seventh in that event's "B" final with a time of 4 minutes, 22.04 seconds. Gregg Enoch, an incoming Carmel senior, finished second in the "D" final with a time of 4:20.19. Enoch dropped nearly five seconds from his qualifying heat time.

Today's swimming events at the National Championships include women's and men's races in the 400 freestyle, 100 breaststroke and 100 backstroke.



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Many county golfers stop in Plymouth to play in Age Group Championship

The REPORTER

A large group of Hamilton County golfers traveled to Plymouth last week to compete in the Buffy & Alice Mayerstein Age Group Championship, another important tournament on the Indiana Golf Association's Howard Bailey Junior Golf Tour.

Three Fishers golfers finished first in their respective age groups. Mattingly Upchurch, an incoming sophomore at Hamilton Southeastern, won the Boys 15 division with a score of 145. Gavin Davis was first in the Boys 11 group, scoring a 149. Janelle Garcia, a sophomore-to-be at Southeastern, was the Girls 14 winner by scoring 150.

Here is a complete list of county results. Look for more golf results in the Reporter this summer.

BOYS 17

3. Mason Price, Carmel 73-75=148, T11. Noah Husk, Carmel 79-79=158; Cohen Steill, Westfield 81-

77=158, 19. Clark Schwartz, Westfield 81-83=164, 20. Tate LaBrune, Fishers 82-84=166.

BOYS 16

T7. Braden Hill, Carmel 74-79=153, T9. Lucas Brown, Fishers 77-77=154; Drew Werkley, Noblesville 73-81=154, T12. Lance Decker, Noblesville 77-78=155; Jackson Umthum, Noblesville 75-80=155, 15. Ryan Bangert, Carmel 81-78=159, T18. Jack Harris, Westfield 86-78=164, T20. Elliott Sell, Carmel 82-83=165, Aidan Jeffreys, Carmel 86-79=165, T23. Nathan Daugherty, Carmel 88-81=169, 26. Dylan Hughes, Westfield 80-90=170, 27. Kent Fujita, Carmel 88-83=171, 28. Owen Medley, Noblesville 83-92=175.

BOYS 15

1. Mattingly Upchurch, Fishers 75-70=145, T3. Mitchell Keene, Westfield 76-74=150; Ocean Permana, Carmel 72-78=150, 8. Ryan Cesare, Westfield 84-71=155, T9. Hudson Kutchna, Westfield 88-68=156, T14. Dillon Walworth, Carmel 81-78=159; Noah Johnson, Carmel 80-79=159, T17. Tyler Marucci, Noblesville 84-79=163; Dustin Turpin, Noblesville 83-80=163, T20. Graham Price, Carmel 86-78=164, 22. Chandler Witt, Noblesville 83-83=166, 23. Lorenzo Browning, Carmel 82-85=167, T24. Jaxon Henegar, Noblesville 91-78-169; Benjamin Kauffman, Carmel 82-87=169, 27. Brody Eureste, Westfield 91-84=175, T28. Alex Dunham, Noblesville 87-89=176; Benjamin Meece, Carmel 88-88=176, 31. Jackson Mahan, Noblesville 96-89=185.

BOYS 14

T2. Zane Corley 75-75=150, 5. Brayden Worthington, Westfield

77-78=155, 13. Ben Wilson, Carmel 80-90=170, 14. Patrick Wolf, Carmel 85-87=172, 18. Jack Armstrong, Carmel 86-91=177, 21. Christopher Koscal, Carmel 104-111=215.

BOYS 13

2. Alex Gardner, Carmel 85-81=166, T3. Luke Decker, Noblesville 81-87=168, 8. Keaton Knott, Westfield 93-90=183.

BOYS 12

7. J.T. Kelley, Noblesville 80-84=164, 9. Porter Bell, Noblesville 91-79=170.

BOYS 11

1. Gavin Davis, Fishers 75-74=149, 4. Simeon Reid, Carmel 97-95=192.

GIRLS 18

4. Claire Thompson, Westfield 93-94=187.

GIRLS 17

11. Samantha Lemieux, Westfield 87-89=176.

GIRLS 16

2. Jordan Adam, Noblesville 80-77=157, 9. Brooke Willard, Fishers 84-84=168, 16. Emily Vandall, Fishers 96-99=195.

GIRLS 15

3. Josie Kelley, Noblesville 77-73=150, T8. Olivia Fowler, Noblesville 84-83=167, T11. Sydney Dela-grange, Carmel 87-85=172, 13. Samantha Hanavan, Westfield 82-92=174, 14. Bevin Turner, Fishers 93-82=175.

GIRLS 14

1. Janelle Garcia, Fishers 78-72=150, T4. Sophie Roberts, Fishers 84-89=173, T6. Ellie Henegar, Noblesville 93-81=174; Madelynn Headlee, Carmel 84-90=174.

GIRLS 13

3. Keelin Werkley, Noblesville 98-96=194, 4. Lauren Turpin, Noblesville 94-104=198.

GIRLS 12

2. Karis Reid, Carmel 76-76=152, 3. Myra Sealey, Noblesville 75-81=156.



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