

**See *Prayer Breakfast* . . . Page 3**



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# Colts Training Camp T-shirt features art of Westfield grad

By **AMY ADAMS**  
[news@readthereporter.com](mailto:news@readthereporter.com)

The Indianapolis Colts' search for a local artist to design this year's training camp T-shirt led north up the Monon Trail to 2023 Westfield High School graduate Mia Sears.

As a senior this past year, Sears designed the poster and T-shirt for the 2023 WHS American Pie Concert which featured a line-drawn Monon train in keeping with the concert's theme, "I'm going back to Indiana." She also designed posters and shirts for *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, both WHS productions for which she worked as a stage manager.

When asked to suggest a

student to create a shirt for the Colts, it only made sense that WHS art teachers Lindsay Frey and John Sterling recommended Sears.

After seeing her portfolio of graphic design and other artwork, Colts staff agreed that Sears was just the artist they were seeking and commissioned her for the project.

Working directly with Colts Senior Marketing Director Hayden Barnack to better understand the desired outcome, Sears sketched out an image that incorporates aspects of summer, Westfield, and, of course, the Colts.

For Sears, who grew up in Westfield, summer is synonymous with biking on the Monon Trail not far from her house.



Reporter photos by Amy Adams

**Once Colts staff saw Westfield High School graduate Mia Sears' art portfolio, they knew she was the right candidate to design this T-shirt.**

"I also took inspiration from the layout of downtown Westfield," she said.

The T-shirt clearly illustrates these elements stacked in shades of blue, with the



Reporter photos by Amy Adams

**Once Colts staff saw Westfield High School graduate Mia Sears' art portfolio, they knew she was the right candidate to design this T-shirt.**

Colts practice field at Grand Park in the foreground.

"I've had some people tell me it looks like a band tee or a concert tee," Sears said. "That's kind of an inspiration, as well, because I love going to concerts and festivals in the summer."

Though art has been part of her life for as long as she can remember, Sears didn't find her interest in project-based artwork until her sophomore or junior year in high school.

"Mrs. Frey and Mrs. Bartel really helped me thrive because of the creative liberty and freedom

they gave with the assignments," Sears said.

She particularly excelled in AP 2-D Art and Design.

"The teachers supported my creative ideas while also giving very valuable critiques and constructive criticism," Sears said.

That support and encouragement has certainly paid off in paving the way

for her to work with an NFL team, an experience that could lead her down a variety of avenues in the future.

"It was definitely worth it!" she said.

Sears will soon be heading to Bloomington to attend Indiana University where she plans to study public management and one day become an urban planner.

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## COLTS from Page 1

return this year with their cool treats and hot eats. The kettle corn tent will be back, as well, along with a new player to the outside vendor team, Hot Box Pizza.

Along with Coca-Cola products, lemonade, Bud Light, and Michelob Ultra, Grand Stand will offer

Goose Island IPA, Cutwater canned cocktails, and NUTRL hard seltzers.

"Making sure everyone has the experience they want to at Grand Park is important to us," McClure said.

In addition to great food, Colts City is full of fun, including inflatables,

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family-friendly games, photo opportunities, and, of course, merchandise, like the 2023 Colts Training Camp T-Shirt designed by 2023 Westfield High School graduate Mia Sears.

You can visit [colts.com/events/trainingcamp](https://colts.com/events/trainingcamp) to see the Colts Training Camp schedule, to claim free tickets, and to get your Colts City Pass, but you better think fast. Of the 13 practices, four are already sold out, including this weekend's Friday and Saturday practices, as well as the joint practices with the Chicago Bears on Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 16 and 17.

**noblesville main street**

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**6pm** Dinner and remarks from Founder, Dick Gordon  
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**Celebrate with us on Noblesville's Logan Street Bridge in Downtown Noblesville!**

Tickets are \$75 each or \$525 for a table (8 seats) and table sponsor's name will be listed on the Bridge of Flowers Donor Wall.  
\*For questions contact [Dave@theGordonTeam.com](mailto:Dave@theGordonTeam.com)



# Cicero Edward Jones branch office supports back-to-school supplies donation campaign

## The REPORTER

Corey Sylvester, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Cicero, is supporting this summer's back to school supplies donation campaign by using his office as a drop-off location for the school supplies drive.

Items needed for the school supply drive include crayons, scissors, pocket folders, washable

markers, Kleenex, glue sticks, notebooks, colored pencils, and more.

Local residents and businesses may help by bringing in items to the Edward Jones branch office, 120 W. Jackson St., during regular business hours now



Sylvester

through Aug. 9.

"We are committed to supporting not only our clients but the entire community," Sylvester said. "This school supply drive is one way we can help make a difference."

Monetary donations cannot be accepted.

## PRAYER BREAKFAST

from Page 1

finished in the top 10 percent of his class. They were baptized at Cicero Christian Church by Pastor Adam Colter the summer before attending Miami University of Ohio.

Lydia pursued a double major in Marketing and Entrepreneurship, while Sterling juggled his Mechanical Engineering degree with the demands of football. In 2022, Sterling signed with the Indianapolis Colts where he had his first NFL interception and led the team in tackles during the preseason. Minutes before final rosters were due, Sterling was cut, only to be picked up by the Chicago Bears the next morning. He spent his first NFL season with the Bears. He has now been picked up by the Los Angeles Rams, signing on Wednesday.

A light breakfast will be served with the program beginning at 7:30 a.m. Music will be provided by the Cicero United Family Wes-



Photo provided

**Sterling and Lydia Weatherford, Heights Class of 2017, are the featured speakers at the 10th annual Prayer Breakfast on Aug. 4. They will share their journey of faith, hope, and commitment.**

leyan Church with Pastor Allen Gross. Guests are encouraged to bring Capri Suns and individual-sized

juice bottles to donate to the Hamilton Heights Elementary School's Weekend Feeding Program.

## MENTAL LOAD

from Page 1

Even during those "true" work hours, many people carry a mental load. But wait, that's what we're getting paid to do, right? In this case it's defined as work that goes on every day that you don't get paid for. I call it "other duties as assigned" that are not in most job descriptions.

These may include tasks such as purchasing cards and making sure they're signed by everyone, buying snacks, planning events, getting the coffee, buying birthday cakes, cleaning up after meetings, and taking notes. I used to love doing many of those things when I worked in the typical office setting. But not everyone is like me. If you don't have a good system in place, these tasks can be quite draining.

Speaking of cards and

events, celebrations require mental labor. Of course, we want to plan and execute these events for the people we love. For example, when my oldest son Jonathon graduated high school in May of 2019, I had picked out the location for his party and a date confirmed during the previous January.

Even with keeping things simple by serving hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and of course, a fabulous cake, I knew my mental load would be heavier in the months leading up to the open house. I literally thought about what mementos and photos would be on display that afternoon most every week!

It all turned out well and was fun. I was excited for Jonathon. But I realized once it was over, and the exhaustion hit, that I needed to

implement ideas from this series for future events.

Then we have holidays, another category of celebrations. This is where I think the mental load goes into overdrive! We'll discuss holidays in-depth next week.

## SPOTLIGHT

from Page 1

Once again, this premier evening of art and philanthropy will be held at Hotel Carmichael in Carmel. Guests are invited to attend and support children who face life's challenges.



Nation

es by shopping with local award-winning artists as well as artwork from local student artists. Each will sell pieces that may enrich the lives of the purchaser, while also enriching the lives of the local children who need this support the most.

"I have always believed in the greatness and ingenuity of people of Hamilton County," stated Honorary Event Chair, retired judge, and County Council member Steve Nation. "We come together to provide answers for the needs of our citizens and to set a better course. This is what we are supporting through this event, Pre-vail, Boys & Girls Club of

Noblesville, and Children's Therapeutic Play. These organizations have proven their commitment and ability to provide our children and their families with the tools to overcome their situations. I know that we will not stop until each child has the possibility of reaching their own greatness."

"We invite everyone to consider attending this premier evening of art and philanthropy that supports children's charities, thanks to the talent of local and student artists," Lakes said. "With a bit of support from many, enriching the lives of these diverse groups of children, it's possible to make so many dreams come true!"

To purchase event tickets and learn about sponsorship opportunities, visit [spotlightonart.homeqtgo.us](http://spotlightonart.homeqtgo.us) or follow the event on Facebook.

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**Let's talk about Farmland preservation in Indiana**

*Lance Cheung, USDA*

## Topics

- Farmland loss
- Ag easements
- Funding sources
- Landowner options
- Local & state options

## Speakers from

- Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D & Land Trust, Middlebury, IN
- State Easement Program, Indiana NRCS
- American Farmland Trust
- Elkhart County
- Indiana General Assembly

*Coffee at 9:40*

**Saturday, July 29, 2023**  
**10 a.m. – noon**

**Sheridan Historical Society Museum**  
**315 South Main St. Sheridan, IN**

**Join us for coffee and donuts or email us for the Zoom link**



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# July 28

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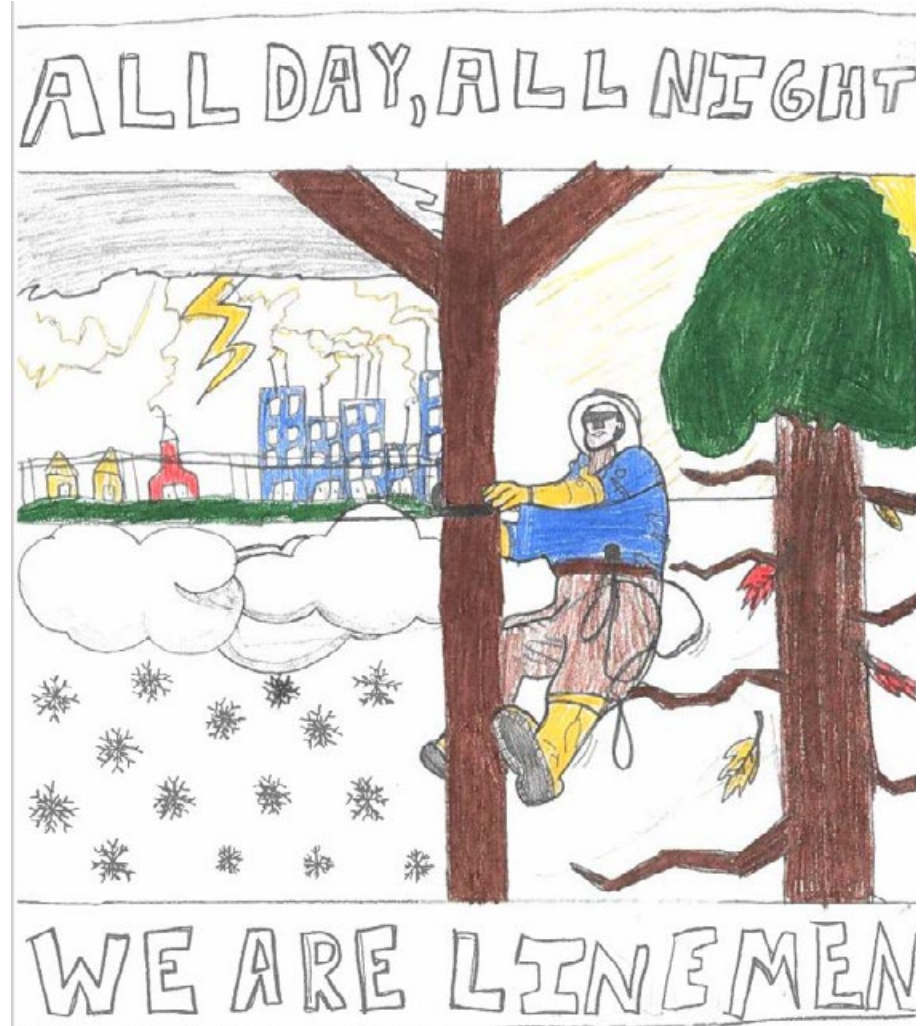
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Cool Creek Park | 2000 E. 151<sup>st</sup> St., Carmel/Westfield



# All the cool kids know lineworkers are heroes



Art provided  
Carmel natives Elijah Carter, 10 (top) and Carmen Latimore, 8 (above) created this artwork to honor the hard work, innovation and dedication of utility lineworkers. Their mother, Caroline Carter, serves as a human resources consultant working out of Duke Energy's Noblesville Operations Center. Their artwork will be displayed at Duke Energy's 2023 Midwest Lineman's Rodeo, which will be held this Saturday in Plainfield, Ind.

## Chambers welcome Elaine Bedel to August Eggs & Issues

### The REPORTER

OneZone, Northern Hamilton County, and Westfield Chambers announce Elaine Bedel of Indiana Destination Development Corporation as the Eggs & Issues presenter.

Bedel was appointed by Governor Holcomb in 2019 to serve as the first Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of this newly established organization. Indiana Destination Development Corporation is a quasi-government agency focused on making Indiana a great place to live, visit, learn, and earn.

Attendees will hear more about why the department was created, the marketing efforts the state is working on, and what is in store for the future. The program will be moderated by Jack Russell, President of OneZone and Northern Hamilton County Chamber, and Steve Latour, President of Westfield Chamber.



dent of OneZone and Northern Hamilton County Chamber, and Steve Latour, President of Westfield Chamber.

This event will be held from 8:30 to 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 11 at The Bridge-water Club. Registration



Bedel

is required by Tuesday, Aug. 8. Members and non-members are invited to attend. The cost for members is \$28 and \$40 for non-members. Reservations can be made at [OneZoneChamber.com](http://OneZoneChamber.com) or (317) 436-4653.



## LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

A BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION EVENT

# Saturday, July 29

## 8 PM | Potter's Bridge Park

19401 N. Allisonville Rd., Noblesville, IN 46060

Celebrate our county's history by joining Hamilton County Parks and Recreation for a unique visual evening experience at Potter's Bridge Park. Lighted canoes provided by White River Canoe Company will be visible as you stroll along the iconic covered bridge arrayed with luminaries. Music and roving lighted entertainment will help make this an event to remember. Food trucks and a beer vendor will offer their menu items for purchase.

For more details call 317.770.4400 or visit [MyHamiltonCountyParks.com](http://MyHamiltonCountyParks.com).

A complete list of bicentennial events can be found at [HamCoTurns200.com](http://HamCoTurns200.com).

**FREE! All ages welcome!**

# BINGO

## Bash

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# Hamilton Southeastern adopts new dress code for schools’ students

By ADAM PINSKER  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](#)

Hamilton Southeastern school district’s students may have to adjust their wardrobe in the upcoming school year that starts Aug. 9.

The school board on Wednesday night made some big changes to the dress code.

Some parents say they were left out of the process in crafting the dress code, and the school board did not take input from teachers seriously.

The board approved changes to the dress code 5-2.

- Clothing that displays inappropriate or profane messages, and clothing that reveals parts of students’ torsos or buttocks won’t be allowed.

- Students will have to wear underwear.

- Hoodies must be in the down position, and students can’t wear ballcaps during

instruction periods.

Parent Stefanie Hunt told News 8 she’s not even sure the board accepted feedback from surveys of teachers on the dress code.

“There was no mention of hoodies being an issue in these surveys, from the teachers, from the parents, and now, all of a sudden, we have a new dress code addition to our handbook,” Hunt said.



Lang

School Board President Dawn Lang told News 8, “A lot these things are not new to teachers or even to administration. In fact, even hats and hoodies have only been withdrawn for a year. So to put this back into practice and play, and all the anxiety that’s been riddled up about this is a little overblown.”

Hamilton Southeastern officials say teachers have the right to make a few exceptions to the dress code when there is a special event, such as a spirit day, happening.

# Carmel’s Natalie Coan graduates UW-Madison

## The REPORTER

A total of 8,625 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on May 12 and 13, including Natalie Coan of Carmel.

Coan graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the College of

Letters and Science.

There were two live ceremonies, on one for undergraduates at Camp Randall and one for all graduate degree candidates at the Kohl Center. Graduating were 6,225 undergraduate students, 1,487 master’s degree students, and 913 doctoral candidates.



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## Westfield Chamber Calendar of Events

### AUGUST

**Young Professionals Coffee & Networking**  
8 to 9 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 8  
Location: The Bridgewater Club

**Pefecting Your Partnership**  
3 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 9  
Location: The Bridgewater Club

**Chamber Luncheon**  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 17  
Location: The Bridgewater Club

**Coffee with the Chamber**  
8 to 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 22  
Location: The Club of Chatham Hills

**Party on the Patio (& YP Happy Hour)**  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 22  
Location: Collective Beauty Salon & Spa

Meeting Notices	
Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-7-37 and Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.5, notice is hereby given that the Board of School Trustees of the Hamilton Heights School Corporation will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, July 28, 2023, at Red Bridge Park, 697 W. Jackson St., Cicero. This second public hearing is to discuss and hear objections and support regarding the proposed projects. The board will also consider the adoption of a resolution making a preliminary determination to enter into a lease agreement relating to the projects and to issue bonds to finance the projects. A work session to discuss strategic planning will follow at 9 a.m. in the same location.	The Carmel Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1 Civic Square, Carmel.
	The Carmel Plan Commission’s Commercial Committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023, in the Caucus Rooms on the second floor of City Hall, 1 Civic Square, Carmel.
	Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Council Highway Committee will meet to discuss highway projects at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023, at the Hamilton County Highway Department, 1700 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

**Accuracy Matters**

**99.904% Right**

**The Hamilton County Reporter**

## Letter to the Editor

# HSE school board member offers clarity on HSE student handbooks

Dear Editor:  
I wanted to attempt to bring public commentary back to the relevant discussion about Student Handbooks for a 21,000 student, 2,200 teacher public school district in Fishers & Noblesville, Indiana.

My name is Suzanne Thomas and I’m an elected HSE School Board Trustee. But my comments here are my own and do not represent the HSE School Board or Administration.

For a course correction on Student Handbook discussion, I have to first comment about *The Indianapolis Star*. Where did they even find a picture of me in a mask? I’m a very public and social person so there are a gazillion pictures of me without a mask. Why that picture? *The Indianapolis Star*’s most recent article about HSE’s Student Handbook revisions and local TV news reporting is ridiculous. Yes, we want students to wear underwear. The points of the article and the live news reporting from local stations are so off-base that I was honestly laughing as I read and listened to them.

Unfortunately, *The Indianapolis Star*’s quality of journalism has declined to a level that they absolutely misrepresent the issue, HSE Schools, and me.

Just an FYI: HSE’s Student Handbook is discussed annually for revisions, removals, and adds. There is a process, and the final step is board approval. Board Members have a right to not approve what is presented and make suggestions for revisions. That IS our role, to provide oversight. We followed the process and had several work sessions and board meetings that allowed public comments. After 2.5 years on the board and over seven years of substitute teaching, I researched TWELVE district handbooks from Indianapolis area schools. NONE of the “examples for discussion” in the meetings were written by me, all input was extracted from a surrounding school district, legal and board approved handbook including:

- Brownsburg
- Carmel
- Avon
- Noblesville
- Westfield
- Zionsville
- Mt. Vernon
- Lawrence
- Franklin
- Sheridan
- Hamilton Heights
- Greenfield
- HSE

Each was written differently, but many had similar language. What I found was some had language that provided better clarity in structure and guardrails, specifically for code of conduct and dress code. While the HSE Administration does say they feel our broad, non-specific language works for them, I know there are many employees who feel otherwise.

After speaking to neighboring district administrators AND Board Members, they found with better language, BOTH academics AND character performance improved. To me, that was very positive information and needed to be considered to improve HSE Schools.

I’m a full-figured woman. So, I know first-hand a cleavage can be seen and difficult to completely hide.

I’m very aware of the difference between plunging neckline and just an “average shirt.” Let’s give your students and teachers some credit for knowing the obvious and having common sense, too! They KNOW what’s appropriate and what is not.

Mentioning slips is not an attempt to go back to *Little House on the Prairie*. It’s to point out all the see-through garments that junior high and high school students are wearing. As we each have our own opinion, I feel confident that no one would want their child/teen to wear see-through clothing in school. I’m not mentioning slips just for the sake of wearing a slip. No not all attire would require one, but if your skirt or dress is see-through, wear a slip or undergarment! Other Indianapolis-area school districts have this in approved language written into their student handbooks. So, it was brought up for discussion during our public work session.

Again, this is an annual discussion at HSE Schools. We discuss student handbook changes openly, back-and-forth with Board Members, community members, and HSE Administration. But what I have researched and concluded is that the classroom environment needs to be geared around the “optimal learning environment.” When the educator and educational content is freer from distractions, our students will have the best opportunity to learn. Our students perform better and have less discipline problems. And that’s everyone’s goal. Right?

*The Indy Star* writes for clicks and attention like many news sources. While most of what they said is true, I’d like to help make parents more aware of how students in school are really pushing boundaries on dress and behavior. Some students know that broad, non-specific rules in the student handbook allow them to push the boundaries. Many teachers and staff are frustrated by the lack of support with some guardrails or boundaries that they can refer to in HSE’s Student Handbook for a reference in communicating with parents/guardians.

It would be great if we parents/guardians supported schools by encouraging our students (boys and girls) to dress for success. We all know kids/teens leave the house one way and when in school, may look another.

Dress and appearance is technically up to parents and students. But our job as board members and administrators is to provide policy and procedures for ALL that ALL have a safe, distraction-free environment, conducive to learning. Within those guidelines your students can wear what they want.

In addition to dress, another issue is code of conduct and discipline in HSE’s Student Handbook. The handbook is a resource for all students, parents, and teachers. If it is written in the handbook, then it supports the teacher’s ability to reference it in a specific section and point it out to parent’s and guardian’s attention. If it’s written in the handbook then it’s not subjective and open to a debate between a teacher, a student or parent.

The bigger issue is teachers’ ability to enforce the rules in the handbook. HSE’s teachers need to feel supported by administration and

parents. We Board Members ARE listening to the community and our stakeholders. Neighboring school district handbooks specifically highlight problems so that parents and students know there are major areas of concern, like restrooms. Clarity on restrooms: no one ever should be restricted from using the restroom. The only reason it is pointed out as a concern is many students are afraid to use restrooms because of the poor behavior and conduct happening in them. Being mindful to overuse could be helpful to limiting poor conduct, so students who actually need the restroom can safely use the restroom.

HSE’s Administration has done a great job listening to teachers, board members, and stakeholders and made some very good adjustments to the handbook that were presented in Wednesday evening’s meeting. I am proud of the approved 2023-2024 Student Handbook that was presented and approved by HSE Schools.

If you have concerns, I welcome your respectable comments through email or phone. If what was approved Wednesday still needs work, then we will address revisions. Again, every school year, HSE’s Handbook Committee meets over many months, continually discussing revisions, repeals, and adds.

People in the media and press can create false narratives to sell their stories. But I stand behind supporting all students to receive excellence in education in a distraction-free environment, supporting our teachers, and providing parent awareness and involvement. I do not apologize for doing my due diligence in researching and asking questions. HSE Schools is a very big, complex corporation that we all need to understand better.

There are seven HSE Board Members. I’m one vote that represents over 17,000 stakeholders/voters who elected me to this position, along with all other community members who did not. And I try to listen to YOU all. We all have our own “postage stamp” that is the place where we call home and the place we want to live our life our way, and I respect that. But as a Board Trustee, I am responsible for over 21,000 students and their families, whether they support me or not. We ALL need to understand that school is for academics, learning, education and building character, respect, and confidence. That is how I make every decision when I vote. Even with the rules and guardrails, HSE Schools really is a fun and exceptional learning environment.

School is not a forum or platform for social media influencers who distract from everyone else’s learning environment. That is for after-school hours in social gatherings on your own time.

My hope is we work together to provide a distraction-free, safe environment where all our students receive a stellar education, so that all our children can be productive, successful, happy and function in life after high school. Honor, Scholarship, Excellence ... THAT’s HSE.

Thanks to all for your overwhelming support.

**Suzanne Thomas**  
*HSE Board Member*  
[stthomas@hse.k12.in.us](mailto:stthomas@hse.k12.in.us)  
(317) 410-9159

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



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SCAN ME



# 4-H fills hearts & pages with joy

We could fill pages and pages with all the great photos . . . and that's exactly what we intend to do! You may remember when we brought back printed 4-H results and full-color photos following the 2022 fair. That special publication was a great success thanks to dozens of local businesses and supporters, so we're doing it again this year.

If you're not currently subscribed to the print edition of The Reporter, read the information at the bottom of this page and be sure to subscribe by Friday, Aug. 4 to get your copy. Let's show these 4-H kids we care, Hamilton County!



Reporter photos by Stu Clampitt

You never know who you might run into at the Hamilton County 4-H Fair. If you spend as much time there as The Reporter did, the answer is "everyone." In some cases we even got to make a few introductions, as we did with the Halls and the Campbells. (Above left) County Council member Mark Hall, Lisa Hall, Reporter Editorial Cartoonist Tim Campbell, and Barb Campbell. (Above right) We did give some consideration of running this photo of Tim Campbell pretending to drive a Farmall tractor through some filters to turn it into a cartoon, but we decided to leave single-panel illustrated comedy to the expert.



Reporter photo

Logan Baitz wrangles his pig during the Swine Show.



Photo provided by Mark Jones



Photo provided by Mark Jones



Reporter photo by Nik Roberts

Publisher Catman Stu Clampitt made it clear to all of us that our fair coverage would NOT be complete without at least one cat photo. We suspect there will be several in the forthcoming 4-H results publication, coming to The Reporter's readers on Aug. 7.



(Above left) Hallie Showalter and Alotta Dots know how to handle the heat as they get ready for the Junior Division Costume Class competition. (Above right) Everyone knows the Hamilton County 4-H Fair takes a lot of work. What you may not know is Helen Dailey has been an expert volunteer for over 70 years. There's no doubt Helen has deserved her own parking spot!



Reporter photos by Amy Adams

## Coming August 7<sup>th</sup>

*It's back, baby!*

- ✻ Press these kids deserve
- ✻ Easy-to-read 4-H results
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THE HAMILTON COUNTY  
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NEWSPAPER

2023 Hamilton County 4-H Results



# The Fresh Market in Carmel donates \$2,500 to Gleaners



On Monday, The Fresh Market presented a check for \$2,500 to Gleaners Food Bank. Gleaners plays a vital role in distributing food resources, with just \$1 helping to provide up to eight meals to those in need. This \$2,500 donation has the potential to purchase up to 20,000 meals. To make this fundraiser possible, The Fresh Market asked shoppers to round up to the nearest dollar with their grocery purchases from June 14 to 27. (Above, from left) The Fresh Market Store Manger Korey Maurer, The Fresh Market Regional Manager of Operations Rob Benedum, Gleaners Chief Communications & Advocacy Officer Sarah Estell, and The Fresh Market Store Manager Gary Gray.

# Sen. Young warns Biden Administration against allowing China a role in mediating war in Ukraine

**The REPORTER**

Last week, U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.), Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Jim Risch (R-Idaho), and a group of senators sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressing concern that the Biden Administration is welcoming a role for China in the diplomatic mediation of Russia’s war in Ukraine.

“A role for China in Ukraine will significantly undermine U.S. interests, Ukraine’s future in Europe, and overall European security. The administration’s policy should not allow China to absolve itself for its support of Russia or use this war for its longer-term political and economic benefit,” wrote the senators.



Young

“The administration must abandon the notion that it can drive a wedge between Moscow and Beijing. Instead, the United States should plan ahead for Ukraine reconstruction with European and Indo-Pacific

partners so China cannot pursue its unilateral interests,” concluded the senators.

Senators Young and Risch were joined by Senators Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.), Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Tim Scott (R-S.C.), and Joni Ernst (R-Iowa).

[Click here](#) to read the full text of the letter.

# Sen. Braun introduces American Food for American Schools Act

**The REPORTER**

Senator Mike Braun of Indiana and Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio introduced on Wednesday the American Food for American Schools Act, a bill to make sure American-made food is being served in school lunches, first introduced in the House by Congressman John Garamendi and Congressman Doug LaMalfa.

“Our school lunch programs should be supporting American agriculture rather than importing food: it’s safer, healthier, and supports our economy rather than China’s,” Sen. Braun said. “I took the lead with Senator Brown to introduce the American Food for American Schools Act in the Senate because American kids should be eating American-grown food in our schools.”

This bill would provide robust structure to the National School Lunch Program’s (NSLP) Buy America language. It would codify limited exceptions to the requirement—only granting waivers when domestic commodities or products are not reasonably available in sufficient quality or quantities. If a waiver is received, schools must notify parents that American food is not being provided. Waivers can only be granted for up to 5 percent of the total annual commercial food costs of a school food authority within each food component.

The bill requires USDA to publish information about the adoption of the Buy America requirement—including both a list of granted waivers and of foreign products purchased without a waiver. This information would serve as a “market” for domestic producers to challenge the waiver or enter the market with domestic content.

In order to streamline the “Buy America” contracting process, the bill would impose Buy American contract requirements for school food procurement. This will lighten the load of School Food Authorities, who may currently have issues creating or demanding language in contract negotiations. If an SFA is provided illegal products in breach of the contract (as in a last minute substitution), the school would have safe harbor. USDA would have authority to seek reimbursement from commercial food suppliers for illegal foreign-sourced products that violate Buy America contract language. These funds would finance USDA’s Buy American Procurement Training Program.

Finally, the bill would subject other USDA school feeding programs (after-school snacks, summer food service, child and adult care food, special milk, and school breakfast) to the Buy America requirement, which currently only applies to the NSLP.



Braun

# Are You Looking for a Church Home?



At the Stony Creek Church of Christ, it is our desire to pattern our work and worship after the church revealed in the New Testament -nothing more and nothing less. If we chose to follow the pattern of the New Testament we have assurance that we will meet with pleasure of Almighty God. Listen to the command given by Paul as to how we are to do all things.

*“Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus”*

*(2 Timothy 1:13).*

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.



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**“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





## Chris Rohr promoted to Carmel Fire Marshal

### The REPORTER

There have been some recent promotions in the Carmel Fire Department (CFD).

Former Fire Marshal Lucas Ray was promoted to Deputy Chief of Administration after serving as Fire Marshal for four years. Prior to that, Ray was a frontline firefighter for five years and Deputy Fire Marshal for six years.

As part of the mentoring and succession planning for the Carmel Fire Department, Chris Rohr was promoted to Fire Marshal. He has 23 years of experience



Ray



Rohr

with the department and has been Deputy Fire Marshal for the last four of those.

“Chris brings creative and innovative processes to the division and is respected by colleagues and the community,” Fire Chief David Haboush said. “I believe that he will be an asset to the organization and leading the Fire Prevention Bureau.”

## Fishers resident selected for Intend Indiana’s real estate fellowship

### The REPORTER

Four aspiring real estate professionals have been selected to participate in Intend Indiana’s two-year Trent Garrett Fellowship.

Michael Grossniklaus of Fishers, Precious Stevenson, and Garrett Andrew Warner Sr. started their fellowship on June 5 while the final participant, Kristin Liggin, began on July 5. The program will expose participants to professional development opportunities, industry-wide networking opportunities, and real-world examples of what it’s like working in the real estate development and community development finance industries.

Each participant has a unique background that prepared them for this program.

• **Michael Grossniklaus** was born in Kazakhstan and raised in Fishers. He recently earned his bachelor’s in urban planning and development from Ball State University where he served in several leadership positions. He is a member of the fraternity Phi Gamma Delta and held the positions of Apparel Chair and Awards Chair and founded the DEI Chair position within his four-year college career.

• **Kristin Liggin** recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from Martin University with a bachelor’s in business administration. During her college career, she served as an equity scholar for Martin University’s National Center for Racial, Equity and Inclusion, and interned with the Indianapolis Pacers. She began a career in property management in 2015 and became a licensed real estate broker in 2021, leveraging her prop-

erty management experience to better understand the diverse housing needs of underrepresented communities.

• **Precious Stevenson** is a graduate of the REDI program at the Urban Land Institute, studying real estate development. She also holds certifications in several areas including Dental Assisting and Expanded Functions, Community Health, and another Real Estate certificate from the Indiana Real Estate Institute.

• **Garrett Warner Sr.** is an alumnus of the Real Estate Diversity Initiative through the Urban Land Institute with licenses and certifications in several other fields including beauty culture, personal training, massage therapy and life coaching. He also has experience as an educator via several of the Excel Centers in Indianapolis.

“Trent Garrett was dedicated to addressing housing disparities and improving the community,” Intend President Stephanie Quick said. “This fellowship opens the door for other people with that same passion for equitable housing to create a lasting impact on our city.”

Intend partners with community-based organizations, nonprofits, foundations, banks, and state and local governments to leverage resources and deliver impactful programs designed to meet the needs of the community. Intend Indiana is also a chartered member of **NeighborWorks America**.

To learn more about Intend Indiana and its mission-driven initiatives, visit [IntendIndiana.org](http://IntendIndiana.org).

## Yes, food is expensive, but you can’t intimidate your way to free groceries



Photos provided by Carmel Police Department

The Carmel Police Department (CPD) is investigating an intimidation incident which occurred on Saturday, June 10 at the Kroger located at 10679 Michigan Road. As part of its investigation, CPD is attempting to identify the individual pictured above. If you have any information about identity of this person, please call Carmel Police Detective Valentine at (317) 571-2555 or Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana at (317) 262-8477 (TIPS). Please reference CPD case number 2023-40828.

## ON-LINE PUBLIC AUCTION

for  
MARKET ROAD FELLOWSHIP  
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BIDDING OPENS:

Thursday, July 27th @ Noon

SOFT CLOSE BEGINS:

Saturday, August 5th @ 6pm

FEATURING: Market Road Fellowship Contents:

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# Betting on fun always pays off in Cicero

The Cicero Town Docks, 409 W. Jackson St., were packed last Saturday for the Boat Poker Run. The event serves as a fundraiser for the Lights Over Morse Lake July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks display. F.C. Tucker realtor Craig Bowen was the Title Sponsor of this year's event. Learn more about Lights Over Morse Lake at [this link](#). (Photos provided by [Joe Katuin, Cicero Art & Photography](#))





# Latest updates on Pleasant Street project

**The REPORTER**  
**Back to school**  
The project team has been in communication with Noblesville Schools transportation services so bus drivers are aware of any impacts to their regular routes and schedules due to the project.  
Please plan for extra time for travel near the project site. Whether you are near the project or not, please be safe near bus stops as children will soon be waiting for their ride to school.  
**Eighth Street roundabouts**  
Construction of the two new roundabouts along Eighth Street continues as crews have now completed the storm sewer work along Eighth Street and the area is being prepared for paving. City officials say the new roundabouts and trails will enhance traffic flow and create a safe corridor for all forms of transportation to get to downtown Noblesville.  
The debris walls and retaining walls near the new

bridge over the White River are being installed, and four of the six bridge piers are partially complete.  
**Safety alert**  
The Reimagine Pleasant Street job site is off limits to the public both during and after working hours.  
Since this is an active construction site that is rapidly changing, there is a risk of injury due to the construction tools and heavy equipment on the site. The risk for injury remains even if crews are not actively working as unauthorized guests may trip, fall, or injure themselves on construction equipment.  
**Street name change**  
As of July 1, Pleasant Street west of Eighth Street has been renamed to “Historic Pleasant Street.”  
**Keep informed**  
The City of Noblesville continues to post updates, details, and interesting aspects about the Reimagine Pleasant Street project on social media. Please follow the project on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



Photo provided by City of Noblesville  
**Roundabout construction continues on the two roundabouts along Eighth Street. This aerial photograph is looking west towards the White River.**

# New conservation record set by Hoosier farmers

**The REPORTER**  
According to a recent conservation survey, Indiana farmers have set a conservation record this year by planting an estimated 1.6 million acres of overwinter living covers.  
“Protecting our most vital natural resources is top of mind for our Indiana farmers and this year’s record breaking cover crop acreage is a testament to that,” said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who also serves as Indiana’s Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “Through the implementation of cover crops and other conservation efforts, farmers are ensuring our land and water resources remain healthy and productive.”  
Overwintering living covers (i.e., cover crops and small grains, like winter wheat) are known for their environmental benefits. Cover crops and small grains, planted in the fall after

harvest, help increase organic matter in the soil and improve overall soil health by adding living roots to the soil for additional months of the year. Cover crops also improve water infiltration into the soil, while other covers, like legumes, serve as natural fertilizers.  
Although the conservation transect does not differentiate between cover crops and small grains, Indiana farmers typically plant fewer than 200,000 acres of small grains annually, so cover crops vastly dominate the 1.6 million estimated acres. Apart from corn and soybeans, cover crops are planted on more acres than any other commodity crop in Indiana.  
“Hoosier farmers have held strong at 1.5 million acres of cover crops planted since 2021, so we are excited our farmers were once again able to move the needle forward,” ISDA Director Don Lamb said.  
“Soil conservation successes would not be possible without the dedicated farmers and the Indiana Conservation Partnership to help them along the way.”  
As a result of the cover crops planted, it is estimated that 1.7 million tons of sediment was prevented from entering Indiana’s waterways, which is enough sediment to fill more than 480 Olympic-size swimming pools. Overwintering covers also prevented 4.3 million pounds of nitrogen and over 2.2 million pounds of phosphorus from entering Indiana’s waterways.  
The conservation survey also showed that about 68 percent of farmed acres were not tilled and 17 percent had employed reduced tillage after the 2022 harvest. This early spring survey is not intended to quantify pre-planting tillage.  
“Conserving our natural resources is not a one-agency job. Indiana conservation

succeeds through its partnerships, working closely with individual farmers and landowners, local, state and federal government agencies, private industries, nonprofits, and many other people and groups,” said Curtis Kneuen, Acting State Conservationist for Indiana’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. “These partnerships share their unique areas of expertise and allow us to expand the reach and depth of conservation in Indiana.”  
The Indiana Conservation Partnership conducts many programs that help encourage private landowners to adopt cover crops as part of their agricultural strategy. One such initiative that helped contribute to the successful year for cover crops in 2022 was the Cover Crop Premium Discount Program (CCPDP). It is a program that provides a discount on crop insurance for planting cover crops. CCPDP assisted landowners in planting about 30 thousand acres of cover crops in 2022.  
The conservation transect is a visual survey of cropland in the state. It was conducted between March and May 2023 by members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership, including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana’s Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Purdue Extension, as well as Earth Team volunteers, to show a more complete story of the state’s conservation efforts.

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# Ivy Tech Hamilton County partners with DriveCo CDL Learning Center

The REPORTER

Ivy Tech Community College Hamilton County has announced a new partnership with DriveCo CDL Learning Center, a leading truck driving school, to provide comprehensive training and career opportunities in the trucking industry.

The trucking industry needs more than 400,000 new drivers every year. If you're looking for an in-demand and financially rewarding career, consider CDL Training at Ivy Tech

Community College.

This collaboration aims to address the growing demand for skilled truck drivers and empower individuals with the necessary skills for a rewarding career in transportation.

Through this partnership, Ivy Tech Hamilton County students will have access to DriveCo CDL Learning Center's industry-leading Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training program. DriveCo CDL Learning Center's experienced instructors will

provide hands-on training and instruction, covering essential driving techniques, safety protocols, and industry regulations. Students will also gain proficiency in vehicle inspection, maneuvering, and defensive driving skills.

"We are excited to partner with DriveCo CDL Learning Center to offer our students a direct pathway to the thriving trucking industry," said Rachel Kartz, Interim Chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College Hamilton County. "This

collaboration aligns with Ivy Tech's commitment to providing our students with high-quality education and career opportunities in growing sectors. The trucking industry offers stability, excellent earning potential, and the chance to play a crucial role in keeping our economy moving."

The program will be open to individuals seeking to enhance their career prospects in the trucking field. Students who successfully complete the CDL training program will

## CDL Learning Center Training

The cost of the program is \$4,550 and will be held from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Here is the 2023 enrollment training schedule:

Start Date	Completion Date
Aug. 14	Sept. 7
Sept. 11	Oct. 5
Oct. 9	Nov. 22
Oct. 30	Nov. 30
Dec. 4	Jan. 5

receive a certificate of completion from DriveCo CDL Learning Center, demonstrating their proficiency and readiness for employment. In addition, they will sit for the State CDL Skills Test to obtain their Commercial Driver's License.

"Our partnership with Ivy Tech Hamilton County allows us to combine our expertise in CDL training with Ivy Tech's reputable educational programs," said Karen Orosz, School Director of DriveCo CDL Learning Center. "We are proud

to contribute to the development of a highly skilled workforce that meets the industry's demands. Through this collaboration, we are fostering opportunities for career growth and economic prosperity."

To learn more about the Ivy Tech Hamilton County and DriveCo CDL Learning Center partnership, interested individuals can contact Julie Miller at [julie.mitchell@driveco.org](mailto:julie.mitchell@driveco.org), by calling (317) 779-0551, or by [completing the interest form](#).

## Westfield man sentenced to 30 years for child abuse & sexual exploitation

The REPORTER

Kevin Troutman, 45, Westfield, has been sentenced to 30 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to sexually exploiting two minors and possession of child sexual abuse material.

According to court documents, on Jan. 24, 2022, Westfield Police Department detectives and the Hamilton County Metro Child Exploitation Task Force opened an investigation into Troutman after receiving an online tip submitted to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. The tipster stated that they walked in on Troutman viewing an image of the sexual exploitation of a 4- to 6-year-old girl.

After an investigation, on Jan. 27, 2022, officers executed a search warrant at Troutman's home in Westfield. Police seized numerous electronic devices and data storage media, which were found to contain multiple sexually explicit images or videos of children.

Further investigation of Troutman's cell phone revealed that he had been anonymously searching the internet for child sexual abuse material using an encrypted browser. A complete investigation of his devices revealed evidence showing his sexual exploitation of a child less than 14 years old and the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of a child who was less than 6 years old.

In 1997, Troutman was convicted of Vicarious Sexual Gratification, a Class C felony. Due to his previous felony conviction, he was registered as a Sexually Violent Predator in Indiana at the time of this arrest.

"Across nearly three decades, the defendant sexually abused or exploited at least three different children and gratified himself through the exploitation of many more," said Zachary A. Myers, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. "There is no place in our communities for dangerous, repeat child predators. The sentence imposed today shows that our office, HSI, and local child exploitation task force partners will work tirelessly to ensure these heinous offend-

ers are behind bars, where they cannot cause further harm to our children."

"HSI works with its local, state and federal partners around the clock to protect children from victimization by predators involved with the production, distribution and possession of child sexual abuse material," said Sean Fitzgerald, HSI Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago area of operations. "Because of exceptional efforts by our HSI agents, a previously convicted child sex offender has been sent to federal prison to serve a lengthy sentence, where he will be unable to victimize other vulnerable children."

This investigation was a result of the combined efforts of Homeland Security Investigations, the Fishers Police Department, Westfield Police Department, Carmel Police Department, and the Hamilton County Metro Child Exploitation Task Force. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Court Judge Sarah Evans Barker.

Judge Barker also ordered that Troutman be supervised by the U.S. Probation Office for life following his release from federal prison and pay \$10,000 to each victim. Additionally, he must remain registered as a sex offender wherever he lives, works, or goes to school, as required by law.

U.S. Attorney Myers thanked Assistant United States Attorney Kristina M. Korobov, who prosecuted this case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [justice.gov/psc](https://www.justice.gov/psc).



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# Tickets on sale now for ISO's Opening Night Gala

## The REPORTER

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) welcomes back Indiana Living Legend and Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell along with the ISO's fourth Music Director John Nelson for the 2023 Opening Night Gala. For an unforgettable experience at this premier event of the fall season in Indianapolis, dinner packages are available through the ISO Box Office at (317) 639-4300. Single tickets for the concert are also available to the public at the Box Office or via the [ISO's website](#).

Join the ISO as we welcome back superstar Hoosier violinist Joshua Bell performing Bruch's passionate First Violin Concerto. Former ISO Music Director John Nelson leads a program that includes Mendelssohn's joyful "Italian" Symphony. Soprano Larisa Martinez, who performed with Andrea Bocelli and the ISO in 2022 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, brings her stunning operatic talent to the Hilbert Circle Theatre stage for Mendelssohn's *Ah, ritorna, eta dell'oro*.

"The ISO is thrilled to welcome Joshua Bell to celebrate the ISO's 2023 Opening Night Gala and share his iconic talent with our community," ISO CEO James M. Johnson. "We are also eager for this exciting collaboration featuring John Nelson, the ISO's former music director. This tremendous event is a fitting way to begin a new ISO season offering life-changing musical experiences through the stunning work of our world-class orchestra and brilliant guest artists."

The Gala is the ISO's largest fundraising event of the year and is featured as part of the IU Health Plans Classical Series presented by the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation. The Gala concert takes place at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the historic Hilbert Circle Theatre in downtown Indianapolis. The performance is followed by the Opening Night Gala dinner at 8 p.m. to celebrate the start of the fall season at the Indiana Roof Ballroom, 140 W. Washington St., Indianapolis.

Performance begins at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 23 at Hilbert Circle Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Reception and dinner is held at the Indiana Roof Ballroom. **Tickets are available now.** Patrons may buy concert tickets only, or a package for the concert and dinner. Proceeds from the reception and dinner support ISO programs and purchases may be tax deductible, in part. For information regarding the policies of the Hilbert Circle Theatre, please visit the [ISO website](#).

### About Joshua Bell

With a career spanning almost four decades, GRAMMY Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell is one of the most celebrated artists of his era. Having performed with virtually every major orchestra in the world, Bell continues to maintain engagements as soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, conductor, and Music Director of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields.

Bell's highlights in the 2022-23 season included leading the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields on tour in South America to Sao Paulo, Bogotá, and Montevideo as well in Europe, in Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Denmark, and the United Kingdom. Joshua appears in guest performances with the Berlin Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France, Sofia Philharmonic, Franz Schubert Filharmonia as well as a European tour with pianist Peter Dugan. This season in the U.S., Bell will perform alongside the New York Philharmonic, as well as the San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Houston, Baltimore, and New Jersey Symphony Orchestras.

Born in Bloomington, Ind., Bell began the violin at age four, and at age 12, began studies with his mentor, Josef Gingold. At age 14, Bell debuted with Riccardo Muti and the Philadelphia Orchestra, and made his Carnegie Hall debut at age 17 with the St. Louis Symphony. At age 18, Bell signed with his first label, London Decca, and received the Avery Fisher Career Grant. In the years following, Bell has been named 2010 "Instrumentalist of the

Year" by Musical America, a 2007 "Young Global Leader" by the World Economic Forum, nominated for six GRAMMY awards, and received the 2007 Avery Fisher Prize. He has also received the 2003 Indiana Governor's Arts Award and a Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 1991 from the Jacobs School of Music. In 2000, he was named an "Indiana Living Legend."

Bell performs on the 1713 Huberman Stradivarius violin.

### About John Nelson

John Nelson served as the ISO's Music Director from 1976 to 1987. He is recognized worldwide as one of America's most eminent conductors, as well as the leading living interpreter of the music of Hector Berlioz. In 2018, Nelson stole headlines the world over by way of outstanding critical reception to his complete recording of Berlioz's *Les Troyens*. Recorded for Warner Classics/Erato with the Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg, the recording met with universal acclaim. To mark the 150th anniversary of Berlioz's death, Nelson led a performance of Berlioz's *Requiem* (2019) – in London's iconic St. Paul's Cathedral.

The 2022-2023 season saw Nelson conduct Handel's *Messiah* at Coventry Cathedral and lead a star-studded performance of Bizet's Carmen at the Royal Albert Hall, London (joined by Joyce DiDonato and the Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg). Additionally, he performed and recorded both Mozart's Requiem (Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne), and Berlioz's *Lélio & Symphonie fantastique* (Royal Danish Orchestra).

Over a career spanning some five decades, Nelson has conducted the world's leading orchestras and ensembles in North America, Europe, and Asia, including the orchestras of Boston, Los Angeles, New York, Montréal, London Philharmonic, London Symphony, Madrid Symphony RTVE, Orchestre de Paris, China Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, and many more. Nelson studied at the Juilliard School in New

York, where he received the Irving Berlin Conducting Prize. Over the course of his career, he has served as Music Director of the ISO, the Opera Theater of St. Louis, the Caramoor Music Festival in New York and the Orchestre de chambre de Paris.

### About Larisa Martinez

Puerto Rican opera singer Larisa Martinez has been praised and sought after for her "smoky soprano" (*Opera News*), gracing many of the world's top opera and concert stages, including recent debuts as a soloist at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden, and the Hollywood Bowl.

This season, Larisa makes her debuts with the Colorado Symphony and Indianapolis Symphony, as well as at the Verbier Festival, performing "Voice and the Violin" with violinist Joshua Bell, a program that explores repertoire ranging from classical art song and opera, to musical theater, to a series of selections by Puerto Rican and Spanish composers. Over the last two years, "Voice and the Violin" has been presented at the Brevard Music Center, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Chautauqua Amphitheater, with the Hawaii Symphony, and at the Ravinia Festival, among others.

Larisa's recent roles include Violetta in *La Traviata*, conducted by Eugene Kohn (Wichita Grand Opera), Sophie alongside tenor Piotr Beczala in *Werther* (Culturarte), and Maria in *West Side Story* conducted by Lawrence Foster with tenor Michael Fabiano (Festival Napa Valley). In 2019, Larisa made her Kennedy Center debut in recital and Carnegie Hall Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage debut, singing Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with the Athens Philharmonic under the baton of Yiannis Hadjiloizou. In 2020, she appeared with the Grand Rapids Symphony, performing Heitor Villa-Lobos' *Floresta do Amazonas*. Other concert appearances include Mahler's Symphony No. 4 and Mozart's Requiem in D minor and *Voci di Domani*, presented by Renata Scotto and recorded by Euroclassics in Rome.

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

*And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."*

*So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."*

Genesis 9:12-17 (NIV)

## Florabelle Alcera Samson

October 28, 1971 – July 23, 2023

Florabelle Alcera Samson, 51, loving mother of six, and



adoring wife to Alvin, went home to be with our Creator on Sunday, July 23, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer. Belle, as she was fondly known by many, was born on October 28, 1971, to Vicente Alcera Sr. and Gloria (Sia) Alcera in Zamboanga City in the Philippines.

Born and raised in the city of Zamboanga, Florabelle grew up surrounded by a large family. She had six siblings and a lot of aunts, uncles, and cousins. In high school, she attended Western Mindanao State University. She then pursued her bachelor's in physical therapy and graduated from Emilio Aguinaldo College in Manila, Philippines, in March of 1993. She practiced her profession as a Physical Therapist in the U.S. for over 30 years.

Florabelle attended Northview Church in Carmel. She served the community in several events including 'Good Neighbor,' meal-packing, and donating generously. Through Northview, she also sponsored a 'World Vision' kid, Abdul Wahab, in Ghandi, Africa.

Belle enjoyed taking pictures and videos of everything and everyone for memories, even when her phone ran out of space three times. She enjoyed cherishing moments with her family, spending time with her friends, playing with the family dog Kona, eating her favorite Filipino desserts, watching tennis, staying active, and visiting as many places as she could.

She was an amazing daughter, caring sister, loving mother, loyal friend, and trusted co-worker to many. Her beautiful smile, unique laugh, silly jokes, and soothing hugs will sorely be missed, as well as her great strength, amazing confidence, remarkable determination, unwavering care, and immeasurable selflessness.

She is survived by her loving husband, Alvin; six children, Tara Claudine, Vince Delvic, Alexis Isabel, Nathaniel Alvin, Hannah Grace, and Ayden Josiah; as well as her siblings, Richard (Margaret) Alcera, Diana (John) Schilling, Jocelyn Nazario, and Anthony (Gloria) Alcera.

In addition to her parents, Florabelle was preceded in death by her brother, Vicente Alcera, Jr.

There will be a visitation will be from 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 29, 2023, and a service for those who would like to say their last goodbye to Florabelle at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 30, 2023, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers.

Condolences may be written at [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com).

# Thanks for reading The Reporter!

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# Girls golf kicks off fall sports season

**The REPORTER**

The 2023-24 IHSAA sports year is about to begin, as fall sports officially starts on Monday with girls golf.

The fall season is always an eventful one, especially in Hamilton County. Flash-back to last season: Noblesville picked up three state championships in one day, as girls cross country won its first-ever state title, then the girls and boys soccer team scored a rare sweep of state championships later that afternoon.

Carmel is looking to defend its girls golf state championship, and the Greyhounds boys cross country team will try for another state trophy. Hamilton Southeastern powered its way to a first-ever volleyball state title, and the Royals football team won a regional championship.

This year will see a few significant changes in the post-season. The biggest change comes in cross country, as the tournament has been reduced from four weeks to three weeks. The boys tennis tournament has been realigned, with some local teams moving to new sectionals. And girls golf, after the addition of a sixth regional last season, will see a slight adjustment to that sport's advancement policy.

**Girls golf**

Since girls golf tees off on Monday, let's start with that sport. The sectionals involving Hamilton County teams will not change from last year. Guerin Catholic will host Sectional 13 at Pebble Brook Golf Club in Noblesville, a nine-team site. The other teams participating are Brebeuf Jesuit, Cardinal Ritter, Carmel, Lebanon, Pike, Speedway, University and Westfield.

Noblesville High School will again host Sectional 16, at the Millers' home course of Harbour Trees Golf Club. This sectional will feature 11 teams; Noblesville joins Alexandria, Anderson, Elwood, Fishers, Frankton, Hamilton Heights, Hamilton Southeastern, Lapel, Pendleton Heights and Tipton.

Both sectionals are slated to take place on Monday, Sept. 18. As always, the top three teams and top three individuals not on an advancing team will move to the regional round on Saturday, Sept. 23, and that round will feature the slight change.

Teams advancing from Pebble Brook will play at the Lafayette Jefferson regional at Battleground Golf Club, while the qualifying golfers from Harbour Trees will participate in the Lapel regional at Edgewood Golf Club. Again, the top three

teams from each regional will move on to the state meet.

This year, the top three individuals at each regional will also advance. That is a change from last year, where only the top two individuals moved on. A study took place to see if having three individual advancers would work. During the June 22 **IHSAA executive committee meeting**, assistant commissioner Chris Kaufman "indicated that the IHSAA, the Indiana High School Golf Coaches Association and Prairie View Golf Club, the host of the state finals, are receptive to and could accommodate an additional advancing individual player from each regional to the state finals for a total of 108 total golfers."

With that, a motion was made to change the format, and it was approved 17-0. As a result, a third individual player will advance along with the top two. The state meet at Prairie View will take place on Friday, Sept. 29 and Saturday, Sept. 30.

**Boys tennis**

While there is no format change for the boys tennis tournament, there will be shuffling among the sectional sites. These were approved at the May 2 IHSAA executive committee meeting.

Sectional 31 will consist of Anderson, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern and Pendleton Heights. The site was not known as of press time. Carmel will host Sectional 35, welcoming Guerin Catholic, University and Zionsville to the Todd Witsken Tennis Center. Noblesville will host Sectional 56, along with Hamilton Heights, Lapel and Westfield. All sectionals take place the week of Sept. 26.

In the regional round, scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 3 and Wednesday, Oct. 4, the Sectional 31 winner will play at Mount Vernon for the Regional 8 title. The Sectional 35 champion heads to Zionsville for the Regional 9 championship. Noblesville will also host Regional 14, which is where the Sectional 56 champion will play.

All three regional winners will travel to different semi-states on Saturday, Oct. 7: The Mount Vernon regional champion goes to Center Grove, the Zionsville champion heads to Culver Academies, and the Noblesville champion heads to Homestead. The semi-states will again crown two champions at each site.

The state quarterfinals will be played at Carmel and Center Grove on Friday, Oct. 13, with the semifinals



The Carmel girls golf team was in celebration mode all throughout the post-season in 2022, winning sectional, regional (pictured here) and state championships. Girls golf practices begin today, with the season starting on Monday.

and state championship matches returning to North Central on Saturday, Oct. 14 after the Panthers completed construction at the Barbara Wynne Tennis Center.

**Flag football**

Flag football sectionals are scheduled for Sept. 30. Carmel, Fishers, Hamilton Heights and Noblesville will play in Sectional 5, with the site to be announced. Westfield will debut a flag football team this year, it is not known as of press time which sectional it will compete in.

**Boys and girls soccer**

The soccer post-season begins with sectionals for both boys and girls during the week of Oct. 2.

In Class 3A boys, Noblesville hosts Sectional 8, joining with Anderson, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Muncie Central and Pendleton Heights. Zionsville hosts Sectional 10, welcoming Carmel, Crispus Attucks, Herron, North Central, Shortridge and Westfield.

Guerin Catholic hosts Class 2A Sectional 27, with Brebeuf Jesuit, Cardinal Ritter, Hamilton Heights, Heritage Christian and Tri-West also playing there. The two Class 1A soccer schools play at different sites: Sheridan goes to Sectional 39 at Anderson Prep Academy, along with Liberty Christian, Muncie Burris, Taylor and Tri-Central. Meanwhile, University plays in Sectional 40 at Park Tudor, joining International, Metropolitan, Seecina and Tindley.

In girls Class 3A sectionals, Hamilton Southeastern will be the host of Sectional 8 this year. The Royals welcome the same teams as the boys: Anderson, Fishers, Muncie Central, Noblesville and Pendleton Heights. Carmel hosts Sectional 10, welcoming Arsenal Tech, Crispus Attucks, North Central, Westfield and Zionsville.

The Class 2A county schools head in different directions. Hamilton Heights will play in Sectional 24 at Yorktown, along with Centerville, Delta, Jay County and New Castle. Guerin Catholic travels to Sectional 26 at Speedway, joining Bishop Chatard, Brebeuf Jesuit, Indianapolis Washington and Lebanon.

Sheridan will host Class 1A Sectional 37, welcoming Eastern, Rossville, Taylor, Tipton and Tri-Central. University heads to Cardinal Ritter for Sectional 42, along with Covenant Christian, International, Riverside and Traders Point Christian.

In the regional semifinals, the winner of even-numbered sectionals will play a midweek game (boys on Wednesday, Oct. 11, girls on Thursday, Oct. 12) at the winner of the odd-numbered sectional right above it. That breaks down as follows:

- Sectional 8 plays at Sectional 7
- Sectional 10 plays at Sectional 9
- Sectional 24 plays at Sectional 23
- Sectional 26 plays at Sectional 25

- Sectional 28 plays at Sectional 27
- Sectional 38 plays at Sectional 37
- Sectional 40 plays at Sectional 39
- Sectional 42 plays at Sectional 41

As for the Saturday, Oct. 14 regional championships, the feeder regionals are as follows:

**Boys:** Noblesville at Kokomo, Zionsville at Carmel, Guerin Catholic at Bishop Chatard, Anderson Prep and Park Tudor at Taylor.

**Girls:** Hamilton Southeastern at Kokomo, Carmel at Carmel, Yorktown at Norwell, Speedway at Bishop Chatard, Sheridan at Taylor, Cardinal Ritter at Knightstown.

The semi-states will take place on Saturday, Oct. 21, with the classes and genders divided among four sites: Kokomo, Chesterton, Evansville North and a site to be determined (Seymour was to host, but construction is preventing that this year). The state finals are set for Friday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Oct. 28 at IUPUI's Michael Carroll Stadium.

**Volleyball**

Carmel will host Class 4A Sectional 8 this year, with the usual slate of teams: Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Noblesville, Westfield and Zionsville. Guerin Catholic and Hamilton Heights both play in Class 3A Sectional 27 at Bishop Chatard, along with Heritage Christian, Herron and Shortridge. Sheridan hosts

Class 2A Sectional 43, welcoming Cascade, Covenant Christian, Park Tudor and University. Sectionals take place on Thursday, Oct. 12 and Saturday, Oct. 14.

In the regional round, set for Saturday, Oct. 21, the Carmel winner plays in Regional 2 at Homestead; the Spartans are the new host after a few years at Noblesville. The Bishop Chatard champion heads to Monrovia for Regional 7 action, while the Sheridan winner will compete in Regional 11 at Cascade.

The Homestead champion plays in the 4A North semi-state at either Huntington North or Frankfort, while the 3A Monrovia and 2A Cascade winners play in the South semi-state, at either Columbus East and Jasper. All semi-states take place on Saturday, Oct. 28, with the winners heading to Ball State University for the state finals on Saturday, Nov. 4.

**Cross country**

With the tournament being truncated to three weeks, cross country sectionals will now take place on Saturday, Oct. 14. With the realignment, there will be 25 sectional sites.

Noblesville will host Sectional 16, one of 16 schools at this site. The other teams at the sectional will be Anderson, Anderson Prep Academy, Fishers, Guerin Catholic, Hamilton Southeastern, Lapel, Lebanon,

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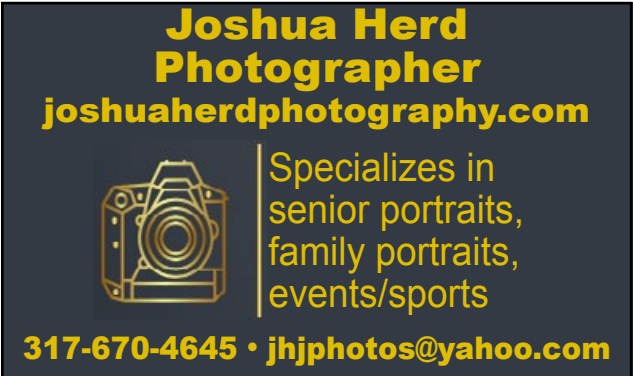


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## Star Southeastern athlete Ty Bradle headed to Ball State

### The REPORTER

Ty Bradle, a recent Hamilton Southeastern graduate, is flying to the home of the Cardinals.

The Royals football and baseball star announced Thursday on Twitter that he will be attending Ball State University "to further my academic and athletic career. Ready to work," he said.

Before making the announcement, Bradle said that much had transpired "over the last several months

that has resulted in new opportunities and a change of heart." Bradle had committed to Lincoln Trail College before making the switch to Ball State.

One of the Reporter's Baseball Players of the Year, Bradle was a two-way star for Southeastern, leading the team to regional championships during the 2022-23 school year in both football and baseball. Bradle was 9-1 as a Royals pitcher with 97 strikeouts and a 1.00 earned-run average.

## Carmel swimmer Alex Shackell earns silver medal at World Aquatics Championship

### The REPORTER

Carmel swimmer Alex Shackell earned the first of what will probably be many medals in her swimming career on Thursday.

The Greyhounds incoming junior was part of the United States Women's 4x200 freestyle relay at the 2023 World Aquatics Championships, which are taking place now in Fukuoka, Japan. Shackell anchored the American team on its way to a second-place finish. The team's time of 7 minutes,

41.38 seconds earned the U.S. a silver medal.

Shackell swam the relay with Katie Ledecy, Erin Gemmell and Bella Sims. The team finished behind only Australia, which set a new world record in the event by clocking in at 7:37.50, a new world record. Shackell later told [swimswam.com](http://swimswam.com) that she was "surprised to be put on the anchor but didn't question her coaches decision and made the most of the opportunity."

# Anthony Richardson does 'nice job' during first day of Colts training camp

By ANDREW CHERNOFF  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

**WESTFIELD** — The Indianapolis Colts held their first practice of training camp on Wednesday morning.

The practiced marked the beginning of a new era for the Colts, as the team's "quarterback of the future," Anthony Richardson, hit the field for the first time in front of the fans.

"I was definitely excited because the coaches, they do a great job of preparing us," Richardson said. "We got to do a great job of preparing ourselves. The QB room, they are going to continue to push me to be better. I was definitely excited to just come out here and showcase what I am able to do."

Colts head coach Shane Steichen said it was solid start at training camp for the rookie quarterback.

"I thought he did a nice job," Steichen said. "I think what he did in the spring, learning the system and then carrying it over to today, I thought he made some good plays. Obviously, we were



Photo courtesy WISH-TV

down there in the tight red zone so we didn't have deep balls or anything, but making the right decisions, making the right reads — he did a nice job."

One of the biggest things Richardson is having to adjust to is the pace of practices in the NFL, like the one-hour practice the Colts had on Wednesday.

"It's definitely fast, it's keeping me in shape for sure," Richardson said. "My first practice, I'm like, 'Wow, this is definitely a fast pace.' Cramming all

that within an hour, it definitely gets things rolling. You've got to be on point so details definitely matter."

A big question many Colts fans are asking is: "Which quarterback will be the starter come week one of the regular season?"

On Wednesday, it was quarterback Gardner Minshew who took first-team reps, although Steichen said that the quarterbacks would all get reps playing with the first-team.

"For me competitiveness isn't wanting him to be bad

so I can be good," Minshew said. "I want him to be great, so I have to be even better. That's how I think you have to see it. I don't want an easy competition. I want it as hard as possible, and I want him to be so freaking good that I have to bring my level that much higher. I think we are all going to keep pushing each other, but at the end of the day we are all just trying to win."

The Colts will have another training camp practice Friday morning at Grand Park.

## FALL PREVIEW

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## IHSAA partners with Eventlink as Official Ticketing Provider

### The REPORTER

The Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) has partnered with Eventlink® to streamline its ticketing process for all IHSAA events. Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, Eventlink Tickets will serve as the exclusive platform for online and mobile ticketing, providing a seamless and user-friendly experience for schools, athletic directors, and fans.

**Eventlink Tickets** will enable fans to purchase tickets conveniently through credit and debit cards from the comfort of their devices, facilitating swift and secure transactions.

"We are excited to be

the official ticketing provider for the IHSAA," said Brandon Smith, Director of Eventlink. "With our advanced ticketing solutions, we aim to enhance the event experience for our customers and elevate the way IHSAA events are accessed and enjoyed."

"Eventlink is a leader in innovation and providing a best-in-class experience," says IHSAA Commissioner Paul Neidig. "We are very excited to partner with a brand whose software will assist our member schools athletic departments and enhance the ticketing experience for Indiana high school sports fans throughout the year and across all sports."

Liberty Christian, Pendleton Heights, Shenandoah, Sheridan, Tipton, Tri-Central and Westfield.

Carmel and University will compete at Sectional 13, another 16-team site that will be hosted by North Central. The other schools competing will be Bishop Chatard, Crispus Attucks, Heritage Christian, Herron, Indiana School for the Deaf, Indianapolis Washington, International, Park Tudor, Riverside, Shortridge, Tindley, Western Boone and Zionsville.

The advancing teams and individuals from North Central will compete in the Brownsburg regional, while the Noblesville advancers travel to the Shelbyville regional. Both take place on Saturday, Oct. 21.

The state finals will again

be at Terre Haute's LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course, on Saturday, Oct. 28. The top five teams and top 15 individuals not on an advancing team will move from the sectional to the regional, then also from the regional to state.

### Football

The draw for the football tournament is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 8. Hamilton

County teams will compete in the following sectionals:

In Class 6A, Sectional 3 consists of Fishers, Fort Wayne Northrop, Hamilton Southeastern and Homestead. Sectional 4 features Carmel, Noblesville, Westfield and Zionsville.

Guerin Catholic and Hamilton Heights will compete in Class 3A Sectional 28, along with Bishop Cha-

tard, Maconaquah, Northwestern, Oak Hill, Peru and Tippecanoe Valley. Sheridan will play in Class 1A Sectional 45, joining Anderson Prep Academy, Hagerstown, Indiana School for the Deaf, Monroe Central, Tindley, Union City and Wes-Del.

Sectionals begin the week of Oct. 20 for the 3A and 1A schools, and on Oct. 27 for the 6A schools.



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