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**SATURDAY, SEPT. 30, 2023**

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**TODAY'S WEATHER**

  
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.com

# Heights FFA members among Top 10 in Skillathon Competition

**The REPORTER**  
Earlier this month, Hamilton Heights FFA members traveled to the Boone County Fairgrounds to compete in the Area Livestock Skillathon contest. These students had been preparing for a long time to bring their best to the competition, and they did not disappoint. The contest consisted of four areas of identification and knowledge-based tests. As part of the identification, students needed to know: 1) Breed Identification (know the name of the breed along with the description of the breed, so where it comes from and what its purpose is; 2) Feed Identification (What is the feed along with the category it fits into: protein, energy, mineral); 3)



**Hamilton Heights FFA Skillathon Team competitors were among the best in the area.** Equipment Identification (name the piece of equipment) and 4) Meats Identification - this is the hardest ID pieces of the contest. Students must be able to identify the species it comes from (beef, pork, or lamb), what primal it comes from (example: loin, rib, leg, round, etc.), the retail name (porterhouse, T-bone, rib roast, etc.).

**See FFA . . . Page 2**

## Love is in the air

When I was a kid, my family used to camp at Lincoln Boyhood State Park in southern Indiana. I looked forward to these excursions for one reason: Angie F, who camped with her family at the state park too. Meeting Angie F marked the moment I first discovered girls. Angie F and I were in the same grade. She lived an hour from Tell City. We wrote letters to each other during the school months when our campers were mothballed. How I loved finding letters from Angie F in our mailbox. There was nothing more exotic in my late boyhood than Angie F. Suddenly, camping took on a whole new meaning. It did not mean campfires and hotdogs. It did not mean swimming and fishing. It meant one thing: seeing Angie F (even if only in the form of a fleeting glimpse of her, similar to a random Big Foot sighting). The older, muscled, blonde lifeguards took a shine to her, too. I didn't have a prayer, but oh, that didn't keep me from hearing the heavenly angels singing her name. Enter Lincoln's dreaded fire tower, a steel structure standing 120 feet tall on the other side of the lake. I avoided the tower like the plague. I hated heights. Imagine my dismay when, after hiking halfway around the lake with Angie F and her girlfriends – no I wasn't stalking them; I was invited – the girls chose to break from the main path and take an uphill trail leading to the fire tower. They were excited about their prospective climb to the tower's top. At the top of the hill, I stared straight up. Six flights of steps zig zagged skyward within the structure's shaky, metal framework, a small platform atop each section, as if serving as a base camp for climbers to pause in their ascension and adjust to thinner air. Remember the three words famous adventurer George Mallory said when the *New York Times* asked him why he wanted to climb Mt. Everest? That's right. He said, "Because it's there." Well, one look at the Lincoln Boyhood State Park tower of terror and he probably would've said, "It's there alright, but I'm not climbing that rickety damn thing." From the ground, I watched Angie F and her friends make their noisy ascension to the final flight of shaky steps and then disappear one by one into the observation deck at the top. They poked their heads out the windows and stared down at me staring up at them. Their distant, shrill voices



# Westfield Lions & Elevance Health team up to fight food insecurity

*Grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation helps fund service project*

**The REPORTER**  
The Westfield Lions Club recently received a \$2,250 grant from a partnership between the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and Elevance Health Foundation. When Lions Club member Carrie Larrison learned that the grants being offered by LCIF could be used to assist with food insecurity in the community, she immediately thought of Open Doors Food pantry, where she is vice president of special projects. Open Doors provides "Weekend Food Bags" that are distributed to students in Westfield schools. In addition to the grant money, employees from Anthem Health in Indianapolis, as well as several members of the Westfield Lions Club, volunteered to organize and pack the food that was then distributed to the schools for October. Currently, there are 219 students



**The Westfield Lions Club, employees of Anthem Health, and Open Doors Food Pantry volunteers came together help pack Weekend Food Bags for Westfield students. Westfield Lions (wearing yellow shirt) included Melissa Paradise and Carrie Larrison (front row) and Kathy and Jim Kahler (back row). Open Doors volunteers (wearing green shirts) included Kari Pitre and Andrea Mikels.**

**See Team Up . . . Page 3**

**See In the Air . . . Page 3**

## Help GSN make holiday season a little bit brighter

*Tickets & sponsorships available for Festival of Trees*

**The REPORTER**  
Good Samaritan Network (GSN) of Hamilton County, Inc., a local non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, has announced its annual Hamilton County Festival of Trees. The return of this holiday tradition marks a significant impact for the underserved, at-risk, and underserved Hamilton County families with critical programming for shelter, holiday, and food assistance. Whether you're looking for inspiration to decorate your own tree or simply want to revel in the magical atmosphere, the 2023 Festival of Trees is the perfect place to kick-start your holiday season.

The 10th annual Festival of Trees will be held at 6 p.m. on Nov. 18 with an onsite live auction, as well as a silent auction. This unforgettable evening will take place at the beautiful Renaissance Indianapolis North Hotel, 11925 N. Meridian St., Carmel. The evening will include a dinner, a keynote speaker, a surprise guest, and an auction including custom-designed themed Christmas trees, wreaths, and table centerpieces – all hand-decorated by local designers specifically as fundraising pieces. Purchased trees (five feet and taller) will be professionally delivered free to the purchaser's residence or address of choice the Monday following the event.

**See Trees . . . Page 3**



## Hamilton County court magistrate earns ISBA award

**The REPORTER**  
Congratulations to the 2023 ISBA Family & Juvenile Law Section's Nanette K. Raduenz Award winner, Hamilton County Court Magistrate Drew Bloch. The Nanette K. Raduenz Award is given every other year to honor a judicial officer who has gone above and beyond to improve the judiciary. He was presented the award by incoming ISBA President Tom Felts on Sept. 14. Mag. Bloch was recognized for his activity in both the ISBA Family Law Section and many other organizations. He has served on several boards and committees, presented at numerous seminars, and helped revise family law guidelines. "He commands respect and decorum in his courtroom by example, not by words," one of his nominators wrote. "Magistrate Bloch continues to show family law-and, more importantly, the children, parents, and spouses involved in family law cases – great respect."



**Photo provided**



FFA

from Page 1

etc.) and cookery (how is it cooked: Dry, Moist or Dry/Moist).

Two other components of the contest are knowledge test based through 1) an Industry Quiz (25 questions of animal industry all around knowledge) and 2) Quality Assurance Test (20 questions – students need to know how to read medicine/feed labels and answer questions about those feed/medicines).

**HHHS Juniors – 10th Team/Junior Division**  
• Team members: Brooke McMillen, Abbie Sheller, Kaylee Smith, and Leah Happel

**SENIOR DIVISION**  
**HH FFA Gold – 2nd Team: Advancing to State**  
• Madison McLendon - 4th individual  
• Lauren Happel - 7th individual  
• Cheyenne Boggs 17th individual  
• Cooper Rollins - 40th individual

**HHHS 4-H Gold – 4th Team: Advancing to State**  
• Tatym Green - 10th individual  
• Quentin Derrer - 11th individual  
• Kaden Derrer - 14th individual  
• Jenna Schnarr - 18th individual

**HHHS FFA Orange – 7th Team**  
• Marshall Frye - 13th individual  
• Ryann Liggett - 24th individual  
• Jasmine Smith - 36th individual  
• Keagan Shively - 70th individual  
**Individual**  
• Sophia Hulen - 43rd individual

Overall, there were 35 seniors’ teams, and 129 individuals. In the junior division there were 14 teams and 58 individuals that participated in this competition. “I am super proud of all of these members for preparing and attending the contest and then for all of them to do so well!” Hamilton Heights FFA Advisor Emilie Carson said. “If you look at our scores overall, our members are all stacked up right together and to me that’s a win in itself. Then on top of that, all our teams are in the top 10! INCREDIBLE! This is one of my favorite events as an agriculture educator to coach and see my students succeed in and Wednesday was the perfect storm. Our area is stacked with tough competition, and we are proud to have two of the four teams advancing to state. Over the next few weeks, we will be working hard to prepare for the state competition at Purdue on October 7.”





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Photos provided  
(TOP LEFT) HHHS FFA Juniors 10th Team. (From left) Leah Happel, Annie Sheller, Abbie Sheller, Kaylee Smith, and Brooklyn McMillen. (TOP RIGHT) HHHS FFA Orange 7th Team. (From left) Jasmine Smith, Marshall Frye, Ryann Liggett, and Keagan Shively. (ABOVE LEFT) HHHS FFA Gold 4th Team. (From left) Kaden Derrer, Tatym Green, Jenna Schnarr, and Quentin Derrer. This team placed fourth at area and is advancing to state the state competition. Here they will be met with more activities including team events. (ABOVE RIGHT) HHHS FFA Gold 2nd Team. (From left) Lauren Happel, Cheyenne Boggs, Madison McLendon, and Cooper Rollins. This team placed second at area, earning a spot at the state competition on Oct. 7 at Purdue University. This next level will include team activities like quality assurance, keep/cull classes, marketing, and meat, hay, and wool judging classes.

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TEAM UP

in Westfield receiving these food bags every week.

To keep the program going, Open Doors needs approximately 9,000 food items every month. This includes almost 500 each of canned pasta meals, individual mac and cheese pouches and cups, condensed chicken and noodle soup, cereal, oatmeal packets, Pop-Tarts, and various snacks like fruit cups and applesauce.

Open Doors needs the public's help in collecting the food items it distributes to the students each month. For a complete list of items that are needed, community members are encouraged to

visit [opendoorswestfield.org](http://opendoorswestfield.org) or visit the [Amazon Wish List](#).

**About LCIF**

For more than 50 years, LCIF has been strengthening communities and assisting those in need through humanitarian services and grants. LCIF is recognized as one of the most financially effective charitable organizations in the world with 100 percent of the funds raised going to help those in need, including millions of dollars annually to disaster relief efforts around the world. For more information on LCIF and how to support it, go to [LionsClubs.org](http://LionsClubs.org).



Photo provided by Westfield Lions Club

IN THE AIR

eventually reached into my hearing: "C'mon up!" I pretended not to hear. Feigned a shoe tie. I secretly hoped one of the girls would accidentally fall out, justifying my cowardice. I wouldn't even try to catch them ... well ... unless it was Angie F.

When the girls returned safely to earth, Angie F seemed more than a bit distant to me. I felt ashamed for my cowardly display. I vowed to myself then and there that I would not chicken out should I be given another chance to climb the fire tower with Angie F. I was desperate for redemption.

Sadly, though, our families never ended up at Lincoln at the same time after that. Angie F and I lost touch. The letters stopped arriving, as if the country was experiencing a postage stamp shortage. We never reconnected. Damn fire tower.

But, alas, I returned to the fire tower in 2017 (40 years later), this time with a new girl in the early stages of our courtship. Brynne Beason was her name. I actually coaxed enough courage to climb the tower with her, even taking the lead. I was a middle-aged man with something to prove. I did not want to lose Brynne Beason. If I fell off the tower, so be it!

At the top, I reached for



Brynne and helped her up onto the observation deck. The brisk breeze above the treetops felt divine. Gorgeous greenery and "Simpsons" blue sky stretched for miles via my bird's-eye view of southern Indiana.

Redemption at 120 feet. It took four decades to reach the top.

Brynne Beason and I kissed.

The tower swayed gently, dreamily.

Brynne Beason is Brynne Saalman now. Heaven.

Contact Scott at [scottsaaalman@gmail.com](mailto:scottsaaalman@gmail.com).



Photos provided by Scott Saalman

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from Page 1

TREES

from Page 1

"Immerse yourself in the enchanting world of beautifully decorated trees, twinkling lights, and the joyous spirit of the holidays—you'll be glad you did," GSN Founder and Executive Director Nancy Chance said. "It's a fantastic opportunity to connect with the community, enjoy a program, indulge in a wonderful meal with delicious treats, and browse through a variety of unique hand-made holiday items you'll want to take home as you kick-start your holidays."

Reservations are now available and are required due to limited seating. To RSVP, please visit [gsnlive.org/festival-of-trees](http://gsnlive.org/festival-of-trees), or call (317) 842-2603 ext. 200 for more details. An early registration discount to automatically save \$5 per person is available for those who register by Tuesday, Oct. 10.

"In 2022 we thoroughly enjoyed our second year at the Renaissance North with a near-capacity crowd," Chance said. "It was a historic evening, marking the first time a LIVE AUCTION tree, 'Christmas Camping, We Will Go,' was auctioned for \$6,000. But the evening included a wonderful selection of countless other items in our SILENT AUCTION."

Chance concluded, "2022 was our best year ever with our strongest list of sponsors and participants, grossing \$91,197 for the event. The live auction was fast-paced, incredibly fun, and very successful, raising \$30,600 alone!"

This year, the Festival of Trees will include mobile and online bidding. Simply register and you're ready to bid by phone and/or online at any time during the bidding timeline. No app is required.

Last year's Holiday Assistance Program served over 46,000 people with (1) Thanksgiving Distribution of food boxes, (2) Thanksgiving Day Meals (drive-thru and delivery), (3) Christmas Distribution of food

boxes and holiday toys, and (4) delivery of 791 holiday meals for shut-ins on Christmas Eve.

Sponsorships are incredibly important to the success of the Festival of Trees.

"Since Festival of Trees began in 2014, we have been blessed with 110 amazing sponsors accumulating over \$150,000 in sponsorships," Chance said. "Collectively they have assisted Hamilton County families by supporting GSN's Client Assistance programs and services! That's incredible and that's why sponsor participation is so critical! Sponsorships usually provide over one-third of the fundraising gross, making a huge investment in our community and showing generosity and concern for our neighbors during the holidays! Thank you, sponsors!"

Sponsorships are available in multiple categories, including Event Sponsor for \$8,000, Pinnacle Sponsor for \$4,000, Pillar Sponsor for \$2,000, Platform Sponsor for \$1,000, and Partner for \$500. Sponsors can easily register online at [gsnlive.org/festival-of-trees](http://gsnlive.org/festival-of-trees).

Current 2023 Festival of Trees sponsors include:

- Gaylor Electric – Chuck Goodrich (Event Sponsor)
- Breathe Easy Hamilton County – Stacy Collins (Pinnacle Sponsor)
- Gordon Insurance – Austin Boyer (Pillar Sponsor)
- Dorsey Excavating – Roscoe Dorsey (Pillar Sponsor)
- Christine Altman – Hamilton County Commissioner (Platform Sponsor)

For more Festival of Trees information and details, or to become a sponsor or designer, visit [gsnlive.org/festival-of-trees](http://gsnlive.org/festival-of-trees) or contact Festival of Trees Event Coordinator Kim Harden at (317) 379-0470 or [iloveit-designs@att.net](mailto:iloveit-designs@att.net); or Nancy Chance at (317) 842-2603 ext. 200 or [nchance@gsn-live.org](mailto:nchance@gsn-live.org).

# Hello, Hamilton County

## With Mr. Weatherman, Paul Poteet



**Click to play video**

# Now Hiring

## United Animal Health

(Sheridan, IN) seeks Assoc Research Scientist to provide dual species (swine & poultry) technical advice to sales, market'g & ops. Rqs PhD in Poultry Sci, Animal Sci, or rel. +2 yrs exp in anml rsrch provid'g dual spcs (swine & poultry) tech adv.

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# 2023 BICENTENNIAL OCTOBER EVENTS

## FISHERS “COMMUNICATOR” NEWSPAPER RESEARCH

All through October!  
ONLINE at [fishershistory.com](http://fishershistory.com) | FREE

The Fishers Historical Society houses a collection of the out-of-print Communicator, the newspaper for Fishers High School. Now for the first time, they have been digitized and copies given to local institutions in order to help researchers and viewers learn from these early resources. Check out the newspapers on their website and at the Indiana State Library!

## FISHERS & HAMILTON COUNTY: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

All through October!  
Collaboration Hub, Hamilton County Community Foundation, Fishers | FREE

In this exhibit, Fishers Arts Council partners with the Fishers Historical Society and area authors and artists to share images, artwork and literature that highlight the history of small towns in Hamilton County, with an emphasis on Fishers. Additional items, period photographs, and speakers will be present for our Second Friday Reception on October 13, so be sure to join us then! Open all through October, with a **FREE special reception October 13, 6-8 p.m.**

## HAMILTON CO. BICENTENNIAL TRAVELING EXHIBIT

September 30 - October 13  
Hobbs Station Forest Park, Noblesville  
October 13-20, Fishers Arts Council Gallery at the Collaboration Hub, Fishers

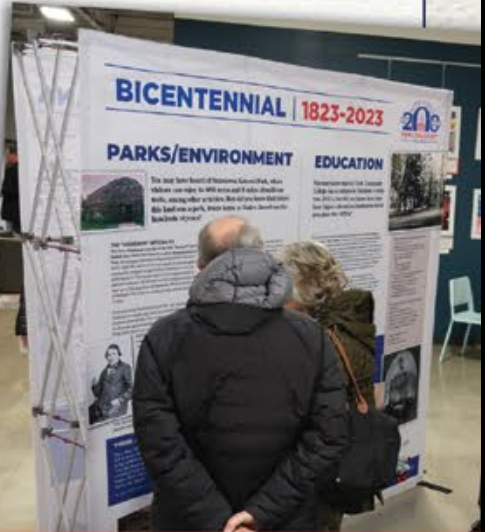
**FREE** | Last chance to learn about all five of our Bicentennial themes: Arts, Diversity/Inclusion, Education, Historic Preservation, and Parks/Environment. Contact the hosting organization for information on when the exhibit is open to the public.

## TASTE OF HISTORY: BLIND TIGER BOOTLEGGERS

October 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Hamilton East Public Library - Fishers, Municipal Drive, Fishers | **FREE**

At the turn of the 20th century, prohibition was gaining traction across the United States. Join the staff of Hamilton East Public Library's Indiana Room as they explore teetotalers and bootleggers from Hamilton

County during the early 1900s. Find out who drove the political forces in Indiana to promote temperance across the state. Take a tippie from a Fishers brewery as you discover how local Hamilton County bootleggers operated outside of the system with their “blind tiger” establishments. **Sign up on the library's website: [hepl.in.us](http://hepl.in.us).**



✦ *Don't miss the final event of our 200th Anniversary Year!* ✦

## BICENTENNIAL BASH | December 3, 1-5 p.m.

Ivy Tech Hamilton County - 300 N. 17th St., Noblesville | **FREE**

Family-friendly, open house event! Come and celebrate all that Hamilton County has to offer! Join us for free food, live music, a short film commemorating the Bicentennial year, free raffle associated with a canned food drive, an art show in partnership with Nickel Plate Arts that includes commissioned works from “200 Years of Change: Celebrating Hamilton County, Indiana,” displays from non-profits, photo opportunities, limited-edition merchandise including the Bicentennial book, and free giveaways.

To register for tickets after October 1st, visit: [HamCoTurns200.com](http://HamCoTurns200.com)

Access the entire **2023**  
**Bicentennial Event Lineup**  
and get event/program details:  
[HamCoTurns200.com](http://HamCoTurns200.com)



### Bicentennial Partners



HAMILTON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



## Noblesville Lions add another new member



Photo provided by Noblesville Lions Club / Jake Doll

On Wednesday, the Noblesville Lions Club added new member Krya Keller. She is sponsored by Lion Steve Shaw and was inducted by District 25D Governor Julia Kozicki. (From left) Lion Steve Shaw, Lion Krya Keller, and Lion Julia Kozicki.

## Want to test drive an electric vehicle?

### The REPORTER

Today from 4 to 7 p.m., the annual Carmel Electric Vehicle (EV) Ride and Drive will be held as part of the National Drive Electric Week (NDEW) at the Indiana Design Center at 200 S. Range Line Road.

In addition to EVs from 12 different local dealerships, there will also be electric bikes from three local bicycle shops and electric motorcycles. Visitors will be able to do test drives and engage with current EV owners displaying their vehicles and answering questions regarding costs

to charge, cost to maintain, where to charge, and other important information.

"Carmel is proud to be a leader among cities in the number of electric vehicle owners and charging stations," Mayor Jim Brainard said. "We have worked hard to encourage this transition, which will be better for the environment. With more than 100 chargers in the city, including a Tesla Supercharger Station and a bank of Electrify America fast chargers, owning an electric vehicle is becoming much easier."

This event is brought to

you by the City of Carmel in partnership with the Greater Indiana Clean Cities, Hoosier Electric Vehicle Association, Carmel Green Initiative, AAA, Solar United Neighbors, Indiana Design Center, and Knozone.

NDEW is presented by national organizers Plug In America, the Electric Auto Association, the Sierra Club and EVHybridNoire. Nissan is the exclusive automotive sponsor and Wells Fargo is the exclusive banking sponsor of NDEW 2023.

[Click here](#) for more information.

## Israeli pharmaceutical company chooses Westfield to build first U.S. manufacturing center of cancer-treating isotope

### The REPORTER

Isotopia Molecular Imaging, an Israel-based global pharmaceutical and nuclear medicine manufacturing company, has announced plans to locate its first U.S. operations in Indiana.

The company's newly formed U.S. subsidiary, Isotopia USA, will invest approximately \$20 million to establish its flagship operation in Westfield, creating up to 50 new, high-wage jobs by the end of 2027.

"Indiana's life sciences sector continues to grow, generating a \$79 billion economic impact and providing life-changing products, pharmaceuticals and medical devices to customers across the world," Indiana Secretary of Commerce David Rosenberg said. "Isotopia's decision to locate its first U.S. operation in Indiana is a testament to our competitive business climate and the strength of the Hoosier life sciences ecosystem and its skilled workforce."

Isotopia USA will build a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at 17075 Oak Ridge Road in Westfield. The new facility will house production clean rooms, analytical and microbiology laboratories, packaging and logistics systems, and precursor isotope recycling systems. The company plans to begin production of GMP-grade Lu-177 n.c.a. – a radioactive medical isotope used in pharmaceuticals for targeted cancer treatment – for delivery to its key customers by the end of 2024.

"The state of Indiana and the city of Westfield have rolled out the welcome mat," Isotopia USA CEO Todd Hockemeyer said.

"This support from our new community will help accelerate our efforts to bring this critical medical isotope to the market as soon as 2024. Indiana is one of the most business-friendly states in the U.S., while Westfield is an ideal community with great schools and excellent housing. We look forward to being a corporate partner with the city and state to create highly desirable, well-paying jobs in this exciting field doing good work treating cancer."

Isotopia USA will begin hiring immediately, filling positions for technical, engineering, quality, and scientific personnel over the next 24 months. The company plans to invest heavily in employee training to support the growth and success of its first U.S. location.

"I am thrilled to welcome Isotopia USA to Westfield," Westfield Mayor-elect Scott Willis said. "Establishing their flagship production operation in our city marks a significant milestone for Isotopia and our community. This investment reflects the confidence Isotopia has in our skilled workforce and supportive business environment. We look forward to a successful collaboration as we continue to grow and innovate together."

Isotopia Molecular Imaging is a global pharmaceutical company that develops, produces, and distributes cutting-edge diagnostic and therapeutic radioactive isotopes and advanced PET and SPECT radiotracers. The company, which has production operations in Israel, Europe, and North America, supports a multidisciplinary team of experts committed to expanding healthcare

providers' power to diagnose and treat cancer with greater precision and safety. Isotopia Molecular Imaging offers an extensive portfolio of radiopharmaceuticals and cold kits, along with contract manufacturing services for pharmaceutical and research purposes and continuous professional guidance and support.

Based on the company's investment and job creation plans, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) committed an investment in Isotopia USA of up to \$1.1 million in the form of incentive-based tax credits and up to \$100,000 in workforce training grants. These tax credits are performance-based, meaning the company is eligible to claim incentives once Hoosiers are hired.

The city of Westfield has committed additional incentives valued at up to \$1.42 million in support of the project.

### About Isotopia Molecular Imaging

Isotopia Molecular Imaging Ltd. is a dominant <sup>177</sup>Lu n.c.a. supplier. Its development team includes nuclear pharmacists, radiochemists, nuclear engineers, and physicists. The experienced Isotopia team, together with its nuclear pharmacy, cyclotron facility, <sup>177</sup>Lu production sites, and sterile manufacturing plant, are a well-established platform for manufacturing and collaborations. Isotopia's collaborations with the scientific and medical communities allow it to further develop and experiment with new markers for imaging applications and molecular therapy. Learn more at [isotopia-global.com](http://isotopia-global.com).

# WILD, WILD WESTFIELD

Free Event      Live Music  
Mechanical Bull      Games  
Face Painting      Pony Rides  
Bounce      Petting Zoo  
Houses

Bring a crock-pot of your chili to CrossRoads by 4:30pm. It is FREE to enter. Register using the links below. Local Judges.  
First Prize = \$100  
Second Prize = \$50  
Third Prize = \$25

4:00-7:00 pm

Fall Fest

September 30

Held at: CrossRoads Church | 19201 Grassy Branch Road, Westfield

Online at [ForOurNeighbor.Life](http://ForOurNeighbor.Life)

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Book by Hugh Wheeler  
From an adaptation by Christopher Bond  
Directed by Andrea Odle

## September 21st - October 1st, 2023

Thursday, Friday, Saturday Shows at 7:30 pm,  
Sunday Shows at 2:30 pm

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Weather is unpredictable ... Paul Poteet isn't.  
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# Westfield PD congratulates officer who serves his community & country

The REPORTER

The Westfield Police Department (WPD) is proud to support its officers who protect and serve not only the community, but also to our country.

Officer Foote, an integral part of WPD and a member of the Indiana National Guard, recently nominated Lieutenant Siara for the prestigious Patriot Award. The Patriot Award, presented by ESGR (Employer Support of The Guard and Reserve), recognizes employers who support their employees' service in the National Guard and Reserve forces.

Lt. Siara has truly exemplified what it means to be a leader within WPD. Not only does he serve the Westfield community with unwavering dedication, but he has also gone above and beyond to support Westfield police officers who serve their country through their military obligations. His commitment to ensuring that WPD's



Photo provided by Westfield Police Department  
**Lieutenant Siara (left) was presented with the Patriot Award by Officer Foote.**

brave men and women can fulfill their dual roles as police officers and National Guard members is

genuinely remarkable.

WPD invites you to join in saluting Lt. Siara for his outstanding contributions

and Ofc. Foote for recognizing the importance of supporting officers' service to our great nation.

# Sen. Braun leads 20 senators in bipartisan letter to help veterans get their essential military records

The REPORTER

Sen. Mike Braun (R-Ind.) and Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-Ga.) led 18 of their Senate colleagues in a **bipartisan letter** to the National Archives of the United States (NARA) seeking answers on the backlog of veterans' record requests.

Service records are often required to access critical government benefits and services, so ensuring requests are completed expeditiously is of utmost importance.

Senators Jerry Moran, Jon Tester, Bill Cassidy, Elizabeth Warren, Jacky Rosen, John Thune, John Cornyn, Tim Kaine, Jeanne Shaheen, Todd Young, Marco Rubio, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Ted Cruz,

John Boozman, Bernie Sanders, Katie Britt, and Rick Scott joined Sen. Braun and Sen. Ossoff on the letter.

We write to express our concern regarding reports of ongoing delays in constituents receiving their military service records from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)," the Senators wrote. "As part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (P.L. 117-263), Congress passed the Access for Veterans to Records Act. This authorized \$60 million for the National Archives and Records Administration



Braun

the significant strides it has made to address this backlog, we must ensure all incoming requests are still met with a timely response and that this does not occur again in the future. For the sake of our constituents, we kindly request NARA respond to the following questions by Monday, October 16, 2023."

Senator Braun is committed to ensuring that vet-

erans can access the benefits that they are entitled to in a straightforward and timely manner.

Last year, Sen. Braun introduced bipartisan legislation with Sens. Ossoff, Rounds, and Shaheen to address the backlog of veterans' service records nationwide last year when the National Personnel Records Center had a backlog of nearly half a million record requests from veterans and their families.

Just this month, Sen. Braun introduced the **Wounded Warrior Access Act** with Sen. Padilla to allow veterans or their representatives make requests to receive their claim files electronically.

## Community News

### Christ Lutheran Church of Noblesville to hold Trunk-or-Treat

Christ Lutheran Church, 10055 E. 186th St., Noblesville, will hold a Trunk-or-Treat event from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28. Stay up to date on the church's [Facebook page](#).

## Sheridan Public Library has full October 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!

**Babies & Toddlers**

Oct. 3, 10, 24, 31 at 11 a.m.: Baby Time (0-18 months)

Oct. 5, 12, 26 at 11 a.m.: Discovery Time (18-36 months)

**Preschool**

Oct. 4, 11 at 11 a.m.: Mindful Movements (ages 2-6)

Oct. 6, 13, 27 at 11 a.m.: Story Time (ages 3-6)

Oct. 25 at 11 a.m.: Parachute Play (ages 2-6)

**Grades K-5**

Oct. 3, 10, 24, 31 at 4 p.m.: Hero Kids (Role-Playing)

Oct. 12 at 1 p.m.: Home-school Meetup

**Grades 6-12**

Oct. 5, 12, 26 at 4 p.m.: Rippers (Role-Playing)

Oct. 12 at 1 p.m.: Home-school Meetup

**Adults**

Oct. 3 at 1:30 p.m. Adult Bingo

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 at 11 a.m.: Needle Crafters

Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. Voter Education Presentation; presented by the Hamilton County League of Women Voters

Oct. 6, 13, 27 at 11 a.m.: Chair Yoga

Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31 at 1:30 p.m.: Adult Game Time

Oct. 16 at 6 p.m.: Pinners

Oct. 18 at 5:30 p.m.: Sheridan Readers Book Club: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Oct. 19 at 6 p.m.: Paranormal Investigation Presentation; no registration required.

Oct. 19 at 7 p.m.: Library Paranormal Investigation; registration required of this portion. Space is Limited.

**All Ages**

All month: Halloween-Read Beanstack Challenge

Oct. 11 at 6 p.m.: Family Science Night

Oct. 13 at 6 p.m.: Bingo Night, Free Event

\*\*\*

For more information on programming and services, please visit [sheridan.lib.in.us](#).

## Carmel's Makenna Ristrow graduates from Marquette

The REPORTER

Makenna Ristrow of Carmel graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis. Ristrow earned a Master of Science degree in Nursing.

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university that draws over 7,500

undergraduate and 3,500 graduate and professional students from nearly all states and more than 60 countries. Find out more at [marquette.edu](#).

## Thanks for reading!



CONGRESSWOMAN  
**VICTORIA SPARTZ**  
PROUDLY SERVING **INDIANA'S** 5TH DISTRICT

## Constituent Services



### Help with Federal Agencies

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

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



### US Flag Requests

Obtain commemorative flags flown over the US Capitol from my office.



### Military Academy Nominations

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



### US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

My office can help arrange tours throughout our nation's capital.

West District Office: (317) 848-0201

East District Office: (765) 639-0671

[www.spartz.house.gov](#)



# CIDE to mark 20 years of *The Nutcracker* at STAR Bank Performing Arts Center

## The REPORTER

The Central Indiana Dance Ensemble (CIDE), located in Carmel, will present the annual performance of *The Nutcracker* Dec. 1 to 3. This will be the 20th year at STAR Bank Performing Arts Center in Zionsville.

Twenty years ago, CIDE started performing at STAR Bank Performing Arts Center due to the large theatre size and proscenium, as well as the close proximity to CIDE's home base. CIDE was fortunate to form this long-lasting partnership to present the holiday classic as a central Indiana pre-professional ballet company.

"We are thrilled to be celebrating our 20th Anniversary at STAR Bank Performing Arts Center; it is the perfect location for our ever-growing *Nutcracker*," CIDE Co-Artistic Director Ashley Jacobs said.

What better way to begin your holiday season? Experience the magic of Tchaikovsky's *The Nut-*

*cracker*—the classic story of a girl and her beloved nutcracker doll that comes to life. You will be transported on an enchanted journey — from a joyous holiday party at The Stahlbaums', into an epic midnight battle between mice and toy soldiers, to the Kingdom of Snow, and finally through the Land of Sweets. Along the way you'll meet iconic characters including Clara, the Nutcracker Prince, Godfather Drosselmeyer, the evil Mouse Queen, the beautiful Snow Queen, Mother Ginger and her Gingersnaps, and of course the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier.

Tickets are on sale now for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday performances. [Click here](#) get your tickets.

"Our production is very unique, and we always try to add more surprises — we have a cast of students age 6 to 18 to compromise our total cast of over 135," Jacobs said. "We also have two amazing male guest artists

coming from Dallas, Texas, and Seattle, Wash."

In addition to the performances, CIDE presents the Sugar Plum Fairy Dessert Party prior to each *Nutcracker* matinee performance at 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 2 and 3.

Begin your day with the Sugar Plum Fairy Dessert Party from The Walking Waffle Company. Sit down and have a treat. While enjoying time with your group you will have the chance to make a festive craft. Then you can head over to Story Time Corner where you will be told the story of the Nutcracker to get you ready to watch the show. Finish

off your experience by having your picture taken in Clara's sleigh with Clara, the Nutcracker, and the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Your commemorative photo will be available for you to pick up during the show's intermission. After the show you can complete your experience by getting the autographs and photos of your favorite dancers. Don't forget your cameras and pens.

Tickets for this experience are available as a ticket add-on prior to the matinee performances. Please order tickets early as this event sells out quickly. Cost is \$12.

## About the STAR Bank Performing Arts Center

Situated on the campus of Zionsville Community High School, the STAR Bank Performing Arts Center is a 1235 seat performance hall that is home to many national dance competitions, various concerts, as well as the Miss Indiana pageant. STAR Bank Performing Arts Center has also played host to Grammy and Dove Award winning artists and television personalities.

## About The Central Indiana Dance Ensemble

Central Indiana Dance Ensemble was founded in 1999 by artistic director, Suzann DeLay. The compa-

ny is committed to providing cultural and educational enrichment to the central Indiana community. The company provides an environment for aspiring young dancers to learn, practice and perform in a pre-professional atmosphere, in a variety of dance forms. Promoting the arts through ongoing outreach programs provides the members of Central Indiana Dance Ensemble the opportunity to give back to the community. In 2006, Central Indiana Dance Ensemble received Honor Company status in the Regional Dance America association. Learn more at [CIDEdance.org](http://CIDEdance.org).

# Don't miss these great events at Center for the Performing Arts

## The REPORTER

Tickets are still available for these upcoming arts and education events at The Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. Just go to [TheCenterPresents.org](http://TheCenterPresents.org) or call (317) 843-3800.

## The Tallest Man on Earth Sunday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. The Palladium

Known onstage as The Tallest Man on Earth, Swedish singer-songwriter Kristian Matsson has drawn comparisons to Bob Dylan with his deft guitar work, poetic lyrics, and gritty voice. He first gained fame in the United States with his critically acclaimed 2008 debut album *Shallow Grave* and a subsequent tour opening for Bon Iver. After five sparsely recorded albums focused on voice and guitar, Matsson's new release *Henry St.* was recorded with other musicians in a band setting.

## Click here for tickets. The Robert Cray Band Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m. The Palladium

Over the past four decades, guitarist and singer-songwriter Robert Cray has created a signature sound that rises from American roots, blues, soul, and R&B, with five Grammy wins and 20 acclaimed studio and live albums. The Blues Hall of Famer is now touring the U.S. and the

U.K. for the first time since the 2020 release of his album *That's What I Heard*, produced by longtime collaborator and bandmate Steve Jordan, drummer for Cray and such artists as the Rolling Stones, John Mayer, and Sheryl Crow.

## Click here for tickets. Wish You Were Here: The Sight & Sound of Pink Floyd Saturday, Oct. 14 at 8 p.m. The Palladium

Formed in 1987, Wish You Were Here is one of the world's longest continually performing Pink Floyd tribute acts, recreating the mood and intensity of the Floydian concert experience with its spectacular multimedia stage production. The 10-piece

group is celebrating the 50th anniversary of *The Dark Side of the Moon* with a full performance of the iconic album, plus other classics and obscurities from throughout the history of the legendary British progressive rock band — all 100 percent live with no prerecorded tracks.

## Click here for tickets. Lucinda Williams and her band: Don't Tell Anybody the Secrets Tour Sunday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. The Palladium

Recovering from a 2020 stroke that limited her guitar ability but not her unmistakable vocal style, acclaimed singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams is back with a candid memoir, *Don't Tell*

*Anybody the Secrets I Told You*, and a tour to support her brand-new 16th studio album, *Stories from a Rock n Roll Heart*. The collection features guest appearances by artists including Margo Price, Buddy Miller, Bruce Springsteen, and Patti Scialfa, as well as tributes to two of the multiple Grammy winner's own late musical heroes, Tom Petty and Replacements guitarist Bob Stinson. Fans can expect a one-of-a-kind show of songs, stories and visuals, with a band that includes longtime Williams collaborators David Sutton on bass, Butch Norton on drums, and Doug Pettibone and Stuart Mathis on guitars.

[Click here](#) for tickets.

## Noblesville First launches arts & music camp

## The REPORTER

Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St., will kick off its inaugural Arts & Music Academy for K-5 students with a fall break camp Oct. 16 to 20.

The camp will take place from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day, with a concluding performance on Friday, Oct. 20. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the performance will begin at 7 p.m.

Online registration is open at [NoblesvilleFirst.com/academy](http://NoblesvilleFirst.com/academy). The cost is \$25 and scholarships are available.

Noblesville First is creating its own Arts & Music Academy to provide opportunities for the children and youth of Noblesville to grow in the arts.

"Our goal is to provide opportunities for children and youth to engage with a variety of visual and performing arts," Noblesville First Lead Pastor Nicole Caldwell-Gross said, "so they can discover and develop their own artistic abilities while also exploring the relationships be-

tween art and faith."

The first step in building the Arts & Music Academy is to offer a theater camp for students while they are on fall break. It will be directed by Nancy Lafferty, a 40-year high school theater educator and Director for The Belfry Theatre. She will be assisted by members of the congregation who will provide visual arts instruction, the staff of Noblesville's En Pointe Ballet who will teach dance, and students from Noblesville High School.

Noblesville First hopes this theater camp will be the first of many opportunities for children and youth from the church and the community to engage with the arts. Plans are underway for a year-round program of musical theater performances, including sessions in the fall, spring, and summer.

Noblesville First also hopes to offer students the opportunity to take voice lessons and instrumental music lessons, and to be part of a choral ensemble. Stay tuned for more information on these opportunities.

## Hear Christian band Westward Road at Victory Chapel Church

## Submitted

Victory Chapel Church, 13350 E. 216th St., Noblesville, will welcome Christian musical group Westward Road to the 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, Oct. 15 as part of the band's City of Light tour.

## About Westward Road

Providing a unique blend of gospel and modern worship music is where Westward Road excels. The group is an exciting and dynamic family trio, led by Scott Roberts, a 20-year veteran worship leader and nation charting songwriter, and his wife, the talented and award-winning vocalist, Kelli Roberts. Their son, Garrett Roberts, completes the superbly gifted musical family with his smooth vocal tones.

Their "out of the box" take on worship and gospel music paired with their God-given ability to communicate the Good News takes audiences into the presence of God in a very powerful way. They have performed for audiences in large theaters and for intimate settings in rural

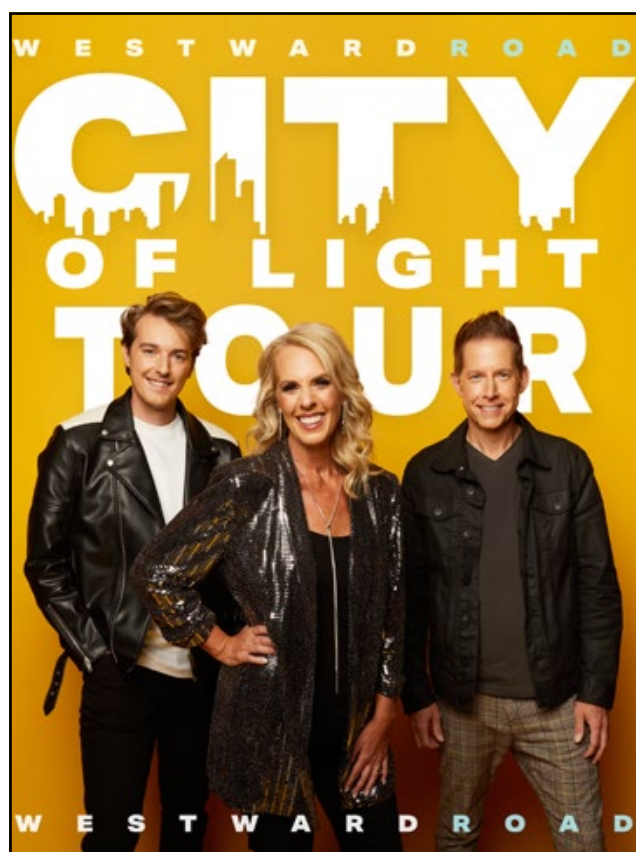


Photo illustration provided

churches, festivals, and fairs.

A Westward Road concert leaves you uplifted by their message of hope and encouraged to live a life of trust in God. Their inspiring style of music along with their smooth family har-

monies and ability to lead God's people into His presence through worship will have audiences of all ages falling in love with this fun and energetic trio.

Find out more at [WestwardRoad.com](http://WestwardRoad.com).



# Help Carmel Lions make this year’s Trunk or Treat spookier than ever before

## The REPORTER

The Carmel Lions Club is calling on all local business and community leaders to be a part of the spine-tin-gling excitement at the annual Trunk or Treat Festival.

Scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28 at the Carmel Lions Club, 141 E. Main St., this event promises to be a Halloween extravaganza like no other.

## What is Trunk or Treat?

Trunk or Treat is a cherished tradition where businesses, community members, and families come together to create a safe and festive Halloween environment for children and their families. It involves decorating car trunks in creative and spooky themes, offering candies and treats to young trick-or-treaters, and enjoying the magic of Halloween in a fun and secure setting.

## Join in the spooktacular fun!

The Carmel Lions Club is on the lookout for more trunks to make this year's event even more thrilling. Whether you represent a local business or are a resi-

dent with a passion for Halloween, you are welcomed to participate. The more trunks, the scarier, and the more enchanting the event becomes.

## How to register your trunk

Registering your trunk is simple. Visit [Carmel-Lions.org/trunktreat](http://Carmel-Lions.org/trunktreat) to access the registration form. Both business owners and non-business residents are encouraged to register their trunks and be a part of this free community celebration.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to engage with your local community, promote your business, or simply enjoy a night of Halloween fun with friends and family. Your participation will help create lasting memories for children and adults alike.

The Carmel Lions Club invites everyone to come together and make this year's Trunk or Treat Festival the spookiest and most memorable one yet.

If you have questions, please contact Denisse Jensen at [carmellionsclub@gmail.com](mailto:carmellionsclub@gmail.com).

# Westfield Mayor Andy Cook hospitalized with COVID-19

## The REPORTER

Upon returning from vacation this week, Westfield Mayor Andy Cook tested positive for COVID-19 and is currently hospitalized and receiving treatment for the virus with complications.

After feeling ill, Cook was evaluated by medical personnel and, on the staff's recommendation, was transferred to a hospital for fur-

ther treatment. He is expected to make a full recovery and is resting comfortably.



Cook

Mayor Cook has been vaccinated and boosted. He has been in daily contact with his senior staff and will return to work when medically cleared.

City officials will provide updates on the mayor's status as he continues to carry out the complete duties of the office.

**Live Music At Pasto Italiano**

**Benito DiBartoli Every Wednesday**  
*(1/2 Price Bottles of Wine On Wednesdays)*

**Friday October 6**  
**Doug Henthorn**  
*Reservations Recommended*

**317-804-2051**

**3150 East State Rd. 32, Westfield**

# Latvian Sister City officials visit Carmel

## The REPORTER

The City of Carmel recently welcomed 10 representatives, including the mayor, deputy mayor and other top officials from Carmel's Sister City Jelgava, Latvia.

As a part of this partnership, the group met with many city directors and toured many municipal facilities on all sides of the city including Police and Fire Headquarters, City Hall, Central Park and West Park, and the Street Department.

A key element of their visit was learning about Carmel's growth through public-private partnerships as they walked through redevelopment projects in City Center, Midtown, the Arts & Design District, including the Palladium and Songbook Museum. They also had the opportunity to learn more about residents' daily lives as they visited the public library, Carmel High School, and Republic Airways' new headquarters and training facility.

The timing of their vis-



Photo provided by City of Carmel

(From left) Chocolatier Joann Hofer of Xchocol'Art (shares some gourmet chocolates with Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard, Jelgava Mayor Andris Ravins, and his interpreter, Agate Devaiji, at the Carmel Farmers Market.

it also allowed them to see the traditions of the Carmel community such as the high school homecoming parade, a Friday night football game, and the International Arts Festival. They also learned about the city's project with Volkswagen, which sparked some ideas about ways to collaborate on some of Carmel's initiatives.

The group expressed their excitement for the opportunity to experience Carmel firsthand and looks forward to more exchanges in the future.

# Moving toward retirement security

COLUMNIST

COREY SYLVESTER  
*Cicero Edward Jones*

It's not as well-known as Halloween, but National Retirement Security week happens every October – the third week, to be precise — and while it doesn't involve ghosts and goblins, it does deal with something even more frightening: the risk of not being able to enjoy a comfortable retirement.

Through various events, this occasion highlights ideas about building retirement security. What steps can you take?

Here are some suggestions:

## Don't underestimate your longevity

Consider this: 65-year-old men can expect to live another 20 years, while 65-year-old women can

anticipate almost 22 more years, according to the Society of Actuaries. These figures are just averages, meaning you could well exceed these ages, perhaps by many years. So, in thinking about how much money you'll need as a retiree, be aware that you could spend two, or even three, decades in retirement.

## Don't underestimate health care costs

When you retire, some of your expenses – such as transportation, wardrobe and other costs associated with your career – will drop. Others will not and may even increase. Health care is a prime example: Many people assume that Medicare or their Medicare Advantage plan will take care of virtually all their health care costs in retirement, but that's not the case. Generally speaking, you could plan on spending \$4,500 to \$6,500 per year on health care costs during retirement, excluding the large expenses connected with long-term care. Your

actual costs could be higher or lower, depending on your health, prescription drugs and supplemental insurance coverage, but make sure you plan for sizable health care costs in your projected retirement budget.

## Contribute as much as you can afford to your retirement plans

Try to put in as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan and try to increase your contributions whenever your salary goes up. You may also be eligible to contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA, which offers tax benefits and a wide variety of investment options. (Contributions to a Roth IRA may be limited based on your income.)

Once you reach retirement, you can still make some moves that could help boost your financial security:

## Maintain an appropriate investment mix

When you retire, you might be tempted to shift most of your portfolio into highly conservative investments to "lock in" gains and avoid being over-exposed to market volatility that could cause short-term loss-

es. Yet, even in retirement, you should still own some growth-oriented investments that can potentially help keep you ahead of inflation. In fact, it's important to periodically rebalance your investments back to your preferred mix to avoid taking too much or too little risk, so you may want to consult with a financial advisor.

## Identify a suitable withdrawal rate

You don't want to take out so much from your portfolio each year that you run the risk of outliving your money. So, you'll want to determine an annual withdrawal rate that can reduce this danger. A common withdrawal rate to start retirement is 4 percent, but your own rate should be based on several factors: your age, size of portfolio, other sources of income and so on.

It can be challenging to make all the moves necessary to help achieve retirement security – but it's worth the effort.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.*

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# Empowering Indiana’s girls: a call to action for change

In September, we unveiled the groundbreaking inaugural Indiana Girl report, and in this month as we will celebrate girls on Oct. 12, the International Day of the Girl, I’d like to share a little more about what this report tells us about the stark realities girls in our state face, and it may shock you.

This report isn’t just about data. It’s a testament to our unwavering commitment to the well-being of girls. It serves as a poignant reminder that we, as a society, have not been prioritizing their social, emotional, academic, and physical well-being as we should. It is a call to action to unite and address the challenges our girls confront daily. With more than a century of experience championing girls and their needs, Girl Scouts knows that together we can make HER world a better place.

The core objective of this report is to increase awareness about the realities our girls experience and to engage adults to drive change. Whether you are a caregiver, policymaker, corporate or nonprofit leader, or funder, you should understand the urgency and significance of the findings and act for meaningful change.

The facts:  
**Girls are not okay and may not admit it.**  
The challenges facing

this generation of girls are complicated by how easily they are concealed. Research shows girls are in an unprecedented mental health crisis with a shortage of professionals to help, and often their symptoms go unnoticed. Girls need a safe space to navigate these often-taboo topics, like mental health or sexual dating violence, while they navigate rapidly evolving social systems in digital spaces, which are difficult for adults to monitor.

- Hospitalization rates for girls are more than three times higher than those for boys in Indiana.
- Girls, who typically begin puberty and emotional maturity earlier than boys, are more likely than boys to experience mental health challenges like depression and anxiety. Shockingly, 47 percent of middle and high school girls showed signs of depression in 2022 compared to 24 percent of boys, and nearly one in four girls seriously considered suicide.
- Girls in Indiana are more likely than boys to become victims of bullying. They are twice as likely to become victims of traditional bullying and three times as likely to become victims of cyberbullying compared to boys.
- From 2015 to 2021, the rate of physical and sexual dating violence among girls

in Indiana has increased, while the prevalence among boys has decreased: 17 percent of high school girls reported having experienced sexual dating violence in 2021 – five times the rate of boys.

**Girls need support from every sector.**

Factors like physical health influence academic success and emotional well-being, and are affected by various community sectors, including education, healthcare, social services, and out-of-school activities. Research shows that 28 percent of K-5 girls in the Midwest are not enrolled in any afterschool activities, a figure that rises to 52 percent for households earning less than \$50,000 annually.

**Tailoring equitable experiences for girls may require specific encouragement and support.**

Key differences in the experiences between girls and boys in academic settings suggest significant perceived gender bias or social pressures.

- Girls trailed boys 3.5 percent in math and science proficiency exams in 2022, despite no cognitive differences between the sexes. This suggests that girls begin to internalize beliefs such as “math is for boys, not girls” as early as second grade.
- Fewer girls are getting support through special education programs than boys: just over 10 percent of girls

compared to 18.5 percent of boys.

The girls of Indiana harbor boundless potential, yet to ensure they reach it we ALL must advocate for resources, programs, policies, and decisions that elevate them. You can play an active role in advocating for change at home and at the state and local levels.

The 2023 Indiana Girl Report serves as a wake-up call, urging us to nurture every girl’s potential. It illuminates the path forward: a focus on girl-centered initiatives and comprehensive support. Let this report spark a movement, one that empowers Indiana’s girls to flourish, and to feel safe and cared for and about. Together, we can create a brighter future for every girl in Indiana, regardless of the challenges they may encounter.

The time to act is now, and we invite you to stand with us in this critical endeavor. Download the Indiana Girl Report today at [gsci.me/indianagirlreport](https://gsci.me/indianagirlreport) and join the community conversation at [GirlsCoalitionIndiana.org](https://GirlsCoalitionIndiana.org).

*Danielle Shockey is the chief executive officer of Girl Scouts of Central Indiana, which serves 16,000 Girls and 12,000 adults across 45 Indiana counties. A Girl Scout alum, Danielle’s experience and passion for serving Indiana’s youth spans a 20-year career in education prior to her now five years with Girl Scouts.*



DANIELLE SHOCKEY



Photo provided

Fishers City Council member Jocelyn Vare and Hamilton County Democratic Party Communications Team Chair Meredith Fox are part of the sixth class of Hoosier Women Forward.

## Jocelyn Vare joins prestigious Hoosier Women Forward leadership program

*Fishers City Council member redoubles her commitment to empowering women & local community service*

**Submitted**

Jocelyn Vare, Fishers City Councilor At-Large and local business owner, recently joined the 2023-2024 class of Hoosier Women Forward (HWF).

HWF is a political and civic leadership training program designed to empower Democratic women to become more active in politics and their local communities. The 2023-2024 HWF is the sixth class in the organization’s history.

Known for its rigorous application process, HWF requires candidates to demonstrate leadership in their places of work and/or in the community and have a strong commitment and desire to serve the public good. Twenty-two women from across Indiana, including Vare, have been selected for the HWF class of 2023-2024.

As a Fishers City Councilor, Vare champions access, balance, transparency and good government, a mission which aligns closely with HWF.

“I’m honored to be in the company of such diverse, impressive and com-

mitted women who share a vision to improve our local communities,” Vare said. “The results of this year’s primary election prove that political change is well underway in Fishers. We need more Democratic women to step forward to lead. Hoosier Women Forward is a training ground for those future leaders.”

Since its inception in 2018, over 100 women have participated in the prestigious program, six of whom have been Fishers residents. The experience gained by previous HWF graduates has already paid significant dividends to the community. Eighty percent of HWF alumnae who have run for office in primary and general elections have won their races. In the 2023 Indiana primary elections, 16 HWF graduates won mayoral, city, town council and clerk races. Other graduates are actively addressing important community issues, including but not limited to poverty, food insecurity, climate change and healthcare access.

The list of past and current HWF class members

from Fishers includes:

- **Julie Chambers**, former member and president of Hamilton Southeastern Schools Board of Trustees (Class of 2019-2020)
- **Dayna Colbert**, Hamilton County Democratic Party Chair (Class of 2020-2021)
- **Freedom Kolb**, executive director of The Milk Bank (Class of 2021-2022)
- **Crystal Neumann**, Fishers City Councilor for the North Central District (Class of 2022-2023)
- **Meredith Fox**, Hamilton County Democratic Party Communications Team Chair (Class of 2023-2024)
- **Representative Victoria Garcia Wilburn**, Fishers’ Indiana State Representative (Class of 2021-2022)

**About Jocelyn Vare**

Jocelyn Vare is an at-large member of Fishers City Council and currently serves as the first Democrat ever elected to Fishers municipal office. She is running for re-election in 2023 to continue serving the sixth-largest city in the state.

Vare ran for Indiana State Senate in 2022 to rep-

resent her community at the statehouse and earned over 16,000 votes from Fishers residents.

Vare was born and raised in South Bend and has been a Fishers resident for 25 years. She is the mom of two adult kids – a public school teacher and a Disney costumer. She is a local small business owner, a volunteer, and a champion for the community she loves.

Vare is a member of the Fishers Finance Committee and vice-chair of the Fishers Arts + Culture Commission. She served as a committee chair for the successful HSE Schools referendum in 2016. She is a graduate of Fishers City Government Academy, Hamilton County Leadership Academy, Ball State’s Economic Development Course and Community Development Course.

In 2021, Vare was recognized as an Impact Award nominee, one of 30 alumni designated in the Hamilton County Leadership Academy’s 30-year history.

Learn more about the candidate at [JocelynVare-ForFishers.com](https://JocelynVare-ForFishers.com).

See you in the parks!

MyHamiltonCountyParks.com

317.770.4400

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

Excursions board out of Noblesville at 825 Forest Park Drive.

[NickelPlateExpress.com](https://NickelPlateExpress.com)

**All Aboard!**

**Atlanta New Earth Festival Express**

Passengers will board the train from Hobbs Station at Forest Park for a 45-minute ride to Atlanta. Each trip will give passengers 2-hours in Atlanta before returning.

September 24 and 25

[NickelPlateExpress.com](https://NickelPlateExpress.com)

**Wizard Express**

Climb aboard for a magical journey into the wizarding world. Brush up on local wizarding news, learn some new spells and enjoy treats such as a butter beverage! All excursions board in Noblesville at platform 8 ¾.

October 7 and 8

[NickelPlateExpress.com](https://NickelPlateExpress.com)

**Chugga, Chugga: Northbrook Brewery Caboose**

All aboard for a special 21+ caboose ride to the newly opened Northbrook Brewery in Arcadia. Ride the historic Monon caboose from Hobbs Station in Noblesville up to the brewery in Arcadia and back.

October 15 and 22

[NickelPlateExpress.com](https://NickelPlateExpress.com)

**Cicero Dinner Express**

Experience the nostalgia of the past with a delightful train ride to dinner. Depart from Hobbs Station in Noblesville, IN on the vintage Nickel Plate Express for a charming 30-minute journey to Cicero.

October 5 and 19



# Column signing marks milestone for new Westfield Washington Public Library

## Library staff & supporters among those to leave their mark

**The REPORTER**

The Westfield Washington Public Library (WWPL) hosted a column signing at the construction site of its new library building on Thursday. Library staff and supporters took turns signing one of the steel columns that will become a permanent part of the library's structure.

Library Director Sheryl Sollars expressed her excitement about the event.

"This column signing marks a pivotal milestone in the progress of this landmark," Sollars said. "This symbolic moment signifies our shared dedication to the future of this library."

Construction on the new 43,000 square-foot state-of-the-art facility has just

passed 50 percent completion. It is expected to be complete by next summer.

"The project is tracking on time and on budget," said Marc Griffith, Vice President of Veridus Group. "The exterior of the building will continue to evolve over the coming weeks and months with the completion of masonry, metal panels, and other architectural features. Windows are scheduled to arrive toward the end of October to get the building weather tight for the winter months. The interior of the building will be finished out over the winter."

For more information about the Westfield Washington Public Library and its new facility, please visit [wwpl.lib.in.us](http://wwpl.lib.in.us).



(Above left) Library staff got their first peek inside the new building. (Above right) WWPL Executive Director Sheryl Sollars signing a column.



# Sen. Mike Braun warns of 'China's playbook' to build power through investment in American agriculture

**The REPORTER**

Senator Mike Braun (R-Ind.), member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, recently warned of China's playbook to build power through investment in American agriculture at a [hearing](#) on foreign ownership in U.S. agriculture.

In his remarks, he high-

lighted bipartisan legislation that he introduced in March with Sens. Tester (D-Mont.), Tuberville (R-Ala.), and Rubio (R-Fla.) to prohibit the purchase of U.S. farmland by those associated with the governments of the United



Braun

States' foreign adversaries (Iran, North Korea, China, and Russia). Regarding the bill, Protecting America's Agricultural Land from Foreign Harm Act, Sen. Braun said, "It would also stop these individuals from

participating in any of the USDA programs. I've vetted this bill carefully with the USDA, the intel community, and a handful of committees here in Congress. I would like to submit letters of support for this legislation into the record from the Agribusiness Council of Indiana, America First Policy Institute, and Heritage Action."

# Fishers road construction updates, week of Oct. 2

**The REPORTER**

**116th Street**  
On Thursday, Oct. 5, lane restrictions will be in place on 116th Street just west of Municipal Drive for milling and resurfacing at Fishers Center Drive.

**146th Street & Allisonville Road**  
Phase 2A traffic restrictions are in effect. These restrictions eliminate left-turn movements from 146th Street onto Allisonville Road and reopen to two thru lanes on eastbound and westbound 146th Street.

Please watch for flaggers and workers in and around the construction zone. Construction crews are continuing to work on storm sewer installation and roadway grading. Crews are continuing work on the widening of the westbound bridge over the White River. The contractor has installed cofferdams and delineating buoys in the White River for pier construction. The contractor is continuing work of the bridge foundations and substructure units. Use caution if canoeing or tubing through the work zone.

For additional project information, [click here](#).

**106th Street & Hoosier Road**  
The intersection of 106th Street and Hoosier Road is closed for the construction of a roundabout. Access into and out of Windermere subdivision will be on Geist Road via Governors Lane. Detour route can be found [here](#). For additional project information, view the Capital Project Dashboard [here](#).

**Cumberland Road**  
There are daily lane closures currently on Cumberland Road just south of 126th Street for sanitary and water line work. The northbound right-turn lane and the southbound passing blister will be closed.

**Geist Greenway**  
Geist Greenway is now open between Valley Crossing and 126th Street. Work has resumed on the trail south of Valley Crossing Drive and will remain closed until construction is finished. Construction continues to take place on Florida Road and between Bowline

Drive and 104th Street. For general project information, please visit [playfishers.com/299/Geist-Greenway](http://playfishers.com/299/Geist-Greenway).

**Tree trimming**  
Contractors are performing tree trimming in the medians along 116th Street and Allisonville Road. During the next several weeks, one lane on each side of the median will be closed between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to perform this work. Restrictions will be in place along 116th Street from Eller Road to Olivo Road and along Allisonville Road from Eller Road to 126th Street.

**Resurfacing Projects**  
ADA ramp and curb reconstruction is currently taking place in the Cottingham Estates, Harrison Parks, and Harrison Lakes as part of the 2023 Resurfacing Project. These areas will be restored with topsoil and seed. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to water the seed for the seed to germinate. Prior to road resurfacing, residents will be notified via street signage for street parking restrictions.

Road resurfacing has begun in the Cottingham Estates, Harrison Parks, Harrison Lakes, and The Parks at White River.

For additional project information, view the Capital Project Dashboard [here](#).

**State Road 37 & 141st Street**  
To learn more about the State Road 37 Improvement Project and sign up to receive text updates, visit [37Thrives.com](http://37Thrives.com).

**Nickel Plate Trail**  
The City of Fishers has completed the Fishers portion of the Nickel Plate Trail between Hague Road and 106th Street. Coordination and planning are underway with Indianapolis for the final phase between Hague Road and the crossing of 96th Street. To learn more about the Nickel Plate Trail, view the Capital Project Dashboard [here](#).

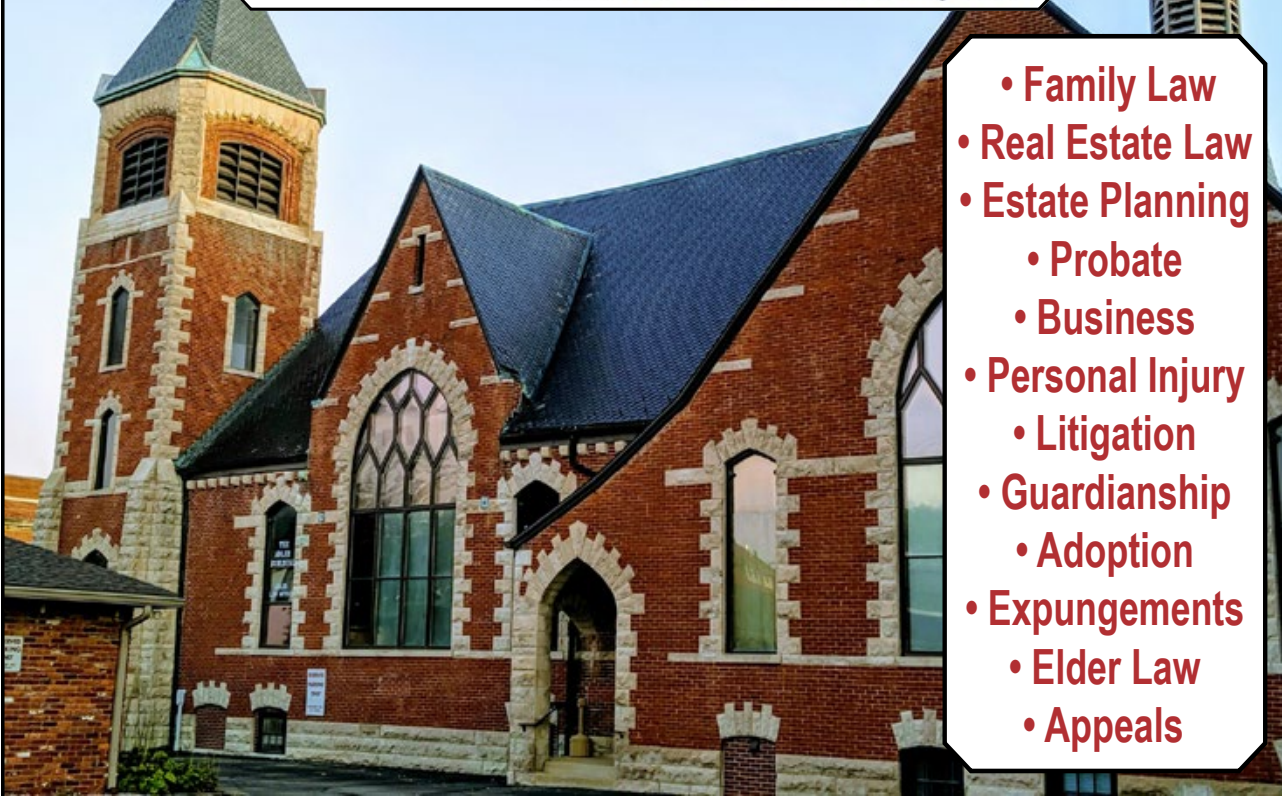
**I-465 & I-69**  
The ramp from I-69 North to 82nd Street and the ramp from 82nd Street to I-69 North is currently closed through late 2023. For detour routes and additional project information, visit [ClearPath465.com](http://ClearPath465.com).



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# Westfield's Grand Park will play host to Association of Pickleball Players Collegiate Championships & Midwest Open in 2024

## The REPORTER

The Association of Pickleball Players (APP) has announced its first APP Signature Event of its 2024 calendar, the inaugural APP Collegiate Championships and Midwest Open, which will be held Jan. 3 to 7 at Grand Park Sports Campus in Westfield.

This event will mark one of the largest pickleball events ever in the state of Indiana and is presented in partnership with Westfield Sports Commission, Hamilton County Sports Authority, Hamilton County Tourism, Indiana Sports and Tourism Bid Fund, and Grand National Racquet Center, a world-class racquet facility in development in Westfield and opening in 2025.

The first competition of its kind, the 2024 APP Collegiate Championships, will invite the top college pickleball teams from across the nation to showcase their skills in head-to-head competition. Each team will comprise a minimum of four players (two women and two men) and a maximum of six players (three women and three men) and compete in a unique new team competition. Matches from pool play through the finals will be rally scoring, win by one, and consist of singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. Scoring will follow the Every. Pickle. Point. Counts.™ scoring system where scoring for match wins is cumulative with points bonuses for games won. Under this scoring system, every game and every point matters.

College teams wishing to enter the tournament are asked to register their intention to field a team via [theapp.global](http://theapp.global). Complete registration details for all college teams confirmed to take part will be shared at a later date by the APP.

Alongside the APP Collegiate Championships, the APP will hold the APP Midwest Open for players of all ages and skill levels. The event will also feature a Pro Wildcard Playoff, guaranteeing pro champions a Wildcard entry into a

designated 2024 APP Tour event. The amateur brackets will follow the traditional APP double-elimination format for singles, doubles, and mixed doubles competitions. Amateur and wild-card pro player registrations for the event are open on [PickleballBrackets.com](http://PickleballBrackets.com).

The 2024 APP Collegiate Championships and Midwest Open will take place at the 400-acre **Grand Park Sports Campus** in Westfield. Grand Park Sports Campus is home to the Pacers Athletic Center, serves as the training camp home for the NFL's Indianapolis Colts, and boasts 57 outdoor fields for soccer, football, lacrosse, baseball, and softball.

"I am so excited to see the vision come to reality with the launch of this event with the APP and such a terrific group of committed partners," said John Moorin, Founder, MD Sports Marketing. "When I first talked to Ken Herrmann [APP Founder] about the idea to bring collegiate pickleball to Westfield, I knew I called the right person. I have many unforgettable memories playing in APP events, and I am so happy to help create that same excitement for the college athletes who will compete in this great, nationally televised event. It will be incredible – I just wish I was still at school to compete myself!"

"We are excited to host the 2024 APP Collegiate Championships and Midwest Open here at Grand Park Sports Campus for this inaugural event!" Grand Park Director Matt Trnian said. "The addition of pickleball to the campus continues to show how we can utilize the facility for a variety of sports."

Grand Park Events Center, a 377,000 square-foot facility, will be transformed into a pickleball mecca for the APP Collegiate Championships and Midwest Open, featuring 28 pickleball courts and a Championship Court, as well as stadium seating with visibility of all courts, VIP seating, player

locker rooms, and a large bar and restaurant overlooking play.

"We are thrilled to be heading to Westfield for our first APP Signature Event of 2024, the inaugural APP Collegiate Championships and Midwest Open," APP Founder Ken Herrmann said. "This event is a special one – it's the first of its kind to feature collegiate-level pickleball teams battling it out for gold. We'll also welcome hundreds of amateur players to participate in their unique tournament. Pickleball truly is a sport for everyone – not just elite professionals, but seniors, amateurs, and those picking up a paddle for the first time – and the APP Signature Events will provide a world-class tournament atmosphere for them all."

Westfield Sports Commission President Matt Deck said, "The Westfield Sports Commission could not be more excited about our first official event and the beginning of a long-lasting relationship with the APP!"

"I am thrilled to welcome the Association of Pickleball Players and all participants to the inaugural APP Collegiate Championships and Midwest Open at Grand Park Sports Campus," Westfield Mayor Andy Cook said. "This event marks a significant milestone for our city, showcasing our commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles and fostering community through sports. We are honored to host this prestigious event and look forward to witnessing the passion and talent of pickleball players nationwide."

"The Hamilton County Sports Authority team looks forward to welcoming the APP for this innovative and exciting new event highlighting both collegiate and open play," Hamilton County Sports Authority Director Carl Daniels said. "It's tremendous to see the platform the APP provides for pickleball players of all skill levels. Our team is excited to create a memorable experience for all these athletes

in our destination."

"I am excited to join the celebration of athleticism and sportsmanship that the APP Collegiate Championships and Midwest Open bring to our city," Westfield Mayor-elect Scott Willis said. "I congratulate the APP for organizing this event and thank them for choosing Westfield as the host location. This is a first for Grand Park and an expansion of sporting events at the park. I am eager to support and continue building upon initiatives that enhance our community's quality of life and promote the spirit of competition."

### About the APP

Founded in 2019, the Association of Pickleball Players (APP) serves professionals, amateurs and recreational players of all ages in the fastest growing sport in the USA. The APP operates the APP Tour, the first and only tour fully and officially sanctioned by USA Pickleball. The 2023 APP Tour slate has 16 announced tournament stops, in addition to International and Collegiate Series events. The APP also prides itself on developing the next generation of pickleball champions through its Next Gen Series, the Next Gen National Team, and other youth initiatives. To stay updated on the APP, visit [theapp.global](http://theapp.global).

**About Hamilton County Sports Authority**  
**Hamilton County Sports Authority** (HCSA), a division of Hamilton County Tourism, creates positive economic and community impact by attracting, supporting and developing sporting events, facilities and clubs for Hamilton County.

**About the Westfield Sports Commission**  
The Westfield Sports Commission (WSC) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that was formed in 2023 to grow sports tourism in the City of Westfield. WSC attracts, supports, and leverages diverse, high-quality sporting events to positively impact the quality of life, image, and long-term economic stability of the community.

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

### HAGAR AND ISHMAEL SENT AWAY

*The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."*

*The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring."*

*Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.*

*When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she began to sob.*

*God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."*

*Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.*

*God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.*

Genesis 21:8-21 (NIV)

## Meeting Notices

The Hamilton Heights School Corporation Board of Trustees will meet at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023, at the Hamilton Heights Student Activity Center, 420 W. North St., Arcadia, to discuss the terms of the tentative agreement of the teacher collective bargaining agreement, which is posted at [hhschuskiies.org/domain/379](http://hhschuskiies.org/domain/379).

The Hamilton County Council Finance Committee will meet at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023, via Microsoft Teams. To join the meeting, go to [microsoft.com/join-a-meeting](https://microsoft.com/join-a-meeting) and enter Meeting ID 292 326 117 280 and Passcode xezTxy.

# LOCAL NEWS LOCAL SPORTS Hamilton County Reporter



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## HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

### Contact Information

#### Email

News@ReadTheReporter.com

#### Web Address

ReadTheReporter.com

#### Publisher Stu Clampitt

765-365-2316

#### Subscription Inquiries

Subscribe@ReadTheReporter.com  
765-585-9519

#### Advertising & Public Notices

Ads@ReadTheReporter.com  
765-365-2316

#### Sports Editor Richie Hall

Sports@ReadTheReporter.com  
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### Hamilton County High School Football, Week 7

# Royals power through Millers to get huge Homecoming win

#### The REPORTER

A tremendous second quarter sent Hamilton Southeastern to a Homecoming win on Friday.

The Class 6A No. 5 Royals poured in 29 points during that period, and that powered Southeastern to a 43-22 Hoosier Crossroads Conference victory over Noblesville. The rushing game, led by AZ Wallace and Jalen Alexander, stepped up big time in the second quarter, and the Royals' defense did its part as well, holding off a Millers offense that's capable of putting up a big number of yards.

In fact, Hamilton Southeastern football coach Michael Kelly had this to say about the offensive abilities of Noblesville: "Their team is a team I stay up at night worrying about how you're going to stop them, because they have the ability to stay on the field for an extended amount of time."

Kelly can sleep well tonight, as his Royals responded after the Millers led 8-0 in the first quarter. Jacob Baker sent a 28-yard touchdown pass to Gage Gulley to get Noblesville on the board. The Millers went for two, and Gulley ran the conversion try into



Photos by Joshua Herd

(Above) Noblesville's Gage Gulley had three touchdowns, catching two TD passes and rushing for one more. (Right) Hamilton Southeastern's AZ Wallace scored three touchdowns for the Royals during their 43-22 Homecoming win over Noblesville on Friday.

the end zone.

Southeastern got its first points a minute and a half into the second quarter. Wallace broke through with a four-yard touchdown run, after which the Royals made their own two-point try. It worked, as Callen Okerson caught a pass from Chandler Weston.

Alexander scored his first touchdown of the game near the midway point of the quarter, rushing in from 11 yards. A few plays later, HSE's Jack Osiecki forced

a fumble, which the Royals' Jack Seyferth recovered. Southeastern got the ball down to the Noblesville one-yard line, and Alexander punched it in from there.

"We were able to get a couple stops, luckily, and force some turnovers and give ourselves a chance to win tonight," said Kelly. "I'm proud of our kids."

But Wallace had one more touchdown to score, and he got it with 2:32 left in the half, running from



two yards. Hugo Belmonte made all three extra-point kicks, and the Royals led 29-8.

"We just had a bad second quarter," said Nobles-

ville coach Dave Sharpe. "It was, honestly, just some mistakes, incredibly correctable mistakes, but it just led to huge plays for them with the turnovers in the second

quarter. But give them credit. We just didn't have much of an offensive flow in the second quarter."

See Huge . . . Page 14

# Fishers hangs on to secure victory despite Franklin Central comeback attempt

#### By JAMES SEAY

For The Reporter

**FISHERS** — In Friday night's Hoosier Crossroads Conference battle, the Fishers Tigers managed to secure a 29-23 victory over the Franklin Central Flashes. Although the Tigers had a commanding 26-point lead late in the third quarter, the Flashes mounted a remarkable comeback, scoring 20 unanswered points before the Tigers' defense sealed the game with a crucial turnover on downs.

The game began slowly, as both defenses prevented any scoring in the early stages. Despite Fishers' early interception, their defense remained strong throughout the first quarter. After a scoreless opening period, senior Brady Wolf, a Ball State commit, recorded a safety for FHS, putting them on the scoreboard.

Wolf credited his game preparation for the sack that led to the first score, saying, "Our defense provided a great opportunity by pushing Franklin back to the one-yard line. We knew their quarterback would attempt a lot of rollouts, and we capitalized on that."

The safety ignited the FHS offense, which capitalized on big runs from Khobie Martin and JonAnthony Hall. Eventually, senior Ben-

nett Gorak connected with Millen McCartney, extending the Tigers' lead to 8-0.

Martin had a standout performance, amassing 170 rushing yards. The Indiana University commit and Mr. Football hopeful explained the challenging game: "We executed well despite some mental mistakes. We stayed strong and played at the level we're capable of."

Franklin Central managed to drive down the field and score their first points with a field goal. They then forced the Tigers into a quick three-and-out and capitalized on two interceptions returned for touchdowns within ten seconds, courtesy of seniors Jake Pruitt and Carter Imes. This flurry of points brought the score to 22-3 before halftime.

Coach Curt Funk praised the defense: "Our defense performed exceptionally well and made crucial plays. I was proud to see them flying around the field and making big stops when needed."

The second half began with the Tigers' defense again stopping the Flashes on a fourth-and-one, resulting in a turnover on downs. This set the stage for junior JonAnthony Hall to receive a 17-yard pass from Gorak, his second touchdown of the game.

Hall finished with 107 yards receiving and 36 rushing, providing an addition-

al boost to the offense. He modestly stated, "Our defense stepped up big-time. I aim to do my best, whether catching passes or running jet sweeps."

With a 26-point lead established, the tide quickly turned when sophomore Gage Sturgill had to step in for Gorak, who left the game due to an injury.

Funk commented, "Gage was thrust into action against one of the best defenses in the state, but he responded admirably." The coach was unsure of the severity of the injury by his starting quarterback but explained he was not eligible to return.

A dramatic comeback by FCHS followed, including 20 points that narrowed the gap to a single score late in the fourth quarter. However, after being forced to punt with 1:57 remaining, the Tiger defense again rose to the occasion, thwarting the

See Hang On . . . Page 14



Reporter photo by Julie Brown

Fishers' Khobie Martin rushed for 170 yards during the Tigers' 29-23 victory over Franklin Central Friday night.

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# No. 9 Huskies clinch Hoosier Conference East Division with blowout win at Tipton

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Heights Huskies took a short road trip north on State Road 19 to Tipton with high hopes of not only a win to stay unbeaten, but also wanted to head home with the Hoosier Conference East Division title. They accomplished both of those on their way to a 43-0 rout of the host Blue Devils. It's the fifth straight shutout for the Huskies.

The Huskies took full advantage of opportunities in front of them all night and capitalized every time. That started in the first.

Eric Balcom was the first to score for Heights. He found the end zone on an 11-yard run.

Hamilton Heights went up 14-0 to end the first. Bodie Derrer found Jaylyn Pugh for a 47-yard touchdown pass.

Keeping their foot on the gas, Heights scored two more in the second quarter.

Derrer threw his second passing touchdown, this time to his top receiver Tyler Champion from 11 yards away. Balcom ran in the two-point attempt for a 22-0 lead.

The lead swelled to 29-0 at halftime. Owen VanHaaren scored on a one-yard run in the final minute of the second.

With 1:26 off of the third period clock, Eric Balcom ran 52-yards for another Heights score for a 36-0 advantage.

Heights would score one more time to put the game away. Derrer found Champion for a 68-yard touchdown for the final score of 43-0.

Balcom led the Huskies with 79 yards rushing on just three rushes. Derrer threw with precision, completing 15-of-19 passes for 285 yards and three touchdowns. Champion caught four for 118 and his two

HAMILTON HEIGHTS 43, TIPTON 0					
Score by Quarters			Scoring		
Heights	14	15	14	0-43	
Tipton	0	0	0	0-0	
Team stats	HH		TIP		
First Downs	7		4		
By Rush	3		0		
By Pass	4		0		
By Penalty	0		4		
Rushes-Yards	19-150		31-61		
Passing Yards	285		9		
Comp-Att-Int-TD	15-19-0-3		2-5-0-0		
Fumbles-Lost	0-0		0-0		
Penalties-Yards	10-120		4-25		
Punts-Average	2-61.5		7-39.4		
Heights individual stats					
Rushing: Balcom 3-79, VanHaaren 11-41, Derrer 3-30, Logan Hickman 1-3, Drew Woodruff 1-minus 3.					
Passing: Derrer 15-19-285.					
Receiving: Cam Fleming 5-46, Champion 4-118, Pugh 4-105, VanHaaren 2-16.					

scores, while Pugh also had four for 105 and a score.

Hamilton Heights (7-0) hosts South Bend Washington (2-5) next Friday night at Husky Stadium for a 7:30

kickoff.

On Oct. 13, Heights will be on the road at West Lafayette (5-2, 3-0 HC) to play for the Hoosier Conference championship.

# Shamrocks roll past Avon in away game

The REPORTER

Westfield got back on the winning track Friday, taking care of Avon 38-14 in an away Hoosier Crossroads Conference game.

The Class 6A No. 7 Shamrocks scored late in the first quarter. Jackson Gilbert sent a 67-yard pass to Beau Braun to set up Westfield in the red zone, and Kendall Garnett punched it in to get the 'Rocks on the board.

The Orioles tied the game in the second quarter, but Westfield answered with a score with 1:12 left in the half, when Gilbert and Maximus Nosler teamed up for another passing touchdown. Brody Boehm made the extra-point kicks after both scores, and the Shamrocks led 14-7 at halftime.

The 'Rocks added two more touchdowns in the third quarter. Gilbert threw

his third touchdown pass of the game, this one to Gabe Aramboles with 10:09 left in the period. Later, Mikeah Webster punched it in to put Westfield ahead 28-7. Boehm again made both extra-point kicks.

Avon scored to open the fourth quarter, but that would be as close as the Orioles would get. Boehm added a field goal midway through the fourth quarter, then Garnett ran in a touchdown to complete the Westfield scoring.

Gilbert finished 14-of-22 for 241 yards, with Braun making four catches for 102 yards. Webster led the defense with 12 tackles, followed by Drew Law with 10 stops. Coleton Vondersaar made two tackles for a loss.

The Shamrocks are 4-1 in the HCC and 6-1 overall, and hosts Fishers next week.

WESTFIELD 38, AVON 14					
Score by Quarters			Complete Westfield Scoring not available		
Westfield	7	7	14	10-38	
Avon	0	7	0	7-14	
Team stats	WF				
First Downs	18				
Rushes-Yards	34-129				
Passing Yards	241				
Comp-Att-Int-TD	14-24-1-2				
Penalties-Yards	6-53				
Punts-Average	2-39.0				
Westfield individual stats					
Rushing: Kendall Garnett 20-70, Jackson Gilbert 4-30, Gabe Aramboles 2-15, Mikeah Webster 4-11, Bordy Boehm 1-5, Carsen Melvin 1-0, Max Nosler 2-minus 2.					
Passing: Gilbert 14-22-241, Melvin 0-2-0.					
Receiving: Beau Braun 4-102, Aramboles 4-76, Nosler 3-28, Broc Parker 2-18, Garnett 1-17.					



Photo by Si DeVaney III

Sheridan's Eli Kolb rushed for 87 yards and a touchdown Friday during the Blackhawks' Hoosier Heartland Conference win over Delphi. Sheridan won 37-14 and is 5-0 in conference play.

# Blackhawks take care of Delphi, remain undefeated in conference

The REPORTER

Sheridan kept its unbeaten Hoosier Heartland Conference season rolling Friday, taking care of Delphi 37-14 at Bud Wright Stadium.

Neither team scored in the first quarter, but the Class 1A No. 7 Blackhawks held a 14-7 lead at halftime. Zach Bales ran in two touchdowns, first from eight yards, then from nine yards. Owen Bell kicked both extra points.

Sheridan added two points early in the third quarter with a safety, then Eli Kolb broke loose for a 26-yard touchdown run to get the 'Hawks ahead

23-7. In the fourth quarter, Sheridan put the game away with two quick scores: Bell punched the ball in from the one-yard line, then Nolan Page turned an interception into a pick six, taking the ball 27 yards to the end zone.

Bell was 5-for-5 in extra points. Kolb led the rushing with 87 yards.

The Blackhawks are now 5-0 in conference play and continue to share first place with Carroll, which is also 5-0. The Cougars beat Clinton Central 64-6 on Friday. Sheridan is 6-1 overall and travels to Eastern next Friday for another HHC game.

SHERIDAN 37, DELPHI 14					
Score by Quarters			Scoring		
Delphi	0	7	0	7-14	
Sheridan	0	14	9	14-37	
Team stats	DEL		SHER		
First Downs	8		13		
By Rush	5		11		
By Pass	2		2		
By Penalty	1		0		
Rushes-Yards	30-121		48-174		
Passing Yards	81		74		
Comp-Att-Int-TD	3-14-2-1		3-7-0-0		
Fumbles-Lost	3-0		0-0		
Penalties-Yards	4-20		6-50		
Punts-Average	5-33.6		4-38.8		
Sheridan individual stats					
Rushing: Kolb 24-87, Bales 8-42, Bell 7-20, Cole Mackintosh 5-14, Page 4-11.					
Passing: Bell 3-7-74.					
Receiving: Trent DeCraene 2-59, Kolb 1-15.					

# Ben Davis has big second half to take down Carmel

The REPORTER

The Carmel Greyhounds were upset-minded heading to the lower west side for a showdown with their former Metropolitan Conference rivals, the Ben Davis Giants. The 'Hounds had won the previous three regular season meetings. But, that came to a screeching halt on Friday. The host Giants used a big second half to pull away in defeating Carmel, 45-16.

The Giants didn't put the first points on the board until the final minute of the first on a rushing touchdown by Alijah Price. Defense was the name of the game for both squad for the majority of the first half.

Ben Davis kicker Ben Rudolph made a 40-yard field goal in the final seconds of the first half for a 10-0 lead at half for the Giants.

A couple third-quarter scores from BD from a 64-yard reception by Mark Zachery, along with an interception of an Anthony Coellner pass that was run back and they were up 24-0 just four minutes into the quarter.

Carmel was finally able to get things going in their direction. Norvil Tucker ran 52 yards for a touchdown to make it 24-7.

See Carmel . . . Page 16

BEN DAVIS 45, CARMEL 16					
Score by Quarters			Carmel scoring		
Carmel	0	0	7	9-16	
Ben Davis	7	3	14	21-45	
Team stats	CAR		BD		
First Downs	13		26		
By Rush	9		12		
By Pass	4		13		
By Penalty	0		1		
Rushes-Yards	27-182		38-193		
Passing Yards	115		240		
Comp-Att-Int-TD	10-19-1-1		21-32-0-0		
Fumbles-Lost	2-2		1-1		
Penalties-Yards	4-23		6-55		
Punts-Average	3-46.7		1-40.0		
Carmel individual stats					
Rushing: Tucker 10-99, Holden Mumau 2-32, Colin Johnson 8-31, Anthony Coellner 6-11, Craig Kepler 1-9.					
Passing: Coellner 9-18-113, Trent 1-1-2.					
Receiving: Carson Mace 4-32, Ozzy Pollard 3-52, Rogers 2-30, Tucker 1-1.					

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Girls Golf



(Left) Carmel's Michaela Headlee is part of a four-way tie for second place after the first round. (Right) Hamilton Southeastern's Janelle Garcia led the Royals with a 79 on the first day.

Photos by Mike Navarro

Exciting IHSAA state finals today as three Hamilton County teams face off

By RICHIE HALL sports@readthereporter.com

CARMEL — Three Hamilton County teams will be in the final group today at the IHSAA girls golf state finals.

All three teams had solid first round efforts during the first day of state, which took place Friday at Prairie View Golf Club in Carmel. Westfield is in the lead after Day 1; the Shamrocks got off to a hot start, and held on during the back nine to card a 306.

The defending state champion Greyhounds are right behind Westfield with a 307. Homestead is in third with a 313, while Noblesville played consistent to land in fourth place with a 315. Hamilton Southeastern is in 10th place with a 339.

The Shamrocks also have the leader. Senior Samantha Brown, in her last high school tournament before heading to Purdue University, played outstanding, with four birdies and no bogies to score 68. Brown leads by five strokes going into today's second round. "Sam had a fantastic day," said Westfield coach Josh Bryant. One of Brown's birdies came on the 18th hole.

"She stuck to her game plan, she was patient, and I'm really happy for her,"

said Bryant.

Junior Addi Kooi also had a great round for the 'Rocks. She is one of four players in a tie for second place with a 73, making four birdies on the front nine. Kelsey Haverluck made two birdies on her way to an 80.

Westfield coach Josh Bryant said the front nine couldn't have gone better for his team. He acknowledged there was a rough stretch between holes 11 through 13.

"What I'm proud of is the way we played 15 through 18," said Bryant. "We finished. We talked about that all year. All five girls finished well, and couldn't be more pleased with the first day."

Carmel also had a fine day, getting two players in the top 10 after the first round. Purdue commit Michaela Headlee is part of the second-place tie; she made five birdies during her round of 73. Claire Swathwood is in ninth place with a 75, including a pair of birdies. Sophie Mock (79), Kamryn Williams (80) and Maddie Headlee (86) all made one birdie during their rounds.

"They'll work on things, for sure," said 'Hounds coach Kelly Kluesner. "But they know they're halfway through. A couple things didn't go their way, but



Photo by Mike Navarro

Noblesville's Josie Kelley (left) and Westfield's Samantha Brown (right) share a laugh during their round at the first day of the IHSAA girls golf state finals at Prairie View Golf Club in Carmel. Brown is leading the individual standings after day 1, with Kelley tied for sixth.

they'll have a good mindset tomorrow."

Noblesville played solid golf, with Josie Kelley leading the way. The sophomore carded a 74, putting her in a three-way tie for sixth place so far. Kelley made three birdies in her round. Olivia Fowler also had three birdies during her round of 79. Jordan Adam carded an 80, including a great par-saving putt on the 17th hole.

"I think we played solid," said Millers coach Justin Werkley. "Maybe left a

few shots out there, but no major mistakes, just steady golf. I was proud of them."

Janelle Garcia led the Royals with a score of 79, making two birdies along the way. Ella Bui had one birdie during her round of 80.

Today's second round of the state finals begins at 8:30 a.m.

**Team scores:** Westfield 306, Carmel 307, Homestead 313, Noblesville 315, Center Grove 325, Franklin Community 330, Floyd Central 333,

Zionsville 334, Penn 336, Hamilton Southeastern 339, Fort Wayne Carroll 343, Northridge 353, Kankakee Valley 366, Bedford North Lawrence 377, Jasper 377, Terre Haute South 381, New Palestine 383, Chester-ton 393.

**Individual leader:** Samantha Brown (Westfield) 68.

**Other Westfield scores:** Addi Kooi 73, Kelsey Haverluck 80, Sam Lemieux 85, Sami

Hanavan 90.

**Carmel scores:** Michaela Headlee 73, Claire Swathwood 75, Sophie Mock 79, Kamryn Williams 80, Maddie Headlee 86.

**Noblesville scores:** Josie Kelley 74, Olivia Fowler 79, Jordan Adam 80, Karis Shields 82, Olivia Anderson 83.

**Southeastern scores:** Janelle Garcia 79, Ella Bui 80, Sophie Roberts 84, Emily Vandall 96, Karolina Franssen 96.

CARMEL

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Kicker Josh Placzek connected on a 30-yard field goal at the beginning of the fourth for two unanswered scores, but that wouldn't last long.

After that, it was all Ben Davis. Two touchdown passes from Thomas Gotkowski and another from Isaiah Rogers and the Giants were up 45-7.

The Greyhounds scored

in the final seconds of the game when Nate Rogers caught a TD pass from Zach Trent to account for the final score of 45-16.

Norvil Tucker had 10 carries for 99 yards and a touchdown on the ground. Ozzy Pollard had three catches for 52 yards.

Carmel (4-3) plays at home next week against Warren Central (3-4).

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Boys Tennis

Carmel & Fishers both get sectional championships

The REPORTER

The Carmel boys tennis team took care of a tough opponent on Friday to claim another sectional championship.

The No. 1-ranked and host Greyhounds beat No. 4 Zionsville 5-0 to win the Sectional 35 title at the Todd Witsken Tennis Center. Carmel won all five matches in straight sets, although there were some tough ones during the meet.

No. 3 singles Wesley Worobel got a hard-fought victory at his flight, winning 7-5, 6-4. At No. 1 doubles, senior Braedon McIntyre and junior Michael Bao won a first-set tiebreak, then got through the second set 6-3.

"I think everyone played great," said Bao. "It was a lot of cheering, a lot of team camaraderie. I think it was just really good overall."

The sectional championship is the 14th in a row for the Greyhounds and the 37th in program history.

"It feels great," said McIntyre. "I saw my seniors do it. This being my senior year, I want to take it all the way."

At the same time, McIntyre is aware that the team must take it one match at a time. Carmel will head to the Lebanon regional next week.

"We got to be focused for the next match," said McIntyre. "Regionals isn't going to be easy for us, either." The senior said his team is going to "take it one at a time, and hopefully it turns out for us in the end."

**CARMEL 5, ZIONSVILLE 0**

**No. 1 singles:** Jonathan Yang def. De Andrade Portillo 6-3, 6-2

**No. 2 singles:** Rocky



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

The Carmel boys tennis team continued its sectional championship streak by beating Zionsville 5-0 to win the Sectional 35 title at the Greyhounds' Todd Witsken Tennis Center. Carmel has won 14 consecutive sectional championships.



Photo provided

The Fishers boys tennis team claimed its first sectional title in five years Friday, taking care of Pendleton Heights 5-0.

Li def. Cramer 6-3, 6-2

**No. 3 singles:** Wesley Worobel def. Kroon 7-5, 6-4

**No. 1 doubles:** Braedon McIntyre and Michael Bao def. Everson and Herrman 7-6 (4), 6-3

**No. 2 doubles:** Grant Mu and David Liu def. Kolman and Rushton 6-4, 6-0

\*\*\*

Fishers claimed its first sectional championship in five years on Friday, beat-

ing Pendleton Heights 5-0 to win Sectional 31 at the Tigers' courts.

No. 14-ranked Fishers won all five matches in straight sets, including 6-0, 6-1 triumphs in both doubles matches. No. 1 singles Aidan Foley was victorious 6-0, 6-2. This is the third sectional title for the Tigers program, they won back-to-back sectionals in 2017-18.

Fishers will compete in the Mount Vernon regional next week.

**FISHERS 5, PENDLETON HEIGHTS 0**

**No. 1 singles:** Aidan Foley def. Perry 6-0, 6-2

**No. 2 singles:** Gavin Conrad def. Ritchey 6-4, 6-3

**No. 3 singles:** Cooper Vallance def. Kean 6-4, 6-1

**No. 1 doubles:** Jack Butler and Thomas Bender def. Morgan and Chen 6-0, 6-1

**No. 2 doubles:** Vaughan Curtis and Jonathan Mills def. Haugh and Thorsen 6-0, 6-1