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Indy's Largest Poker Tournament

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

NOVEMBER 17th & 18th 2023

Hamilton County Fairgrounds

Proceeds Support Lions Club Charitable Projects

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WEDNESDAY, Nov. 15, 2023

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8

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TODAY'S WEATHER

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HIGH: 66 LOW: 39

paulpoteet

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Two-year program teaches next generation of servants

Submitted

Hamilton County Clerk Kathy Williams and Hamilton County Councilman Mark Hall spoke with a group of local high school freshmen on Tuesday about public service, volunteer service, and why both were called to serve as elected officials. The event was held at Beck's Hybrids Research Center.

What is ACTS?

"A Chance To Serve" (ACTS) is a community youth leadership program that places youth on local boards and committees after participating in a series of five day-long leadership training sessions.

A program of Purdue Extension Hamilton County, ACTS is a two-year commitment for the participants. Year 1 is comprised of the training sessions. Year 2 unfolds as youth begin a year of service with a local board or organization.

Purdue Extension Hamilton County partners with local community leaders to provide an opportunity for the youth to par-

County Councilman Mark Hall (seated, left) and County Clerk Kathy Williams (seated, right) spoke about the value of public service and its importance to a healthy republic.

Photo provided

Participants in the ACTS program are shown in a group photo. The program is a two-year commitment for youth, starting with training sessions in Year 1 and followed by a year of service on local boards or organizations in Year 2. The program is run by Purdue Extension Hamilton County.

Photo provided by Megan Rathz
The Rathz kids are ready for Christmas!

'Tis the Season

There is something about becoming a parent that makes the holidays magical.

When you're a kid, the holidays are magical just because they are filled with so much excitement and anticipation. You are blissfully unaware of the lengths that your folks went to ensure you and your siblings had a memorable holiday season. When you're an adult, holidays are magical because you get to experience the excitement and anticipation that you once had as a child through the eyes of your own children.

I love this season and the traditions that we continue from when I was a little girl, but also the new ones we've created as a family together.

We are entering the season of baking, shopping, special shows, holiday lights, traditional meals, Santa, trains, turkeys, Christmas pjs, and trees! The holiday season really starts for our family when we

See Season . . . Page 2

COLUMNIST

MEGAN RATHZ

When Nature Speaks

Carmel Christkindlmarkt to welcome German artists for this year's Market

The REPORTER

The Carmel Christkindlmarkt will once again serve as host for a variety of German artists in their Werkstatt ("Workshop") for guests to watch at work in real time.

For the first time this year, the Market will welcome two glassblowers from the world renowned glassblowing community in Lauscha, Germany. Falk Bauer and Katrin Zapf will be at the Market with glassblowing demonstrations Dec. 6 to 10.

"We are thrilled to have glassblowers joining our artists this year," Carmel Christkindlmarkt CEO Maria Murphy said. "Glassblowing and woodcarving are such quintessential pieces of German artistry, and we can't wait for our guests to see these works of art take shape in person."

Artists will be in the Werkstatt on the following schedule:

Ringo Müller, Nov. 18 & 19

Ringo Müller is a fourth-generation woodturner from Seiffen, Saxony. Müller Schwibbogen and Christmas pyramids from the Erzgebirge have been a staple in German households and abroad for more than a century.

Markus Wagner, Nov. 22 to Dec. 3

Markus Wagner is the last remaining woodcarver at the Oberammergauer Schnürlikasperl. His witty creations and masterful artwork come alive as delighted kids and adults pull the strings of the beloved jumping jacks. Oberammergau is a small village nestled at the foot of the alps and famous for its Passionsspiele ("passion play").

Photo provided

Markus Wagner is the last remaining woodcarver at the Oberammergauer Schnürlikasperl. See him Nov. 22 to Dec. 3.

Falk Bauer & Katrin Zapf, Dec. 6 to 10

Falk Bauer and Katrin Zapf join the Market from the his-

toric glassblowing community of Lauscha in Thuringia.

See Market . . . Page 2

Sheridan & Adams Township form joint reorganization committee, appoint four members

The REPORTER

During their respective meetings last week, the Adams Township Advisory Board and the Sheridan Town Council formed a joint reorganization committee and appointed members.

The Committee to Preserve the Heritage and Collective Strengths of the Town of Sheridan and Adams Township Area Community will develop a reorganization plan that includes collecting input and making recommendations on how both governing bodies merge functions.

Under Indiana law, at least two government units can agree to explore the benefits and efficiencies of reorganization. Part of the exploration requires the plan to address the fiscal impact and service levels and create electoral districts for a new town council.

The Adams Township Advisory Board appointed longtime Adams Township resident Neil Johnson, Advisory Board member Floyd Barker, and Adams Township Trustee Michelle Junkins. The Sheridan Town Council appointed Adams Township resident Heidi Kienholz, Sheridan Community Schools Superintendent Dr. Dave Mundy, and Town Councilors Eric Gifford and Silas DeVaney III.

The Committee will hold a project kick-off meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at the Sheridan Elementary School cafeteria.

"This is a crucial and incredible time for our community, and it is important to share information at every step of the process," Dr. Mundy said.

Mundy is chairing the committee and encourages attendance by anyone interested in learning about the process.

"This meeting is the first of many as the committee develops the plan that voters ultimately approve," Mundy said.

Mundy

Nickel Plate Express ready to debut inaugural New Year's Eve masquerade

The REPORTER

Get ready to embark on a truly extraordinary New Year's Eve experience. Nickel Plate Express (NPX) has announced its first-ever New Year's Eve Train Ride, an enchanting event that will transport you from Hobbs Station in Noblesville to Earthly Endearments in Atlanta, Ind., for an evening of opulence and merriment.

Departing at 8 p.m. on Dec. 31, this masquerade-themed train ride promises an unforgettable journey through time and style. As you step aboard NPX's beautifully restored train, you'll be transported to an era of elegance and intrigue. All passengers are encouraged to dress in their

finest masquerade-themed apparel, adding an extra touch of glamour to the night.

Throughout the evening, live music from a string quartet will set the perfect tone, adding a touch of enchantment to the atmosphere. Lose yourself in the melodies and rhythms as you embrace the joyous spirit of the night. And as the clock approaches midnight, raise a glass from our champagne bar, toasting to the arrival of the New Year and bidding farewell to the year past. Prepare for a breathtaking balloon drop at midnight, filling the air with a burst of colors and excitement.

This exclusive event has limited tickets available, so you should secure yours early to ensure your spot on this unique journey. Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate New Year's Eve in style and create memories that will last a lifetime. For ticket purchase and further information, please visit NickelPlateExpress.org.

Photo provided by Nickel Plate Express

All passengers are encouraged to dress in their finest masquerade-themed apparel, adding a touch of glamour.

MARKET

from Page 1



Glassblowers Falk Bauer (top) and Katrin Zapf (above) will be at the Market Dec. 6 to 10.

No Christmas tree is complete without glass baubles and intricate Baumschmuck (ornaments) from Lauscha. Visitors can also try their hand at glassblowing and marvel at the delicate detail that these artists can coax out of molten glass.

Anja Werner, Dec. 13 to 19

Anja Werner is an instructor at the Kunsthochschule in Schneeberg – the region’s most prestigious art institute – where she learned the art of woodcarving and furniture making from the old masters. Werner took the old-world techniques and applied a modern twist to create her unique Holzgestalten (“wooden shapes”).

Joachim Seiffudem, Dec. 20 to 24

Meet Joachim Seiffudem, a prominent sculptor from Bad Kohlgrub, Bavaria, and watch him transform a plain tree stump into a masterpiece. Even though Seiffudem was raised in a family of artists, his talent to create meaningful sculptures is influenced by his life experiences and travel around the world.

The woodworkers will be in the Werkstatt to greet visitors during the Market’s open hours.

For a full look at the Market’s 2023 schedule, please visit CarmelChristkindmarkt.com/schedule.

SEASON

from Page 1

are watching the Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade. We always enjoy a donut while we start preparing the food that we are taking to my mom’s that day. Our whole house is filled with the aroma of my husband’s homemade noodles. These are a hot commodity at our family’s Thanksgiving table. Speaking of tables, my mom puts together the loveliest spread with the same pattern of turkey plates that her Mema used to use. Nobody can decorate a Thanksgiving table quite like my mom.

Every year, my entire family goes to see Yuletide at the Hilbert Circle Theatre in downtown Indianapolis. We always go the first weekend of December, and it really is the kickoff to the Christmas season for my family and me.

We have a whole set of things that we always bake each year. Unfortunately, my son’s anaphylactic reaction to peanuts has put a bit of a damper on those buckeyes, but you do what you must, and we’ve added new items to the lineup to make up for the fact we cannot have peanut butter in our home. My personal favorite thing to bake this time of year is reindeer crack. My husband loves crinkle cookies. The kids love anything that is presented to them with chocolate or sugar. If it has sprinkles, all the better!

We love driving around and looking at Christmas lights. I love getting the kids in their pajamas and letting them bring a blanket and driving around to see the light displays. We go to Starbucks multiple times a week this time of year to get a red cup and enjoy their seasonal offerings. We also love going to Christmas at the Zoo. Typically, it is so cold that you can barely feel your face, but it’s about the memories. Bundle up, kiddies, and don’t ruin this for your mom and dad. We are

making memories, darn it! We also love boarding the Sullivans Express to visit Santa Claus. If you haven’t done this before, you will not regret it! And if you don’t already have tickets for it, good luck! My kids practice for days on end what they’re going to ask Santa for when they finally get face-to-face with Father Christmas. Typically, they are all big and bad until they see Santa and usually must be coaxed into what they want to say.

My mom has everyone over to her house the week before Christmas for our gift exchange. Better known as, the time when everyone in the family gets to watch my children open presents as a spectator watches a sporting event. The number of gifts that my children come home with between my mom and sister at Christmas is something to behold.

As we inch closer to the day of Christmas, we make sure we are watching any holiday movies that we haven’t seen yet. We are enjoying a little too much of my husband’s homemade hot cocoa mix. The daily attire is pajamas at this point. We are all hanging on by a thread to make it to the final days of work and school, so we can enjoy a much-needed time at home together.

When Christmas Eve rolls around, we make our crinkle cookies for Santa. We go to a beautiful Christmas service at our church, then head out to a hibachi dinner as a family. Once we are home, we put on our pjs and listen to my husband recite *The Night Before Christmas*. Once he is finished, we make sure to leave our note for Santa along with his cookies, and we put the kids to bed in their matching Christmas pajamas, eagerly waiting for Santa’s arrival the next morning.

Christmas morning is a mad frenzy of happy chaos.



Photo provided by Megan Rathz Pat wasn’t too sure about meeting Santa at first.

The kids are so excited to see what Santa brought for them. My husband goes down first to verify that he came and turns on all our lights. There is nothing like walking down the steps with two little kids about to see what Santa brought them for Christmas. It is absolute magic.

After we all exchange our gifts and spend half of the morning opening the toys in their ever-so thoughtful packaging, we hurry up and get ready as we host our entire family for lunch. My husband makes a beef tenderloin that would make Gordon Ramsay cry. Our home is filled with laughter, repeated stories, food, drinks, dogs all over the place, and the pitter patter of happy feet excitedly showing family what Santa brought them. Once

everyone leaves and we get the kitchen cleaned up, we put on pajamas and enjoy a glass of wine on the couch while the kids either nap or play with their new toys.

I know from now until the end of the year is going to be chaos. I know that there will be days when I feel over-committed and burdened to make this the best holiday season ever. I know that my parents felt this when I was growing up. I also know how magical this time is and that instead of getting too much in the weeds of the details, I need to pause and take in every single magical moment this season.

Megan Rathz is a wife, mother, and teacher. She says everything she has ever learned in life came from her Master Gardener mother.

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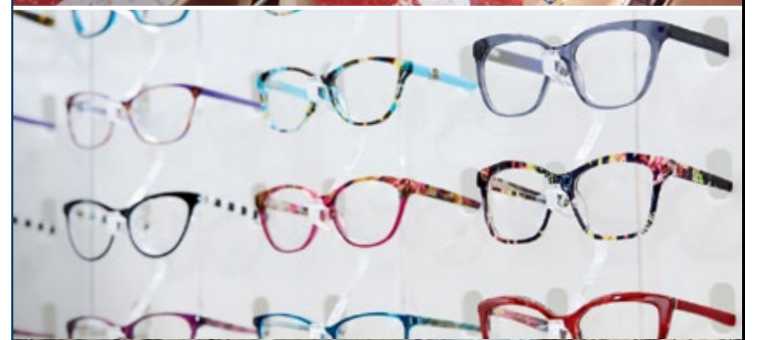
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When Black Friday comes . . .

Well, the season for giving is nearly upon us. The companies that sell things are telling us so – some of them have been telling us so since August and September. It's been like this for quite a while now. The rush to sell things precedes the rush to buy things by several weeks or months.

Black Friday is today – and yesterday, and tomorrow, and a week from today. This seems new. I don't recall it being Black Friday every day in the recent past. Of course, it used to be that Black Friday was that magic shopping day on the day after Thanksgiving. Troops of visiting relatives



COLUMNIST
KEN KLINGENMEIER

would join their in-town relatives for planned operations of buying. The newspaper was FULL of ads for stores that opened at dawn with outrageous prices on everything from televisions and computers to jewelry and unmentionables.

On Friday morning, after a cup of coffee and a sweet roll, the armies would descend and stand in line to wait for the doors to open – often behind the people who had spent the night in tents to be in the front of that line to wait for the doors to open. Then the doors would open and the real challenge began. Sometimes – well, often –

it was mayhem! There were fights. There were squabbles.

To alleviate this problem, some stores opened on Thanksgiving evening and sometimes remained open all night. Still, there weren't enough cheap TVs and jewelry to go around. Then – Amazon!

Suddenly you could take your chances on the stupendously low-priced dream gifts by going online and clicking away. Everything would arrive at your door by carrier – FedEx, UPS, and USPS all have a piece of the pie. People get what they want to give and, more importantly, get what they want for themselves at bargain prices.

Believe me, I understand. The holiday giving season is very important to

merchants – to anyone who sells anything that might be construed as a gift for somebody. It's prime time for sales, and selling you items that you want to give as gifts is coupled with fulfillment of what can be a very emotional thing for folks – getting the right gift for each and every person on that list and getting it for the lowest price possible!

And so it goes. Good luck out there and Happy Thanksgiving! And Happy Black Friday ... all of them!

Ken Klingenstein is known in the pages of The Reporter for his reviews of local theater productions in the Greater Indianapolis area, which you can read on his blog, A Seat on the Aisle. He also occasionally opines on other topics.

Sheridan First Christian Church invites community to annual noodle dinner

The REPORTER

The Sheridan First Christian Church will hold its annual Noodle Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at the church, located at 107 W. 3rd St., Sheridan.

The dinner will take place from 4:30 to 6 p.m., or until 500 meals are served. Drive-thru only.

The menu will include

chicken & noodles or beef & noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans with ham, homemade yeast rolls, and cookies.

Cost of the meal is a free-will offering, and all major credit cards will be accepted.

Please note that the church will also collect bras, cell phones, eyeglasses, and shoes.

Carmel's own Mary McGuire given Indiana State University's Distinguished Alumni Award

The REPORTER

Carmel resident Mary McGuire was honored by Indiana State University with its 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award at the university's annual President's Dinner last Friday evening. The President's Dinner cel-

brates exceptional alumni and philanthropy.

The Indiana State Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to those alumni who have made significant contributions professionally and in their local and global communities.

Authorities: Tuesday morning fire at IDI in Noblesville contained to storage room

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A fire Tuesday morning sent smoke into downtown Noblesville from a manufacturer of molding compounds, the city's fire department says.

Noblesville Fire Department was called shortly after 11 a.m. to IDI Composites International, 407 S. Seventh St. Crews arrived to find smoke coming from the building along Eighth Street.

The fire was contained to a 26-gallon drum in a room in a storage area. The department says in a news release that the fire, which was contained to that area, was extinguished "a short time later." No information about the amount of damage was included in the release.

No one was hurt. The cause of the fire was not yet known Tuesday afternoon.

Because the manufacturer has potentially hazardous



Photo provided by Noblesville Fire Department

Noblesville Fire Department was called shortly after 11 a.m. Tuesday to IDI Composites International, 407 S. Seventh St.

materials, representatives of the fire department, the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Manage-

ment remained on site in the mid-afternoon.

IDI's website says the business makes thermoset molding composites and compounds for these indus-

tries: automotive, electric and new energy vehicles, mass transportation, military, electrical, infrastructure, oil and gas, construction, safety, medical and marine.

Westfield Chamber Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

Chamber Luncheon

11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 16
Location: The Bridgewater Club

Pastry with a Planner

8 to 9 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 28
Location: The Bridgewater Club

Coffee with the Chamber

8 to 9 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 30
Location: The Bridgewater Club

[Click here](#) to see a full list of events by the Westfield Chamber of Commerce and its partners.

Hamilton County Reporter



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Home of Indiana pork festival pigs out on McRib’s return

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The home of a central Indiana pork festival for more than 50 years had a celebration Friday for the return of the **McRib** sandwich.

McDonald’s announced earlier in the week that its seasoned, boneless pork patty with BBQ sauce, slivered onions and dill pickles on a bun would return “for a limited time” starting Saturday in Indiana and southwest Michigan.

The Indiana Pork Producers Association hosted Friday’s fun at the city’s McDonald’s restaurant. Democrat Mayor Tom Dolezal joined a City Council member, a hog farmer, and the local restaurant’s owner/operator for a ceremonial “first bite.”



Photo provided by McDonald’s
(From left) Rick Chandler of the Tipton City Council; Tipton Mayor Tom Dolezal; Adam Salsbery, a Howard County hog farmer; and Blake Kosanovich, owner/operator of the Tipton McDonald’s restaurant enjoy McRib sandwiches on Nov. 10.

A news release from McDonald’s said that the restaurant chain purchases nearly \$30 million worth of products from Indiana farmers, including 13 million pounds of pork.

The 520-calorie sandwich and plus McRib merchandise last appeared on menus a year ago as a “farewell tour,” with promoters noting it would not be sold again nationally for a while after November 2022.

The 2023 **Tipton County Pork Festival** happened Sept. 7 to 9.

Westfield Mayor-elect Scott Willis names Jenell Fairman as economic development director

The REPORTER

Scott Willis, Mayor-elect of Westfield, has selected Jenell Fairman to be his Economic Development Director.

“Jenell Fairman brings an abundance of experience to this role,” Willis said. “She is a highly-skilled engineer with an extensive background in commercial real estate, property development, project and design management, financing, and bid processes. I am grateful and thrilled to have her joining my team.”

As Economic Development Director, Fairman will focus on quality, sustainability, and community connectivity in Westfield.

This includes fostering economic growth, job creation, and a better quality of life with the goal of creating a diverse and resilient local economy.

“I am thrilled to be joining the City of Westfield to support Mayor-Elect Willis and the rest of the new administration in the continued economic growth of Westfield,” Fairman said. “This role provides a great opportunity to combine my redevelopment experience at the City of Carmel with my engineering consulting background. Building on the walkability of the Westfield downtown master plan, convenient access to US 31 and the tourism draw of Grand

Park, the Westfield community can expect to see an updated economic development plan focused on a variety of housing options, hospitality, high tech industrial, and commercial investments.”

As mentioned frequently on the campaign trail, smart economic development was at the forefront of Willis’ conversations with voters. As such, Willis said it was important to him – and the rest of his transition team – to ensure the position of Economic Development Director was filled by a high-



Willis



Fairman

ly-skilled individual with well-rounded competencies who could hit the ground running immediately.

Fairman currently serves as Deputy Director of Redevelopment for the City of Carmel and will begin this new role with the City of Westfield on Jan. 1, 2024, when Willis takes office.

Getting to know your county’s only juried-in artist association

By WALT THACKER
HCAA President

Did you know that the Hamilton County Artists’ Association (known as the HCAA) was established in 1950 and is the only juried-in artist association in Hamilton County?

We currently have around 40 fabulous artist members, each with their own styles. We have oil painters, watercolorists, pastels, and photographers. We range from realism, impressionism, abstracts, and surrealism. Our mission is to provide opportunities for artist development, fellowship, and art appreciation to our members and to the community.

In 2006, we were granted the use of the historic First Baptist Church building built

in the late 1880s located at 195 S. 5th St., Noblesville. After much remodeling, refurbishment, and updating we own this building. Here is where we conduct our business, maintain a gallery, provide lessons, among other things. Our building is a real jewel here in Noblesville.

We also reach out into the county with satellite exhibits. Our latest was our Annual Exhibit at the Carmel Library in late September. We also work and coordinate with the Fishers Arts Council and Noblesville Creates, previously known as the Nickel Plate Arts.

After Thanksgiving, we are participating with Noblesville’s Small Business Saturday, which will be Nov. 25. We will be downtown on the Square in the South Al-



Photo provided
The historic First Baptist Church building on 5th Street in Noblesville is the home of the Hamilton County Artists’ Association.

ley along Conner Street with a pop-up exhibit in the Community Room from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On hand will be fine art, prints, holiday cards, and other unique items. Come meet your local artists and make the most out of your day.

Learn more at hcaa-in.org.

Two drop-off sites open now in Hamilton County for Operation Christmas Child

The REPORTER

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, many families and children are giving thanks for all their blessings and sharing those blessings with children in need by packing shoeboxes with Operation Christmas Child.

Shoebox gifts prepared by generous donors and filled with toys, personal care items, and school supplies may be dropped off now during National Collection Week, Nov. 13 to 20. More than 4,500 drop-off sites are now open, including at three locations in or near Hamilton County:

- Crossroads Church of Westfield: 19201 Grassy Branch Road, Westfield
- Grace Church: 12450

Olio Road, Fishers

- Heritage Christian School: 6401 E. 75th St., Indianapolis

Click here to view more locations and hours. You can search by ZIP code, and signs at each location will identify the drop-off point.

Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering shoebox gifts to children worldwide for three decades. In 2023, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoeboxes to reach another 11 million children. This season, there’s still time for individuals, families, and groups to transform emp-

ty shoeboxes into fun gifts. The project of Samaritan’s Purse partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God’s love to children in need. **Click here** for a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoebox.

“This season, children around the world need a tangible reminder that there is hope and that God loves them,” Samaritan’s Purse President Franklin Graham said. “Through these shoebox gifts packed with special items, children also receive the opportunity to hear about the eternal hope found in Jesus Christ.”

About Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan’s Purse, seeks to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 209 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories. This year, Operation Christmas Child will celebrate its 30th year of ministry.

Learn more at SamaritansPurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child.



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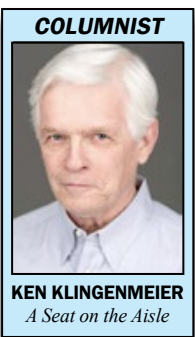
A Month of Sundays is long, but well worth time it takes

Epilogue Players opens its 2023-24 season with *A Month of Sundays* by British television writer Bob Larbey.

Directed by Kathleen Clark Horrigan, the bitter-sweet story takes place in the retirement home room of John Cooper, a septuagenarian of limited strength who spends his days in his smallish quarters flirting with his nurse, turning down his meals, irritating the cleaning lady, chatting with his closest friend, dreading the monthly visits of his daughter, and keeping track of the various stages of dementia in the other residents.

Oh – and he pees a lot. All this is relayed with a nice mix of funny one-liners and some very emotional scenes, all of which portray the end-life of a good man with an apt observation of many of aging's struggles.

Ed Mobley navigates the role of Cooper with measured parlance and a fine conveyance of his stage of life. The sympathetic and quiet portrayal shows a man who is troubled by what is happening to him, but who proceeds with the steadfastness of his military background. Lots of Cooper's thoughts about life are conveyed as internal monologue – chirping away to himself



KEN KLINGENMEIER
A Seat on the Aisle

about any and all matters. Mobley does a good job with the role, which is dialogue-heavy and very emotional at times.

Chrisann Taylor plays young Nurse Wilson, a friendly and smart caregiver who loves all her patients. Ms. Taylor is sweet and tender as she looks after Cooper with daughter-like concern. Her very emotive lament of a troubled patient is quite well done.

Ron Pittman takes the role of Cooper's good friend and fellow resident Aylott and creates a rather interesting character full of elderly quirks. The duo visits daily and they have a routine of mannerisms which defines their friendship. Pittman is just right as the familiar buddy and works through a very difficult and climactic scene with energy and emotion.

Cooper's daughter Julia and her husband Peter are offered by Amanda Archer and Albert Lahrmann. Their monthly visits are uncomfortable and effort-filled, and this pair of actors makes this well obvious. A turning point scene is nicely done, addressing difficulties in the father-daughter relationship. Susan Yeaw makes the role of cleaning lady Mrs. Baker something special, providing a realistic showing of a busy,



Photo provided by Epilogue Players
Ron Pittman as Aylott with Ed Mobley as Cooper.

no-nonsense lady, who none-the-less finds connection with Cooper.

The show is presented on a detailed set by Gale Sturm, with costuming by Curt Pickard and wigs by Tina Pulliam.

A Month of Sundays is an homage to aging with many displays of what it's like to reach the tough "golden" years – very relatable to folks of my age. Director Horrigan has ensured that her cast members understand these difficulties and the show contains some frank truths. Very moving at times and very funny at others – it is a solid production, about which I can only convey a single criticism: in my opinion, it's too long.

Two hours and forty-five minutes (including the 15-minute intermission) is lengthy for a modern production. I feel perhaps that the crew traded portraying a strained language pattern – the manner in which elders

search for the right word or thought with pauses and gaps – for proper pacing. Many scenes languish in these realistic traits of "senior speech" which is one cause for the lengthy show. Other scenes are merely slow-paced. Can this be remedied? I'm not certain, but I believe that it would be good to address the matter.

Bottom line: The actors' efforts produce a thoughtful and empathetic look at the problems and circumstances which aging may bring. There are a lot of laughs and some very tender moments in a show I'd recommend for all ages.

A Month of Sundays continues at Epilogue Players' theatre at 19th and Alabama through Sunday, Nov. 19. For more information about dates, times and reservations go to EpiloguePlayers.com.

Read more great play reviews from *A Seat on the Aisle* at asota.wordpress.com.

Jazz history comes to life on stage in spring Indy opera

By **STU CLAMPITT**
news@readthereporter.com

Indianapolis Opera (IO) is putting the life of a jazz icon on stage next spring when they stage the Indiana debut of *Charlie Parker's Yardbird* at a venue with deep historical ties to Parker's life and time.

IO General Director David Starkey told The Reporter *Charlie Parker's Yardbird* is the most prolific black opera of the 21st century so far. The show was originally debuted in 2015 at Opera Philadelphia.

"It was originally written for two of the biggest African American opera superstars, Angela Brown and Larry Brownlee, both Indiana University graduates," Starkey said. "Angela Brown is obviously a native in Indianapolis who lives here full time. She is our [IO's] artistic cultural ambassador on staff. This is a passion project for all of us to debut that show here. Angela's going to be reprising the role of Addie Parker, who was the mother of Charlie. She's going to be bringing her most prestigious success to the stage and an all-star international cast of the best singers in the world that have done this show coming together."

The show will stage at Madam Walker Theater, 617 Indiana Ave., Indianapolis, a location where Charlie Walker and Dizzy Gillespie both played.

"They would slide out

of Chicago and test shows down here," Starkey said. "This this is actually the first theater in Indiana that this show will be in. That is a location that Charlie Parker actually performed in. It's historic. It's relevant. It is a mostly black cast in a show on one of the most prolific black artists of the 20th century. And there is a story that is very poignant to our community."

Charlie Parker's Yardbird is a one-act opera featuring roles based on Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Pannonica de Koenigswarter, Chan Parker, and Charlie Parker's wives and mother.

"I think I think the audience in Hamilton County is going to just be so attracted to this because of that historical component that is very unique to Indiana and Indianapolis," Starkey said. "I think Hamilton County has a great deal of people who love the history of the central part of the state. And I love the interest that they've shown in historical musical acts and entertainment that that are pretty sophisticated. I love that that is really growing mightily in the Hamilton County market."

Charlie Parker's Yardbird will stage at Madam Walker Theater next March. Keep reading The Reporter for updates and interviews as details become available. You can buy tickets now online at indyopera.org/yardbird.html.

Adult charges filed against teen in Grand Park parking lot shooting

By **BRADY GIBSON & MICHAELA SPRINGER**
[WISH-TV](http://WISH-TV.com) | wishtv.com

The Hamilton County prosecutor has filed adult criminal charges against the teen suspected in a shooting on the Grand Park campus in Westfield.

Prosecutor Greg Garrison filed charges that included three counts of attempted murder against Elijah Preston Earl, 17.

Earl was scheduled to appear before a judge in Hamilton County on Monday afternoon.

Earl was arrested on Nov. 8 in connection with the **shooting incident**. The shooting happened just before 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 5

outside the Pacers Athletic Center in Westfield.

Investigators have previously told News 8 that an altercation happened after a basketball game inside the facility.

Police said a juvenile then followed a coach to his vehicle and fired three rounds in the direction of the coach's car as it drove away.

The shots fired caused damage to four other vehicles. The coach's truck was not struck by any of the gunfire, court documents say.

Court documents obtained by News 8 say that investigators, after speaking with the coach, learned that during the game, there was

tension between the two teams. After the game ended, the coach told officers he continued to notice tension and was going to wait for the opposing team to leave the complex before leaving with his family.

The coach told police that when he noticed the other team wasn't leaving after some time, he left with his family.

He then says that when he got out to his truck, a white GMC Sierra, three people came out of the complex after him, court documents say. He described them to investigators as two members of the opposing team and Earl, who the coach saw sitting with his wife at the score table.

The coach described Earl as "walking with his hands by his waist, and he hurried into his vehicle with his family." He also told investigators a "minor verbal altercation" occurred when he tried to tell Earl and the other two players that "he was just trying to leave," court papers say.

The coach told investigators that as he got into his truck, he saw the three people duck behind some cars before gunshots rang out through the parking lot. He told police he "immediately exited the parking lot and left the area."

The coach's wife later told investigators that she believed the three kids were possibly targeting her son.

Investigators later reviewed security camera footage from inside the athletic center. Minutes before the shooting, the coach and his family can be seen leaving the gym. Shortly after, Earl is seen leaving the athletic center, as well.

Court documents say that at 6:28 p.m., "a sound resembling gunshots can be possibly heard three or four times" from the footage. Immediately after this, multiple juveniles and other people can be seen running inside the gym, one yelling

the coach's name.

"Within the same minute, (Earl) can be seen entering the Pacers Athletic Center with a female and two other black males, holding his waistband. These individuals can be heard laughing as they go inside," court documents say.

Investigators later interviewed Earl and his father on Nov. 7. Earl's father said during the interview that another one of his sons was "getting into it" with the coach's son. He told detectives that the tensions were high, and toward the end, the boys "were told to sit the bench after being separated by a referee."

After the game, he let his sons go to the car while he spoke with other parents, court documents say. Shortly after, his sons ran back inside the gym, saying someone was shooting outside. Earl then spoke with investigators. He corroborated his father's statement, especially on the tension between the coach's son and his brother. When Earl and his brothers went outside, court documents say, the coach allegedly used expletives to tell the boys to stay away.

Earl said that he and his brothers moved between cars to avoid interacting

with the coach, and then as the coach was getting in his truck, he heard multiple gunshots go off.

Court documents say Earl didn't see who was shooting the gun. Investigators told Earl that multiple witnesses placed him as the person firing shots toward the coach. Earl and his father both said that they did not own guns.

Investigators showed Earl pictures of him found on social media which showed him carrying guns. Earl and his father then said that Earl was charged with illegally possessing a handgun while they lived in Atlanta. Earl continued to say that he currently did not own any guns and had no explanation why witnesses identified him as the shooter, court documents say.

Detectives then informed Earl that based on investigators' findings at the scene, Earl's description of the coach shooting toward him would not line up with where shell casings and bullets were found. Earl then agreed to the detective's offer to speak with a lawyer.

Investigators later searched Earl's home and located two handguns.

No one was injured in the shooting.

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Community First Bank serves local veterans



On Friday, associates with Community First Bank of Indiana served Veterans from Noblesville, Fishers, and Westfield by doing yard work, cleaning gutters, washing windows, and assisting in a Veterans Day program honoring local Veterans in Fishers.

OneZone Chamber to welcome Vanessa Sinders as Eggs & Issues speaker

The REPORTER

OneZone Chamber of Commerce has announced Vanessa Sinders, President & CEO of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, as speaker of the December Eggs & Issues and the Annual Meeting.

Attendees will get a chance to meet Sinders and hear more about her background as she begins her new role as President & CEO of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. She spent 20 years in Washington, D.C., at the center of politics. She held high-profile positions on Capitol Hill, including chief of staff for then-U.S. Senator Scott Brown of Massachusetts and policy director for former U.S. Senator Judd Gregg of New Hampshire. Additionally, she was chief of staff for the "Campaign

to Fix the Debt," a nonpartisan issue-based coalition advocating for better national fiscal policies.

There, Sinders oversaw the implementation of the campaign's strategy and directed the activities for its 45-person staff. She served as senior vice president for government affairs at Charter Communications/Spectrum, a Fortune 100 cable and broadband company. She was responsible for directing the company's strategic policy and political engagement with Congress and the White House, as well as managing a seven-person internal team and 15 external consulting firms.

Sinders came to Charter



Sinders

after a four-year stint as senior vice president and department head for government affairs at the American Hotel & Lodging Association. In that capacity, she oversaw the association's advocacy work at the federal, state, and local levels, and managed the 10-person government affairs team.

This event will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 8 at FORUM Events Center, 11313 USA Pkwy., Fishers. Members and non-members are invited to attend. The cost for members is \$30 and \$40 for non-members.

Reservations can be made at OneZoneChamber.com or by calling (317) 436-4653.

The Nutcracker to stage soon at The Academy of Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre

The REPORTER

Under the direction of Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre (GHDT), this student production of *The Nutcracker* will be performed at The Florence at The Academy of GHDT, 329 Gradle Drive, Carmel, weekends, Dec. 1 to 10.

For the first time, GHDT will present a newly re-imagined production of this contemporary version of the holiday classic in an up-close and personal setting at The Florence Theatre.

It will feature the talented dancers of G2, the pre-professional company of GHDT, students from The Academy of GHDT, and other young student dancers who will fill the stage with color and excitement.

The Nutcracker follows the same overall story line as the classical version but is unique with a modern twist. This enchanted production portrays homeless orphans who discover the true meaning of the season through the gift and giving spirit of a homeless person.

"This is a year of firsts for the production," Executive Artistic Director Gregory Hancock. "The lead role will now be Klara/Klarence. Twins Violet and Vincent Kitchen will each dance the role as well as dancing the role together in selected performances. It is a unique and moving version of a beautiful story."

Three graduating high school seniors and students of The Academy of GHDT, Audrey Holloway, Hillary

Riley, and Audrey Springer, will dance the roles of The Sugar Plum Fairy and The Nutcracker throughout the series of performances.

GHDT's *The Nutcracker* presents a wide range of world and cultural music and is a holiday family favorite. Add joy and cheer to your season and experience the magic of GHDT's *The Nutcracker*.

Only a few tickets remain, so get your tickets right now at Eventbrite.com. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students.

GHDT is the resident professional dance company at The Tarkington at The Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel.

For information about GHDT, visit GregoryHancockDanceTheatre.org.

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Supporting Grace Care Center’s Christmas Store: what to give & how to help

Submitted by Grace Church

The holiday season is about to get merrier with the Grace Care Center's Christmas Store, and we're calling on our community to come together to make it truly special for families in need. Here's what you can do to spread joy.

What’s needed most?

The most popular items for the Christmas Store are toys and gifts for children. However, we also understand that many families have teenagers in the household. To ensure a thoughtful gift for a teenager, we recommend purchasing a Thrift Store Gift Card, which can be purchased in increments of \$10. This gift card empowers teenagers to choose clothing or household goods that they truly need.

How can you make a difference?

There are two key ways to support the Christmas

Store and make a difference in the lives of families in need.

1) 'Purchase' specific gifts.

You can 'purchase' (i.e., donate money for) specific gifts in our online store. Our Care Center staff will use these donations to buy the items, which will be given away at the in-person shopping experience in December. This ensures that your generosity directly impacts the children and families we serve.

2) Donate money with 'Shop for Me.'

The 'Shop for Me' item in our online store allows you to donate money in increments of \$10, \$50, or \$100. These funds will be used to purchase the most needed items for the Christmas Store. It's a hassle-free and effective way to support the cause.

Can I simply donate money? Absolutely! If you prefer to make a monetary

donation, the 'Shop for Me' item in the online store is the best way to do so. You can choose to donate in increments of \$10, \$50, or \$100, and these funds will be utilized to purchase gifts that will fill the store with warmth and joy.

Do I have to purchase gifts myself? No need to worry about shopping for specific gifts. The online store is a platform for donating money to support the Christmas Store. You're making a meaningful contribution that allows our Care Center staff to select and purchase the exact items that families in need will have the pleasure of choosing during the in-person shopping experience.

Our choice shopping experience

What sets the Grace Care Center's Christmas Store apart is its "choice" shopping experience. Unlike traditional charitable

efforts where families receive pre-selected gifts, the Christmas Store empowers families in need to make their own selections.

Families who have made advance shopping reservations can visit the store and hand-pick gifts for their loved ones. This approach not only fosters a sense of dignity but also allows families to select items that resonate with their personal preferences, ensuring that the gifts are meaningful and cherished.

About Grace Care Center

The Grace Care Center is a community-driven organization committed to providing dignity, support, and assistance to individuals and families in need. Through various programs and initiatives, we aim to walk alongside those in our community who are seeking to build sustainable change in their lives. To learn more visit, GraceCareCenter.us.

20-year-old Westfield man charged with sexual assault of 13-year-old girl

By GREGG MONTGOMERY WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A 20-year-old Westfield man was formally charged Monday with child-sex offenses in connection to a sexual assault reported in December at Grand Park Sports Campus, court documents show.

The 13-year-old girl had told her mother she'd met a man on Snapchat, and that he'd forced the girl to have sex in the back of his vehicle. That led the mother and her daughter to meet with a Westfield Police Department detective, who later interviewed the girl.

A news release issued Monday afternoon from Westfield Police Department said, "The victim met the suspect on Snapchat and his identity was unknown. After a lengthy and

thorough investigation the suspect was determined to be a 20-year-old male from Westfield, Indiana."

Benjamin Owen Rollo was charged Monday afternoon in Hamilton



Rollo

Superior Court 1 with three felony counts of child molesting, two felony counts of sexual misconduct with a minor, and two felony counts of possession of child pornography.

The girl had told the detective that Rollo on Dec. 3 had driven them to a parking lot at Grand Park Sports Campus to have sex. The girl also shared information from other incidents with Rollo.

Rollo remained in the Hamilton County jail on Monday afternoon. Online court documents did not show any bail set for Rollo during his Monday afternoon court hearing.

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Meeting Notices

The Noblesville Firefighter Merit Commission will meet in an Executive Session at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9) To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees.

The regular meeting of the Firefighter Merit Commission has been changed to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, in the courtroom of the Public Safety Building, 135 S. 9th St., Noblesville.

Send Meeting Notices to:
News@ReadTheReporter.com

— COUNTY —

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and the Hamilton County Council will meet on Monday, November 27, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room 1A in the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square Noblesville, Indiana 46060 and virtually to discuss county business. This meeting will be available via Teams by dialing 1-219-225-8177 using Conference ID# 222 187 672 401

/s/ *Robin M. Mills*
Hamilton County Auditor

R3414 11/15/23, 11/20/23

Duke Energy working to protect customers from utility scams

The REPORTER

Threatening phone calls, fake webpages and bogus QR codes are among the growing list of tactics used by scammers. While the methods may differ, the motive is always the same, which is to deprive customers of their money or personal information.

These expanding and increasingly sophisticated scam methods are why Duke Energy is partnering with utilities across North America to highlight Utility Scam Awareness Day today, Wednesday, Nov. 15.

Recognized annually, Utility Scam Awareness Day was created by **Utilities United Against Scams** (UUAS), a consortium of more than 150 electric, wa-

ter, and natural gas companies and their respective trade associations.

In recent years, utilities have seen increased reports of their customers being contacted by scammers who pose as utility workers in an attempt to access their financial information or to obtain immediate payment by threatening service interruptions. These are known as utility impostor scams. The theme of this year's campaign is "Screen the Search," which reflects the **rise in utility impostor scams** through digital methods, including search engine-related scams.

So far in 2023, more than 400 scam attempts have been reported in Indiana to Duke Energy.

In response to scammers targeting customers and calls received from concerned customers, Duke Energy launched the **Scam Reporting Tool** in March 2023. This tool allows customers to share their experience regarding attempted scams, with the information provided being used to help protect other Duke Energy customers.

"Just like the scammers who are constantly adapting, we must do so as well to protect our customers," said Larry Hatcher, Duke Energy's senior vice president for Customer Experience and Services. "The information we receive from our peer utilities, our call centers and online tool is vital in detecting rising trends and new techniques of those looking to scam our customers."

Duke Energy will always offer a variety of ways to pay a bill, including online payments, phone payments, automatic bank drafts, mail or in person.

Duke Energy will never:

- Specify how customers should make a bill payment.
- Threaten immediate service interruption. Customers with past-due accounts receive multiple advance notices, typically by mail and in their regular monthly bill.
- Ask for personal information or credit or debit card numbers over the

phone, by email or in person – for either a payment or a refund.

If you need to make a payment online or via phone, refer to your most recent energy bill for the company website and contact information. Duke Energy customers are encouraged to download the Duke Energy app in the Apple or Google Play store for added security and convenience.

Know what to look for

- **Threat to disconnect** – Scammers often threaten immediate service disconnections. They ask for personal information or demand payment to prevent service interruptions.
- **Request for immediate payment** – Scammers may instruct customers to make payments via prepaid cards, digital payment apps, cryptocurrencies or direct transactions with banking institutions. Duke Energy does not accept payments through the Cash App, Venmo or Zelle apps. (Customers can make payments directly via Duke Energy's website, duke-energy.com, or mobile app.)
- **Promise of a refund or discount** – Scammers prey on households with tight budgets. They will inform customers of impending refunds due to overpaid utility bills; however, they need banking information

See Scams . . . Page 9

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Welcome to the Matrix, kids . . . you may as well learn the math

Submitted

Increased math skills among primary school students could equal increased numbers of computer science students in college.

That’s the goal of a math education program being piloted at a Howard County school by Md Nour Hossain, assistant professor of computer science and informatics at Indiana University Kokomo.

Computer science students Ben Earl, Ricardo Esquivel, and Connor Schweck, all from Noblesville; and Nick Thomson, Kokomo, have worked with Hossain to develop virtual reality math games for first and second graders at Western Primary School in Howard County, with plans to expand into other area schools.

During weekly visits to the school, the team supervises as children put on Oculus Quest 2 virtual reality headsets and step into games designed to increase their computational skills.

Hossain developed the program while working on a solution to high attrition rates in college computer science programs. While some obstacles students face can be addressed, weak computational skills may be nearly impossible to overcome in a computer science program.

He realized that by introducing computational thinking at the earliest grades, students would be better prepared for computer science programs – but it would be difficult for an elementary teacher to reach that goal with large class sizes.

“I started thinking about how we can give them one-to-one teaching, so they can



Photo by Christian Chauret/School of Sciences/Mike Glassburn/IU Kokomo

master math and also keep a focus on computational thinking,” Hossain said. “The benefits are that it will help K-12 students master math, and master computational thinking, with a long-term goal of having more students ready for computer science and informatics. If their math skills are good, they will also be ready for many other science fields as well.”

Hossain and his team started with games to encourage number sense, first putting children in a world with no numbers and asking them to set a table for a birthday party without giving a number of guests attending. This makes it impossible to set the right number. Then, the children perform the task knowing the number of guests and can successfully complete it.

“It gives them a sense that numbers make our lives easier, numbers are everywhere, and we need them every day,” Hossain said.

The games developed by the student team build on

one another, progressively adding more information as they go.

Thomson said they researched Indiana’s common core math standards in developing lessons. One of their biggest challenges is taking information they know and figuring out how to make it interesting and understandable to very young children.

“We’re trying to give them a good foundation in mathematics,” Thomson said. “We’re college students trying to teach elementary children. Getting yourself in that frame of mind is challenging.”

Earl noted for the first and second graders, they built in audio instruction after learning that not all children this age can read well.

The computer science students are also learning as they plan virtual reality lessons.

“This is a full-fledged application they are developing, and real people are using,” Hossain said. “Right now, there is no application

that exists in this category to target preschool, elementary, or high school. Gaming is a big industry. From my computer science perspective, they will master the programming language and it will open a potential career field for them.”

Schweck said the program is bigger than a class project.

“It gives kids a route to computer science,” he said. “They are amazed when they find out we made this game. It gets them interested in computer science, and what we do.”

Esquivel said the game engages the students.

“It shows them that learning can be fun,” he said.

Hossain’s goal is to publish a research paper linking their game to improvement in learning math and computational thinking. Once they can do that, he hopes to partner with other schools to provide the headsets and program, eventually making it available for all K-12 grades nationwide.

Letter to the Editor

Fishers reader calls on Rep. Spartz to help reauthorize Alzheimer’s research & support

Dear Editor:

The progress we have made in the fight to end Alzheimer’s would not have been possible without bipartisan Congressional support, and this November I am thankful to work with Representative Victoria Spartz in honor of my mother and so many other victims.

Alzheimer’s disease is devastating – not only for the more than six million Americans living with the disease, but also for the 11 million family and friends serving as caregivers. Here in Indiana there are over 216,000 family caregivers. I was one of these caregivers. My family was the minority who was able to provide some “in home” care.

As an Alzheimer’s Association volunteer advocate, I am thankful to share my story and work with my elected officials to bring more attention to this critical issue.

By volunteering as an advocate for the Alzheimer’s Association, I am using my voice to make a difference against this disease that has and is affecting so many in our community and worldwide.

The National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease – which aims to increase research, enhance care, expand supports, and reduce risk (among others) – will expire soon if Congress doesn’t renew its commitment to the Alzheimer’s crisis in America.

The NAPA Reauthorization Act will promote healthy aging, increase risk reduction, and reduce health disparities.

The Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act will ensure that Congress continues to hear directly from the scientists at the National Institutes of Health about the funding needed for Alzheimer’s research.

Since passage of the Alzheimer’s Accountability Act, funding for Alzheimer’s and dementia research is \$3.4 billion annually. Passage of the Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act will ensure these levels of funding continue.

We can’t risk losing the progress we’ve made. Please join me in asking to cosponsor and support the NAPA Reauthorization Act and the Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act.

That’s why I’m calling on my Representative Victoria Spartz to cosponsor and support the NAPA Reauthorization Act and the Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act to continue prioritizing Alzheimer’s and all other dementia.

It’s time to reauthorize these bills to keep up our momentum in the fight to End Alzheimer’s and All Other Dementia. Please join me in asking Representative Victoria Spartz to cosponsor and support the NAPA Reauthorization Act and the Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act.

Together, we are changing the trajectory of Alzheimer’s and all other dementia – but we can’t stop now.

Kyle Hoffman
Fishers

SCAMS

to process the refund. They also may claim that immediate bill payment will result in a discount or that a charitable donation can be made in exchange for a lesser bill payment.

• **Personal information** – Scammers promise to mail refund checks for overpayments on a customer’s

account if they can confirm their personal data, including birthdays and, in some cases, Social Security numbers.

• **Digital scam tactics** – Sponsored ads on search engines that lead to identical – but fake – utility bill payment pages are on the rise. Scammers are also using QR codes that false-

ly claim to link to a utility payment page and texts pretending to be from a utility representative with a link to an impostor payment page.

If customers suspect someone is trying to scam them, they should hang up, shut the door, or delete the email or text. They also should contact the utility

immediately at the number on the most recent monthly bill or on the utility’s official website, not the phone number the scammer provides. If customers ever feel in physical danger, they should call 911.

More information is available at duke-energy.com/StopScams.

from Page 8

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



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:

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• Medicare claims

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• IRS questions



US Flag Requests

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



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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

Winter Pickleball Festival will take place at Grand Park Sports Campus

The REPORTER

A Winter Pickleball Festival is set to take place at Grand Park in Westfield during the final two weeks of December, organized by the Grand National Racquet Center (GNRC).

This event, featuring four tournaments, clinics, open play, and corporate outings, is a collaborative effort involving The GNRC, pickleball professional John Moorin, Legacy Sports Group, Grand Park Sports Campus, and the Association of Pickleball Players (APP).

The Holiday Pickleball Festival will use the Grand Park Events Center to host major tournaments and events, providing a unique venue for players to enjoy the sport during the indoor facility's slower time of year. Despite GNRC's scheduled opening in 2025, owner Birch Dalton recognizes the opportunity to bring Pickleball to Westfield ahead of schedule.

"Using the Grand Park Events Center now makes sense to help attract major tournaments and events in the future," Dalton said. "We know that a tremendous asset like Grand Park will create a unique experience for pickleball players."

The festival will be followed by the first-ever U.S. Collegiate Championship and Midwest Open, held from Jan. 3 to 7, 2024, at Grand Park. Both events will feature professional-grade pickleball courts, with 24 courts spanning an indoor soccer field.

Scheduled Tournaments:

- Dec. 16, Winter Pickleball Team Smash: Co-ed adult teams of all levels can participate in this tournament hosted by Elevate Sports.
- Dec. 18, Pickleball 4

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Graphic provided

Parkinson's: A fundraising tournament benefiting the Indiana Parkinson's Foundation.

- Dec. 20, Wine, Women & Pickleball: An event where women can enjoy pickleball while supporting the Little Red Door Cancer Agency with a glass of wine.
- Dec. 28 & 29, Midwest High School Pickleball

teams from Indiana and surrounding states can compete in this tournament.

In addition to the scheduled tournaments, the festival will offer open play court rental opportunities, clinics, and business partnerships for hosting tournaments or employee outings.

For more information, please visit HolidayPickleballFestival.com.

Omnibus Show podcast features Carmel Christkindlmarkt CEO

The REPORTER

The Omnibus Show is a podcast hosted by Dave Gibbs "for people who love interviews of interesting and accomplished people, and who are life learners." Monday, Nov. 13's episode of *The Omnibus Show* featured Maria Murphy, CEO of the award-winning Carmel Christkindlmarkt.

Murphy has served in this role since the Market's opening in 2017. Growing up in Yorktown, Ind., Murphy did not celebrate the holidays. However, when she spent a year in Germany as recipient of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange scholarship supported by Senator Richard Lugar, her host family introduced her to all the traditions.

She developed a fluency in German and met a wide network of contacts with whom she keeps in touch today – which has helped in her current role.

Prior to her work at the Market, Murphy spent 10

years in the banking industry. In 2017, she heard Mayor Jim Brainard announce his plans for a Christmas market in Carmel. It wasn't long after she expressed her interest to him that she got the call to head up the project, and after praying on the decision and looking to support from mentors, she decided to take it on.

Although the market mirrors those held for hundreds of years in Europe, the Carmel Christkindlmarkt offers special Carmel touches. Murphy explains how the market has grown, what challenges she had, and what special vendors and treats you can expect when you visit.

Under Murphy's direction, the Market has been named the Best Holiday



Murphy



Collins

Market by *USA Today's* 10 Best competition in 2019, 2021, and 2022. [Click here](#) to learn more and to vote to make it No. 1 again this year.

The Christkindlmarkt will be open this Saturday, Nov. 18 and continue through Christmas Eve. Hours are 4 to 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, noon to 8 p.m. Sunday. Learn more at Carmel-Christkindlmarkt.com.

Coming up on Monday, Nov. 20, *The Omnibus Show* will welcome Cynthia Collins, the Co-Founder Emeritus of Actors Theatre of Indiana.

Collins received her BFA in Theatre from Ohio

University. She studied at the N.J. School of Ballet with Jay Norman (original Broadway cast and Motion Picture cast member of *West Side Story*). She has appeared in theater regionally and Off-Broadway, as well as television and film appearances. She has worked with such artists as Ben Vereen, Sandy Duncan, Claude Akins, and Cyndi Lauper. Her Cabaret performances have been seen at The Horn of Plenty and Bluesland in NYC and at Feinstein's at The Hotel Carmichael. She was the Assistant Director / Choreographer to Director Thomas Mills at AMDA (American Music and Dramatic Academy).

A native of Livingston, N.J. and longtime resident of New York City, Cindy currently resides in Carmel.

Visit TheOmnibusShow.com for the audio podcasts and YouTube channel for more information and to sign up for the newsletter.

Cicero man sentenced to 30 years for child sexual exploitation

The REPORTER

Jacob Glenn, 26, Cicero, has been sentenced to 30 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of a child.

According to court documents, Glenn used Snapchat to communicate with girls between 13 and 15 years old, falsely claiming to be a teen boy and offering to purchase nicotine or vape pens in exchange for sex. Glenn's Snapchat username, "theplugfogshyde" was intended to indicate that he could obtain vape pens for others he met online.

On two occasions in 2021, Glenn coerced and enticed a girl between 12 and 15 years old to sneak out of her home after midnight to get vapes from him, including on Christmas Eve. Glenn picked the child up and drove her to a nearby truck stop where he told her that he would not accept cash for the vapes. Instead, Glenn stated that they could work out a "deal" where she could pay him with sex.

Glenn picked up the same child again on Jan. 17, 2022, and coerced and enticed her to engage in sex acts in exchange for vape pens. He used his phone to record the sexual conduct he engaged in with the child and instructed her to not tell anyone about his abuse. Glenn later used Snapchat to send a copy of the child sexual abuse video to two other minor girls.

Glenn engaged in a similar course of criminal conduct with another minor girl he met on Snapchat between December 2021 and January 2022. The second victim was less than 14 years old. On Jan. 9, 2022, after a conversation via Snapchat, Glenn picked the second victim up near her home, drove her to a nearby truck stop, and engaged in sexual conduct in exchange for vape pens. Glenn also attempted to convince a child who was a friend of the second victim to engage in sex in exchange for vapes, but they did not meet in person.

A law enforcement review of Glenn's Snapchat account found conversations between Glenn and multiple other girls between 13 and 15 years old. In some of these conversations, Glenn offered nicotine or alcohol in exchange for sex or nude images.

Glenn has a history of engaging in unlawful sex acts with children. In October 2020, Glenn engaged in sex with a girl who was between 14 and 15 years old. Glenn was 23 at the time. On Oct. 19, 2020, Glenn was arrested and charged in Madison County for crimes related to this abuse. Glenn admitted to law enforcement that he engaged in sexual intercourse with a 14-year-old girl on multiple occasions, and that he knew her true age during at least some of the time he was engaging in sex acts with

the child. Glenn was out on bond for these charges at the time he exploited the two children in December 2021 and January 2022.

"These heinous crimes are one of a family's worst nightmares," said Zachary A. Myers, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. "The sad truth is that applications like Snapchat not always safe spaces; they are often hunting grounds for predators who seek gratification from their sexual abuse of our children. The federal prison sentence imposed here ensures that the public will be protected from this criminal for decades to come. Other online predators should take notice that the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, including the FBI, IMPD, and our federal prosecutors, will work tirelessly to hold them accountable and make our children safer from abuse."

The FBI and IMPD investigated this case with valuable assistance provided by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, the Madison County Sheriff's Department, and the Chesterfield Police Department. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Court Judge James P. Hanlon. Judge Hanlon also ordered that Glenn be supervised by the U.S. Probation Office for life following his release from federal prison.

U.S. Attorney Myers thanked Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Sawa, who prosecuted this case.

This investigation was conducted by the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, a multi-agency task force led by the Indiana State Police, charged with the prevention, interdiction, investigation, and prosecution of individuals who use the Internet to exploit children. The Indiana ICAC seeks to combat crimes against children through the Internet by vigorously investigating and prosecuting offenders. The task force aims to educate children and parents on Internet safety and responsibility through community outreach. Each year, Indiana ICAC investigators evaluate thousands of tips, investigate hundreds of cases, and rescue dozens of children from ongoing sexual abuse. Visit in.gov/isp/icaacf to learn more about their efforts.

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

Incentive to recycle old Christmas lights

The REPORTER

Carmel residents have the opportunity to make this holiday season truly green by recycling lights instead of throwing them away.

Beginning Monday, Nov. 20, residents can recycle used and unwanted lights by taking them to White's Ace Hardware & Garden Center at 731 S. Range Line Road. The recycling drive will continue until Jan. 19 and is sponsored by Carmel Clay School's Green Teams, Carmel Utilities, the City of Carmel, Technology Recyclers and White's Ace Hardware & Garden Center.

Since the start of the collaborative program in 2011 more than 13 tons of holiday lights have been recycled. Recycling inoperable or inefficient lights keeps those items out of landfills, which reduces the long-term carbon impact on the environment.

New to this year's program, White's Ace Hardware & Garden Center is offering 10 percent off the purchase of new LED Christmas lights with when you drop off an old set to recycle. This offer is only valid towards the purchase

ware & Garden Center.

Since the start of the collaborative program in 2011 more than 13 tons of holiday lights have been recycled. Recycling inoperable or inefficient lights keeps those items out of landfills, which reduces the long-term carbon impact on the environment.

New to this year's program, White's Ace Hardware & Garden Center is offering 10 percent off the purchase of new LED Christmas lights with when you drop off an old set to recycle. This offer is only valid towards the purchase

of LED Christmas light sets. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any items already on sale, previously purchased items, other coupons, or in-store discount programs. This offer is valid Nov. 20 to Dec. 17, or while supplies last.

Carmel Utilities recommends using EnergyStar-rated LED lights or light-emitting diodes, which reduces energy usage by 75 percent compared to conventional lights. Not only will you save in energy costs and lower your carbon footprint, but LED lights also have the

following advantages:

- **Safer:** LEDs are much cooler than incandescent lights, reducing the risk of combustion or burnt fingers.
- **Sturdier:** LEDs are made with epoxy lenses and are much more resistant to breakage.
- **Longer lasting:** The LED lights last 25 times longer than conventional lights.

For more information about the Holiday Lights Recycling Drive, please contact Kelli Prader at the Carmel Utilities department at (317) 571-2673.

2024 Old West Murder Express

Ride the rails. Enjoy the meal. Solve the crime.
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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

ISAAC AND ABIMELEK

Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham's time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar. The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions." So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," because he was afraid to say, "She is my wife." He thought, "The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful."

When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah. So Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, "She is really your wife! Why did you say, 'She is my sister'?"

Isaac answered him, "Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her."

Genesis 26:1-9 (NIV)

Dr. John C. Pickett

October 3, 1942 – November 3, 2023

John C. Pickett, Jr., 81, Lafayette, passed away on November 3, 2023. He was born on October 3, 1942, in Indianapolis. He was the oldest of eight children to "Charlie" and Joanna Pickett of Sheridan.

John was the husband of Ann J. Pickett and a loving father to Jack Pickett and his wife Lisa Arafune, Heather Perica and her husband Thomas Perica, and Luke Pickett and his wife Angela Pickett. He adored his grandchildren, JP and Ella Pickett, Carl and Edward Perica, and Allison and Charlie Pickett. John is also survived by his sister Janet Mundy of Anderson and brother-in-law David Sanders of West Lafayette.

After graduating from Sheridan High School in 1960, John enrolled at Purdue University where he earned his bachelor's degree in animal sciences. He was then accepted into the College of Veterinary Medicine to pursue his passion for veterinary science. While at Purdue he became an active member of the Reamers Club and was the President of Cary Quad. He earned his Purdue DVM degree in 1969. Most importantly, he met his beloved wife Ann while completing his undergraduate studies.

Following graduation, John went into private practice and became the owner of the Lafayette Veterinary Hospital, now known as VCA-Lafayette Animal Hospital. His dedicated service to his patients and the veterinary medical profession was recognized in 1993 when he was selected as a recipient of the College of Veterinary Medicine's Distinguished Alumnus Award. John also was very active in the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA) and served as the IVMA President in 1988.

John enjoyed a variety of hobbies including gardening. He was a Master Gardener, showcasing his green thumb: cultivating beautiful landscapes, wildflowers, and especially tomatoes. John was also highly involved with the Boy Scouts of America and Kiwanis International, where he dedicated his time to making a positive impact in the community.

Friends and family are invited to attend memorial services for John, which will be held at First Christian Church of Lafayette on Sunday, November 19. The visitation will begin at 2 p.m. with a service following at 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Purdue DVM General Scholarship Program at connect.purdue.edu/inmemoryofdrjohnpickett.

The family would like to thank the staff from Franciscan Hospice for their exceptional care.

John C. Pickett, Jr. will be deeply missed by all who knew him. May his memory be a source of comfort and inspiration to those whose lives he touched.

Condolences: tippecanoememorygardens.com

Stevie Dick

October 9, 1964 – November 9, 2023



Stevie Dick, 59, Tipton, died Thursday, November 9, 2023, at his residence. He was born on October 9, 1964, in Tipton to Carl H. & Caron S. (Womack) Dick.

Stevie could build anything and worked all his life in construction. He loved classic rock and country music. Stevie was a very talented musician and played in the band "Second Chance" along with his brother, Carl Dick, Jr. In his spare time, he enjoyed watching comedy movies, working on puzzle books, and doing crossword puzzles. In his earlier days he loved to go on long rides on his Harley. On warm summer days he could be found fishing at the lake. He loved his family and especially loved being a grandfather.

He is survived by his four children, Amanda Nentrouer of Atlanta, Ind., Stacie Rose of Noblesville, Tyler Mendyk and wife T.J. of Tipton, and Alex Dick of Tipton; his mother, Caron Dick of Tipton; the mother of his children, Sherri Dick of Tipton; siblings, Carl Dick, Jr. and wife Michelle of Tipton, Rena Phifer and husband Joe of Paoli, Andrea "Lynn" Dick of Tipton, Sheila Martin and husband Randy of Elwood, Connie McLearn and husband Dan of Tipton, Angie Dick of Tipton and Tracey "Jake" Dick and wife Lora of Elwood; and several grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Carl Dick; and a brother, Greg "Bomar" Dick.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15 at Young-Nichols Funeral Home, with Caleb Dick presiding. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. Wednesday until service time. Online condolences may be made on his obituary page at young-nichols.com.

Memorial donations may be made to the Tipton County Humane Society, P.O. Box 237, Tipton, IN 46072.

Joy Ann McQuinn

October 22, 1932 – November 8, 2023

Joy Ann McQuinn of Tipton passed away peacefully on November 8, 2023, after 91 fulfilling years. She was born on October 22, 1932, in Scircleville, Ind., to the late Benjamin H. and Goldie F. (Strain) Mitchell.

After graduating from Scircleville High School on May 14, 1950, Joy Ann wed the love of her life Charles E. McQuinn, with whom she shared 52 years of marriage. Together, they had two children, Mark and Sharon. In 1951, she and Charles moved to Tipton County with Pioneer Hi-Bred. For the past 71 years, Joy Ann has called Tipton her forever home, where she was involved in the community and shared many wonderful friendships.

Joy Ann had a generous heart, volunteering for Meals on Wheels and the American Heart Association, and she was known for her random acts of kindness and generosity. She approached life with determination and positivity. She was a member of Phi Beta Psi Sorority, spent time working at the Tipton Middle School Library, and was a member of Kemp United Methodist Church for over 70 years, where she served in various roles, and especially enjoyed her time in the Challengers Sunday School Class.

Joy Ann cherished time spent with her family, valued traditions, and thoroughly enjoyed supporting her grandchildren and great-grandchildren in their many activities and endeavors. Joy Ann treasured working on the farm alongside family, always eager to help. She appreciated time spent outside gardening and working in her yard and was a talented seamstress.

Joy Ann is survived by her children, Dr. Mark (JoAnn) McQuinn of Tipton and Sharon (Robert) Boyd of Noblesville; grandchildren, Dr. Kiley McQuinn (Matthew Smith), Dr. Kassey McQuinn (Nicholas Stewart), Nathan (Erika) Boyd, Dr. Jeffrey (Erika) McQuinn, Anna (Richard) Seys, and Mallory (Clint) Newcom; great-grandchildren, Quinn, Walker, Merrill, Foster, and Meridian Smith, Oliver, Monroe, Harlow, and Crosby Stewart, Harper Boyd, Maslow and Murphy McQuinn, Lucy Seys, Eleanor, Bradford, Phoebe, and Welles Newcom; sister-in-law, Elinor "Maxine" McQuinn Ogle; and many nieces and nephews.

Joy Ann was preceded in death by her husband, Charles E. McQuinn; and siblings, Martha (Mitchell) Harshbarger, Marion Mitchell, and Marvin Mitchell.

Joy Ann's life will be celebrated in a Funeral Service at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 19, 2023, at Young Nichols Funeral Home, 216 W. Jefferson St., Tipton, with Kemp United Methodist Church Pastor Brian Cooper officiating. Friends may visit with the family from noon until time of the service on Sunday. Burial will follow in the Fairview Cemetery, Tipton. Online condolences may be made on her obituary page at young-nichols.com.

Memorials can be offered in her honor to Kemp United Methodist Church, 228 N. Main St., Tipton, IN 46072.

Lorita Ruth Thistlethwaite

September 13, 1937 – November 9, 2023



Lorita Ruth Thistlethwaite, 86, Sheridan, passed away on Friday afternoon, November 9, 2023, at Majestic Care of Sheridan. Born on September 13, 1937, in Sheridan, she was the daughter of the late William and Phyllis (Pettigrew) Wright.

She was a 1955 graduate of Sheridan High School, where she supported her Blackhaws as a cheerleader. After graduation, Lorita continued her education by enrolling in Comptometer School. The skills she gained led to her employment with Wonder Bread (now Continental Baking Company) where she had a wonderful 40-year career within their bookkeeping and payroll department.

She attended Sheridan First Christian Church.

Lorita was the social butterfly of the family. In her eyes, there was nothing more important than her family and her friends (with the latter always gaining new members). She loved doting over her grandchildren and following their activities. One example would be her grandson's bowling activities. In addition to driving him to practices and matches, Lorita would offer up advice, (wanted or not) along the way. She quickly came to terms with her self-appointed role as her grandson's bowling coach and never looked back.

Lorita continued to take her cheerleading responsibilities very seriously throughout her adult years as well. She was a member of a house divided. In the fall, she was a die-hard Blackhawk football fan. (When your brother is the coach, you come by it honestly.) However, in the winter, her colors turned shamrock green, and Westfield basketball (coached by her husband) became her favorite sport. Self-appointed or not, it is easy to see where her coaching prowess came from. And it didn't stop with family, she could armchair coach with the best of 'em... especially when it came to Purdue.

Lorita enjoyed traveling (especially overseas) and loved it even more when family was involved. Her trips to Okinawa, where her daughter was stationed, gave her a lifetime of memories and stories to share at one of her other favorite destinations – class reunions, family gatherings, or just about any occasion she could find for a get together of some kind.

Lorita never met a stranger. She would drop whatever she was doing to help someone in need. When she went to live at Sheridan Healthcare Center, she quickly started making new friends and joining any and every activity they offered.

Lorita is survived by her three daughters, Pamela Fosnight (Richard) of Sheridan, Tara McColgin (Jerry) of North Carolina, and Veronica Lageschulte (Hans) of Hampton, Va.; seven grandchildren, Mark Fosnight (Clem), Jeremy Fosnight (Christina), Doug McColgin (Brittney), Andy McColgin (Olivia), Jake McColgin, Niral McColgin (Carson), and Jaquelyn Schenkel (Joey); grandson-in-law, David Shinault; 19 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Larry "Bud" Wright (Ellen) of Sheridan and Arnold Pettigrew (Arlene) of Kirklint; two sisters, Lora Goff-Pitts (Rex) of Westfield and Judith Inskeep of Sheridan; and two sisters-in-law, Karen Buzan (Morris) of Sheridan and VaRae Blount (Robert) of Anderson.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Phyllis (Pettigrew) Wright; sister, Cathy Crull; brother-in-law, Roland Inskeep; granddaughters, Melisa Shinault and Allison McColgin; and by her loving husband, Mark L. Thistlethwaite, on May 1, 2008. She and Mark were married on November 22, 1956.

Visitation and services were held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan. Burial followed at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan. Lorita's son-in-law, Jerry McColgin, officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Alzheimer's Association.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

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This open concept condo is move-in ready, 2 BR, 2 BA family room with gas fireplace, eat-in kitchen with granite counters, breakfast bar, tile floor, pantry, appliances stay, main BR ensuite with walk-in tile shower, large 2-car garage, patio with retractable awning. **BLC#21945183**

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HAMILTON COUNTY SPORTS

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NOBLESVILLE, CARMEL, WESTFIELD, SHERIDAN, HAMILTON HEIGHTS, FISHERS, UNIVERSITY, GUERIN CATHOLIC, HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN



Members of the Westfield boys and girls tennis teams joined in during the ceremonial groundbreaking of Westfield's new tennis facility, which is expected to be complete by the upcoming summer and the Fall 2024 season.

Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Westfield High School breaks ground on new tennis facility

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com

WESTFIELD – Westfield High School has consistently put out top-level tennis teams, both boys and girls, over the past several years.

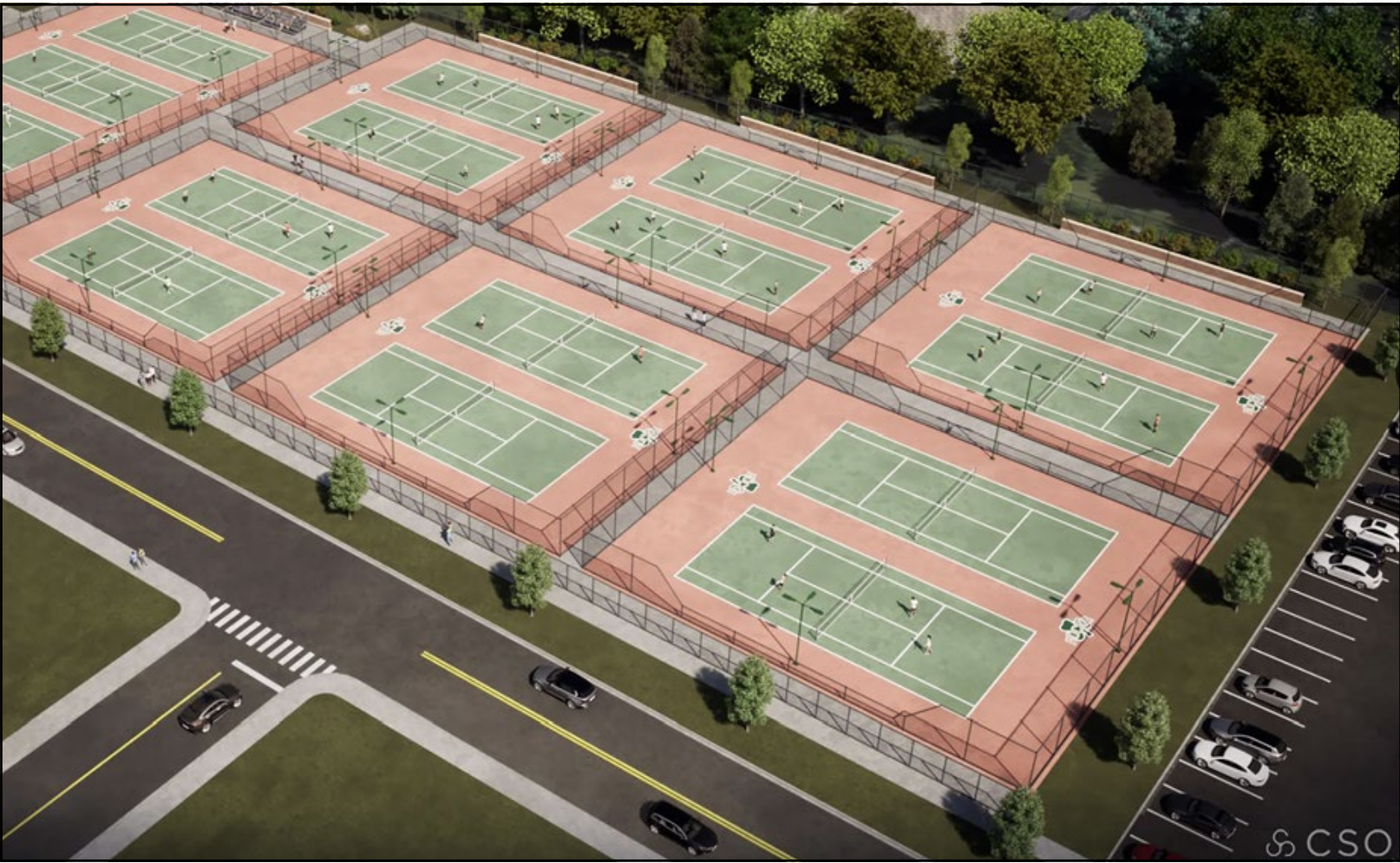
The Shamrocks will soon have a facility worthy of those teams.

A ceremonial groundbreaking took place Tuesday afternoon on Westfield's new tennis facility. The facility will be located at 17695 Shamrock Boulevard, just north of State Road 32 and right next door to Riverview Health Westfield Hospital.

The new facility will have 15 tennis courts, including three championship courts with a viewing area for spectators. The courts will have post-tension concrete construction, considered to be a “stronger and more durable playing surface that won’t crack and heave over time, greatly reducing repair over the court’s life,” according to a fact sheet given out at the groundbreaking. There will also be a separate building for locker rooms, restrooms and concessions.

Members of the Westfield school board and administration were on hand for the groundbreaking, along with current tennis players. Shamrocks girls coach Trudy Coler and boys coach Tony Peters were among those helping to turn over the ground.

“I’m just so excited, really excited,” said Coler, who has been the girls ten-



Rendering provided

The facility will feature 15 courts, along with a separate building for locker rooms, restrooms and concessions.

nis coach for 17 years. “This is so wonderful for our school and for our players and programs. I’m relieved, too, that we’re getting going on it.”

“I think it’s amazing that we’re finally getting this done,” said Peters. “From start to finish, the design process has been really cool and the administration has been always supportive, helpful. The attitudes have been like, ‘Let’s make this.’ We think we’ve designed one of the best facilities in the state

and I think that’s what they want to do.”

Coler and Peters were both involved in the planning of the facility.

“It was interesting, because you don’t think about all of the aspects that go into a facility like this, and you really have to think about how you want the courts set up, and accessibility for coaching and accessibility

for fans to be able to see well, and all those things,” said Coler. “We really went through the process of trying to figure out all the things that we wanted to make sure we had so that they were done right and we didn’t get through the process and then be like, ‘Oh, gosh, we should have done that instead.’”

Peters said the process

involved not only thinking about “for us in the short term, but what kind of things we would want in the future as well. We took some different courts that we think are nice courts in our area and try to pick some of those to model ours after and I think we’re going to have a really nice finished product.”

One of the players at

the groundbreaking was sophomore Caroline Hopkins, who said it was “very exciting, and it’s nice to see everyone come together to celebrate the new courts.”

Work will take place on the facility beginning this winter, and the courts are expected to be complete by the upcoming summer, just in time for the Fall 2024 season.



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Girls Basketball

Huskies bring energy in win over Golden Eagles

By **RICHIE HALL**
sports@readthereporter.com

NOBLESVILLE – The Hamilton Heights girls basketball team has been one of the busiest teams in the early going this season, having already played six games.

The Huskies have also been among the winningest teams so far. Heights, ranked No. 4 in this week's ICGSA Class 3A poll, ran its record to 5-1 after beating county opponent Guerin Catholic 66-23 Tuesday at the Eagles' Nest.

The Golden Eagles scored the first two points of the game after Ava Bills made a layin. It was all Heights after that, as the Huskies ran through the first quarter, going on a long run to lead 16-2 by the end of the period. Camryn Runner scored nine points and Katie Brown scored five, with both hitting one 3-pointer.

"I think that's probably one of our better starts in a long time," said Heights coach Keegan Cherry. "Our energy was great. Our press was really good."

Heights poured in 21 more points in the second period to lead 37-7 at halftime. The Huskies finished the half on a 17-0 run, with Brown putting in two triples and Runner scoring another 13 points.

Heights stretched that spurt to 19-0 to begin the third quarter, as Runner opened that period with a la-



Hamilton Heights' Hadleigh Cherry (24) goes up to the basket during the Huskies' 66-23 win over Guerin Catholic on Tuesday. Pictured for the Golden Eagles is Lillian Behrle (23).

ying. Guerin Catholic freshman Gianna Morelli had a solid quarter for the Golden Eagles, scoring eight points. The Huskies led 57-15 going into the fourth period.

Runner finished the game with 30 points, while Hickok scored 12 and Brown added 11. Morelli's eight points led Guerin Catholic.

"We'll learn and we will get better," said GC coach Danielle Cardinal.

Hamilton Heights will take a couple weeks off, re-

turning to action Nov. 29 at North Miami. The Golden Eagles are 1-3 and host Her-

itage Christian on Saturday to begin Circle City Conference play.

Indiana Basketball Coaches Association Week 2 girls basketball poll

Rank	School	Points	Record
1	Hamilton Southeastern (16)	387	4-0
2	Bedford North Lawrence (2)	374	3-0
3	Fort Wayne Snider (1)	327	5-0
4	Center Grove	304	3-0
5	Lawrence Central	286	2-0
6	South Bend Washington	274	3-1
7	Noblesville	260	2-1
8	Homestead	259	2-0
9	Columbia City	210	3-0
10	Lake Central (1)	201	2-1
11	Zionsville	176	3-1
12	Fishers	163	4-1
13	Lawrence North	154	1-1
14	Brownsburg	141	3-1
15	Indian Creek	127	3-0
16	Valparaiso	101	3-0
17	Twin Lakes	92	3-0
18	Plainfield	34	3-0
T19	Jennings County	32	2-1
T19	Northridge	32	3-1

Other schools receiving votes, with records
Andrean (0-2), Bethany Christian (3-0), Borden (5-0), Caston (5-0), Columbus East (1-4), Fairfield (4-0), Fort Wayne Northrop (2-1), Fort Wayne South (1-2), Franklin Community (3-1), Gibson Southern (2-1), **Hamilton Heights (4-1)**, Harrison-West Lafayette (2-1), Heritage Christian (0-0), Lanesville (4-0), Lapel (3-0), Linton-Stockton (2-1), Merrillville (1-0), Mishawaka (4-0), Mishawaka Marian (0-4), North Knox (4-0), Norwell (2-1), Penn (2-1), Silver Creek (2-1), Warren Central (1-3), Warsaw (1-2), **Westfield (2-1)**.

NOTES: First-place votes are in parentheses. Records were as of Monday, Nov. 13 and may not reflect current standings.

Girls Wrestling



The Hamilton Heights girls wrestling team finished 20th out of 40 teams at the Purdue Poly Tech Girls Open last Saturday.

Hamilton Heights participates in Purdue Poly Tech Girls Open

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Heights girls wrestling team opened its season last Saturday by competing in the Purdue Poly Tech Girls Open.

The Huskies finished 20th out of 40 teams. Amaelia Cordero-Ball-

inger had the highest finish of the team, placing fourth at 170 pounds "B." Corde-ro-Ballinger advanced to the semifinals by winning both of her matches by fall.

Karma Collier took fifth at 235 pounds "A," win-

ning three straight matches in the consolation bracket by pin. Kelsee Powers placed sixth at 135 pounds "A," also getting three falls. Morgan Moe was seventh at 140 pounds "A" and Ella Smith-Reynolds took eight at 130 pounds "A."

Westfield wins, losses go to Sheridan & Carmel

The REPORTER

The Westfield girls basketball team got a Tuesday 51-42 win at Mount Vernon.

The Shamrocks trailed for most of the game, but used an explosive fourth quarter to pull away with the win. Aubrey Crockett scored 12 points, followed by Ellie Kelleher with 10 points. Reagan Lorenzen and Lindsey Van Dyke both added nine points.

Westfield is 3-1 for the season.

Sheridan dropped an away game at Brebeuf Jesuit 56-48 on Tuesday.

The Braves led 20-12 after one quarter and 29-20 at halftime. Brebeuf extended its lead to 42-28 after three quarters; and that allowed the Braves to withstand a 20-point fourth quarter from the Blackhawks.

Kenzie Garner scored 20 points, while Shelby Eaton had 11 points, including a late 3-pointer.

Cecilia Timme scored seven points. Garner collected seven rebounds, handed out six assists and blocked two shots, with Eaton and Timme both getting five rebounds.

Sheridan is 0-2 and hosts Covenant Christian on Thursday.

Carmel fell to Zionsville 49-38 in a Tuesday away game.

The Greyhounds led 14-9 after one quarter, with Lauren Perry draining three 3-pointers. But the Eagles took control in the middle periods, outscoring Carmel 32-16 in the second and third quarters. Zionsville led 25-22 at halftime and 41-39 after three.

Perry added two more 3s in the second quarter, giving her a total of five triples and 15 points. Izzy Shepherd added nine points.

Carmel is 2-2 and plays at Fort Wayne Carroll Saturday afternoon.

SHERIDAN 56, BREBEUF JESUIT 48				
Sheridan	FG	FT	TP	PF
Nova Cross	0	0-0	0	5
Sadie Timme	1	0-0	2	1
Mac Smith	0	0-0	0	0
Kenzie Garner	6	8-8	20	2
Shelby Eaton	4	0-0	11	2
Brielle Garner	4	0-1	8	3
Cecilia Timme	3	1-3	7	3
Totals	18	9-12	48	16
Score by Quarters				
Sheridan	12	8	8	20 – 48
Brebeuf Jesuit	20	9	13	14 – 56
Sheridan 3-pointers (3) Eaton 3.				
Sheridan rebounds (21) K. Garner 7, Eaton 5, C. Timme 5, S. Timme 2, Cross 1, Smith 1.				

ZIONSVILLE 49, CARMEL 38				
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF
Izzy Shepherd	2	4-8	9	2
Mackenzie Woods	2	1-2	6	1
Lauren Perry	5	0-0	15	1
Taryn Fisher	1	0-1	2	2
Mallory Bourquein	2	0-0	4	3
Keaton Gatlin	0	0-0	0	1
Jamie Elliott	0	0-0	0	0
Megan Hamm	0	0-0	0	0
Ava Carter	1	0-0	2	2
Sydney Bonds	0	0-0	0	0
Tionna Bryant	0	0-0	0	3
Totals	13	5-11	38	15
Score by Quarters				
Carmel	14	8	8	8 – 38
Zionsville	9	16	16	8 – 49
Carmel 3-pointers (7) Perry 5, Shepherd, Woods.				

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

Hamilton Heights' Camryn Runner commits to University of Evansville

Wednesday, Nov. 15

GIRLS BASKETBALL

University at Arsenal Tech, 6 p.m.

WRESTLING

Noblesville at Fishers, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 16

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Covenant Christian at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING/DIVING

Hamilton Heights at Anderson (girls only), 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 17

FOOTBALL

Class 6A north semi-state

Westfield at Crown Point, 7:30 p.m.

Class 1A south semi-state

Indianapolis Lutheran at Sheridan, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lawrence Central at University, 7 p.m.

Brownsburg at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.

Fishers at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.

Franklin Central at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 18

BOYS AND GIRLS WRESTLING

Penn at Carmel, 1:30 p.m.

BOYS WRESTLING

Noblesville at Hamilton Heights Super 6, 9 a.m.

Sheridan at Cloverdale, 9 a.m.

Westfield at Capital City Classic, 9 a.m. at Beech Grove

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Heritage Christian at Guerin Catholic, 2:30 p.m.

Noblesville at Homestead, 6:30 p.m.

Carmel at Fort Wayne Carroll, 7:30 p.m.

Elwood at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS WRESTLING

Noblesville at Ben Davis Invitational, 9 a.m.

SWIMMING/DIVING

Westfield Girls Invitational, 10 a.m.

Please email schedule changes or corrections to sports@readthereporter.com.

The REPORTER

Camryn Runner, Hamilton Heights senior, has signed a letter of intent to join the University of Evansville's women's basketball team this fall. The University of Evansville is a member of the Missouri Valley Conference and a NCAA Division I athletic institution. She is the daughter of Bart and Dawn Runner.

It was her initial visit to the University of Evansville's campus that sealed the deal.

"It was different from the other schools she visited," recalled Runner, who plans to study business management with a minor in accounting. "When I first showed up on campus, the coaches made it known that they did not only care about my athletics, but they also cared about my academics and well-being as a student athlete. I loved meeting the team because it showed how like-minded we were to succeed in life. Additionally, I loved the size of the campus and the enriching education I would receive as a student. The location is far enough from home to force me to meet people and get out of my comfort zone, yet close enough where I would be able to go home if need be for family. Overall, my vis-

it showed me the endless possibilities this university holds for student-athletes and inspired me to continue my athletics and academics."

Runner, a multi-sport (basketball, track and field, and golf) is currently ranked academically at No. 6 in the Class of 2023. She is student body president, a member of the honor society, Business Professionals of America (BPA) and works at Purgatory Golf Club and a M14 basketball coach. Athletically, she just passed Jessica Carr's (Class of '11) career scoring record of 1,340 points on Nov. 11 vs. Jay County to become Heights' All-Time Leading Scorer. She now stands at 1,377 points scored for Heights following Tuesday's contest at Guerin Catholic.

She was named an Indiana Junior All Star, 1,000-point club member for basketball, 2023 Hamilton County Player of the Year, and set the school record for the 4x400 relay. She was a member of the first regional qualifying Hamilton Heights Golf team and earned three sectional and one regional title.

"Camryn has been a joy to watch the past four years," said Kurt Ogden, Athletic Director for Ham-



Photo by Jen Kauffman

Hamilton Heights' senior Camryn Runner has signed a letter of intent to join the University of Evansville Aces basketball team in Evansville, Indiana this fall. Runner (seated) is pictured with her father Bart, mother Dawn, and sister Bayleigh.

ilton Heights High School. "She is poised to be the career scoring leader at Hamilton Heights by a potentially large margin and has put herself in a position to potentially receive many more special accolades. She is the ultimate student/athlete and role model in the classroom and as the student body president, I couldn't think of another individual who is better to lead in that position. Evansville University is lucky to get a student/athlete the caliber of Camryn Runner."

"I have always been passionate about basketball," Runner said. "It is what I grew up with, so it is all I have ever known. I have two older sisters that played basketball, so I like to say I was raised in a gym. Throughout the years I have played on a travel team to sharpen my skills and enhance my experience. Furthermore, I have met and befriended members of the basketball community through camps, competitions, tournaments, and teams that will always stick with me on a personal level. I have also trained and coached for the M14 Training Program at Finch Creek for the past year and plan to continue training there when I can throughout the summers."

Runner said the major influences in her development as a student athlete are her sisters, father, and coaches Brian Klem (Indiana Flight), Keegan Cherry (Hamilton Heights), and Tony Marlin (Indiana Elite).

"Growing up, I wanted to be just like my sisters," she said. "Anything they would do, I would try to do better, so they pushed me in unimaginable ways. My dad, who I call my shot doctor, is one of my biggest supporters, yet he is also someone I receive criticism from when I need it the most."

She credits Coach Klem as being extremely influential (grades 3 through 8)

in teaching her to play the game at a fast, high scoring, and lively pace – which coincidentally fits the style of play at the University of Evansville. Coach Cherry came into her life during the challenges of high school play teaching her the IQ side of basketball – when to screen, how to read defenders, and some unique plays to get the desired shot. Coach Marlin gave her the opportunity to show what she was capable of on the court along with the opportunity to grow her skills in the point guard position at the AAU level.

"Camryn Runner is one of the most complete basketball players I've had the opportunity to coach," said Keegan Cherry, Hamilton Heights Girls Basketball Head Coach. "She embodies what it means to be a student athlete and is a fierce competitor. Her drive in the classroom and on the court should be a shining example for all student athletes. The Hamilton Heights community has been lucky to have had the opportunity to watch Camryn compete over the past four years. She is a 'team first kid' that is willing to do whatever it takes to win. She's always one of the first to practice and one of the last to leave."

"Further," continued Coach Cherry, "Camryn is always putting her teammates first in all she does. It's no surprise she will leave her mark on the Hamilton Heights girls basketball program as one of the best to have ever played for the Huskies. And one of the best I've ever coached. The University of Evansville is getting one of the best players in the Class of 2024. And they may be getting the very best, highest character student-athletes in the state of Indiana. Camryn Runner is no question an Indiana All-Star. I'm lucky and better for having had the opportunity be Camryn's coach."



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