

Tigers march on Big Apple



The Fishers High School Marching Tiger Band earned as the coveted spot as the Santa Band in this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, which is the last band to perform before Santa Claus finishes the show. The Marching Tiger Band performed a jazz rendition of Les King's "The Nutcracker Suite." You can read more about their journey to New York City on Page 3 in today's edition. Great job, Marching Tigers! You represented Fishers and all of Hamilton County well.

Random act of drive-thru Parrot Head kindness

Today, I turned 59. I don't expect too much from 59 other than being subjected to a lengthier list of physical ailments. Fifty-eight proved to be a major pain in the butt. Literally. Currently, a physical therapist is working with me on sciatica issues. The pain in my right butt cheek is intense, making it hard to sit. This is likely due to years of poor posture at a computer. Sometimes, by the time I finish writing a column, my entire body has slid all the way down the front of my desk chair and to the floor, with nothing remaining above the desktop but my right hand pecking blindly at the keyboard. I call this posture Body Melt. Who knows what will be on the screen by the time my forefinger finally finds the final period. When my wife, Brynne, comes upstairs to check on me, it must look as if Thing from *The Addams Family* is the one actually polishing off my column.



See Parrot Head . . . Page 2

Santa House back on Courthouse Square Sunday

The REPORTER
A decades-old tradition continues with Santa returning to his house on the Noblesville Courthouse Square this Sunday, Nov. 26. The free, donations-based Santa House will be open for visitors throughout December. The Hamilton County Historical Society is grateful to Smith Legal for helping Santa's elves get the house ready for the busy holiday season.

See Santa . . . Page 2

Santa House Schedule	
Sunday, Nov. 26:	2 to 6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 1:	5 to 9 p.m. (Noblesville First Friday)
Saturday, Dec. 2:	2 to 5 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 3:	noon to 3 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 8:	5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9:	noon to 5 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 10:	noon to 3 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14:	5 to 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15:	5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16:	noon to 5 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 17:	noon to 5 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21:	5 to 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22:	5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 23:	noon to 5 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 24:	noon to 5 p.m.

Christmas Festival of Music continues holiday tradition at Noblesville First

The REPORTER
Noblesville First United Methodist Church and Janus Developmental Services will again co-host the Christmas Festival of Music & Art on Sunday, Dec. 10 at Noblesville First, 2051 Monument St., featuring the church's chancel choir, the choir from Janus Developmental Services, as well as piano, organ, and orchestra. "We'll host two performances this year, at 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.," Noblesville First's Director of Music Dr. Jeff Wright said, "and we're inviting community members to reserve their free tickets online or in the church office in an effort to manage the crowd for this popular event." "The Christmas Festival of Music and Art is something that Janus looks forward to and we are excited to again engage with the community in this annual tradition," Janus President and CEO Yolanda Kincaid said. "At Janus, we have been preparing wonderful art that will knock your Christmas socks off and will be available for purchase at the event. The Janus choir has also been hard at work practicing festive songs and carols for the day that you

can sing along with us for a fun note to the evening." "The music brings together our Chancel Choir with an orchestra and members of the Janus community to create a festive celebration of the season," Wright said. "The evening also includes congregational singing of familiar carols and concludes with everyone singing together on a medley of carols accompanied by piano, organ, and orchestra." A free-will offering will benefit Janus and the amazing work they do for the community. Learn more about their services at Janus-Inc.org and purchase tickets at NoblesvilleFirst.com/festival. **About Noblesville First United Methodist Church** Noblesville First United Methodist Church was founded in 1822 and today serves the spiritual needs of over 1,600 members in and around Hamilton County, with outreach ministries that are rooted in love, connecting people, and planting seeds of hope. **About Janus Developmental Services** Janus Developmental Services provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to participate and contribute within



The Noblesville First United Methodist Church's chancel choir and the Janus Developmental Services choir will once again join together for the Christmas Festival of Music. the community and is recognized individuals with disabilities, their as the partner of choice for indi-families, and the community.

An En Pointe Christmas: a Hamilton County holiday tradition

Submitted
Spark the spirit of the season with a Hamilton County holiday tradition - *An En Pointe Christmas*, Dec. 16 and 17, presented by En Pointe Indiana Ballet. The dazzling full-fledged holiday performance, with over 100 dancers and 25 dance numbers, has become a holiday tradition for many central Indiana families. With its mix of classical and contemporary ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, modern, and a nine-minute finale with a playful rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," the performance will have audience members dancing in the aisles and full of cheer. "Act I is full of elegance and the greatest classics from Bach, Handel, and Tchaikovsky, and Act II charms with traditional Christmas favorites set to Louis Armstrong, Elvis Presley, Bing Crosby, and more," Co-Artistic Director **Robert Moore** said. "My wife and I have given the last 30 years of our life to this art form, and we can't wait to share the wonder and magic of this year's An En Pointe Christmas with you." Dancers began rehearsing in September with 10 to 15 hours per week in rehearsals in addition to regular classes. The performance features dancers at all levels, from ages 3 to 22, as well as pre-professional students who train six days a week. Additionally, En



Dancers have been rehearsing since September for this year's edition of An En Pointe Christmas. Pointe has brought in several elite guest instructors, choreographers, and world-famous artists during the 2022-2023 session to help students refine their technique. See En Pointe . . . Page 2



Santa and his helpers are ready to meet all the kids in Cicero.

Come have breakfast with Santa in Cicero

The REPORTER
The Phi Beta Psi Delta Chapter Sorority welcomes children and their families to meet Santa in Cicero at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Red Bridge Park Community Center. Come visit Santa and write him a letter or color him a picture. Hear a story or make a craft. Check out the Phi Beta Psi sales table with homemade crafts and baked goods . . . and eat at a little breakfast! Cost is \$7 per person. Call (317) 796-8672 to reserve your spot.

SANTA

from Page 1

He's also proud dad to three furry babies: Frank & Samantha (Goldendoodles) and Ava, the fluffy kitty cat.

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The logo for Prevail, Inc., featuring the word 'PREVAIL' in a stylized font and the tagline 'Advocating for Victims of Crime & Abuse' below it.

Fishers band among only six in Macy’s parade

By **MARISSA MULJAT**
ThisIsFishers.com

Thousands of high school bands across the country applied to perform in the **97th annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade**, and just six were selected for the coveted iconic tradition.

One of the chosen bands is the City of Fishers’ very own: Fishers High School Marching Tiger Band.

Chad Kohler, director of athletic bands at Fishers High School, said he felt incredibly honored and excited about the opportunity to showcase the band to entire nation – and the world.

“It’s the biggest parade on the face of this planet,” Kohler said. “Everybody sees it; it’s the family experience. I just can’t wait to be down there and see the looks on all the students faces.”

The 260-member band, along with 30 chaperones and several Marching Tiger alumni took six coach buses to New York City. The group left on Sunday, Nov. 19 and returned on Friday, Nov. 24. Totaling the number of students, parents, friends, family, chaperones, and others who traveled to watch the band added up to 460 people.

The music the band performed is based on “The Nutcracker Suite” by Les King.

To apply for the parade, Kohler explained that he was required to upload a band biography, director biography and a video of the previous year’s performance. They also were prompted to indicate why they’d like to participate and provide letters of recommendation.

Because so many bands apply each year, Kohler was unsure of his band’s chance of being chosen but remained hopeful – and in April of last year, his hopes were met in the best way possible.

“When I got the call, it was from Wesley Whatley, who is the creative producer of the Macy’s Parade,” Kohler said. “His exact quote was, ‘why haven’t you been in this parade before?’”

This phone conversation left Kohler with an overwhelming sense of joy and pride for the hard work his band had been accomplishing. Soon after, a mandatory band meeting was called in order to share the good news.



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“We set out all the chairs and then we talked, and then the students started looking around wondering what’s going on because they saw some news cameras,” Kohler said.

Whatley traveled from New York to Fishers High School to share the incredible news with the students. When the time came for him to share the news, the room erupted with joy, excitement, and confetti.

Having accomplished making it to the Bands of America Grand National Championships this year and last, and now heading to the biggest parade in the country, Kohler says the band is thriving through musical

excellence and a supportive community.

“It’s about setting goals and achieving goals and realizing those goals at the end of the season, and that it’s not always about the placement,” Kohler said. “It’s not always about the trophy or the hardware that you get, but it’s about the memories that you make. It’s also about the camaraderie.”

While this was the Marching Tigers’ first time in the parade, it was not the first time a high school from the Greater Indianapolis area marched on Thanksgiving Day in the Big Apple.

Last year, the Carmel High School

Marching Band was in the parade, and the year before, the Sound of Brownsburg Marching Band.

Kohler said he could not be any prouder of his students and the work they’ve accomplished.

“These kids work tirelessly, day in and day out 20 hours a week, pouring their heart and soul into not just music, but a family that’s dedicated to helping each other,” Kohler said.

Learn more about the Marching Tiger Band at fishersband.org or on the [fishersband](https://fishersband.org) Instagram page.

Noblesville poet wins eight state awards

The REPORTER

Noblesville poet Travis Park recently won three first-prize awards (Spirit Award, Speak Out Award, and the

Jimmy Coala Award), one third-prize award (Thank God for Granny Award), and four honorable mentions (Hoosier Heritage Award, Linda Ban-

non Memorial, and Life Worth Remembering Award, and PSI Poetry Prize) at the 2023 Poetry Society of Indiana Awards. [Click here](#) to read more

about the poetry contest, and [click here](#) to see the full list of winners.

You can read more of Park’s poetry on [Instagram](#).

Anderson Museum of Art invites you to weekend of holiday celebrations

The REPORTER

The Anderson Museum of Art (AMOA) extends a warm invitation to you for the Winterfest Celebration from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1. Immerse yourself in the holiday spirit with an evening brimming with festive activities tailored for the entire family.

Here’s a sneak peek of the festivities:

- Photos with Father Christmas: \$50 Mini Family Sessions (2:30 to 4:30

p.m. at Mounds State Park, 5 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. at AMOA) and \$10 Meet and Greet Sessions (6 to 7 p.m. at AMOA).

- A.R.T.S. – A Reason to Shop: Explore unique holiday gifts from local vendors.
- Detour Salon & Style: Visit the hair tinsel station for a touch of holiday sparkle.
- Free Kids’ Crafts: Unleash creativity with crafts for the little ones.
- “Deck the Walls” and “Snowflakes and Stanzas”

Exhibition Opening: Immerse yourself in the holiday spirit with these themed exhibitions.

Holiday Home Tours
Sunday, Dec. 3

Keep the festive vibes alive by securing your tickets for AMOA’s Holiday Home Tours. Embark on a delightful journey through five uniquely adorned homes, each a splendid showcase of holiday cheer. Don’t miss out on this enchanting experience – purchase your tickets

now at AndersonArt.org/home-tours and continue the holiday celebrations with AMOA.

AMOA gives a special thank you to Seasons of the Heart Gift Shoppe and Anderson St. Vincent Facilities Team for infusing enchantment into AMOA’s beloved Carnegie Library building home. Your contributions make Winterfest Celebration truly magical.

Learn more at Anderson-Art.org.

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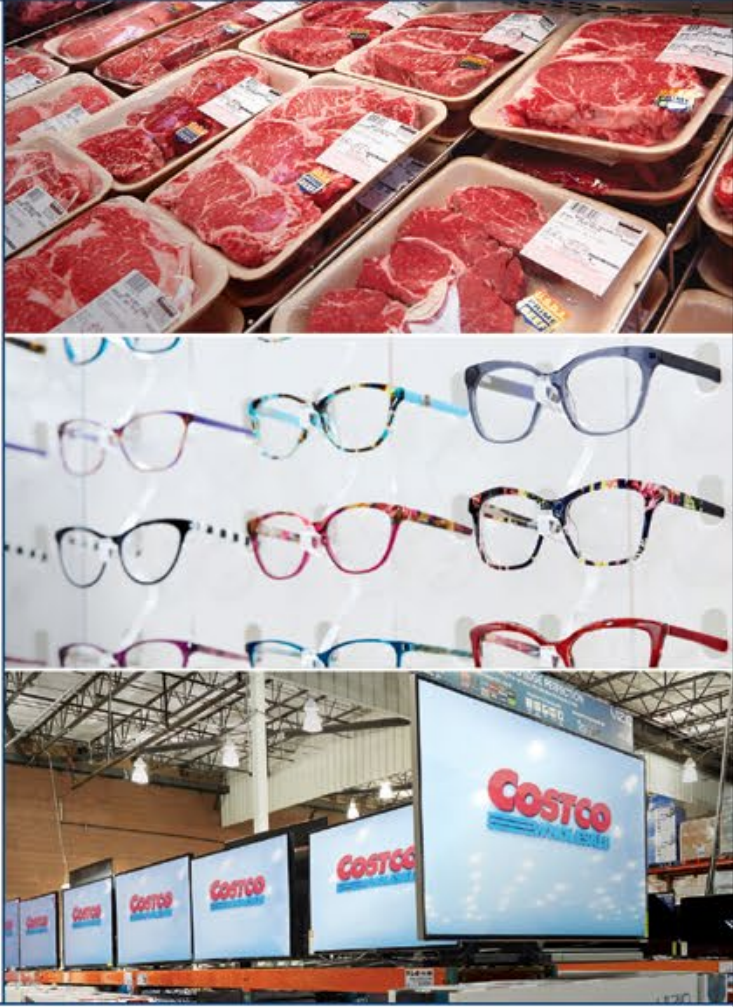


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Sheridan Lions help bring Thanksgiving to local families



Photos provided by Sheridan Lions Club / Chuck Godby
 Sheridan Youth Assistance, Mama's Cupboard, and Sunflower Pantry joined forces with the Sheridan Lions Club last Saturday morning to make Thanksgiving a bit brighter for local families in a bit of need. They passed out more than 100 fixings for a complete Thanksgiving meal, including breakfast items and sweet treats. (Top) Lions Club members Steve Brazzell, Aaron Gatewood, Chuck Godby, Doug Viehe, Alan Lyon, Jeff Mosbaugh, and Jim Kitchel ready to load boxes of food for appreciative recipients. (Above left) Lions Club member Alan Lyon readies to load a box of goodies. (Above right) The ladies directing the chilly morning pass-out were Shelley Weir, Maleana Wittrob, and Lisa Samuels.

The Black-Footed Ferret

This column is brought to readers by Sheridan High School dual-credit program students and Human Services teacher Abby Williams.



The Black-Footed Ferret originally lived in the western plains. They were deemed to be endangered but soon became what people thought to be extinct, later being rediscovered in Wyoming in 1981.

Since then, many precautions have been taken to continue their population growth, including captive breeding, cloning, habitat protection, and reintroducing. These precautions have helped grow their population numbers to over 370 in the wild. However, scientists estimate there need to be around 3,000 in the wild to have a good chance of surviving. Their biggest threats are sickness and disease.

The Black-Footed Ferret is a small creature that weighs around 1.5 to 2.5 pounds and can grow to about 18 to 24 inches in length. With a lifespan of three to four years in the wild and about four years in captivity, most Black-Footed Ferrets won't live longer than four years.

The Black-Footed Ferret fur was designed to blend in with their surroundings to be able to camouflage and stay hidden from predators. Their coat color and markings blend in with the grassland plants and soils. They have a black face mask that provides cover around their eyes and facial areas, and they also have black on their feet and the tip of their tail. But their muzzle, top of their head, and a bit of their throat is white. Their body is thin and long, with their coat being a yellow-buff color. The stomach area is a little lighter than the rest of their body. These creatures have big front paws and claws for digging.

The Black-Footed Ferret normally lives wherever prairie dogs are, which

is a reason why scientists reintroduced them into the world next to them.

These animals are very vocal creatures: they make four different types of noises, including a chatter which is used as an

alarm that signals to others. To show fear or annoyance, a small hiss is produced, the female Black-Footed Ferret will whimper to get the attention of the young, and lastly males will make a noise called a "chortle" when mating.

Although they are small in size, their appetite is the opposite. They will eat a prairie dog every three to four days. Their diet consists of 90 percent prairie dogs and the other 10 percent is other small animals, including mice, rats, ground squirrels, rabbits, birds, and sometimes insects and reptiles.

Black-Footed Ferrets are mostly nocturnal animals; they come up for only a couple minutes a day. When they do come up to the surface, it is during sunrise to hunt for food or find new mates or burrows. They mostly live in old prairie dog burrows, and in the burrows, they use them to sleep, catch prey, hide from predators and weather conditions, and to take care of their young. Contrary to belief, they do not hibernate. They do sleep a lot, but not enough to be classified as hibernating animals. They do come above the ground often to find a new burrow to stay in, but in the winter they do it less often to try to avoid the harsh weather conditions.

Scientists continue to try and double the numbers of these animals, hoping that someday they won't need our help to survive. Scientists are still trying to figure out how to keep them away from the illness that targets the species. Until then, they will stay in captive breeding to try and increase their numbers and make their lives better for when they are introduced back into the world.

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Carmel High School senior builds experience with construction internship

Submitted by CHS

When Isaac Hammett registered for Carmel High School’s Principles of Construction class, he intended to work as an electrician someday.

Throughout high school, Hammett wasn’t sure he would attend college but did continue to take other construction trades courses. Now, as a senior, he is a Project Engineer Intern at a professional construction company through the **Work-Based Learning Program**. He has multiple scholarship offers and a temporary full-time job lined up for next semester after graduating early in December.

It was an easy and practical switch from a retail job to an internship after a classmate suggested the opportunity with Skillman Corporation. Skillman is a highly respected construction company in Indiana and handles multiple projects for the district, which allows students to intern onsite easily.

“My internship has given me a lead on the education I will soon pursue,”

Hammett said. “Not only will this knowledge help me with college, but I will apply it to my future career, allowing me to solve more problems that might arise on the construction site.”

“When I first met Isaac, he wanted to be an electrician and work in the trade,” Skillman Project Manager Tyler Barker said. “I am a master electrician, so we connected initially, and I assumed I would be able to use my contacts in the trade to get him into an apprenticeship after graduation.”

Barker quickly realized that Hammett’s talent extends far beyond his hands-on capabilities. Working as much as his school schedule allows, he mainly concentrates on CHS-based projects, and despite being part-time and an 18-year-old student, he has earned the respect of Skillman leadership, vendors, and skilled tradesmen.

“I can count on this young man to complete any task,” Barker said. “He has proven capable of communicating with contractors, scheduling work, and following up until the job is



complete. He can get work out of contractors much more his senior, and they all provide positive comments back to me.”

With a humble personality, Hammett won't boast about his substantial responsibilities. He will, however, admit it's cool when friends see him working in the building or he can point to a project he helped execute. Through his time with the Work-Based Learning Program and Skillman, he gained a new appreciation



Photos provided by Carmel High School

Isaac Hammett considers himself lucky to have access to the Work-Based Learning Program at CHS.

for practical experience, professional connections, and a possible career.

Hammett is currently making college visits and plans to study construction management next fall. He said he is eager to continue his work with Skillman next semester before college and on school breaks.

Barker said he is happy to have opened the door to future possibilities in the construction business.

The **CHS Work-Based Learning Program** connects students with local businesses for career-related experiences. Hammett has benefitted from his internship and said he is eager to help promote the possibilities for other students. He is encouraging his sister to look into options for her chosen field of accounting.

“There is tons of advice that I can give to those questioning their future with a possible internship,” Hammett said. “Having the ability to access such resources in high school has left me with just one word: lucky.”

Hammett and other students may be fortunate to access high-quality internships with the Carmel High School Work-Based Learning Program. But his success is no luck. He has taken full advantage of the opportunities provided at CHS and worked tremendously hard has been able to truly leave a legacy at Carmel High School, working on projects that will benefit students for future decades.

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Merhoff presented with Carmel’s Range Line Pioneer Award

The REPORTER

At the Nov. 20 Carmel City Council meeting, Mayor Jim Brainard presented Mo Merhoff with the Range Line Pioneer Award for her many contributions to the Carmel community and Indiana as a whole.

Merhoff’s experience and lengthy list of accomplishments includes graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Purdue University, executive directorship of the 1994 World Rowing Championships in Indianapolis, serving as Olympic Press Officer at three Olympic Games and 10 World Rowing Championships and, most recently, heading up Carmel’s Chamber of Commerce for 20 years.

Before her retirement during the pandemic, Merhoff successfully merged the Carmel and Fishers chambers into OneZone.

“A chamber of commerce in a city is important to its advancement,” Mayor Brainard said. He added that chambers help work out issues with the business community and promote businesses in that community, which in turn



Photo provided by Carmel City Council

(Foreground) Mayor Jim Brainard presents Mo Merhoff with the Range Line Pioneer Award. (Back row, from left) City Council members Sue Finkam, Adam Aasen, Jeff Worrell, Kevin “Woody” Rider, Teresa Ayers, Tony Green, and Laura Campbell.

creates good jobs leading to economic development and quality growth.

Mayor Brainard stated that Merhoff’s willingness to sit down as friends to hash out issues and her spirit of partnership, innovation and creativity helped to make Carmel a much better place.

The Range Line Pioneer Award was established in 1992. It is conferred to a person who lives in or out of the community who has been a friend to the city.

Carmel Fire Auxiliary needs your help to make a difference

The REPORTER

The holiday season is fast approaching, and the Carmel Fire Auxiliary invites you once again to partner with the Carmel Fire Department to ensure the success of the long-running Community Assistance Program (CAP).

For more than 50 years, the Carmel Fire Auxiliary has provided food and presents to many Clay Township families in need. This year, the Auxiliary has committed to providing a holiday meal, presents for the children, and staple items for the pantries for 180 families.

It takes many people to make this program a success, so your participation truly makes a difference.

Here are three ways you can help:

1. **Make a tax-deductible monetary donation.** Makes checks payable to CFD Auxiliary. Please write “CAP” in the memo line. Mail to Carmel Fire Department, Attn: CAP, 210 Veterans Way, Carmel, IN 46032. You can also donate via PayPal at [tinyurl.com/CFDauxPayPal](https://www.tinyurl.com/CFDauxPayPal). Please write “CAP”



in the memo line.

2. **Sponsor a family or children by purchasing gifts.** Register by Dec. 1 and complete the sponsorship form at [tinyurl.com/CAPsponsorship](https://www.tinyurl.com/CAPsponsorship). Email CAP@carmel.in.gov or call (317) 571-2616 for more information.
3. **Volunteer to deliver food and gifts to sponsored families.** Help deliver food and gifts from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 from CFD’s Training Center, 4925 E. 106th St. Register online at [tinyurl.com/CAPdelivery](https://www.tinyurl.com/CAPdelivery) or email CAP@carmel.in.gov.

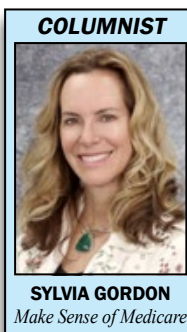
For more information on CFD’s Community Assistance Program, go to [tinyurl.com/CarmelFireCAP](https://www.tinyurl.com/CarmelFireCAP).

Medicare, weight loss, cosmetic surgeries & gender reassignment

Medicare does not cover weight loss drugs. Nor does it cover erectile dysfunction drugs due to the 20-year-old Medicare Modernization Act. The blockbuster drugs, Ozempic and Wegovy, are only covered by Medicare if they are prescribed for Type 2 diabetes.

This doesn't make sense because Medicare does cover very expensive gastric bypass surgery and laparoscopic banding surgery when you meet certain conditions. But to be eligible for lap band surgery, you must be twice your ideal weight or at least 100 pounds overweight.

Medicare may pay for you to have loose skin removed due to extreme weight loss. But if the pro-



SYLVIA GORDON
Make Sense of Medicare

cedure is wholly cosmetic, it's not covered. It must be because the extra skin in impacting your health.

Medicare does not pay for any procedure that is purely cosmetic, but sometimes medical necessity and cosmetic benefits align.

Medicare will pay for you to have upper eyelid surgery, known as blepharoplasty. Many retirees have sagging up eyelids that obscure their vision. Proof of a minimum of 12 degrees (or 30 percent) of your visual field must be obstructed for Medicare to pay for this simple surgery. If you are under 65 and on the Affordable Care Act, the rules are similar. Ask your ophthalmologist if you qualify. The unintended cosmetic benefits of an eye-

lift are a plus. You can see better and you look more youthful.

Medicare will also pay for Botox if medically necessary, usually for migraines or muscle spasms or twitches. Here again, there could also be an unintended cosmetic benefit. Varicose veins also fall into this gray area. If they don't cause you any pain or discomfort, Medicare will not cover their removal. But many people have vein ablation covered by Medicare due to constant leg pain. Rhinoplasty is another common procedure that people assume Medicare will not cover. But if you are experiencing breathing difficulties that can be alleviated by reshaping your nose, Medicare will pay for your nose job.

Medicare will pay for breast prostheses for breast reconstruction from a mastectomy due to breast can-

cer. Medicare will even pay for mastectomy bras and silicone breast forms.

Most people are shocked to learn that since 2013 Medicare has been paying for gender reassignment surgeries. Medicare will pay as long as it's deemed medically necessary due to gender dysphoria.

How much you pay out of pocket for any Medicare procedure depends on your type of insurance. Most procedures listed above are subject to deductible and coinsurance. A Medicare Supplement plan can lower your out-of-pocket Medicare costs for many of these procedures.

Sylvia Gordon is co-founder of *The Medicare Family*, headquartered in Noblesville, where she educates thousands on Medicare and Social Security in all 50 states. You can learn more at TheMedicareFamily.com.

Merry Movie Nights to screen at Arts for Lawrence's Theater at the Fort

The REPORTER

Heartland Film brings back Merry Movie Nights Presented by Edward Jones for a second year. This mini-movie series will showcase holiday films at the Arts for Lawrence's Theater at the Fort, 8920 Otis Ave., Lawrence, on Dec. 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and just \$5 for kids and students. The four-day series will feature six festive films. Each screening includes a merry activation like wine & chocolate tasting before *The Holiday*, a live comedian before *Christmas Vacation* and cookie decorating and Santa before *Home Alone*.

Film Schedule

- *The Holiday* with Wine & Chocolate Tasting: 7 p.m. on Dec. 7
- *White Christmas* Sing Along Screening: 6 p.m. on Dec. 8
- *Die Hard* with



Photo provided

Twinkies: 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 8

- *Christmas Vacation* with Live Comedian Opener: 5 p.m. on Dec. 9
- *Home Alone* with Cookie Decorating & Santa: 2 p.m. on Dec. 10

- *It's A Wonderful Life* with Ugly Sweater Contest: 5 p.m. on Dec. 10

"Classic movies are the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit," Heartland Film President Michael Ault said. "We're excited to in-

vite people to come together to watch their favorite films on the big screen with some festive surprises!"

Tickets to Merry Movie Nights Presented by Edward Jones can be purchased at HeartlandFilm.org.

United States Postal Service announces holiday shipping & mailing deadlines

The REPORTER

To assist customers with their preparations for the upcoming busy holiday shopping and shipping season, the U.S. Postal Service is providing 2023 holiday shipping and mailing deadlines. The information below covers domestic, international, and military shipping destinations to allow for the timely delivery of cards, letters, and packages by Christmas Day.

No holiday surcharges

The Postal Service has announced it will not have a peak, or demand, surcharge this holiday season, offering increased predictability in pricing for customers. As always, the Postal Service offers simple, upfront pricing year-round with no additional fees for residential area delivery, for Saturday delivery, no fuel surcharges and no volume minimums. The Postal Service continues to be the most affordable way to mail and ship this holiday season.

2023 USPS Holiday Shipping & Mailing Deadlines

Within the Lower 48 (excludes Alaska & Hawaii)

- USPS Ground Advantage – Dec. 16
- First-Class Mail (including greeting cards) – Dec. 16

- Priority Mail – Dec. 18
- Priority Mail Express – Dec. 20

Alaska

- USPS Ground Advantage – Dec. 16
- First-Class Mail – Dec. 16

- Priority Mail – Dec. 18
- Priority Mail Express – Dec. 20

Hawaii

- USPS Ground Advantage – Dec. 16
- First-Class Mail – Dec. 16

- Priority Mail – Dec. 16
- Priority Mail Express – Dec. 20

Air/Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO), Diplomatic Post Office (DPO)

- USPS Ground Advantage – Nov. 6
- First-Class Mail – Dec. 9

- Priority Mail – Dec. 9
- Priority Mail Express Military Service – Dec. 15*

* PMEMS not available for APO/FPO/DPO AE ZIPs 093

International Mail

Shipping deadlines for international mail vary depending on the destination. Check out [International Mail and Shipping Services](#) for details. The Postal Service is a secure shipping option that meets [international mail](#) shipping needs to over 180 countries.

USPS is ready for peak shipping season

A new shipping option this year is [USPS Ground Advantage](#), a service that provides a simple, reliable and affordable way to ship packages with day certain delivery of two to five business days based on distance.

In addition to USPS's convenient retail locations, customers can purchase their shipping labels, order Priority Mail packaging, and schedule free carrier pick up via the Postal Service's shipping platform [Click-N-Ship](#). Customers using the platform will have access to Commercial Shipping Rates that will apply to all domestic package labels – making it easier for customers to ship their packages.

The Postal Service is [built for the holidays](#), serving 165 million addresses across the country and covering every state, city, and town. Everyone living in

the United States and its territories has access to postal products and services.

Review the details on how to ship packages to [military and diplomatic addresses](#) at domestic prices, even if you are sending mail overseas. Notably, the Postal Service is the only delivery service that ships to APO, FPO and DPO addresses.

More tools and tips to help customers prepare for the busy holiday season can be found in the [USPS Holiday Newsroom](#).

Postal products

Customers may purchase, stamps and other philatelic products through the [Postal Store](#) at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through [USA Philatelic](#) or at Post Office locations nationwide. For officially licensed stamp products, shop the [USPS Officially Licensed Collection on Amazon](#).

Hamilton County Reporter

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HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP'S 200th Birthday

DEC. 12

3:00 Social Time
 3:30 Program
 4:00 Pictures w/ Santa
 7:00 Kids' Craft

RSVP

COOKIES | 9094 E. 131st St. Fishers, IN 46038 | BEVERAGES

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP
United we Serve

LIFETIME LEGACY LAWYERS Podcast

<https://lifetimelegacylawyers.com>

Fantasia Noel

Presented by *Behold the Lamb* Ministries, Inc.

Be our Guest!

Soli Deo Gloria Community Concert Choir
Featured annually in The Hamilton County Passion Play

2023 Christmas Concerts
Directed by Lisa Jennings

Carmel Christkindlmarkt Concert
 10 Carter Green, Carmel, IN
 Friday, December 1, 5:00 pm

Arcadia Tree Lighting - Mini Concert
 Main Street, Downtown Arcadia, IN
 Saturday, December 2, 6:45 pm

Hope Bible Fellowship Concert
 2350 Conner Street, Noblesville, IN
 Sunday, December 3, 6:00 pm

Admission is free.
 No ticket required. Additional information
beholdthelamb129@gmail.com
 or beholdthelamb.com



Make an impact with Janus on Giving Tuesday

The REPORTER

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, Janus Developmental Services will join people all over the world in coming together to harness the power of human connection to change the world. Will you join in and make a donation?

Janus' mission is to help those with disabilities reach their full potential. The people at Janus work hard to create meaningful programs based on each person's skills, interests, and abilities.

One of Janus' newest programs, photography, has

sparked the creativity of many participants. Photography has allowed them to engage with the community differently than ever before and has allowed for a new type of creativity. Your donation makes it possible for Janus to offer new and exciting opportunities like photography.

Everyone deserves to fulfill their dreams, and your donation will help make those dreams come true.

[Click here](#) to donate to Janus Developmental Services for Giving Tuesday, Nov. 28.



Get tickets now for family-friendly Nutcracker Sweets show in Cicero

The REPORTER

Cicero Arts & Entertainment invites the community to the first Nutcracker

performance featuring local dancers.

Nutcracker Sweets, a 30-minute Nutcracker show, will be take place at 10 and 11:30 a.m. and at 1:30 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Red Bridge Park Community Building, 697 W. Jackson St., Cicero.

It isn't often that a rural

community can host such a classical performance. This is a very special event, and event organizers are grateful for the businesses that have helped bring the performing arts to Cicero. Please check out Cicero Art and Entertainment on [Facebook](#) if you need additional information. [Tickets are now avail-](#)

[able now](#) and are just \$8. This classical performance has been made into a 30-minute show and is welcoming to patrons of all ages. It is being held in a black box theatre at the Red Bridge Park Community Building. Seating is limited, so [click here](#) to purchase your tickets now.

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AUCTION

Wednesday, November 29th, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

PROPERTY LOCATION:
Approx. 23225 Cammack Road
Cicero, IN 46034

Tract 1: 19+/- Acres
Tract 2: 16.5+/- Acres
Tract 3: 16.5+/- Acres
Tract 4: 15+/- Acres
Tract 5: 28.5+/- Acres

5 TRACTS

95.5+/- total acres

John Bechman: 765.404.0396 • Sam Clark: 317.442.0251
Jim Clark: 765.659.4841

800.424.2324 | halderman.com

Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct Lic.#AC69200019, HLS# JRB-12959, Farm: Hunter & Mills Farm

Support local shops & restaurants today during Shop Fishers event

The REPORTER

Explore, discover, and support local shops and restaurants that make the Fishers community special. Join the celebration and find heartwarming, unique gifts for your loved ones this festive season. [The Shop Fishers: Holiday Series](#) kicks off today, Small Business Saturday, and runs through Sunday, Dec. 31.

Local deals

Check out [what deals are happening](#) at local businesses around Fishers. Please note that deals may change and we encourage you to check with the business for the latest deals and details. Be sure to follow the city on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) and follow #ShopFishers to see deals happening at local businesses throughout the season.

2023 Shop Fishers Gift Guide

The annual Shop Fishers event is a celebration of local flavors, talents, and stories that make Fishers shine. Not sure where to begin shopping? The city has created a gift guide for each unique person in your life to gift to – even if that person is you. Check out the [2023 Shop Fishers Gift Guide](#).

Thanks for reading!

Plant-based ingredient maker to pay \$8 million over pollution violations at Indianapolis facility

By DAJA STOWE
WISH-TV | [wishstv.com](#)

Ingredient, a plant-based ingredient maker for food and beverages, has agreed to pay \$8 million for over-pollution violations at its Indianapolis facility. The plant-based ingredient maker was accused of violating the Clean Air Act at its corn wet milling facility on Drover Street by releasing more particulate matter than is allowed by law.

Corn wet milling is a process of breaking corn kernels into their component parts. During this process, microscopic solids or liquid droplets can go into the air and go deep into the lungs and cause serious health problems.

Ingredion said Tuesday it had settled claims by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Justice Department, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and the Indiana Attorney General's Office.

The company will pay a civil penalty of \$1,139,600 and implement measures of nearly \$7 million to reduce and offset unpermitted emissions of particulate matter

and comply with lower future PM limits.

Court papers say that Ingredion did not operate and monitor certain equipment as required to minimize air emissions.

"The settlement requires Ingredion to install and operate new equipment to meet PM limits that are lower than the plant's current permitted limits to implement a modernized compliance management system to address repeated operation and also to monitor failures at the facility and hire an independent auditor to verify the effectiveness of the system," said the DOJ's Office of Public Affairs said in a release.

The company also committed to mitigating the harm associated with past excess PM emissions by paving onsite unpaved and partially paved roads and parking areas to reduce PM emissions generated by vehicle traffic, which was completed before Tuesday's filing.

Ingredion is required to contribute \$560,400 to the state to support Brownfields redevelopment in and around Marion County, per the release.

ON-LINE AUCTION

for

The Estate of Ron Sottong

and Other Personal Property

BIDDING OPENS: Monday, November 20th @ 4pm

SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, December 2nd @ 6pm

PREVIEW DAY: Thursday, November 30th from Noon - 6pm

Tractors & Equipment:

1931 Model A Ford • Int'l KB-3 Truck • Kubota L225 & Kubota L185DT • JD Model A, Int'l 350 • McCormick FarmAll B • Co-Op Tractor • Farm Implements • JD 216 Roto-Tiller • Craftsman 2600psi Pressure Washer • Riding Mowers • Homemade Replica of • Oil-Pull w/ • McCormick-Deering • 5-hp Hit & Miss Engine • Hay Wagons • JD Gator • Honda Trail 70 Mini Bike • 1985 Honda ATC 200S 3-Wheeler • Honda FourTrax 300 • 2018 Club Car President • 2019 Club Car Tempo Golf Cart

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To View Complete Sale Bill Including Pictures & Terms and to Register & Start Bidding:

Click the Calendar Link @ [www.cripesauction.com](#)

Absentee Bidding is still Available

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Municipal Drive & 116th Street in Fishers

On Monday, Nov. 27, the sidewalk on the northeast corner of Municipal Drive and 116th Street will be blocked from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to allow a contractor to install an overhead sign at the former LouVino site. For pedestrian traffic heading west on 116th Street, you may cross Municipal Drive and then head north to the Municipal Complex.

You are cordially invited
to the Grand Finale!

HAMILTON COUNTY
INDIANA

Bicentennial Bash

Sunday, December 3, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Ivy Tech Community College - Hamilton County
300 N. 17th St., Noblesville, IN 46060

This **FREE**, family-friendly open house-style event caps off an amazing year!



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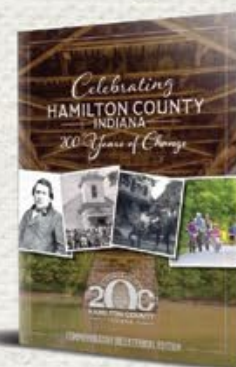
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Bicentennial Partners



HAMILTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Applications open for Songbook Academy 2024

The REPORTER

High school students with interests in singing and performance are invited to apply for the 15th annual Songbook Academy, a transformative, weeklong summer intensive that immerses participants in America’s musical heritage and helps them develop as artists under the guidance of Broadway stars and other experienced performers and music educators.

Presented by the Great American Songbook Foundation and its founder, performer, and preservationist Michael Feinstein, the program helps young singers hone their vocal and performance skills with an emphasis on song interpretation. With direction from top-tier mentors and a focus on the Great American Songbook as a crucial foundation for any career in music, the Songbook Academy enables students to explore musical styles and take risks in a supportive pre-professional environment.

“I can’t think of anything more important than to have a safe space to be able to try things,” said Broadway star Liz Callaway, who served as a Guest Mentor for Songbook Academy 2023. “In an atmosphere like this, you get to try things and you get to be yourself, and you get to be with people who are after the same thing you are, and the community is wonderful. Boy, if I was their age, I would have loved to be here.”

Songbook Academy 2024 will take place July 13 to 20 at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. Applications will be accepted through March 24, and the 40 selected finalists will be notified in April. Every applicant, regardless of acceptance status, will receive feedback from a national screening



Photo by Wayne Images

Songbook Academy 2023 finalists rehearse for a group performance at the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel.

panel of music educators and entertainment industry professionals.

Highlights of the program include:

- Personalized mentorship from industry professionals
- Performing in state-of-the-art concert facilities
- Developing a strong knowledge base in American popular music
- Building lifelong connections in an inclusive musical environment
- Gaining confidence as singers and storytellers

The Songbook Academy is widely known for its top-notch faculty of coaches and mentors from prestigious university music programs and every corner of the performance industry. Guest Mentors in previous years have included stage and screen stars Ashley Park (*Only Murders in the Building*, *Emily in*

Paris, Mean Girls), Ali Stroker (*Oklahoma!*, *Ozark*, *Echoes*) and Solea Pfeiffer (*Hadestown*, *A Jazzman's Blues*, *Almost Famous*); Broadway notables Andréa Burns (*In the Heights*, *West Side Story*, *Up Here*), Telly Leung (*Aladdin*, *Godspell*, TV's *Glee*), James T. Lane (*Chicago*, *Kiss Me Kate*) and Nasia Thomas (*Six*, *Ain't Too Proud*, *Beautiful*); and acclaimed vocalists Jane Monheit, Nicole Henry, Catherine Russell and Melissa Manchester.

Alumni of the Songbook Academy include Maddie Bailio, seen in NBC's *Hairspray* (as Tracy), Netflix's *Dumplin'*, and Amazon's *Cinderella*; Kyrie Courter, now performing in *Sweeney Todd* on Broadway; singer-songwriter Eleri Ward; Adriana Scalice (National Tour of *Six*); and Nina White, currently originating a role in *Kimberly Akimbo* on Broadway.

How to apply

The Songbook Academy is open to active students in grades 9 through 12 as of Nov. 15, 2023, who live in the United States. Applications must be submitted online by March 24 at app.getacceptd.com/songbookacademy. Applicants must submit videos of themselves performing two contrasting songs, preferably American popular songs written from the 1920s to the 1960s, a foundational era that produced some of the most influential jazz standards and Broadway and Hollywood hits of all time.

The application fee has been lowered this year to just \$50. For those accepted to attend, the \$1,000 program fee includes housing at Butler University, meals, and ground transportation throughout the week. Fee

See Songbook . . . Page 11

Destiny Wells announces run for attorney general in 2024

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The first declared Democratic candidate for attorney general on Monday said she would prioritize a return to serving Indiana’s needs first and adhering to professional rules of conduct.

Destiny Wells, the 2022 Democratic Party nominee for secretary of state, said she will seek her party’s nomination again in 2024, this time as attorney general. Wells’ resume includes service as a deputy attorney general, including under former attorney general Curtis Hill.



Wells

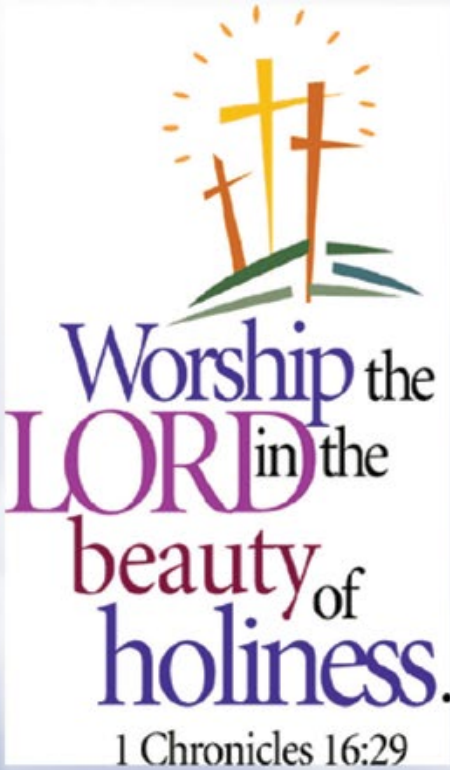
Wells said Attorney General Todd Rokita has prioritized chasing headlines and national media attention over serving the needs of Hoosiers. She specifically pointed to his handling of the [case of Dr. Caitlin Bernard](#), who performed an abortion on a 10-year-old rape victim from Ohio shortly before state lawmakers enacted Indiana’s new abortion ban. The Indiana Supreme Court [publicly reprimanded Rokita](#) early this month for his public comments on Bernard.

“We are looking to protect medical privacy for all Hoosiers,” Wells said, “and not to use the office in an abusive way, asking for investigative demands of other agencies, whether it be the Department of Health, or whether it be hospital corporations around Indiana.”

Wells faces an uphill battle in a general election. She took home 40 percent of the vote in last year’s secretary of state race, which did not feature an incumbent candidate in the general election after Indiana Republicans passed up Holli Sullivan in favor of Diego Morales. Wells said she believes she is better positioned to run now because she has campaign infrastructure already in place from that first run. She also said she expects to benefit from the higher voter turnout presidential elections typically bring.

See Wells . . . Page 11

Can We Help You Find a Church Home?



At the Stony Creek Church of Christ, we love visitors. They are always welcome, warmly greeted and never singled out publicly so as to embarrass them. After services visitors are encouraged to ask questions. We delight in clarifying what has been practiced or taught. We do not want visitors to leave with a misperception or unanswered questions. We have nothing to hide or secret practices. So, why not accept our invitation and visit at one of our services.

We meet at 15530 Herriman Blvd. in Noblesville. Our building is behind the doctor’s office and at the stop sign.

It is our desire to pattern our work and worship after the church revealed in the New Testament: nothing more and nothing less. We simply want to be Christians belonging to The Body of Christ about which we can read in the New Testament. Doing so we can be assured of God’s good pleasure. Is that appealing to you? Than please visit with us at any worship service or Bible Study.

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



Stony Creek Church of Christ
“First Century Christianity in the Twenty First Century”
15530 Herriman Blvd., Noblesville
(317) 219-5852
Sunday Bible Study 10:00 am
Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

Murderer will stay behind bars thanks to work of Attorney General Todd Rokita’s team

The REPORTER
Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita’s team has **defeated an effort** by a vicious killer to overturn his conviction for the murder of a young mother in her home.
“Even the worst criminals get their day in court,” AG Rokita said. “Our job, though, is to make sure that the outcome of that process is justice for their victims. We pursue that mission with the utmost of seriousness, and all Hoosiers are safer because we consistently succeed in keeping violent felons locked away.”
Amid a frenzied crime spree on Nov. 10, 2015,

Larry Taylor and two other men watched from afar as Amanda Blackburn’s husband, Pastor Davey Blackburn, left the family’s home shortly after 6 a.m.
The trio then broke into the home with the intent to commit robbery – at which time they encountered Amanda Blackburn and her toddler son. At the time, Amanda Blackburn was pregnant with the family’s second child.
Taylor’s two accomplices left the home to withdraw money from an ATM using



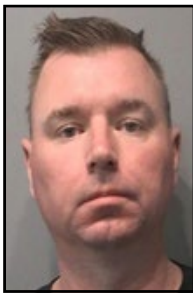
Rokita

Amanda Blackburn’s debit card. Alone with the woman and child, Taylor attempted to forcibly have sexual intercourse with the pregnant 28-year-old woman. When she resisted, Taylor shot her in the head, back and arm – and watched her as she lay on the floor, helpless and bleeding. When the two accomplices returned from the bungled bank trip, Taylor casually remarked that he “watched [Amanda] bleed out.”
Taylor appealed his murder conviction on the

premise that a police officer asked him several questions before reading him his Miranda rights.
AG Rokita’s team successfully showed that, as the appellate court stated in its decision, Taylor’s pre-Miranda statements “were not admitted into evidence during the trial” and “even if Taylor’s statements had been admitted, any error would have been harmless” because of “overwhelming evidence” outside of those statements.
AG Rokita thanked his team – particularly Deputy Attorney General Megan Smith – for their excellent work on this case.

Westfield man charged for evidence leak in Delphi murders case

By JAY ADKINS
WISH-TV | wishtv.com
Mitchell Westerman, 41, Westfield, was arrested for conversion Wednesday for leaking evidence involving the Delphi murders case.
According to officials with the Indiana State Police, the investigation began in October 2023 when Westerman



Westerman

case. During the investigation, detectives determined that Westerman improperly obtained evidence involving the court proceeding and subsequently released it.
On Tuesday, charges were filed and an arrest warrant was issued for Westerman. On Wednesday, Westerman was located by Indiana State Police and taken into custody without incident. He was transported to the Johnson County Jail.

Galveston man identified in fatal U.S. 31 crash

Submitted by Hamilton County Coroner’s Office
At approximately 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 15, deputies from the Hamilton County Coroner’s Office were dispatched to a three-car fatal crash at U.S. 31 and 136th Street for a death investigation. The driver of a GMC Envoy was pronounced dead on scene.
Positive identification of the driver was challeng-

ing due to his injuries; however, with the assistance of the Indiana State Police, a fingerprint comparison was completed, and Hamilton County Coroner Jeff Jellison identified the deceased as Joe Louis Ingram Jr., 42, Galveston, Ind.
The cause of the crash is under investigation, and the official cause and manner of death are pending autopsy and toxicology results.

SONGBOOK

waivers and financial aid, including full scholarships, are available.
More details and application information are available at TheSongbook.org/SongbookAcademy or by email at SongbookAcademy@TheSongbook.org.
The Songbook Academy is made possible in part by generous support from its National Program Part-

ner, the Efroymson Family Fund.
About the Great American Songbook Foundation
The mission of the Great American Songbook Foundation, founded in 2007 by five-time Grammy Award nominee Michael Feinstein, is to inspire and educate by celebrating the timeless standards of pop, jazz, Broadway and Hol-

lywood. Headquartered at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, the Foundation advances this rich musical legacy by curating a vast Library & Archives of items representing its creators, performers and publishers; operating a multimedia exhibit gallery; overseeing the Songbook Hall of Fame; offering programs

from Page 10
for the public and research opportunities for scholars and artists; and providing educational opportunities for student musicians, including the annual Songbook Academy summer intensive. The Foundation is a Cultural Affiliate of the Los Angeles-based Grammy Museum. More information is available at TheSongbook.org.

WELLS

Indiana Republican Party Chair Anne Hathaway said in a statement, “Time and again, Democrat Destiny Wells has used her leadership

position in the Indiana Democrat Party to try and push the radical Joe Biden agenda across the state. Indiana Republicans are looking forward to a ro-

bust campaign in which we will continue to support the rule of law and the Indiana Constitution.”
General election candidates for statewide of-

fices other than the governor are chosen at state party conventions. The 2024 Indiana Democratic Party convention is set for July.



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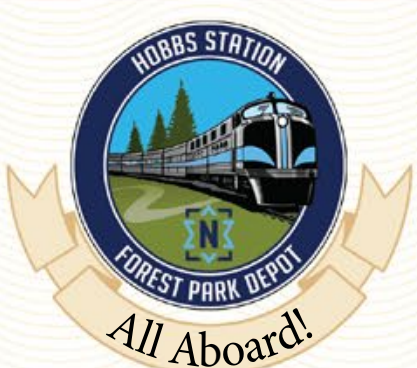
ENJOY THE RICH HISTORY OF RAIL TRAVEL!

Sit back and enjoy the sights, sounds and experience of a ride in our 1950s Santa Fe equipment.

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

Excursions board out of Noblesville at 825 Forest Park Drive.

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Reindeer Express

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New Year’s Eve Masquerade Ball

Join us for the exclusive New Year’s Eve Masquerade Express. Departing from Hoobs Station in Noblesville, Indiana on December 31st at 8 p.m., this one-time only train ride promises to be a memorable experience.

December 31

NickelPlateExpress.com

The REPORTER

Options Schools has announced its winter campus Open House schedule, with all events open to anyone interested in visiting campus and learning more about Options Schools.

With four events in total, Options Schools' Noblesville and Westfield campuses will each play host to two events from November through January. This will provide an open campus and fun event opportunities for families exploring Options as seats remain available to enroll for the 2023-24 school year. All events are free of charge to attend and open to the public.

The event schedule begins on Nov. 29 with Holiday Cookie Decorating at Options Westfield and will conclude on Jan. 17 with MARVEL Team Trivia at Options Noblesville. Other events include Build Your Own Snow Globe (Dec. 13) and BINGO (Jan. 10), with all events to take place on Wednesdays.

Founded in 2002, Options Schools are free, public charter schools serving grade 6 through 12 students in all 92 counties in the state of Indiana. With a high-quality, individualized approach to education, Options Schools specializes in providing students with an inclusive environment, unparalleled support, and a student-to-teacher ratio of 15-to-1.

The full event schedule and additional information can be viewed at [Facebook.com/OptionsCharterSchools/events](https://facebook.com/OptionsCharterSchools/events).

The events will also provide an opportunity for families to tour campus and meet/speak with the campus Principal, teachers, and other team members, to learn more about the personalized, student-first approach found at Options Schools.

Options Schools Winter Open House Schedule

- Nov. 29: Holiday Cookie Decorating (6 to 7 p.m. at Westfield)
- Dec. 13: Make Your Own Snow Globe (5:30 to 7 p.m. at Noblesville)
- Jan. 10: BINGO (6 to 7 p.m. at Westfield)
- Jan. 17: MARVEL Team Trivia (6 to 7 p.m. at Noblesville)

Unable to attend an event, but still want to visit campus and explore Options? Schedule a campus tour by emailing apiper@optionsined.org.

Indiana lawmakers: hold back students who can't read at grade level

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](https://www.wishtv.com)

Top Republican legislative leaders on Tuesday said too many exceptions allow students to advance to the next grade despite lacking the requisite reading skills.

The most recent statewide reading assessment found that **18 percent of Indiana third graders can't read at grade level**. In a short speech to lawmakers on the General Assembly's annual Organization Day, House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) said he wants to pass legislation to cut that figure to no more than 5 percent and to require any student who can't read at grade level to repeat the third grade.

Speaking to reporters afterward, Huston said it's not fair to students to move them up to the next grade before they are ready. He said there already are laws on the books that deal with retaining students, but he suspects lawmakers have added too many exceptions over time. He said legislation likely will focus on tightening those exceptions, though he added he doesn't want to do away with them entirely.

"We're adversely affecting any student we pass along who can't read at an appropriate level," Huston said. "Across the country, we're reading worse than we did decades ago. So what we're saying is, let's get focused on it."

Sen. Andrea Hunley (D-Indianapolis) said lawmakers just passed legislation this spring to require teachers to use the Science of Reading Curriculum and that legislation needs time to work. Hunley, a former teacher and principal, said being held back carries problems of its own that disproportionately affect students of color.

"It is really important that we can take (retaining students) on an individual basis," Hunley said. "What we know is that, for children who already have limited access to resources, who already are from underrepresented communities, the stigma is retention can actually increase the likelihood that they drop out."

Although lawmakers indicated education will take center stage this session, it's not the only legislation voters can expect. Huston said he wants lawmakers to authorize widening Interstates 65 and 70 to six lanes along their entire length in the state. In light of the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks in Israel and a subsequent explosion in antisemitic rhetoric, he said he also wants to bring back **legislation that would explicitly define antisemitism** as a form of religious discrimination. The bill passed the House unanimously during the 2023 session but never got a hearing in the Senate.

For their part, Senate Democrats said they would prioritize child care issues such as expanding eligibility for **child care development fund grants**, which help pay for child care, and mandating paid family leave, especially for those who work in child care. They also said to expect legislation on housing and landlord-tenant issues, such as allowing renters to withhold rent over maintenance issues. Additionally, Senate Minority Leader Greg Taylor (D-Indianapolis) said he will again file legislation to allow Indiana voters to put initiative petitions directly on the ballot. Taylor said doing so does not require changing the state's constitution.

The legislative session begins on Jan. 8. Legislative leaders have said they hope to wrap up their work no later than March 14.

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Indianapolis Symphonic Choir announces Christmas Carol Commission Competition winner

The REPORTER

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir has announced the winner of the 2023 Christmas Carol Commission Competition: Daniel Watson, a versatile Indianapolis-based composer, teacher, and musician.

This annual competition seeks an outstanding original and unpublished Christmas/holiday piece, which will be performed by the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir at its annual *Festival of Carols* performances in December.

Watson is the Director of Choirs at Greenwood Community High School, where his choirs regularly earn "State Vocal Jazz Finalist," "Best Section," and "With Distinction" honors at competitions. He is also an Associate Faculty of Voice at Indiana University Indianapolis, maintains an active private music studio, and regularly collaborates and performs in the community through conducting, piano and vocal performance, and composing. He performed with the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir with his wife Bethany from 2015 to 2020.

Watson received the Outstanding Future Music Educator of the Year Award

(2015) from the Indiana Music Education Association as well as the National Association for Music Education National Professional Achievement Award (2014, 2015). He has performed, directed, and premiered compositions at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, as well as throughout Great Britain, France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and the United States.

Tickets are on sale now for *Festival of Carols*, taking place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at Clowes Memorial Hall on the campus of Butler University, and at 3 p.m. on both Saturday, Dec. 16 and Sunday, Dec. 17 at The Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. A Midwest family tradition filled with a variety of holiday favorites, the Choir will be joined by guest artists including one of Indy's favorite cabaret singers Anthony Nunziata and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Spotlight Choir from Ben Davis High School, and of course, Santa!

Festival of Carols features a selection of fan-favorite and traditional holiday music such as "It's the



Photo provided

Indianapolis-based composer, teacher, and musician Daniel Watson won this year's Christmas Carol Commission Competition.

Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "The Prayer," and "O Little Town of Bethlehem" sharing the stage with newer (and brand new!) compositions certain to become treasured favorites.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit indychoir.org/foc. *Festival of Carols* will continue to offer performances with sign language interpretation (ASL).

About the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir is proud to be one of the nation's most established and dynamic musical institutions. Among the most active symphonic choruses in the United States, the Choir reaches more than

20,000 persons each season through performances and education & community engagement programs. The 150 volunteer singers demonstrate the Choir's commitment to musical excellence through their talent and dedication during each 10-month season.

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir was founded in 1937 at the request of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra to perform the great choral-orchestral repertoire. This continued partnership exhibits the best of collaborative ideals – two independent arts organizations combining their strengths to create beautifully lasting musical results. For more information, visit indychoir.org.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

JACOB TAKES ESAU'S BLESSING

When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and also Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite. They were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

Genesis 26:34-35 (NIV)

Marvin Bruce Ridsen

November 24, 1935 – November 23, 2023

Marvin Bruce Ridsen, 87, Noblesville, passed away on Thursday, November 23, 2023, at his home. He was born on November 24, 1935, to James and Virginia (Shepard) Ridsen in Lee County, Va.



Bruce graduated from Saint Charles High School in Saint Charles, Va., and he proudly served in the United States Air Force. Bruce worked at ARA Food Service as a repair technician before his retirement. He attended New Light Christian Center where he enjoyed singing with the congregation. Bruce liked to play guitar and piano and listen to Christian music.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Arbadella Ridsen; son, Michael (Nellie) Ridsen; grandchildren, Michelle (Frank) Chuta, Chris Collins, Troy (Jennifer) Ridsen, Michael (Tonya) Ridsen; great-grandchildren, Anthony (Reagan) Manghelli, Alex Mastin, Peyton Ridsen, Aden Ridsen, Mason Ridsen, Jonathon Ridsen, and Joshua Ridsen; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Carl Ridsen, Bradley Ridsen, and Raymond Ridsen.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville, with Pastor Alfred Parks and Pastor Michael W. Ridsen officiating. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to the time of service at the funeral home. Burial with military honors will be at Hamilton Memorial Park Cemetery in Westfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to New Light Christian Center, 1905 Hannibal St., Noblesville, IN 46060.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Thanks for reading!

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**10717 Upland Way
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PENDING

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Girls Basketball



(Left) Hamilton Southeastern’s Kenley Johnson scored seven points, including two second-quarter baskets for the Royals during their 59-42 home win over Carmel on Friday. (Right) Carmel’s Lauren Perry scored five points for the Greyhounds.

Reporter photos by Richie Hall

No. 1 Royals remain unbeaten in win over Carmel

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

FISHERS – It’s been so far, so good for the Hamilton Southeastern girls basketball team during a busy week on the Royals’ schedule.

Class 4A No. 1-ranked Southeastern kept itself unbeaten for the season with a 59-42 win over visiting Carmel on Friday afternoon. The Royals steadily built a 15-point lead during the first half, then took fur-

ther control of the game by starting the second half on an 11-0 run.

Southeastern led 19-12 at the end of the first quarter, with six different players scoring. Kayla Stidham led the way with two 3-pointers for six points. Mallory Bourquein had four points for Carmel.

The Royals outscored the ‘Hounds 16-8 in the second period on their way to a 35-20 halftime lead. Kinley Johnson scored a couple of early baskets, with Stidham

and Kayla Brinley also adding four points each.

“On different nights, we’ve had different girls step up and hit some big shots, give us some points,” said HSE coach Brian Satterfield. The coach said those players also help “in terms of coming in off the bench to give us good defensive awareness, pressure, rebounding, all those types of things.”

The first four minutes of the second half belonged to Southeastern, as it rang

up 11 straight points. Maya Makalusky started the run with a layin, then Stidham scored on a layin, then threw in a 3. Makalusky then added two free throws and another basket to give the Royals a 46-20 lead.

“The girls did a very good job of moving the basketball, not forcing a whole lot,” said Satterfield. “You can see that they really key in on Maya. She did a great job of cutting and using and our girls made some good reads of trying to get the ball

where they needed to.”

Triples from Mackenzie Woods and Keaton Gatlin ended the Southeastern run, but the Royals still led by 46-26. Southeastern was up 55-32 after three; Kennedy Holman scored four points during the last three minutes of the quarter.

A Stidham layin gave the Royals their largest lead of the game at 58-32 midway through the fourth period. Carmel finished the game on a 10-1 run, but Southeastern had the win clinched

by then.

Stidham finished with 17 points, followed by 15 for Makalusky. Holman and Addison Van Hoesen both secured six rebounds, while Makalusky collected five. Holman dished out six assists and Makalusky blocked two shots.

“Hamilton Southeastern’s a very good team,” said Greyhounds coach Rick Risinger. “They have two really dominant players, shooters.”

See Royals . . . Page 15

Swimming

Southeastern sweeps Noblesville in season-opening meet

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Southeastern swim teams swept Noblesville in a dual meet Tuesday that opened the season for both teams.

The Royals girls won 120-65. Audrey Crawford was a double winner in the individual medley and butterfly, while Kiley Zoeller swept the 50 and 100 freestyles. Southeastern’s boys team won 98-88; Jack Warren was first in the 200 and 500 freestyles, with Jihoon Jung winning the IM and butterfly. Derek Robinson won the 50 and 100 freestyles.

GIRLS MEET

Team score: Hamilton Southeastern 120, Noblesville 65.

200 medley relay: 1. Southeastern “A” (Naomi

Haines, Julia Kiley, Audrey Crawford, Kiley Zoeller) 1:48.42, 2. Noblesville “A” (Haddie Vohs, Maya McDonald, Emily Knott, Exley Tricker) 1:50.99, 3. Southeastern “B” (Kelsey Graham, Eloise Harrison, Lacey Huston, Ella Chesterfield) 1:54.71.

200 freestyle: 1. Vohs (N) 1:58.78, 2. Mia Henderson (HSE) 2:01.75, 3. Meghan Voelker (HSE) 2:03.31, 4. El-lason Miller (HSE) 2:05.55, 5. Ellie Hayward (N) 2:05.78.

200 individual medley: 1. Crawford (HSE) 2:08.85, 2. Kiley (HSE) 2:14.22, 3. Harrison (HSE) 2:16.24, 4. McDonald (N) 2:16.99, 5. Huston (HSE) 2:22.08.

50 freestyle: 1. Zoeller 24.33, 2. Anna Irish (HSE) 25.99, 3. Amelia Field (N) 26.41, 4. Chesterfield (HSE) 26.84, 5. Haines (HSE) 27.05.

One-meter diving: 1. Eryn McMahon (N) 205.45, 2. Zoe Rehm (HSE) 145.35, 3. Adriana Salgado (HSE) 122.45, 4. Juliet Pearce (HSE) 80.10.

100 butterfly: 1. Crawford (HSE) 57.66, 2. Vohs (N) 1:00.49, 3. E. Knott (N) 1:01.20, 4. Huston (HSE) 1:02.82, 5. Payton Walker (HSE) 1:50.78.

100 freestyle: 1. Zoeller (HSE) 54.25, 2. Henderson (HSE) 55.59, 3. Hayward (N) 56.68, 4. Miller (HSE) 57.80, 5. Field (N) 58.28.

500 freestyle: 1. Tricker (N) 5:30.89, 2. Voelker (HSE) 5:36.05, 3. Izzy Schmitt (HSE) 5:40.05, 4. Olivia Motz (N) 5:47.49, 5. Sophia Croy (HSE) 5:55.67.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Southeastern “A” (Haines, Harrison, Miller, Henderson) 1:42.44, 2. Noblesville “A” (Field, Hayward, Kyra Black-

well, McDonald) 1:44.98, 3. Noblesville “B” (Alli Knott, Mallory Mehringer, Kirsten McCormick, Ava Middleton) 1:51.79.

100 backstroke: 1. Haines (HSE) 1:03.35, 2. Graham (HSE) 1:05.05, 3. Schmitt (HSE) 1:05.95, 4. Julia Satterre (N) 1:06.88, 5. Mehringer (N) 1:11.98, 5. Blackwell (N) 1:13.97.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Southeastern “A” (Zoeller, Crawford, Henderson, Kiley) 3:39.51, 2. Noblesville “A” (Hayward, Vohs, E. Knott, Tricker) 3:51.16, 3. Southeastern “B” (Miller, Schmitt, Huston, Voelker) 3:55.36.

BOYS MEET

Team score: Hamilton

Southeastern 98, Noblesville 88.

200 medley relay: 1. Southeastern “A” (Jacob Frey, Collin Huston, Jihoon Jung, Derek Robison) 1:37.42, 2. Noblesville “A” (Graham Kulp, Anthony Mathis, Liam Hayward, Mason Snyder) 1:40.85, 3. Noblesville “B” (Caleb Mathis, Josh Naas, Lane Monger, Sean Halvorsen) 1:45.75.

200 freestyle: 1. Jack Warren (HSE) 1:51.29, 2. Camden Bailey (HSE) 1:52.42, 3. Halvorsen (N) 1:53.15, 4. Snyder (N) 1:54.73, 5. Oliver Mark (N) 1:55.18.

200 individual medley: 1. Jung (HSE) 1:59.93, 2. Kulp (N) 2:01.41, 3. Huston (HSE) 2:03.97, 4. Zak Armstrong (N) 2:05.59, 5. Frey (HSE) 2:07.58.

50 freestyle: 1. Robison (HSE) 22.53, 2. C. Mathis (N) 23.04, 3. Connor Pearson (N) 24.45, 4. Xander Goss (N) 24.87, 5. Kruz Luhmann (HSE) 25.06.

One-meter diving: 1. Aiden Kless (N) 253.85, 2. Gavin Tucker (HSE) 236.10, 3. Colton Suhan (N) 164.20, 4. Dryden Moore (HSE) 111.30, 5. Joey Justice (HSE) 73.10.

100 butterfly: 1. Jung (HSE) 53.55, 2. Kulp (N) 55.45, 3. A. Mathis (N) 56.27, 4. Naas

(N) 59.58, 5. Aiden Sealls (HSE) 59.67.

100 freestyle: 1. Robison (HSE) 49.39, 2. Snyder (N) 51.57, 3. Hayward (N) 52.18, 4. Monger (N) 52.87, 5. Nolan Pugh (HSE) 53.42.

500 freestyle: 1. Waren (HSE) 5:00.45, 2. Halvorsen (N) 5:10.43, 3. Bailey (HSE) 5:13.03, 4. Mark Berger (N) 5:24.17, 5. Drew Setmeyer (N) 5:38.60.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Southeastern “A” (Robison, Waren, Luhmann, Bailey) 1:36.22, 2. Noblesville “A” (Armstrong, Pearson, Shepard Huff, Snyder) 1:36.22, 3. Noblesville “B” (Mark, A. Mathis, Naas, Berger) 1:36.41.

100 backstroke: 1. Frey (HSE) 55.14, 2. Hayward (N) 58.75, 3. C. Mathis (N) 59.12, 4. Huff (N) 1:00.57, 5. Sealls (HSE) 1:01.33.

100 breaststroke: 1. Huston (HSE) 58.65, 2. A. Mathis (N) 1:00.93, 3. Armstrong (N) 1:05.25, 4. Pugh (HSE) 1:05.56, 5. Naas (N) 1:06.41.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Southeastern “A” (Jung, Warren, Huston, Bailey) 3:23.61, 2. Noblesville “A” (Kulp, Halvorsen, Monger, Armstrong) 3:24.05, 3. Noblesville “B” (Berger, Mark, C. Mathis, Huff) 3:35.99.

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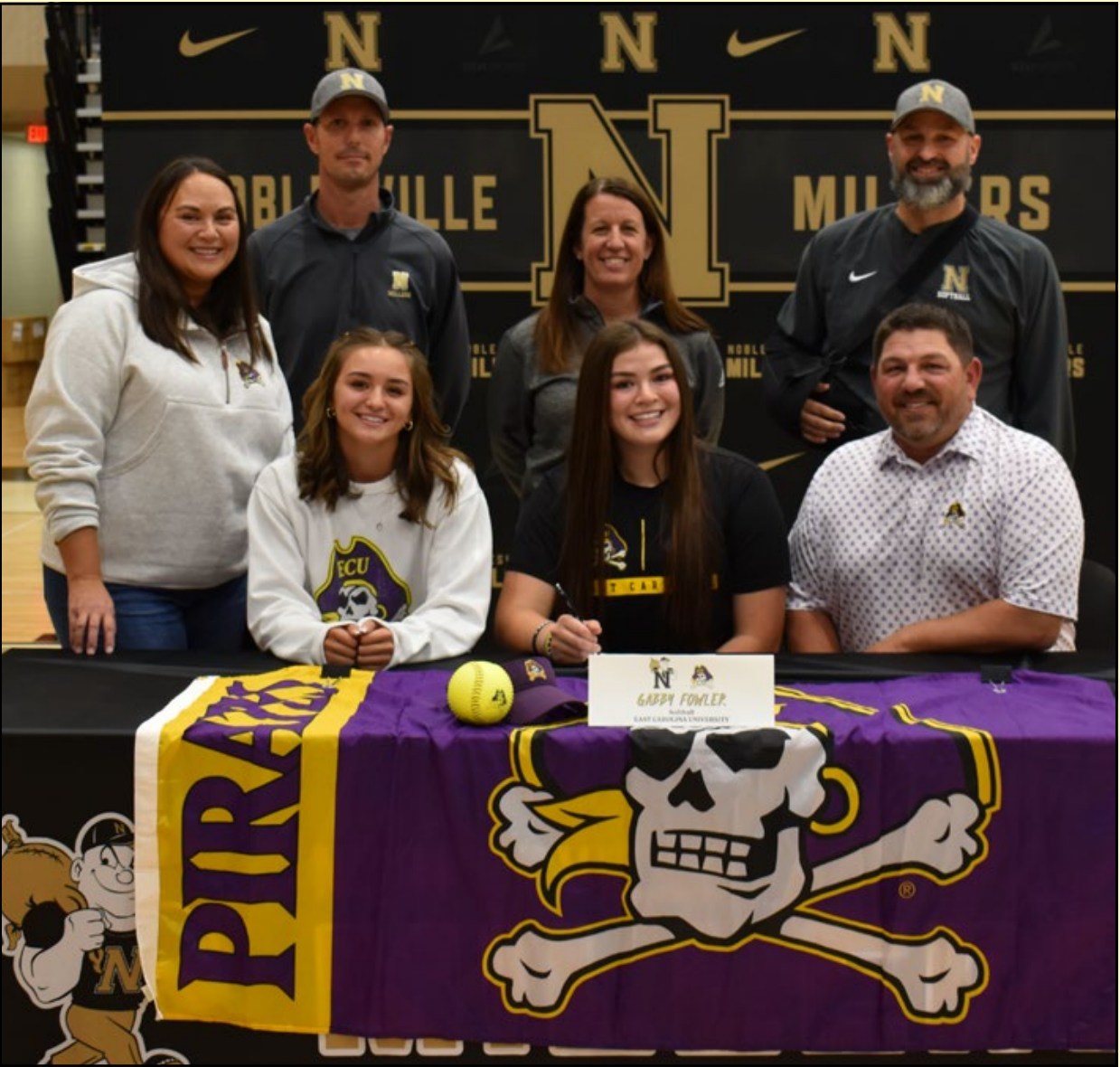
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Two more Millers announce intent to play at collegiate level



TOP: Noblesville's Gabby Fowler has committed to play softball at Eastern Carolina University. (Front row, from left) Olivia Fowler (sister), Gabby Fowler, and Brant Fowler (father). (Back row, from left) Maile Fowler (mother), Shawn Kauzlick (Noblesville Softball Assistant Coach), Jen Thompson (Noblesville Softball Assistant Coach), and Deke Bullard (Noblesville Softball Head Coach). ABOVE: Noblesville's Jordan Adam has committed to play golf at Marian University. (Front row, from left) Christen Adam (mother), Jordan Adam, and Bryce Adam (father). (Back row, from left) Starr McCoy (grandmother), Morgan Denham (sister), Renley Denham (niece), and Braydon Denham (brother-in-law).

Boys Tennis



McIntyre & Bao once again named Players of the Year

The REPORTER The Hamilton County Reporter is naming Carmel senior Braedon McIntyre and junior Michael Bao as its 2023 Boys Tennis Players of the Year. This is the second consecutive year that McIntyre and Bao have been named

Players of the Year. The team finished 17-1 while playing together during the season and helped the Greyhounds reclaim the state championship, their first time winning state since 2021. Bao finished his season 28-1, while McIntyre was 24-5.

All-County Boys Tennis Teams		
NAME	SCHOOL	GRADE
FIRST TEAM		
Michael Bao	Carmel	Junior
Max Fuller	Guerin Catholic	Senior
Rocky Li	Carmel	Junior
David Liu	Carmel	Freshman
Braedon McIntyre	Carmel	Senior
Grant Mu	Carmel	Freshman
Alex Sagarra	Westfield	Senior
Owen Schellhase	University	Senior
Wesley Worobel	Carmel	Sophomore
Jonathan Yang	Carmel	Senior
SECOND TEAM		
Thomas Bender	Fishers	Senior
Rory Bushong	Noblesville	Senior
Jack Butler	Fishers	Senior
Gavin Dietz	Westfield	Senior
Jack Dietz	Westfield	Senior
Aidan Foley	Fishers	Junior
Rhys Garrison	Guerin Catholic	Junior
Zane Panning	Noblesville	Junior
Parker Paramoure	Westfield	Sophomore
Charlie Phillips	Guerin Catholic	Freshman
Liam Shepard	Noblesville	Senior
Alejandro Torres	Guerin Catholic	Senior
THIRD TEAM		
Logan Bill	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Jack Brenneman	Noblesville	Junior
Dane Campbell	Noblesville	Sophomore
Elliot Cox	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Ethan Feliciano	Noblesville	Junior
Coleman Kratz	Noblesville	Senior
Brady Stump	Hamilton Southeastern	Freshman
Cooper Vallance	Fishers	Senior

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov. 25
BOYS BASKETBALL
Fishers at La Porte, 1:30 p.m.
Franklin Community at Noblesville, 1:30 p.m.
Guerin Catholic at Cardinal Ritter, 7:30 p.m.
Pike at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
Westfield at Kokomo, 7:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Noblesville vs. Bolingbrook (Ill.), 4:45 p.m. at Brownsburg
Guerin Catholic at Cardinal Ritter, 5:30 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern vs. Columbia City, 6:30 p.m. at Brownsburg
Fishers at Fort Wayne Snider, 7:30 p.m.
SWIMMING/DIVING
Westfield and Brownsburg at Fishers, noon
Please email schedule changes or corrections to sports@readthereporter.com.

ROYALS — from Page 14

Woods led the Greyhounds with 10 points. Both teams had very good balance, as Carmel had nine different players score, while Southeastern had eight players score. “We didn’t execute some of the stuff that we wanted to execute,” said Risinger. “I think maybe we got a little bit intimidated by it, but I don’t want to take anything away from Hamilton Southeastern. They’re a good team.” The Royals are 7-0 and travel to Brownsburg tonight for the Sneakers for Santa event. Southeastern plays another unbeaten team, 4A No. 5 Columbia City, which is 6-0 for the year. “They’re a veteran team,” said Satterfield. “Their point guard’s going to Butler (Addison Baxter). I know we’re going to be in for a big challenge. We got to make sure that we’re coming ready to play.” Carmel is 4-3 and plays Tuesday at Lawrence North.

HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 59, CARMEL 42				
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF
Izzy Shepherd	2-10	0-1	5	1
Mackenzie Woods	3-5	3-5	10	2
Lauren Perry	2-8	0-0	5	2
Taryn Fisher	2-3	0-0	4	1
Mallory Bourquein	1-4	2-2	4	0
Keaton Gatlin	1-8	0-0	3	1
Jamie Elliott	0-3	0-0	0	1
Megan Hamm	0-4	1-2	1	3
Ava Carter	2-4	2-2	7	1
Tionna Bryant	1-1	0-0	3	2
Sydney Bonds	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	14-50	8-12	42	14
Carmel 3-point shooting (6-26) Shepherd 1-7, Gatlin 1-5, Perry 1-5, Carter 1-3, Woods 1-2, Bryant 1-1, Elliott 0-2, Bourquein 0-1.				
Southeastern	FG	FT	TP	PF
Maya Makalusky	4-11	6-7	15	0
Kennedy Holman	3-8	0-2	6	2
Zoe Lawless	1-2	0-0	2	0
Kayla Stidham	7-13	0-0	17	1
Addison Van Hoesen	3-4	0-0	6	2
Kayla Brinley	2-5	0-0	4	1
Antonette Green	0-0	2-2	2	4
Kenley Johnson	3-4	1-2	7	1
Abigail Orme	0-0	0-0	0	0
Hannah Wade	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	23-47	9-13	59	11
Southeastern 3-point shooting (4-18) Stidham 3-8, Makalusky 1-5, Holman 0-2, Brinley 0-2, Lawless 0-1.				
Score by Quarters				
Carmel	12	8	12	10 – 42
Southeastern	19	16	20	4 – 59

HAMILTON COUNTY TELEVISION

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Upcoming Broadcasts

Fri Nov 17 - Girls Basketball
6:00 pm Brownsburg vs Noblesville | Junior Varsity | HCTV Sports
7:30 pm Brownsburg vs Noblesville | Varsity | HCTV Sports

Boys Basketball
7:30 pm Laurel Panthers vs Horizon Christian | IndianaSRN

IHSAA Football | www.IHSAAtv.org ONLY! | paid-per-view
7:00 pm Lutheran at Sheridan | SEMI STATE
8:00 pm Westfield at Crown Point | SEMI STATE

Tues Nov 21 - Girls Basketball
6:00 pm Zionsville vs Fishers | JV Basketball | Fishers Sports Network
7:30 pm Zionsville vs Fishers | Varsity | Fishers Sports Network

Sat Nov 25 - Boys Basketball
12 pm Franklin Community vs Noblesville | JV | HCTV Sports
1:30 pm Franklin Community vs Noblesville | Varsity | HCTV Sports

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