

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27, 2023

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Patchy fog,
then partly sunny.
Tonight: Clouds increase.



HIGH: 46 LOW: 33

The Reporter's Top 23 of 2023

The REPORTER

2023 was just too full for one Top 10 list to hold it all, so Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper is bringing you the Top 23 for 2023! If it were a traditional Top 10 list, we'd count them down like Dave Letterman. Instead, we are starting at the top and working out way down.

There were more than a few surprises on this list, which is cultivated from both most-read posts on our website and most-engaging posts on social media. That is why three items on this list all come from our editorial cartoonist: Tim Campbell. While his panels are not news items themselves, they are his visual commentary on the news.

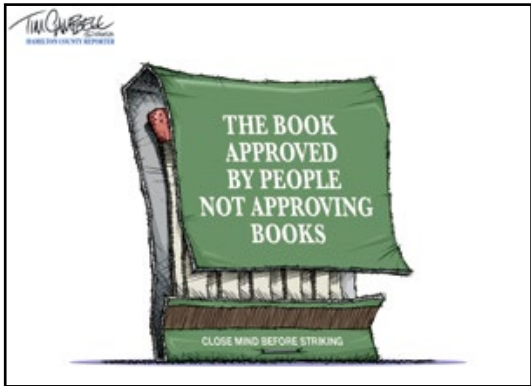
1. Feeshers

By a wide margin, the most engaging item from The Reporter this year came from Campbell. When the proposed \$50 parking fee for non-Fishers residents visiting Geist Waterfront Park was originally proposed, Campbell nearly broke the internet with this panel. Not only did social media explode with reactions, but this one was shared on the radio.

Think about that: a single-panel editorial cartoon gained so much momentum that radio stations across the state were talking about it on the air and sharing it on their websites and social media pages. We can verify that well over half a million people saw this panel after it appeared in out pages.

2. Matchbook

Coming in at number two is another Campbell toon, this time about the Hamilton East Public Library reshelving policy. After John Green's young adult novel, *The Fault in Our Stars*, was moved to the adult section of the library, there was a great deal of media coverage across the country about the policy behind that move. This image was seen by just over 300,000 people following our



Art provided

The Reporter's editorial cartoonist Tim Campbell took the top two spots in this year's most popular website and social media posts.

publication.

3. Speedy retreat from Noblesville

In early August, the Speedway gas station across from the entrance to Riverview Health Noblesville closed suddenly. Reporter Photographer Nik Roberts snapped a few photos the day the station was being shut down and the signage removed. Those pics and an 84-word newsbrief were seen by more than a quarter of a million readers.

4. Noblesville senior earns Scholastic gold medal

Noblesville High School senior Maggie Hoppel on being named a national Scholastic gold medalist in writing for her piece "That Should Have Been the End of It." That was was not the end of it, as her accolade earned her the fourth most-popular item in our pages in 2023.

5. City beats county to buy Boldens

The sale of the Bolden's Dry Cleaners building, 151 N. 8th St., Noblesville, became a point of contention between Hamilton County and Noblesville city officials. In the end, Noblesville bought the property, and you can read all the details you may have forgotten at the link above.

6. Be a "Very Important Peony Person"

The annual Indiana Peony Festival this year included "Pe-



Photo provided by Wilson Farm Market

No. 11: WILSON FARM MARKET LIVES ON – Thanks to the relentless work of a small business and its faithful supporters, INDOT backed off an eminent domain dispute.

onies in the Park" the evening prior to the festival. The level of interest in this announcement earned it the number six spot on our list.

7. Noblesville will soon have new 55-and-over community

The Promenade Trails groundbreaking on a 30.25-acre site adjacent to Promenade Apartments, near the northeast corner of Little Chicago Road and State Road 32 was our seventh most-read item of the year. The buzz over this new community designed for people ages 55 and older put it firmly in the Top 10.

8. Millers & 'Hounds defend sectional titles

While it is no surprise that a sports item made the list, it is interesting that it was a story about golf. Noblesville and Carmel both defending sectional titles on the same day at their respective courses clearly inter-

ested readers across the county.

9. Baptized by coffee in the farmlands of home

Early in the year we were fortunate enough to have some coffee-centric columns from Sydney Schmitt. Her "Coffee Chat" series was quite popular, and no entry was more engaging than the one about her trip to sip at Wheeler's Cafe and Market.

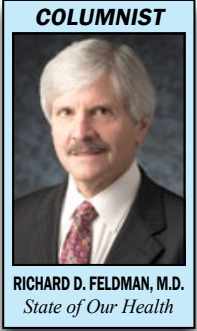
10. Noblesville & Pacers announce G League partnership

On May 8, the City of Noblesville announced a partnership with Pacers Sports & Entertainment to bring the Mad Ants, the company's affiliate in the NBA G League, to Noblesville. To accommodate the move, Noblesville plans to build a new 3,400 seat, 85,000 square-foot arena on the east side of the city.

See Top Stories . . . Page 2

Many tough questions about medical aid in dying

One of my best friends, Jim, in South Bend died of an unusual intestinal cancer. This experience moved me to explore the issue of "medical aid in dying." Is MAID ethical and moral? Is it the right and justified choice for some individuals?



After a time unfortunately, Jim's cancer progressed with a vengeance leaving him with extensive intestinal obstructions. Further chemo would be of little help, and further surgery was impossible. Toward the end, my friend couldn't receive any real nutrition and could only tolerate water. He lost 65 pounds in 10 weeks and was essentially skin over bone.

Jim was Catholic and very religious. He was a splendid husband and father to his nine children. He worked hard, was responsible, and was a good citizen. He was a good man. The best.

When I last saw him, I told him that I envied both his courage and his faith. Jim had no doubt that in passing, he was entering the next phase of his life and that he would be with God. Jim's character and faith sustained him. His religious beliefs would not allow him to consider anything but a natural death. So, he never would have considered MAID. And of course, it's not legal in Indiana.

Ten states and the District of Columbia have now legalized MAID. Oregon was first in 1994. The Oregon law has worked well and has served as the model for other states. Generally, these laws have a minimum patient age of 18, and the individual must have a terminal illness with a life expectancy of six months or less. The patient must be mentally competent and capable of making health-care decisions without impaired judgement (including from depression).

These laws require two concurring physicians' opinions concerning diagnosis, competence, and compliance with the law, and the patient must be informed of other alternatives. There are safeguards against coercion. The prescription medications utilized are self-administered; this is not euthanasia.

New Mexico led the way in making changes to Oregon's original law, including a shortened mandatory waiting period after the patient's MAID request before receiving aid-in-dying prescriptions (from 15 days to 48 hours).

Although unmanageable symptoms despite optimal hospice care is a reason to utilize MAID, autonomy and maintaining dignity are the primary reasons MAID is chosen. These patients want control, without dependence on others for care.

My elegant 92-year-old dear friend, Kathryn, in Santa Fe, N.M., was a very intelligent, worldly, and gracious person. She and her husband enjoyed fascinating Foreign Service careers with the State Department. My wife and I loved our many dinners with wonderfully engaging conversation at her home.

When multiple medical problems, including multiorgan failure, caught up with Kathryn, she made a different decision from Jim's – but a decision very much right for her. She chose MAID to die with dignity on her own terms surrounded by family and close friends.

MAID is controversial, but dynamic, in the medical community. The American Medical Association has now affirmed that physicians can provide MAID "according to the dictates of their conscience without violating their professional obligations." The American Academy of Family Physicians recently changed its position to one of neutrality.

Although it will be a long time before Indiana considers MAID legislation, the majority of the Americans support MAID for terminal illness. Is MAID a slippery slope, an unconscionable act, or a caring act of compassion?

Difficult questions.

Richard D. Feldman, M.D. is an Indianapolis family physician and former Indiana State Health Commissioner who served in the administration of Governor Frank O'Bannon.

Pacers fan & Riverview physician hits half-court shot to win \$25,000

By ANDREW CHERNOFF
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

There are many memorable moments during the holiday season.

And one of those moments happened on Saturday night during the Indiana Pacers game against the Orlando Magic.

In the first quarter, a fan had a chance to win \$25,000 by making a half-court shot. And sure enough, he did.

That fan, Matthew Crittendon, made the Hoosier Lottery Half-Court Shot. As a result, the fans inside Gainbridge Fieldhouse went crazy as Crittendon celebrated.

Even Pacers guard T.J. McConnell came over to Crittendon to congratulate him on making the shot.

Even the Pacers posted on their official X account, formally known as Twitter, that they loved the fan's celebration.

The Magic would ultimately win the game on Saturday night, beating the Pacers 117-110. It was the second time this season that Orlando has won inside Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

Magic forward Paolo Banchero led all scorers with 34 points. He also had 7 rebounds and 4 assists.

Meanwhile, the Pacers were led by guard Tyrese Hal-



Photo provided / Indiana Pacers via X

A screenshot of a video where Pacers fan Matthew Crittendon made a half-court, winning a \$25,000 prize.

iburton, who scored 29 points and had 14 assists. It was Haliburton's 20th double-double of the season.

It was Indiana's sixth loss in its last seven games. The blue and gold are now 14-14 overall on the season. It's the

first time Indiana has been .500 since Nov. 3 when they were just 2-2.

"We are what our record is right now," Pacers head coach Rick Carlisle said after the game. "We're a .500 team. We've had high highs and

we've had low lows and we've got to become more consistent.

We're making some strides on defense. It's the third game in a row where we've held opponents under 120, which is progress for us. We've got to continue with that."

TOP STORIES

from Page 1

11. Wilson Farm Market lives on
It is not often that a small business defeats the state in an eminent domain dispute, but Wilson Farm Market, 720 E. 256th St., Arcadia, did just that. The plan to demolish the business for U.S. 31 projects was neither an idea that came from nor was supported by Hamilton County officials, though misinformation on some social media accounts made it seem that way. With a huge outcry over the proposed destruction of this beloved market, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) backed off and the market survived.

Editor's note: Now get up there and buy some of their delightful cheeses!

12. Chariot Automotive Institute welcomes first high school class for college credit

Locally-owned Chariot Automotive Group (CAG) has launched a new educational initiative, Chariot Automotive Institute, to support meeting the need for skilled employees for Indiana's retail automotive industry.

Beginning in August and in collaboration with Ivy Tech Community College, high school juniors and seniors are participating in hands-on training through the inaugural class of the Automotive Technician Education Pathway (ATEP), which offers students an opportunity to earn college credit toward an associate degree in automotive technology.

13. NHS's Bethany Robinson named national GRAMMY semifinalist

When Noblesville High School's jazz director and assistant band director Bethany Robinson was named a national semifinalist for the 2024 GRAMMY Music Educator Awards, our readers took note.

Robinson was previously a GRAMMY finalist for the 2022 award and a semi-

finalist for the 2023 award.
14. Tigers march on Big Apple

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.

This coverage was so popular among our readers that we had top print extra copies of the Monday, Nov. 27 edition to accommodate early requests for families to have keepsakes!

15. The man behind the lens

For 37 years, the Noblesville community has had one of the best people in the state: Kent Graham. He served his community and elevated local sports both as a teacher and a photographer. You've seen his sports photos in these pages since The Reporter started a decade ago. Earlier this year, Graham moved to California and Hamilton County has been a little dim without his flashbulb and his delightful presence ever since.

16. His & Hers Thanksgiving

Campbell earns his third appearance on this list with this panel from the week of Thanksgiving.

17. Five days of Cicero celebration starts with first queen pageant

This year, Cicero crowned its first Lights Over Morse Lake Festival Queen. In late June, when that announcement hit our pages, readers gravitated toward the story with enough force to land it on our top stories list.

18. Reimagining the rest of a life on Pleasant Street

The Reimagine Pleasant Street Project has Linda Budnick reimagining what her retirement will look, sound, and smell like. Budnick lives in Westbrook Village on Cliff Overlook Road, and her back porch is only a few feet away from



Photo courtesy Emma Pearce, NHS Shadow Yearbook



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

(Above left) **THE MAN BEHIND THE LENS** – Kent Graham was honored for his loyal support to Noblesville Schools on Friday, Sept. 15. (Above right) **JIM WAFFORD GETS RECOGNITION HE DESERVES** – Jim Wafford, owner of Hamilton County Television, was inducted into the Hamilton County Basketball Hall of Fame on Friday, Dec. 8 during halftime of the Noblesville-Fishers girls game. Pictured are Hall of Fame committee members Ron Fleming and Dave Nicholson, Jim Wafford and his son Will Wafford.



(Above left) **LISTS** – Reporter editorial cartoonist Tim Campbell had a humorous take on Thanksgiving responsibilities. (Above right) **No. 18: REIMAGINING THE REST OF A LIFE ON PLEASANT STREET** – Linda Budnick looks at a city-placed stake in her back yard showing the edge of the right-of-way for the new road. The edge of the road itself is expected to be 15 feet from that right-of-way stake.



Reporter photo by Stu Clappitt

the south side of the path of the Pleasant Street project.

19. Jim Wafford gets recognition he deserves

Jim Wafford, owner of Hamilton County Television, was inducted into the Hamilton County Basketball Hall of Fame during halftime of the Noblesville-Fishers girls basketball game. He is a large part of the reason female high school sports has the popularity it does across Central Indiana, and The Reporter is exceptionally proud of our friendship with Wafford and our partnership

with his company, Hamilton County TV.

20. Young Noblesville entrepreneur races toward success

Conner Place is a Noblesville High School sophomore who launched his first business this year CP Detailing is an auto detailing service Place launched in April.

21. Hamilton County, come on down!

When Costco's newest location opened in Noblesville, there were massive crowds that over-filled the parking lot and packed the aisles for 12 solid hours.

22. An incident occurred. This man is wanted. You can help CPD.

We have a fair bit of fun in headlines, especially when local police departments are asking for the public's help in finding suspects for local crimes. Our most popular posts tend to be packed with these calls to action from local law enforcement. We suspect the reason this one was the most popular one of the year was because of that headline. It is so generic that it stood out from all the ones that seemed more clever.

23. Hawaiian death selfies prove popular

Strange things happen on the Nickel Plate Express sometimes. Sometimes you get on a train in Noblesville in 2023 and find yourself at a speakeasy in 1923 where there is a murder to solve. Sometimes you are taken back to prom night in the 1980s where these is a murder to solve. And once that train went all the way to Hawai'i ... where there was a murder to solve. But in Hawai'i, taking selfies with the victim proved to be more entertaining than sleuthing around Magnum P.I. style to find the killer. Who knew?

ReadTheReporter.com

Once you take charge, there's

NO GOING BACK

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\$499/mo* - Sign Then Drive lease

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*Excludes tax, title, license, options and dealer fees. For highly qualified customers through Volkswagen Credit. Limited inventory available.

39 month lease / 10,000 mi/yr
2023 ID.4 Pro RWD – N12547



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14701 Tom Wood Way Noblesville, IN 46060 • 317.853.4552

TomWoodVolkswagenNoblesville.com

Next To The New Costco on 146th St.



PREVAIL
Advocating for Victims of Crime & Abuse

Proud Partner of Prevail, Inc.

To help Hamilton County families affected by domestic violence and abuse, you can drop off the following items at Tom Wood Volkswagen, 14701 Tom Wood Way, Noblesville:

Individually packaged snacks • Lysol • Hand Sanitizer • Disinfecting wipes

That's a Wrap!



Thank you to every individual, organization and business that celebrated Hamilton County's 200th Anniversary throughout 2023.

A special thank you goes to all of our **BICENTENNIAL PARTNERS**

TOP PARTNERS



HAMILTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

HAMCO HISTORY CLUB

American Structurepoint

Beck's Hybrids

The Center for the Performing Arts

The Hamilton County Reporter

Hamilton County Community Foundation

Riverview Health

Spencer Farm and Winery

Towne Post Network

HISTORIAN

Current Publishing | Church, Church, Hittle & Antrim | Gaylor Electric

HAMCO HISTORY CLUB

GamifyTHAT!

Hamilton County Extension Homemakers

Nickel Plate Arts

Randall and Roberts Funeral Homes

Spring Valley Storage

STUDENT

Hamilton County Veterans Corporation | Rowland Printing

Our celebration would not have been possible without our Bicentennial Commission

Kathy Williams, Co-Chair

Kent Ward, Co-Chair

David Heighway, Hamilton County Historian

Brenda Myers, Hamilton County Tourism, Advisor

Ron Stone, Adams Township

Deborah Gangstad, Clay Township

Rick Fain, Delaware Township

Suzanna Hobson, Fall Creek Township

Nicole Duncan, Jackson Township

Dottie Young, Noblesville Township

Danielle Tolan, Washington Township

Diane Nevitt, Wayne Township

Jamie Rulon, White River Township

Jessica Layman, Bicentennial Coordinator

Thanks also to our valuable volunteer committees

Book | Communications | Content Review | Event Management

Buy tickets now for 2024 Westfield Lantern Awards

The REPORTER

The Westfield Lantern Awards is a time-honored tradition of the Westfield Chamber of Commerce. The signature community recognition event began in 1982.

The event celebrates the community of Westfield and is a semi-formal cocktail reception designed to bring the community together for an evening of fellowship while recognizing and honoring outstanding residents and businesses.

This year's Awards Ceremony will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Prairie Waters Event Center in Westfield.

Award Night tickets available

There are Chamber Partner and Non-Partner tickets available. This event will sell out, so purchase your tickets

as soon as possible. Tickets include three food stations, dessert station, and a complementary glass of wine. Cash bar will also be available.

Tickets are being held for award winners and their families/company. A discounted price will be offered to individual award winners.

- Partner Reserved Table (\$550): 10 Lantern Awards Tickets; Guaranteed Reserved Table
- Non-Partner Reserved Table (\$750): 10 Lantern Awards Tickets; Guaranteed Reserved Table
- High-Top Reserved Table (\$300): Four Lantern Awards Tickets; Guaranteed Reserved High-Top Table
- Partner Individual Ticket (\$60): Individual ticket to attend the 2023 Lantern Awards Ceremony. There will be open seating

EST1982

WESTFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LANTERN AWARDS

WESTFIELD, INDIANA

Sponsorship opportunities

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. You can purchase them directly (or be invoiced) at [this link](#). If you would like to speak with a staff member about a specific sponsorship opportunity, please email info@westfield-chamberindy.com.

and limited high-top tables that are not reserved.

- Non-Partner Individual Ticket (\$75): Non-Chamber Partner/Member Individual ticket to attend the 2023 Lantern Awards Ceremony. There will be open seating and limited high-top tables that are not reserved.

[Click here](#) to purchase tickets today.

Indiana Peony Festival thanks community for support in 2023

By KELLY McVEY
President of Indiana Peony Festival, Inc.

We'd like to say thank you for all your support in 2023. We are so excited to share with you everything that we have in store for 2024. Our team is in planning mode and we're diving into so many fun updates and exciting expansion plans for our next festival. Be on the lookout for information from us in January where we'll be unveiling some of these plans.

Until then, we have a few updates we'd love to share with you as this year comes to a close ...

Christmas Parade recap

This year, the City of Noblesville hosted its first Holiday in Lights Christmas Parade. The Indiana Peony Festival was featured in the parade riding in style with a beautiful display of peonies atop Camino & Co's famous, vintage El Camino. The parade was a fabulous evening to get into the holiday spirit together. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Last call for Christmas ornaments

Last chance to snag the first IPF commemorative ornament (handmade by local artist Susanna Rose). If you'd like to purchase one before the holiday season ends, send us an email at ipfkelly@gmail.com.

Artist callout

We're looking for artists to design our 2024 IPF commemorative poster and T-shirt. Interested in applying? We'll be sharing the application soon, so stay tuned for more information from us.

Peony Trail participants

We are proud to announce that Noblesville Post Office, Noblesville Fire Department Station #71, Federal Hill Apartments, East Bank Apartments, M/I Homes – Silo Ridge, Hamilton East Public Library, Federal Hill Park, Lofts on 10th Street, and the Noblesville Street Department have joined our Peony Trail as 2024 participants.

Mark your calendars for 2024 Peony Festival

The Indiana Peony Festival is set for May 18, 2024, and we have so many exciting expansion plans that we can't wait to share with you. Keep an eye out for more information from us in January as we begin to share more about next year's big event. As always, thank you for your support. We couldn't do this without you!

Carmel's own Steven Leatherwood makes President's list at Union University

The REPORTER

A total of 340 students have been named to the Union University President's List for the fall 2023 semester.

Among those students

is Steven Leatherwood of Carmel.

The President's List includes full-time students who achieve a 4.0 grade-point average on a four-point scale.

Founded in 1823 and affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Union University is characterized by quality Christ-centered teaching and learning. Union

offers liberal arts training in more than 100 majors and programs of study along with professional programs in business, education, and nursing.

Noblesville woman arrested after three-county pursuit

By JEREMY JENKINS
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A Noblesville woman is facing multiple charges after leading police on a pursuit that spanned three counties on Christmas Day, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office says.

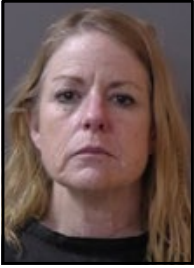
Authorities say a suspicious

vehicle, driven by Tammy J. Hunter, was spotted near 226th Street and Cyntheanne Road at an abandoned home. When deputies activated their lights to initiate a traffic stop, they said the vehicle failed to stop.

The pursuit went on for the next 19 minutes, spanning through Madison and Tipton

counties. Police say Hunter surrendered after driving into a field near 296th Street and County Road 100 East in Tipton County. No one was hurt in the pursuit.

Hunter was arrested on charges of reckless driving and resisting law enforcement with a vehicle.



Hunter

ACCURATE
BALANCED
LOCAL NEWS

Winding Down and Gearing Up!

We are nearing the time when, Lord willing, we will close the chapter of 2023 and open the fresh as of yet unwritten chapter of 2024. What will 2024 hold should the Lord grant us life and allow time to march on? None of us know! However, I can make prudent preparation for whatever the year may hold through Jesus, God's only Son. It would be a privilege and honor to help you prepare for whatever 2024 holds. We would love to help you get to know Jesus better and through Him prepare for an unknown future. Jesus in the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one comes to the Father but through him (John 14:6).

At the **Stony Creek Church of Christ**, we love visitors. So, why not accept our invitation and visit at one of our services. We'd love to help you know Jesus or know Him better. Nothing would give us greater joy or profitable labor than helping you to know Jesus better and prepare for the year to come. We meet at 15530 Herriman Blvd. in Noblesville. Our building is behind the doctor's office and at the stop sign.

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

Ring in the New Year with Feinstein’s in Carmel

The REPORTER

Feinstein’s at The Hotel Carmichael in Carmel has the perfect lineup to help you wrap up the holiday season for 2023 and ring in 2024. Local performers take the stage with musical tributes and magical performances.

Ring in the New Year with *Remember When Rock Was Young ... The Elton John Experience*.

Get ready to be transported back in time to the glory days of rock with the unforgettable tribute performance. This New Year’s Eve show promises an evening filled with timeless hits and electrifying performances. You’ll be on your feet, singing along to classics that made Elton John the global megastar that he is today.

Prepare to be amazed as Craig A. Meyer and the Rocket Band recreate Elton John’s signature sound and style, bringing his music to life onstage. This is your chance to experience the magic of one of the greatest rock icons of all time.

Choose one of two shows on New Year’s Eve. The first is at 7:30 p.m.; the second at 10:45 p.m. Get tickets for this and other shows at feinsteinshc.com.

On Friday, Jan. 5 and Saturday, Jan. 6, join Feinstein’s as Melissa Errico takes the stage with jazz pianist Tedd Firth for her new show, *The Life and Loves of a Broadway Baby*.

Melissa Errico sets her own life to the Broadway songs that she has sung and owned – and offers both a sensational set of beloved standards and a series of witty and sometimes wicked stories about an ingenue’s life passed on the Great White Way. A sexy, sublime study of American songs, ranging from Cole Porter



to Harold Arlen, Lerner & Loewe to Taylor Swift ... with a substantial peek at Melissa’s upcoming *Sondheim in the City*, due Feb. 16, 2024, on Concord Records, with songs like “Everybody Says Don’t,” “Take Me to the World,” and “Being Alive.”

Come hear why *Broadway World* says, “The way Melissa Errico immerses herself in every moment, the technical brilliance of her vocal abilities, and the sheer star power that the lady exudes, makes her a take-no-prisoners performer, offering a leave-it-all-on-the-floor show.”

Touring from England to Paris, Vegas, California, New York, and more, critics are besotted. UK writer Mark Shenton said: “Errico is a radiantly intelligent performer who brings astonishing depth and perception to her deep embrace of great music and illuminates it from within. A great cabaret night can be as complete and thrilling as a full musical in the hands of a mistress of the art like her.”

Also coming in January will be *Because of You: A Tribute to Tony Bennett*. Don Farrell and the Terry Woods Jazz Quartet celebrate the last of the legends and a man dubbed “Best singer in the business” by the likes of Lady Gaga,

Aretha Franklin, and Frank Sinatra on Saturday, Jan. 13.

On Friday, Jan. 19, Feinstein’s presents Paul Hughes. Hughes has a passion for jazz and swing music where he channels the style and poise in the greats of the genre: Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darin, Dean Martin, and Nat King Cole.

Crush Bon Jovi Experience takes place Saturday, Jan. 20. Crush is led by front man and lead singer Doug Shepard, who strongly resembles Jon Bon Jovi and captures not only Bon Jovi’s look but also his energetic showmanship. On lead guitar, Andrew “Drew” Goodpaster plays all the signature Richie Sambora riffs. The heart and backbeat of the group is Brian Barchman on drums. Completing the lineup, Robin Altmeyer on bass along with Chip McGurer on keys, and Anna Martinez Shepard on backing vocals, violin, and percussion, help to fill out the legendary sound of Bon Jovi.

On Saturday, Jan. 27, Eric Baker & Friends present *The Piano Man: A Billy Joel Tribute*. A night of songs and stories highlighting hits and deep tracks of the piano man, Billy Joel, this full band show will feature tunes you’ll sing along to, and maybe even a few

you haven’t heard in years.

Feinstein’s at Hotel Carmichael is located at 1 Carmichael Square, Carmel. Call Hotel Carmichael at (317) 688-1947. Consider having your corporate gatherings at Feinstein’s. Feinstein’s events are great activities for this. For groups of 10 tickets or more, email sales@hotelcarmichael.com.

About Feinstein’s at Hotel Carmichael

Feinstein’s is situated in the heart of Carmel City Center and adjacent to The Center for the Performing Arts. Partnering with the legendary Michael Feinstein, the live entertainment venue offers an unforgettable nightlife experience, combining performances by some of the best with exquisite dining in an elegant setting. Featuring up to five events weekly, accommodating 135 people in the main dining room and bar, including an exclusive private dining room for up to 16, this small intimate venue offers you the perfect “front row” seat no matter where you are.

Subscribe to Feinstein’s newsletter to learn about upcoming shows and receive exclusive specials at feinsteinshc.com/contact. Follow along on Facebook at facebook.com/Feinstein-SHC.

Cummins to pay \$1.6B for installing emissions defeat devices on engines

By ASHLEY FOWLER
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Columbus, Ind.-based Cummins Inc. has agreed in principle to pay nearly \$1.7 billion to settle claims it violated the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Department of Justice said last Friday.

Under the agreement, Cummins will pay a penalty of \$1.675 billion for installing emissions defeat devices on hundreds of thousands of engines.

The Clean Air Act requires automakers and engine manufacturers to ensure their products meet U.S. emissions standards.

Defeat devices are parts or software that bypass, defeat, or render inoperative emissions controls such as emission sensors and on-board computers.

“The types of devices we allege that Cummins installed in its engines to cheat federal environmental laws have a significant and harmful impact on people’s health and safety,” U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a release.

The Justice Department accused Cummins of in-

stalling defeat devices on 630,000 model year 2013 to 2019 RAM 2500 and 3500 pickup truck engines and of adding auxiliary emission control devices to 330,000 model year 2019-2023 RAM 2500 and 3500 pickup truck engines.

“In this case, our preliminary estimates suggest that defeat devices on some Cummins engines have caused them to produce thousands of tons of excess emissions of nitrogen oxides,” Garland said. “The cascading effect of those pollutants can, over long-term exposure, lead to breathing issues like asthma and respiratory infections.”

The \$1.675 billion penalty would be the largest ever for a Clean Air Act violation and the second-largest environmental penalty ever secured by the DOJ.

Cummins designs, manufactures, sells, and services diesel and alternative fuel engines, generators, and related equipment. The company has several thousand workers at its facilities in Indiana and **more than 60,000 employees worldwide**.

Westfield Chamber Calendar of Events

JANUARY
Westfield Lantern Awards
6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 25
Location: Prairie Waters Event Center

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(Above left) Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch congratulated Tiffanie Ditlevson's swearing-in ceremony on the Fishers City Council. (Above right) County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt took a moment to pose for a photo with Lt. Gov. Crouch during the Hamilton County GOP Holiday Party.



Photos provided

Suzanne Crouch's view from the campaign trail

Submitted

Republican gubernatorial candidate Suzanne Crouch made in several stops in Hamilton County during December. Learn more about the candidate at CrouchForIndiana.com.

Editor's note: The following submissions were written by Crouch.

Celebrating Tiffanie Ditlevson's swearing-in

A momentous occasion unfolded as Tiffanie Ditlevson was sworn in as a member of the Fishers City Council. Her vision and energy promise to enrich the lives of Hoosiers in Fishers.

Congrats, Tiffanie, on this significant achievement! I look forward to witnessing the positive impact she'll undoubtedly make in her new role!

Wine, Women & Pickleball at Grand Park Sports Campus

It was a pleasure to attend the Wine, Women, and Pickleball event at the Grand Park Sports Campus in Westfield.

Not only was it a delightful occasion for women to enjoy a spirited game of pickleball, but it also supported a cause close to our hearts – the Little Red Door Cancer Agency. The combination of sport, camaraderie, and philanthropy made for an unforgettable afternoon.

Hamilton County GOP Holiday Party

The Hamilton County Holiday Party was a splendid celebration, honoring the GOP's dedicated volunteers.

Held at the Lucas Estate, the event showcased the robust strength of our Repub-



Photo provided

Lt. Gov. Crouch joined many other women to support the Little Red Door Cancer Agency at the Wine, Women & Pickleball event at Grand Park.

lican Party and the unwavering commitment of those who contribute tirelessly to its success.

A heartfelt thank you to

the volunteers, the Hamilton County GOP, and Chairman Mario Massillamany for pouring their energy into the recent elections.

Sen. Mike Braun touts his recent wins for Veterans

Submitted by Sen. Braun's Press Office

Following the passage of the Department of Defense Overdose Act, which is soon to be signed into law, Senator Braun has shepherded four bills for Veterans through the U.S. Senate to become law this year.

The four bills are the Department of Defense Overdose Act, the Reforming Benefits for Children of Vietnam Veterans with Spina Bifida Act, the Wounded Warrior Access Act, and the Korean American Valor Act. All four bills were bipartisan.

"Veterans represent the absolute best our country has to offer – and they deserve the absolute best when they return home," Sen. Braun said. "I'm proud to have led these four solutions for Veterans through Congress to become law this year. These new laws will help wounded Veterans get easier access to their health records through the VA, to help the children of Vietnam Veterans suffering from spina bifida due to their parent's service, to fulfill our obligation to Korean-Americans who fought alongside American servicemen and later became U.S. citizens at no additional cost to the United States, and to help address the crisis of overdoses killing our active duty servicemembers."

Below are the details on three of these bills that have been signed into law in the last two months – the Department of Defense Overdose Act has passed both Houses of Congress and is expected to be signed into law soon.

Reforming Benefits for Children of Vietnam Veterans with Spina Bifida Act

Persistence pays off when it is in the best interests of constituents.

In 2019, Sen. Braun's office received complaints from constituents about poor program administration, leading him to ask the Inspector General of the Veterans Affairs Department (VA OIG) to examine the program management.

In July 2019, Braun's office asked for more formal evaluations of what was happening in the program. On Feb. 23, 2021, VA-OIG issued its report affirming problems in program administration. VA-OIG found that: "VBA and VHA did not adequately communicate or share data, contributing to improper payments being sent to beneficiaries after their deaths and delays in new beneficiaries being enrolled in health care. Further, because VA did not consistently and accurately reach out and communicate with eligible and enrolled beneficiaries, individuals with Spina Bifida and their caretakers did not receive needed information about Spina Bifida benefits and how to obtain them."

On May 5, 2020, in the 116th Congress, Sen. Braun and Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) introduced legislation to address program shortcomings. On Dec. 9, 2021, in the 117th Congress the bill was re-introduced by Senator Braun, along with Senators Rubio, Hassan (D-N.H.) and Booker (D-N.J.). On Nov. 13, 2022,

See Veterans . . . Page 7

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Hear what's next on *The Omnibus Show* podcast

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, Dec. 26's episode of *The Omnibus Show* will feature Amy Pauszek, Award Winning Film Producer, Executive Producer, and Casting/Talent Scout. She has worked as a key producer and publicist in several feature films, shorts, TV, and commercials.

Her work in independent cinema include *Homecoming*, *Grateful: The Jenni Brebisky Story*, *The Addict's Wake*, *A Sign of the Cross*, and most recently, *Art & Soul: A Portrait of Nancy Noel*.

She has worked in PR/social media with such renowned film festivals as The Heartland Film Festival,

Indy Film Fest, The 48 Hr. Film Project, and Sundance. She attended the Toronto International Film Festival as an International Programmer, is a Heartland Film President's Award Winner and proud member of the Truly Moving Pictures Jury. In addition, she has worked for Talent Fusion in scouting and casting, in Indianapolis.

Pauszek was an Executive Producer/Producer for *A Sign of the Cross*, which aired on PBS and currently is traveling across the country with her award-winning documentary short film *Grateful*. She is an award-winning freelance photographer for prestigious Red Carpet Film and NYC Broadway events, several magazine publica-



Pauszek

tions and a still photographer for local and syndicated television shows.

This past October, Pauszek was the inaugural winner of The Spirit of Heartland Film Award. The award honors a person who demonstrates enthusiasm and dedication to working with or promoting Heartland Film. According to The Heartland Film Festival team: "Amy embodies the gratitude and values outlined in the criteria for this special award. Her continuous support and promotion of Heartland Film is appreciated by all the Heartland Film Staff."

She is also a freelance photographer for magazine and newspaper publications and provides still photog-

raphy for many local and syndicated television productions. You can often find her covering red carpet events for TV, film, and Broadway.

Learn more about what drives Pauszek and look up her further works on [IMDB](#).

* * *

Coming up on the next podcast, which will take place on Jan. 2, 2024, *The Omnibus Show* will welcome Darin Bibeau.

Bibeau is President and Owner of National Chimney. He is a former Coast



Bibeau

Guard LEDET Special Operator and government contractor assigned to restoring civil order in Southeast Asia. He is a motivational speaker and business consultant and devotes himself to helping veteran's support organizations. He shares his message and inspiration through his podcast, *#EverydayGSD*.

About The Omnibus Show

The podcast is for people who are interested in everything, with deep conversations on a wide variety of subjects. *The Omnibus*

Show is a podcast started by Dave Gibbs. He started out, after graduating from Indiana University, as a journalist and photographer; he worked all over Indiana, the Pacific Northwest, and the Chicago area. His late father, John, was the Executive Producer for *City Desk* at WMAQ-TV (NBC) Chicago, which was a decades-long interview show between top reporters and celebrities, people, and politicians with ties to Chicago.

Visit [TheOmnibusShow.com](#) for the audio podcasts and YouTube channel for more information and to sign up for the newsletter.

VETERANS

from Page 6

the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) held a legislative hearing on the bill. On Jan. 26, 2023, in the 118th Congress, Senator Braun re-introduced the bill as S.112 with Senators Rubio, Hassan, Booker, Rick Scott (R-Fla.), Cornyn (R-Texas), Warnock (D-Ga.), Young (R-Ind.) and Hirono (D-Hawaii). On Feb. 16, 2023, SVAC considered and reported the measure without amendment.

The full Senate then approved the bill unanimously on July 13, 2023, followed by unanimous passage in the U.S. House of Representatives (422-0) on Sept. 19, 2023.

President Biden signed this bill into law on Oct. 6, 2023. Upon enactment, Senator Braun noted: "This law will ensure that the children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure to Agent Orange will get the care and benefits they deserve for the rest of their lives. I'm proud to have led this valuable bipartisan bill into law and look forward to helping these veterans' kids."

This legislation was endorsed by the Vietnam Veterans of America, the American Legion, and the Fleet Reserve Association.

The Wounded Warrior Access Act

The Veterans Benefits claims process should be simple. That is why Senator Braun introduced the Wounded Warrior Access Act (S. 2803/H.R. 1226) with Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) to require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to create an online tool for Veterans to access their claim files electronically.

Currently, Veterans must either travel to a regional VA location or wait for a physical copy to come in the mail to access their claims information. When a Veteran submits a claim for benefits to the VA, a claims file (C-File) is created. C-Files contain a veteran's service records, results of VA exams, additional information submitted by the veteran, and any material the VA deems necessary to decide the claim. Veterans must travel to a regional VA location or mail in a form to request a paper copy of their C-Files, slowing down the process for individuals.

Improving efficiency in the Veterans claims process will make getting determinations more swift and more

transparent.

President Biden signed this reform into law on Nov. 13, 2023.

The Korean American VALOR Act

Senator Braun introduced the Korean American VALOR Act (S. 2648/H.R. 366) with Senator Hirono to allow Republic of Korea (ROK) Vietnam Veterans who fought alongside the U.S. military during the Vietnam War, and who have since become naturalized U.S. citizens, access to medical services at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), paid for by the South Korean government.

Speaking to the need for this legislation, Senator Braun remarked, "This legislation guarantees that the men and women who bravely fought alongside U.S. troops and have become American citizens will have access to the care and benefits they deserve, paid for by the South Korean government."

The bill requires the VA to enter into a reciprocal financial agreement with the ROK so the United States will be reimbursed for any expenses the Vietnam Veterans of the ROK Armed Forces incur at the VA.

There are approximately 2,800 ROK Vietnam Veterans residing in the U.S. today, and they have experienced the same exposure to toxic chemicals as their American counterparts. This bill ensures they receive the same level of care as all other Vietnam Veterans. Korea will reimburse the U.S. for healthcare services VA furnishes to Korean American veterans.

In exchange, the U.S. will reimburse Korea for the healthcare it provides to veterans of the U.S. armed forces residing in Korea. The U.S. has established reciprocal agreements with the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa. Veterans from these nations do not need to be U.S. citizens



Photo provided

to be eligible for care, and VA has the authority to treat veterans of any combat era.

President Biden signed this reform into law on Nov. 13, 2023.

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Indiana National Guardsmen exempt from state income tax starting with 2023 tax season

By **MICHAELA SPRINGER**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Tax season is fast approaching, and starting this season, Indiana National Guardsmen will no longer have to pay state income tax.

Starting with the 2023 tax returns, approximately 12,000 troops will be exempt from the tax, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb said in a release made Monday.

Holcomb signed the **military exemption law** into effect on May 1, and said in a statement that doing so “demonstrates the state’s enduring appreciation for the exemplary people who serve our local communities, state, and nation in the Indiana Na-

tional Guard.”

The exemption applies to all Indiana National Guard members, including “traditional members, military technicians, and full-time National Guard soldiers and airmen.”

The exemption also includes wages earned as a dual-status military technician. According to the release, exemptions do not apply to nondu-

al-status technicians, independent military contractors, or wages earned from work outside of military service.

Military members are still required to file an Indiana income tax return if their gross income exceeds their exemptions and even if the income is deducted in full for state tax purposes.



Sondra Darlene “Soni” Sheehan August 27, 1940 – December 22, 2023



Sondra Darlene “Soni” Sheehan, 83, Noblesville, passed away on Friday, December 22, 2023, surrounded by her husband and family. Soni was born on August 27, 1940, to Charles and Mary (Ashcraft) Miller in Celina, Ohio.

In 1984, Soni married Thomas P. Sheehan, who forever referred to her as his “bride.” Together they created the Thomas P. and Sondra D. Sheehan Charitable Foundation dedicated to improving the lives of children facing debilitating medical challenges and the Timothy J. Sheehan Memorial Endowment Fund supporting various charitable organizations locally and throughout the United States.

Her primary love was building a life with her husband, caring for her family, and volunteering. Soni enjoyed playing cards (winning), traveling, attending theatrical productions, gardening, reading, and learning to play the piano. She was active with the Tom and Soni Sheehan Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville where she was honored as the 1997 Volunteer of the Year. For nearly 30 years, her passion was to participate in the annual UpTop Shop Christmas event. She also volunteered at St. Vincent De Paul Society in Noblesville and taught reading at a Charter School in Immokalee, Fla., where the students fondly referred to her as Grandma.

Soni was a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Noblesville. She was forever mindful of others and loved doing small acts of kindness that were personal and heartfelt. Her quiet perceptive nature came with a finely tuned awareness for seeing people and their needs.

Soni is survived by her husband, Thomas P. Sheehan; children, Gary P. (Sheila) Sheehan, Tracey L. Sheehan (partner Pam Olerich), Eric M. Sheehan, Kenton L. Luedeke, and Todd W. (Cathy) Luedeke; grandchildren, Madison, Scott, Dylan (Hillary) Michelle (Brad), Jefa, Jaylee, and Liam; and her great-grandchildren, Paris, Astrid, Brentley, and Abigail.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her infant son, Scott Luedeke; sons, Kevin W. (Thomasina “Janie”) Sheehan and Timothy J. Sheehan; brother, Charles “Skip” Miller; and her first husband, Virgil “Bud” Luedeke.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 8, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 9900 E. 191st St., Noblesville. Burial procession will take place after Mass to Hamilton Memorial Park Cemetery in Westfield where all are invited to attend. Following the committal, the family is hosting a reception at Harbour Trees Golf Club from 2 to 5 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Tom and Soni Sheehan Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville Endowment Fund, 1700 Conner St., Noblesville, IN 46060 (bgcni.org); or St. Vincent De Paul Society, 1391 Greenfield Ave., Noblesville, IN 46060 (svdpnoblecause.com); or Prevail, Inc., Attn: Donations, 1100 S. 9th St., Suite 100, Noblesville, IN 46060 (prevailinc.org); or Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 9900 E. 191st St., Noblesville, IN 46060 (ologn.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

JACOB MARRIES LEAH AND RACHEL

When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?”

Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. Finish this daughter’s bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.”

And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. Laban gave his servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her attendant. Jacob made love to Rachel also, and his love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

Genesis 29:25-30 (NIV)

Bruce Allen Hinshaw

November 11, 1958 – December 7, 2023

Bruce Allen Hinshaw, 65, Arcadia, passed away on December 7, 2023, at IU Health Tipton Hospital.



He was born November 11, 1958, in Noblesville to Dale and Shirley Ann (Vaughn) Hinshaw. He attended Jackson Township Schools and graduated from Hamilton Heights High School. Then January 1, 1979, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he honorably served his country. Returning home, he worked for several years delivering stone for Beaver Materials.

Being very athletic, during his high school years at Hamilton Heights he was on the football, basketball, and baseball teams. And in later years he enjoyed watching these games that he played. His favorites were the Indianapolis Colts and the Washington Commanders. He also enjoyed playing cards and was adept at Texas Hold’em.

He married Janice Marie (Landaker) Hinshaw May 12, 2006, and she related that he enjoyed mushroom hunting in the springtime and also greatly enjoyed spending time with their families.

He was preceded in death by his father, Dale Milton Hinshaw; and a sister, Gaylynn (Hinshaw) Shepard.

Surviving him in addition to his wife is his mother, Shirley Ann Hinshaw of Cicero; son, Jonathon Hinshaw of Cicero; brother, Dale Ross Hinshaw of Ft. Wayne, Ind.; sisters, Karla McIntyre of Cicero and Marie Norton of Noblesville; 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; stepsons, Kevin Webster and Jason Dollar; and stepdaughters, Chandra Copeland, Shannon Dollar, Brittney Bryan, and Melisa Williamson.

Hartley Funeral Homes Cicero Chapel is entrusted with Bruce’s care. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. You may send condolences at hartleyfuneralhomes.com.

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Mark Allen Whicker

July 22, 1952 – December 17, 2023



Mark Allen Whicker, 71, Sheridan, passed away on Sunday evening, December 17, 2023. Born on July 22, 1952, in Lebanon, Ind., he was the son of the late Lawrence and Irma (Campbell) Whicker.

He was a member of the Sheridan First Christian Church.

At an early age, Mark took his first steps down the road of a lifetime spent helping others. After losing his father, Mark made the decision to leave school at 15 so he could help his family financially. Some of his older siblings had already left home and had families of their own to provide for, leaving Mark to do the only thing he felt he could: pause his studies and help provide for the family. It was not an easy decision, but one that would serve as part of the foundation that his life was built upon.

Throughout his career, he worked at several places before finding the job that made him say “I’m home.” Mark worked for the Sheridan Street Department for 25 years. A hard worker by nature, he rarely took a day off, came in early (and stayed late just as many days), never stopping until everything was done that needed done. In 2020, a bad auto accident forced him to retire as supervisor, earlier than he (and most of the town residents) would like to have seen happen. Mark truly loved serving the Town of Sheridan and all the wonderful people who call it home. Perhaps the best part of working for the town was getting to see and talk to the people he met while he was driving around Sheridan in his pickup truck. Longtime residents knew which truck was Mark’s. He would always wave and was never in so much of a hurry that he couldn’t stop and shoot the breeze with anyone who wanted to talk.

Everybody has a story or memory of how Mark was a part of their life. For some, it was his years at the Street Department, while others can’t remember a time that they didn’t know him (those individuals know the good stories). For many of our residents, though, they knew Mark as Santa. For over 55 years, Mark put on his red and white suit (two of which were made for him over the years by his grandmother) and stepped into the role he was born to play. There was nothing he loved more than seeing all the children, year after year. About 25 years into his Santa career, the only thing that could possibly make it better happened. His wife, Cindy, joined him as Mrs. Claus, and together, they helped make the wishes of the children of Sheridan, and the surrounding areas, come true. It was always a special moment when the next generation(s) got to experience the same Santa & Mrs. Claus that you saw when you were their age ... and the looks on their faces when he knew their mom, dad, and grandparents’ names. It is hard to describe what he meant to the children, but he was OUR Santa Claus, plain and simple.

Work, and the holiday season, always kept Mark busy; however, when he had some time to himself, he loved spending it with his family. Taking the grandkids fishing, trying to instill his love for country music in them, and never missing an opportunity to let them know why God favors the L.A. Rams, the New York Yankees, and Sheridan Blackhawk Football, were just a few of his favorite things. He also loved collecting Coca Cola memorabilia, a 50-plus-year obsession that helped fill an entire room at his house. It was his pride and joy, and he never stopped looking for that next piece to put in the collection.

Family was everything to Mark, and there was nothing that couldn’t be achieved together. One of his proudest moments came in the form of earning his GED the same year that his son graduated high school. They both had each other’s back, helping push one another across the finish line.

Mark is survived by the love of his life, Cindy Ann (Alexander) Whicker. She and Mark were married in July of 1974, traveling the road of life side by side, through all its twists and turns. Also surviving are his grandsons, Drew Allen Whicker and Austin Matthew Whicker, both of Sheridan; great-grandchild, Easton Allen Whicker of Sheridan; brother, Frank Whicker (Debbie); sister, Tammy Cummins (Niles); his canine furbaby, Shadow; and by his brother and sister in law, Don and Lori Massey of Sheridan, whose helpfulness and kindness have been such a blessing throughout the years; as well as the hundreds of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Irma (Campbell) Whicker; brothers, Donald Gene, Jack, Lawrence, Lamar, and Jerry; sisters, Fern Keesling, Betty Parks, Mary Wallace, Serena Thomas, Sylvia Doty, Alice Smith, and Sandy Thomas; infant siblings, Michael Leon, Nellie Mae, and Glen Frederick; and by his son, Chris Allen Whicker, in 2019.

Services will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evening, December 27, 2023, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan, with visitation from 4 p.m. until the time of service. Rev. V.J. Stover will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the National Kidney Foundation, or to the Jack Griffin Children’s Christmas Party c/o The Farmers Bank in Sheridan.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

Edward Lee West

October 26, 1936 – December 24, 2023



Sue thought he was cute as she saw him singing in a quartet. He thought she was pretty as she sat in the congregation at Brookside Evangelical Church in Indianapolis. That was 1957. Isn’t that basis enough for a marriage?

Up times, down times, happy and hurtful times. They made it. Sixty-four years and beyond.

Ed indulged in cars and drag racing with his father, Earl, and brother, Doyle, before his own family life took over. He continued to enjoy his brother’s hobby as it expanded.

Until he forgot.

Kids added another dimension to his life. Gregory and Elizabeth. And then grandkids came along. Will, Madeline, Justin, and Benjamin. Entirely different experiences being a father and our Poppy.

He loved and felt responsible to the church, and especially the choir, whether it be at Brookside Church in Indianapolis in his youth and where he was married or at Noblesville First United Methodist Church later. Whenever asked, Ed was there to sing. Many friendships joined, many now only remembrances as the years passed with its toll. He grew strength from singing in choirs, groups of all sizes, and especially enjoyed the Merry Folk group with the every Sunday night practices at Mary and Gordon Resler’s home. Later his dulcet voice served in men’s a cappella groups.

Until he forgot.

He was a relatively quiet man, though he thoroughly enjoyed being around others. At home celebrations of any kind; he would set the dining room table and continually ask if there was enough food or are there enough gifts for, name any name.

One passion remained: softball. Playing for years on teams from grade school until just a few years ago, traveling here and there. But he always came back and never forgot his family and his church.

Arsenal Technical High School carpentry classes prepared him unknowingly for remodeling and quasi building houses. Five of his own. Starting with the house purchased in 1959 from his grandmother’s estate for \$7,000 with a hand pump in the kitchen. After paneling the kitchen with Philippine mahogany (that’s right) and Sue painting the old footed bathtub feet with gold fingernail polish, they started their married life.

They moved on when son, Gregory, and daughter, Elizabeth, entered the scene. Gregg was soon the occupant of the newly finished attic in the next house. Ed drew plans and built a garage and added rooms in the modest little white house. Screened in porch, the whole bit. Then it was painted green, then it was painted yellow with white shutters. Done with Sue’s constantly changing exterior decor ideas, Ed moved the family to a red brick house with city water. No more painted siding and no more malfunctioning water pump especially timed with diaper pileups.

Following that, several other locations with design and structural changes, their family life also changed. Different church, school districts, different kids’ activities. School bands! Ed, with another person remodeled a school equipment bus for the band. He then drove it and stayed the week with the band as they practiced for the State Fair competition. Oh, what fun and good days those were accompanying daughter Elizabeth to band camp and multiple band competitions in the early 1980s.

Later on with fewer home and work responsibilities, he returned to softball. He made more friendships as he travelled with the teams. He enjoyed traveling with the Silver Foxes but never thought of leaving Indiana. Roots were here. He never forgot home.

Then on to more recreation. Still music but a different kind. Every Tuesday night at a local jazz club. Swing dancing lessons didn’t quite work out so well, but the music was enjoyed. How he loved taking that weekly trek across town for dinner and music.

Until he forgot.

In the late 1990s, Ed finally got a 1938 Desoto that he always wanted. In between car shows it sat in the garage so it wouldn’t get dirty. He took it to car shows with son, Gregg, and brother, Doyle, and at least once took it to the Noblesville Square. He loved car shows. He loved cars. The highlight was when he and Gregg attended the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival each Labor Day weekend. He even liked pursuing car dealer lots then coming home expressing his latest infatuation to a very disinterested Sue.

Until he forgot.

Dedication, dependability, and responsibility describe Ed West. Whether it be his family, his church choir, or his career. His banking career spanned years in Operations and Trust Departments at Merchants National Bank, succeeded by National City Bank and finally PNC.

Ed showed his love through his acts of service and generosity. You knew Ed cared for you although he did not always use words to express his feelings.

Services will be held at noon on Friday, December 29, 2023, at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St., Noblesville, with visitation from 10 a.m. to noon. Burial will be at Memorial Park Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Condolences: randallroberts.com



LIFETIME LEGACY LAWYERS Podcast

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NICKEL PLATE EXPRESS

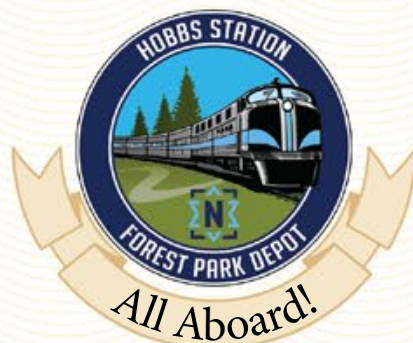
ENJOY THE RICH HISTORY OF RAIL TRAVEL!

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.

NickelPlateExpress.com



Pirates & Princesses

Prepare to set sail on an enchanting journey as the historic Nickel Plate Express presents the Pirate and Princess Train Ride. This thrilling 75-minute adventure promises an unforgettable experience filled with encounters with swashbuckling pirates and elegant princesses. Dust off your finest costumes and join us for a truly magical experience.

January 27

NickelPlateExpress.com

Bourbon and Chocolate

All aboard the Nickel Plate Express for a bourbon and chocolate pairing! Take an hour and 30-minute ride through Hamilton County while sampling 3 bourbons and 3 unique and local chocolate desserts. A cash bar is available to purchase wine, beer and bourbon.

February 10

NickelPlateExpress.com

Lonely Hearts Club Express

Join us for a 75-minute train ride filled with laughter, connections, and a vibrant atmosphere. You’ll be greeted with a warm welcome and a chance to mingle with other amazing individuals who are also embracing their single status. Enjoy a cocktail or two as you make new friends while chugging along the rails.

February 14

NickelPlateExpress.com

Easter Express

A farmer has misplaced some eggs and is pretty sure they are somewhere on the Nickel Plate Express! Come share in a little rail adventure as you roll through Hamilton County’s northern countryside to see the trees in bloom while enjoying a snack and a springtime story.

March 23, 24 and 30

NickelPlateExpress.com

Live Music Dec. 29 - Angry Lemons
Open Mic Tuesdays
 7-10 p.m.
Trivia Wednesdays
 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Keyboardist
Dave Lowe every
Thursday 6-9 p.m.
17419 Suite C, Carey Rd., Westfield
317.867.0397

Bien Mexicana
 150 S Peru St, Cicero

Live Music At Pasto Italiano
Benito DiBartoli Every Wednesday
 (1/2 Price Bottles of Wine On Wednesdays)
Friday December 29
Tony Burton
Reservations Recommended
317-804-2051
3150 East State Rd. 32, Westfield

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Southeastern's Donovan Hamilton named Reporter Player of the Year

The REPORTER

For the second year in a row, the Hamilton County Reporter has named Hamilton Southeastern senior Donovan Hamilton as its football Player of the Year.

The versatile 6-4, 205-pound Hamilton was named the Mr. Football for wide receivers this season. Hamilton totaled 11 touchdowns for the Royals and was a key component of their sectional championship team. Hamilton will play football for Purdue University next fall.

This year's All-County First and Second teams are listed in the boxes below. In addition, the following players are Honorable Mention - **Carmel:** Trent Fisher, Evan Parker, Jimmie Winbush Jr.; **Fishers:** Bennett Gorak, Grant Hawsorth; **Guerin Catholic:** Josh Holba, Malcolm Houze, Peter Rooney, Elijah Taylor; **Hamilton Heights:** Michael Cain, Tyler Champion, Bodie Derrerr; **Hamilton Southeastern:** Mason Alexander; **Noblesville:** Aiden Brewer, Gage Gulley, Austin Hastings; **Sheridan:** Owen Bell, Parker Williams; **Westfield:** Gabe Arambolles, Kendall Garnett, Avery Huggins, Maximus Nosler.



Hamilton Southeastern senior Donovan Hamilton is this year's Hamilton County Reporter football Player of the Year. Hamilton scored 11 touchdowns for the Royals and was named Mr. Football at the wide receiver position.

Hamilton County All-County Football, First Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Position</u>
Jalen Alexander	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior	RB
Jackson Gilbert	Westfield	Senior	QB
William Goodvine	Westfield	Senior	DL
Donovan Hamilton	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior	WR
Aaron Keller	Guerin Catholic	Senior	DB
Eli Kolb	Sheridan	Senior	RB/LB
Khobie Martin	Fishers	Senior	RB
Christian Peterson	Carmel	Senior	DB
Styles Prescod	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior	OL
Jaylyn Pugh	Hamilton Heights	Senior	WR/DB
Logan Shoffner	Noblesville	Senior	RB

Hamilton County All-County Football, Second Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Position</u>
Zach Bales	Sheridan	Senior	RB/LB
Artemas Bryant	Carmel	Senior	LB
Carson Fetting	Hamilton Heights	Senior	LB
Joe Franco	Sheridan	Senior	TE/LB
JonAnthony Hall	Fishers	Junior	WR
Dean Mason	Hamilton Heights	Senior	OL/DL
Ransom McDermott	Noblesville	Senior	OL
Jack Osiecki	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior	LB
Mikeah Webster	Westfield	Junior	LB
Brady Wolf	Fishers	Senior	DL
Ryan Zimmerman	Guerin Catholic	Senior	QB

TOURNEYS

girls travel to Guerin Catholic Thursday afternoon for an all-county game that

At nearby North Central, the Panthers will host

the Paul Loggan Memorial Tournament, which features both boys and girls games. The 4A No. 2 Hamilton Southeastern girls play Decatur Central on Thursday

from Page 10
and North Central on Friday. Carmel's boys take on Evansville Harrison Thursday afternoon and then play Louisville Trinity Friday morning.

IBCA girls basketball poll – Week of Dec. 24

Rank	School	Points	Record
1	Lawrence Central (20)	400	15-1
2	Hamilton Southeastern	370	12-1
3	Fort Wayne Snider	353	13-1
4	Center Grove	332	14-1
5	Jennings County	313	13-1
6	Homestead	254	9-1
7	Columbia City	254	12-2
8	Lawrence North	247	11-3
9	Northridge	222	13-1
10	Lake Central	208	12-2
11	Franklin Community	200	14-2
12	Bedford North Lawrence	180	13-2
13	South Bend Washington	149	11-3
14	Norwell	128	11-3
15	Fishers	105	10-4
T16	Indian Creek	87	13-2
T16	Zionsville	87	11-3
18	Hamilton Heights	76	13-2
19	Rensselaer Central	70	15-0
20	Greensburg	43	11-2

First place votes are in parentheses.

Other schools receiving votes, with records

Benton Central (11-2), Carroll (14-2), Caston (13-0), Eastern Hancock (13-0), Fort Wayne Northrop (10-3), Franklin Central (4-7), Lanesville (13-0), Mooresville (12-2), **Noblesville (7-7)**, North Knox (12-1), Scottsburg (12-1), Silver Creek (10-4), South Knox (11-1), Washington (13-3), **Westfield (10-4)**.



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**32
YEARS**

Upcoming Broadcasts

Wed Dec 27 - Boys Basketball - 2023 Noblesville Holiday Tournament

10:00 am Crown Point vs Castle | Game 1 | HCTV Sports

11:45 am McCutcheon vs **Noblesville** | Game 2 | HCTV Sports

6:00 pm Consolation Game | Game 3 | HCTV Sports

7:45 pm Championship Game | Game 4 | HCTV Sports

Thurs Dec 28 - Girls Basketball - 2023 Noblesville Holiday Tournament

10:00 am Valparaiso vs **Noblesville** | Game 1 | HCTV Sports

11:45 am Ft. Wayne Snider vs Norwell | Game 2 | HCTV Sports

6:00 pm Consolation Game | Game 3 | HCTV Sports

7:45 pm Championship Game | Game 4 | HCTV Sports

Sat Dec 30 - Basketball

5:50 pm Cathedral vs Chatard | Boys Basketball | Indiana SRN

Tue Jan 2 - Basketball

6:00 pm Pike vs Noblesville | Junior Varsity Boys | HCTV Sports

7:20 pm Chatard vs Beech Grove |Boys Varsity | Indiana SRN

7:30 pm Pike vs Noblesville | Varsity Boys | HCTV Sports

Tue Jan 2 - Basketball

7:15 pm Fishers vs Pike | Boys Varsity | Fishers Sports Network

7:20 pm Guerin vs Chatard | Boys Varsity | Indiana SRN

7:20 pm Heritage Christian vs Covenant Christian | Boys Varsity | Indiana SRN











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www.HCTV2.com

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Dec. 27
BOYS BASKETBALL

Sheridan at Alexandria, 1:30 p.m.
Homestead Tournament

Hamilton Southeastern vs. Mishawaka Marian, 10 a.m.
Hamilton Southeastern vs. Valparaiso, 6 p.m.

Noblesville Tournament

Crown Point vs. Castle, 10 a.m.
Noblesville vs. McCutcheon, 11:45 a.m.
Third-place game, 6 p.m.
Championship game, 7:45 p.m.

SWIMMING/DIVING

Carmel & Zionsville at Homestead (diving only), 10 a.m.
Fishers at North Central Holiday Invitational, 11:30 a.m.
Homestead & Zionsville at Carmel (swimming only), noon

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

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