

See *Independence* . . . Page 2

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The Reporter!



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- In 2026, Hamilton County will be importing 2,000 more workers than it exports, representing a 15,000-person net shift in commuting patterns since 2015, even when excluding hybrid and remote working trends. In 2022, over 95,000 workers commuted into Hamilton County for work on a daily basis.

“This project is intended to provide a tool that

our local leaders, education stakeholders and business community can use to forecast how our community will continue to grow and change through the rest of this decade,” Thibideau said. “Invest Hamilton County, as a regional workforce development leader, will also be using this data as a backbone for pathway creation, training programs, and strategic community impact.”

Invest Hamilton County will host a State of the Workforce luncheon on March 19 at the Bridgewater Club. Thibideau and a national speaker from Lightcast, leaders in labor market analytics, will dive into the data learned from the Talent InSight 2030

project and how it compares to national trends.

Thibideau will also spend time in 2024 delivering presentations on this data to diverse associations and boards. If you would like to have a presentation scheduled, please reach out to Director of Programs Jill Doyle at jdoyle@investhamiltoncounty.com.

This project was made possible with support from Hamilton County government, City of Noblesville, City of Fishers, Duke Energy, Hamilton County Community Foundation, MIBOR, Hamilton County Tourism, OneZone Chamber of Commerce, Noblesville Chamber of Commerce, and Westfield Chamber of Commerce.

from Page 1

About Invest Hamilton County

The Hamilton County Economic Development Corporation (dba Invest Hamilton County) is an economic development organization focused on talent attraction, retention, development, and quality of life initiatives throughout Hamilton County. Invest Hamilton County works with diverse and dynamic stakeholders from throughout the community to help local residents, businesses, and communities address barriers to economic vitality, and build systems that provide every person in the county a path to live the best life they are capable of living. For more information, visit investhamiltoncounty.com.

INDEPENDENCE

from Page 1

is there a railing, or a curb? Mentally assessing the pathway. Is it crowded? Even the slightest bump from someone can easily send me to the ground. Constantly planning my next move before it happens. It can be a lot of internal stress.

If you were with me, you would never know all those thoughts are going through my mind! But they are constantly. Going out independently in public is something I must give a lot of extra thought to.

Driving. So much independence comes from being able to drive. Many living with neuromuscular disease do not have this opportunity. Again, I'm grateful. I often talk about how, in the water

where I exercise, I don't feel disabled. I feel free. That's how I feel when driving too.

Adapting to stay as independent as I can is my goal. It's important for those of us living with disabilities. So much of what happens because of our disabilities is out of our control. I can choose to focus on areas where I've lost independence, or I can choose to focus on all the things I can still do. Sitting around feeling sorry for ourselves is a dead end. We are only wasting time when we do that. It's very easy to fall into that trap.

Accepting that my independence may start to look a little different is something that I need to continue

to work to embrace. Even typing that sentence makes me a little uncomfortable because I know it's not going to be an easy thing to do. Having a lifelong disability, I'm very aware of what lack of independence, physically speaking, looks and feels like. Take time to stop and appreciate even the smallest things you can do and be grateful. All these things are a gift.

Until next time ...
Amy Shinneman is a former National Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, disability blogger, wife, and mom of two boys. You can find her blog at humblycourageous.com and reach her on Instagram @ashinneman.

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Still time to register for ‘Bop to the Top’ fundraiser for Riley Children’s Foundation

The REPORTER

There’s still time to participate in the Tuxedo Brothers’ annual Bop to the Top Stair Climb benefiting Riley Children’s Foundation. Bop to the Top is scheduled to take place Saturday, Jan. 20, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the One America Tower, 200 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis.

Registration and fundraising information can be found at tuxbro.com, Tuxedo Brothers’ website. Participants are invited to climb the 36 floors of the OneAmerica Tower. There are 780 steps in all. All ages and abilities are welcome. The climb can be made as an individual or as part of a team.

This incredible event, now in its 41st year, is a third-party fundraiser for the Riley Children’s Foundation. Over \$1 million has been raised so far for the Foundation. Tuxedo Brothers is an event management company owned and operated by brothers Don and Phil Carr. Since 1984, Tuxedo Brothers has managed more than 1,000 runs, walks and triathlons benefiting service and charitable organizations.

Don and Phil, along with their team of employees, say they are honored that they have had the opportunity to host this fundraising event each year. Don, who serves

as President of Tuxedo Brothers, said he is extremely pleased to be part of this legacy.

“I can’t tell you what it means to be a part of such a meaningful event,” Carr said. “To be able to help Riley Children’s Foundation work toward their mission is what it’s all about.”

Riley Children’s Foundation is the fundraising arm of Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health and the founding organization that opened Riley Hospital in 1924. Today, Riley Hospital is recognized as one of the best children’s hospitals in the nation and is the only comprehensive children’s research hospital in the state of Indiana.

Each year, as part of the Bop to the Top event, a “Riley Hero” – an individual who speaks about their own experience as a child with Riley – is selected. This year’s Riley Hero is Josh Jennings of Terre Haute.

Jennings is a champion powerlifter who holds seven state records and one world record. He has come a long way since he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at the age of 6. He went through three years of chemotherapy at Riley Children’s Health, and today he is cancer free. He says he looks forward to sharing his



Photo provided
2024’s Riley Hero is champion powerlifter Josh Jennings.

Riley story and providing hope for others.

Tuxedo Brothers’ goal for 2024 is to raise at least \$15,000. If you are interested in participating in the climb and collecting donations for Riley Children’s Foundation, you can set up a personal or corporate fundraising page. Collect donations from your friends, family, or co-workers by creating an online giving page.

Riley Children’s Foundation receives 100 percent of funds raised by individuals and teams who set up fundraising pages, so please consider the difference you can make in a child’s life. You can also bring your donations to the event site on Jan. 20.

IMPORTANT: Creating or joining a Team Fundraising page through Team

Riley does not register you for the event. You must still complete the registration process. Volunteers are also needed for the event. Go to the registration page to volunteer, as well.

Overall and Age-Group awards will be provided for those who want to get competitive in Bop to the Top, but it is not required. Those who simply want to take their time and climb the stairs are also encouraged to come out.

Participants are encouraged to visit tuxbro.com for registration and updates on this and all Tuxedo Brothers’ events, or email Jason Springer at Jason@TuxBro.com. You can also check out future events, including several 5Ks, half-marathons, full marathons, triathlons and more on the website.



Indiana Peony Festival calling on vendors & artists

The REPORTER

Are you ready for the 2024 Indiana Peony Festival (IPF)? The operation is in full swing, and your help is needed in preparing for spring. This year’s festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 at Seminary Park in Noblesville.

Are you interested in being a vendor at this year’s festival, or is there a local small business you’d like to see participate in IPF this year?

[Click here](#) to submit your vendor application. Applications are now open to new vendors, and space is limited. The submission win-

dow closes Friday, Feb. 16.

IPF needs artists to help style the festival. The IPF is hosting a T-shirt and Poster Design contest. One graphic will be used for both the 2024 Festival poster and T-shirt. The winning design will receive \$1,000 a grand prize.

Peruse the mood board and dream up your best design that men, women, and children will love and wear all year long. Designs do not necessarily need to incorporate the IPF 2024 logo, but final products from the IPF will include the logo in some way.

[Click here](#) for more information or email ipfkel-ly@gmail.com.

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Hamilton County Reporter

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Community First Bank of Indiana announces change in leadership team

The REPORTER

Community First Bank of Indiana (CFB) recently announced key updates to its leadership team structure, poising the bank for continued expansion while remaining diligent to its commitment of exceptional service for its customers and local community partners.

• Bob Hickman has been promoted to Executive Vice President, Chief Banking and Credit Officer.

• Carlonda Davis has been promoted to Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer/DE&I.

• Janelle Campbell has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Director of Consumer Banking.

• Jonathon Malin has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Director of Commercial Banking.

“We are leveraging the strengths and expertise of key individuals to spearhead strategic initiatives and drive innovation across the company,” President & CEO Robb Blume said. “We intend to heighten our



Hickman

focus on delivering exceptional products/services and personalized experiences tailored to meet the evolving needs of our customers. I know these leaders share the vision we founded the bank on 20 years ago – to be a locally owned bank that would serve as a flexible and responsive community partner – yet they will also bring fresh ideas to drive continuous improvement.”

The bank also has a unique focus on caring for its employees.

Regarding her new role, Davis said, “We remain committed to nurturing talent and fostering a culture of



Davis

continuous learning. Efforts will be intensified to provide employees with the necessary tools, training, and support to thrive in their roles.”

Hickman was one of the founding members of CFB in 2003, has 36 years of experience in finance and credit, and joined the bank’s board of directors in 2022. Malin and Davis are graduates of the Graduate School of Banking – Colorado (2019 and 2023), and Campbell is on track to graduate in 2024.

CFB ramped up its strategic growth plan in 2015 when it opened its first office outside of Howard County – a Loan Production Office



Campbell

in Noblesville. It now has offices throughout Howard, Hamilton, and Marion counties with its newest full-service banking center opening in Fishers in February 2024.

About CFB

Community First Bank of Indiana (CFB) was chartered in 2003 in Kokomo and is committed to keeping outstanding customer service, local decision-making, and relationship-building at its core. The locally owned and operated bank currently has offices in Fishers, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Noblesville, and Westfield. Learn more at CFBIndiana.com. MEMBER FDIC, Equal Housing Lender.



Malin

Letter to the Editor

Start your New Year right, commit to quit

Dear Editor:

Quit Season is HERE! The new year is upon us, and it’s a great time for fresh starts.

If you’re a tobacco user, the best thing you can do this year is to make a quit plan. Making the decision to quit in 2024 can dramatically reduce your risk for life threatening diseases. Smoking is still the number one cause of preventable death in Indiana.

SmokeFree.gov includes the following steps for having a successful quit plan:

- Pick a quit date.
- Let loved ones know you are quitting.
- Remove reminders of smoking.
- Identify your reasons to quit smoking.
- Identify your smoking triggers.
- Develop coping strategies.
- Have places you can turn to for immediate help.
- Set up rewards for Quit Milestones.

A quality quit plan combines cessation strategies to keep you focused, confident, and motivated to quit. It will help you identify challenges you may face as you quit, and ways to overcome them. Setting up a plan can improve your chances of quitting smoking for good. Free, confidential help is available through a trained quit coach by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW, texting “READY” to 34191, or logging on to QuitNowIndiana.com.

Make 2024 your best year yet by making the decision to quit.

Stacy Collins

*Breathe Easy Hamilton County
Executive Director*

Indiana Grown Commission announces two new members

The REPORTER

Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch recently announced the appointment of two new Indiana Grown Commission members, Krista Stillwell and Nanci Sears Perry, and the re-appointment of three members.

“I am so excited to welcome Krista Stillwell and Nanci Sears



Crouch

Perry to the Indiana Grown Commission,” said Lt. Gov. Crouch, who also serves as Indiana’s Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “They have the knowledge and capacity to help Indiana businesses grow. The Indiana Grown Commission represent all aspects of our industry, such as farmer’s markets, marketing and advertising, distributors, chefs, educators, and restaurateurs. Thanks to their expertise, the Indiana Grown program will have the best available resources for their businesses.”

Stillwell founded Stillwell brands in 2015, where she serves as founder and chief strategist. She consults with clients on business strategy, social media, marketing, promotional strategy, growth strategy and more. Stillwell specializes in seeking out small to medium-sized businesses to create and manage promotional strategy and marketing needs.

“Krista and Nanci bring unique expertise to the Indiana Grown Commission,” Indiana Grown Director Caroline Patrick said. “As we enter our ninth year of the Indiana Grown program, I look forward to seeing how our commission leadership can help guide and support our growing program.”

Sears Perry serves as the Market Manager for Yorktown Farm and Artisan Market. Yorktown Farm and Artisan Market has weekly vendors, a Young Entrepreneur program, live music, food trucks, monthly car shows and opportunities to get involved in Yorktown. Sears Perry believes that the market has become a place for Yorktown community members to connect with each other and a place for small businesses to grow.

Indiana Grown is a marketing initiative started by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to promote local products to the public. Indiana Grown is supported by a commission of 12 individuals, including ISDA Director Don Lamb. Those members include:

• Jeff Bricker – Ivy Tech State College, Hospitality Program, Department Chair

• Mike Hoopengardner – Farm Bureau, Representative

• Jennifer Rubenstein – Boone County Economic Development Corporation, Director Marketing and Communications

• Leigh Rowan – Ft. Wayne Farmer’s Market, Market Manager

• Mayasari Effendi – Mayasari Tempeh, Owner

• Nicky Nolot – Tolon Restaurant, Owner

• Marcus Agresta – Piazza Produce, President

• Rachel Boyer – Rachel’s Taste of Indiana, Owner

• Don Lamb – Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Director

• Nathan Shoaf – Purdue University, Diversified Farming and Food Systems Program Leader

• Krista Stillwell – Stillwell+Co Marketing & Business Strategy, Owner

• Nanci Sears Perry – Yorktown Farm and Artisan Market, Market Manager

Commission member terms vary and are selected by Lt. Gov. Crouch.

About Indiana Grown

Indiana Grown is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture in partnership with the lieutenant governor’s office. The initiative educates consumers on the importance of buying Indiana Grown products, helps Indiana farmers and producers sell more products and supports Indiana businesses in their efforts to process more Indiana Grown products. Indiana Grown members and partners include farmers, producers, processors, and artisans, as well as retailers, grocers, hospitals and restaurants. For more information, visit indianagrown.org.



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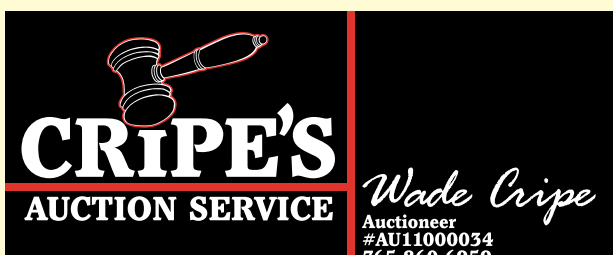
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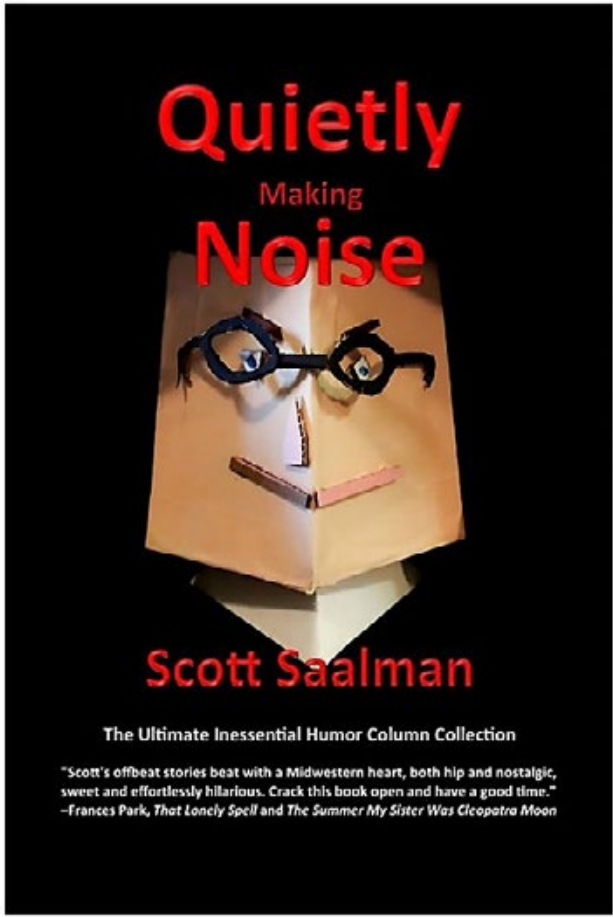


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One-women play takes audiences to church in latest IRT production

By CARRIE NEAL
A Seat on the Aisle

Indiana Repertory Theatre (IRT) begins 2024 on a strong and inspirational note, with the one-woman show *Fannie: The Music and Life of Fannie Lou Hamer*.

A lesser-known figure of the Civil Rights Movement, Hamer was an uneducated sharecropper from Mississippi who eventually became a prominent voting rights activist and public speaker. I'm embarrassed to say I knew nothing of her story, which deserves to be a familiar part of American history for all.

The story begins in Fannie's kitchen, and at first it seems the tone of the piece is going to be chatty and familiar, just a woman talking to her friends. But we soon realize we are going to church in this play, both through Fannie's eloquent orations that are very much like sermons (she was the daughter of a Baptist preacher, after all) and even more so because of her frequent, passionate bursts into song, which were a hallmark of her public speaking.

One of the few things I knew going in was that this was a one-woman play with music, and I was very much looking forward to hearing the vocal work of Maiesha McQueen, whose impressive resume includes *Waitress* on Broadway and the recent company of *Come from Away* in Gander, New-



Photo provided
Maiesha McQueen as Fannie Lou Hamer.

foundland. But while McQueen's voice was magnificent and absolutely lived up to all my expectations, the major surprise of the evening was that almost every time Fannie sings, she asks the audience to sing along with her. This undertaking met with mixed success at best; every time I looked around, it seemed that at the very most, 30 percent of audience members were singing along.

As Fannie, Maiesha McQueen takes us on a beautiful rollercoaster of a journey. She's lighthearted and jaunty while she entertains the audience (and even bakes a cake!), but also digs deep to share the intimacies of her greatest sufferings with us. As audience members, we're acutely aware of the privilege of going on this emotional voyage with Fannie, but we're even more aware of the enormous privilege of voting – which too many of us have taken for granted.

As always, the impeccable scenic design at IRT

is a treat, with credit going to Collette Pollard. Lighting design by Jason Pollard is particularly effective, along with stunning projection design by Mike Tutaj. His projections achieved something I'd never seen before: actually advancing the action of the storyline, rather than just serving as a backdrop. The three-man band comprised of Morgan E. Stevenson, Spencer Bean, and Dorian Phelps was uniformly excellent, and they also provided some energetic backup vocals.

Clocking in at a brisk 75 minutes with no intermission, *Fannie: The Music and Life of Fannie Lou Hamer* – written by Cheryl L. West and directed by Henry D. Godinez – is a worthy and uplifting way to spend your time during the dark days of winter. It runs through Feb. 4 on the OneAmerica Mainstage at IRT, and tickets may be purchased online at irtlive.com.

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

ISO presents Mozart & the Chevalier

The REPORTER

This Friday and Saturday, Conductor Jeannette Sorrell, New York Philharmonic principal clarinetist Anthony McGill, and soprano Sonya Headlam perform music of Mozart and Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, a French Creole contemporary of Mozart's whose life was depicted in the 2022 film *Chevalier*. Composer Derek Bernmel has been commissioned to transform Saint-Georges' violin concerto into a clarinet concerto.

Special offer for ISO patrons

Use the code ISO-CHEVALIER24 to get **\$2 off tickets** to see a film screening of *Chevalier* at the Kan-Kan Cinema at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 18. Based on the factual story of composer Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, the illegitimate son of an African enslaved and a French plantation owner, who rises to heights in French society as a composer before an ill-fated love affair. The film screening will include a virtual discussion with pianist and the composer of *Chevalier*'s film score Kris Bowers along with soprano Sonya Headlam.

Click here to buy tickets to the ISO's concert. Performances begin at 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19 and 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 20.

For more information regarding the policies of the Hilbert Circle Theatre, go to indianapolisymphony.org.

About

Jeannette Sorrell

Grammy-winning conductor Jeannette Sorrell is recognized internationally as one of today's most compelling interpreters of Baroque and Classical repertoire. She is credited by *BBC Music Magazine* for "forging a vibrant, life-affirming approach to early music." She is the subject of the documentary by Oscar-winning director Allan Miller, titled *Playing With Fire: Jeannette Sorrell and the Mysteries of Conducting*, commercially released in 2023.

Bridging the period-instrument and symphonic worlds from a young age,



Sorrell studied conducting under Leonard Bernstein, Roger Norrington, and Robert Spano at the Tanglewood and Aspen music festivals. As a harpsichordist, she studied with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam and won First Prize and the Audience Choice Award in the Spivey International Harpsichord Competition, competing against over 70 harpsichordists from Europe, Israel, the U.S., and the Soviet Union.

As a guest conductor, Sorrell made her New York Philharmonic debut in 2021 and Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 2022, both to rave reviews. In 2023-24, she returns to the New York Philharmonic, and makes debuts with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Houston Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, the National Arts Centre Chamber Orchestra (Ottawa), and the Orchestra of St Luke's at Carnegie Hall.

About Anthony McGill

Hailed for his "trade-mark brilliance, penetrating sound and rich character" (*The New York Times*), clarinetist Anthony McGill is one of classical music's most recognizable and brilliantly multifaceted figures. In addition to his dynamic international solo and chamber music career, McGill is principal clarinet of the New York Philharmonic – the first African American principal player in the organization's history.

In 2020, he was awarded the Avery Fisher Prize, one of classical music's most significant awards given in recognition of soloists who represent the highest level of musical excellence. McGill was honored to take part in the 2009 inauguration of President Barack Obama, premiering a piece written for the occasion by John Williams and performing alongside violinist Itzhak Perlman, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and pianist Gabriela Montero.

McGill appears regularly as a soloist with top

orchestras around North America, including the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, and Kansas City Symphony.

About Sonya Headlam

Soprano Sonya Headlam performs music that spans centuries, from the Baroque era to the present. As a soloist, she has garnered acclaim on prestigious stages across the United States. Recent highlights include her debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra in Handel's *Messiah*, her Severance Hall debut with conductor Jeannette Sorrell and Apollo's Fire performing Mozart and Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, and joining the North Carolina Symphony for Handel's *Messiah* and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. She has collaborated with other esteemed ensembles, such as the New World Symphony, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, TEN-ET Vocal Artists, and others. This season, Sonya looks forward to making her solo debuts with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa.

About the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, at home and thriving in the heart of Indianapolis, offers an exceptional artistic and musical experience. The orchestra is open to all and dedicated to creating an inclusive and innovative experiential environment that is inspiring, educational, and welcoming. The ISO celebrates historically beloved performances while engaging audiences by introducing new voices through programming including the IU Health Plans *Classical Series*, the Printing Partners *Pops Series*, the holiday traditions of AES Indiana *Yuletide* Celebration and the popular *Film Series* presented by Bank of America. For more information, go to indianapolisymphony.org.

STAR Bank announces third annual Future of Agriculture Scholarship

The REPORTER

STAR Financial Bank has announced the third annual Future of Agriculture college scholarship, which will provide five Indiana students with a \$1,000 scholarship to apply to their secondary education.

To be eligible, students must currently be a junior or senior in high school or have at least one year remaining in their college/trade school in the Fall of 2024. Eligible high school students would need to be entering a trade or collegiate program within two years of earning the scholarship. STAR has awarded 10 scholarships over the last two years.

Entrants must visit starfinancial.com/star-future-of-agriculture-scholarship, fill out the contact information and answer an essay style question of how they have, or plan to, impact agriculture as it pertains to the past, current or future generations of farmers. Submissions are judged by a panel of STAR Ag banking representatives.

The deadline for entry into the contest is April 22, 2024. Essays should be 250 words or less and the contest will be limited to those who reside or attend school in one of the following Indiana counties: Allen, Boone, DeKalb, Delaware, Grant,



Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Howard, Madison, Marion, Noble, Steuben, Tipton, Whitley, or Wells.

All questions can be directed at STAR Bank Senior Marketing Communications Manager Brad Saleik by email at brad.saleik@starfinancial.com.

About STAR Financial Bank

STAR Financial Bank, headquartered in Fort Wayne, Ind., is committed to delivering quality financial expertise and distinctive banking solutions to exceed customer expectations. In addition, STAR Private Advisory offers private banking, investment, and fiduciary services. STAR has grown to nearly \$3 billion in assets with locations across central and northeast Indiana. For more information, visit starfinancial.com.

Indiana Donor Network coordinates first liver transplant using machine perfusion device

The REPORTER

An Indiana woman who died late last year made history – for two reasons.

First, at 90, she is the oldest person on record in Indiana to be an organ donor. Second, her liver donation was the first coordinated by a U.S. organ procurement organization – Indiana Donor Network – using new technology to preserve and protect the donated liver after recovery in Indiana and during transport to a Midwest transplant center.

The milestone deployment of this innovative technology was the product of an FDA-authorized continued access study over the past two years, evaluating the use of the **LifePort Liver Transporter**.

outside the body. Nearly 30 Indiana Donor Network advanced clinical coordinators and surgical recovery specialists have been specifically trained to use the device.

With machine perfusion, a donated liver can remain viable for transplant for a considerably longer time. Using the traditional preservation method of static cold storage, a donated liver remains viable for transplant for less than six hours. Keeping a donated liver functioning after the recovery surgery allows more time to test and assess the organ's health. It can also improve a liver's function, which may allow more donated livers to be available for transplant.

Indiana Donor Network first utilized the LifePort Liver Transporter in the November 2023 transplant coordination and now awaits FDA clearance for unrestricted clinical use of the device throughout the U.S.

While the FDA continued access study continues, Indiana Donor Network can currently utilize the machine when requested by any of the four participating transplant centers that are also participating in the trial, including University of Cincinnati Medical Center, University of Chicago, Northwestern University and University Hospital-Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

"One of the biggest problems in organ transplan-



Photo courtesy Organ Recovery Systems

Dr. James Guarrera and his transplant team at University Hospital in Newark, N.J., affiliated with Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, perform a liver transplant utilizing the LifePort Liver Transporter. With machine perfusion, a donor liver can remain viable for transplant for up to 24 hours.

tion is availability. There are far more people waiting for a lifesaving transplant than there are available organs," Indiana Donor Network Director of Organ Services Sherry Quire said. "This breakthrough technology limits organ damage during preservation, improves patient outcomes and increases utilization of more donor livers for even more lifesaving transplants."

Use of the LifePort Liver Transporter is the organization's second venture into implementing perfusion technology to increase the rate of organ transplantation success. In 2021, Indiana Donor Network began utilizing kidney perfusion devices to sustain function and extend testing and transportation time for donated kidneys. In 2023, the organization's 12 kidney perfusion devices kept 446 donated kidneys functioning outside the body from recovery to transplantation.

Indiana Donor Network is the federally designated organ recovery organization that coordinates organ and tissue donation in Indiana and transplantation throughout the U.S. Its mission is to save and enhance the quality of life through organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Its vision is to be a leader in organ and tissue recovery. Founded in 1987, the organization coordinates donation in 85 of the state's 92 counties and serves transplant hospitals throughout the U.S.

Indiana Arts Commission accepting applications for Fellowship for Creative Teaching program

The REPORTER

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) announced Tuesday that applications are being accepted for the 2024 Indiana Educator Fellowship for Creative Teaching.

The Indiana Educator Fellowship for Creative Teaching, a partnership with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), was created in 2023 to celebrate and support outstanding educators and expand classroom teaching through creativity.

Research shows creative teaching strategies, also known as arts integration, improve student engagement, student learn-

ing retention, and student literacy skills. The Indiana Educator Fellowship for Creative Teaching supports educators with robust training, funding, and a community of experts to inspire and implement creativity-centered innovation in the classroom.

"We are proud to be entering the second year of the Fellowship for Creative Teaching in partnership with the Department of Education," IAC Executive Director Miah Michaelson said. "The first year of the program led to incredible residencies and student growth in Indiana classrooms, and



it is a privilege to work with educators and teaching artists to bring this work to more students in 2024."

If selected for the program, Creative Teaching Fellows receive:

- Three days of immersive training in creativity and connections to standards
- Access to a fully funded in-school creative arts residency
- Support from community creative partners, experts, and professionals
- Membership in a statewide community of energetic, innovative, educators
- A \$1,000 honoraria

The deadline to apply to be a part of the Creative Teaching Fellow Cohort is Feb. 22, 2024. [Click here](#) to read the guidelines and [click here](#) to access the application.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the program.

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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

Thanks for reading!

Weather is unpredictable ... Paul Poteet isn't.

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Session priorities include mental health, veterans, public safety

The 2024 Legislative Session kicked off this month and lawmakers will consider many issues impacting Hamilton County, our region and state. It's a short, non-budget session which means we will not be passing a state budget this year and session will end on or before March 14.

As your voice in the Senate, I will continue to support policies that grow our economy, reduce taxes and regulation, improve our schools, and keep our communities safe.

I will again serve as Chair of the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee this year, as well as Ranking Member of the Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee and Member of the Environmental Services Committee.

While we will consider many issues this year, I've



SCOTT BALDWIN
State Senator

authored several bills focused specifically on addressing community mental health needs, supporting Hoosier veterans, and improving public safety in Hamilton County. These topics are particularly important to me as former police officer and U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

One of my priority bills this year, **Senate Bill 10**, would establish the Community Cares Initiative creating a pilot grant program to help communities improve paramedicine resources to address local mental health needs. This initiative is inspired by Noblesville's innovative NobleACT program that Mayor Chris Jensen launched in 2020 to strengthen community-based response to mental health challenges. Since its creation, the NobleACT program has responded to

more than 6,000 calls for help to address issues like housing, mental health episodes and addiction.

As a retired police officer, I've seen firsthand the challenges of untreated mental health in our communities. The success of NobleACT underscores the need for proactive approaches like the Indiana Community Cares Initiative, and I'm committed to advancing this vital effort in the Senate.

I'm also sponsoring a resolution, **House Concurrent Resolution 9**, to urge the State to prioritize mental health for military service members to help reduce the high rate of veteran suicide, and am authoring **House Bill 39** to allow catastrophically disabled veterans to hunt for free on designated days. I recently formed a nonprofit Hunting and Fishing Show Darkhorse Expeditions supporting veterans with PTSD.

Related to improving community public health

and safety, I'm co-authoring **Senate Bill 5** – a Senate Republican priority bill – to assist water utilities with replacing lead pipes to help reduce lead poisoning among Hoosiers.

Other issues I'm working on include expanding access to recreational hunting and fishing for all Hoosiers and ensuring Hamilton County gets its fair share of income tax distributions.

You can read all the bills I'm authoring this session, and others that the Legislature is considering, on the General Assembly's website iga.in.gov.

It's going to be a busy session, and I look forward to hearing from you and working together to improve our Hamilton County communities. You can contact my office at IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Baldwin.

Scott Baldwin serves as the State Senator representing District 20, which includes Noblesville, Cicero, and portions of Carmel.



Photo provided

Joel Levi files to run against Scott Baldwin for Indiana State Senate

Submitted

Last week, Joel Levi officially filed his candidacy for Indiana State Senate District 20. The district spans much of Hamilton County, including Noblesville, significant parts of Carmel, and Cicero, where Levi resides with his wife and son.

A first-time candidate, Levi said was drawn to running for public office due to the public safety crisis the state is facing.

"As a parent, I cannot possibly imagine the heartbreak that too many Hoosier parents go through when losing a child to gun crime," Levi said. "But instead of getting to work solving this crisis, we have a state legislature making it easier for bad actors to access firearms."

The race for Senate District 20 will be competitive.

"Unlike in the prior 2020 election, Senator Bald-

win now has a record from which he cannot hide," Levi said. "Since taking office, he's voted for restricting abortion access and passing permitless concealed carry. Complementing his extreme voting record are his leaked ties to the Oath Keepers and controversial comments on Nazism."

Levi said Hamilton County voters deserve a Senator "who represents their values, as Hoosiers and Americans." He said he will be a Senator who will work with both sides of the aisle to deliver results on the economy and public safety.

Levi began his career as a professional singer-songwriter before transitioning to the healthcare field. He currently works as a Pharmacy Technician at River-view Health in Noblesville.

Learn more about the candidate at JoelLeviForIndiana.com.

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Senators Braun & Young get “A+” pro-life ratings

The REPORTER

U.S. Senators Mike Braun (R-Ind.) and Todd Young (R-Ind.) have each received an “A+” rating on Susan B. Anthony (SBA) Pro-Life America’s National Pro-Life Scorecard, which takes into account votes and actions for every member of Congress for the first session of the 118th Congress.

“I’m proud to be recognized by Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America with an ‘A+’ rating for supporting pro-life policies in the Senate,” Sen. Young said.

“There is no greater cause than giving a voice to the voiceless, and I will continue to support policies that affirm the right to life and support the unborn.”

According to the scorecard, “Sen. Young has voted consistently to defend the lives of the unborn and infants. This includes stopping hard-earned tax dollars from paying for abortion, including abortion travel expenses, whether domestically or internationally, and pushing back on the administration’s extreme abortion executive actions.”

“Very proud to announce that the SBA Pro-Life America gave my office the highest rating on their Pro-Life scorecard,” Senator Braun posted on X, “Life is sacred and I will always do my part to defend the unborn.”

As SBA List wrote in the scorecard, “Sen. Braun has stood up against the extremist nominees of the pro-abortion Biden-Harris administration, and against



Braun



Young

pro-abortion action both in the administration and through legislation advanced by Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. Sen. Braun has voted consistently to defend the lives of the unborn and infants.”

Colts supporter from Fishers in running for NFL Fan of the Year

By ADAM PINSKER
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

In November, Colts season ticket holder Maren Johnson was asked by the team to tape a segment for the team about its 40th anniversary in Indianapolis.

Instead, she was surprised with a pair of tickets to the Super Bowl, a perk that comes with being named the Colts’ 2023 Fan of the Year.

“I am so honored,” Johnson said. “I love this team. I love the community

of Indy, and this is incredible to represent this great organization.”

While in Vegas, Maren will compete against 31 other fans, representing each of the teams in the league for NFL Fan of the Year.

Johnson said she’s looking forward to the trip.

“We get to experience being at the NFL Honors together as a group, and they’ll let us know, at NFL Honors, one of the 32 of us will be awarded the NFL fan of the year,” Johnson said.

Johnson said she fell in

love with the Colts after going to her first game in the RCA Dome when Jim Harbaugh was the Colts quarterback.

“I just remember being in the dome, and the sights, the sounds,” she said. “I remember trying to catch T-shirts tossed to us by the cheerleaders, and just looking in awe, like a kid in a candy store. Ever since then, I was hooked.”

During the process of selecting the team’s Fan of the Year, the Colts also looked at how that fan car-

ried themselves during the off-season.

Volunteering is another passion of Johnson’s.

“I got involved with a local organization that was a nonprofit called **Champ Camp**,” she said. “So, it’s for kids that require some type of medical and respiratory assistance, and I have just been so involved in that. It’s become something I can’t imagine my life without.”

Fans can vote [online](https://www.colts.com/fanoftheyear) for Johnson to be NFL Fan of the Year.

AG Todd Rokita defends 25-foot ‘buffer zone’ protecting police at crime scenes

The REPORTER

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has defended the constitutionality of an Indiana law creating a 25-foot buffer zone around police officers performing official duties.

The law prohibits bystanders from approaching any closer than that distance when police officers are working accidents, crime scenes, investigations, or other such events. Under the law, an individual violating an officer’s order to observe the buffer zone may be charged with a misdemeanor.

“Our brave men and women in law enforcement risk their lives daily to uphold our laws and safe-

guard Hoosiers’ peace and safety,” AG Rokita said. “The very least we can do is enforce reasonable measures to protect these officers’ own lives.”

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit last year claiming the buffer-zone law infringed on the First Amendment rights of citizens, including journalists, to document and observe police activities.

This month, a federal judge noted that the law “never once permits an officer to tell a reporter or citizen-journalist to leave alto-



Rokita

Another lawsuit on this matter filed by several me-

dia outlets remains pending in another federal district court.

“Both the law and everyday Hoosiers are on our side in standing strongly behind our courageous police officers,” Rokita said. “We are confident we will prevail as well in the other case brought by fake-news types trying to overturn this good law.”

Everwise welcomes new Commercial Relationship Manager to Indianapolis area

The REPORTER

Everwise Credit Union has welcomed Darrius Davis as a Commercial Lending Relationship Manager. Davis will serve the Indianapolis community.

Davis joined Everwise in December 2023 and has been working in financial services since 2017, including three years in commercial lending. A graduate of Indiana

University Northwest with a degree in business administration, he has extensive knowledge in Commercial & Industrial lending, and expertise in SBA lending.

Born and raised in the Indianapolis area, Davis is driven by his proven work ethic and competitive nature to provide his clients with the tools necessary to grow their businesses.



Davis

Hamilton County Reporter



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Timothy “Tim” Edward Lacey
December 2, 1948 – January 14, 2024

Timothy “Tim” Edward Lacey, 75, Arcadia, passed away on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at his residence after an extended illness. Tim was born in Elwood on December 2, 1948, to the late Roy and Betty (Hahn) Lacey.

Tim grew up locally and attended Hamilton Heights High School. As a young kid, he would often help on his grandparents’ farm and grew to enjoy that lifestyle. Upon graduating high school, he went on to become a lineman for Public Service where he worked for 20 years, and then went on to start his own company. Lacey & Sons Utility Contractors, where he worked for 10 years before retiring. After retirement, Tim returned to his love of farming and helped many family friends on their farms. Tim loved being outdoors and would take any chance he got to go fishing, boating, or camping. He also enjoyed watching TV, especially when it came to sports or NASCAR racing.

Tim is survived by his daughter, Timara Lynn (John) Williams of Noblesville; son, Jason Edward (Shauna) Lacey of Arcadia; grandchildren, Robert, Steven, Emma, Shelby, Jessica, Katlyne, and Jacob; nine great-grandchildren; and his nephew, Ben Lacey.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents, Roy & Betty Lacey; and sister, Dana Lee Cutsinger.

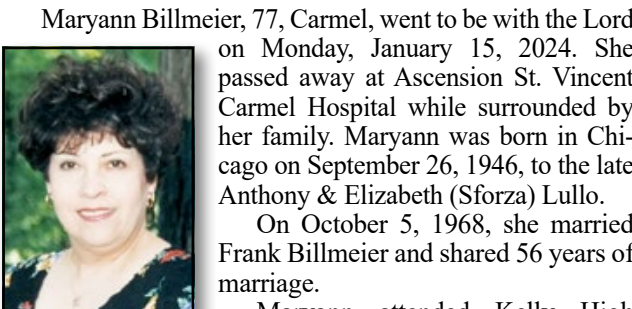
The funeral service will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Hartley Funeral Home, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero, with Josh Schriener officiating. Burial will follow in the Arcadia Brethren Cemetery. A time of visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Hartley Funeral Home, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Online condolences can be given at hartleyfuneral-homes.com.

Meeting Notices	
The Hamilton County Commissioners’ meeting scheduled for 1 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, has been changed to 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024.	The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee will hold a joint meeting at noon on Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, in the Commissioners’ Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.
The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St., Carmel.	The Hamilton County Election Board will convene a public meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, in the Conference Room of the Hamilton County Clerk’s Office at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, Suite 106, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville. The purpose of the meeting is to sign a resolution for the purpose of increasing the salaries of the Election Workers.
The Hamilton County Commissioners have changed the time of the Monday, April 8, 2024, to accommodate the noon closing of county facilities due to the solar eclipse. The public portion of the meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m.	

Maryann Billmeier
September 26, 1946 – January 15, 2024



Maryann Billmeier, 77, Carmel, went to be with the Lord on Monday, January 15, 2024. She passed away at Ascension St. Vincent Carmel Hospital while surrounded by her family. Maryann was born in Chicago on September 26, 1946, to the late Anthony & Elizabeth (Sforza) Lullo.

On October 5, 1968, she married Frank Billmeier and shared 56 years of marriage.

Maryann attended Kelly High School. She completed some college courses before starting her career as a legal secretary. Years later when she moved to Utah, Maryann moved into a teaching assistant position and continued with that work for several years in the Alpine School District in Orem, Utah, and the Crown Point School District in northern Indiana. She was a teaching assistant in the Alpine School District in Utah and Crown Point School District in northern Indiana. She was a practicing Catholic and was currently attending services at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Cicero. While living in Crown Pointe, Maryann was a member of St. Matthias Church where she volunteered in many capacities including helping in the church kitchen for events and funeral dinners. Although Maryann did not necessarily enjoy cooking, she was an excellent cook and would have to correct many of the dishes Frank would try to prepare. Maryann loved being with her family and celebrating the holidays and birthdays. She was known for having a card for every occasion. Maryann will be missed by many.

Maryann is survived by her husband, Frank Billmeier of Carmel; daughter, Elizabeth “Beth” (Kyle Krause) Billmeier of Morris Plains, N.J.; two sons, Brian (Jennifer) Billmeier of Danville, Ind., and Alex (Gretchen) Billmeier of Fishers; grandchildren, Addy, Keith, Duncan, Judah, Heidi, Grace, and Ava; brothers, Ronald (Arlene) Lullo of Downers Grove, Ill., and Donald (Mikki) Lullo of Florida; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Maryann was preceded in death by her parents, Anthony and Elizabeth Lullo; and brothers, Anthony and Robert Lullo.

The funeral mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, 410 S. Pearl St., Cicero, with Fr. Sean Pogue officiating. A time of visitation will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to: (1) St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital at stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html; or (2) Little Sisters of the Poor – St. Augustine Home in Indianapolis at tinyurl.com/45tv4tur.

Online condolences can be given at hartleyfuneral-homes.com.

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

LABAN PURSUES JACOB

On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had fled. Taking his relatives with him, he pursued Jacob for seven days and caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead. Then God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night and said to him, “Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.”

Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country of Gilead when Laban overtook him, and Laban and his relatives camped there too. Then Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done? You’ve deceived me, and you’ve carried off my daughters like captives in war. Why did you run off secretly and deceive me? Why didn’t you tell me, so I could send you away with joy and singing to the music of timbrels and harps?”

Genesis 31:22-27 (NIV)

Bess (Theda) Ely

July 3, 1940 – January 13, 2024

Bess (Theda) Ely, 83, Arcadia, passed away on January 13, 2024, at The Waters in Tipton, Ind.

She was born on July 3, 1940, in Poughkeepsie, Ark., to Gather and Lessie (Hughes) Vanwinkle. She graduated from Poughkeepsie High School. After high school, Bess traveled the country playing basketball with the All American Red Heads and Hazel Walker’s Arkansas Travelers. She moved to Indiana and married Edgar (Larson) Ely. Bess worked as a butcher at Bob’s Market in Arcadia and custodian at Sheridan Adams Elementary School where she retired.

Bess enjoyed playing softball, attending sporting events, gardening, and going for long walks in Arcadia. She dearly loved her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, five sisters, and four brothers – Lloyd Vanwinkle (Santee, Calif.), Lois Stevens (Gas City, Ind.), Clara Simmons (Marion, Ind.), WS Vanwinkle (Noblesville), Mildred Covey (Salem, Ark.), Buhton Simpson (Salem, Ark.), Frances McCrackin (Mountain Home, Ark.), Billy Vanwinkle (Poughkeepsie, Ark.), and Bobby Vanwinkle (Cave City, Ark.).

Survivors include her husband, Edgar Larson Ely of Arcadia; son, Ed (Cathy) Ely of Arcadia; daughter, Phyllis Ely (Brett Carnaby) of Westfield; granddaughter, Paige (Justin) Ousley of Arcadia; and great-grandchildren, Anthony, Meredith, and Winter.

Thanks for reading The Reporter!

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10717 Upland Way
Noblesville • \$349,900

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Welcome to this lovely 4BR, 2.5BA home, kitchen with center island and newer SS appliances, spacious family room with gas fireplace, park-like backyard with maintenance-free deck, auto-retractable awning, paver patio, basketball court and cute she shed. **BLC#21949680**

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Boys Basketball

Westfield beats conference rival Noblesville

By **RICHIE HALL**

sports@readthereporter.com

NOBLESVILLE — There was a sectional-like atmosphere at The Mill on Wednesday, as two of Indiana's best high school boys basketball teams met up for a Hoosier Crossroad Conference clash.

Westfield took on Noblesville in a game that was postponed; it was originally supposed to be played on Dec. 15. But it was worth the wait for the Class 4A No. 3 Shamrocks, as they emerged victorious over the 4A No. 4 Millers 58-54 to stay unbeaten for the year at 11-0.

It was a true game of runs, especially in the first half. The teams traded 3-pointers for most of the first quarter, with Trey Buchanan and Will Harvey hitting triples for Westfield and Justin Curry and Aaron Fine answering with 3s for Noblesville.

A basket by Caleb Wise and a score off a steal by Harvey with seconds left in the quarter gave the 'Rocks a 10-6 lead, then Nic Book opened the second period with a basket. The Millers went on a 10-0 run to jump ahead 16-12; Hunter Walston and Fine both nailed 3s to finish the spurt.

Buchanan hit a triple, then Drew Haffner's three-point play got Westfield



Photos by Joshua Herd

(Above) Westfield's Durante Morton made critical free throws down the stretch for the Shamrocks, helping them clinch a 58-54 Hoosier Crossroads Conference win over Noblesville Wednesday night at The Mill. Pictured for the Millers is Ryan Vektor. (Right) Nic Book had a double-double for Westfield, scoring 13 points and pulling 10 rebounds.

ahead 18-16. But Fine made two layins to finish the quarter and put Noblesville up 20-18 at the break.

Baron Walker began the second half with a 3, and that helped the Millers to a 28-22 lead early in the third. But a 6-0 run brought the Shamrocks back to even at 28-28, then Wise and Buchanan made layins to end the quarter and give Westfield a 35-32 lead.

Book took over in the fourth quarter. With the score tied at 36-36, the senior from New Zealand hit

back-to-back jump shots to get the Shamrocks ahead 40-36. Westfield never trailed again, turning those baskets into a 15-6 run. Book made a layin and Buchanan was good on two free throws to put the 'Rocks up 51-42, the largest lead of the game.

Shamrocks coach Shane Sumpter credited his team with responding well after the Millers "threw their big punch there" during the second half, "and I thought Nic was really good down the stretch."

"I have trust in my teammates and they have trust in

me," said Book. "So whoever gets the ball, I'm happy with that as long as we get the open shot."

Noblesville made things interesting by scoring five fast points off a Curry 3 and a Walker basket from a steal. But Westfield sealed the win from the free-throw line; Durante Morton hit 3 of 4 during a 20-second span, then Buchanan and Harvey both added two more to clinch the game.

"We were just fortunate to make some plays down the stretch," said Sumpter.



"Durate hit some key free throws."

Buchanan totaled 17 points for the 'Rocks, including three 3s, while Harvey scored 14. Book reached double-double status with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Fine led all scorers with 22 points. Curry also had three 3s while scoring 13 points. Walston led the rebounds with seven, followed by Curry and Will

Smits with five each.

"I just felt like they won the toughness plays tonight," said Noblesville coach Scott McClelland. "We gave up a couple of offensive rebounds on free throws. I thought our half-court defense in the first half was pretty good, we just gave up some transition baskets."

See Rivals . . . Page 12

Wrestling

Huskies get three champions at Hoosier Conference meet

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Heights wrestling team finished third at the Hoosier Conference meet, which took place last Saturday at Western.

The Huskies scored 185.5 points. Rensselaer Central was the team champion, edging out the host Panthers 243-240.

Heights had three weight-class champions, starting with Alex Furst at 138 pounds. Furst won his opening match by fall, took a semifinal by major decision, then beat Benton Central's Joseph Mendoza in a 7-2 decision for the title.

Carson Fettig zoomed through the 150-pound division. He received a forfeit in the quarterfinals, barely broke a sweat with a 32-second pin in the semifinal, then defeated Rensselaer's Cayden Webb by an 18-4 major decision in the championship. Fettig is 35-1 for the season.

Michael Cain was the winner at 165 pounds. He also got a quarterfinal forfeit, won a 12-3 major decision in the semifinals, then toughed out a 7-5 decision over Rensselaer's Jack Jordan to win the title.

Four more Huskies finished as runners-up in their weight classes. Kendall Moe took second at 106, Isaac Kuhn was the 132-pound runner-up, Jaylyn Pugh was second at 144 and Andrew Laitas finished

runner-up at 285.

Other Heights place winners were Simon Kuhn (third at 157), Cooper Doucette (fourth at 113) and Joshua Getchell (sixth at 120).

The Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet also took place last Saturday at Franklin Central.

Brownsburg dominated the meet, running away with the team championship by scoring 320 points. The Bulldogs had 10 individual champions and four runners-up, meaning Brownsburg placed in the top two in all 14 weight divisions.

Avon finished second as a team with 185 points. Noblesville placed third with 132 points and was the only school besides Brownsburg to have more than one individual champion.

Gage Gulley took first at 175 pounds, getting a quarterfinal pin, a 9-0 major decision in the semifinals, and a 6-5 decision victory over the Bulldogs' Griffin Campbell in the championship. Austin Hastings stormed through the 285-pound class, winning all three of his matches by fall. Hastings pinned Brownsburg's Maximus Forrester for the title.

Aidan Kincaide was the runner-up at 157 pounds. Other Noblesville place winners were Carter Richardson (third at 165), Luke Chastain



Photo provided

Sheridan's Caleb Alexander get a pin in a 120-pound match during the Tri-Central Duals last Saturday.

(fourth at 138), Cody Prater (fifth at 106), Evan Nicholls (fifth at 144), Josh Kauzlick (sixth at 126), Mason Presits (sixth at 132), Caleb Lee-man (sixth at 150) and Cale Metzler (sixth at 215).

Hamilton Southeastern

scored 127.5 points to finish fourth. Chris Casler was the runner-up at 144 pounds, while Evan Lawhead was second at 215. Other place winners were: Nick Anderson (third at 126), Cohen Davis (third at 150),

Zach Lang (third at 157), De Shawn Ternoir (third at 190), Tyler Jackson (fourth at 113), Landon Hicks (fourth at 175), Matt Billet (fifth at 138), Nate Ingalls (fifth at 285) and Will Lakes (sixth at 106).

Fishers placed fifth with a score of 120.5 points. Xavier Smith was the champion at 165 pounds for the Tigers. He earned a technical fall in his quarterfinal match,

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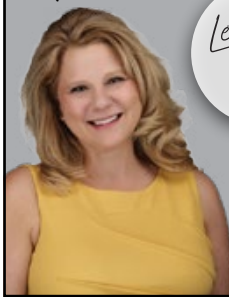
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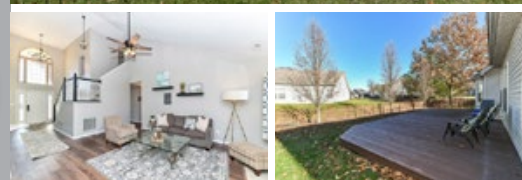
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Fishers Express 11U gearing up for tournament play

The REPORTER

The Fishers Express White 11U team held its second practice this past weekend. On March 3, the team will start an indoor league at Mojo Up Sports Complex, 16289 Boden Road, Noblesville.

Tournament play will begin after Spring Break, the weekend of April 12, in the Grand Park Spring Shootout.

Keep reading The Reporter throughout the spring season for updates on youth baseball.

Coaches

- Chris Farr, Assistant Coach
- Matt Holle, Assistant Coach
- Collin McGrady, Assistant Coach
- Kyle Slade, Head Coach
- Rich Torres, Assistant Coach

Players

- #3 Luke Olson
- #5 Will Salde
- #7 Will Farr
- #9 Evan Oliver
- #10 Ryland Torres
- #11 Keaton Kinnaman
- #19 Cade Fuller
- #23 Christian Ward
- #24 CJ Branock
- #28 Henry McGrady
- #99 Houston Holle

