


See Vegas . . . Page 2

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Quietly Making Noise



Scott Saalman

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BEAUTIFUL

from Page 1

Mann, Cynthia’s songwriting boyfriend. The show is directed by Heather Patterson King and choreographed by Kenney Green-Tilford.

Beautiful headlines Beef & Boards’ 2024 Season and is on stage for 55 performances through March 30 in the intimate space of Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre. Tickets range from \$55 to \$82 and include Chef Larry Stoops’ dinner buffet and select beverages.

To see the complete performance schedule and to purchase tickets online, visit BeefAndBoards.com. Tickets are also available by calling the Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre Box Office at (317) 872-9664 between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday (from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays). Discounts are available to groups of 20 or more. Call the Group Sales department at (317) 872-0503, or email groups@beefandboards.com for details.

This production of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* is licensed by Music Theatre International and sponsored in part by Current Publishing.

Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Indiana's only year-round professional dinner theatre, has been serving up exceptional entertainment since 1973.

VEGAS

from Page 1

I’m sure there’s an app for that. Where’s Shecky Greene when you need him?

What’s not magical about Vegas are the homeless on the Strip’s pedestrian bridges and sidewalks who wait for the coin to ting in their cups – though I suspect coins are an insult to the down-and-out who are within earshot of slot machine chatter. Cardboard signs that once read HUNGRY, HOMELESS, NEED MONEY FOR FOOD have been reworded with cynical phrases like, WHY LIE? I NEED A BEER.

Along the Strip, I passed through a gauntlet of desperate hawkers who made snapping noises and pushed cards at me. Being from Indiana, I don’t like to hurt people’s feelings, so I graciously stuffed the cards in my pockets, assuming I was being gifted with discounts for steaks or Cirque du Soleil. The cards were similar in size to the Topps trading cards of my youth. When I finally stopped to examine a new batch, I saw not baseball players with names like Bench, Perez, and Rose but girls with names like Tawny, Marnee, and Desiree.

It would be an understatement to say the girls lacked uniforms.

I don’t recall my baseball cards having players’ phone numbers on them either. And where was the bubblegum? The long dormant altar boy within me wanted to erupt from my skin and shout to the neon night, “We don’t do this in Indiana.”

I panicked. I couldn’t just drop the cards on the sidewalk, for surely, I’d be arrested for littering and have to show up in court to face the humiliating evidence – “Your fingerprints are all over them.” With my pants’ pockets bulging with skin cards, I returned to the MGM. The song playing in the elevator was – I kid you not – Foreigner’s “Dirty White Boy.”

In my room, I couldn’t even throw the cards away in the trash can – for what would housecleaning think? I pondered calling Desiree just to come and take the cards away. I ended up ditching my collection at the airport before takeoff for home, proving once again that what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas – unless you’re foolish enough to write about it.

This story is one of over 60 in Scott’s new humor column collection, “Quietly Making Noise,” available on Amazon. Contact him if you would like a speaker at a meeting or event at scottsaalman@gmail.com.

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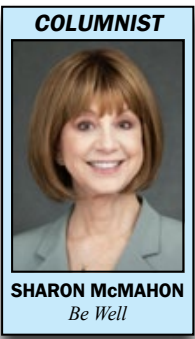
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Carnivores, omnivores, vegetarians, vegans – unite!

“Honey this may be the best fried chicken yet!” – Bruce

Dear Readers – lest I neglect the major portion of our population who enjoy their beef, poultry, and pork entrees, please allow me to tag on to my last column which, among many other suggestions for healthy eating, extols the benefits of adopting vegetarian cuisine. Let’s find common ground! You will note the quote above by my meat-loving hubby who enjoys his fried chicken above most other food items. He also says my meatloaf is the best ever! As a vegetarian myself I take his word for it.

The gentleman quoted above has nearly 50 years in the food industry with much of that involving expertise in evaluating and selling meat products. Yes, we have made a marriage work for 44 years out of respect for one another’s dietary preferences.



SHARON McMAHON
Be Well

Dinner is always interesting. And we usually agree on dessert!

So – let’s talk about the most popular beef/poultry/pork items as we all want to make the healthiest choices for ourselves and our families. I believe most of us are aware that meat items found in our local grocery centers did not originate on “Old McDonald’s Farm” in a bucolic setting. Frankly, much of consumers’ choices today began life in a more factory-oriented or industrial farming environment, as that is the most cost-effective method for consumers.

Moving on beyond that information, let’s focus on what consumers should know when purchasing meat items. First of all, it is important to use your senses of touch, smell, and sight. Always make certain that the meat is firm to the touch. It should also be cold to the touch and have no odor.*

Here are some more specific details:

- Pork should have a pinkish-red color, with any fat white in color, with no dark spots. Avoid choosing meat that is pale in color.

- Beef should be bright cherry color. If beef is in a sealed bag, the color is typically a darker purplish-red. Once exposed to air, it will turn a bright red.

- Poultry should never be tinged with a grayish color but should always be pinkish.

Most manufacturers use fillers, either water-based or oil based, and are added to raw meat and poultry cuts adding weight to the finished product. Some cuts have added solution up to 25 percent of volume! For instance, enzyme-tenderizing solutions are often added to raw beef cuts from no-roll carcasses (i.e., a carcass that did not grade as prime or choice) or raw poultry cuts from mature birds to reduce the toughness of connective tissue in the cut.¹

Antibiotic use in livestock has long been a controversial topic as it regards human health effects. There is much information available from accredited institutions, and if this is something of interest to you, I suggest that you do your own research to make the best dietary decisions for you and your family.

In the meantime, dear carnivores, omnivores, vegetarians, and vegans, just make sure that you have a balanced eating plan which incorporates adequate amounts of protein, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals to give you optimum health results.

**Seafood items will be addressed in a future column.*

¹Food Standards and Labeling Policy Book ([fsis.usda.gov](https://www.fsis.usda.gov))

Sharon McMahon, CNWC

The opinions expressed in this article are not intended to replace advice of your personal physician or licensed health professional. Please consult your physician for any issues you may have related to nutrition or fitness activity.

All about Axolotls

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



ELLIE O'BANION
Sheridan High School Student

Axolotls are Mexican amphibians, falling under the salamander category, and they live in two lakes, including Lake Xochimilco and Lake Chalco in Mexico.

The Axolotl is a species scientists are apprehensive about going extinct soon; they estimate that there are only about 50 to 1,000 left in the wild. That number is greatly decreasing and is too fast for humans to be sure that they can help stabilize their numbers.

They are one of the only animals who don’t grow out of their baby stages. From the baby stage, they still have their feathery gills, webbed feet, dorsal fin, and a tail. This is a stage in which nothing further progresses in the growing cycle, also known as neoteny.

Like other amphibians, Axolotls can lose a limb and be able to grow them back, which can take different amounts of time depending on what they lose. Most injuries take around 40 to 50 days to grow back.

Their scientific name is the *Ambystoma Mexicanum*; however, their normal name comes from a god known as Aztec, the god of fire and lightning. Aztec would also disguise himself as an amphibian, which is where the name corresponds to the Axolotls.

Axolotls were brought to Paris in 1864 to be bred and kept as pets for people. In the wild, they are a brown-tannish color but

once they were bred for pets they mutated and now are mainly seen as a shade of pink. Many different places in the U.S. have banned owning an Axolotl as a pet, in fear of them

escaping and breeding with other salamanders of a different species and being poached from the wild.

The Axolotl's numbers are decreasing so fast due to the increase in population sizes in Mexico, the increase in tourism and residential housing, and the space they use to build the home of the species. Another factor behind the decrease in their population numbers includes the agricultural and industrial pollution in the lakes they live in. The introduction of Tilapia and other invasive species have caused a decrease in their population as they tend to hunt and eat newborn salamanders.

Scientists are trying to create a new chain of islands to help take out some of the pollution, and in turn, help the Axolotl as well as other animals. This chain of islands is made of water plants, logs, and mud.

Axolotls reach the reproduction stage at one year old, and males will perform a dance known as the “hula” for the female. The female will show she accepts him by nudging him with her nose. A female Axolotl can lay up to 1,000 eggs, with the average being approximately 300. They lay them on plants and rocks on the lake floor to keep them safe from predators. The eggs will take about two weeks to hatch and immediately are off learning how to survive without parental care.



Photo provided

Noblesville & Carmel Lions assist Gleaners



Photos provided by Noblesville Lions Club / Jake Doll

On Thursday, the Noblesville and Carmel Lions Clubs assisted Gleaners in distributing food to needy customers. This was done at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds in Noblesville. This is a monthly event. The following Noblesville Lions helped: Steve Shaw, Gary Hipes, Joe Connerly, Jeff Kozicki, and Josh Kozicki. From the Carmel Lions: Bill Wrin, Matt Best, and Bob Yunker.



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Celebrating Hamilton Heights School Board

Submitted

January is School Board Appreciation Month. Hamilton Heights School Corporation is honored to celebrate and recognize members of its School Board of Trustees for their dedication and commitment to the district and its students.

HHSC has five extraordinary individuals who are tasked with the enormous job of governing the school district: Kevin Cavanaugh, Arnie Cooper, Julie Davis, Ben Lehman, and Gretchen Pennington. Together they work to safeguard two of the Heights' community's most precious resources – its children and its tax dollars – while striving to create the best educational environment possible with the resources available.

Dr. Kevin Cavanaugh

Dr. Cavanaugh has served as a Hamilton Heights School Board member representing Jackson Township since January 2017. He is the co-founder, part owner, and President of Peterson Corn Genetics, is the current Secretary of the School Board and is a past Vice President and President of the School Board.

His exacting focus to ensure each deliberation, decision, and action reflects the best interests of every student at Heights continues to make a meaningful impact for students now and in the future. He and his wife Carey have two children, who are Hamilton Heights graduates.

Q: What motivates you to serve on the school board?

A: A strong education has been very important in my life. It has enabled me to do many things. Serving on the School Board is a great way for me to give back to the community and help build a strong foundation for the next generation of leaders and contributing community members. Seeing the success of our students after they leave Hamilton Heights and know you were a small part of that is an incredible feeling.

Q: What is one specific strength you bring to the board table?

A: A big part of strong public education is being able to use the available resources that are provided to Hamilton Heights and utilize them to the fullest to build strong academic programs, teaching faculty, and facilities to serve the students. I feel I bring strong financial expertise and long-term vision to maximize our resources to serve our students.

Q: What do you like best about being a member of the school board?

A: There are some great people at Hamilton Heights! The opportunity to interact with the administration, teachers, staff, and students is an absolute privilege! Watching students excel in academics, socially, and in sports after the Board worked to provide an outstanding teaching environment and facilities is very rewarding!

Q: What is an accomplishment during your tenure with which you are most proud?

A: One thing that I have learned early in my tenure is that education is constantly changing. Through the COVID pandemic, the team had to constantly change the way education was delivered to students. I'm most proud of the team for adapting to the changing environment of education and continually bringing solutions to help every segment of the student population succeed and become contributing members of society for the future.

Q: What makes this board effective?

A: No two individuals are the same. We have different experiences, backgrounds, strengths, and weaknesses. That is the same for our School Board members. Everyone brings different strengths and passions to the Board. Recognizing the strengths of each member and having varied experiences makes the Board a powerful decision making body that results in creative, well thought out, fiscally responsible decisions.

Q: What is one thing you feel the district is doing well to prepare students for success in school and life?

A: Education is not one size fits all. The diversity of our academic programs enables Heights to prepare each student to be successful in life. Some students want to pursue a college degree, others want to jump in immediately to the work force, while others are choosing entirely different pathways. Heights creates these different pathways to ensure the success of each student. Adding programs to enhance the educational experience of each student is a real strength at Hamilton Heights.

Q: What is one thing about being a member of the school board that you think the community should know but probably doesn't?

A: I think people that attend a school board meeting may leave thinking that the meeting was scripted and that the Board just went through the motions during the meeting. What the community doesn't see is the hours of listening, discussion, discovery, and problem solving that happen leading up to the Board meeting. By the time the Board meeting occurs, the Board has usually looked at a decision from 360 degrees and has come to a well thought out conclusion to achieve our goal of providing our students with the best education and facilities for learning and future success.

Arnett (Arnie) Cooper

Cooper has served as a Hamilton Heights School Board member representing White River and Jackson townships since July 2010. He is the longest-serving member of the current board. He is a 1963 graduate of Jackson Central High School, a lifelong resident of the Hamilton Heights district, a United States Air Force veteran



Cavanaugh



Cooper



Davis



Lehman



Pennington



and retired toolmaker at Chrysler Corporation in Kokomo.

Having served in a number of leadership roles during his tenure, he is currently the School Board President. He is an ardent supporter of Heights and his passion for public education is seen in his service and decisions. His children are graduates of Hamilton Heights.

Q: What motivates you to serve on the school board?

A: I have enjoyed seeing how our facilities change, for the better, and enjoy seeing how the students and staff have reacted to these changes. Also, how these changes have helped in the education of the students of Hamilton Heights.

Q: What is one specific strength you bring to the board table?

A: Living in this community my whole life, except when I was in the Air Force, and helping our students to have a better education.

Q: What do you like best about being a member of the school board?

A: Talking to people in the community and getting their input as to what will make this the best school for our students.

Q: What is an accomplishment during your tenure of which you are most proud?

A: The learning environment which has been created for our students and providing our teachers and staff a better work environment. I especially like the West side of the high school where students are prepared to enter the workforce after graduation and immediately make a good living doing something they enjoy.

Q: What makes this board effective?

A: We are not afraid to voice our opinions and air our differences and still be able to work together for the betterment of HHSC.

Q: What is one thing you feel the district is doing well to prepare students for success in school and life?

A: Giving them a sound education which they can use in whatever way they wish.

Q: What is one thing about being a member of the school board that you think the community should know but probably doesn't?

A: I think that I have lived in this community so long that there isn't much people don't know about me if they know me at all. I graduated from Jackson Central High School a couple of years before Hamilton Heights was formed.

Julie Davis

Davis has served as a Hamilton Heights School Board member representing Jackson Township since January 2019. She is the first educator to serve on the board and she served as School Board President in 2022. She is a retired English Teacher and Department Chair, who spent most of her career in education as an English teacher at Heights, working with students of all levels of ability, interests, and learning styles.

She brings incredible insight, passion, and perspective to her role on the board. She has two children who are Heights graduates and two grandchildren currently enrolled at Heights.

Q: What motivates you to serve on the school board?

A: I have been connected with Hamilton Heights schools nearly all my life, whether as a student and graduate, a teacher, or an instructional assistant. I have seen many positive changes, both in facilities, curriculum, and School Board transparency. I am honored to be a part of this amazing corporation as it continues to move ahead.

Q: What is one specific strength you bring to the board table?

A: As a former teacher and Instructional Assistant (IA), I worked closely with students of all interests and abilities for 45 years. I have witnessed their changing needs, and I understand what is necessary in supporting and empowering our teaching staff and administration to provide for these needs.

Q: What do you like best about being a member of the school board?

A: I love the opportunity to support students of all ages and interests, and I find it exciting that we are exploring ways to meet their changing needs. I am passionate about talking with students, parents, and teachers to see how we can continue to improve.

Q: What is an accomplishment during your tenure that you are most proud of?

A: I am particularly proud of the curricular opportunities that have been explored and implemented for students. We have established a Special Needs department that is

second to none, and inclusion makes everyone better. And, of course, the buildings and grounds look amazing, thanks to Project Vision and the Master Plan.

Q: What makes this board effective?

A: The Board members listen to each other and work well together, even when we don't always agree. This Board is transparent and listens to students, staff, and patrons. We do our research to be able to make the best possible decisions.

Q: What is one thing you feel the district is doing well to prepare students for success in school and life?

A: Hamilton Heights seeks to accept and nurture all students, regardless of their interests and backgrounds. Pathways and our involvement with the Ford Next Generation program have allowed us to support all student interests, whether they seek enrollment, employment, or enlistment as options for the future. Students have been instrumental in the planning and decision-making process.

Q: What is one thing about being a member of the school board that you think the community should know but probably doesn't?

A: I hope that the community understands how much research and study the Board engages in before decisions are made. If our actual Board meetings seem to run smoothly and without incident, it is because we have extensively done our homework. Community members are always welcome to attend these meetings, and to visit with us before or after. I also encourage attendance at Dr. Arrowood's Superintendent Advisory Committee meetings to learn, share, and express ideas.

Ben Lehman

Lehman (Class of 2003) is the first Heights graduate of this century to be elected to the school board. He is the newest member, beginning his second term this month. He is deeply invested in the community and is working to make a meaningful difference for the district during his tenure.

He is a CPA and part owner of Lehman and Company in Noblesville. He has two children enrolled at Hamilton Heights.

Q: What motivates you to serve on the school board?

A: My main motivation is my general love to serve. I want to be a voice for our kids, community, and teachers. As a member of the school board, I can help proactively set the standards of achievement for our district rather than simply wanting for better on the sidelines.

Q: What is one specific strength you bring to the board table?

A: My main strength is my ability to look at an issue and take from my life experiences to find a solution. I work daily with businesses to develop solutions and being on the school board presents the same opportunities to help find solutions on issues that impact public education at the local level.

Q: What do you like best about being a member of the school board?

A: The opportunity to listen to the people I represent and be a part of a collective voice in advocating for the best educational experience possible for every student. Working together toward a common goal (the best interests of every child) yields the best outcomes.

Q: What is an accomplishment during your tenure of which you are most proud?

A: Honestly, for me pride comes before the fall. I'm just grateful for the opportunity to serve and do my part to make a difference for the children in our community.

Q: What makes this board effective?

A: Respect and the ability to listen to different opinions and find either a common ground or the ability to agree to disagree. At the end of the day, it is our diversity that brings us together and makes us a stronger, more unified governing body for Hamilton Heights.

Q: What is one thing you feel the district is doing well to prepare students for success in school and life?

A: We are expanding past just preparing kids for college. We are assisting them by offering more opportunities and experiences that open doors to different post-secondary pathways whether it be college, a trade, public service, or the armed forces.

Q: What is one thing about being a member of the school board that you think the community should know but probably doesn't?

A: The school board is incredibly intentional and truly wants the best for all students. I never knew how much time, effort, research, thought, and pre-meeting discussion goes into every decision this board makes until I was elected. I'm incredibly grateful and appreciative to my colleagues on the board.

Gretchen Pennington

Pennington has served as a Hamilton Heights School Board member representing White River Township since January 2021. A Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Hamilton County, she sought the seat because she believes there is no greater way to give back to the community than to serve as a member of the Hamilton Heights School Board.

She is married to Ed, a 1990 graduate of Hamilton Heights, and they have three children who are graduates of Hamilton Heights. She is currently Vice-President of the School Board.

Q: What motivates you to serve on the school board?

A: The desire to see all students learn, grow, and develop into the best versions of themselves and knowing that Hamilton Heights played a significant role in laying that foundation!

Q: What is one specific strength you bring to the board table?

A: One specific strength of mine is the ability to keep an open mind while obtaining and processing information, opinions, and perspectives.

Q: What do you like best about being a member of the school board?

A: Quite simply, the opportunities to interact and work with many people and witness the Husky Pride of our students, parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and community.

Q: What is an accomplishment during your tenure with which you are most proud?

A: The many accomplishments of HHSC are a collaborative effort. I'm proud to be a part of this process and its success. The focus and dedication to provide a safe, learning environment that adjusts to the needs of our students and community is amazing and humbling.

Q: What makes this board effective?

A: The diverse backgrounds of this board improve the decision-making process by bringing a greater variety of approaches, perspectives, and ideas when representing the best interests of Hamilton Heights School Corporation and the community it serves.

Q: What is one thing you feel the district is doing well to prepare students for success in school and life?

A: HHSC is broadening the opportunities for students to explore and experience different job or career pathways through CTE and the Ford Next Generation Learning so each student will graduate from Hamilton Heights better prepared for future employment, secondary education, or serving in the armed services.

Thank you all for being front-line advocates in providing a local voice for the community, a vision for the district, and a pathway to success for Hamilton Heights students.



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— Good news from Stony Creek Church of Christ —

Questions I want to ask God

“God, why is there so much suffering and evil in the world?”

All of us probably have questions of a spiritual nature that we would like to ask God.

We can't answer every conceivable question because God has not revealed some things (Deuteronomy 29:29). However, we can have comfort in the knowledge that He has given us all the essential information that we need (2 Peter 1:3). The only source for this information is in the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16,17). The question for this article is: God, why is there so much suffering and evil in the world?

The problem of human suffering poses a great philosophical dilemma for many people. As a Christian I believe that God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving. The unbeliever and skeptic argue. If God does not know about pain and suffering, He is not all-knowing. If He knows but is unable to stop the suffering, He is not all-powerful. If He knows and can stop it, but won't, He is not all-loving. If He is not all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving, He is not God.



What can we say in answer to this challenge?

All people suffer. “Man, who is born of a woman, is few of days and full of trouble (Job 14:1). Some suffer for doing evil; that is, they bring it upon themselves (1 Peter 4:15). Some suffer for doing good (1 Peter 4:16, 2 Timothy 3:12, John 15:18,19). Good men often receive ill-treatment from those who cannot abide their goodness. Some suffer as the result of the sins and foolishness of others. Some suffer in a “no fault” manner (John 9:1-3).

The main point to remember: Don't blame God for suffering – blame man and Satan! When God finished His creation, everything was “very good” (Genesis 1:31). The whole of creation was complete and perfect. Pestilence, disease, and human death were unknown. Man existed in an idyllic paradise of happiness and beauty.

But in Genesis 3:16, 17 there is the first mention of suffering. What happened between these two references? Satan and sin. Man, not God, bears the responsibility for the existence

of evil and suffering in the world. Man was created with the freedom of choice. Much of the pain in the world comes from man's freedom of choice. When man chose evil, the result was pain and suffering (Genesis 3:16-19).

Does the existence of choice and the resulting suffering negate the benevolence or power of God? God created a world ruled by natural laws established at creation. If man violates one of those laws or places himself in the “line of fire” he's going to suffer. Not because of what God has done, but as a result of what he, the man, has done. Consider the law of gravity – a good thing. But, if I step off the balcony of a five-story building, I'm going to have a rude reception when I hit the pavement.

Instead of blaming God when tragedies such as natural disasters strike, we need to turn to Him for strength, and let tragedies, of whatever nature, remind us that this world was never intended to be a final home (Hebrews 11:13-16).

Good can come from suffering (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). It discourages evil and punishes evildoers (Proverbs 13:15). It reminds us of the vanity and brevity of life (Ecclesiastes

7:2). It strengthens the faith of Christians (1 Peter 1:6-9). It keeps the world from becoming too attractive to us (1 Peter 2:11-12; Hebrews 11:13-16). It helps make us more sympathetic and useful to others (2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Romans 12:15).

Only the feeble and foolish would deny the existence of evil in this world. However, such is not the fault of God or evidence of some frailty or cruelty on the part of God. Why is there evil in the world? Look in the mirror.

Write or call and let us know what you think. Would you like more information or a personal study of this issue? I would love to accommodate your request. Do you have questions or disagreements? We will be happy to study God's Word with you and help you find the “peace that passes understanding” (Philippians 4:7).

We hope you will accept our offer to visit and investigate. We meet at 15530 Herriman Blvd. in Noblesville. Our phone number is (317) 219-5852. We meet for Sunday morning Bible Study at 10 a.m. and have classes for all ages. Worship begins at 11 a.m. and we have a Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 p.m. A warm welcome awaits!

TCC honored as one of the best places to work in 2024

The REPORTER

For the second time in three years, Fishers-based company TCC, one of the nation's largest Authorized Verizon Retailers, has been named a winner of Glassdoor's annual Employees' Choice Awards, honoring the **Best Places to Work 2024**.

Unlike other workplace awards, the Glassdoor Employees' Choice Awards are based on the input of employees who voluntarily provide anonymous feedback on Glassdoor by completing a company review about their job, work environment and employer over the past year. Founded in 1991, TCC is a privately held wireless retailer operating over 500 locations across the U.S.

“We take great pride in the strong relationships we have cultivated with our employees and the opportunities made available to them to support their personal and professional growth,” said Scott Moorehead, CEO of **Round Room**, the parent company of TCC. “It is an honor to be recognized as one of the Best Places to Work by a platform that values the same ideals as us. We are dedicated to the well-being of our people and believe that a thriving workplace culture goes beyond office walls; it encompasses a sense of purpose and community.”

As a Culture of Good, Inc. company, TCC makes ongoing investments in the communities it operates in. In 2023, the company donated 120,000 backpacks containing school supplies with its sister company, **Wireless Zone**, to children across the nation through the 11th annual School Rocks Backpack Giveaway, marking 1.3 million backpacks donated by TCC since 2013. The company also gave away a **Mega Grant** of \$1.7 million

to seven Indianapolis-based nonprofits that included a \$60,000 transportation allowance. Additionally, TCC held in-store pet supply drives and shelter animal adoption events through its Rescues Rocks campaign and provided funds to each of its stores to shower teachers with love through its Teachers Rock program.

TCC's nonprofit organization, **TCC Gives**, has provided more than \$4.5 million in donations to local nonprofits across the country. The Culture of Good also benefits TCC internally, as the company has been nationally recognized for its company culture and currently boasts industry-leading employee satisfaction scores across employer review services. TCC's belief in supporting employee interests and encouraging volunteerism is not just a corporate checkbox – it's ingrained in the company's DNA. Glassdoor's Best Places to Work award recognition solidifies TCC's commitment to fostering a culture of giving back to those who make the company successful.

Employees' Choice Award winners for the Best Places to Work 2024 are determined using Glassdoor's proprietary awards algorithm, and each employer's rating is determined based on the quantity, quality and consistency of Glassdoor-approved company reviews submitted by U.S.-based employees during a one-year period. The complete awards methodology can be found [here](#).

For the complete list of the Glassdoor Best Places to Work winners in 2024, please visit gldr.co/BPTW. To learn more about TCC, visit TCCRocks.com. Customers can also connect with the company at facebook.com/tcctalk and twitter.com/tcctalk.

Need a caterer? Then we have just two words for you: Foodies Rock, yo!

The REPORTER

Did you know Westfield Washington Schools has a program teaching students the culinary arts profession?

FCCLA Foodies Rock is a fully functioning food-service operation that is student-centered and fostered through the Westfield

High School Culinary Arts program. Members are highly trained in customer service, hospitality, culinary techniques, food safety and sanitation.

Foodies Rock holds a Food Permit by the Hamilton County Board of Health. Advisors Nikki Heflin and Bryan Ferreira

are ServSafe Manager certified, and they will follow the National Restaurant Association's Guidelines for food preparation.

Chef Heflin and Chef Ferreira each have over 20 years of industry experience, and love guiding their students in making both the optics and cuisine

for your event out of this world.

Check out this full list of opportunities to work with FCCLA Foodies Rock and book today.

Inquire with Chef Nikki Heflin for booking by emailing whsfoodies-rock@wws.k12.in.us or calling (317) 701-4440.

So Many Unanswered Questions!



Dad, why is the sky blue? Why is it dark at night? Why can't I have cake for breakfast?" If you have children you have likely faced these or similar questions from inquiring young minds. Do you always have logical truthful answers? Even as adults we often face questions of life that are problematic to answer.

We will never find all the answers for all the questions, but God has given me all that I need to live a pleasant peaceful life. I find that information in the Bible. We invite you to join us for Bible Study and Worship as we seek a better understanding of God's answer book.

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

Carmel well represented at Hoosier Champions of Diversity Awards



Photo provided by City of Carmel

The City of Carmel was a proud sponsor and attendee of the 17th annual Champions of Diversity Awards hosted by *Indiana Minority Business Review Magazine*, *Minority Business Review*, and the *Indianapolis Recorder*. This annual event recognizes outstanding Hoosier individuals, companies and organizations for their passion and dedication to the promotion and advocacy of equity and inclusion in Indiana. (Standing, from left) Kelvin Okamoto, Mayor's Advisory Commission on Human Relations; Dee Thornton, Mayor's Advisory Commission on Human Relations; Don Thornton, spouse of Dee Thornton. (Seated, from left) Ramu Chinthala, Carmel-Visakhapatnam Sister City Committee; Raju Chinthala, Mayor's Advisory Commission on Human Relations and Carmel-Visakhapatnam Sister City Committee; Pavan Varma, Carmel-Visakhapatnam Sister City Committee; Mike Hollibaugh, City of Carmel; Kate Lustig, City of Carmel, Asian American Alliance, Inc., Board Member; Matthew Broadnax, Carmel Police Department; and Sonya Broadnax, spouse of Matthew Broadnax. [Click here](#) for the complete list of 2024 award recipients.



Bridging the age gap

Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County partners with students from Westfield High School

The REPORTER Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County is partnering with Westfield High School students involved in the "Helping Hands" and "Service Leadership" classes to spearhead a new "Senior to Senior" program. The program is designed to help bridge the age gap between seniors in high school and senior adults. The program kicks off at 10 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 22 at the Grace Church Noblesville (5504 E. 146th St.) Together Today Location. Students arrive at 10 a.m. to help set up, serve breakfast, play cards and games with the seniors, and help serve lunch. At 1:15 p.m. the group will learn a TikTok chair dance followed by a game of "Then versus Now." The day will conclude with five rounds of Bingo. For more information, contact Vicki Burdick at vicki@scofhc.org or call (317) 908-7810. Learn more at SCoFHC.org.

Phi Beta Psi Euchre Party
Theta Alpha Upsilon Chapter
Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 4 p.m.
First Christian Church, 16377 Herriman Blvd., Noblesville

\$15.00 to play • \$1 for every Euchre

Westfield farmer Larry Hopkins elected to national sheep board

The REORTER At its annual meeting last week, the American Sheep Industry Association elected three new members to its executive board.

Representing Region III was Westfield sheep producer Larry Hopkins. Region III consists of the Great Lake states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

"The American sheep industry is facing many challenges but also has some unique opportunities on the horizon," Hopkins said. "Demands for a product with environmental sustainability, the rapidly growing need for solar farm grazing and a new-found consumer demand for American lamb coming out of the COVID years are all exciting developments for the sheep industry. I look forward to helping guide the association through these challenges."

Hopkins runs a purebred sheep and wool operation nestled on the border between Zionsville and Westfield called Little Eagle Creek Valley Farm and has been raising sheep for over 25 years. He has previously served as president of the Indiana Sheep Association for four years and was elected to two terms on



Photo provided

the Indiana Sheep and Wool Council which oversees the state check-off program. Among many other volunteer positions in the sheep world, Hopkins has also served as a breed manager for several years during the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky.

A partner in his family dairy farm managed by his brother and life-long member of Indiana Farm Bureau, Hopkins recently retired from the State of Indiana where he managed opera-

tions during three separate administrations over 19 years for the Office of Attorney General.

About the Indiana Sheep Association

ISA is one of the oldest livestock organizations in Indiana. It was originally founded as the Indiana Wool Growers Association in 1876 to encourage local shepherds to come together to share ideas and expertise, to promote lamb and wool in the state, and to educate communities about the value of sheep and the sheep industry.

State Rep. Jeter's bill supporting Hoosier Jewish students advances unanimously

The REPORTER The Indiana House of Representatives on Thursday unanimously advanced State Rep. Chris Jeter's (R-Fishers) bill to clearly define antisemitism for Indiana's public education institutions, which he said ensures the concept doesn't wind up in Hoosier classrooms or campuses.

Jeter said he authored the legislation after having conversations with several Jewish organizations over concerns about antisemitic concepts being taught in Indiana classrooms. According to the Anti-Defamation League, reports of antisemitic events have increased by nearly 360 percent since the Israel-Hamas war began in October 2023.

"This bill is a reflection of our Hoosier standards and what we value when it comes to teaching our students," Jeter said. "Our Jewish students need to feel safe and welcome in our schools, and this builds on Indiana's

long history of supporting Jewish communities both at home and abroad by targeting antisemitism in K-12 classrooms and on college campuses. I look forward to having further discussions and conversation to get this legislation through the Senate this year."

Jeter's legislation would define antisemitism as religious discrimination in state law to ensure that K-12 schools and universities do not include the concept in teaching materials or resources. More specifically, antisemitism would be defined as "a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and or their property, toward



Jeter

Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

Jeter said this definition is already adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education.

Jeter said his proposal is the same [legislation](#) from the 2023 legislative session, which passed unanimously out of the House, but did not receive a hearing in the Indiana Senate.

House Bill 1002 now heads to the Senate for further consideration. For more information, or to watch session and committees live, visit iga.in.gov.

State Rep. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers) represents House District 88, which includes portions of Hamilton, Hancock, Madison and Marion counties.

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directed by
DANIEL MALOY

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Dave Lowe every
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What offices are up for election in 2024?

Below are the lists of federal, state, and local offices for which voters will cast their ballots this year. Also included are the number of delegates from each township that Republicans and Democrats will choose to send to their state conventions this summer.

Federal, State & Local Offices

President & Vice President
United States Senate
United States Representative, District 5
Governor
*Lt. Governor (selected at State Convention; voted at General Election)
*Attorney General (selected at State Convention; voted at General Election)
State Senate, District 20
State Representative, District 24
State Representative, District 29
State Representative, District 32
State Representative, District 37
State Representative, District 39
State Representative, District 88
Circuit Court Judge, 24th Judicial District
Judge, Superior Court 1
Judge, Superior Court 6
County Auditor
County Treasurer
County Surveyor
Commissioner, District 2
Commissioner, District 3
County Council, At-Large (three seats)



Party Offices

Republican Precinct Committeemen (1 seat per precinct)

State Convention Delegates, Republican:
• Adams – 15
• Clay – 10
• Delaware – 10
• Fall Creek – 12
• Jackson – 15
• Noblesville – 10
• Washington – 10
• Wayne – 15
• White River – 15

State Convention Delegates, Democrat:
• Adams – 7
• Clay – 32
• Delaware – 15
• Fall Creek – 15
• Jackson – 7
• Noblesville – 19
• Washington – 19
• Wayne – 7
• White River – 7



State Rep. Garcia Wilburn files bills focused on healthcare, harm reduction & improving health services in schools

The REPORTER

After concluding a productive freshman legislative session by authoring and co-authoring several new

laws, State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D-Fishers) has hit the ground running during her second legislative session by filing five

pieces of legislation.

Three of Garcia Wilburn's bills focus on improving harm reduction and substance use disorder recovery efforts around the state.

House Bill 1356 will expand Indiana's Lifeline Law to include immunity for any person under 21 years old who seeks help for someone else experiencing a drug overdose.

House Bill 1053 creates clear language in state law about the legality of drug test strips.

House Bill 1249 will require the Family and Social Services Administration to provide standards for services provided by recovery community organizations for behavioral health recovery. This will improve efficiency in the process of certifying recovery community organizations so they can more easily get to work on patients' behalf.

"Hoosiers and their loved ones have been torn apart by the substance use disorder epidemic for far too long," Garcia Wilburn said. "From expanding Indiana's Lifeline Law to keep our young people safe in the event of drug overdoses and making it more efficient for recovery organizations to receive state certification to decriminalizing the drug testing strips that people use to test for substances like fentanyl, these pieces of legislation will make tangible steps toward helping more Hoosiers reach recovery. No family wants to lose a loved one, and these recovery-focused bills are intended to save lives and keep families whole. Let's build a culture of health in our state around substance use disorder reminding those affected that recovery is possible."

House Bill 1054 would create guidelines for scoliosis screenings for children between 9- and 13-years-old for pediatric providers. HB 1054, also known as the "Keegan Cares Bill," was drafted in collaboration with Miss Indiana's Teen Keegan Connor, who has focused her advocacy work on scoliosis awareness.



"The best way to treat scoliosis is good prevention," Garcia Wilburn said. "Miss Indiana's Teen Keegan Connor and I share something in common: we both have scoliosis. Now,

Keegan is doing important awareness work to make sure that as many Hoosier kids as possible receive regular scoliosis screenings in the years before they are most likely to develop it. Our young Hoosiers are capable of great things when they put their minds to it, and I am proud to partner with Keegan in this work by offering the 'Keegan Cares Bill' this legislative session."

House Bill 1389 would require the state to apply for federal Medicaid funding to better serve students with learning disabilities. HB 1389 would also commission a study on the current workloads licensed occupational therapists and licensed physical therapists face in Indiana schools.

"Our schools are struggling to keep up with helping students with learning disabilities," Garcia Wilburn said. "HB 1389 will make sure that schools are better funded in the vital work they do with students with disabilities. It will also require that we assess the workload of our school-based physical and occupational therapists – if we come to learn that they are overburdened, we can then appropriate more funding to these programs. Only with an appropriate workload on our school-based healthcare professionals' parts will every Hoosier child be able to reach their full potential."

"My hope for this session is that I can build on last year's work across party lines to tackle the problems facing Hoosiers across the state. These bills are a step in the right direction to do just that, and I look forward to working hard for my constituents this year."

State Representative Victoria Garcia Wilburn represents Indiana House District 32, which includes large portions of Fishers and southern Carmel.

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PREVIEW DAY: Thursday, January 25th from Noon - 6pm

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VEHICLES/TRAILERS:
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Thanks for reading The Reporter!

Young Rocks (let’s call them pebbles) sing our National Anthem before Pacers game



Maple Glen Elementary School’s third and fourth grade choirs recently sang the National Anthem before a Pacers game. These young Shamrocks did a great job and had some fun with Boomer as well.

Photos provided by Westfield Washington Schools

INDOT Commissioner presents on rail crossing safety to U.S. House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

The REPORTER

On Thursday morning, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Commissioner Mike Smith shared testimony on railroad crossing safety before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials in Washington, D.C.

The Commissioner’s remarks outlined the State of Indiana’s challenges, opportunities, and success in improving crossing safety.

“With the nation’s largest rail hub (Chicago) in very close proximity, Indiana has more than 7,500 highway-grade rail crossings,” Smith said. “That puts us at fifth highest in the nation, and that comes with unique challenges, but also opportunity.”

In 2018, Governor Eric Holcomb and INDOT awarded 12 Local Trax Rail Overpass Program grants to cities, towns and counties for grade separation, crossing closure and other safety enhancement projects at highway-rail intersections on local roads. Funding for the program, totaling more than \$125 million, was provided through House Enrolled Act 1002, enacted in July 2017. Eleven Local Trax projects will be under construction by the end of 2025.

Indiana has also seen exponential growth in use of Section 130 Rail-Highway Crossing Program funds. The state typically receives approximately \$8 million through the federal program to improve safety at rail

crossings. Through these funds, Indiana is on track to improve 85 of its 100 highest-risk crossings on state and local roadways over the next five years.

“Even as we gain momentum, Indiana still finds itself among the highest incidences of rail crossing collisions, injuries and fatalities,” Smith said. “As of November, there were 78 collisions at public highway-railroad crossings in 2023, resulting in 12 fatalities and 20 injuries. These numbers make it clear that the job is not finished, and there is more work to be done.”

To improve safety and reduce incidents at highway-rail crossings, INDOT has developed a comprehensive Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Action Plan. The plan is currently awaiting final approval from the Federal Rail Administration, but it outlines several strategies for the state going forward.

- Reduce number of public-grade crossings to eliminate interactions between trains and road users.
- Upgrade passive warnings to active, improving and maintaining existing devices.
- Engaging with local agencies on use of traffic signal preemption.
- Consider rail-grade crossing safety in all transportation projects.
- Work with law enforcement agencies to help prevent crashes at crossings.
- Inform and educate stakeholders on high-rail grade crossing topics.

“INDOT continues to

engage with our state, federal and local partners on the safety of rail crossings in Indiana,” Smith said. “Support from federal grants and programs, the railroads and local agencies has been invaluable to our success up

to this point.”

To view the full hearing on Oversight and Examination of Railroad Grade Crossing Elimination and Safety, including remarks from Commissioner Smith, [click here](#).



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Meeting Notices

The Noblesville Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

The Westfield Washington Township Plat Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, has been canceled. Business items will be presented at the Feb. 12, 2024, meeting.

The Noblesville Common Council will meet in an executive session at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b) (2)(D)(i), For discussion of strategy with respect to a real property transaction including a purchase.

A regular meeting will follow at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

The Carmel Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024, at Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square, Carmel.

The Noblesville Firefighter Pension Board will meet in an Executive Session at 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, at the Noblesville Professional Fire Fighters International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4416 Union Hall, 399 S. 14th St., pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(2)(B); (6) and (7), for discussion of strategy with respect to initiation of litigation or litigation that is either pending or has been threatened specifically in writing; with respect to any individual over whom the governing body has jurisdiction; and for discussion of records classified as confidential by state or federal statute.

A public meeting will follow in the same location at 2:30 p.m.

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold its monthly joint Personnel and Benefits/Board of Trustees meeting at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024, the TriCo Office, 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville.

The Hamilton County Election Board meet at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, in the Conference Room of the Hamilton County Clerk’s Office, located in Suite 106 at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville. The purpose of the meeting is to address delinquent 2023 Annual Campaign Finance Reports and to hear Candidate Challenges for the 2024 Primary Election.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County GIS Policy Committee will hold a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting at 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024. The purpose of this meeting is for discussion of GIS projects. To listen in on the meeting call (219) 225-8177 and enter Conference ID 710 816 141#.

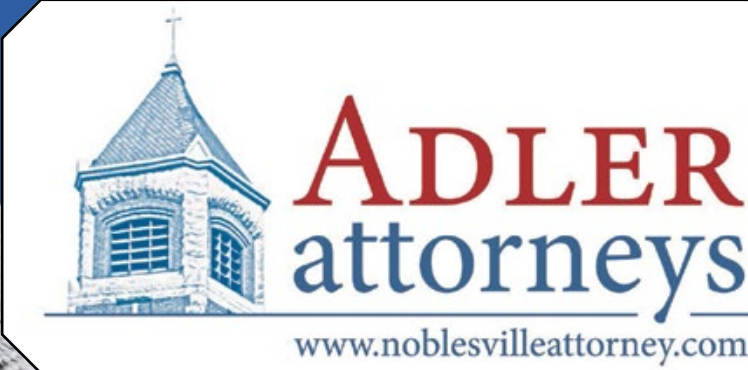
Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County ISS Board will meet to discuss ISSD projects at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, in Conference Room 1A at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville. The meeting can also be accessed by calling (219) 225-8177 and entering Conference ID 174 586 369#.

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold its monthly joint Budget and Finance/Board of Trustees meeting at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, the TriCo Office, 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville.

HAMILTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL CORPORATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

DATE (All Wednesdays)	LOCATION
Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m.	Student Activity Center, 420 W. North St., Arcadia
March 13 at 6:30 p.m.	Student Activity Center
April 17 at 6:30 p.m.	Student Activity Center
May 15 at 6:30 p.m.	Student Activity Center
June 19 at 6:30 p.m.	Student Activity Center
July 17 at 6:30 p.m.	Student Activity Center
Aug. 21 at 6:30 p.m.	Student Activity Center
Sept. 18 at 7:30 a.m.	High School, 25802 State Road 19, Arcadia
Oct. 23 at 7:30 a.m.	Middle School, 25150 State Road 19, Arcadia
Nov. 20 at 7:30 a.m.	Elementary School, 25350 State Road 19, Arcadia
Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m.	Student Activity Center

Send Meeting Notices to:
News@ReadTheReporter.com



- Family Law
- Real Estate Law
- Estate Planning
- Probate
- Business
- Personal Injury
- Litigation
- Guardianship
- Adoption
- Expungements
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Fishers student makes UW-Eau Claire dean's list

The REPORTER

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire extends congratulations to the 2,778 students named to the fall 2023 dean's list. Their academic performance has

been outstanding, and these students are recognized with pride. Locally, Kristen Friesth of Fishers made the dean's list. Friesth is studying in the College of Arts and Sciences.



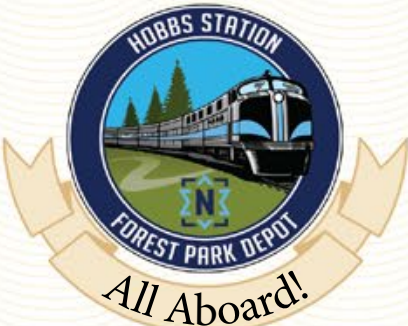
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NickelPlateExpress.com



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

Off to the races: the 2024 legislative session

This year the legislative session is scheduled to end on March 14. Approximately 250 Senate bills and 425 House bills are proposed for this session. Undoubtedly, most of these bills will not be assigned to a committee or pass the bill's first reading.

It is impossible to cover all the bills affecting our education system in this short space, so I will mention a few that I believe should be passed and some that should not see the light of day.

First is **HB 1072**, Student Immunizations, authored by Rep. Cash. This bill prohibits the requirement of an immunization shot for a student enrolled in a health profession education program. The bill also states that a student does not have to provide information regarding the student's religious objection.

Second, is **HB 1221**, Material that is obscene or

harmful to minors, authored by Rep. Abbott. There has been much discussion and debate about what is considered "obscene" and what material is "educational." This bill looks to better define the terms and further clarify the education and criminal laws.

Third is **SB 6**, Reading Proficiency, authored by Sen. Raatz and Sen. Rogers. This bill addresses students in grades 4 through 8 who did not pass the reading skills evaluation approved by the state board of education. It would require a school to provide additional support to students who are at risk of not being proficient in reading.

On bills that should not be taken up, the most problematic is **HB 1017**, K-12 Curriculum, authored by Rep. Smith. This bill proposes that schools should not provide instruction concerning any president who

owned slaves, colonialism, or Christopher Columbus. Why wouldn't we want to teach our children the facts of the past so that we can continue to learn from our mistakes and "form a more perfect Union"?

SB 195, Age for compulsory school attendance, authored by Sen. Taylor, would mandate that any child who is 5 years of age on Aug. 1 of a school year must attend school. The current law states that a child must be 7 years of age. Do we want our children to be instructed by others at such an early age? Children do not have to be in a school environment to be learning.

The last bill I wish to discuss will be controversial due to the strong beliefs on all sides of the matter. **HB 1037**, Minimum teacher salaries, is authored by Rep. Klinker. This bill would require a school corporation to submit a report to the Department of Education as to why it cannot meet a minimum salary of \$60,000

a year for each full-time teacher. The current requirement for such a report is a minimum salary of \$40,000. In addition, the report must include cost savings measures taken by the school to meet this minimum requirement and it must do so starting June of 2025.

Regarding **HB 1037** I want to state that in no way am I saying that teachers do not deserve better pay. Teachers provide a tremendous service in the education of our children. The problem with this bill is that it pushes the minimum by too much too fast. There are also concerns regarding the measures school corporations will take in their cost savings efforts.

I would encourage our parents, grandparents, and taxpayers to familiarize themselves with the current slate of legislation and let their elected officials know where they stand. To see what bills are proposed this session go to iga.in.gov and click on "Legislation" in top navigation.



COLUMNIST

MELBA KISER

Carmel town hall with Rep. Spartz set for next week



Photo provided

Congresswoman Victoria Spartz invites her Hamilton County constituents to a town hall in Carmel next week. Everyone is welcome to ask questions of the Congresswoman from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25 at Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square. This is the first in a series of town halls Rep. Spartz plans to give around the Fifth District in 2024.

AG Rokita reminds Hoosiers to be alert during National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

The REPORTER

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is asking Hoosiers to stay alert for signs of human trafficking in communities across Indiana and to report any suspicious activities to authorities.

"Human trafficking may seem like an issue that doesn't affect your specific community, but it's sometimes brushed under the rug because victims are either scared to admit the truth or are groomed at a young age," AG Rokita said. "Online recruitment has played a major role in this crime. Our kids are extremely vulnerable to sex trafficking and exploitation due to

their excessive online presence. I encourage all parents to monitor their child's online interactions to keep them safe."

Human trafficking is a billion-dollar criminal enterprise. It occurs anytime someone uses force, fraud, or coercion to make another individual provide labor, services, or commercial sex acts.

People in certain job roles – such as medical professionals, restaurant workers, teachers, and truck drivers – are particularly likely



Rokita

of a potential trafficking victim.

"Human trafficking is a rapidly growing crime in Indiana and across our country," Rokita said. "Increasing awareness and education on the topic is the first step in helping these victims. Hoosiers value justice, and these callous enslavers

to encounter trafficking victims.

With January being National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, it is a fitting time to remind Hoosiers to stay watchful and look out for signs

should pay for their despicable crimes."

According to the U.S. State Department, signs of human trafficking include observations that someone:

- lives with their employer.
- lives with multiple people in a cramped space.
- otherwise experiences poor living conditions.
- is prohibited from speaking alone to strangers.
- gives answers that appear to be scripted and rehearsed.
- has an employer holding their identity documents.
- shows signs of physical abuse.
- is submissive or fearful.
- is unpaid or paid very little.
- is under 18 and working in the commercial sex industry.

If you have suspicions that someone is being trafficked, you should immediately call local law enforcement. You may also call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.

The Office of the Attorney General operates the Address Confidentiality Program, which helps protect victims of certain crimes – including those who have been trafficked – by concealing their residential address from the public and thereby their victimizers.

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

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Indiana ag department announces \$6.7M in grants available to strengthen food supply chain infrastructure

The REPORTER

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced Thursday it has a cooperative agreement with **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)** under the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI).

Through this agreement, the two entities are working together to offer over \$6.7 million in competitive grant funding for projects designed to build resilience across the middle of the supply chain.

“These grants are critical to ensuring the security of our food supply,” said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who serves as Indiana’s Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “Federal partners like USDA-AMS are a wonderful asset to Indiana and to agriculture. I am excited to see Hoosier businesses expand with these grants.”

The purpose of this program is to improve food supply resilience in the middle of the food chain through increasing distribution, aggregation, storage capacity, market expansion and facility updates/expansions. Following federal guidance, the project performance period will be June 2024 through May 2027. Applicants must demonstrate how this project will improve resilience in the middle of the food chain.

“Our Hoosier farmers, producers, agribusinesses, and consumers need a steady food supply chain system,” ISDA Don Lamb said. “We are grateful that USDA recognized this need in Indiana and

across the country and continue to work with us to enhance our middle of the food chain businesses. These grants will go a long way in ensuring rural vitality and success for our small and mid-sized producers, processors as well as Hoosier consumers.”

Who is eligible?

Indiana businesses and producers that work in the middle of the food chain sector, defined as “from the farm gate to the end retail market” or the processing and aggregation/distribution sector of the food chain. Eligible product ideas could include, but are not limited to, creating a produce packing line, value added dairy and egg products, establishing/expanding a co-packing facility, or building a commercial kitchen.

Who is ineligible?

Products including meat, poultry, wild-caught seafood, dietary supplements, and food for animal consumption do not qualify in this program. Businesses may have the above listed product lines but grant funds cannot be used to benefit these products. All for profit businesses must qualify as a small business by the Small Business Administration standards.

Eligible expenses may include, but are not limited to:

- Purchase/upgrade of equipment, infrastructure and technology – including installation
- Construction of a new facility or expansion of current facilities
- Increasing storage space - including cold storage, addition of new product lines
- Increasing packaging and labeling capabilities
- Facility upgrades for climate-smart equipment

“This partnership between USDA and Indiana is allowing critical funding to reach areas of the supply chain that need it most,” said USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs Under Secretary Jenny Lester Moffitt. “The projects funded through this program will create new opportunities for the region’s small and midsize producers to thrive, expand access to nutritious food options, and increase supply chain resiliency.”

Applications will open on Jan. 29, and will be due to ISDA by noon on March 8, 2024. Those interested in receiving a subaward should apply directly through **ISDA** by March 8. Links to technical assistance webinars, application materials and additional resources can all be found at **isda.in.gov**. AMS encourages applications that serve smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, underserved producers, veteran producers, female producers, and underserved communities.

Through the program and in addition to the Infrastructure Grant funding, ISDA will support supply chain coordination and technical assistance to farmers and food businesses operating in processing, aggregation, and distribution – all critical activities to support access to more and better markets for farmers.

For details about a virtual Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure grant overview set for 3 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24, or for more information, visit **isda.in.gov**.



Crouch

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

LABAN PURSUES JACOB

“I have been with you for twenty years now. Your sheep and goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten rams from your flocks. I did not bring you animals torn by wild beasts; I bore the loss myself. And you demanded payment from me for whatever was stolen by day or night. This was my situation: The heat consumed me in the daytime and the cold at night, and sleep fled from my eyes. It was like this for the twenty years I was in your household. I worked for you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks, and you changed my wages ten times. If the God of my father; the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. But God has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands, and last night he rebuked you.”

Genesis 31:38-42 (NIV)

Kristina Kay Kennedy

May 19, 1953 – November 2, 2023

Kristina Kay Kennedy passed away on Thursday, November 2, 2023. Kay was born on May 19, 1953, in Noblesville, the daughter of Ernest and Evelyn Kennedy.



She is survived by her two children, Andrew (36) and Molly (35) along with her husband, Kevin Mannix. She is also survived by three sisters, Judith Johnson, Lillian Foland, and Carolyn Rawlings.

Kay was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest Kennedy and Evelyn Kikendall Kennedy, as well as her sister, Barbara Theising.

Kay grew up in Hamilton County, where her father and mother were the owners of Anderson Hatchery in downtown Noblesville. She grew up as the youngest of five children, where she was blessed to have the love and support of her four older sisters. She married Kevin Mannix in 1984, and together they raised two children. They have lived in Noblesville close to four decades where many friendships were made over the years. Kay enjoyed spending her time with family, friends, and was very involved in their church community.

Sharing time with her family was something she cherished immensely. Kay has four grandchildren, Kaydence (15), Makaylee (11), Cora (10) and Camden (8), whom she adored. She would light up when talking about each one of them and they were deeply loved.

Kay worked in the surgical field for 41 years and held multiple roles throughout her career. She enjoyed every part of being a certified surgical technologist and will be greatly missed by those she worked alongside for so many years.

Her devotion to her Lord and Savior was of the utmost importance. Her life was a living testimony of the love of Jesus Christ, and she wanted to share this love with everyone. It was evident for all to see that Kay would always put others first. She touched the hearts of so many by living a selfless life full of overwhelming generosity, kindness, and joy. She will be remembered for her heart that was always overflowing with love and for her cheerful smile. Kay made the lives of others better by giving of herself without hesitation by listening, caring, and expressing the love of Christ through her actions.

A celebration of Kay’s life will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Christ Community Church, 4770 E. Main St., Carmel.

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Contact Information

Email
News@ReadTheReporter.com

Web Address
ReadTheReporter.com

Publisher Stu Clampitt
765-365-2316

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

Boys Basketball



Carmel's Evan Harrell (15) and Ben Bremer (13) both scored 16 points for the Greyhounds during their win over Pike Friday at the Eric Clark Activity Center.

Carmel Greyhounds send Pike Red Devils packing

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com

CARMEL – The young Carmel pups are beginning to grow up. The Greyhounds’ boys basketball team took a big step Friday night at the Eric Clark Activity Center when it hosted Pike. Carmel got off to a fantastic start and carried that momentum to a 72-42 victory over the Red Devils. The victory was a sure sign for ‘Hounds coach Ryan Osborn that the team is getting better, and he gives his players the credit. “They come in every day and the things that traditionally we try to do well, we’re trying to do well with this team too,” said Osborn. “And they continue to come in every day and compete.” Carmel had no problem competing against Pike. The Greyhounds poured in the first 16 points of the game, with Evan Harrell scoring seven of them, including a 3-pointer. Ryan Clevenger then drilled a 3 to give Car-

mel a 16-0 lead. Terrencio Davis scored with 41 seconds in the quarter to get Pike on the board. The Greyhounds led 17-2 at the end of the period, then blasted through the second quarter by scoring 26 points. Quinn Murphy made a three-point play for Carmel’s first points of the period. Harrell added five more points, then Alex Couto nailed two 3s. His second triple started an 11-0 run that took the Greyhounds to halftime up 43-15. Ben Bremer also hit two 3s during that run, with Mitchell Mulloy scoring on a layin. Carmel continued to cruise through the third quarter, which ended with the ‘Hounds ahead 57-29. Bremer, Couto and Clevenger all made 3s, and a Bremer layin finished the period. In the fourth quarter, Harrell scored consecutive baskets on a putback and off a steal, and that gave Carmel its largest lead at 67-32. Sophomore Jamichael Fountain also hit a 3 in the fourth.

CARMEL 72, PIKE 42				
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF
Alex Couto	3-8	0-0	9	1
Ryan Clevenger	4-9	0-0	10	2
Aiden Dickerson	1-3	0-0	2	1
Ben Bremer	4-5	5-6	16	1
Evan Harrell	6-15	2-2	16	4
Quinn Murphy	2-3	1-1	5	1
Mitchell Mulloy	3-4	1-2	7	1
Max Winders	0-1	2-4	2	1
Jamie Whack	0-0	0-0	0	0
Jamichael Fountain	1-1	0-0	3	1
Julian Vogt	0-1	0-0	0	0
Zach Michaels	1-1	0-0	2	1
Jack Perry	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	25-51	11-15	72	14
Score by Quarters				
Pike	2	13	14	13 – 42
Carmel	17	26	14	15 – 72
Carmel 3-point shooting (11-20) Couto 3-6, Bremer 3-4, Harrell 2-4, Clevenger 2-3, Fountain 1-1, Dickerson 0-1, Vogt 0-1. Carmel rebounds (30) Harrell 7, Dickerson 6, Clevenger 4, Mulloy 4, Couto 3, Murphy 3, Fountain 1, Bremer 1, Winders 1.				

Bremer and Harrell finished with 16 points each, while Clevenger scored 10. Bremer totaled three triples, and Couto’s three 3s gave him nine points. Harrell led the rebounds with seven, while Aiden Dickerson collected six. Bremer also had four assists. “Consistency in the line-

up has helped,” said Osborn. “It’s a team game. I think the more reps you can get as a unit, the more crisp you are and the more you trust each other, and that shows on both ends of the floor.” Carmel improved to 5-9 with the win. The Greyhounds play at Brownsburg tonight.

Blowout: Millers snuff out Flashes

By CRAIG ADKINS
For The Reporter

NOBLESVILLE – Wednesday night’s loss to Class 4A No. 3 Westfield was still fresh on the minds of the Noblesville Millers as they took the court Friday night against another Hoosier Crossroads Conference opponent in Franklin Central. The 4A No. 4 Millers took out their frustrations on the visiting Flashes and did it in a pretty convincing fashion with a 61-31 victory. Noblesville got off to a hot start offensively, but it was defense that kept Franklin Central fully in check in the first quarter. Holding the Flashes down with a 17-3 first quarter and just three made free throws, the visitors would also be without a made field goal in the first eight minutes. “We challenged the guys on our toughness after Westfield. Not that we didn’t play hard. We played really hard against Westfield, but there were multiple plays we felt like we could have made,” said Noblesville varsity assistant Jake Hoffman. Hoffman filled in extremely well on Friday night for head coach Scott McClelland, who was sidelined at home with a case of the flu. The Millers responded in a big way last night after just their second loss on Wednesday. Franklin Central spent more time at the free throw line in the second, but more importantly, finally made their first field goal with 2:37 left in the first half. “Seeing on film what we talk about everyday was just our message. How do you respond from failure? Failure can be a good thing and I feel like that really motivated our guys for tonight, especially when your head coach isn’t here. That’s a whole another burden in itself to come together,” continued Hoffman. Franklin Central outscored the Millers 10-7 in the second, but Noblesville was still able to keep the lead in double digits at 24-13 at halftime. “Obviously, whenever you guard the way we

guarded tonight, it makes everything a lot easier. The way we guarded early, I felt like our offense was easy. We took some quick shots and there’s a fine line of trusting our defense and we kept getting stops in the second. We played too fast and didn’t have great shot selection and it allowed them to have a run,” stated Hoffman. The Flashes started the third on a 7-4 run to get it under 10 at 28-20, but that only fueled the Millers. Noblesville had a burst of energy and decided to run. Numerous fast break layups sandwiched a Baron Walker three and before Franklin Central could blink, the scoreboard read 39-23. “The third quarter we kind of settled back into getting stops. I thought our execution against their press was huge. We decided that we were going to attack it and that’s what we did,” said Hoffman. A 21-10 third quarter helped increase the lead to 45-23. Hunter Walston would score eight of his points in the frame, most of them on fast breaks. Aaron Fine also added six and Baron Walker five in the third to distance the Millers from the Flashes. Keeping its foot on the gas, Noblesville continued to pour it on in the fourth on its way to a 61-31 rout of Franklin Central. “We did a good job of sharing it. It didn’t really matter what we ran offensively, we had a great mindset to just attack and that made it really, really easy,” stated Hoffman. Balance is just the way this Miller team operates. It doesn’t matter who scores and how much. Playing basketball as a team and together is what has helped produce 13 wins in 15 games thus far. “It was great togetherness and just trusting the next guy. Certain guys probably didn’t play as well as they could have either offensively, but I thought we did a great job of having an attack for somebody else mindset. That’s a heck of a win for our guys and hopefully we can keep building on it,” said Hoffman.

See *Millers* . . . Page 13

Two Friday games postponed until today

The REPORTER
The Sheridan-Delphi basketball doubleheader and the Hoosier Conference basketball championship game between Hamilton

Heights and Rensselaer Central were all postponed Friday due to the weather. The Huskies will host the Bombers tonight at 6 p.m. for the conference champi-

onship game. Heights will then play its already-scheduled boys basketball game with Maconaquah following the girls game. The Sheridan-Delphi

girls game is now scheduled for noon today at the Blackhawks’ Larry Hobbs Hall. Sheridan’s boys will host Delphi on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

NOBLESVILLE 61, FRANKLIN CENTRAL 31				
Noblesville	FG	FT	TP	PF
Aaron Fine	4-12	1-2	9	2
Justin Curry	3-14	0-0	7	3
Aiden Brewer	3-3	0-0	6	1
Hunter Walston	6-9	0-1	13	1
Will Smits	1-3	0-0	2	1
Baron Walker	5-9	2-2	15	1
Luke Etchison	1-2	0-0	2	0
Ryan Vctor	3-3	0-0	7	2
Adam Fine	0-2	0-0	0	0
Totals	26-57	3-5	61	11
Score by Quarters				
Franklin Central	3	10	10	8 – 31
Noblesville	17	7	21	16 – 61
Noblesville 3-point shooting (6-18) Walker 3-5, Curry 1-6, Walston 1-3, Vctor 1-1, Aa. Fine 0-2, Ad. Fine 0-1. Noblesville rebounds (38) Aa. Fine 7, Curry 6, Brewer 5, Smits 5, Vctor 5, Walston 4, Walker 4, Etchison 2.				

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Basketball

Westfield boys drop first game of season, girls dealt loss as well

The REPORTER

The Westfield boys basketball team was handed its first loss of the season on Friday, as the Class 4A No. 3 Shamrocks fell to Brownsburg 62-56 in part of a Hoosier Crossroads Conference doubleheader.

The Bulldogs led 10-7 after one quarter and 23-20 at halftime, then extended their lead to 34-26 after three periods. Westfield tried to come back, pouring in 30 points in the fourth quarter, but Brownsburg scored 28, which was enough to keep the lead.

Trey Buchanan took over the game in the fourth quarter. He scored 24 points, including four 3-pointers. Buchanan totaled 33 points for

the evening, making two 3s in the first half for a total of six. Will Harvey had eight points, including a pair of triples.

The Shamrocks are 3-1 in the conference and 11-1 overall. They return home to CSI Gymnasium tonight to play Victory College Prep.

Westfield's girls were also dealt a tough defeat in the first game of the doubleheader, as Brownsburg won the girls game 59-57 in overtime.

The Shamrocks led 16-10 after one quarter, with the Bulldogs cutting that lead to 23-21 at halftime. Brownsburg led 38-36 after three quarters, but Westfield closed the gap and had the game tied at 52 at the end of regulation. The Bulldogs won

BOYS GAME BROWNSBURG 62, WESTFIELD 56				
Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Trey Buchanan	9	9-13	33	4
Will Harvey	3	0-0	8	3
Caleb Wise	1	1-2	3	5
Durante Morton	0	1-2	1	5
Nic Book	1	1-2	3	4
Drew Haffner	1	2-2	5	2
Carsen Melvin	1	1-4	3	3
Rylan Rauch	0	0-0	0	0
Ryan Hunsucker	0	0-0	0	2
Totals	16	15-25	56	28
Score by Quarters				
Westfield	7	13	6	30 - 56
Brownsburg	10	13	11	28 - 62
Westfield 3-pointers (9) Buchanan 6, Harvey 2, Haffner.				

when Avery Gordon made a buzzer-beating putback; she scored 41 points for the game.

Ellie Kelleher scored 31 points, including six 3-point-

ers. Full stats were not available at press time. The Shamrocks finished conference play 3-4 and are 12-9 overall; they play their regular-season finale Tuesday at Ben Davis.

Carmel girls beat up Red Devils on the road

The REPORTER

The Carmel girls basketball team picked up a road victory at Pike on Friday, by the score of 49-39.

The teams were tied 13-13 after one quarter, then the Red Devils inched ahead 22-21 by halftime. The Greyhounds responded with a 14-6 third period and add-

ed another 14 points in the fourth to seal the win.

Keaton Gatlin made three 3-pointers on her way to 13 points. Taryn Fisher scored nine points. Mackenzie Woods led the Carmel rebounding with five.

The 'Hounds are 9-10 and play this afternoon at Homestead.

CARMEL 49, PIKE 39				
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF
Keaton Gatlin	4-6	2-2	13	0
Izzy Shepherd	1-5	5-6	8	0
Mackenzie Woods	1-6	3-4	5	3
Lauren Perry	2-7	1-2	7	1
Taryn Fisher	4-4	1-2	9	0
Jamie Elliott	3-6	0-1	6	2
Megan Hamm	0-0	1-2	1	0
Sydney Bonds	0-0	0-0	0	0
Rilee McBride	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	15-34	13-19	49	6
Score by Quarters				
Carmel	13	8	14	14 - 49
Pike	13	9	6	11 - 39
Carmel 3-point shooting (6-15) Gatlin 3-4, Perry 2-6, Shepherd 1-3, Woods 0-1, Elliott 0-1.				
Carmel rebounds (21) Woods 5, Gatlin 4, Shepherd 4, Elliott 4, Fisher 2, Hamm 1, Bonds 1.				

Royals sweep HCC doubleheader

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Southeastern basketball teams had a nice evening in their home gym on Friday, as the Royals swept a Hoosier Crossroads Conference doubleheader with Zionsville.

Southeastern's girls went first, and they clinched an undefeated HCC championship by winning a hard-fought game 76-72. The Eagles led 64-54 in the fourth quarter, but the Class 4A No. 1 Royals made a 13-3

run to tie the game at 67-67, then surged ahead to get the victory.

Maya Makalusky had a tremendous night, scoring 37 points. That included six 3-pointers. Kennedy Holman did it all, pouring in 19 points, dishing out six assists, making five steals and blocking two shots. Makalusky and Kinley Johnson both had four rebounds.

The boys game was also a tough one, but Southeast-

ern prevailed 42-35. Zionsville led 10-9 at the end of the first quarter. The Royals went on an 11-2 run to take their largest lead of the game at 20-12 late in the second quarter.

The Eagles cut that lead to 20-15 at halftime, then got within 27-25 after three quarters. Southeastern clinched the game with a 15-point fourth quarter.

Donovan Hamilton led the way with 18 points and six rebounds, while Nate Orr added 15 points, including a pair of 3-pointers.

The HSE girls finished conference play at 7-0 and are 18-2 overall. They host 4A No. 3 Center Grove tonight. Southeastern's boys are 1-3 in HCC play and 10-5 overall; they travel to Mount Vernon tonight.

GIRLS GAME HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 76, ZIONSVILLE 72				
Southeastern	FG	FT	TP	PF
Maya Makalusky	11-17	9-12	37	4
Kennedy Holman	6-12	7-12	19	4
Zoe Lawless	0-1	0-0	0	1
Kayla Stidham	1-3	2-2	5	1
Addison Van Hoesen	1-1	1-2	3	3
Antonette Green	2-2	1-2	7	0
Kayla Brinley	2-7	0-0	4	0
Kinley Johnson	0-4	1-2	1	2
Totals	23-47	21-32	76	15
Southeastern 3-point shooting (9-18) Makalusky 6-9, Green 2-2, Stidham 1-2, Holman 0-2, Brinley 0-2, Lawless 0-1.				
Southeastern rebounds (18) Makalusky 4, Johnson 4, Stidham 3, Holman 2, Green 2, Van Hoesen 2, Lawless 1.				

BOYS GAME HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 42, ZIONSVILLE 35				
Southeastern	FG	FT	TP	PF
Donovan Hamilton	6-12	5-10	18	4
Nate Orr	5-9	3-4	15	1
Braeden Totten	2-8	1-1	6	3
Michael Griffith	1-4	1-2	3	3
Kam Anthony	0-0	0-0	0	2
Jack Jacobs	0-3	0-0	0	1
Maverick Young	0-2	0-0	0	3
Deion Miles	0-1	0-2	0	0
Lucas Weemer	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	14-39	10-19	42	17
Score by Quarters				
Zionsville	10	5	10	10 - 35
Southeastern	9	11	7	15 - 42
Southeastern 3-point shooting (4-13) Orr 2-2, Totten 1-5, Hamilton 1-2, Young 0-2, Jacobs 0-1, Miles 0-1.				
Southeastern rebounds (27) Hamilton 6, Orr 4, Totten 3, Jacobs 2, Anthony 2, Young 1, Griffith 1, Weemer 1, team 7.				

MILLERS

from Page 12

Baron Walker led all scorers with a game-high 15 points and four rebounds. Walker also knocked down three from outside 5-for-9 overall. Hunter Walston had 13 points and grabbed four boards, shooting 6-of-9. Aaron Fine scored nine, snagged seven rebounds and dished out six assists. Justin

Curry and Ryan Vetur each scored seven, with Aiden Brewer adding six with five rebounds.

Noblesville (13-2, 2-2 HCC) is off until Friday when it hosts Hamilton Southeastern in HCC play. The Royals were 42-35 winners at home over Zionsville last night.

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Basketball

Guerin Catholic falls to Brebeuf Jesuit in Circle City Conference doubleheader

The REPORTER

Guerin Catholic had a tough night at Brebeuf Jesuit on Friday, as the Braves swept the Golden Eagles in both games of a Circle City Conference doubleheader.

In the girls game, Brebeuf won 55-31. The Braves led 14-10 after one quarter, Kori Dues helped keep Guerin Catholic in it with two 3-pointers. Brebeuf outscored GC 11-2 in the second period for a 26-12 halftime lead, then poured in another 20 points in the third quarter.

Dues finished the game with three 3s and 11 points. Annie Murphy scored seven.

The boys game was a battle between two ranked teams in Class 3A: the Golden Eagles are No. 2 and the Braves are No. 4. Brebeuf Jesuit scored 21 points in the fourth quarter to finish a 59-50 win over Guerin Catholic.

The Braves started fast, leading 16-10 after one quarter, then going up 19-10 in the second. The Golden Eagles played even with Brebeuf in the second quarter, but still trailed 26-20 at halftime. Guerin Catholic cut the Braves' lead to 38-36 after three periods before the Braves ran away in the fourth.

Four GC players reached double figures. Bryson Cardinal scored 15 points, with Robert Sorensen adding 12. Dylan Murans had 11 points and Jack Cherry scored 10. Cardinal led the rebounds with



(ABOVE) Reagan Haines had five points for Guerin Catholic's girls team in the first game of the Circle City Conference doubleheader. (RIGHT) Guerin Catholic's Bryson Cardinal scored 15 points for the Golden Eagles boys team during its Friday game with Brebeuf Jesuit.



eight, while Murans pulled seven rebounds and also blocked two shots.

Both teams finished conference play with this game. Guerin Catholic's girls completed their conference schedule with a 1-4 record and are 9-12 overall. They finish the regular season next Friday by hosting Lafayette Central Catholic in another doubleheader.

The Guerin Catholic boys ended the CCC season 4-1 and are 12-5 overall. They return to the Eagles Nest on Tuesday to host Liberty Christian before hosting LCC on Friday.

GIRLS GAME				
BREBEUF JESUIT 55, GUERIN CATHOLIC 31				
Guerin Catholic	FG	FT	TP	PF
Annie Murphy	2	2-2	7	1
Gianna Morelli	1	0-0	2	4
Reagan Haines	2	1-3	5	0
Ava Bills	0	0-2	0	4
Emery Cardinal	1	0-0	2	4
Kori Dues	4	0-0	11	0
Lillian Behrle	1	0-0	3	1
Caroline Ford	0	1-2	1	2
Mia Bair	0	0-0	0	1
Lucy Collins	0	0-0	0	1
Totals	11	4-9	31	18
Score by Quarters				
Guerin Catholic	10	2	7	12-31
Brebeuf Jesuit	14	11	20	10-55
Guerin Catholic 3-pointers (5) Dues 3, Murphy, Behrle.				

BOYS GAME				
BREBEUF JESUIT 59, GUERIN CATHOLIC 50				
Guerin Catholic	FG	FT	TP	PF
Jack Cherry	5-9	0-0	10	3
Robert Sorensen	4-9	2-2	12	5
Andy Caron	1-7	0-0	2	1
Dylan Murans	4-8	2-4	11	5
Bryson Cardinal	5-11	5-7	15	4
Malcolm Houze	0-1	0-0	0	4
Ryne Paris	0-1	0-0	0	1
Ben Grissom	0-1	0-0	0	0
Asher Arkenau	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	19-47	9-13	50	23
Score by Quarters				
Guerin Catholic	10	10	16	14-50
Brebeuf Jesuit	16	10	12	21-59
Guerin Catholic 3-point shooting (3-11) Sorensen 2-5, Murans 1-2, Caron 0-2, Houze 0-1, Grissom 0-1.				
Guerin Catholic rebounds (29) Cardinal 8, Murans 7, Sorensen 4, Caron 4, Cherry 2, Houze 2, Paris 1, team 1.				



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Basketball

Fishers boys & girls team up to take down Avon

The REPORTER

The Fishers basketball teams cruised to a Hoosier Crossroads Conference doubleheader sweep Friday at Avon.

The Tigers girls used a strong start to beat the Orioles 66-50. Fishers jumped out to a 22-12 lead by the end of the first quarter; Talia Harris scored eight points and Nevaeh Dickman had seven. The Tigers led 36-21 at halftime and 58-34 after the third quar-

ter, during which Harris scored another eight points.

Harris finished with 20 points while Dickman contributed 17 points. Allison Scheu had 16 points and joined Harris and Dickman in scoring in each quarter.

Fishers' boys, the No. 1 team in Class 4A, had an equally easy time, as they took care of Avon 70-38. The Tigers outscored the Orioles in each period, leading 18-12 after one and 32-22 at halftime. Keenan

Garner scored 15 points in the first half.

Fishers rocketed through the third quarter, pouring in 22 points and leading 54-29 at the end of the period. Millen McCartney provided the finishing touches in the fourth quarter with eight points, including two 3-pointers.

Garner totaled 22 points, scoring in each

quarter. Justin Kirby came off the bench to add 11 points and McCartney finished with 10 for the Tigers.

The Fishers girls are 4-2 in the conference and 15-5 overall and play Tuesday at Lawrence North. The Fishers boys are unbeaten at 14-0 overall (4-0 HCC) and host Fort Wayne Carroll this afternoon.

GIRLS GAME FISHERS 66, AVON 50				
Fishers	FG	FT	TP	PF
Talia Harris	9	2-2	20	2
Morgan Roberts	1	1-2	3	1
Kate Thomas	4	0-0	8	1
Nevaeh Dickman	7	3-5	17	2
Allison Scheu	6	3-5	16	2
Alanna Anthony	0	0-0	0	0
Olivia Brookshire	0	0-0	0	0
Natalie Thomas	1	0-0	2	2
MaKayla Triplett	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	28	9-14	66	10
Score by Quarters				
Fishers	22	14	22	8-66
Avon	12	9	13	16-50
Fishers 3-pointer: Scheu.				

BOYS GAME FISHERS 70, AVON 38				
Fishers	FG	FT	TP	PF
Taden Metzger	3	2-2	8	2
Millen McCartney	3	2-2	10	0
Cooper Zachary	1	1-2	3	0
JonAnthony Hall	4	1-2	9	2
Keenan Garner	8	6-8	22	4
Jason Gardner Jr.	2	1-4	5	1
Justin Kirby	5	1-2	11	3
Parker Perdue	0	0-0	0	2
Nathan Baker	1	0-0	2	4
Bryson Seymour	0	0-0	0	1
Logan Sigler	0	0-0	0	0
Torey Breland	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	27	14-22	70	19
Score by Quarters				
Fishers	18	14	22	16-70
Avon	12	10	7	9-38
Fishers 3-pointers (2) McCartney 2.				

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 20
BOYS BASKETBALL
Fort Wayne Carroll at Fishers, 4:30 p.m.
Carmel at Brownsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern at Mount Vernon, 7:30 p.m.
Maconaquah at Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.
Westfield at Tri-West, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS WRESTLING
Hoosier Heartland Conference meet, 9 a.m. at Clinton Central

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Delphi at Sheridan, noon
Lapel at University, noon
Franklin Central at Noblesville, 12:30 p.m.
Hoosier Conference championship game: Rensselaer Central at Hamilton Heights, 6 p.m.
Carmel at Homestead, 7:30 p.m.
Center Grove at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING/DIVING
Hoosier Conference boys meet, 10 a.m.
Noblesville and Fort Wayne Carroll at Fishers, 1 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 21
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tournament draw date

Tuesday, Jan. 23
BOYS BASKETBALL
Hamilton Heights at Hagerstown, 7:30 p.m.
Liberty Christian at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Cathedral at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.
Fishers at Lawrence North, 7:30 p.m.
Pike at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
Sheridan at Clinton Central, 7:30 p.m.
University at Heritage Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Westfield at Ben Davis, 7:30 p.m.

GYMNASTICS
Westfield at Huntington North (with Logansport), 6 p.m.

SWIMMING/DIVING
Guerin Catholic and University at Schools With No Pools Invitational, 5:45 p.m. at IU Natatorium
Anderson at Hamilton Heights (boys only), 6 p.m.

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

Assessing 2024 Xfinity Series

This weekend at Daytona International Speedway is the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona. That means that Speedweeks and the Daytona 500 is less than a month away. This week we look at the 2024 NA-SCAR Xfinity Series and try to make some predictions for the 2024 season.

As is usually the case, the 2024 Xfinity field looks much different than last year with new faces, new rides, and some moving up to the NASCAR Cup Series.

Biggest moves

The biggest move of the off-season was Sheldon Creed, moving from the Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet #2 to the Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota #18. The former driver of the Gibbs #18, Sammy Smith, moves over to the #8 Chevrolet of JR Motorsports.

Chandler Smith returns to Joe Gibbs Racing after a one-year hiatus driving the #16 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet and will pilot the #81 Toyota.

Finally, owner/driver, Josh Williams got a huge break when he signed to drive the Kaulig Racing #11, replacing Daniel Hemric.

Newcomers

There are several new faces in the Xfinity garage that could challenge for wins and even a championship.

COLUMNIST

ZECH YODER
Checkers to Wreckers

Jesse Love, the 2023 ARCA Menards Series Champion, leaves Joe Gibbs Racing and will drive for Richard Childress in the #2 Chevrolet. Although not necessarily a new face, A.J. Allmendinger is leaving full-time Cup racing and returns to the Kaulig Racing, driving the #16 Chevrolet. Moving up from the Craftsman Truck Series, Hallie Deegan will drive the #15 AM Racing Ford.

Most interesting, 2023 Cup Series Chicago Street Course winner, Shane van Gisbergen, will drive for Kaulig Racing in the #97 Chevrolet.

Leaving for Cup

Two notable drives leave the Xfinity Series for the Cup Series.

John Hunter Nemechek remains with the Toyota racing family and will join Legacy Motor Club in the #42 Toyota. However, he is scheduled to split driving responsibilities with Aric Almirola in the Joe Gibbs Racing #20 Toyota.

Josh Berry, who made a dozen Cup Series starts in 2023, filling in for various drivers, moves from Chevrolet to Ford and will replace future hall of famer, Kevin Harvick in the #4 Stewart Haas Racing machine.

Championship expectations

Predicting the 2024

Xfinity Championship 4 is especially tough this year. I expect the full-time drivers for JR Motorsports, Richard Childress Racing, Joe Gibbs Racing, and Stewart Haas Racing to be in the mix.

Driving the #21 Chevrolet, Austin Hill will be on a mission after a controversial move from his teammate in Martinsville Speedway kept him out of the Championship 4. I expect Hill to continue his Superspeedway domination and make the championship round.

JR Motorsports driver, Sam Mayer, had a breakout 2023 season, making the final round. His talent and new-found maturity will pay great dividends. I think he makes it to Phoenix again with a chance to win.

After years of frustration, Riley Herbst won his first Xfinity Series race at in the Fall Las Vegas race. Despite not making the playoffs, he had a tremendous ten-race run at the end of 2023. I believe he will win multiple races in 2024 and make the Championship 4.

Finally, the 2023 Xfinity Champion, Cole Custer, will make the final round. He did not have a spectacular 2023 season but hung around until the end and was able to edge out John Hunter Nemechek and Justin Allgaier to steal the Xfinity Championship.

Ultimately, I think Sam Mayer gets it done this year. His experience and maturity finally caught up to his tal-

ent. He made smart moves on the racetrack and was able to experience the hype and pressure of running for a championship.

Sam Mayer is my 2024 Xfinity Champion pick. Who is yours?

Zech Yoder is a local resident, an attorney at Adler Attorneys in Noblesville, and a lifelong race fan.

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6:00 pm **Westfield vs Noblesville** | Junior Varsity | HCTV Sports
7:30 pm **Westfield vs Noblesville** | Varsity | HCTV Sports

Upcoming Broadcasts

Thu Jan 18 - Girls & Boys Swimming, Diving
5:45 pm **Zionsville vs Hamilton Southeastern** | Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving | Southeastern Sports Network

Fri Jan 19 - Boys & Girls Basketball
5:45 pm **Zionsville vs Hamilton Southeastern** | Girls Varsity | SSN
6:00 pm **Franklin Central vs Noblesville** | JV Boys | HCTV Sports
6:30 pm **Delphi vs Sheridan** | Girls/Boys DbIhdr | Bragg Sports Media
7:15 pm **Zionsville vs Hamilton Southeastern** | Boys Varsity | SSN
7:20 pm **Traders Pt vs Central Christian** | Varsity Boys | Indiana SRN
7:30 pm **Franklin Central vs Noblesville** | Varsity Boys | HCTV Sports

Sat Jan 20 - Girls Basketball
11:00 am **Franklin Central vs Noblesville** | Junior Varsity | HCTV Sports
12:30 pm **Franklin Central vs Noblesville** | Varsity | HCTV Sports

- Boys Basketball
5:50 pm **City Alliance Semi-Finals 1 & 2** | Indiana SRN
7:20 pm **Hamilton Southeastern vs Mt Vernon** | Varsity | Indiana SRN

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