

For additional details, please visit
tinyurl.com/WestfieldWM.

Philanthropist Frank Basile comes to *The Omnibus Show*

The REPORTER
The Monday, Feb. 12 guest on *The Omnibus Show* will be Frank Basile.

Basile is a professional speaker, author, columnist, community volunteer, philanthropist, retired property management executive, and world traveler. As philanthropists, Frank and his wife Katrina have contributed to numerous not-for-profit organizations in the arts and culture, education, religious and health care fields. His contribution to Main Street Productions resulted in naming the new venue Basile Westfield Playhouse, located at 220 N. Union St., Westfield.

He received the Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Spirit of Philanthropy Award from Indiana University.

The Omnibus Show, filmed inside Feinstein's at the Hotel Carmichael, is Carmel's No. 1 podcast, hosted by Dave Gibbs and produced



Listen to *The Omnibus Show* on Monday, Feb. 12 for what will surely be a great interview with philanthropist Frank Basile.

for people who love interviews of interesting and accomplished people and who are life learners themselves. Visit [TheOmnibusShow.com](https://www.TheOmnibusShow.com) for the audio podcasts and YouTube channel for more information and to sign up for the newsletter.

Nine local student earn academic honors at Franklin College

The REPORTER
Franklin College has announced the president's and dean's lists for the fall 2023 semester.

Students named to the president's list have achieved academic distinction by earning a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while completing a minimum of 12 credit hours during a regular semester. The following Hamilton County students have been named to the president's list:

- Makenna Mundy, a senior from Noblesville
- Isabella Neiling, a junior from Cicero

Students named to the dean's list have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours during a regular semester, earning a GPA of at least 3.5 but less than 4.0. The following Hamilton County students have been named to the dean's list:

- Amber Dawson, a senior from Sheridan
- Kaitlyn Hewitt, a senior from Westfield
- Jonathan Hicks, a junior from Westfield
- Owen Ogle, a senior from Carmel
- Kaylee Rhoton, a freshman from Cicero
- Jamie Schlieper, a freshman from Carmel
- Payton Seay, a freshman from Noblesville

PRANGE

from Page 1

He went on to give credit to his players, coaches, and school.

"All the teams that I have coached in the past and present have had a big part of this award," Prange said. "I am proud to be a coach at Sheridan High School. Sheridan has a deep history in sports in Hamilton County. I have had the opportunity and privilege to start both the girls' and boys' soccer programs at Sheridan High School. It is very gratifying that our 1A school has received recognition for our program. It is a real testament to the strength of the program."

Prange ended by giving appreciation to the administration and community.

"Without everyone working together, this could not have happened," Prange said.

FLOWERS

should be treated because of the way my dad treated my mom, and also by the way he treated my sister and me.

My parents always put an emphasis on love and the notion of soulmates. It wasn't a hypothetical in our house, but a real thing. They lived this by example. As much as they encouraged fairy tales and true love, they also told both of us that there is nothing more important for a girl in this world to have than her education. You must always be able to support yourself.

I could not be more grateful that I married a man who not only is devoted to me but is the epitome of the mate I would hope for my little girl one day. Mary is a confident little girl who knows her worth. I believe

this is largely in part because she has a dad who builds her self-esteem and teaches her how she should be treated by the way he interacts with me.

I was 20 years old when I lost my dad, and my sister was 13. Many girls losing a dad at young and impressionable ages would end up with the wrong guy, but my dad left such an impression on both of us that we both, fortunately, married men I believe he handpicked for us from Heaven.

One of the sweetest things my husband does that I have written about before is he gets me flowers. He knows this is one of my great joys and he always makes a point to surprise me with flowers. A simple gesture that he will never realize how special it truly is

for me. I remember being a little girl and seeing my dad bring my mom home flowers and I know that Mary is taking notice every single time her dad comes home with flowers for me.

My husband has been known to also make sure and get Mary her own flowers. Whether he picks her out her own bouquet or makes one of his own with trimmings from my flowers, Mary is no stranger to the most special man in her world bestowing flowers to her. It's a simple gesture, but one that has such a profound impact on a little girl.

As much as I love receiving flowers, I also make a point to show Mary that you don't need to only rely on a man to solely buy you flowers. I will often pick

from Page 1

up a beautiful bouquet for myself with her. While I absolutely want her to see her dad giving me flowers, I want her to always remember that she is enough on her own, and while there is nothing sweeter in this life than to find someone to love, you've got to love yourself first.

Sweet girl, marry the man who buys you flowers, but never forget for one moment that you're capable of buying them yourself. Choose someone who will treat you just like your Daddy has always treated you and the way he treats your mom.

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

BUILDERS

from Page 1

Nothing but Taylor Swift songs and a lot of screaming and yelling!"

The Hamilton Heights Builders Club focuses on students in fifth through eighth grades. The goal of the club is to develop leadership skills, improve self-confidence, and learn life skills through service.

The club currently has around 50 members and Nelson said these kids have amazing ideas and truly want to make the world a better place. When one of the club members was asked why they joined Builders Club, their response was, "I joined Builders Club because I want to change the lives of the people around me."

As students maneuver this in-between stage of their life, Builders Club empowers them to be themselves, work together, and implement plans through actions.

"The Kiwanis Club of Cicero is proud to sponsor these amazing middle school students so they can continue their leadership journey and make a difference in our communities," Kiwanis Club of Cicero President Clevenger said. "These phenomenal students continue to make an impact in their school and communities. The selfless work they do is truly inspirational, and we can't wait to see everything else they continue to do. These experiences will not only have an impact today but will instill in each of them a desire to make a lifelong commitment to service."

The Hamilton County Reporter: we're what newspapers were like when they were good!

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Individually packaged snacks • Lysol • Hand Sanitizer • Disinfecting wipes



Photo provided

The BeeFree team provided samples of their Warrior Snack Mix during the Noblesville Costco's grand opening last November.

Women-owned Noblesville company launches in Costcos

Submitted

BeeFree's flagship product, a plant-based grain-less snack mix, will be sampled across Costcos in Indianapolis throughout February.

This women-owned business boasts a small but mighty list of whole-food ingredients in its products. Each Warrior Snack Mix is gluten free with no soy, refined sugar, or trans-fat.

"The quality of ingredients we use is absolutely essential," said BeeFree founder and CEO Jennifer Wiese. "We want people to see our nutritional label and know exactly what they're getting."

Wiese identifies as a "mom on a mission" working to help support her son with autism and deeply committed to fostering an inclusive workplace at BeeFree. Their staff includes paid and intern positions set aside specifically for adults with autism looking for job experience. Wiese is working with the city of Noblesville to create a curriculum to make inclusive hiring easier for other community businesses.

Wiese and her team sampled Warrior Snack Mix during Noblesville's Costco grand opening this past Nov-

ember, ending the week as the No. 1-sold item in the snacks category. Throughout February, Warrior Snack Mix is being sampled and sold at all of the Indianapolis Costco locations as a Costco Roadshow.

About BeeFree

Jennifer Wiese began BeeFree in 2010 with a desire to make delicious, gluten-free snacks her whole family could enjoy. Her small farmer's market business has since grown to a brand that provides high quality products to hundreds of chains, airports, and specialty stores nationwide.

Come & Sample BeeFree!

- Feb. 7 & 8: Michigan Road Costco, 9010 Michigan Road, Indianapolis
- Feb. 19 to 22: Castleton Costco, 6110 E. 86th St., Indianapolis

BeeFree is committed to creating delicious food with powerful, whole ingredients to fuel the warrior within. As they grow, so does their dedication to making a difference in their community, providing jobs and resources for adults with autism and other forms of disability and tools for other businesses to follow the same path of inclusivity.

Sheridan's Phi Beta Psi Sorority invites you to

Cost: \$20 (\$5 food & \$15 game)

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SI to pay the pig

BUCHRE NIGHT

Saturday, Feb. 24
Check-in/dinner 6:30 PM
Game 7:00 PM

HSE school board invites public to meeting on superintendent contract

Submitted

Over the last several months, the Hamilton Southeastern School Board and administration have been focused on initiatives to uplift the district's students, support its staff, and improve all schools. A significant part of this work has been the strategic search for a new superintendent.

In the spirit of continued

collaboration and to adhere to legal guidelines, the HSE School Board will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at the HSE Central Office, 13485 Cumberland Road, Fishers, to gather feedback on the new superintendent's contract prior to the announcement of a final candidate.

A public notice with additional details and a sum-

mary of proposed superintendent contract terms can be [accessed here](#) (under *Other Public Hearings and Notices*).

Following the public hearing, the board will come together to finalize the next steps before announcing HSE's next superintendent during a special meeting of the board at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

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US Flag Requests

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

Military Academy Nominations

High school students in our district may contact my office to request a nomination to attend one of our nation's service academies.

US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

My office can help arrange tours throughout our nation's capital.

West District Office: (317) 848-0201 East District Office: (765) 639-0671
www.spartz.house.gov

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



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Keyboardist Dave Lowe every Thursday 6-9 p.m.



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Hamilton County earns nearly \$20 million in interest in 2023

The REPORTER

Hamilton County earned an impressive \$19,691,231.83 in interest during the fiscal year 2023. The sizeable interest income was generated from approximately \$392 million strategically deposited across more than a dozen banks.

County Treasurer Susan Byer says her office has been proactive in monitoring the performance of its banking relationships.

"In the three years since I took office, I have personally reached out to each of the banks the county does

business with to encourage them to raise their interest rates," Byer said. "And in some cases, that has meant closing underperforming accounts and redistributing funds."

The county's proactive financial management allowed it to benefit from higher interest rates last year. In 2023, the county's average interest rate reached 3.95 percent, a significant increase from the 2022 average of 0.99 percent. The nearly \$20 million in interest income will be directed back into

the county's general funds. County Commissioner Christine Altman is also president of the Hamilton County Board of Finance. She says allocation of the funds will be determined through standard budgetary processes and in accordance with the County's financial priorities.

"The actions taken by Susan and her office align with our commitment to responsible stewardship of



Byer **Altman**

public funds," Altman said. "By diversifying our banking relationships and actively engaging with financial institutions, they have not only safeguarded our assets but also maximized returns for Hamilton County."

Reflections on Black History Month

As we enter the month of February, we proudly observe Black History Month, a time dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the invaluable contributions of African Americans throughout the history of the United States. This annual observance serves as a reminder of the rich tapestry of our nation, woven with the remarkable stories and achievements of Black individuals from all periods.



MARIO MASSILLAMANY

Initiated by historian Carter G. Woodson as Negro History Week in 1926, Black History Month was established to spotlight the profound impact African Americans have made on the fabric of American society. It is an occasion to honor the resilience, creativity, and leadership displayed by Black Americans, from those who endured the hardships of slavery to the inspiring figures shaping

our nation today.

Woodson strategically chose February for Negro History Week due to the birthdays of two influential figures in American history – Republican President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Lincoln, born on February 12, and Douglass, a former slave and eminent abolitionist, celebrated his birthday on February 14.

As we reflect on the significance of Black History Month, let us recognize the shared values of freedom, equality, and opportunity

that have been championed by Republican leaders throughout history. The principles of the party align with the aspirations for a better, more prosperous future for all Americans.

Hamilton County Republicans join the nation in honoring Black History Month, acknowledging the integral role African Americans play in shaping the diverse and united tapestry of our great nation.

Mario Massillamany serves as the Chairman of the Hamilton County Republican Party.

I come not to praise Ceasar, but review him

By VERONIQUE DUPREY
A Seat on the Aisle

I attended Agape Theater Company's opening night of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* last Friday, presented at the Indy Fringe Theater in downtown Indianapolis. I am glad I did.

Originally a youth theater company, Agape mixes youth and adult performers in this production and offers a faithful, black-box rendering of Roman intrigue replete with ideas of honor, democracy, and patriotism.

The Bard's history plays are not the easiest for the average theatergoer, and most companies trim them down to make them more accessible. Agape has chosen to keep *Julius Caesar* almost intact, as far as I could tell, giving each actor a chance to shine; this does translate into an almost three-hour run time (with intermission), and pacing could have been improved in a few scenes. Nonetheless, Darby Kearled his cast well overall in

his directorial debut, and made good choices as far as staging, costumes, and scenic elements.

The most pleasant surprise was an actor who looks to be in his twenties (Christopher O'Hara, a newcomer to the area), with the rich baritone voice of a classical actor at least twice that age, who gave us a Brutus full of gravitas. I am very much looking forward to seeing and hearing O'Hara in other settings, to see how he adapts his voice and character to more modern or comedic styles.

I also thoroughly enjoyed Alec Cole's offerings as both Casca and Messala, making the most of this doubling by personifying two very distinct characterizations. Jake Hobbs fully committed to an intense Cassius, both in rage and sadness. And of special note, the entire cast is to be commended for the clarity of their enunciation and their projection skills, as well as their commitment to always reacting



Photo by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com
Brutus (foreground) is played by Christopher O'Hara and Cassius is played by Jake Hobbs.

appropriately and staying in the moment.

If you are not familiar with the play or Roman history, plan to read the very educational playbill, and be aware that murder and suicide are depicted. Also be prepared for brisk temperature in the building.

Bottom line: a quality offering of classical Shakespeare, without fancy gimmicks or modernization. I

recommend you take this opportunity to hear many famous lines (Et tu, Brute?) and be engulfed in the betrayal and revenge! *Julius Caesar* runs this weekend and next at the Indy Fringe building. Tickets information is available at agapetheatercompany.com/julius-caesar-2.

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



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Nonstop musical road trip

Now through Feb. 18, you can “get your kicks on Route 66” with Actors Theatre of Indiana. See the smash coast-to-coast hit musical, featuring songs such as “Dead Man’s Curve,” “King of the Road,” “Six Days on the Road,” “Little GTO,” and “Fun, Fun, Fun,” at The Studio Theatre at The Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. Get your tickets for this show by visiting atistage.org or by calling The Center for the Performing Arts box office at (317) 843-3800. (Photos provided by ATI)



Photo provided by Meg Osborne
For the final dress rehearsal before *Route 66* hit the stage, ATI invited senior citizens to enjoy the show at no cost!

To get select ATI guests and cast into an even deeper *Route 66* state of mind, after the Friday, Feb. 2 show at The Studio Theatre, several people motored down the street to a reception at the Woodard Turner car room, 1030 S. Range Line Road, Carmel. Complete with classic dream cars and an open bar, this selection from the Woodard Turner collection was nearly as big a hit as the show will be by the time it reaches the end of its road. (Reporter photos)



Jill Zaniker, Meredith McVicker, and Kelli Prader were amazed by this 25th anniversary 1989 Lamborghini Countach, one of only six produced.

Chinthala welcomes Rep. Spartz to Fifth District GOP primary race

Submitted by
Raju for Congress

In response to U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz's decision to file for reelection, Raju Chinthala extended a warm welcome to the Congresswoman.

Chinthala is running for Congress in Indiana's 5th District.

"I welcome Congresswoman Victoria Spartz to the race and look forward to a spirited, public discussion on how we can unlock the gridlocked Congress," Chinthala said. "More competition means a better

choice for Hoosiers in the 5th District. Together, let's take action and make a real difference in the lives of Hoosier families."

As the political landscape evolves, Chinthala remains committed to fostering healthy debates and advocating for positive change within the 5th Congressional District.

About Raju Chinthala

"My mission is to work for the development of my



Chinthala

district and constituents."

Raju Chinthala, a native of Indiana since 1996, is a successful speech-language pathologist, Hoosier businessman, International Economic Advisor, and politico. He is the Treasurer of the Hamilton County Republican Party and has served as Senior Advisor for India at the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and as

Founder and President of the Indiana India Business Council.

Chinthala has been honored by President Biden with the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022 and has received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from both Governor Pence and Governor Holcomb. He lives in Carmel with his wife Dr. Prasanna Chinthala, their son Anoop, and their dog Snowball.

Learn more about the candidate at RajuForCongress.com.

Indiana Democrats congratulate Jennifer McCormick on ballot petition submission

Submitted

On Monday, Indiana's last elected superintendent of public instruction Jennifer McCormick submitted the necessary signatures to qualify for the May Democratic Primary ballot for Governor.

McCormick gathered over 9,000 signatures, more than doubling the number needed to make the ballot across the state and in many of Indiana's nine congressional districts.

"Jennifer McCormick is gaining popularity and momentum across Indiana, and her signature campaign is direct proof," Indiana Democratic Party Chair Mike Schmuhl said. "Hoosiers know our next governor should be focused on taking on special interests, raising teacher pay at local schools, expanding childcare opportunities, protecting personal freedoms, and supporting Indiana's rural hospitals."

"After 20 years of Re-

publican administrations, it's clear that one-party rule is limiting Indiana's potential. We need leadership that listens to Hoosiers and protects their rights. Instead, Republicans have stripped away the right to choose and refused to give Hoosiers a direct voice at the ballot box on critical issues like our neighbors. As governor, Jennifer will listen to Hoosiers, restore reproductive rights, and bring much-needed balance to our state government.

"Our party is united behind her and ready for 2024, while the Republican gubernatorial candidates begin their primary race to the bottom and collectively spend millions to persuade Hoosiers."

With Monday's submissions, McCormick now becomes the only Democratic gubernatorial candidate to qualify for the primary ballot.

Learn more about the candidate at McCormickForGov.com.



McCormick

Engling stands fast for Hoosiers in his bid for Fifth Congressional seat

Submitted

Conservative Republican Max Engling released the following statement on Monday after Congresswoman Victoria Spartz reversed her decision to retire and announced that she would once again seek to represent Indiana's 5th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives.

His statement follows.

Hoosiers deserve a conservative fighter who is truly willing to hold the line on their behalf ... even in the face of difficult times. Hoosiers want someone who will work hard and understands rep-



Engling

resenting them in Congress is a privilege not to be taken for granted. I believe in steadfast representation and will continue my unwavering commitment to our shared conservative principles - when I make a promise, you can trust it ...

Decisive conservative leadership means standing your ground when it comes to reducing the debt, fighting for Indiana families, and getting America back on track. I'm in this race to win and the Congresswoman's latest announcement makes me more committed than ever to stay in this race, trust the Lord, and fight for family-first policies.

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Fast & furious 50-car sprayfest

Monochrome Miscreant paints cars to match coat

The REPORTER

Officers from the Indiana State Capitol Police are investigating a string of vehicle vandalism incidents that occurred on Friday, Feb. 2 in a parking garage off Washington Street in downtown Indianapolis.

Officers received reports of more than 50 vehicles being spray-painted while parked in the garage. Investigators are asking for the public's assistance identifying the person in the photographs.

Anyone with information about this crime or who can identify the person in the photos is asked to call the Indiana State Capitol Police at (317) 899-8577. Citizens can also call Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana at (317) 262-8477 (TIPS). Citizens



can also download the mobile P3tips app for Apple or Android phones to submit a mobile tip or go to [CrimeTips.org](https://www.crimetips.org) to submit a web tip. You will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000 if the information leads to a felony arrest. Only tips submitted directly and anonymously to Crime Stoppers are eligible for these cash rewards.

All suspects are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.



Photos provided

Attorney General Todd Rokita launches 'Eyes on Education' portal

Submitted by AG Rokita's Press Office

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita launched on Tuesday [Eyes on Education](#), a transparency portal he says will empower parents to further engage in their children's education by providing a platform to submit and view potentially inappropriate materials in their schools.

"As I travel the state, I regularly hear from students, parents and teachers about destructive curricula, policies or programs in our schools," AG Rokita said. "Our kids need to focus on fundamental educational building blocks, NOT ideology that divides kids from their parents and normal society. The media and schools themselves have continued to deny that this indoctrination is happening here in Indiana, so my office is launching Eyes on Education – a platform

for students and parents to submit and view real examples of socialist indoctrination from classrooms across the state."

Here are several examples live on the portal already, including:

- A [gender support plan](#) from Clark-Pleasant Community School Corp., which directs faculty not to disclose any information that reveals a student's gender identity to others, including to their parents or guardians.
- A [pride flag featuring a Black Lives Matter](#) symbol in a classroom in Kokomo. (According to AG Rokita, Black Lives Matter is a political organization, and if classrooms choose to display this type of material, all other political organizations must have the same opportunity.)



Rokita

- A [Carmel Clay survey](#) that asks students their political beliefs, including their stance on abortion.
- A [presentation](#) from Martinsville High School instructing kids to "become emotionally independent of parents."
- [Race and gender-based college fairs and scholarships](#) at Penn Harris Madison School Corporation.

The Office of the Attorney General will follow up on materials you submit to the portal that may violate Indiana law using investigative tools, including public records requests, and publish findings on the portal as well.

Beyond K-12 classrooms, the Eyes on Education portal also accepts submissions involving colleges, universities, and other affiliated academic entities in Indiana.

"We not only want to help empower parents," AG Rokita said. "We also want to help empower excellent educators. In some cases, district bureaucrats suppress the conscientious efforts of caring and well-qualified teachers. Our portal is a place where educators, too, can submit examples of materials they find objectionable."

Visit [in.gov/attorney-general](https://www.in.gov/attorney-general) and select 'Eyes on Education' to submit examples or view others from around the state.

To submit to the portal, select the school corporation, name of the school, and upload your documents. Upon submission, someone from the AG's office may contact you for additional information or clarification. Submissions to the portal will be reviewed and published regularly.

More Hoosiers say 'yes' to organ donation in 2023

The REPORTER

Support for lifesaving organ donation throughout Indiana rose again to record heights in 2023 as Indiana Donor Network, the federally designated organ recovery organization that coordinates organ, tissue and cornea donation in Indiana and transplantation throughout the U.S., transplanted 1,134 donated organs, saving 989 lives.

The [milestone](#) is a new high for transplanted organ donations in the 37-year history of Indiana Donor Network and represents a 17 percent increase in annual transplants compared to 2022.

technology throughout the U.S. This innovation is expected to further increase the number of organs transplanted by Indiana Donor Network.

"We as an organization emphasize innovation and implementing new technology to ensure that more donated organs are available for those in need of lifesaving transplants," Tremain said. "Organ perfusion technology has helped us significantly expand our donor base and coordinate more transplants for more patients."

Organ donation in Indiana has trended upward since 2016, when 606 lifesaving organs were transplanted. The number of organ transplants in the state has risen each year – 2017 (620), 2018 (634), 2019 (665), 2020 (857), 2021 (932), and 2022 (972).

In 2023, 1,393 tissue and cornea donors resulted in 16,154 tissues recovered to help save and heal lives, including 181 heart valves, a 28 percent increase from 2022 and another all-time record for the organization; tissue grafts from 1,158 skin donors; and 494 corneas.

More than 1,300 Hoosiers are currently waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. [Click here](#) to see the county-by-county numbers.

"The selflessness and generosity of organ and tissue donors and their families gives patients in need of a transplant a second chance at life," Indiana Donor Network President and CEO Kellie Tremain said. "This is our eighth consecutive year of executing high performance and unwavering commitment to donors and transplant recipients. We are dedicated to saving lives through carefully caring for our donors' gifts and honoring their decisions by ensuring the needs of patients awaiting transplant are met."

Included in the total tissues recovered were more than 12,000 bone and connective tissues, including ligaments and tendons, from donors, a 34 percent increase from 2022 and eclipsing the previous all-time mark the organization achieved in 2019.

Innovation, utilization of new technology and personnel growth were key contributors to the high performance Indiana Donor Network achieved in 2023.

"What makes our tissue milestones even more remarkable is our unwavering commitment to quality," Tremain said. "Despite handling a huge number of recoveries, we have maintained a remarkable 0.16 percent recovery error rate for tissue donations. This is no small feat. It is a direct result of our team's meticulous attention to detail, steadfast support for one another and unyielding dedication to caring for our donors and their gifts."

Last year, Indiana Donor Network utilized 12 kidney perfusion pumps for 501 transplant surgeries. Kidney perfusion transporters, a relatively new technology utilized in operating rooms during organ recovery and during transport of a donated kidney to an awaiting transplant center, keep donated kidneys functioning outside the body, allowing the organ's temperature and vascular performance to be monitored and increasing a kidney's viability for successful transplant.

Other major milestones achieved by Indiana Donor Network in 2023:

Indiana Donor Network also began utilizing liver perfusion transporters in 2023 as part of an FDA-authorized continued access study with four Midwest transplant centers. Indiana Donor Network first utilized liver perfusion technology in a transplant coordination in November last year at University of Cincinnati Medical Center and now awaits FDA approval for broad clinical use of the

- Provided programs, grief, and counseling services and support to 2,725 family members of organ and tissue donors.
- Signed up more than 925,000 Indiana residents to become organ and tissue donors; today, more than 4.4 million Hoosiers has signed up to become organ donors.
- Managed 345 dedicated advocates who volunteered more than 16,000 hours.
- Led 1,018 school and community presentations and activations, reaching more than 278,882 Hoosiers throughout the state.
- Generated \$179,000 in net proceeds from four fundraising events to support Indiana Donor Network Foundation and its mission to provide financial assistance and support for organ transplant recipients and donor families.
- Hired 107 new team members for a total of 327, creating its largest staff since the organization was founded in 1987.

Nationally, more than **See Organ . . . Page 9**



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Hamilton East Public Library welcomes two children’s author visits this month

The REPORTER

Excitement is brewing as Hamilton East Public Library eagerly anticipates the arrival of acclaimed authors Bethany Barton and Saadia Faruqi. These much-anticipated visits are scheduled for:

- **Bethany Barton:** 6 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8 at the Noblesville Library
- **Saadia Faruqi:** 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12 at the Fishers Library

On Thursday, Feb. 8, award-winning author and illustrator Bethany Barton will share her hilarious books and make science communication fun with interactive readings of *I'm Trying to Love Garbage* and *I'm Trying to Love Spiders*. Discover the magic behind making STEM-focused books lovable for all ages. Her charismatic storytelling sparks curiosity, making this the perfect event for your budding scientists.

Barton’s books have won the Children’s Choice Award, been named an Amazon Best Book of the Year, and were featured in the *New York Times*. She’s won over a dozen state literacy

awards, and travels around the world to visit schools and inspire young readers. Her books have been translated into four languages. She is on a mission to empower kids to explore STEM – and life – using facts, humor, empathy and critical thinking. When she’s not creating books, she works on major television shows like *Obi-Wan Kenobi*, *The Muppets*, and *Westworld*. She was a camp counselor for many summers and brings that energy to her presentations. The Kids Ink Bookstore will be onsite with a selection of her books for purchase and she will be available to sign books after the event.

On Monday, Feb. 12, join Saadia Faruqi, a Pakistani American author and interfaith activist. She writes the popular children’s early reader series *Yasmin* and other books for children, including chapter books, graphic novels, and picture books. Her middle grade novels include *A Place At The Table* co-written with Laura Shovan (a Sydney Taylor Notable 2021), *A Thousand Questions* (a South Asia Book Award Honor 2021) and *Yusuf Azeem Is Not A Hero* which is currently nominated for a Young Hoosier Book Award.

Faruqi is editor-in-chief of *Blue Minaret*, a magazine for Muslim art, poetry, and prose, and was featured in *Oprah Magazine* in 2017 as a woman making a difference in her community. She lives in Houston, Texas, with her husband and children. Following the program, she will be available to sign books. LoudMouth



Barton



Faruqi

Books will also be onsite with a selection of her books for purchase. “We are thrilled to welcome Bethany Barton and Saadia Faruqi to Hamilton East Public Library and provide our community with the opportunity to interact with such brilliant children’s authors,” said Allison Kartman, Youth Engagement Coordinator at Hamilton East Public Library. “Their visit promises to be an enriching experience for all who attend, and we are honored to host this event.”

These events are open to all ages and no registration is required. Don’t miss this extraordinary opportunity to meet two amazing children’s authors. For more information, please visit hamiltoneastpl.org.

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

JACOB MEETS ESAU

Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with his four hundred men; so he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two female servants. He put the female servants and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph in the rear. He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother.

But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept. Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. “Who are these with you?” he asked.

Jacob answered, “They are the children God has graciously given your servant.”

Then the female servants and their children approached and bowed down. Next, Leah and her children came and bowed down. Last of all came Joseph and Rachel, and they too bowed down.

Esau asked, “What’s the meaning of all these flocks and herds I met?”

“To find favor in your eyes, my lord,” he said.

But Esau said, “I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself.”

“No, please!” said Jacob. “If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably. Please accept the present that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I need.” And because Jacob insisted, Esau accepted it.

Genesis 33:1-11 (NIV)

ORGAN

103,000 people are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. Every day, 17 people die waiting while every 10 minutes, another person is added to the list.

Despite age or medical history, anyone can sign up

to be an organ donor. There are four ways that Hoosiers can sign up to become an organ donor:

- They can sign “yes” when conducting business at their local Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch.

- They can sign up online at DonateLifeIndiana.org.
- They can sign up when they apply online for a hunting, fishing, or trapping license through the state Department of Natural Resources.

- They can say “yes” through the Health app on their iPhone or iPad.

One organ donor can save eight lives. One tissue donor can heal more than 75 others. One cornea donor can restore sight to two people.

from Page 1

Meeting Notices

The Sheridan Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, at the library, located at 103 W. 1st St., Sheridan.

The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners have canceled the Feb. 9, 2024, highway meeting.

The Noblesville Redevelopment Commission meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, has been changed to a joint meeting with the Noblesville Redevelopment Authority. The meeting will take place in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold its monthly Board of Trustees meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, at TriCo Office, 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville.

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Basketball



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

University’s Bryce Gray did a little bit of everything in the Trailblazers’ win over Eminence on Tuesday. Gray had seven points, seven assists and six rebounds.

University sails past Eminence to start week

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com

CARMEL – The University boys basketball team began a busy week in the best way possible: with an easy win.

The Trailblazers hosted Eminence Tuesday at the U Center and sailed a 78-21 victory. University only needed 70 seconds to score its first seven points. The Eels got on the board after that, but it was merely a speed bump for the ‘Blazers, who led 29-6 after one quarter.

Cooper Cammack had nine points in that opening quarter, with Blake Gray scoring eight and Max McComb getting six. University allowed Eminence only two points at the end of the period while scoring 13 of its own and enjoyed a 42-8 halftime lead.

The Eels’ Jonathan Myers scored the first basket of the second half, but McComb answered with a bucket, then Robert Russell’s jumper put University up 46-10 and initiated a running clock around the 6:45 mark of the third quarter. Those points began a 17-0 run for the Trailblazers, who led 65-15 by the end of

the quarter.

“After Saturday at Heritage Christian, we fell apart in the third quarter and the kids had been harping on that,” said University coach Justin Blanding. “They were just anxious to get back on the court.”

Everybody got on the court for the Trailblazers, who had 16 players see game time. Nine of those players scored, led by McComb with 15 points. Cammack earned a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds, while Blake Gray added 10 points.

Faisal Mohamud scored nine points and dished out four assists. Bryce Gray did a little bit of everything, with seven points, seven assists and six rebounds. University had 22 team steals; Russell got five steals, while McComb and Cammack had four each. Montgomery Holland blocked two shots.

The Trailblazers are 10-7 and are gearing up for a back-to-back sequence with two road games Thursday and Friday. University plays at Indianapolis Lutheran on Thursday, then travels to either Bethesda Christian or Park Tudor on Friday for the Pioneer Academic Athletic Conference championship game.

The ‘Blazers are the PAAC North Division champions with a 4-0 record. Bethesda currently leads the South Division with a 3-0 record, but has one more game to play, against Greenwood Christian on Thursday. Park Tudor finished South play at 3-1.

“Both teams are very,

UNIVERSITY 78, EMINENCE 21				
University	FG	FT	TP	PF
Jackson Bledsoe	3-3	0-0	6	0
Blake Gray	4-7	0-0	10	1
Max McComb	6-9	1-2	15	1
Faisal Mohamud	4-9	0-0	9	1
Cooper Cammack	5-6	2-3	12	0
Bryce Gray	3-7	0-0	7	0
Zien Bland	0-0	0-0	0	0
Robert Russell	4-11	0-2	8	0
Montgomery Holland	3-6	2-2	8	2
Jalen Scott	1-2	1-2	3	0
David Walz	0-0	0-0	0	0
DJ Willis	0-0	0-0	0	0
Joe Rozembajgier	0-0	0-0	0	0
Leslie Carroll	0-0	0-0	0	0
Hayden Hyde	0-1	0-0	0	0
Phil Berebitsky	0-0	0-0	0	1
Totals	33-61	6-11	78	6
Score by Quarters				
Eminence	6	2	7	6 – 21
University	29	13	23	13 – 78
University 3-point shooting (6-17) Bl. Gray 2-5, McComb 2-4, Br. Gray 1-3, Mohamud 1-3, Russell 0-1, Holland 0-1.				
University rebounds (35) Cammack 10, Br. Gray 6, McComb 4, Bland 3, Russell 3, Holland 3, Bl. Gray 2, Walz 1, Bledsoe 1, Mohamud 1, Scott 1.				

very good between either Bethesda or Park Tudor,” said Blanding. “At this point, we’re treating it like it’s the tournament. We’re mimicking that, just one game at a time. And then playing the next day and not knowing who you’re going to play. So, a lot of it is just going to be playing basketball and you don’t really have a lot of time to prep.”

Four county divers qualify for state

The REPORTER

Hamilton County had four divers qualify for the state meet after their performance at Tuesday’s Fort Wayne South Side diving regional.

Carmel’s Helena Gib-

son was the top local diver, placing second with 403.35 points. Noblesville’s Eryn McMahon finished fourth by scoring 368.40 points. Hamilton Heights’ Campbell Lively-Mason placed fifth with 365.55 points,

while Melaina Munson was sixth, totaling 365.50 points.

The top eight divers from each of the four regionals advance to the state meet, which takes place Saturday at the IU Natato-

rium.

Two other divers participated at the regional. Carmel’s Eeva-Liisa Gibson was ninth with 350.80 points and Hamilton Southeastern’s Zoe Rehm was 18th with 194.40 points.

Millers refocus, charge past Lions for fifth straight win

By RICHARD TORRES
For The Reporter

NOBLESVILLE – On paper, Tuesday night’s home game against Class A Liberty Christian was projected to be a routine midweek victory for the 4A No. 3 Noblesville Millers.

By the end, the final score reflected that assumption, 72-37, but it required a bit more mindfulness than the Millers initially anticipated.

Noblesville (17-2) ran out to a quick 10-2 advantage in the first quarter, but the Lions (10-9) roared back twice in the first half, closing within one possession two times before the more experienced Millers ran away with their largest point total of the season.

began to take shape in the second quarter, as the youthful Lions cut their deficit to 12-10 following a 3-point play by sophomore Jordan Haralson, who converted an and-1.

Noblesville reestablished a nine-point lead afterwards, 19-10, with an assist from senior Aaron Fine setting up a Baron Walker 3-pointer to kick off a 7-0 run.

Liberty Christian answered with a 6-0 comeback, but Fine sparked a 12-0 swing with his first of two 3-pointers in the game, and the Millers’ lead swelled to double digits where it remained.

Fine finished with a game-high 25 points on 9 of 14 shooting and a flawless 5-for-5 performance from the free-throw line. Noblesville had a trio of double-digit scorers with senior Hunter Walston tallying 17 points on 6 of 10 shooting and sophomore Justin Curry II adding 10 points.

“The biggest thing from the first half to the second half was our concentration. That’s what I told them at halftime,” Millers head coach Scott McClelland said. “Why did I say that? Well, we missed six or seven layups. We had six turnovers, and we didn’t get our defense set like we talked about. We were flat and not active in the gaps, and I said at halftime, this comes down to concentration.”

Walker nearly gave the Millers a fourth player in double figures with nine points and two rebounds.

The Millers’ refocusing See Charge . . . Page 11

NOBLESVILLE 72, LIBERTY CHRISTIAN 37				
Noblesville	FG	FT	TP	PF
Aaron Fine	9-14	5-5	25	2
Justin Curry II	4-8	0-0	10	1
Aiden Brewer	1-3	0-2	2	0
Hunter Walston	6-10	4-4	17	3
Baron Walker	2-3	4-4	9	3
TJ Davidson	0-1	2-2	2	0
Luke Etchison	0-0	3-4	3	1
Will Smits	0-1	2-2	2	0
Ryan Vctor	1-2	0-0	2	2
Adam Fine	0-2	0-0	0	0
Luke Davis	0-0	0-0	0	1
Totals	23-44	20-23	72	13
Score by Quarters				
Liberty Christian	7	15	11	4 – 37
Noblesville	12	26	19	15 – 72
Noblesville 3-point shooting (6-17) Curry 2-5, Aa. Fine 2-4, Walston 1-3, Walker 1-2, Davidson 0-1, Ad. Fine 0-1, Vctor 0-1.				
Noblesville rebounds (29) Walston 7, Curry 6, Brewer 6, Aa. Fine 3, Walker 2, Smits 2, Vctor 2, Etchison 1.				

Rocks ride momentum to rough up Raiders

The REPORTER

Westfield got off to a tremendous start Tuesday against Harrison and rode that momentum to a 73-55 victory over Harrison at CSI Gymnasium.

The Class 4A No. 4 Shamrocks blasted through the first quarter, leading 28-14. Six different players scored for Westfield, with Trey Buchanan nailing two 3-pointers on his way to eight points. Westfield led

44-29 at halftime, with Will Harvey totaling 12 points for the first half (seven in the second quarter). The ‘Rocks turned it up again in the third quarter, outscoring the Raiders 19-9. Buchanan added another 17 points.

Harvey led the scoring with 18 points, while Buchanan totaled 15. Nic Book scored for Westfield.

Westfield is 15-2 and hosts Hamilton Heights on Friday.

WESTFIELD 73, HARRISON 55				
Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Trey Buchanan	6	0-0	15	0
Will Harvey	8	0-0	18	0
Caleb Wise	2	1-2	6	1
Durante Morton	3	0-0	6	2
Nic Book	5	0-0	10	1
Charles Farrell	1	6-6	8	1
Drew Haffner	1	0-0	3	1
Carsen Melvin	3	1-3	7	1
Rylan Rauch	0	0-0	0	0
Brock Detamore	0	0-0	0	0
Brody Sutton	0	0-0	0	0
Jalen Malone	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	31	8-11	73	7
Score by Quarters				
Harrison	14	15	9	17 – 55
Westfield	28	16	19	10 – 73
Westfield 3-pointers (7) Buchanan 3, Harvey 2, Wise, Haffner.				

Correction

Hamilton Southeastern’s Nate Ingalls was the 285-pound champion at the North Montgomery regional last Saturday. Incorrect information was published in the Monday edition. The Reporter apologizes for the error.

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December 2023 Average Sale Price

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compared to this time last year

Sales Decreased

December pending home sales compared to this time last year

6.1%

97

Fewer Homes For Sale

12/22 vs. 12/23

1.1%

Price Increase

12/22 vs. 12/23

Months of Inventory Increased

4.0%

12/22 vs. 12/23

Interest Rates

30-Year Fixed

6.875%

With an APR of 7.037%

Basketball



Guerin Catholic's Robert Sorensen cleared the 1,000-point mark for his high school career during the Golden Eagles' game with New Palestine Tuesday at the Eagles Nest.

Photo by Mike Navarro

Golden Eagles fall to New Palestine

The REPORTER

Guerin Catholic was dealt a tough loss at the Eagles Nest on Tuesday, as the Class 3A No. 5 Golden Eagles fell to visiting New Palestine 63-61 on a last-second basket.

The Dragons, who are receiving votes in the Class 4A poll, led 23-16 after one quarter. Guerin Catholic came back to tie the game at 33-33 by halftime. New Palestine made another run in the third quarter, leading 56-47 by the end of the period. The Golden Eagles came back to tie the game at 61-61, but Ben Slagley grabbed a rebound and scored at the buzzer to give New Pal the win.

Guerin Catholic had four players reach double-figure scoring. Jack Cherry had 16 points and also handed out four assists. Robert Sorensen scored 15 points; he passed the 1,000-point career mark during the game. Sorensen also drained five



Photo by Mike Navarro

Jack Cherry led Guerin Catholic with 16 points.

3-pointers. Bryson Cardinal reached double-double status with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Andy Caron scored 10 points and handed out six assists.

The Golden Eagles 15-7 and host Indianapolis Washington on Thursday.

NEW PALESTINE 63, GUERIN CATHOLIC 61				
Guerin Catholic	FG	FT	TP	PF
Jack Cherry	5-7	4-4	16	1
Robert Sorensen	5-12	0-2	15	2
Andy Caron	5-6	0-0	10	2
Jake Grissom	2-5	0-0	5	2
Bryson Cardinal	5-12	1-4	13	3
Malcolm Houze	0-2	0-0	0	1
Ryne Paris	1-1	0-0	2	1
Totals	23-45	5-10	61	12
Score by Quarters				
New Palestine	23	10	23	7-63
Guerin Catholic	16	17	14	14-61
Guerin Catholic 3-point shooting (10-21) Sorensen 5-10, Cardinal 2-4, Cherry 2-2, Grissom 1-3, Houze 0-2.				
Guerin Catholic rebounds (21) Cardinal 10, Cherry 3, Caron 3, Sorensen 1, Houze 1, Paris 1, Grissom 1, team 1.				

Gymnastics

Westfield places 2nd, Noblesville 4th at invites

The REPORTER

The Westfield gymnastics team finished second at the Rushville Invitational last Saturday.

The Shamrocks scored 96.375 points. New Palestine was the team champion with a 98.125. Westfield had one individual champion, as Elianna Reynolds was first on the balance beam with an 8.525. Reynolds went on to finish second in the all-around with a score of 33.425; she had the highest team score of the night with an 8.775 on the floor exercise, placing her third in that event.

Complete results now follow.

All-around scores: 2. Elianna Reynolds 33.425, 4. Isa Galan 32.15, 7. Avery Mason 30.525.

Balance beam: 1. Reynolds 8.525, 6. Galan 7.975, 8. Sara Borek 7.325, 10. Mason 7.05.

Uneven bars: 2. Reynolds 7.925, 4. Galan 7.65, 6. Mason 7.325, 8. Borek 6.75.

Floor exercise: 3. Reynolds 8.775, 5. Galan 8.175, 9. Mason 7.675.

Vault: 3. Mason 8.475, 6. Galan 8.35, 9. Reynolds 8.20. * * *

Noblesville placed fourth at the Lafayette Jefferson Invitational last Saturday.

The Millers totaled a team score of 88.65. Valorey Bittles led Noblesville with a ninth-place finish in the all-around, scoring 32.00 points. Bittles scored an 8.50 on vault, placing her fifth and was 11th on the bars with a 7.35. Emmerson Leckrone took 10th on bars with a 7.45.

Complete scores now follow.

All-around scores: 9. Valorey Bittles 32.00, Emmerson Leckrone 29.85.

Vault: 5. Bittles 8.50, Leckrone 8.10, Lydia Blackwell 7.30.

Uneven bars: 10. Leckrone 7.45, 11. Bittles 7.35, Alina Skryabnev 5.55, Ethan Rivers 4.85, Blackwell 3.35.

Balance beam: Bittles 8.25, Leckrone 6.65, Skryabnev 6.55, Rivers 5.80, Lilly Martin 5.75.

Floor exercise: Bittles 7.90, Leckrone 7.65, Skryabnev 7.40, Blackwell 6.60, Martin 5.25.

CHARGE

from Page 10

played a little bit better in the second half. I know we scored some points in the second quarter, but I thought we gave up some, too. I just thought our concentration was much better overall in the second half with our defense and our attention to detail.”

The Millers poured in 26 points in the second quarter to take a 38-22 lead and outscored the Lions 34-15 in the second half.

Noblesville shot 23 of 44 from the field at 52 percent and buried 6 of 17 3-pointers while converting 20 of 23 free throws to reach their largest lead at 36 points by the fourth quarter.

Their 72 points surpassed the team’s previous season high at 71 points scored against 3A Guerin Catholic on Jan. 27 at the Mill. The Millers’ most lopsided victory to date was at the Mill, 51-16, against 3A Connersville on Jan. 13.

“Overall, it was a good win. Good balance again, with three in double figures and several other guys that scored, so that was good,” McClelland said. “The difference was the concentration.”

One of three Hoosier Crossroads Conference teams ranked in 4A’s top four, the Millers netted their fifth straight win and improved to 9-1 at the Mill this season.

The Millers’ defense held the Lions without a player in double figures. The closest was freshman TJ English with eight points, followed by Haralson with seven.

Liberty Christian has won back-to-back sectional titles and eight in the past 12 years due to its traditionally strong schedule, which it

utilizes towards postseason success.

The Millers’ final three regular-season games will be equally as testing with the state tournament weeks away.

“Tuesday night game against a team, I think, you know in your mind and heart you’re probably going to win or should win, and again, I go back to our concentration,” McClelland said. “We have to have that because it doesn’t get any easier now. It’s Brownsburg on the road. It’s Avon. It’s Mississinewa. You can’t take a play off if we’re going to win the first week of March. We have to be ready to go every play.”

The Millers are currently third in the Hoosier Crossroads Conference at 3-2. No. 4 Westfield (14-2) is second with a 4-2 conference record and top-ranked Fishers (18-1) remains unbeaten in the league at 6-0.

Both of Noblesville’s losses were against those HCC rivals. All three programs compete in Sectional 8, which will be held at Noblesville this year.

The IHSAA state tournament sectional draw is on Feb. 18, but before they find out their postseason path, the Millers are focusing on winning out.

“We have to play over there (at Brownsburg), and that’s never easy. So we’ll get to enjoy this tonight and come back tomorrow and get ready to work,” McClelland said.

The Millers play Brownsburg (12-9, 2-3 HCC) Friday at 7:30 p.m. and host Avon (11-8, 1-4 HCC) on Feb. 16 before finishing at the Mill on Feb. 20 against 3A Mississinewa.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Feb. 7
BOYS BASKETBALL
Southmont at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.
GYMNASTICS
Fishers at Franklin Central five-way meet, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 8
BOYS BASKETBALL
Indianapolis Washington at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
University at Indianapolis Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 9
BOYS BASKETBALL
Carmel at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
Carroll at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.
Cathedral at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.
Hamilton Heights at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.
Noblesville at Brownsburg, 7:30 p.m.
GIRLS SWIMMING
State preliminaries, 6 p.m. at IU Natatorium

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

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