

**See *Laugh* . . . Page 2**



# Noblesville’s own Joe Akers named top journalism advisor



Photo by Sam Deane

Congratulations to Noblesville High School teacher Joe Akers, who was recently named the Indiana Journalism Advisor of the Year by the Indiana High School Press Association (IHSPA). The NHS broadcast news staff was also awarded top honors for the second consecutive year, one of only two schools in the state with that distinction. Several newspaper, broadcast, and yearbook students were recognized by the IHSPA for excellence in journalism.

## MILESTONE

from Page 1

“As a locally owned and operated community bank, we’re committed to supporting and uplifting the communities that our team lives and works in,” CFB President & CEO Robb Blume said. “Throughout the years CFB has given to local schools, hospitals, youth outreach programs, addiction recovery programs, animal shelters, domestic violence shelters and so much more. We also make it a priority to volunteer and serve on the boards of directors for the organizations. This milestone represents our continuous efforts towards meaningful partnerships and local impact.”

This commemorative event, along with the opening of its newest branch in Fishers on Feb. 5, wraps up the bank’s 20th anniversary celebrations that began in February 2023. Learn more at [CFBindiana.com/marking-a-million](http://CFBindiana.com/marking-a-million).

### About CFB

Community First Bank of Indiana (CFB) was chartered in 2003 in Kokomo and is committed to keeping outstanding customer service, local decision-making, and relationship-building at its core. The locally owned and operated bank currently has branches in Fishers, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Noblesville, and Westfield. Bank mission: We partner with you to build a better future. Additional information can be found at [CFBindiana.com](http://CFBindiana.com). MEMBER FDIC, Equal Housing Lender.

**ACCURATE. BALANCED.**  
*You’re reading*  
**THE REPORTER**

## LAUGH

or too old to remember), he’s been in great demand across the U.S. and all over the world. He combines comedy, ventriloquism, and music to provide appropriate entertainment for everything from tailored corporate presentations and commercials to Carnegie Hall, from Second City to churches to Disney cruises.

**June Colson** is a comedian, writer, and podcaster born in Indiana and raised in the Bluegrass State. June holds the prestigious title as 2020’s Nashville Clean Comedy Champion. She has entertained three times in Westfield before and returns again to be the host for the night.

**Leon “the Jokester” Purley** is hailed as “the funniest blind comedian in stand-up” by *Voyage San Antonio Magazine*. Comedi-

an Leon the Jokester comes from Oklahoma and has one focus in comedy, and that is to spread love, hope, and laughter. Widely known for his clean and relatable comedy for all age groups, Leon the Jokester brings a style of humor the entire family can enjoy. He addresses life issues, finding hope in tough times, and how to walk by faith and not by sight in every season of life. In 2016, he became the co-founder of the non-profit organization Oklahoma Comedy Zone, LLC in which he teaches “tweens” and “teens” how to write clean jokes and become comedians.

CrossRoads Church at Westfield also invites you are invited to Popcorn and Punchlines, a summer family-friendly free comedy event set for 7 p.m. on Fri-

day, May 31 at the IMMI Conference Center, 18880 N. East St., Westfield, featuring six outstanding comedians.

CrossRoads Church at Westfield offers free Pet Food and free weekly Zumba, hosts Together Today for senior adults, gives food and athletic shoes to local elementary students on their school breaks, provides Celebrate Recovery for people dealing with personal issues, and repairs homes for senior adults and veterans. Their campus is located at 19201 Grassy Branch Road, Westfield.

For further information about CrossRoads Church’s For Our Neighbor four initiatives, look online at [ForOurNeighbor.Life](http://ForOurNeighbor.Life), email at [ForOurNeighborInfo@gmail.com](mailto:ForOurNeighborInfo@gmail.com), or [click here](#).

## CONFIDENCE

We all need to do things that make us confident and happy. Living with a disability, the confidence tank can often run on empty. There are many reasons for this, but a lot of it is beliefs of others that we take on that just aren’t true. I’ve learned that other’s perception of my disability isn’t my reality. I’ve grown to accept that many are just not ever going to fully grasp what it’s like for me living in a disabled body. They will continue to measure me up based on their abilities. Some don’t respect my differences, and that can make things difficult. While it will always be painful to not be accepted as I am, I’m learning to move on and not waste valuable energy on those who will likely never be able to get to that place.

I have also learned that confidence must come from within ourselves, and there is no one to blame for our lack of confidence. It’s our belief of ourselves and how we view ourselves where confidence grows. It’s practice. It’s trial and error. It’s taking risks and sometimes getting to the other side of those risks, when you succeed, that cultivates confidence.

It’s like when I started my blog “Humbly Courageous” a few years ago. I just went off an idea that came to mind. I wasn’t a “writer,” but I loved to write. I set a personal deadline for myself to adhere to. Each week, when I hit publish on my blog post, my confidence grew. Even when no one was really reading it (for months!) I kept writing and

sharing my story from my standpoint of a person with a lifelong disability and how that has shaped me. As I kept writing and looking back on my life, what I had been through and got to the other side of, my confidence continued to grow.

Confidence fluctuates from time to time, but if you are doing what you set your mind to, and you don’t give up based on the opinions of others, then I think you will feel free to just be confidently you.

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

Once you take charge, there’s

# NO GOING BACK

ID.4 Electric SUV

**\$499/mo\* - Sign Then Drive lease**  
0\$ Down Payment / \$0 Security Deposit / \$0 First Month’s Payment / \$0 Due at Signing

\*Excludes tax, title, license, options and dealer fees. For highly qualified customers through Volkswagen Credit. Limited inventory available.  
39 month lease / 10,000 mi/yr  
2023 ID.4 Pro RWD – N12547

**TOM WOOD**  
Volkswagen  
NOBLESVILLE

14701 Tom Wood Way Noblesville, IN 46060 • 317.853.4552

**TomWoodVolkswagenNoblesville.com**

**Next To The New Costco on 146<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Proud Partner of Prevail, Inc.**  
To help Hamilton County families affected by domestic violence and abuse, you can drop off the following items at Tom Wood Volkswagen, 14701 Tom Wood Way, Noblesville:  
**Individually packaged snacks • Lysol • Hand Sanitizer • Disinfecting wipes**



# Embrace the chilly temps at Clay Terrace’s Winter Blast

**The REPORTER**

Clay Terrace in Carmel will hold its upcoming event, Winter Blast, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24. Families and friends are invited to embrace the chilly temps of winter and enjoy a fun-filled day for the whole family.

Winter Blast offers an array of exciting activities to delight visitors of all ages. Guests can enjoy complimentary carriage rides sponsored by Up-

land Brewing Co., trackless train rides sponsored by DC Construction, face painters, a hot chocolate trail, and even snow. Families will have the opportunity to grab a free hot chocolate and collect marshmallows and goodies from participating retailers.

One of the highlights of Winter Blast is the chance to step into Clay Terrace's giant snow globe, sponsored by Riverview ER & Urgent Care, for a picture-perfect selfie moment.

Visitors can also marvel at the live ice sculpture carvings ... and meet Elsa and Olaf from *Frozen*.

“We are excited to present Winter Blast as part of our ongoing dedication to providing guests and their families with thoughtful ways to savor moments and create lasting memories together,” Clay Terrace Marketing Director Christine Foulke said. “Winter Blast showcases the unique blend of shopping, dining, and

community experiences that make Clay Terrace the premier lifestyle destination in Carmel.”

Winter Blast will take place at the Clay Terrace Village Green, near Dick's Sporting Goods. Clay Terrace is located at 14390 Clay Terrace Blvd., Carmel. This free event aims to bring joy and excitement to the community, providing a memorable experience for everyone.

[Click here](#) for more information.

# Students invited to March 12 college fair at Grand Park

**The REPORTER**

On Tuesday, March 12, local high school students have an opportunity to take advantage of the Greater Indianapolis Northside College Fair to be held at the Grand Park Events Center, 1900 Grand Park Blvd., Westfield.

The event, which will take place from 6 to 8 p.m., is sponsored by a consortium of high schools on Indianapolis' Northside, in partnership with the Indiana Association for College Admission Counseling, as

a way to provide access to college information for local students. Over 100 colleges and universities will be represented at the fair.

The event is free, and students in all grade levels are welcome to attend. Students are encouraged to register for the fair in advance at [StriveFair.com](#). Registered students will receive a barcode that they can bring with them to the college fair in order to share their information with admission reps electronically.



Photo provided  
(From left) Easterseals Rehabilitation Center CEO Kelly Schneider, State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn, Easterseals Crossroads CEO David Dreith, and Easterseals Northern Indiana Chief Government Relations Officer Jason Meyer.

## State Victoria Rep. Garcia Wilburn honored by Easterseals for her work supporting people with disabilities

**The REPORTER**

The three Easterseals affiliates serving Indiana honored four state leaders at their Legislator Appreciation Reception on Tuesday.

The Easterseals affiliates celebrated three individuals as Outstanding Advocates for People with Disabilities:

- **Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn**, D-Fishers, for her service on the Family, Children and Human Affairs Committee and collaboration with Easterseals, INARF and The Arc of Indiana to craft legislation supporting individuals with disabilities

- Rep. Robb Greene, R-Shelbyville, for his service on the Family, Children and Human Affairs Committee and collaboration with Easterseals, INARF and The Arc of Indiana to craft legislation supporting individuals with disabilities
- Cathy Robinson, deputy director Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services, for her career advocating for the rights and needs of people with disabilities

Leaders from Easterseals Northern Indiana, Easterseals Crossroads, and

Easterseals Rehabilitation Center in Evansville also presented an award to Sen. Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, for Excellence in State Leadership in recognition of his work as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and his responsiveness to community members in his district.

The third annual Easterseals legislator appreciation event held at Ruth's Chris Steak House on Tuesday evening was attended by state senators and representatives, legislative aides, and guests from The Arc of Indiana and INARF.

Main Street Productions, Inc. Presents

# LOST IN YONKERS

By Neil Simon

Directed by Jen Otterman

## February 8th – February 18th, 2024

Thursday, Friday, Saturday Shows at 7:30 pm,  
Sunday Shows at 2:30 pm

**Basile Westfield Playhouse**  
220 North Union St., Westfield, IN - (317) 402-3341  
For reservations, call or visit our website:  
[www.westfieldplayhouse.org](http://www.westfieldplayhouse.org)

**WOW!**  
CLEANING SERVICES  
317-244-7128

**mylogoshop**  
[mylogoshop.com](http://mylogoshop.com)

# American Bank of Freedom

[www.americanbankoffreedom.bank](http://www.americanbankoffreedom.bank)

NMLS#409183

## Certificate of Deposit Specials

<h3>7 Month</h3> <h1>5.50%</h1> <p>APY*</p>	<h3>18 Month</h3> <h1>5.35%</h1> <p>APY*</p>
---	--

\*CD Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is current as of this issue and subject to change at any time. \*CD APY assumes that interest remains on deposit until maturity. Minimum deposit of \$1,000.00 to open this account. Minimum balance requirement of \$1,000.00 to earn interest. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings. Contact your local branch to learn more.

APPLIES TO NEW DEPOSITS ONLY.

American Bank of Freedom. Member FDIC.

## Stop by or call your local branch today to learn more!

14611 N. Gray Road  
Westfield, IN 46062  
(463) 622-2930

Member FDIC



**Phi Beta Psi Euchre Fundraiser**  
**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**

**Live Music Feb. 9 - Rich Hardesty**  
**Open Mic Tuesdays 7-10 p.m.**  
**Trivia Wednesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m.**  
**Keyboardist Dave Lowe every Thursday 6-9 p.m.**



**17419 Suite C, Carey Rd., Westfield**  
**317.867.0397**

**Live Music At Pasto Italiano**  
**Benito DiBartoli Every Wednesday**  
*(1/2 Price Bottles of Wine On Wednesdays)*  
**Friday February 9**  
**Austin Johnson**  
*Reservations Recommended*  
**317-804-2051**  
**3150 East State Rd. 32, Westfield**



**Bien Mexicana**  
150 S Peru St, Cicero



**Green Avenue**  
**GRANTS & MORE**

- Grant Research
- Proposal Writing
- Planning
- Other Fundraising

*Your Road To Fundraising Success!*  
**(317) 750-1204**  
www.greenavenue.info • amys@greenavenue.info

**NOBLE PC**

REPAIRS & SUPPORT  
DATA RECOVERY  
HARDWARE UPGRADES  
CUSTOM-BUILT COMPUTERS

YOUR ONE-STOP DESTINATION IN NOBLESVILLE FOR ALL THINGS COMPUTER-RELATED IS HERE! DIVE INTO A HASSLE-FREE TECH EXPERIENCE WITH US, WHERE YOUR PC AND MAC PROBLEMS FIND SWIFT SOLUTIONS!

IN PERSON  
17555 WILLOWVIEW RD  
ONLINE  
**NOBLE-PC.COM**  
BY PHONE  
317-560-0579

**"We're not just tech support; we're your neighbors, providing top-tier solutions that have been celebrated by our community and beyond!"**  
- Nik Roberts / Owner

CHECK OUT OUR 100+ 5-STAR REVIEWS ON GOOGLE

**Join us for this solar spectacle!**



**MyHamiltonCountyParks.com**

# INDOT sets meeting on SR 32 Noblesville project

**The REPORTER**  
The Indiana Department of Transportation will hold a meeting at 9 a.m. Friday about the upcoming State Road 32 project through Noblesville.  
The meeting will take place in the conference rooms on the second floor of

Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St. You will find signs directing you as you enter.  
If you plan to attend, either in person or virtually, please RSVP at [this link](#).  
The virtual meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams. You can join on your computer or mobile

device at [this link](#). Enter Meeting ID 276 597 660 241 and Passcode MaLm-Lw. You can also listen in on the meeting by calling (872) 240-4868 and entering Conference ID 448 159 050#.  
This meeting will provide the most current infor-

mation on the project and include visuals for you to better understand the construction areas and timelines. This meeting will also provide an opportunity for INDOT to answer any questions you may have.  
Find more information at [ReconstructingSR32.com](#).

# Bringing the best of small business to Noblesville City Hall

Seven years ago, I started a business with offices on the Square in Noblesville and have seen first-hand how crucial small businesses are to the economy. The entrepreneurs who run them generate nearly two-thirds of all jobs and employ half of the country's private sector. Yet, when you look at our public institutions, there aren't enough leaders bringing entrepreneurial chops to the table.  
Thankfully, Noblesville is different.  
In my role on our city council, my first priority is to strategically save taxpayer dollars. Working with the mayor, we target to hold back 15 percent of the city's annual revenue for cash reserves. This rainy

**GUEST COLUMNIST**



**AARON SMITH**

day fund is far above the state's recommendation of 12 percent and provides a critical buffer against economic downturns. It's the bedrock of prudent budgeting and something every business owner knows intuitively.  
Once healthy savings are established, we set our sights on bold projects that will provide long-term benefit to Noblesville residents and business owners. In my time on council, that effort has been prioritized by putting shovels in the ground to extend Pleasant Street, attracting the jobs of the future with partners like Bastian Solutions, and giving the men and women of our police and fire departments a well-deserved raise. All of this, of course,

happened without increasing our tax rate.  
The private sector plays an important role here, too. When I negotiated Pulte's new 600-acre development on the east side of Noblesville last year, I shared my foundational expectation that they build a first-class neighborhood and provide tangible benefits for current Noblesville residents. Not only did they agree to fund the city's share of a new roundabout at 166th Street and Boden Road, they also took on the responsibility to rehabilitate and expand the streets bordering their development – 156th, 166th, Boden, and Olivo. It's a win for current and future Noblesville residents alike.  
In the year ahead, Noblesville is going to see more investment coming our way. We're partnering with INDOT to rehabilitate parts of State Road 32 in the

heart of our downtown. Our friends at Hamilton County will continue to make progress on 146th and Allisonville and we, at the City of Noblesville, will build a trail connecting Forest Park to Federal Hill. These are just a few of the projects we're tackling that have been in the planning stages for years.  
The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in both Noblesville's private and public sectors. We'll continue to weave innovative small business priorities into our work in city hall so we can ensure that Noblesville's next chapter will be our best yet. I'm proud to be part of that.  
*Aaron Smith lives in Old Town and represents District 3 on the Noblesville Common Council. You can read and subscribe to his monthly newsletter at [noblesville.substack.com](#).*

# DNR awards Noblesville \$106K urban forestry grant

**The REPORTER**  
The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Forestry has awarded \$1.5 million in grants to nine communities to support tree planting and maintenance, workforce development, education, and tree inventory projects.  
Among the awardees is the City of Noblesville, which received \$106,150 for tree planting.  
The projects were selected by the DNR's Community and Urban Forestry

(CUF) program and are funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry program.  
"Forests aren't just isolated to big swaths of lands or rural areas," said Jacob Roos, urban forestry director for DNR. "Indiana's cities and towns are home to urban tree canopies that provide us all with clean air, better drainage, wildlife habitats, and an elevated quality of life. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact this grant creates for each of these communities."  
Communities and organizations receiving the USDA funds, which are set aside for underserved or disadvantaged areas, include:  
• Canopy Bloomington, \$239,399 for education and maintenance.  
• City of Jeffersonville, \$63,500 for inventory and planting.  
• City of New Albany, \$250,000 for tree planting and education.  
• City of Noblesville, \$106,150 for tree planting.  
• Regreening Greenfield, \$50,000 for tree planting.  
• Evansville Forest Alliance, \$249,616 for inventory, planting, and education.  
• Indiana Arborist Association, \$250,000 for work-

force development.  
• Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, \$239,457 for workforce development.  
• TREES, Inc., \$75,000 for tree planting.  
There are two projects based around workforce development. One is an arborist apprenticeship program that will train at least 15 individuals from underserved northwest Indiana communities for a career in urban forestry. The second will work with students to develop their urban forestry skills by maintaining and caring for more than 6,000 trees throughout Indianapolis.  
To learn more about the DNR Division of Forestry's CUF program, see [on.IN.gov/forestry](#) under Community & Public Help, call (317) 234-6741 or email [urbanforestry@dnr.IN.gov](#).

**Thanks for reading The Reporter!**



**NICKEL PLATE EXPRESS**  
*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**  
**Tickets at [NickelPlateExpress.com](#)**





# VIVANTE

## FOUR-COURSE VALENTINE'S DINNER FOR TWO

*Taste the Delectable*

*Mascarpone Strawberry Bomb  
& Apple Cider Brandy Crème Brulee*



HOTEL

# CARMICHAEL



FEINSTEIN'S AT HOTEL CARMICHAEL

## FEATURING

CHRISTINE ANDREAS | FEB 9 & 10

*'Well Traveled' Musical Recollection*

ANTI V-DAY W/ EMO KIDS | FEB 14

*A Night of Emo Hits & Dancing*

ANTHONY NUNZIATA | FEB 16 & 17

*Romantic Classics by Broadway Star*

*Visit [FeinsteinsHC.com](http://FeinsteinsHC.com) to purchase tickets.*



## Deana Haworth to serve as first female board chair of Crossroads of America Council, BSA

### The REPORTER

Crossroads of America Council, BSA made history last week with the election of Deana Haworth as its first female board chair. Crossroads of America Council is comprised of seven districts. Monon District serves the local Scouting community in northwestern Marion, southern Boone, Hamilton, and Tipton counties.

“Scouting creates opportunities for young people while preparing them for success later in life,” said Rafael Sanchez, executive vice president, chief impact officer and Indianapolis market president of Old National Bank. “With a mission this critical, it is imperative that strategic guidance comes from well-equipped leadership in the organization, and that is why I am excited that Deana is at the helm of the Crossroads of America Council.” Sanchez served as Crossroads of America Council board chair from 2022-2023.

“I am grateful to lead such an impactful organization,” Haworth said. “As we grow Scouting in central Indiana, we will ensure equitable opportunities for all youth, regardless of ZIP code, and further increase the number of young women in our local troops. I am committed to inclusivity so that as many young people as possible may benefit from the character development and passion for community service that Scouting instills.”

While Haworth joined the council board in 2019, she’s been active in the Scouting community for years, with two sons involved in the program. Haworth also served as a 2021 co-chair of the Governor’s Luncheon for Scouting. Haworth is the chief executive officer of Hiron, an Indianapolis-based advertising, public relations, and digital communication firm. She earned her Accreditation in Public Relations from the Public Relations Society of America and routinely donates her time to leadership organizations, nonprofits and chambers of commerce throughout central Indiana. She was named a 2018 Woman of Influence by the *Indianapolis Business Journal*.

Haworth is joined in her board leadership role by Chuck Fippen, vice president, commercial relationship manager at First Internet Bank, who serves as commissioner of the board.

“My love of Scouting began many years ago as a Cub Scout, and I am hon-

ored to serve in this way,” Fippen said. “Volunteerism is at the core of Scouting. As I serve alongside the many volunteers who make Scouting in central Indiana possible, we will further strengthen and grow the organization while training the next generation of leaders.”

The Crossroads of America Council’s board elected the following individuals to the executive committee alongside Haworth and Fippen: Charles T. Hiltunen III (council board chair-elect), Rafael A. Sanchez (past council board chair), Thomas E. Vanneman (treasurer), David R. Cobb (council administration chair), Gary W. Hobbs (council DEI chair), Matthew Prine (council development chair), Matthew K. Chase (council district operations chair), Edward A. Pease (assistant chair district operations west), Joseph P. Wehrheim (assistant chair district operations east), Aimee Hulskotter (assistant chair district operations central), Shannon Stahley (council marketing chair), Shannon Williams (council membership chair), Anthony R. Jost (council program chair), N. Anthony Steinhardt III (council properties chair), Timothy D. George (council strategic plan chair), Kevin P. Speer (council member at large), John R. Wiebke (council member at large) and Joseph E. Wiltout (Scout executive/corporate secretary).

The Crossroads of America Council also welcomed new board members Tammy Butler Robinson (Engaging Solutions); Akilah Darden (The Darden Group LLC); Judge Kurt M. Eisgruber (Marion County Superior Court); Nick Goodwin (Indiana Health Care Association); Aimee Hulskotter (Samsun Mechanical Inc.); Chris Jeter (Massillamany Jeter & Carson LLP); George Pontones (Rolls Royce); and David Sims (Elevance Health). To view all board members, go to [crossroadsbsa.org/about/our-leadership](https://crossroadsbsa.org/about/our-leadership).

### About Crossroads of America Council, BSA

Crossroads of America Council, BSA is a youth development organization dedicated to preparing young people to make ethical and moral decisions throughout their lifetimes. The goals of Scouting consist of citizenship training, character development, physical and mental fitness, and leadership development. For more information on Scouting, call (317) 813-7125 or (877) 925-1900 or visit [crossroadsbsa.org](https://crossroadsbsa.org).

## Taking action against loneliness: embracing Senior Independence Month with community connection

Lacking social connection increases risk of premature death by more than 60 percent according to the **Surgeon General’s advisory** about the devastating impact of the epidemic of loneliness and isolation in the United States. The physical health consequences of poor or insufficient connection include a 29 percent increased risk of heart disease, a 32 percent increased risk of stroke, and a 50 percent increased risk of developing dementia for older adults.

As February marks Senior Independence Month, it’s crucial to address a silent yet widespread public health crisis that affects our aging population – loneliness. Contrary to common belief, loneliness is not just a fleeting emotion; it is a severe condition that can be as deadly as daily smoking. Older Americans bear a **disproportionate burden**, with more than one-third

of adults aged 45 and older experiencing loneliness and nearly one-fourth of those aged 65 and older considered socially isolated.

The impacts of loneliness on physical and mental health cannot be understated, leading to chronic diseases, cognitive decline, and increased healthcare costs. Older adults face a heightened risk of social isolation due to various factors such as changes in social connections, aging-related challenges, and the loss of loved ones.

Spotting signs of loneliness in older adults is crucial, and as family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances, we have the opportunity to make a difference. Changes in appetite, withdrawal from social events, and mentioning people from the past who are no longer involved in their lives are all indicators. By being vigilant and compassionate, we can rally around

our loved ones and provide the support they need.

Our Member Connect program, initiated in 2017, stands as a beacon of hope in the fight against loneliness. This clinical initiative addresses the social challenges faced by older adults. Member Connect engages community health workers and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield associate volunteers, known as phone pals, to build personal connections with individuals, empowering them to make behavior changes that reduce isolation and loneliness.

The program’s impact is evident with staggering numbers: more than 216,833 phone calls have been made with 87 percent of participants reporting more meaningful connections and 79 percent experiencing an increase in activities bringing them joy and purpose. Sometimes it just takes a phone call from someone who cares to serve as a catalyst to make meaningful lifestyle changes.

In addition to the Member Connect program, there are various resources and tools older adults can adopt to combat loneliness, including creating a regular schedule, adopting a pet, volunteering, and staying connected with a phone pal. By acknowledging and addressing loneliness, we can collectively contribute to the solution of this epidemic.

This Senior Independence Month, join with me in taking action against loneliness. By embracing programs like Member Connect, checking in on our elderly loved ones, and fostering a sense of community, we can make a positive impact on the lives of older Americans and provide the help and connection to ensure that no one is left to face the challenges of loneliness on their own.

*Robin Caruso serves as the Chief Togetherness Officer at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, where she shares insights on spotting signs of loneliness as well as practical tools and resources to combat loneliness.*

## Learn about dark energy at IU Kokomo’s Observatory open house

### Campus also hosting series of pre-eclipse events

### The REPORTER

Learn more about a 10-year (and counting) project to measure the expansion of the universe at the Indiana University Kokomo Observatory’s February open house.

Patrick Motl, professor of physics, will begin the open house at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11 with a presentation about dark energy, including recent results from the Dark Energy Survey project, an international collaborative

effort to map hundreds of millions of galaxies, detect thousands of supernovae, and find patterns of cosmic structure that will reveal the nature of the mysterious dark energy that is accelerating the expansion of the universe.

After the presentation, stargazers may be able to see Jupiter and highlights from the winter triangle like the Orion Nebula through the Observatory’s telescopes, a six-inch Takahashi

refracting telescope and a 16-inch Meade reflecting telescope mounted together. The Takahashi provides exceptionally sharp images of planets, while the Meade allows viewers to see fainter objects in the sky, due to its larger light-collecting area.

Observation will continue through 9 p.m., weather permitting.

The Observatory is at 2660 S. Washington St., Kokomo. Free parking is available on campus.

Motl is also hosting a series of events leading up to the April 8 total solar eclipse. Dark as Dusk includes sessions with background on the eclipse, photography and videography, an evening with Bad Astronomer author Phil Plait, multicultural perspectives on eclipses, and an eclipse viewing opportunity at the Observatory. Advance registration is required.

[Click here](#) for complete details and to register.

## Agape Wellness Center offers personalized health care without frustration of insurance

### Submitted

Over the last few years, the health care industry has become more complicated and difficult to navigate. It has become tough for many to locate a physician who is accepting new patients, let alone one who is a good match with regard to one’s beliefs and approach to caring for one’s own health.

In light of these concerns, physicians have begun seeking new ways to offer treatment plans that better meet patients’ needs.

Sue Pallekonda, MD is providing a new and transformative health care model for family practice in Hamilton County that not only equips patients with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their health but also provides an intimate forum where they can share their desires and concerns about their health. Through **Agape Wellness Center’s** direct primary care model (DPC), patients have easy access to Dr. Sue, who focuses on caring for the whole person, including body, soul, and spirit.

As part of Dr. Sue’s practice, adult patients 19 years and older pay a monthly membership fee of \$100 and an additional \$25 per month for each dependent under 25 years, with a maximum family fee of \$300 per month regardless of the number of family members. This membership provides all the visits patients would need via same or next-day appointments, which are not limited to a 15-minute time



slot. Along with this, patients receive savings on imaging studies and most lab tests. Procedures performed in the office would be an additional but reasonable cost for patients above the membership fee.

Agape Wellness Center delivers the same types of treatment you would receive from a family practice office. Examples of treatment could include prescribing medications, ordering tests, performing injections, EKGs, wellness physicals, minor skin procedures, and referrals to specialists when necessary.

The difference members will experience is in Dr. Sue’s approach to health and wellness, which will allow them to develop a long-term relationship of trust with her, with time purposefully set aside for patient education and discussion as she focuses on each individual holistically, with an emphasis on more than symptoms.

“My desire is to empower my patients to own their health care, ask questions, and understand how decisions affect their health moving forward,” Dr. Sue said. “I believe that this way I can achieve the best outcomes for my patients.”

Her passion is rooted in 29-plus years of experience providing care across varied patient groups and in different countries. She graduated



Photo provided / Chrissy Grace Photography  
**Dr. Sue Pallekonda says her passion for care is rooted in more than 29 years of experience serving a wide variety of patients in different countries.**

from medical school in India in 1995 and worked as an intern there for one year before moving to Malaysia where she practiced medicine for almost two years. Dr. Sue then came to the U.S. and graduated from the Community East Family Medicine Residency Program in 2003. She subsequently worked for Community Health Network as a family physician until 2013 when she became a clinical preceptor for Community’s residency program until 2021. Additionally, she worked as a family practitioner with OurHealth/Marathon Health from 2013 until July 2023, when she answered the Lord’s call to work at Agape Wellness Center.

Agape Wellness Center is based on the DPC model, which is a new concept to some. It is likely a good fit for many patients but will not work for everyone.

“Each individual/family is different, and I’m happy to talk with potential members about situations that

lend themselves to a best fit,” Dr. Sue said. “It’s also important to note that our model is not a replacement for health insurance.”

To learn more about how Agape’s treatment plan works, feel free to call (317) 794-2432 and talk with Dr. Sue. You may also call to schedule a one-hour appointment for a wellness/physical exam for \$100. With it, you will receive a full exam, have an opportunity to discuss your health care needs and then make an informed decision about whether to continue with Agape. If the practice is a good fit for you, the \$100 payment will apply toward the first month’s membership fee. If you don’t wish to continue with the practice, Dr. Sue will still share test results and recommendations for next steps.

You can learn more by visiting [AgapeWellness-Center.org](https://AgapeWellness-Center.org) or by following Agape Wellness Center Indiana on [Facebook](#).



LIFETIME LEGACY LAWYERS  
Podcast

<https://lifetimelegacylawyers.com>

## Hamilton County Reporter

✓ **More News**    ✓ **More Sports**  
**... and more readers!**





# Rep. Spartz officially joins race for the Fifth District



Photo provided  
Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-05) filed paperwork on Monday placing her on the Republican primary ballot for the May 7 election. She was joined by her husband, Jason Spartz. Rep. Spartz had announced in February 2023 that she would not seek another term in Congress representing Indiana's Fifth District, but announced Monday morning that she will, in fact, run again. She joins 10 other Republicans for the GOP nomination. Potential candidates have until noon on Friday, Feb. 9 to file.

## Lt. Gov. Crouch calls for independent audit of FSSA

**The REPORTER**

On Tuesday morning, Indiana Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch called for an independent audit of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) after the agency acknowledged a \$1 billion shortfall.

Lt. Gov. Crouch seeks to humanize the devastating impact the proposed cuts and changes will have on the FSSA's Attendant Care program. The lieutenant governor was joined in her office by Melanie Kandzierski, the mother of a medically complex child from South Bend, Ind.

"It's extremely important that the \$1 billion error

the FSSA made is not put on the backs of these children and their families," Crouch said. "We need to ensure moving forward they get the care and need they deserve. As I've mentioned many times, we will be judged on how we care for the most vulnerable among us. That's why the ability to take care of these children is absolutely a critical need for the state of Indiana. To ensure that we don't have these kinds of errors moving forward, I will call for an independent outside audit of FSSA so that we know we will never find ourselves in this position again."



Crouch

## Brad Chambers officially files in Indiana gubernatorial race

**The REPORTER**

Republican gubernatorial candidate and former Indiana Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers officially filed the necessary paperwork on Wednesday to appear on the Republican primary election ballot in the race for governor of Indiana.

That included filing over 7,000 verified signatures, which were collected in under four months.

"I believe in Indiana's future – one filled with more opportunities for Hoosiers and their families to build

and live a great life – but it's a future that will take a true outsider to build, not a career politician," Chambers said. "And after spending the past several months traveling across the state listening to Hoosiers, it's clear that many feel the same ... Thanks to an incredible field team and group of volunteers and supporters, today, we're now officially one step closer to building that future, and I'm more energized than ever to get it done."

Learn more about the candidate at [ChambersForIndiana.com](https://ChambersForIndiana.com).



Chambers



CONGRESSWOMAN  
**VICTORIA SPARTZ**  
PROUDLY SERVING **INDIANA'S** 5TH DISTRICT

### Constituent Services



#### Help with Federal Agencies

I can help you when dealing with federal agencies, including:

- Social Security issues
- Medicare claims
- Veterans benefits
- Passport assistance
- IRS questions



#### 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.



# Run for Something endorses Joel Levi in Indiana Senate District 20 race

**Submitted by Indiana Democratic Party**

Joel Levi has been endorsed by Run for Something (RFS), the groundbreaking organization that recruits and supports strong voices in the next generation of local leadership.

Levi is running for State Senate District 20.

Levi resides with his family in Cicero, and he serves the healthcare field

as a pharmacy technician. He is a passionate advocate for healthcare and child safety and he's running for State Senate to create a better future for Indiana families by working collaboratively across the aisle to prioritize legislation that protects Hoosier children. District 20



Levi

includes parts of central Hamilton County, including portions of Carmel and Noblesville.

"I'm so excited to be endorsed by Run for Something," Levi said. "I love their heart for supporting young and diverse candidates. As a 36-year-old, and a biracial Black man, their support means so much to me. I want to be an inclusive voice for all Hoosiers. I'm thrilled to be a part of the Run for Something family, and ready to bring quality representation for my community."

Learn more about the candidate at [JoelLeviForIndiana.com](http://JoelLeviForIndiana.com). For more information on Run for Something, go to [RunForSomething.net](http://RunForSomething.net).

# Attorney General Todd Rokita fights back against deceptive drug advertiser, Publicis

*Opioid settlements alone total \$925M under Rokita's watch, a state record*

**The REPORTER**

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita announced on Thursday a \$350 million national settlement with Publicis Health to resolve investigations into the global marketing and communications firm's role in the prescription opioid crisis.

Indiana will receive over \$7.6 million from the settlement to help address the opioid crisis.

**In agreeing to the terms of the settlement,** Publicis recognized the harm its conduct caused, and the agreement will give communities hit hardest by the opioid crisis more financial support for treatment and recovery, building lasting infrastructure, and saving lives.

The company will also disclose on a public website thousands of internal documents detailing its work for opioid companies like Purdue Pharma and will stop accepting client work related to opioid-based Schedule

II or other Schedule II narcotics.

"The deception by Publicis and big pharma in this case is astonishing, but it's sadly what we continue to witness over and over again," AG Rokita said. "The company refused to take human life into consideration when they falsely marketed many prescription drugs to patients and doctors."

The filings describe how Publicis' work contributed to the crisis by helping Purdue Pharma and other opioid manufacturers market and sell opioids.

Court documents detail how Publicis acted as Purdue's agency of record for all its branded opioid drugs, including OxyContin, even developing sales tactics that relied on farming data from recordings of personal health-related in-office conversations between patients



Rokita

and providers. The company was also instrumental in Purdue's decision to market OxyContin to providers on patient's electronic health records.

Purdue Pharma, with the help of Publicis, disseminated these drugs to healthcare providers, patients, and policymakers without full disclosure. Their dishonest conduct resulted in a dramatic rise in opioid prescriptions across the United States, which led to a devastating increase in opioid abuse, dependence, addiction, and overdose deaths.

These deaths – and the impacts on thousands who have struggled with opioid addiction – have created considerable costs for our health care, child welfare, and criminal justice systems. More significant than the dollars and cents in damage to our state, the impact on opioid addition, substance use, and overdose deaths have torn families apart, damaged relationships, and devastated communities.

AG Rokita has made it a priority to combat the opioid crisis by fighting back against multiple pharmaceutical companies who are harming everyday Hoosiers. Opioid settlements alone total \$925 million under the Rokita administration – a record for the state.

"Hoosiers have watched their friends and family members suffer and even die from drug abuse," AG Rokita said. "Far too many of these overdoses are directly related to misinformation spread by Publicis. Our office values life above all other things, and this company needs to be held accountable. I know it doesn't bring our loved ones back, but it's the only way we can prevent similar practices from happening in the future."

## Letter to the Editor

### Audubon Great Lakes calls on Gov. Holcomb to veto House Bill 1383

Dear Editor:

Two years ago, lawmakers rolled back protections for more than half of Indiana's wetlands. On Tuesday, the Indiana Legislature passed a bill that could leave more vital wetlands out to dry.

Despite its fast track through the legislature, **HB 1383** has faced growing opposition from Hoosiers and conservation groups. Tuesday's Senate vote demonstrated a lack of consensus among lawmakers. Governor Holcomb can protect Indiana's natural resources by vetoing this problematic bill.

Indiana ranks fourth among states with the greatest loss of wetlands. HB 1383 would further reduce the number of wetlands that are protected in Indiana by changing the definition of Class III wetlands, the most ecologically important wetlands.

Indiana's wetlands are important to the health and future of Indiana wildlife and communities. Last year, the Indiana Wetlands Taskforce, a group of experts and stakeholders, issued a report that emphasized the need to do more to protect Indiana's wetlands. Additionally, polling shows that 94 percent of Indiana voters believe that state leaders should either strengthen or maintain Indiana's current wetlands protections.

Protecting Indiana's hardworking wetlands will protect the future of our state. Wetlands help to alleviate flooding and play an important role in water filtration. They provide vital habitat for vulnerable marsh birds. Wetlands also support Indiana's outdoor recreation economy, which generates more than \$15 billion in consumer spending a year.

We urge Governor Holcomb to veto HB 1383 and work to bring all stakeholders together to produce comprehensive wetland policy.

**Brian Vigue**  
Policy Director of Freshwater  
Audubon Great Lakes

## Letter to the Editor

### Hoosier Environmental Council: state legislature reduces wetland protection

Dear Editor:

On Tuesday, the Indiana General Assembly took the final vote to pass a bill that reduces wetland protection. **House Bill 1383** passed the House on Jan. 23 and was then rushed through the Senate where it passed Tuesday by a vote of 32 to 17. Members of both parties voted in opposition.

HB 1383 reduces wetland protection by moving some of the Class III wetlands down to Class II, a class that has very little protection because of exemptions added by legislation in 2021. Testimony on the bill in committee described how HB 1383 was drafted in meetings between the Indiana Builders Association and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) during the summer and fall of 2023 that excluded other wetland stakeholders.

In contrast, the Indiana Wetland Task Force brought many stakeholders together including representatives from agriculture, surveyors, developers, wetland scientists, state agencies, conservation, and river organizations. The Indiana Builders Association had a seat on the Task Force, but their representative did not attend any of the meetings. The Task Force issued its report in the fall of 2022. It concluded that the state's cumulative loss of wetlands is causing harm and that wetland protection should be increased, not reduced as HB 1383 does.

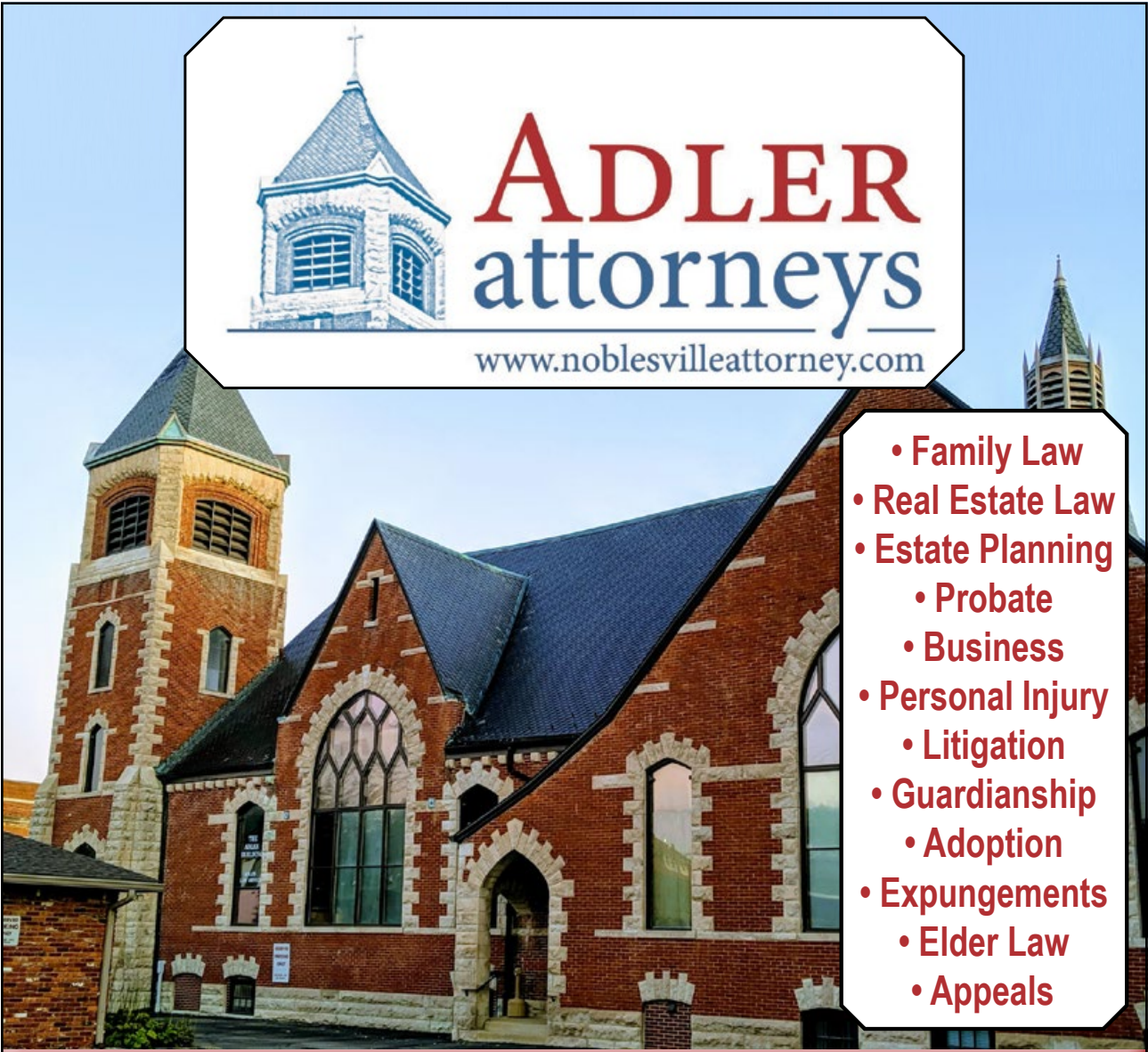
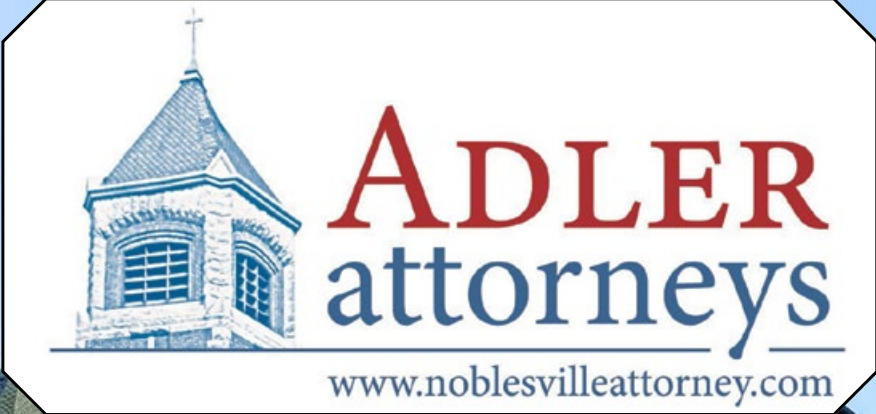
"Wetland protection was dramatically reduced by a bill in 2021 (SEA 389). Since its passage, only 25 percent of the wetland acres destroyed have had mitigation of their lost function," said Indra Frank, Water Policy Director for the Hoosier Environmental Council. "HB 1383 means even fewer will have mitigation."

The cumulative loss is harmful because wetlands have important functions. They are part of water storage since each acre of wetland can hold 1 to 1.5 million gallons of water. By soaking up stormwater, they slow the water which reduces erosion and reduces flooding. Water storage by wetlands reduces the need to build stormwater infrastructure. While wetlands hold water, they purify it and allow it to soak in and replenish the groundwater we rely on for wells. Wetlands are the most cost-effective stormwater infrastructure there is and on top of that they are among the most biologically productive ecosystems. Half of Indiana's threatened and endangered species rely on wetlands, so losing wetlands means more extinctions.

"We are very disappointed by today's vote. Instead of reducing wetland protection, Indiana needs to include wetlands in comprehensive water resource planning," said Sam Carpenter, Executive Director for the Hoosier Environmental Council. "Despite this setback, Hoosier Environmental Council will continue to push for our wetlands to be fully valued in our state in terms of the value of the natural infrastructure services they provide, habitat for rare and endangered species, and overall water quality and quantity for Hoosiers."

**Hoosier Environmental Council**  
[hecweb.org](http://hecweb.org)

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to [News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com). Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.



- Family Law
- Real Estate Law
- Estate Planning
- Probate
- Business
- Personal Injury
- Litigation
- Guardianship
- Adoption
- Expungements
- Elder Law
- Appeals

**136 South Ninth Street**  
**Noblesville, IN 46060**  
**[alli@noblesvilleattorney.com](mailto:alli@noblesvilleattorney.com)**  
**(317) 773-1974**

**RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE**  
**AT THE HISTORIC ADLER BUILDING**  
**Please call Kim Watson 317-773-1974 for details**



## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

## JACOB MEETS ESAU

*Then Esau said, "Let us be on our way; I'll accompany you."*

*But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are tender and that I must care for the ewes and cows that are nursing their young. If they are driven hard just one day, all the animals will die. So let my lord go on ahead of his servant, while I move along slowly at the pace of the flocks and herds before me and the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir."*

*Genesis 33:12-14 (NIV)*

Douglas "Doug" William Theobald  
September 25, 1944 – February 5, 2024

Douglas "Doug" William Theobald, 79, Noblesville, passed away February 5, 2024. He was born September 25, 1944, in Dodgeville, Wis., to John and Helen (Kvernem) Theobald.

Doug graduated from Barnevel High School in 1962 where he lettered in three sports and met the love of his life, Sue. He and Sue married on October 6, 1962. Doug completed a four-year glazier apprenticeship in Madison and CSI and CDT construction certifications in Indianapolis. His career in architectural sales and management moved him and his family to St. Louis, Indianapolis, Chicago, and Harrisonburg, Va.

In 1990, Doug and Sue moved back to the Indianapolis area to be closer to their children and grandchildren. After retiring, Doug found his true calling in life driving a school bus for HSE schools. For 12 years, Mr. T. was loved by his student passengers and families. Throughout his life, Doug enjoyed golfing, playing Euchre, tinkering with his 57 Chevy, cheering on his grandkids at their sporting events, and watching the Green Bay Packers.

Doug is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Sue Ann (Ameson) Theobald; daughters, Kristi Short (Donnie) and Kerri Rhodes; son, James Theobald (Jennifer); grandchildren, Justin Short (Abby), Jacob Short, Cameron Theobald, Ashlyn Theobald, and Brett Rhodes; brother, Lane Theobald (Sherrie); and sisters-in-law, Simone Eslien (Greg), Sandy Buchanan (Allen), and Sonja Frame (Jim). He was preceded in death by his parents; father and mother-in-law, Marvin and Verna Ameson; half-brother, Ed Edwards; and grandson, Tyler Short.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel, 9900 Allisonville Road, Fishers. A burial service will be held at Middlebury Church in Barnevel, Wis., at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Humane Society of Hamilton County or your local food pantry.

Condolences: [shirleybrothers.com](http://shirleybrothers.com)

Frank X. Metzger II  
November 25, 1948 – February 3, 2024

Heaven has gained another angel, and the world has lost a wonderful friend, husband, father, and grandfather. Frank X. Metzger II passed away on February 3, 2024, after a very quick battle with cancer. He will be greatly loved and missed by his family and friends.

Frank was born in Huntington, Ind., on November 25, 1948, the second of five children of Frank and Mary (Stouff's) Metzger. After graduating from Huntington Catholic High School, he started college at the University of Dayton, was a part of ROTC, and also served in the Army Reserves.

He married the love of his life, Caroline McCreary, in August 1972, and lived in Dayton. Five years to the day later, his son Ryan was born. They moved back to Huntington in 1981, where he could be close to the family and worked for Huntington Mutual Insurance.

In 1985, Caroline and Frank moved to Noblesville, where his entrepreneurial spirit blossomed, building several businesses, and eventually procuring a U.S. patent for a computer program during his time working with Experian. Frank and Caroline were active in the church at First United Methodist, playing guitar and flute for the acoustic Christian bluegrass "dirt band." As soon as the snow melted in the spring, you could see Frank working in the yard every weekend tending to the lawn and gardens he so loved.

Frank Metzger was a wonderful man, the definition of a good guy who would do anything to help someone else.

Frank's family was the center of his life, and his memory will be treasured by all. Besides his wife of 51 plus years, Caroline; son, Ryan (Kristin) Metzger of Gahanna, Ohio; grandchildren, Brendan Polenchar, Leo Metzger, and Hudson Metzger; and siblings, Barbara (Bill) Giese, Josephine (Vince) Parker, Mary (Greg) Pfister, and John (Kelly) Metzger.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him.

Memorial services will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St., Noblesville, with Pastor Brittney Stephan officiating. Visitation will be from 11:30 a.m. to the time of service at the church. Interment will be at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Huntington, Ind., at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Williams Syndrome Association, 243 Broadway #9188, Newark, NJ 07104 ([williams-syndrome.org](http://williams-syndrome.org)) in support of his grandson Leo Metzger.

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

## The Reporter's policy on obituaries

The Hamilton County Reporter does not charge families for publishing obituary notices in our pages. Every obituary appearing in online editions Wednesday through Saturday also appears in our Monday print editions. In order to continue to offer this as a community service, we ask that obituaries not exceed 600 words. The limitations of space may not allow for longer ones to appear in print.

Families and funeral homes are asked to send obituaries to [obits@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:obits@ReadTheReporter.com).

Julia C. Broadus  
March 12, 1938 – February 4, 2024

Julia C. Broadus, 85, Fishers, passed away on Sunday, February 4, 2024, at St. Vincent Hospital Indianapolis. She was born on March 12, 1938, to Julius and Mary (Davis) Thompson in Indianapolis.

Julia worked for Western Electric for 25 years. She enjoyed sitting outside on the deck and traveling. Julia loved her cat Chloe, cooking, and red and pink roses. She was stubborn but

had a big heart.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Buis; sisters, Yvonne Roddy and Mary Thompson; brother, Julius (Connie) Thompson; grandchildren, Aaron Buis, Tasha Floyd, and Tanisha Floyd; as well as many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Julia was preceded in death by her daughter, Teresa Floyd.

A celebration of Julia's life will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. on Monday, February 12, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers.

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

## Meeting Notices

The Sheridan Community Schools Board of Trustees will meet for a work session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, in the Library/Media Center at Sheridan Middle School, 3030 W. 246th St., Sheridan.

A regular board meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the same location.

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet in a workshop session at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St., Carmel.

The Hamilton County Airport Authority Board will meet for a work session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, in Conference Room 1A at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

A public meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Courtroom.

The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners will meet in an executive session at 1 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, in the Conference Room 1A at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

A public meeting will follow at 1:45 p.m. in the Commissioners' Courtroom.

The Carmel Police Pension Board will meet in an executive session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, in the Community Room at the Clay Township Trustee's Building, 10701 N. College Ave., Carmel, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(7) For the discussion of records classified as confidential by state or federal statute.

A regular meeting will follow at 10:05 a.m. (or immediately after the executive session, whichever is later) in the same location.

Send Meeting Notices to: [News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com)

**Thanks for reading  
The REPORTER!**  
**For more news, visit  
[ReadTheReporter.com](http://ReadTheReporter.com)**

**Randall & Roberts**  
Funeral Homes

1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville  
1150 Logan Street, Noblesville  
12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers

317-773-2584

*Our family has been serving Hamilton County since 1953*

HAMILTON  
COUNTY  
REPORTER

## Contact Information

## Email

[News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com)

## Web Address

[ReadTheReporter.com](http://ReadTheReporter.com)

## Publisher Stu Clampitt

765-365-2316

## Subscription Inquiries

[Subscribe@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:Subscribe@ReadTheReporter.com)

765-585-9519

## Advertising &amp; Public Notices

[Ads@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:Ads@ReadTheReporter.com)

765-365-2316

## Sports Editor Richie Hall

[Sports@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:Sports@ReadTheReporter.com)

Twitter: @Richie\_Hall

## Mailing Address

136 S. 9th St., Suite 12

Noblesville, IN 46060

16698 Birdbrook Rd.  
Noblesville • \$589,900

**SOLD!**



Stunning 5BR, 4.5BA in Essex of Noblesville, custom designed with in-laws quarters on main level, kitchen with quartz, butler's pantry, premium lot w/pond view, walk-out basement, 3-car garage plus storage, a must-see to appreciate all this home has to offer. BLC#21949379

Call Peggy 317.439.3258  
or Jennifer 317.695.6032

**Your house  
could be here!  
Give us a call.**

18865 Wimbley Way  
Noblesville • \$289,900

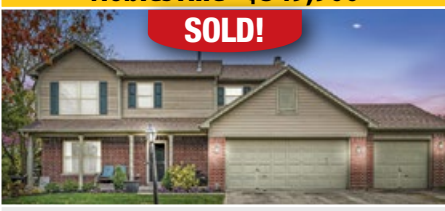
**SOLD!**



This 3BR, 2BA ranch is located in family friendly Fairfield Farms, huge great room w/doors leading to covered patio & fenced backyard, kitchen w/pantry, dining area & all appliances stay, new windows, water softener & HVAC in 2020, Fence, roof & gutters 2021. BLC#21949582

10717 Upland Way  
Noblesville • \$349,900

**SOLD!**



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

**Time to plan your  
next move. Time to  
Speak to Deak!**



Jennifer

Peggy

**Speak to Deak.com**

**THE Deak Team**  
REALTORS®



F.C. TUCKER  
COMPANY



**317.439.3258 Peggy or 317.695.6032 Jennifer**





## Basketball

# Blackhawks break away, pick off Mounties

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

**SHERIDAN** – A little adjustment was all Sheridan needed to soar past the Mounties on Wednesday.

The Blackhawks hosted Southmont at Larry Hobbs Hall and accelerated through the second and third quarters to post a 65-45 victory. After a tight first quarter, Sheridan broke away from the Mounties in the second period and kept them at arm’s length in the second half.

“We pressured early in the game and they were going right through it like a sieve,” said ‘Hawks coach Bill Bowen. “We made a couple adjustments and still kept the pressure on. I think that was necessary.”

Both teams had their offenses going in the first quarter, which ended with the Blackhawks ahead 19-17. Caleb Wright drained two 3-pointers for six points, while Damon Winston also scored six points.

The second quarter was the key period for Sheridan, as it outscored Southmont 17-6 for a 36-23 halftime lead. Five different Blackhawks made at least one bas-

SHERIDAN 65, SOUTHMONT 45				
Sheridan	FG	FT	TP	PF
Trent DeCraene	4-7	6-6	14	2
Tyler Garner	2-5	2-2	7	1
Trey Page	3-8	1-2	9	0
Caleb Wright	5-9	0-0	15	1
Damon Winston	4-6	1-2	9	1
Carson Wright	4-4	0-0	8	1
Owen Bell	1-2	0-0	3	1
Devon Hamilton	0-0	0-0	0	1
Brayden Whisman	0-0	0-0	0	0
Jake Hall	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	23-41	10-12	65	8
Score by Quarters				
Southmont	17	6	9	13 – 45
Sheridan	19	17	17	12 – 65
Sheridan 3-point shooting (9-18) Cal. Wright 5-6, Page 2-5, Bell, 1-2, Garner 1-2, Winston 0-2, DeCraene 0-1.				
Sheridan rebounds (24) Garner 6, Winston 6, DeCraene 4, Bell 3, Cal. Wright 2, Page 1, Car. Wright 1, Hamilton 1.				

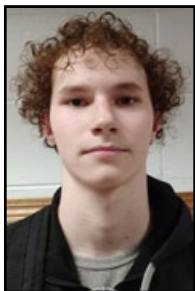
ket in that quarter. Trent DeCraene scored six points, while Owen Bell, Trey Page and Caleb Wright all made 3s. Carson Wright chipped in a basket as well.

“We’re sharing the ball,” said Bowen. “We’re seeing the floor well. I think we’re shooting it pretty well.”

Tyler Garner opened the third quarter with a triple to put Sheridan up 39-23. The Mounties answered with five straight points, but Ca-

leb Wright took care of that with back-to-back 3s. He led the Blackhawks in scoring, with five 3-pointers for 15 points.

Garner finished the quarter with a pair of free throws to put Sheridan up 53-32. The ‘Hawks kept their lead above 20 points for all but a few seconds of the fourth quarter. Southmont’s Cale Chadd made an and-1 with 1:01 left in the game to cut the Sheridan lead to 61-42.



Cal. Wright



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

**Sheridan’s Tyler Garner scored seven points and collected six rebounds during the Blackhawks’ win over Southmont Wednesday.**

DeCraene put in a pair of free throws just five seconds later, and the ‘Hawks were back up 63-42. DeCraene was perfect from the foul line at 6-for-6; he scored 14 points and dished out seven assists.

Garner and Winston each collected six rebounds, with Winston also blocking three shots.

Sheridan is 10-6 and hosts Carroll Friday in a Hoosier Heartland Confer-

ence game. The Cougars are 12-6 and Bowen said they will be a “formidable opponent, but those are the kind of people you want to play, you have to play and we want to get to that level.”

## Swimming

# Carmel gearing up to continue historic streak; Fishers, Southeastern will battle for top 5 finishes

### The REPORTER

It could be déjà vu all over again for a handful of Carmel swimmers this weekend at the IHSAA girls state swimming tournament.

The Greyhounds are gearing up to continue their historic state championship streak and are in good position to do so. Carmel qualified 25 swims out of 27 into Friday night’s state prelims and are seeded first in five events – all of which the Greyhounds won last year while claiming their 37th consecutive state championship.

Junior Lynsey Bowen returns to defend her state titles in the 200 and 500 freestyles, earning the top seed in both races. Bowen set a new state record of 4 minutes, 42.81 seconds in the 500 event at the previous year’s meet.

Sophomore Molly Sweeney claimed individual medley and breaststroke championships last year as a freshman and is top-seeded in both those events this year. Junior Alex Shackell is the first seed butterfly, in which she set a state record of 50.89 seconds last year.

Shackell is also the defending champion in the 50 free, but she did not race in that event this year. Instead, Shackell switched to the backstroke for this year’s tournament, and she is the



Reporter photo by Julie Brown

**Carmel’s Lynsey Bowen is the defending state champion in the 200 and 500 freestyle races. She will try to defend both titles this weekend at the IHSAA state swimming meet.**

top seed in the prelims in that event.

Carmel had 24 of its 25 qualifying swims perform under the state cut time, which guarantees a ticket to state. The only callback time was Priscilla Smith in the 50 free – she swam a 24.20 in that event at the sectional, just 0.01 seconds off the cut time. Smith is seeded 19th in that event but is very close to the 16th-seed time of 24.13 seconds.

The top 16 swimmers in each event at Friday’s prelims will advance to Saturday’s finals. Positions 9 through 16 will compete in the “B” Final, or consolation heat, while positions 1 through 8 will swim in the “A” Final, or the champi-

onship heat, and earn a state medal in that event.

\*\*\*

Fishers has been the state runner-up for the past four years. The Tigers have the swims they need to extend that streak to five this season, although they will be battling Fort Wayne Carroll for that position this time around.

Fishers will have 18 swims at state. That includes three swims in the 500 free, where Emma Schumacher is seeded sixth and Claire Francis ninth in the prelims. Isabelle Heuck is seeded 17th in that race after swimming a 5:07.88 at the sectional, but she is only 0.10 seconds off the 16th-seed time.

The Tigers hold the top seed in the 400 free relay (3:27.04) and the second seed in the 200 free relay (1:34.82). Senior Avery Stein is seeded second in the individual medley, while freshman Emily Wolf is seeded No. 2 in the butterfly.

Sophomore Avery Hanon earned two callbacks to state for Fishers, in the individual medley and the backstroke.

Hamilton Southeastern will have 14 swims at state and could get another top-five (or better) finish. The Royals placed fourth last year and were third in 2022.

Senior Audrey Crawford is the top seed in the individual medley, swimming a 1:59.97 at the sectional.



Photo by Allison Madara

**Hamilton Heights qualified its medley and 400 free relay teams for state. Pictured is the medley relay team of Sophia Hulen, Ayla Madara, Teegan Madara and Amira Leer.**

Crawford also holds the third seed in the butterfly event. Southeastern’s medley relay team is also seeded No. 1.

Southeastern had three callbacks to state: Ellason Miller in the butterfly, and Naomi Haines in the 100 free and backstroke.

\*\*\*

Hamilton Heights has the potential to make some noise at this year’s state meet. The Huskies had seven swims qualify, including three in the 500 free.

Senior Teegan Madara is seeded seventh in that event with a time of 4:59.45. Her younger sister, freshman Ayla Madara holds the 18th seed but is only 0.20 seconds off the No. 16 time. Both swimmers qualified with the state cut, while freshman Amira Leer, seeded 23rd, earned a callback.

The Huskies had four other swims receive callbacks. Heights got its 200 medley and 400 free relays on to

**See Swim . . . Page 11**

What’s your Real Estate Story? Born, raised and still living in Hamilton County, it is Dani’s goal to help you reach yours! Talk to Dani today for all your real estate needs. She knows this area and wants to help you with your story!



Scan here to view Dani's current listings.  
F.C. TUCKER COMPANY

### CURRENT REAL ESTATE

CENTRAL INDIANA STATISTICS FROM THE 16-COUNTY REGION

DECEMBER 2023

December 2023 Average Sale Price

**\$323,309**

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%

Talk To **Dani Robinson**

REALTOR/BROKER/SRES

**317.407.6969**

DaniR@talktotucker.com | DaniRobinsonHomes.com

**TOP COUNTIES**

Boone Sales Up 13.8%

Marion Sales Up 0.1%

Morgan Sales Down 1.9%

**FAIR HOUSING CASES**

Total- 3

Rental- 3

Sales- 0

Other- 0

**Joshua Herd**

**Photographer**

joshuaherdphotography.com

Specializes in senior portraits, family portraits, events/sports

**317-670-4645 • jhphotos@yahoo.com**





The Hamilton Heights Middle School seventh-grade boys basketball team had a strong season, bringing home the 2024 MIC Championship. The team was the runner up at the Hamilton County Tournament.

# Huskies 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys have exceptional season, finish 19-7

### Submitted

The Hamilton Heights seventh-grade boys basketball team had an exceptional season this year. The boys finished an outstanding 19-7 on the year. The team had impressive wins versus Noblesville West Middle School twice, Kokomo twice, as well as an amazing performance in the MIC tournament to beat the 15-0 Logansport Berries at home, who had gotten the best of them earlier in the season.

“Each and every boy reached new heights in their abilities on and off the

court,” Coach AJ Field said. “We strongly hit academic success throughout the year, stressing details and asking for help in the classroom when needed. They all impressed me with their growth in the classroom as the season went on. On the court we strongly stressed our mental focus and discipline. Starting the year off we were winning games but struggled to put together a complete game. As time went on, we pushed each of the boys mentally, finding that next gear on the court. We put focus and effort into the little details that

go into winning games, and we eventually got to that point during our last nine games. Through that final nine game stretch, we were 8-1 with our only loss being to Fishers in the County Championship game.”

Field gave a shoutout to his “college” coaching staff: Austin Nicole, Derrick Dean, and KJ Williams.

“They did an amazing job, bringing a sense of intensity and a huge few sets of helping hands and different sets of eyes to help see things that I could not see,” Field said. “We all became very close and had a great

deal of fun watching all of the boys grow on and off the court, and that was all thanks to their help. I also want to thank our cheer squad who were steady source of spirit and support for the team.”

At the end of the day, noted Field, “the boys played some outstanding basketball this season. “They are a very promising group of boys, and I cannot wait to see what they do as a team in the coming years. Along with that, I know that each of them will do great things for this world as time goes on. I am extremely proud to be called their coach.”

Photo provided

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

**Thursday, Feb. 8**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Indianapolis Washington at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.  
University at Indianapolis Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.  
*Please email schedule changes or corrections to [sports@readthereporter.com](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com).*

## IBCA boys basketball poll – Week of Feb. 4

Rank	School	Points	Record
1	Fishers (8)	424	18-1
2	Lawrence North (7)	414	18-1
3	Noblesville (5)	392	16-2
4	Westfield	379	14-2
5	Kokomo	329	17-3
6	Greenfield-Central (2)	326	18-0
7	Cathedral	304	13-3
8	Crispus Attucks	260	17-5
9	Ben Davis	248	13-4
10	Brownstown Central	213	17-4
11	Evansville Harrison	201	15-2
12	Richmond	187	18-2
13	Tipton	135	17-1
14	Lake Central	123	14-2
15	South Bend Riley	94	16-4
T16	Carmel	91	9-9
T16	Brebeuf Jesuit	91	12-4
18	New Palestine	67	14-4
19	Concord	54	15-2
20	Franklin Community	41	14-3

First place votes are in parentheses.

**Other schools receiving votes, with records**  
Bellmont (14-3), Brownsburg (11-9), Center Grove (12-4), Crown Point (12-4), Danville (16-1), East Chicago Central (14-4), Fort Wayne Bishop Luers (14-2), Fort Wayne Wayne (15-3), Franklin Central (9-10), **Hamilton Southeastern (13-6)**, Jeffersonville (11-6), New Albany (14-4), North Central (12-6), Orleans (14-2), Penn (12-4), Scottsburg (13-4), Seymour (14-4), Terre Haute North Vigo (16-3), Valparaiso (15-4), Wapahani (16-2), Warren Central (11-9), Warsaw Community (12-4), Evansville Christian School (17-1).

# Circle City Curling Club to host USA Senior Women’s Nationals

### The REPORTER

Circle City Curling Club, Inc., (CCCC) has announce that championship curling is coming to central Indiana as the club plays host to the 2024 USA Curling Senior Women’s National Championship.

The event will take place at CCCC’s facility at 1735 W. 53rd St., Suite 3A, Anderson, with competition running Wednesday, Feb. 21 through Sunday, Feb. 25.

Top women curlers 50 and older from around the country will be competing for the opportunity to rep-

resent the United States at the World Senior Curling Championships in Sweden later this spring. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Spectators are welcome and admission is free, but space is very limited, so anyone wishing to attend should register for the dates and times available [here](#). All matches will be live streamed on [YouTube](#).

**About Circle City Curling Club**

Founded in 2007, CCCC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion and education of

the sport of curling in central Indiana. Until opening its current dedicated ice facility in December 2022, CCCC bounced around to various locations:

- 2007: The club opened at the Indiana World Skating Academy (IWSA).
- 2008: The season was spent at Ellenberger Park in Indianapolis.
- 2009-2010: CCCC returned to IWSA.
- 2011-2014: Fishers Forum was CCCC’s home.
- 2015: CCCC moved to the Arctic Zone in Westfield.
- 2016-2018: CCCC

curled at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Youth Ice Hockey Arena.

- 2018-2022: CCCC returned to the Fuel Tank at Fishers.
- December 2022: CCCC opened on dedicated ice at 1753 W. 53rd St., Suite 3A, Anderson.

CCCC is part of the [Great Lakes Curling Association](#) and the [United States Curling Association](#).

**Quietly Making Noise**  
Scott Saalman  
The Ultimate Inessential Humor Column Collection

write on.

More than 60 hilarious essays by our humor columnist Scott Saalman. Order on Amazon. Book Scott as a guest speaker.

[scottsaalman@gmail.com](mailto:scottsaalman@gmail.com)

## Thanks for reading!

## SWIM

state, Ayla Madara earned a spot in the 200 free and Tegan Madara will swim in the individual medley.

Noblesville had six swimmers qualify for state. Senior Maya McDonald has the highest seed, third in the breaststroke. Her time of 1:02.24 is only 0.04 seconds off the first-place time. Haddie Vohs qualified in the 200 free and butterfly; she is seeded 10th in the 200 and 12th in the butterfly.

Westfield will have two swimmers at state. Kate Cassidy is seeded 13th in the 500 free, while the Shamrocks’ 200 free relay team earned a callback.

Here is a list of Hamilton County qualifiers and their seeded positions, according to the IHSAA psych sheet.

**200 medley relay:** 1. Hamilton Southeastern 1:42.29, 2. Carmel 1:42.78, 4. Fishers 1:44.52, 15. Noblesville 1:47.08, 22. Hamilton Heights 1:50.03.

**200 freestyle:** 1. Lynsey Bowen (C) 1:47.85, 2. Alexandra Ward (C) 1:48.54, 8. Alyssa Street (C) 1:50.76, 10. Haddie Vohs (N) 1:51.20, 13. Emma Schumacher (F) 1:51.61, 19. Mia Henderson (HSE) 1:53.46, 20. Claire Francis (F) 1:53.59, 22. Ayla Madara (HH) 1:54.11.

**200 individual medley:** 1. Audrey Crawford (HSE) 1:59.97, 2. Avery Stein (F) 2:00.86, 3. Molly Sweeney (C) 2:01.14, 5. Lucy Enoch (C) 2:03.86, 6. Kayla Barr (C) 2:03.88, 15. Mia Wilson (F) 2:08.10, 17. Tegan Madara (HH) 2:08.65, 21. Avery Hannon (F) 2:09.00.

**50 freestyle:** 6. Faith Gorey (C) 23.43, 7. Kiley Zoeller (HSE) 23.47, 13. Emma Schwertfeger (F) 24.03, 15. Madelyn Lathrop (C) 24.13, 19. Priscilla Smith (C) 24.20.

**One-meter diving:** 14. Helena Gibson (C) 403.35, 20. Eryn McMahon (N) 368.40, 21. Campbell Liveley-Mason (HH) 365.55, 22. Melaina Munson (C) 365.50.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Alex Shackell (C) 51.21, 2. Emily Wolf (F) 53.26, 3. Crawford (HSE) 53.87, 6. Gorey (C) 55.47, 12. Vohs (N) 56.43, 20. Ellison Miller (HSE) 58.10.

**100 freestyle:** 4. Grace Dougherty (C) 50.67, 8. Zoeller (HSE) 51.48, 9. Schwertfeger (F) 51.55, 12.

Sophia Floyd (C) 51.71, 13. Addyson Czarniecki (C) 51.78, 16. Henderson (HSE) 52.13, 23. Naomi Haines (HSE) 53.18.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Bowen (C) 4:47.15, 2. Ward (C) 4:48.63, 3. Street (C) 4:49.67, 6. Schumacher (F) 4:59.32, 7. T. Madara (HH) 4:59.45, 9. Francis (F) 5:04.06, 13. Kate Cassidy (Westfield) 5:06.46, 17. Isabelle Heuck (F) 5:07.88, 18. A. Madara (HH) 5:07.98, 23. Amira Leer (HH) 5:13.42.

**200 freestyle relay:** 2. Fishers 1:34.82, 7. Hamilton Southeastern 1:37.85, 16. Noblesville 1:39.61, 23. Westfield 1:41.40.

**100 backstroke:** 1. Shackell (C) 52.65, 4. Wolf (F) 55.27, 12. Dougherty (C) 56.52, 13. Barr (C) 56.93, 22. Hannon (F) 58.21, 23. Haines (HSE) 58.37.

**100 breaststroke:** 1. Sweeney (C) 1:02.20, 3. Maya McDonald (N) 1:02.24, 5. Enoch (C) 1:03.42, 7. Stein (F) 1:03.65, 9. Czarniecki (C) 1:04.10, 12. Eloise Harrison (HSE) 1:04.75, 16. Julia Kiley (HSE) 1:05.53, 21. Polina Sopova (F) 1:05.85.

**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Fishers 3:27.04, 4. Carmel 3:27.76, 5. Hamilton Southeastern 3:28.14, 16. Noblesville 3:35.48, 20. Hamilton Heights 3:37.48.

from Page 10

**HAMILTON COUNTY TELEVISION**  
Web Television

**Logan Street SIGNS & BANNERS**  
www.LoganStreetSigns.com

**2023-24 GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENT**

# Regionals

**Sat Feb 10 - Hamilton County Schools**

**1:00 pm** Woodlan vs **Hamilton Heights** (at Lapel)  
**Watch at** [www.ihsaatv.org/?B=959227](http://www.ihsaatv.org/?B=959227)

**4:00 pm** Ft Wayne Snider vs **Noblesville** (at Marion)  
**Watch at** [www.ihsaatv.org/?B=952883](http://www.ihsaatv.org/?B=952883)

**4:00 pm** Northeastern vs **Sheridan** (Southwestern)  
**Watch at** [www.ihsaatv.org/?B=952191](http://www.ihsaatv.org/?B=952191)

**Watch “Live or Later” Exclusively at [www.IHSAAtv.org](http://www.IHSAAtv.org) or on your ihsaatv app on your TV devices**

# SNYDER STRATEGY

**317-345-3960**  
**WandaLyons.com**