



THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER FEBRUARY 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: LIA CHRISTMAN (2ND PLACE)
SPONSORED BY: TOM WOOD VOLKSWAGEN NOBLESVILLE • GAYLOR ELECTRIC (CEO CHUCK GOODRICH) • ADLER ATTORNEYS

CHIEF RUSH

from Page 1

The Westfield Police Department is a nationally accredited law enforcement agency, accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Under Chief Rush, the department has received accreditation through the CALEA since April 2016. CALEA Accreditation is the International Gold Standard for Public Safety Agencies and is considered one of the highest honors a law enforcement agency can obtain. In 2021, the Westfield Police Department sought and received federal certification under the Presidential Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities pertaining to Use of Force and related policies.

Chief Rush is a 1989 Indiana Law Enforcement Academy graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a minor in Counseling Psychology from Ball State University.

Mayor Willis appointed Assistant Chief Scott Jordan to serve as interim police chief. Jordan has served as Assistant Chief for the last 15 years and has been with the department for 28 years. A successor will be announced in the coming days.

Lights out! Learn about rare eclipses at Carmel Planetarium

The REPORTER

Sudden darkness on a sunny day? The moon turning deep red?

With less than two months to go until the Total Solar Eclipse, the Carmel High School Planetarium Club invites you to come learn about rare and awesome eclipse occurrences.

Explore fascinating stories about the rare and awesome eclipses. This is a multimedia extravaganza taking place in the Carmel Planetarium. Dr. Melinda Soares-Furtado will narrate the recorded portion or the show. She is an astrophysicist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The 45-minute presentations will take place at 7 and 8 p.m. on Friday, March 8 in the Carmel High School Planetarium. Enter through the main entrance of the school on Main Street, walk past the Dale Graham Auditorium, and turn right. Doors will open 30 minutes before show time. *No one will be admitted after the program begins. Children aged 12 years and younger should be accompanied by an adult. Recommended for children aged 5 and up.*

- [Click here](#) to buy tickets for the 7 p.m. show.
- [Click here](#) to buy tickets for the 8 p.m. show.

[Click here](#) to learn more or call Planetarium Director Keith Turner at (317) 846-7721 ext. 7446. You can also follow along on X at [@CCSPlanetarium](#).

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JOKER

Instead of firing her, the manager merely shrugged.

True, the girl behind the counter was only 17 – as I once was, daydreaming in math class about catching Steve Miller’s guitar pick. I remember how old 48 seemed when I was 17, which explains why she looked at me like I was one of those old people in grocery store produce sections who openly pull grapes from the stems and chew them without even paying, as if they are actually walking through their own personal vineyard in Napa Valley. “Was this an AARP perk? God forbid they started doing this to bananas,” I thought.

While I hadn’t pilfered any grapes at that point, there were some signs of my impending senior status. Several times I had forgotten to zip my pants before going to work, an unsettling discovery during meetings, especially when I was the presenter.

Also, for the first time, I allowed a bag boy to carry my groceries to my car. I used to have to practically wrestle the damn bags from the bag boys just to prove I was still physically capable of carrying a gallon of milk.

Also, I had recently reached the point of being too old and impatient for fast food drive-thru service. I succumbed to restaurant rage and became crotchety. Case in point: after I ordered a plain cheeseburger for my daughter, the pip-squeaky speaker voice replied, “So, you don’t want cheese on it?”

“No, I do want cheese on it. Or else that would be a hamburger. I said I wanted a *plain cheeseburger*.”

“But you said plain.”

“I said cheeseburger!” I then worried what might actually be put on that cheeseburger because of my crankiness, but ultimately that was my daughter’s problem since was the one who wanted a plain cheeseburger – *with cheese!*

In hindsight, I should have taken the senior ticket at the cinema to save money, but I couldn’t because of the principle of it all. I glared at the teen cashier to remind her that I was still young enough to pay full price for a movie. It’s my movie-going right! Top price, baby! To further demonstrate my youthful coolness, I considered pulling the guitar pick out of my pocket and regaling her with my Steve Miller story; however, catching a pick thrown by a 70-year-old musician likely would not have impressed her.

In 2024, “The Joker” turns 51 years old, further reinforcing that I’m getting older too. I’m somewhat embarrassed that I once thought 48 seemed old. “Wait until you turn 58, then you’ll know what old really feels like,” my current 59-year-old self wants to tell my past 48-year-old self.

Sigh.

Suddenly, I have an urge to steal grapes.

Scott’s latest humor column collection, *“Quietly Making Noise,”* is available on Amazon. Contact [scottsaalman@gmail.com](#) to request him as a guest speaker.

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THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER FEBRUARY 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: AVA GIST (3RD PLACE)
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Carmel Rotarians learn about the Attorney General’s office



Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita attended the Carmel Rotary Club’s weekly meeting on Friday and shared with members what the role of his office is in the state. He discussed the record-breaking \$81 million in unclaimed property returned to Hoosiers in 2023, consumer protection and how to avoid different scams, and the office’s Gun Owners’ and Parents’ Bill of Rights.

Last chance: Fishers Health Department needs your feedback

The REPORTER Fishers Health Department, Your voice is crucial its services, and ways the in shaping Fishers' health department can continue to services. Please take add value to the city's a few minutes wellbeing. to complete the **Fishers Health Department survey** by Tuesday, Feb. 20. Your im- portant feed- back will guide the department in better ad- dressing the community's needs. [Click here](#) to take the survey.



WHS students earn recognition on National German Exam

The REPORTER Recently, some Westfield High School students took the National German Exam and earned national recognition for their scores.
Bronze Medal: 70-79 national percentile
• Quinn Ferguson
• Gabe Smith
• Emma McGregory
• Jasper Pierce
Achievement award: 50-69 national percentile
• Orion Ottinger
• Teona Gjerkoska
• VeeBee Durso
• Dia Crouch
• Arabella King
• Adelaide Miller
• Travis Essig
• Nick Cox
• Sai Kolisetty

Miebach

Miebach opens U.S. headquarters in Fishers

The REPORTER Executives from Miebach have announced the grand opening of the new U.S. headquarters in Fishers. The new space on the top floor of The LINK at Fishers was designed with the growth of the company in mind, both in terms of form and function. With modern seating to accommodate over 45 employees, 13 meeting rooms, and an open café space, Miebach is well prepared to meet the growth objective to double their U.S. workforce of full-time employees in professional, high-paying positions before 2026. “Miebach set out to accomplish their company goal of creating an office space where employees would look forward to coming to work,” said Jerika Richards, Senior Project Manager at Schott Design. “Together we designed a space that inspires and fosters productivity, where every detail was thoughtfully curated. The space is functional yet comfortable with pops of drama and whimsy throughout. We are grateful to be a part of helping Miebach's vision come to life!” “From our first meeting at City Hall, the number one priority and focus of Miebach leadership was the employees,” Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness said at the grand opening and ribbon cutting on Thursday. “To create a work environment that they could be proud of, that they could feel engaged in, and that would support the recruitment of the very best talent so they could continue to grow the vision of

the company.” “The reason we have received such accolades as Forbes’ ‘World’s Best Management Consulting Firms’ is solely attributed to our people,” said Nick Banich, Miebach’s Chief Revenue Officer for U.S. & Canada. “Some of the world’s most prestigious companies trust us with their largest endeavors that are integral to the success of their supply chain. We needed a collaborative, modern, refined environment that honored the type of work we are trusted with. I firmly believe we have achieved that with this city, this district, and this new space. There is no question that this move will be an integral part of our retention and recruitment success moving forward.” The grand opening included a ribbon cutting with Bernard Tremblay, Miebach U.S. & Canada CEO and Vice-Chair of the Miebach Advisory Board, Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness, LINK building management, the Schott Design team, and the full U.S. and Canada executive team. The events concluded with a tour of the LINK building’s multiple amenities and a catered lunch from Fishers Test Kitchen. **About Miebach** Miebach, named among Forbes’ “World’s Best Management Consulting Firms,” provides consulting services for supply chain solutions. Founded in 1973 in Frankfurt, Germany, Miebach is a global firm with more than 500 employees. The new U.S. headquarters is located in The LINK at 11100 USA Pkwy., Fishers.

Supporting the Arts

For one week each month this year, The Hamilton County Reporter is giving young artists at local schools the chance to design the banner at the top of the first three pages in Hamilton County’s Hometown Newspaper.

This Week

Sheridan Middle School

winning art is on Pages 1, 2 & 3

Next month, winning artists from another Hamilton County school will be featured in the pages of The Hamilton County Reporter.

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Allisonville Road at 146th Street scheduled to close for 90 days

Work on new roundabout set to begin Friday, March 1

The REPORTER

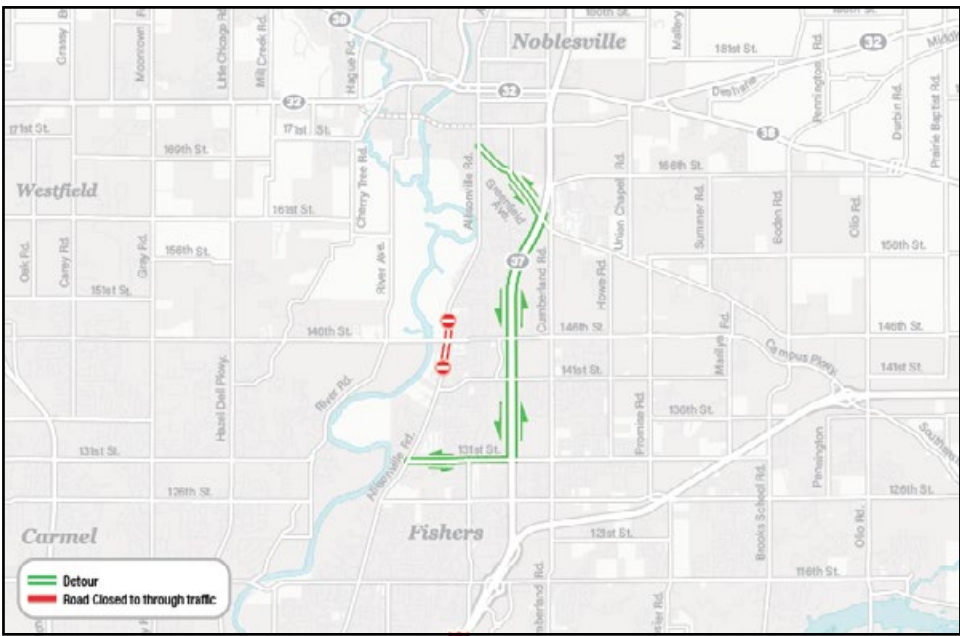
The Hamilton County Highway Department and Superior Construction Company will close Allisonville Road between 146th Street and Kensington Drive, as well as between 146th Street and Helmsley Court, so crews can begin reconstructing Allisonville Road into a roundabout under 146th Street. The 90-day closure is scheduled to start on or after Friday, March 1.

It's all part of a larger plan to convert the current intersection into a grade-separated interchange, with 146th Street going over Allisonville Road.

Bridge Program Engineer Matt Lee emphasized the significance of this closure.

"We know this project will create some inconvenience during construction, but we're certain the result will be worth the restrictions and closures," Lee said. "The plan is to have the Allisonville Road reopened in time for Conner Prairie's Symphony on the Prairie season in June."

During the closure, crews will start reconstructing Allisonville Road north and south of the intersection,



Graphic provided by Hamilton County Highway Department

installing storm sewer systems, grading, placing new pavement, and preparing ramps that will carry traffic off the new roundabout to 146th Street. East-west traffic on 146th Street will remain open.

"Motorists will not be able to cross 146th Street," Highway Director Brad Davis added. "Local residents, however, will still have access to their homes if they're located within the closure area. They will just need to enter and exit their neighborhoods off Allisonville Road."

Pedestrian access over the White River bridge will also be unavailable during this time as crews work to finish the bridge widening and install new railings. Motorists are encouraged to utilize the posted detour routes and drive the posted speed limits to ensure the safety of highway crews.

The Highway Department says the overall project



Lee



Davis

is on schedule. It is scheduled to conclude in Summer 2025. For further information and updates on construction progress and lane restrictions, please visit streamline146.com.

FriendsGiving raises record amount for Foster Success

Donations increased from previous year to help young adults transitioning out of foster care

The REPORTER

Foster Success recently raised a record \$73,833 as part of the nonprofit organization's FriendsGiving 2023 fundraising campaign thanks to generous donors and sponsors. The organization's annual campaign raised \$63,000, with about \$15,000 in matching funds, in 2022.

Foster Success is the only statewide nonprofit organization supporting teens

and young adults transitioning out of Indiana's foster care system.

FriendsGiving is Foster Success' holiday season fundraising and awareness campaign. It encourages those who have the privilege to spend time with their family and friends during the holidays to help support those who do not. The funds raised during this campaign help Foster Success ensure young

adults transitioning out of the foster care system receive the support and resources they need to succeed.

"This year's campaign included a new, sold-out signature event – Taste of Thanks," Foster Success Chief Development and Communications Officer Travis Tester said. "The event helped us raise even more funds to educate our young people about finances,

FriendsGiving 2023 Recap

- \$73,833 raised
- 94 first-time donors
- 28 peer-to-peer campaign fundraising pages created

get them connected to health and wellness programs, and assist them with purchasing their first car or getting their first apartment."

More information can be found at FosterSuccess.org.

Thanks for reading The Reporter!

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Fishers set to kick off Disability Awareness Month celebration March 1

The REPORTER

The City of Fishers and Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability will host their annual celebration of National Disability Awareness Month with special events and initiatives throughout March.

The month-long celebration presented by Old National Bank strives to bring awareness to what life is like for those with physical and intellectual disabilities in our community.

This year's theme, Fueled for the Future, features a partnership with the Indy Fuel, who will play at the new Fishers Event Center once it opens in late 2024. The 8,500-seat concert and sporting venue will serve as the cornerstone of The Crossing, and expansion of Fishers District that will feature new restaurants, retail, and entertainment.

This year's Fishers Disability Awareness Month program lineup includes events with community partners such as Indy Fuel, HSE Schools, Fishers Arts Council, OneZone Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton East Public Library, and Fishers Parks. Special Needs Living Magazine and

Guardian Care are this year's Platinum Sponsors.

"We are excited to add the Indy Fuel to the list of community partners for 2024 March Disability Awareness Month," said Cecilia Coble, president of Fishers City Council and co-chair of the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability. "They are committed to working alongside the City of Fishers and the disability community to provide inclusive and accessible opportunities for all guests at the new Fishers Event Center."

"Our theme is Fueled for the Future due to the many accommodations and programs that Fishers is putting in place for those with disabilities," said Stacey Oldham, board member of the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability and keynote speaker at this year's kickoff event. "The vision is not only for now, but far into the future. Our partnership with Indy Fuel is key. As an example, the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability, City of Fishers, and the Indy Fuel have worked together to ensure the new Fishers Event Center will be welcoming for all."

The celebration will include the return of the popular Ally campaign, which invites residents to become advocates for disability inclusion. Free Ally toolkits will be available for community members to showcase their advocacy, educate themselves and others, and further the discussion on disability inclusion.

Toolkits including a T-shirt, yard sign, stickers, and other materials will be available for pick up at the March Disability Awareness Month Kickoff on March 1 at Launch Fishers, 12175 Visionary Way, or at the Fishers City Services Building, 3 Municipal Drive, beginning March 2.

Virtual toolkits, now available at fishersIN.gov/DisabilityAwareness, include information on how to be an ally; a language guide and FAQ; social media graphics; Zoom backgrounds; and an ally pledge.

The 2024 event lineup includes:
Disability Awareness Month Kickoff & Awards: Fueled for the Future
Friday, March 1 / 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Launch Fishers Theater

Mayor Scott Fadness and the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability invite the public to celebrate the kick-off of Fishers March Disability Awareness Month. Stacey Oldham, Fishers resident and board member of the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability, will present the keynote address as she shares the inspiring story of her 40-year journey with Multiple Sclerosis. The morning will also feature the presentation of the annual Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability's Inclusion and Accessibility Awards, which are given to those who inspire and advocate for the disability community. No registration is required for this free event.

Fishers Parks' Storywalk: Just Ask
Begins March 4 / Daily, dawn to dusk
Brooks School Park,
11780 Brooks School Road

Enjoy an easy, family-friendly hike around Brooks School Park as you enjoy March's featured book, *Just Ask*, written by United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. The No. 1 *New York Times* best-seller is the winner of the Schneider Family Book Award. No registration is required for this free event. Learn more at playfishers.com/Storywalk.

Fishers Arts Council's
Second Friday: March Disability Awareness Art Exhibition
Friday, March 8 / 6 to 9 p.m.
Hamilton County Community Foundation's FAC Hub Gallery

Fishers Arts Council hosts an evening for all ages including live music and various kinds of artistic expressions on display in the gallery. All are welcome to this "Second Friday" celebration of artists with different abilities. Speakers from the Fishers Advisory Committee, Ignite Studio, and the Fishers Arts Council will make comments at 7 p.m. but guests are invited to visit in an open house style. Light refreshments will be available. No registration is required for this free event.

OneZone March Luncheon: Disability Awareness Panel
Wednesday, March 13 / 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
FORUM Events Center

Find your next great hire at OneZone's March luncheon. Local employers will

share their experiences hiring individuals with disabilities and tips on how your company can, too. In the lobby after the luncheon, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a reverse job fair with prospective individuals. Registration is required for this paid event. Learn more at OneZoneChamber.com.

Preparing for Your Next Employment Opportunity
Friday, March 15 / 9 to 11 a.m.
Grace Church Fishers

With an unemployment rate under 3 percent in Hamilton County, employers find it difficult to hire for open positions. However, the unemployment rate among qualified potential employees with a disability is well over 50 percent. Hosted by the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability's Allies for Disability Employment subcommittee, individuals with disabilities who are ready to work will have an opportunity to participate in an open house style event with stations for resume development, job seeking tips, online interview practice, and mock interviews. Hamilton County resources will also be available to help people learn about seeking, finding, and landing a job. Registration is requested for this free event. Learn more at fishersIN.gov/DisabilityAwareness.

Indy Fuel Game: March Disability Awareness Night
Friday, March 22 / 7 p.m.
Indiana Farmers Coliseum

Come cheer on the Indy Fuel as you support the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability. Purchase tickets for a special rate of \$25 and a portion of your ticket will go back to support the committee. The first 100 tickets purchased will also receive a special "Fueled for the Future" T-shirt. Purchase tickets at fishersIN.gov/DisabilityAwareness.

Hamilton County Transition Fair
Wednesday, March 27 / 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern High School,
enter through door 18

Talk directly with the agencies and providers who support individuals with special needs at all levels and stages of life. No registration is required for this free event.

Hamilton East Public Library Workshops
Dates and locations vary

Join the Hamilton East Public Library for various workshops and programs themed around Disability Awareness Month. Learn more at hamiltoneastpl.org.

- Get Involved with Special Olympics Indiana | Teens & Adults | Tuesday, March 5 | 6 to 6:45 p.m. | Fishers Library
- Dyslexia 101 | Adults | Wednesday, March 13 | 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. | Fishers Library
- Supporting Children with ADHD | Adults | Saturday, March 16 | 2 to 3 p.m. | Noblesville Library
- Notes on Blindness | Adults | Tuesday, March 19 | 5 to 5:45 p.m., 6 to 6:45 p.m., 7 to 7:45 p.m. | Fishers Library
- Preparing for Adulthood on the Autism Spectrum | Adults | Sunday, March 24 | 3 to 4 p.m. | Virtual

To register for events, download the Ally Toolkit, and learn more about the work of the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability, visit fishersIN.gov/DisabilityAwareness. Follow along on social media with the hashtag #FishersDisabilityAwareness.

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Kilwins brings confectionery shop to Fishers District

Submitted

Kilwins, the renowned confectionery and ice cream shop, will soon arrive in Fishers. The store will be located in the new Whistle Drive building that is currently under construction, nestled between Torchy's Tacos and Bibibop. That's on the south side of 116th Street between Exit 5 Parkway and Cumberland Road.

Kilwins will be an anticipated addition to the popular Fishers District area and the entire community with a projected opening in fall of 2024.

Kilwins is famous for its assortment of hand-crafted chocolates, creamy, hand-paddled fudge, caramel apples, caramel corn and brittle, chocolate-dipped treats, and premium ice cream, all made with the finest ingredients. With a rich history dating back to 1947, Kilwins has been delighting communities with their irresistible confections for over 75 years.

"We are absolutely thrilled to bring Kilwins to Fishers," said Adam & Kirstyn Kallick, local owners of the new location. "We can't



Rendering provided

wait to share the high-quality chocolates, fresh fudge, and delightful ice cream with the Fishers community. Kilwins will be a place where families and friends can gather to indulge in sweet moments and create lasting memories."

Mayor Scott Fadness expressed his excitement about Kilwins joining the community.

"We are delighted to welcome Kilwins to our vibrant and growing city," Fadness said. Their commitment to quality, friendliness, and creating a warm, inviting atmosphere aligns perfectly with Fishers' val-

ues. We believe that Kilwins will quickly become a beloved destination for residents and visitors alike."

Like all Kilwins stores, Kilwins Fishers will feature an open kitchen where customers can view products being freshly made. The store will be a destination where customers can experience the nostalgia of an old-fashioned confectionery with a modern twist. From watching fudge being paddled on a traditional marble table to caramel being cooked to perfection in a copper kettle, guests will have the opportunity to witness the artistry behind each

sweet creation.

The upcoming Kilwins location on Whistle Drive will feature an inviting storefront along 116th Street, with an abundance of treats on display, welcoming guests of all ages to indulge their sweet tooth. Whether it's a special occasion, after-dinner dessert, or a simple craving, Kilwins will offer a wide range of options to satisfy every taste bud.

For more information about Kilwins and their upcoming Fishers location, please visit kilwins.com/fishers or follow on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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New at Sheridan Public Library

The REPORTER

Here are some of the new items that can be found at the Sheridan Public Library:

- Fiction**
1. Atlas Maneuver – Steve Berry
 2. Chasing Endless Summer – V.C. Andrews
 3. Guest – B.A. Paris
 4. Just a Regular Boy – Catherine Ryan Hyde
 5. Lady in Glass – Anne Bishop

6. Messy Life of Jane Tanner – Brenda Novak
 7. Summer Book Club – Susan Mallery
 8. Teacher – Freida McFadden
- Children's**
1. Drama Llama – Rachel Morrisroe
 2. Gabby's Dollhouse Look & Find
 3. Let's Go Pudding – Emma Perry
 4. One, Two Grandma

- Loves You – Shelly Becker
5. Pete the Cat & the Bedtime Blues – K. Dean
 6. Thomas & the Leprechaun – Christy Webster
- Inspirational Fiction**
1. Baby Secret – Gabrielle Meyer
 2. Defending the Witness – Sharee Stover
 3. Hearts Shelter – Amy

- Clipston
4. Hidden Amish Target – Dana R. Lynn
 5. One Final Target – Janice Cantore
 6. Ranch Showdown – Tina Wheeler
 7. Widow's Choice – Lorraine Beatty
- Young Adult**
1. River – Erin Hunter



Merchants Bank named 2023 recipient of U.S. Small Business Administration Indiana Lender Bronze Award

The REPORTER

Merchants Bank, based in Carmel, announces that the Indiana district of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has honored the Merchants SBA team with the Bronze Award for its Indiana community lending efforts in 2023.

Recognized now as the third most active Indiana community lender in 2023, Merchants made major contributions to the economic development in Indianapolis throughout the past year. The Bronze Award for outstanding community lending was presented to Merchants' SBA team by SBA Indiana District Director Stacy Poynter.

"We're honored to be recognized for our role in supporting the growth of small businesses in our community from start to finish," SBA Lending President Jeff Scott said. "This award

symbolizes the positive impact our team has made in our local communities and showcases the importance of keeping small businesses up and running. We're incredibly proud of each and every member of our Merchants Bank SBA team for making this award possible and look forward to a strong 2024."

The award adds to a list of notable achievements for the Merchants SBA team in 2023 as the division was recently ranked by Coleman Report as Indiana's No. 5 Top 7(a) Lender. The team secured a total of 29 loans amounting to more than \$22.5 million for the 2023 fiscal year, supporting a variety of local small businesses, including an Indianapolis motor company, development group, minority-owned bridal shop and more.

To learn more about Merchants Bank, visit MerchantsBankOfIndiana.com.



Scott

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Hamilton County Republican Party's vote by mail campaign named finalist for Reed Award

Submitted

The Hamilton County Republican Party has announced that its absentee ballot campaign has been selected as a finalist for the 2024 Reed Award in the category of "Best Vote by Mail Program."

This recognition, awarded by Campaigns & Elections, highlights the exceptional efforts and results achieved by the Hamilton County GOP in the 2023 municipal elections.

The campaign, spearheaded by Party Chairman Mario Massillamany and his dedicated team, was instrumental in mobilizing Republican voters in Hamilton County to participate in mail-in voting. This strategic initiative, in partnership with Morgan Bonwell and Ben Anderson of Right Strategies, Sam Stern of

SmartPoint Data Strategies, and Strategist Adam Kallick of Sycamore Group, played a crucial role in securing significant victories for the Republican Party in the November elections.

"We are honored to be recognized as a Finalist for the Reed Awards," Massillamany said. "This campaign was a collaborative effort that showcased the effectiveness of our strategic approach and the dedication of our team. We look forward to the Reed Awards event in March and hope to bring home an award to celebrate with our supporters. I have been telling Republicans in Hamilton County and across the state that we



Massillamany

do not have an Election Day, we have an election month. It is paramount that we not wait until the last day to vote, but bank our votes in advance with mail-in absentee and early voting."

Right Strategies' CEO Morgan Bonwell echoed these sentiments.

"This campaign effort was truly remarkable," Bonwell said. "The attention to detail, strategy in maximizing each voter contact, and using a data-driven approach led to tremendous success. I want to thank Mario for his leadership and for allowing the Right Strategies team to be a part of this impactful campaign cycle and to Sam Stern of SmartPoint Data for his un-

matched data management abilities."

The campaign's results were outstanding, with raw absentee votes increasing over 250 percent in Fishers and almost 500 percent in Carmel compared to 2019 numbers. In a contested race in Carmel, Republican mayoral candidate Sue Finkam won mail-in voting by over 23 percent, while in Fishers, Republican City Clerk Jennifer Kehl won mail-in voting by over 31 percent.

The Reed Awards ceremony will take place in March in South Carolina, where winners will be announced across various categories celebrating excellence in political campaigning and strategy.

For more information about the Reed Awards, visit CampaignsAndElections.com.

Sen. Young receives "Housing Champion" award for efforts to address housing affordability crisis

The REPORTER

U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) recently received the "Housing Champion" award from Habitat for Humanity for his leadership and support of programs and policies that would expand affordable housing options.

"I am honored to receive the 'Housing Champion' award from Habitat for Humanity for my efforts to address the housing affordability crisis," Sen. Young said. "I will continue to work to pass bills that increase housing stock, lower costs, and revitalize distressed neighborhoods in Indiana and across the country."

For years, Young has worked on housing affordability issues in Congress. In 2023, Young introduced three bills to address the national shortage of affordable housing:

- The [Neighborhood Homes Investment Act](#), which would revitalize distressed neighborhoods by creating a tax credit for building and renovating

homes in blighted areas.

- The [Yes In My Backyard Act \(YIMBY Act\)](#), which would eliminate barriers to much-needed housing by requiring transparency in local land use, zoning, and housing decisions.

• The [Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act \(AH-CIA\)](#), which would improve and expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, providing an additional 44,500 units in Indiana alone.

The Habitat for Humanity "Housing Champion" award recognizes lawmakers, individuals, organizations, or partners that have made significant and lasting contributions to the mission of Habitat for Humanity in providing affordable housing solutions and supporting communities in need. The award highlights the crucial role that legislators and housing champions play in addressing housing insecurity and emphasizes the collective effort required to tackle global housing challenges.



Young

Rep. Spartz to visit Europe with stern message

The REPORTER

Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-05) and other commissioners for the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe will travel this weekend to Munich, Germany, to attend the Munich Security Conference in Nuremberg to hold a field hearing on Russian war crimes against Ukrainian children at the historic Courtroom 600, and in Vienna, Austria, for the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly representing over 50 nations.

Our security situation in Europe and across the globe is very serious," Spartz said. "Members of the United States Congress must send a stern message to our European allies to start taking threats from Russia, Iran, and China more seriously."

Our security situation in Europe and across the globe is very serious," Spartz said. "Members of the United States Congress must send a stern message to our European allies to start taking threats from Russia, Iran, and China more seriously."



Spartz



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West District Office: (317) 848-0201

East District Office: (765) 639-0671

www.spartz.house.gov

Reading bill advances despite retention concerns

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Parents and educators on Wednesday told lawmakers if they insist on holding back students, they should provide more exceptions and flexibility.

Although the retention issue accounts for only a portion of the reading proficiency bill, it has driven by far the overwhelming majority of the discussion since Republican legislative leaders first floated the idea in November. Nearly everyone who testified on the bill before the House Education Committee on Wednesday said they like the bill's reading interventions but have varying levels of concern about its mandate that students be held back a year if they fail the IREAD test three times.

As it currently stands, the bill would require students to take the IREAD test in second grade instead of third grade, with the test rewritten to a second-grade reading level. Students who fail the test would have to either enroll in summer school or take part in individual reading instruction, after which they would take the test in the spring of their third-grade year. If they failed a second time, students would take summer school one more time and take the test at the end of summer. They would be held back if they failed the test three times.

Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, tried unsuccessfully to amend the bill to give parents a greater role in the retention discussion and eliminate mandatory retention.

"I don't like the fact that these tough decisions have to be made, but, ultimately, I don't think the state is the one to make those decisions," he said. "If you've

given a parent all the notice that this bill requires and the kid's not there academically, I think the parent has got to be able to say, in consultation with the school, that my child has to move forward."

After committee members voted down DeLaney's proposal, parents and teachers alike told the committee they supported the bill's many reading intervention requirements, but they believed there should be more exceptions to the retention requirement. MaryAnn Schlegel Ruegger said her daughter struggled in school because she had ADHD, a condition that qualifies for some types of additional educational support but not the individualized educational programs provided for students with significant intellectual disabilities.

The bill currently exempts students with IEPs. Jennifer Black, a mother and wellness coach, said lawmakers should delay the implementation of the retention requirement until the 2025-2026 school year to allow students and teachers more time to catch up and to begin implementing the Science of Reading requirements lawmakers put in place last year.

For her part, bill author Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, said the retention provision is a last resort and the bill's many interventions make it unlikely a student will get to that point in the first place.

"To send these kids on through school without the ability to read sets them up to struggle throughout the rest of their education and, often, for the rest of their life," she said.

The bill passed the committee. DeLaney said he plans to offer an amendment on the House floor to delay the retention provision by one year.

Raju just loves coffee



Reporter photo

The Reporter ran into Republican candidate for Indiana's Fifth Congressional District Raju Chinthala, Sridevi Gunasekaran, and Shanmuga Sundaram on Friday morning at Just Love Coffee Café, 12525 Old Meridian St., Carmel. Maybe it was the magic of cappuccino on a cold day, or maybe they are just sincerely good people, but all three were kind enough to pose for this photo. Chinthala applauded this newspaper's "no attack ads" policy, but his campaign is so positive in its messaging so far we doubt we'll ever have to remind him of it.

Todd Clevenger files to serve as Hamilton County's next auditor

Submitted

Hamilton County Grant Administrator Todd Clevenger has filed paperwork to run for Hamilton County Auditor in the 2024 elections.

Clevenger, who has six years of experience with the Auditor's Office, says he will focus on the intricacies of the office, with a commitment to accountability, transparency, and professional expertise.

"The position of County Auditor is complex, so it is crucial for the County Auditor to possess not only the

necessary technical skills, but also a steadfast commitment to accountability and transparency," Clevenger said. "I am dedicated to upholding these principles to the highest standard, ensuring that the residents of Hamilton County have full confidence in the integrity of our financial operations."

Clevenger emphasizes that he has experience in the duties of the office, which include managing revenue, budget compliance, performing accounting transactions, maintaining accurate records, tabulating property

values, grant funding, and working with the public and other officials.

"As your next Auditor, I will ensure that your tax dollars are used efficiently and managed with conservative fiscal policies," he said.

Clevenger has worked for the county since March 2018. Prior to that, he served as a Legislative Chief of Staff, Nonprofit Administrator, and a Partner in a Marketing and Communications Consulting Firm. He holds an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University and is a graduate of the National As-

sociations of Counties High Performance Leadership Academy. He is currently the president of the Kiwanis Club of Cicero, and on the boards of both CHAMP Camp and Arts for Learning Indiana.

Clevenger and his wife, Sue, have lived in Hamilton County for almost 30 years, residing in both Carmel and Cicero. Their three sons graduated from Hamilton Heights High School.

Clevenger is unopposed in the Republican primary.

Learn more about the Clevenger4Auditor.com.

Indiana Supreme Court rules John Rust can't be on GOP ballot to seek U.S. Senate bid

By JAY ADKINS

WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The Indiana Supreme Court on Thursday **removed** the injunction that would have allowed John Rust to be on the GOP primary ballot for U.S. Senate.

Rust, the former chair of the board of egg supplier Rose Acre Farms Inc., was

attempting to join Republican candidates seeking a bid to replace U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, who is leaving his position to run for governor. U.S. Rep. Jim Banks is among the U.S. candidates.

Back in September, Rust **filed a lawsuit** against Secretary of State Diego Morales, the Indiana Election Commission, and the Jack-

son County Republican Party Chair Amanda Lowery to get on the 2024 ballot and challenge the state law that says a candidate's past two primary ballots must be cast with their affiliated party or a county party chair must approve the candidacy.

Rust's filing claimed he did not vote in the 2020 Republican primary due to the

COVID-19 pandemic, so he asked Lowery to provide written certification. She refused, citing the lack of a 2020 vote and Rust's past votes in Democratic primaries for candidates he said he knew personally.

On Monday, the Indiana Supreme Court **heard arguments** over the state's challenge to a lower court ruling.

Meeting Notices

The Hamilton Heights School Corporation Board of Trustees and staff will meet to discuss construction projects at 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 19, 2024, at the Hamilton Heights Student Activity Center, 420 W. North St., Arcadia.

The Carmel Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, in the Council Chambers at Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

The Carmel Redevelopment Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

The Noblesville Police Merit Commission will meet in an executive session at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, in the Council conference room at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(5) to receive information about prospective employees.

The Hamilton Heights School Corporation Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, in the Board Room at the Hamilton Heights Student Activity Center, 420 W. Main St., Arcadia.

The Carmel Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Hearing Officer meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square. A regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m. in the same location.

The Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024, in the Commissioners' Courtroom on the first floor of the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

Beginning in March 2024, the Sheridan Parks Board meetings will move to the fourth Wednesday of every month with a start time of 5:30 p.m.

— CICERO —

Notice

On 2/20/24, the Cicero Metropolitan Police Commission will have a special meeting at 5:00 pm at the Cicero Police Station, 70 S. Byron St, Cicero, IN in regard to hiring a police officer.

R3872

2/17/24, 2/19/24

PUBLIC NOTICE DEADLINE

5 p.m. Friday

for Monday publication

PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com

Who's on my ballot for the May 7, 2024 Primary Election?

Note that * indicates the candidate is the incumbent for that office.

To view precinct and district maps, please visit hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps.

NOTE: Candidates for precinct committeement and state delegates will appear in upcoming editions of The Reporter.

PRESIDENT

*Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D)
Nikki R. Haley (R)
Donald J. Trump (R)

U.S. SENATE

Jim Banks (R)
Marc Carmichael (D)
Valerie McCray (D)

U.S. HOUSE, 5th DISTRICT

Jonathan D. Brown (R)
Raju Chinthala (R)
Max Engling (R)
Chuck Goodrich (R)
Mark Hurt (R)
Scott A. King (R)
Patrick Malayer (R)
Matthew Peiffer (R)
Ryan Pfenniger (D)
Deborah A. Pickett (D)
LD Powell (R)
Larry L. Savage Jr. (R)
*Victoria Spartz (R)

GOVERNOR

Mike Braun (R)
Brad Chambers (R)
Suzanne Crouch (R)
Eric Doden (R)
Curtis Hill (R)
Jennifer G. McCormick (D)
Jamie Reitenour (R)
Tamie Dixon-Tatum (D)

STATE SENATOR

District 20

*Scott A. Baldwin (R)
Joel Levi (D)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 24

Bill Gutrich (R)
Josh Lowry (D)
Hunter Smith (R)

District 29

Laura L. Alerding (R)
Christopher Hartig (D)
Alaina Shonkwiler (R)

District 32

Patricia Bratton (R)
Tom Havens (R)
*Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D)

District 37

*Todd Huston (R)
Daniel (Danny) Lopez (R)

District 39

Matt McNally (D)
Starr Joy Hairston (D)

District 88

*Chris Jeter (R)
Stephanie Jo Yocum (D)

JUDGE, CIRCUIT COURT

*Andrew R. Bloch (R)
Angela Brown Swenson (R)

JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT 1

*Michael A. Casati (R)

JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT 6

*Stephenie K. Gookins (R)

COUNTY AUDITOR

Todd Clevenger (R)

COUNTY SURVEYOR

Gary Duncan (R)

COUNTY TREASURER

*Susan Byer (R)
Robert (Bob) Bragg (R)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District 2

*Steven C. Dillinger (R)

District 3

*Mark E. Heirbrandt (R)

COUNTY COUNCIL


At Large

*Brandon (Brad) Beaver (R)
Elizabeth Fouch (R)
Keely J. Gladieux (D)
*Sue Maki (R)
*Steven R. Nation (R)

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Potential lane restrictions along Cherry Tree Road

Beginning on or after Tuesday, Feb. 20, Cherry Tree Road approximately 400 feet north of Cherry Creek Boulevard at Hamilton County Bridge No. 143 may be under lane restrictions between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. for tree clearing.

The tree clearing work will be completed off the roadway, but some lane restrictions may be required for this work. Flaggers will be in place directing traffic. This work will be completed by Friday, March 1.

Use extreme caution while driving through this construction zone.

[Click here](#) for more project information.

Fishers road construction updates, week of Feb. 19

The REPORTER
Sunblest neighborhood sidewalk improvements

Howard Companies is continuing sidewalk improvements in the Sunblest neighborhood. This work will only consist of removal and replacement of sidewalk panels which pose a toe kick trip hazard. Sidewalk within driveways is not included in the scope of this project.

Crews are scheduled to begin work in the Windermere neighborhood on or about March 1.

Median landscaping work

There will be lane restrictions the week of Feb. 19 along several area roadways to allow crews to perform median landscaping work.

- 116th Street will have lane restrictions in place west of Eller Road.
- Exit 5 Parkway and USA Parkway will have lane restrictions in place.
- Expect to see crews at the 136th Street and Cyntheanne Road roundabout.



LIFETIME LEGACY LAWYERS
Podcast

<https://lifetimelegacylawyers.com>

Joseph R Spurgeon
April 20, 1969 – February 7, 2024



Joseph R Spurgeon, 54, Westfield, passed away on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. He was born on April 20, 1969, to Ronald and Lan (Nguyen) Spurgeon in Saigon, Vietnam.

Joe graduated from Terre Haute North High School and from Indiana State University. For 30 years, he worked as a nurse, the last 25 years as an RN at St. Vincent Stress Center. Joe was a patriot and supporter of the NRA and the Republican Party.

He is survived by his wife, Deanna Spurgeon; mother, Lan Thi (Dennis) Kallio; son, Justin Laine (Jade) Spurgeon; daughter, Emily Kae Spurgeon; brother, Steve Spurgeon; nephew, Buddy Spurgeon; nieces, Jennifer Weddle and Rachelle Wilkes; and grandsons, Hunter Spurgeon and Harrison Spurgeon.

Joe was preceded in death by his father, Ronald D. Spurgeon; and his brother, Donald Spurgeon.

Private family services were held. The Spurgeon family has entrusted Randall & Roberts Funeral Home with Joe's care.

Memorial contributions may be made to Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation, 1818 Library St., Suite 500, Reston, VA 20190 (donate.fallenpatriots.org/give/199325/#/donation/checkout).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Dora Mae Wright
July 23, 1932 – February 16, 2024



Dora Mae Wright, 91, Noblesville, passed away on Friday, February 16, 2024, at Harbour Manor Care Center in Noblesville. She was born on July 23, 1932, to Thomas and Alice (Martin) Huffman in Hartford City, Ind.

Dora was a member of the Noblesville Congregation of Jehovah's Witness. She was a great baker and cook. Dora loved to host family get togethers.

She is survived by her children, Jeanne Clark, Cheryl Ahern, and Wayne (Teresa) Wright; grandchildren, Tom Clark, Angie Owens, Jeff Clark, Brad Clark, Christina Ortega Gutierrez, Karri Morales, Maxine Gardner, Dawn Bryant, Tisha Wright, Felicia Ellers, Wayne Wright, Jr., and Mike Wright; several great-grandchildren; several great-great-grandchildren; and siblings, Maxine Getz, George (Judy) Huffman, Charles Huffman, and Shirley (Jay) Walter.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Warren Wright, Jr.; son, Warren Wright, III; siblings, Tom Huffman, Bill Huffman, Jack Huffman, Donald Huffman, Garnet Brown, and Marilyn Owens; son-in-law, Authur (Jake) Clark; and stepfather, Howard Taylor.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Monday, February 19, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. An additional visitation will start at noon and service will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at the funeral home, officiated by Rick Richards. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING
JACOB RETURNS TO BETHEL

Then God said to Jacob, "Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau."

So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone." So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem. Then they set out, and the terror of God fell on the towns all around them so that no one pursued them.

Jacob and all the people with him came to Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan. There he built an altar, and he called the place El Bethel, because it was there that God revealed himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother.

Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died and was buried under the oak outside Bethel. So it was named Allon Bakuth.

After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him. God said to him, "Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel." So he named him Israel.

And God said to him, "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will be among your descendants. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you."

Then God went up from him at the place where he had talked with him.

Jacob set up a stone pillar at the place where God had talked with him, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it. Jacob called the place where God had talked with him Bethel.

Genesis 35:1-15 (NIV)

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.

Find more news at ReadTheReporter.com



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16698 Birdbrook Rd. Noblesville • \$589,900
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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**

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Basketball

Southeastern falls to Brownsburg, but not without an earnest fight

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

FISHERS – Hamilton Southeastern fought to the end against Brownsburg Friday night before the Bulldogs held on for a 51-50 win in a Hoosier Crossroads Conference game at the Royals’ gym.

Both teams came to play from the beginning, which was evident in a first quarter that had nine lead changes. Nathaniel Orr scored seven points in the opening period, making a layin that put Southeastern up 11-8. Michael Griffith helped out with four points. Later, Donovan Hamilton erased a

12-11 Brownsburg lead with consecutive baskets and the Royals were up 15-12. The Bulldogs came back to lead 17-16 by the end of the quarter, then used a 7-0 run in the waning minutes of the second period to lead 27-20 at halftime. Spencer Porath scored the last four points of that run on two layins.

Southeastern came out on fire in the third quarter, using a 13-4 spurt to take a 33-31 lead midway through the third. Hamilton drained a 3-pointer, then Braeden Totten hit the first of his five triples during the second half. Totten made two 3s

See Fight . . . Page 12

BROWNSBURG 51, HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 50				
Southeastern	FG	FT	TP	PF
Donovan Hamilton	3-5	3-4	10	3
Nathaniel Orr	4-8	0-0	9	1
Braeden Totten	7-13	3-4	22	3
Michael Griffith	3-8	0-0	6	2
Kameron Anthony	0-2	1-2	1	0
Maverick Young	0-3	0-0	0	2
Deion Miles	1-2	0-0	2	2
Jack Jacobs	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	18-41	7-10	50	13
Score by Quarters				
Brownsburg	17	10	10	14 – 51
Southeastern	16	4	17	13 – 50
Southeastern 3-point shooting (7-17) Totten 5-9, Orr 1-3, Hamilton 1-2, Young 0-3.				
Southeastern rebounds (18) Orr 4, Anthony 3, Hamilton 2, Jacobs 1, Young 1, Griffith 1, team 6.				



Reporter photo by Richie Hall
Hamilton Southeastern coach John Ashworth talks with his team minutes before tipoff of the Royals’ game with Brownsburg on Friday.

Irvin joins Hamilton County Basketball Hall of Fame

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

Hamilton Southeastern welcomed back one of its all-time great basketball players Friday night and presented him with a big honor as well.

Zak Irvin, a 2013 Southeastern graduate, was inducted into the Hamilton County Basketball Hall of Fame. Irvin had a tremendous career for the Royals, which culminated in 2013 with him being named Indiana Mr. Basketball, Indiana Boys Basketball Gatorade Player of the Year and a Parade Magazine All-American.

Irvin was joined by his family and friends, as well as former HSE teammate Gary Harris, the 2012 Mr. Basketball. While Irvin comes back to Southeastern in the summer and work out, he said it was his first time coming back to a Royals game since his senior year 11 years ago.

“Walking these halls definitely brings back memories whenever I come back,” said Irvin. “I had a lot of great experiences here, so it was nice to be able to come back.”

Irvin finished his career with 1,239 points, an average of 18.8 points per game. His other career totals are 402 rebounds, 164 assists and 105 steals. He

was named to the All-County team in 2011-12-13 and was All-Hoosier Crossroads Conference in 2012-13.

Harris and Irvin winning Mr. Basketball is the only time in the 85-year history of Indiana’s highest high school honor that two players from the same school won the award in back-to-back years.

“We were just two kids that worked hard and were able to make the most of our opportunities but shout out for HSE for putting us in position,” said Irvin. He also credited his teammates for helping him as well – “one of the reasons why I’m here,” he said.

Irvin went on to play four years at the University of Michigan, where he won numerous honors as well. He won the school’s Bill Buntin MVP Award during his sophomore year, crossed the 1,000-point threshold as a junior and was a co-captain his senior year when the Wolverines won the Big Ten championship and made the NCAA tournament’s Sweet 16.

After graduating from Michigan, Irvin has played professionally around the world, making stops in Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Taiwan. He has played on NBA Summer Teams for the Miami Heat

See Irvin . . . Page 12



Reporter photo by Richie Hall
Hamilton Southeastern 2013 graduate Zak Irvin was inducted into the Hamilton County Basketball Hall of Fame on Friday night during halftime of the Royals game with Brownsburg. Irvin was the 2013 Indiana Mr. Basketball and Gatorade Player of the Year. (From left) Lee Meriwether (grandfather), Carol Meriwether (grandmother), Marcia Irvin (mother), Zak Irvin, James “Big Irv” Irvin (father), Tayah Irvin (sister) and C.J. Johnson (friend).

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↑ 55

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Other– 0

Wrestling

Two county wrestlers make state finals placement round

The REPORTER

Two Hamilton County wrestlers advanced to the placement round after winning first-round matches at the IHSAA state finals Friday at the Ford Center in Evansville.

The middle to heavy-weights wrestled in the afternoon session, including Noblesville 157-pounder Aidan Kincaide. The freshman won a tough match over Belmont junior Gavin Davis by a 6-3 decision. Kincaide is 36-5 for the season and takes on Columbus North sophomore Asher Ratliff in today's quarterfinals.

In the evening session, Fishers junior 120-pounder Chayce Yant collected his 40th match win of the season

by beating Northwestern sophomore Hunter Douglas by technical fall, 18-3. Yant reached the 15-point technical fall margin with 14 seconds left to go in the third period. Yant will wrestle Monrovia junior Isaac Ash in the quarterfinals.

Six other county wrestlers lost their opening-round matches on Friday.

In the afternoon session, Hamilton Heights senior Carson Fetting fell to Evansville Mater Dei senior Tyler Vanover by a 2-0 decision. Another Heights wrestler, junior Michael Cain dropped a 7-2 decision to Western senior Mitchell Betz. Fishers sophomore Xavier Smith fell to Brownsburg senior Jesse

Derringer by a 14-5 major decision and Noblesville senior Austin Hastings lost by pin to Heritage Hills sophomore Hayden Smith.

In the evening session, Guerin Catholic senior Peter Nguyen fell to Mater Dei junior Isaiah Schaefer in a 16-4 major decision. Hamilton Heights senior Isaac Kuhn lost to Brownsburg junior Jake Hockaday by pin.

Quarterfinal action begins at 10 a.m. Eastern Time (9 a.m. Central Time), with the semifinals and wrestling matches to follow. Placement matches to determine third through eighth place in each class starts at 5:30 p.m. ET, with the championship matches at 8:30 p.m. ET.

Basketball



Noblesville's Aaron Fine made six 3-pointers on his way to 22 points for the Millers during their Hoosier Crossroads Conference win over Avon Friday.

Millers beat down Avon in conference matchup

The REPORTER

Noblesville took care of business early, which allowed the Millers to finish Hoosier Crossroads Conference play with a 60-34 victory over Avon Friday at The Mill.

Class 4A No. 2 Noblesville blasted through the first quarter, outscoring the Orioles 17-3. The Millers kept up the pace in the second quarter, cruising to a 37-10 halftime lead. Noblesville kept its lead around that margin for the second half.

Aaron Fine put together an outstanding performance, nailing six 3-pointers on his way to 22 points. Justin Curry II added nine points. Hunter Walston collected seven rebounds and Aiden Brewer made four steals.

The Millers finished HCC play with a 5-2 record, tying them for second place in the conference with Westfield. Noblesville is 19-2 overall and finishes the regular season Tuesday by hosting Mississinewa.



Aiden Brewer had six points and made four steals.

NOBLESVILLE 60, AVON 34				
Noblesville	FG	FT	TP	PF
Aaron Fine	8-17	0-0	22	2
Justin Curry II	3-9	2-2	9	0
Aiden Brewer	3-3	0-2	6	1
Hunter Walston	2-8	2-2	7	1
Baron Walker	2-6	0-0	4	4
T.J. Davidson	0-0	2-4	2	2
Luke Etchison	0-1	2-2	2	1
Will Smits	3-4	0-0	6	3
Ryan Vctor	0-0	0-0	0	0
Adam Fine	0-1	0-0	0	0
Max Miller	1-1	0-0	2	0
Luke Davis	0-0	0-0	0	1
Totals	22-50	8-12	60	15
Score by Quarters				
Avon	3	7	10	14 - 34
Noblesville	17	20	11	12 - 60
Noblesville 3-point shooting (8-19) Aa. Fine 6-8, Curry 1-5, Walston 1-3, Ad. Fine 0-1, Etchison 0-1, Walker 0-1.				
Noblesville rebounds (27) Walston 7, Davidson 3, Curry 3, Brewer 3, Etchison 3, Aa. Fine 2, Smits 2, Miller 1, Walker 1, Vctor 1, team 1.				

The Reporter

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FIGHT

from Page 11

and scored eight points in that run, then another 3 put the Royals up 37-35 late in the quarter.

"We dug ourselves a hole at halftime and I thought we did a good job of bouncing back and fighting back and really made it a game there at the end," said HSE coach John Ashworth.

Porath's layin at the end of the quarter tied the score at 37-37. Totten began the fourth quarter with an and-1. Later, with the Royals up 40-39, Deion Miles made a layin and Totten drained another 3 to give Southeastern its biggest lead of the game at 45-39. But Brownsburg

went on an 11-0 run to lead 50-45 with 38.6 seconds left and held on from there.

"That was a good game for us as we get prepared for sectionals, because you need to have those close games where you have to execute, you have to try to find ways to win the game," said Ashworth.

Totten finished the game with 22 points, followed by Hamilton with 10. Orr collected four rebounds and handed out four assists.

Southeastern finished conference play 2-5 and is 15-7 overall. The Royals' next game is Tuesday at Lawrence North.

IRVIN

from Page 11

and New York Knicks, and NBA G League teams the Westchester Knicks and the Grand Rapids Gold, a Denver Nuggets affiliate, the team on which he is currently playing.

"I'm still hooping, still loving the game of basketball, and just seeing it taking me all over the world, which I'm grateful for," said Irvin.

The Reporter brings you the best local sports coverage.

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Basketball

Tigers take down Zionsville to stay undefeated in conference

The REPORTER

Fishers completed an undefeated Hoosier Crossroads Conference season Friday, beating Zionsville 63-58 at the Eagles' gym.

Zionsville had the Class 4A No. 1 Tigers down 21-14 after the first quarter. Fishers cut that lead to 33-30 by halftime, with JonAnthony Hall scoring six points in the second quarter. The Tigers were in front by the

end of the third period, leading 48-46. Keenan Garner had eight points in the third. Hall added another six points in the fourth, helping Fishers to clinch the win.

Hall and Garner both scored 14 points. Cooper Zachary added 12 points.

The Tigers finished conference play a perfect 7-0 and are 21-1 overall. Fishers hosts North Central on Tuesday for its regular-season finale.

FISHERS 63, ZIONSVILLE 58				
Fishers	FG	FT	TP	PF
Taden Metzger	3	2-2	8	1
Millen McCartney	1	0-0	3	2
Cooper Zachary	4	2-2	12	2
JonAnthony Hall	7	0-0	14	1
Keenan Garner	6	1-2	14	2
Jason Gardner Jr.	0	1-2	1	0
Justin Kirby	3	0-0	7	3
Parker Perdue	1	2-2	4	1
Nathan Baker	0	0-0	0	1
Totals	25	8-10	63	13
Score by Quarters				
Fishers	14	16	18	15 - 63
Zionsville	21	12	13	12 - 58
Fishers 3-pointers (5) Zachary 2, McCartney, Kirby, Garner.				

Shamrocks trail early, but come to beat Franklin Central

The REPORTER

Westfield cruised to victory in its Hoosier Crossroads Conference season finale on Friday, beating Franklin Central 64-50 at CSI Gymnasium.

The Class 4A No. 3 Shamrocks trailed 14-8 after one quarter. Westfield turned the tide in the second period, outscoring the Flashes 23-9 for a 31-23 halftime lead. The 'Rocks put up another 20 points in the third quarter to further pull away from Franklin Central.

Nic Book got going in the second quarter, pouring in 11 points. He then proceeded to dominate the second half, scoring another 18 points for a total of 29. Will Harvey had a great night as well, hitting four 3-pointers for 12 points. Charles Farrell added nine points.

Westfield finished HCC play 5-2, tying the Shamrocks for second place with Noblesville. Westfield is 18-2 overall and hosts Pike on Tuesday to finish the regular season.

WESTFIELD 64, FRANKLIN CENTRAL 50				
Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Trey Buchanan	2	1-1	6	1
Will Harvey	4	0-0	12	0
Charles Farrell	4	0-0	9	2
Durante Morton	1	0-2	2	2
Nic Book	13	2-2	29	2
Drew Haffner	1	0-0	3	1
Carsen Melvin	0	0-0	0	0
Caleb Wise	0	0-0	0	0
Austin Carr	1	0-0	3	1
Rylan Rauch	0	0-0	0	0
Brock Detamore	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	26	3-5	64	9
Score by Quarters				
Franklin Central	14	9	11	16 - 50
Westfield	8	23	20	13 - 64
Westfield 3-pointers (9) Harvey 4, Book, Buchanan, Farrell, Haffner, Carr.				

'Hounds get road win over Warriors

Huskies drop close game at Twin Lakes

The REPORTER

Carmel traveled to Warren Central Friday night and came home with a 44-40 victory over the Warriors.

The Greyhounds led 14-13 after one quarter. Warren Central jumped ahead 27-23 at halftime, but Carmel put together a nice defensive third period, allowing the Warriors only four points. That got

the 'Hounds back in front 33-31 at the end of the third, and they held on in the fourth to get the win.

Alex Couto scored 16 points to lead Carmel. Evan Harrell had 12 points and dished out four assists. Mitchell Mulloy pulled four rebounds.

The Greyhounds are 11-10 and finish the regular season Tuesday by hosting Crispus Attucks.

The REPORTER

Hamilton Heights was handed a tough loss at Twin Lakes on Friday, as the Indians beat the Huskies 49-48 in the Hoosier Conference third-place game.

Heights led 16-14 after one quarter, with Tillman Etchison scoring 12 points in that period. The Huskies stayed ahead at halftime, 24-22. Twin Lakes surged ahead 39-35 after three periods.

Heights came back to lead 48-47, but the Indians made two free throws with 3.4 seconds left to get the win.

Etchison finished with 24 points, including three 3-pointers and collected five rebounds. John Irion scored 11 points.

The Huskies finished fourth in the conference and are 9-12 overall. Heights travels to Rushville on Tuesday to complete the regular season.

CARMEL 44, WARREN CENTRAL 40				
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF
Alex Couto	5-9	4-4	16	1
Ryan Clevenger	2-3	0-0	4	3
Aiden Dickerson	3-4	0-0	6	3
Ben Bremer	1-3	0-0	3	1
Evan Harrell	3-4	6-9	12	2
Mitchell Mulloy	1-1	1-2	3	1
Quinn Murphy	0-1	0-0	0	0
Max Winders	0-0	0-0	0	2
Totals	15-25	11-15	44	13
Score by Quarters				
Carmel	14	9	10	11 - 44
Warren Central	13	14	4	9 - 40
Carmel 3-point shooting (3-7) Couto 2-4, Bremer 1-1, Clevenger 0-1, Harrell 0-1.				
Carmel rebounds (17) Mulloy 4, Couto 3, Harrell 3, Clevenger 2, Dickerson 2, Bremer 2, Murphy 1.				

TWIN LAKES 49, HAMILTON HEIGHTS 48				
Heights	FG	FT	TP	PF
Tyler Champion	2-8	0-0	5	1
Dreydin Serna	2-3	1-2	5	1
Tillman Etchison	10-15	1-2	24	1
John Irion	4-8	1-2	11	4
Sam Dawson	1-6	0-0	3	3
Phoenix Vondersaar	0-1	0-0	0	0
Carson Felger	0-0	0-0	0	1
Landen Scheiber	0-0	0-0	0	1
Rees Knapp	0-3	0-0	0	1
Totals	19-44	3-6	48	13
Score by Quarters				
Heights	16	8	11	13 - 48
Twin Lakes	14	8	17	10 - 49
Heights 3-point shooting (7-23) Etchison 3-5, Irion 2-3, Dawson 1-6, Champion 1-5, Knapp 0-3, Vondersaar 0-1.				
Heights rebounds (19) Etchison 5, Felger 4, Dawson 3, Serna 2, Irion 2, Vondersaar 1, Champion 1, Knapp 1.				

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 17
BOYS BASKETBALL
University at Decatur Central, 1:30 p.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
– Diving prelims, semifinals at 9 a.m.
– Swimming, diving finals at 1 p.m.
Guerin Catholic, Noblesville, Westfield at Carmel
Hamilton Heights, Hamilton Southeastern at Fishers
University at Lawrence North
BOYS WRESTLING STATE FINALS
Quarterfinals, 10 a.m. at Ford Center, Evansville
Semifinals to follow
Consolation matches, 5:30 p.m.
Championship matches, 8:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL SEMI-STATES
Class 4A at La Porte
Homestead vs. Lake Central, 11 a.m.
Noblesville vs. Valparaiso, 1 p.m.
Championship, 8:30 p.m.
Class 3A at Huntington North
Hamilton Heights vs. Norwell, 10 a.m.
Bremen vs. NorthWood, noon
Championship, 8 p.m.
Class 2A at Shelbyville
Brownstown Central vs. Linton-Stockton, 10 a.m.
Sheridan vs. Eastern Hancock, noon
Championship, 8 p.m.
GYMNASTICS
Noblesville, Westfield at
Southmont Mountie Invitational, noon

Sunday, Feb. 18
BOYS BASKETBALL
Tournament draw date

Monday, Feb. 19
BOYS BASKETBALL
Western Boone at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 20
BOYS BASKETBALL
Crispus Attucks at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.
Fountain Central at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.
Guerin Catholic at University, 7:30 p.m.
Hamilton Heights at Rushville, 7:30 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern at Lawrence North, 7:30 p.m.
Mississinewa at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.
North Central at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 22
BOYS BASKETBALL
North Central at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
Phalen Academy at University, 7:30 p.m.
Westfield at Pike, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 23
BOYS BASKETBALL
Waldron at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.
GYMNASTICS SECTIONALS
Fishers, Noblesville at The Gymnastics Company, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 24
GYMNASTICS SECTIONALS
Guerin Catholic, Westfield at Lafayette Jefferson, 9 a.m.

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

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Daytona 500 washout?

Things are heating up at Daytona Beach for NASCAR's Daytona 500 weekend, but that may only be temporary as steady rain is in the forecast for Saturday and Sunday. It looks like the Great American Race may have to wait until Monday or even Tuesday. Rain, however, did not ruin the Duels at Daytona, the two 150-mile sprint races that set the field for the Daytona 500.

Entering the qualifying race, the front row was already set the night before in single car qualifying. Joey Lagano and Michael McDowell posted the two fastest times and will start in the first and second positions. The rest of the starting grid was up for grabs in the qualifying races and several drivers, including seven-time Cup Series Champion and two-time Daytona 500 Champion,

COLUMNIST



ZECH YODER
Checkers to Wreckers

Jimmie Johnson, J.J. Yeley, Kaz Grala, and BJ McLeod, are "open cars," meaning they do not have NASCAR charters and are therefore not guaranteed a starting position in the race. During single-car qualifying on Wednesday, they were bested in time by David Ragan and Anthony Alfredo, the two other open cars. Heading into the qualifying races, Ragan and Alfredo were locked in. The rest of the open cars were left to fight for the last positions.

The first qualifying race featured Johnson and Yeley. Johnson's car was fast and he spent much of the race in the front. With Yeley falling out of the lead pack, it looked as if Johnson was going to be a lock. A late race caution involving Johnson, moved Yeley ahead of Johnson. On the back stretch on the last lap, it looked as if Johnson was going to be

bumped from the Daytona 500. Astonishingly, Yeley made a late move to the outside which allowed Johnson to sneak by and grab the transfer spot. At the front, Tyler Reddick came from deep in the field and took the win.

The second qualifying race provided drama, much like the first. BJ McLeod was fast, and his car ran near the front for much of the first half of the race. After pit stops, however, a large wreck took out several fast cars, including Kyle Busch and Ryan Blaney. Blaney took a nasty hit into the outside wall that was similar to his crash in the summer race at Daytona last year. After the field was restarted, Kaz Grala narrowly edged out BJ McLeod to take the final spot in the Daytona 500. McLeod's car was damaged in the wreck and lacked the speed it had at the beginning of the race. Christopher Bell made a last lap pass on Denny Hamlin to take the second victory of the night for Toyota.

Going into the Daytona 500, here is what we know. The Toyota's are fast. Really fast. And they have additional cars in the race as Legacy Motor Club switched to Toyota's this year. Toyota lacked drafting help for the last several years. With the additional of Legacy, they are clearly the favorite. Blaney and Busch will be in backup cars. They will need to be patient in moving to the front.

Predicting a winning at Daytona is nearly impossible. Denny Hamlin looked strong on Thursday. He knows how to win at Daytona with three Daytona 500 victories. I am going to go a little bit outside the box and am picking Brad Keselowski. He's great on superspeedways and has not won since leaving Penske. RFK Racing has shown vast improvement over the last two seasons. I think Brad wins his first Daytona 500.

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



Photo courtesy IMS

IMS, INDYCAR assist needy during NBA All-Star Game festivities

Submitted by IMS

The ball is now rolling toward the 108th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge, and the official 100-day countdown to "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" on Sunday, May 26 coincided with the NBA's 2024 All-Star Game arriving in Indianapolis.

Veteran "500" driver Conor Daly helped kick off the world-class basketball showcase by driving All-Star starter Tyrese Haliburton of the Indiana Pacers to the All-Star Game's opening ceremony. Daly, who drove a street-legal NTT INDYCAR SERIES two-seat race car, also suited up for the All-Star Celebrity Game at Lucas Oil Stadium.

"Indianapolis does big events so well, and to combine our love of the Indy 500 with the NBA is special," said Daly, an Indianapolis native and resident. "Basketball and racing are very much Indiana's roots."

Fellow NTT INDYCAR SERIES driver Sting Ray Robb, who also lives in Indianapolis, joined more than 700 members of auto racing's local ecosystem – Penske Entertainment staffers, race team members, series partners and race fans – in the NBA All-Star's Million Meal Movement. The meals they assembled Friday morning will be delivered to affiliated Indiana food banks in NTT INDYCAR SERIES transporters.

"It's good for INDYCAR to have partnered with the NBA, the Pacers and Lucas Oil Stadium for a great cause," said Robb, who worked alongside IMS President J. Douglas Boles in sealing and packing a few hundred meals.

"Coming together like that is great way to have a big impact, and it was great to see so many of our (INDYCAR community) involved."

From the squeak of sneakers on the basketball court to the roar of engines on the Yard of Bricks, Indianapolis is where champions are crowned. IMS and INDYCAR assembled a week of programming around the annual NBA All-Star Game to showcase and celebrate the rich history of motorsport and basketball in Indiana.

Throughout All-Star Week, the IMS pylon has featured a countdown to Sunday's game at Gainbridge Fieldhouse. Tony Kanaan, the "500" winner in 2013, voiced a "Love Letter to Basketball" video shared on social channels.

NTT INDYCAR SERIES driver Pietro Fittipaldi gave NBA Brasil an IMS tour while TNT, which is televising this weekend's NBA All-Star activities, has gathered "500" content for its broadcasts.

Red Bull athlete Chris Matthews, aka Lethal Shooter, created a "Hoop of Bricks" and made trick shots from the 2023 Indy 500 Pace Car and from the IMS flag stand.

It's been a celebration of two of Indiana's long-standing passions – basketball and racing.

"(We) hope to make our hometown proud," Daly said.

In 100 days, reigning "500" champion Josef Newgarden of Team Penske will try to give Roger Penske's organization its record-extending 20th victory in the event. The race annually has more than 300,000 spectators in attendance.

Noblesville's Amelia Field commits to Indiana Wesleyan



Photo courtesy Landon Denison, NHS Shadow Yearbook

Noblesville's Amelia Field has committed to the Indiana Wesleyan University women's swimming and diving team. (Front row, from left) Rob Field (father), Amelia Field, and Tricia Field (mother). (Back row, from left) Aleks Fansler (Noblesville Swimming & Diving Head Coach), Nicole Zarate (family), A.J. Field (brother), Camilla Field (niece), and Katie Field (sister).



A farmer has misplaced some eggs and is pretty sure they are somewhere on the Nickel Plate Express!

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