

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

See page A5



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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21, 2024

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CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly to partly sunny.
Tonight: Clouding up.
Spotty shower possible.



HIGH: 60 LOW: 47

Westfield Lions fill snack bags for Student Impact

Two hundred bags filled for hungry kids

Submitted by Jeff Larrison
Westfield Lions Club

After the Westfield Lions Club had Brittany Delf, the Executive Director of Student Impact, speak at their November program night meeting, the Club's board of directors voted to provide assistance to this worthwhile organization.

The Lions' initial support was in the form of a \$1,500 donation to Student Impact's "G.I.R.L.S Group," a program targeted specifically to help empower girls and develop their confidence, leadership skills, and strong self-images.

Westfield Student Impact was established in 1999 and its mission is to "build relationships through love and acceptance in a safe and consistent environment." As part of that



Photo provided by Westfield Lions Club

In addition to a \$1,500 donation, the Westfield Lions put together 200 snack bags for the kids in the Student Impact organization.

safe environment, students who go to Student Impact's building, "The Rock," are provided a meal and snack bag each day. Wanting to do more for this

amazing organization, the Lions decided to look for a way to help Student Impact meet this need for resources for the meals and snack bags.

At the Lions' business meeting on Feb. 15, the members put together 200 snack

See Impact . . . Page 2

Donate to Ross Dress for Less & help local kids thrive

10th annual in-store fundraiser to support Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville

The REPORTER

Every year, over three million young people are served by Boys & Girls Clubs across the country.

To show its continued support in preparing today's youth for a brighter tomorrow, Ross Stores, Inc. is partnering with Boys & Girls Clubs of America with a three-week program called, "Help Local Kids Thrive."



Crump

Through March 3, customers in Noblesville can make a monetary contribution at their local Ross Dress for Less store during checkout to be donated to the Tom & Soni Sheehan Boys & Girls Clubs of the Noblesville.

"This year is special," said Matt Young, Group Senior Vice President, Ross Stores. "It marks our 10th annual in-store fundraiser to benefit local Boys & Girls Clubs. The funds raised will directly help kids at Clubs nationwide by supporting Pow-

er Hour, a homework tutoring program, nationally sponsored by Ross. We are proud of our strong, long-standing partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs and look forward to coming together with our customers and associates to 'Help Local Kids Thrive.'"

Power Hour provides local youth with a dedicated 60 minutes of one-on-one homework help, small group tutoring, and reading assistance each day. In addition to finishing their homework, Club Kids in Power Hour have the opportunity to participate in fun, educational activities that earn them rewards. The Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville averages about 67 Power Hour participants per day and had a record high of 102 participants this past December. Last year, 94 percent of Club parents reported that their children's homework was completed more often and



Photo provided by BGCN

You can donate during checkout at a Ross Dress for Less store to benefit a homework tutoring program for kids.

their academic performance improved because of Power Hour. The ultimate goal of this program is to see kids graduate high school and find success in life after their education.

See BGCN . . . Page 2

Get tickets now for Sheriff's Chaplaincy Prayer Breakfast

The REPORTER

The third annual Chaplaincy Prayer Breakfast will take place on April 24. Join the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office at the Mill Top Banquet and Conference Center, 802 Mulberry St., Noblesville, to celebrate the many accomplishments of the Chaplaincy and look forward to big things in the future.

The doors open at 7 a.m. and breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.

Last year, Senior Chaplain Mark Fidler oversaw 175 community volunteers and added a new Staff Chaplain, Daniel Hester. They answered 2,575 requests from inmates, provided many educational classes, and



Photo provided

Last year's Chaplaincy Prayer Breakfast brought more than 200 people to the Mill Top Banquet & Conference Center in Noblesville.

administered eight baptisms. Additionally, the Chaplaincy helped lead the annual Sheriff's Chaplaincy Conference and the

National Day of Prayer events at the historic Hamilton County Courthouse and the Indiana Statehouse.

Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased at [this link](#). Tables of 10 people cost \$300 and can be reserved at [this link](#).

Sheltered ignorance

There are times in your life when you realize how uneducated you really are on a particular subject.

I work as a teacher in an elementary school in Indianapolis. One day during a staff service project, our principal, who came from an inner-city school in Indianapolis with a high poverty rate, was explaining what we would be doing that day for our project. We would be assembling birthday cake kits to be distributed at a food pantry on the east side of Indianapolis.

In the kit was a disposable cake pan, a box of cake mix, icing, candles, a birthday banner, and a can of soda. This seemed strange to me initially because I ignorantly, and arrogantly, thought to myself that someone in need of food would likely not be concerned with a birthday cake, but more so with actual food. You know, because I have all the answers, right?

My sheltered self settled in as my principal began our meeting with basic questions and facts about food insecurity in Indiana and Marion County. You know, those little statistics like one in seven Indiana residents are considered food insecure and 25 percent of Marion County residents need some sort of assistance to be adequately fed. The same statistics also state that nearly one in five children in Marion County face food insecurity.

My principal questioned the staff in a way to get a sense initially for how informed we were about this topic. She asked all of us what someone in need of food does to get what they need and to make sure their family eats. In a matter of minutes, I realized that this was such a staggering crisis. I was in part ashamed of myself for not being better educated on the subject. Why? I was simply uneducated.

See Sheltered . . . Page 2

Westfield Mayor Willis appoints Shawn Keen as new police chief

The REPORTER

Westfield Mayor Scott Willis announced today the appointment of Shawn Keen as the next Westfield Chief of Police.

Keen will assume the role on April 8 and brings more than 25 years of experience with the Terre Haute Police Department.

"Chief Keen is well respected by his peers around the State of Indiana," Mayor Willis said. "His leadership skills and experience will serve the Westfield Police Department and community extremely well. We are looking forward to the number of ways that Chief Keen can advance Westfield through our administration."

Keen most recently served as the police chief for Terre Haute and has served in various roles during his 26-year tenure, including in the uniform patrol division, assistant chief to the criminal investigation division, and served on the Special Response Team for more than 17 years. He has also been a member of the department's honor guard for more than 18 years. He is a graduate of the 259th Session of the FBI National Academy and the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Leadership Academy.

"I am honored and excited to become the police chief of the fastest growing city in Indiana," Keen said. "My commitment is to foster safety, trust, and collaboration within the



Keen

See Chief Keen . . . Page 2

IMPACT

from Page 1

bags that were then delivered to Student Impact. The Lions Club motto is “We Serve” and the Lions Club has a long history of assisting with the youth in Westfield, including providing numerous scholarships to high school seniors each year, assisting the school nurses with eye exams for students, providing dictionaries to every third grader, and numerous other contributions.

“Student Impact shares that same passion for our

Westfield students, and providing this small service is something we are proud to do,” Lion Carrie Larri-son said.

For more information on Student Impact and how you can support them, go to therockwestfield.org.

If you are interested in learning more about the Westfield Lions Club and all the ways it supports the community, go to westfield-lions.org. They are looking for men and women who want to make a difference in Westfield.

CHIEF KEEN

from Page 1

department and the commu-nity. Together, with the ded-icated men and women of the Westfield Police Depart-ment, we will continue to prioritize the well-being of our community and uphold the highest standards of law enforcement excellence.”

Keen is an active mem-ber of the FBI National Academy Associates and both the International and Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police. Chief Keen and his wife Shelly have two children: Kelsey and Brendon.

Join us for this solar spectacle!

MyHamiltonCountyParks.com



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BGCN

from Page 1

organization approximately \$1,000. Our team is very grateful for faithful partners like Ross that help us meet the needs of our commu-nity’s kids.”

Noblesville Ross loca-tions can be found at Ham-ilton Town Center at 13920 Hoard Drive and at Stoney Creek Commons at 17090 Mercantile Blvd.

About BGCN

The Tom & Soni Shee-han Boys & Girls Club



**TOM & SONI SHEEHAN
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF NOBLESVILLE**

of Noblesville provides high-quality, low-cost pro-grams for youth members with the help of donors and sponsors. Between the Club, the Community Center and Camp Crosser, BGCN provides opportu-nities for members to enjoy activities and experiences

that help shape character and offer new perspectives. BGCN is dedicated to in-spiring and enabling all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens by promoting leadership, character, health and phys-ical development.

SHELTERED

from Page 1

She asked us what one must do in order to go to a food pantry. I sat there in a room full of adults, many like myself with similar backgrounds, and it was crickets. I realized at this ex-act moment how truly shel-tered I am and how my igno-rance needs to be turned into education and that I need to make sure I am helping with this crisis and heightening my awareness.

More importantly, I need to make sure my children are also aware of this. The same children of mine that swing open our pantry door at will and have never had to ques-tion where their next meal or snack is coming from.

The staff began to make an assembly line and put birthday cake kits together. I thought about my own chil-dren as I was assembling a kit and selecting blue and pink icing for the kits. I thought about what little boy or girl would be celebrating their birthday with the kit I

was putting together.

In the months since, I have not only continued my education on the Marion County statistics, but have also started to really under-stand that this, too, impacts Hamilton County greatly. I grew up thinking that Ham-ilton County is filled with residents who have money, and in all honesty, I never thought about the fact that people in my own neighbor-hood might be hungry.

Reporter Columnist and Co-Founder of The Feeding Team, Mark Hall, has really heightened my awareness of food insecurity in Hamilton County. The statistics are staggering and sad to me. You have to start somewhere and for me it began that day assembling birthday cake kits for people I will likely never meet.

The Maya Angelou quote, “When you know better, you do better” has played through my mind many times since that ser-

vice project. I know better now and am trying to do bet-ter by educating myself and making sure my children grow up knowing about this crisis and do something to help. I am having conversa-tions with my children and making sure that they under-stand what a privilege it is to always have food and not wonder from where their next meal is coming.

Oh, and why would people who are hungry care about a birthday cake? Well, that is because their children have birthdays just like mine, and they, too, want to feel special and have a cake on their birthday. And shame on me for even questioning the need of someone else. And why a can of soda you may ask? Well, when you have nothing else in your pantry, a can of soda mixed with cake mix will serve as a substi-tute for eggs, oil, and water. Apparently this is one of the number one requested things at the food pantry where these kits were donated.

The real question isn’t why would someone in need care about a birthday cake; the real question is what busi-



Photo provided

ness is it of mine and why should their children feel any less special than mine on their birthday with some-thing as simple as a cake?

I encourage you to look into The Feeding Team and find a pantry near your home. Check your pantry. Talk to your kids. Edu-cate yourself. Go to feed-ingteam.org.

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

**Thanks for reading the
Hamilton County Reporter!**

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**Next To The
New Costco
on 146th St.**

Kiwanis Club of Cicero learns there is help if you’re struggling to feed your pet

Submitted

Taking care of your pet is a lifetime commitment, but it’s not always easy, especially when you are struggling financially.

If you are in need and can’t afford to pay for your pet’s food, don’t despair – support is available. Dog’s House Free Pet Found Pantries currently operates in Cicero with plans to expand county wide, helping pet owners keep their furry companions happy and healthy.

“We don’t want any pets to go hungry. Our pet food pantries are available to community members who may need assistance feeding their fur babies,” explained Amy McGuffey owner of Boot Scoop Poopie and co-founder of Dog’s House Free Pet Food Pantries. “Our goal is that no one has to make the difficult choice to surrender a beloved dog or cat that they can’t afford to feed.”

Dog’s House Pet Pan-

tries provide free wet and dry pet food, and sometimes other pet supplies, for pet owners struggling financially. Dog’s House collects donations of food and then distributes them throughout the community through their pantry network.

“We currently have free pet food pantries located in the foyer at the Hamilton North Public Library and at the dog park in Cicero Park,” McGuffey said. “Through community partnerships and collaboration, we plan to expand the number of pantries throughout Hamilton County.”

“By providing support in times of hardship, Dog’s House Free Pet Food Pantries can, at times, be the difference between families being able to keep a pet or having to surrender it to a shelter,” Kiwanis Club of Cicero President Todd Clevenger said. “The service they are providing ultimately promotes welfare by allowing animals to remain in



Photo provided by Kiwanis Club of Cicero
Dog’s House Co-owner Amy McGuffey and Kiwanis Club of Cicero President Todd Clevenger.

loving homes and maintain bonds with their owners. Dog’s House is helping to ensure that no pet owner must choose between stay or go.”

If you would like to donate, you can place items

directly in the pantries, you can call McGuffey at (317) 420-9072 to arrange drop off or pick up, or you can browse the [Dog’s House Amazon Wish List](#) and order items that will ship directly to their office.

Jewish community leaders condemn swastika in snow at Carmel family’s home

By DANIELLE ZULKOSKY
WISH-TV | [wishstv.com](#)

Jewish community leaders on Monday expressed concerned with the hateful message that a swastika boldly stomped in the snow in front of a Jewish family’s home sent to the community.

Carmel police have not shared if they have a suspect or anyone in custody. They have asked anyone with information to come forward to help with the investigation.

Jacob Markey, the **exec-**

utive director of the **Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council**, said any instance of a hate symbol is painful for the Jewish community but doing it to someone’s home elevates it.

“And we see even today neo-Nazis and white supremacists will continue to use those symbols and they use them to strike fear and to hate others,” Markey said.

Justin Kerber is a rabbi at the **Congregation Beth Shalom** in Carmel. He was disappointed to see this dis-

play of a hate symbol in his community.

“If I had walked out my front door and I had seen a swastika trumped into the snow in my front yard, I would have been outraged,” Kerber said. “I would have been disgusted, I would have been sickened, and I would have been scared.”

Markey and Kerber both say such displays are all too common these days.

In December, the **Anti-Defamation League** reported a 337 percent in-

crease in antisemitic incidents year-over-year. Many came after Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel.

“It’s incredibly sad that members of the Jewish community have to experience this,” Markey said.

“Anybody that’s old enough to be in middle school is old enough to understand the significance,” Kerber said. “The fact that it was done at a Jewish family’s home tells me that whoever did it knew exactly what they were doing.”

Noblesville Lions deliver Valentine’s Day flowers



Photo provided by Noblesville Lions Club / Jake Doll
Last Wednesday, Feb. 14, the Noblesville Lions delivered flowers for Adrienes Flowers & Gifts. The Lions Club gets a “thank you” stipend from Adrienes for the help on this day. (From left) Lions Kryss Keller, Gary Hipes, Steve Craig, Steve Shaw, Steve Morgan, and Terry Lee Dawson.



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These three comedians walk into a school . . .

What do you get when you put three gifted, nationally known comedians and lots of people in the Westfield High School auditorium? A great night of meeting local neighbors and lots and lots of laughter! CrossRoads Church at Westfield held its eighth annual free Pizza and Punchlines Comedy Event this past Saturday night, Feb. 17, with free pizza for all and outstanding comics from across the county. This event is part of CrossRoads Church at Westfield's effort to meet, know, enjoy, and serve their local neighbors, called "For Our Neighbor." Find out more about the many ways that CrossRoads Church at Westfield is serving local neighbors at ForOurNeighbor.Life. (Photos provided by Nik Roberts / noble-pc.com)



Eric Lohe, the Lead Pastor of CrossRoads Church at Westfield.



(From left) Leon "the Jokester" Purley, June Colson, and Taylor Mason headlined the Pizza & Punchlines event.





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



THE SKIES ALIGN FOR A SPECTACULAR SHOW
IN HAMILTON COUNTY ON APRIL 8, 2024

Get ready to be mesmerized by a celestial masterpiece as the communities of Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville, Westfield and the Northern Towns become the perfect stage for the total solar eclipse, when the moon gracefully dances in front of the sun and casts its shadow across the landscape.

Witness the magic of the cosmos with friends and family at official viewing locations like Carmel Civic Square, Conner Prairie, Cool Creek Park, Grand Park Sports Campus, Ruoff Home Mortgage Music Center and Strawtown Kotweewi Park.

Grab your eclipse glasses, set up your cameras and join Hamilton County in this celestial celebration—it’s guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience!

THE SKY WILL BEGIN TO CHANGE AROUND
1:50 P.M. WITH TOTALITY AT 3:06 P.M.

Hamilton County is in the narrow path of totality for the Total Solar Eclipse. These communities will be some of the best places to experience prime views of the epic event.

Arcadia	3m 6s	Fishers	3m 39s
Atlanta	2m 56s	Noblesville	3m 27s
Carmel	3m 29s	Sheridan	2m 51s
Cicero	3m 15s	Westfield	3m 19s

VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Eclipse



JUST NORTH
OF INDY



Carmel • Clay Parks & Recreation

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation to hold annual Barrier-Free Theatre Performance

The REPORTER

In March, Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) will hold its sixth annual Barrier-Free Theatre performance in honor of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

This year's performance, titled *Mystery at the Rider Mansion*, will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 16 and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 17 at the Monon Community Center. An American Sign Language interpreter will be provided for the Saturday show.

Barrier-Free Theatre is a form of drama therapy that empowers individuals with and without disabilities to create and perform original stories together. The entire creative process takes around eight months to complete.

"All aspects of creating and performing the show are inclusive," CCPR Barrier-Free Theatre Director Sarah Fenster said. "For the past three years, we have invited an interested cast member to guest direct a scene in the show, and we also have an inclusive stage

crew working backstage. It's amazing to be a part of such a talented, supportive community."

The *Mystery at the Rider Mansion* story revolves around deep-seated jealousy and family conflict. Take a seat at the table for a Thanksgiving dinner full of romance, betrayal, and a twist you won't see coming.

"*Mystery at the Rider Mansion* is unique because its story and characters were created by the actors themselves," Fenster said. "Whether or not you know any of the actors, you will come away with a better understanding of the people on stage, their experiences, and their abilities."

Tickets are \$12 each and are available for purchase [online](#) or in person at the Monon Community Center. Availability is limited. All proceeds support CCPR's [adaptive programs](#).

For more information about Barrier-Free Theatre or adaptive programming, contact CCPR Inclusion Program Supervisor Kelvin Solares ksolares@carmel-clayparks.com.

Carmel Cortona Sister Cities Committee & Carmel Clay Public Library join forces to celebrate cultural exchange

The REPORTER

The Carmel Cortona Sister Cities Committee has announced a dynamic collaboration with the Carmel Clay Public Library, fostering cultural exchange and community engagement.

Through this partnership, both organizations aim to enrich the local community by celebrating the unique heritage of Cortona, Italy, and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Highlighting this collaboration is the unveiling of the Cortona Library Display, a vibrant exhibit showcasing the rich history, art, and traditions of this charming Tuscan town. Visitors to the library will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the beauty and culture of Cortona through photographs, artifacts, and art curated in partnership with the Carmel Cortona

Sister Cities Committee. The display, located in the Kids Area of the library, serves as a window into the soul of Cortona, offering a glimpse into its rich history and vibrant present.

In addition to the captivating Cortona Library Display, the Carmel Cortona Sister Cities Committee announces the Basta Pasta! A Bilingual English/Italian StoryTime, a delightful program designed to introduce children to the enchanting world of Italian language and culture. Led by experienced storytellers fluent in Italian, children will embark on a journey filled with captivating tales, interactive

activities, and cultural insights. Basta Pasta! StoryTime promises to be an engaging and educational experience for children and families alike, fostering a love for language and learning while celebrating the beauty of Italian culture.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Carmel Clay Public Library to bring the spirit of Cortona to our local community," said Julie Standish, Board Member of the Carmel Cortona Sister Cities Committee. "Through the Cortona Library Display and StoryTime, we aim to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Cortona while brining

cross-cultural understanding and appreciation to Carmel residents."

The Cortona Library Display is open to the public until March 8 at the Carmel Clay Public Library, 425 E. Main St.

Italian Basta Pasta! StoryTime will take place at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 3. This program is for kids aged 2 to 8 and their caregivers. Siblings are welcome. Free tickets are required and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Kids Desk beginning 30 minutes prior to the scheduled program start time. A ticket will be required for each person, including infants, attending the program.

For more information about the Carmel Cortona Sister Cities Committee, please visit linktr.ee/carmelcortona.



Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam selects Mary Jo Rothenbush to serve as Executive Assistant

The REPORTER

Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam has announced that Mary Jo Rothenbush will serve as Executive Assistant, effective Feb. 19.

A life-long resident of central Indiana and a seasoned administrative professional with extensive experience in municipal government and health care, Rothenbush will serve as a key liaison between the Mayor's Office and the community and support all calendar scheduling and appearances at community and civic events.

"I am thrilled to have someone of Mary Jo's caliber and experience on my core team," Finkam said. "The role she will play in my administration cannot be overstated, and our executive team is looking forward to working with her. The City of Carmel is lucky to have her on board."

Rothenbush's prior experience includes serving for eight years as Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Lawrence and as the Blue Star Banner Coordinator, a quality-of-life program honoring active-du-

ty men and women and their families, where she was responsible for planning and hosting events with military dignitaries and coordinating sponsorships with local businesses. Prior to her public service, Rothenbush spent nearly 30 years in administrative roles within the healthcare industry, including at Community Hospital North.



Rothenbush



Finkam

"I'm honored for the opportunity to serve in Mayor Finkam's administration, and work with the City of Carmel's citizens and communities," Rothenbush said. "I'm excited for what the future holds."

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Thursday, March 14th, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

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One-woman protest

Photo provided

This person was seen marching up and down the street in front of the Noblesville Fire Department on 9th Street Monday afternoon. We have no idea how HIPAA can violate someone, but she felt strongly enough about it to make her own sandwich board and picket for a while. Sign-grammar aside, we applaud the conviction and defend the right of every American to engage in the peaceful protest of their choosing.

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MADDIE POPPE

MARCH 17 & 18

Hotel Carmichael proudly welcomes the American Idol champion as she takes center stage at Feinstein's!

Visit FeinsteinsHC.com to purchase tickets.

Mayor Finkam launches Carmel Housing Task Force

Effort marks critical first step in comprehensive review of housing inventory and needs

The REPORTER

Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam announced on Tuesday the launch of the Carmel Housing Task Force, a team of local leaders, experts, and Carmel citizens established to study the state of housing in the city.

Designed to ensure the housing needs of all Carmel residents and support workforce needs of the business community, the task force's findings will inform the city's future housing strategy. The task force will hold its official kick-off meeting at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 23 in the City Council Chambers.

"I am incredibly excited for the official launch of the Carmel Housing Task Force," Mayor Finkam said. "Throughout the campaign, I heard concerns about apartments, lack of single-family homes available to buy and housing affordability. This community-wide effort will better define the challenges we face and catalyze opportunities for an action-oriented policy to ensure the long-term sustainability of

diverse housing options for future generations. I am so grateful for the time and commitment of our task force members and look forward to the public's participation and input."

Composed of nine members, the task force will spend the next several months learning from residents about the housing needs of the community and from industry experts about best practices to support them. Their meetings will focus on several critical topics outlined below. All topics will include data and trends from both the City of Carmel and the greater Indianapolis region.

- Current housing inventory and market conditions
- Population, demographics, and workforce trends
- Housing options and housing best practices with input from experts
- Construction and development trends



Finkam

- Examination of trends and neighborhood programs of Carmel peer communities

The task force will submit its report to the Mayor not later than July 31, 2024, with general findings and recommendations available to the community shortly thereafter. The public will be invited to provide input throughout the process at a series of meetings in City Hall on the dates below from 7:30 to 9 a.m. according to the following timeline. All task force meetings will be livestreamed as well as open to the public.

- Feb. 23: Task Force kickoff; overview of Carmel economy and regional position
- March 21: Population, demographic and workforce trends
- April 25: Single-family housing market review and trends
- May 23: Multi-family housing market review and trends

- June 27: Housing-for-all approaches; peer city review

• July 25: Draft report
All Task Force members serve at the pleasure of the Mayor, and currently include:

- Adam Aasen, Carmel City Council
- Dave Bowers, Carmel Redevelopment Commission
- Barbara Eden, Carmel resident
- Todd Fenoglio, Carmel Clay Schools
- Matt Kaercher, Merchants Capital
- Chris Pryor, MIBOR
- Jack Russell, OneZone Chamber of Commerce
- Aletta Sanders, HAND, Incorporated
- Christine Zoccola, Carmel Plan Commission

The public is strongly encouraged to participate in this important first step to ensure the housing needs of all Carmel residents are met and that the city implements viable and sustainable development plans to address these needs throughout all phases of life.



Photo by Duane Mercier

Sisters Oceana (Barb Weaver, left) and Coral (Susan Hill) contemplate their shaky future.

Two Mermaids get hustled & open a bed & breakfast

My research of Epilogue Players' *Foolish Fishgirls and the Pearl* began at a standing start. I am not at all familiar with the script, the playwright – one Barbara Pease Weber, nor any mermaid

lore in general. Searching the play's title, I surprisingly found a long list of entries advertising, reviewing, touting, discussing, and encouraging attendance to this very whimsical fantasy at theatres around the country.

Director Kelly Keller has a penchant for finding hidden scripts – those not very often produced – though I must say *FF&P* gets a good bit of production. For this particular endeavor, Keller has collected a cast packed with veteran actors, many with Encore and/or Mitty awards to their names. The result is quite remarkable.

Susan Hill and Barb Weaver are well paired as two mermaids out of water, Coral and Oceana – sisters who 30 years ago had found sailors to love, thus becoming land-based before losing their treasures to the lying scoundrels. (Part of mermaid lore, we learn, is that they all have treasures which they share if they fall in love with a man.) Now they are stuck on dry land running a failing bed and breakfast on the New Jersey shoreline.

Local curmudgeon Floyd, sharply played by Larry Adams, is both a friend and an irritant, especially for Coral, who loves to do verbal battle with him. A third mermaid, Marina, appears to have been far luckier in her choice of mates and now holds the mortgage on the B&B. Tracy Herring does a terrific job conveying the snootiness of this "nose-in-the-air" former sea-sprite. Eventually Marina's catch also proves

to be a stinker and she too is left flat broke.

When Nathan (Vincent Pratt), a Coast Guard Lieutenant, has a car accident on a bridge and is rescued by a romantic young mermaid named Pearl (Erin Keller), the erstwhile fishgirls try to convince the lovestruck Pearl to forego the opportunity to convert to having legs. Mayor/Sheriff/Justice of the Peace/Dogcatcher Sheila (a very emotive Sarah Froehle) comes into the mix as the plot becomes more colorful and deeper.

Foolish Fishgirls and the Pearl is a complicated story. A longish exposition first hides the fact that Coral and Oceana are mermaids, then reveals that they are and details what memories and folklore we need to know in order for the story to take hold. Next comes the accident, a snow storm, a plot twist, and a longish denouement that is both very touching and very silly all at once. It's a different and difficult script and as the tale unfurls, the terrific storytelling talents of the cast become more and more important.

Bottom line: *Foolish Fishgirls and the Pearl* is a fun and fluffy fantasy, well-cast and well-directed, with plenty of laughs, a complex plot, and a satisfying ending. And it's always fun for Mrs. K and I to see friends having such a good time playing onstage.

Foolish Fishgirls and the Pearl continues at Epilogue Players' theatre at 19th and Alabama streets in Indianapolis through Sunday, Feb. 25. For more information about dates, times and reservations, go to epilogueplayers.com.

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

International conference to explore Hollywood musicals

Registration open now for StageStruck! 5, set for May 15-17

The REPORTER

Hollywood musicals from the early to mid-20th century have become staples of American culture, shared through the generations and kept alive by strong feelings of nostalgia. Yet these films also reflect the times in which they were made, with representations of race, gender, disability, and sexuality that clash with contemporary values.

What are the implications of their continuing popularity?

Nostalgia and the Hollywood Musical is the theme for StageStruck! 5, an international academic conference taking place May 15 to 17 in central Indiana. Hosted by the Carmel-based Great American Songbook Foundation in partnership with the University of Sheffield (U.K.), the conference at the Center for the Performing Arts will attract scholars and students from around the world, with sessions hosted in a hybrid format offering interactive online participation as well as on-site attendance.

Registration is open through April 15 at TheSongbook.org/Stage-Struck2024, where the full schedule is available. Questions can be addressed to info@TheSongbook.org.

In conjunction with the conference, the Songbook Foundation will host a mini-festival of the Hollywood musical, open to conference attendees and the general public, that will include screenings of classic films, Q&A opportunities with notable industry guests, and a special concert by Songbook Foundation Founder Michael Feinstein. All activities are included with full conference registration and are available as add-on options with single-day passes. Tickets for individual events will go on

sale to the public this spring.

This is the fifth StageStruck! conference convened by Dominic Broomfield-McHugh, Professor of Musicology at the University of Sheffield. His recent books *The Oxford Handbook of the Hollywood Musical* and *The Big Parade: Meredith Willson's Musicals from The Music Man to 1491*, both published by Oxford University Press.

"In a post-COVID world, the past takes on new meanings: Are we nostalgic about the way things were or for the way we wish they were?" Broomfield-McHugh said. "With the enduring popularity of classics like *Meet Me in St. Louis* and new musical films on the way like the movie adaptation of *Wicked*, it's a great time to reflect on how the movie musical helps reveal who we are, who we were, and who we want to be."

The scheduled keynote speakers are:

- Maya Cantu, Bennington College – "A Bed of Roses, Thorny Side Up": Countering Nostalgia in Bradford Ropes's *42nd Street* and in the Backstage Novel"
- Desirée Garcia, Dartmouth College – "How Do You Solve a Problem Like the Musical?: Genre, Nostalgia, and Race"
- Julianne Lindberg, University of Nevada, Reno – "*A Star is Born* (1932-2018): Nostalgia, Hollywood Pastiche, and the Idea of Entertainment"
- Hannah Lewis, University of Texas at Austin – "*La La Land*'s Nostalgia"

The conference also will include a showcase of the Songbook Foundation's archival holdings on musical film and theater, including the papers of The Music Man creator Meredith Willson, songwriter Gus Kahn,

and EGOT-winning performer Liza Minnelli.

Attendance and pricing options include:

- **On-site:** Full conference \$230, single day \$70
- **Online:** Full conference \$90, single day \$30
- **Student:** Full conference on-site \$80, single day on-site \$20, online only FREE

Reduced lodging rates are available at local hotels.

The Songbook Foundation is committed to making its programming widely accessible. To diversify participation and promote inclusivity at StageStruck! 5, financial assistance and fee waivers are available for attendees with limited resources and those from underrepresented groups.

StageStruck! 5 is supported in part by the City of Carmel.

About the Great American Songbook Foundation

The mission of the Great American Songbook Founda-

tion, founded in 2007 by five-time Grammy Award nominee Michael Feinstein, is to inspire and educate by celebrating the timeless standards of pop, jazz, Broadway and Hollywood. Headquartered at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, the Foundation advances this rich legacy by curating physical artifacts of its creators, performers and publishers in the Songbook Library & Archives; operating a multimedia exhibit gallery; overseeing the Songbook Hall of Fame; offering programs for the public and research opportunities for scholars and artists; and providing educational opportunities for student musicians, including the annual Songbook Academy summer intensive. The Foundation is a Cultural Affiliate of the Los Angeles-based Grammy Museum. More information is available at TheSongbook.org.

Thanks for reading!

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United Way of Central Indiana

Are you a thrill-seeker? Skydive this summer while fundraising for a cause

United Way of Central Indiana is looking for participants for “Sky High”

The REPORTER

This summer, adventurous philanthropists will have the chance to tandem skydive from 13,000 feet in the air – while raising funds to help fellow Hoosiers.

Registration is now open for “Sky High: Parachuting with a Purpose,” scheduled for June 28 and 29 at the Frankfort Municipal Airport, 3009 State Road 28, Frankfort. The event raises money for United Way of Central Indiana’s basic needs initiatives, which help provide neighbors in the region with access to food, housing, transportation, and health services.

Adventurers will tandem skydive with Skydive Indianapolis instructors, who are certified by the United States Parachute Association. Participants must be 18 or older and commit to raising at least \$1,500.

To register or learn more, visit uwci.org/skyhigh.

Fishers receives \$30,000 grant for new fall prevention program

Collaboration between Fishers Department of Fire & Emergency Services & Fishers Health Department helps residents age safely at home

The REPORTER

The Fishers Department of Fire and Emergency Services has partnered with the Fishers Health Department to reduce the number of emergency calls received due to accidental falls, which has nearly doubled since 2019. Falls comprised 20 percent of the department’s ambulance transports in 2023.

The two departments recently collaborated to receive a \$30,000 Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security for their new Fishers Fall Prevention Program.

The Fishers Fall Prevention Program launched in November 2023 with the goal of helping residents age safely at home. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, falls are the leading cause of unintentional injury in adults 65 and older. One in four older adults report falling each year.

Led by the Fishers Health Department’s Social Worker and Community Health Advocates, residents 65 and older are eligible to apply to Fishers’ new program to receive free support which includes home visits, fall prevention education, assistance with necessary in-home modifications, and referrals to community partners as needed.

“Falls in the home are the leading cause of injury in Fishers,” said Division Chief Joe Harding from the Fishers Department of Fire and Emergency Services’ EMS Division. “For several years, our first responders have recognized that these are often preventable events, but we lacked resources to assist the individual. Last year our Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) team collaborated with the Fishers Health Department to provide in-home assessment and intervention, which launched the new Fishers Fall Prevention Program. We quickly identified that there was a lack of funding for low- or fixed-income residents to purchase or install mobility devices on their own. These grant dollars will help us close the gap and help to keep our residents safe in their own homes.”

The departments will work together alongside organizations such as the Shepherd Center of Hamilton County and Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County to identify residents in need of financial support.

Residents interested in learning more about the Fall Prevention Program can contact the Fishers Health Department Social Work program at (317) 463-4361 or email socialwork@fishers.in.us for more information.

Hamilton County to host dozens of events & festivals for solar eclipse

Six signature events expected to attract thousands of visitors to the area

The REPORTER

Hamilton County businesses and city officials are busy preparing for the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8 by creating special events, educational opportunities, and safety plans.

The destination looks forward to welcoming visitors for the celestial spectacle that will create total darkness in the middle of the afternoon.

Major viewing locations in the county include:

Civic Square (Carmel)

Carmel’s official eclipse viewing location is at Civic Square from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Attendees can enjoy a festive atmosphere featuring food and drink vendors, a variety of live music performers, educational information and live updates by eclipse experts. This is a free, public event.

Conner Prairie (Fishers)

Conner Prairie’s eclipse festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and include live performances from musical acts and dance companies and enlightened talks from renowned experts who will shed light on the science behind this mesmerizing event. Hoosier astronaut Mark Brown will take the main stage as one of the featured experts, sharing captivating stories about his time at NASA. Paid tickets are required for this event. Get them at bit.ly/3wmLoUs.

Cool Creek Park (Carmel)

Guests can park on site and tailgate or stroll the grounds of Cool Creek Park for its eclipse event. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. there will be live entertainment on the pavilion stage, crafts and activities, food for purchase and a kids activity zone. Paid tickets are required for this event. Get them at bit.ly/3OFDY19.

Grand Park Sports Campus (Westfield)

Westfield will host solar eclipse festivities from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Attendees can enjoy food and drinks from food trucks, a concert with the 1985 Band, attractions and inflatables. Special guest Dr. Mark SubbaRao,

director of NASA’s Scientific Visualization Studio at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center will be on hand. Grand Universe will also have viewing telescopes on-site to educate attendees about the solar eclipse and its history. Paid tickets are required for this event. Get them at bit.ly/49yWCMn.

Ruoff Music Center (Noblesville)

Ruoff’s eclipse celebration includes live entertainment, food trucks, a beer garden and more. Paid tickets are required. Get them at livemu.sc/316F8Tg.

Strawtown Koteewi Park (Noblesville)

The Taylor Center of Natural History will hold a Moon Market from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in celebration of the total solar eclipse. Moon Market vendors will sell a variety of a celestial-themed wares for purchase and the Taylor Center will provide eclipse themed crafts and educational opportunities. Paid tickets are required for this event. Get them at bit.ly/3OFDY19.

In addition to the major viewing locations listed above, Hamilton County offers numerous parks, restaurants, and businesses that will host smaller events and festivals.

“Hamilton County, Indiana, is thrilled to be a premiere destination for the total solar eclipse,” said Sarah Buckner, head of Hamilton County’s eclipse local organizing committee and assistant director of community engagement for Hamilton County Tourism. “We’ve been planning for this historic event for well over a year and are excited to celebrate it with a wide range of viewing options and amenities.”

It has been 819 years since Hamilton County last had a total solar eclipse and the next total solar eclipse that can be seen from the contiguous United States will not be until Aug. 23, 2044. Additional events and information can be found online at visithamilton-county.com/eclipse.

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Health Spotlight: blue light exposure

By JAY ADKINS
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Did you know that the average U.S. adult will spend the equivalent of 44 years of their life staring at screens? While blue light

is essential for regulating our circadian rhythm, its overexposure can lead to a multitude of issues, including eye strain and cognitive dysfunctions.

Ophthalmologist Alan Mendelsohn warns of the hazards.

“There’s some blue light that’s high-energy visible light, but it’s harmful and that’s what causes the digital eye strain – that’s what can lead to macular degeneration,” Mendelsohn said.

The consequences of blue light don’t stop at eye strain. Studies indicate that being exposed to blue light before bedtime can disrupt our sleep patterns, leading to a reduction in melatonin

production. This disruption of our circadian rhythm has been linked to the onset of sleep disorders, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular issues, and even an increased risk of cancer.

“It’s very frequent to start getting headaches,” Mendelsohn said. “We just start feeling kind of crummy, vision is blurring up.”

Mendelsohn offers a practical tip to protect your eyes.

“So, the first thing anyone can do right now starting today, you should be holding devices further away ... distance is crucial,” said Mendelsohn.

He also sheds light on how specialized lenses can

offer a shield against prolonged screen exposure.

“With the yellow chromophore pigment embedded within the lens, somebody can be on their desktop, laptop, iPad all day long – they’re safe, they’re protected,” Mendelsohn said.

A report by UC Davis Health reveals that consistent exposure to blue light can play a role in the development of cataracts, eye cancer, and abnormal growths on the clear covering of the eye.

This story was created from a script aired on WISH-TV. Health Spotlight is presented by Community Health Network.



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Rep. Spartz honored with Leadership Award by Competitive Markets Groups

Farmers & ranchers applaud Spartz for her work to address corruption at USDA’s checkoff programs

Submitted
The Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) and Competitive Markets Action (CMA) recently announced the recipients of their 2023 Congressional Awards and honored U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-05) with their Leadership Award for her work to reform the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture’s Commodity Checkoff Programs.

Spartz was joined by Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) in leading a House Appropriations Amendment in September of 2023 that would have temporarily halted the corruption within USDA’s commodity check-off programs by cutting off funding until a USDA OIG Audit on the programs could be completed.

Spartz also cosponsored the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act, H.R. 1249/S. 557, led by Rep. Nancy Mace (R-S.C.) and Sens. Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Rand Paul (R-Ky.) that would reform the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture’s scandal-ridden check-off programs that have been plagued by unethical and illegal activities for decades.

This measure is backed by more than 200,000 farmers and ranchers across the country and groups like the Indiana Farmers Union, FreedomWorks, the American Grassfed Association, Contract Poultry Growers Association of the Virginias, American Taxpayers Union, the Heritage Foundation,

as well as Reps. Massie, Alex Mooney (R-W.V.), and Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.).

“It’s an honor to receive the Competitive Markets Leadership Award from Competitive Markets Action for promoting transparency around commodity check-off programs,” Rep. Spartz said. “As a farmer myself, I understand the challenges small farmers and ranchers face, and I am committed to advancing competition in agriculture.”

“We applaud Rep. Spartz for her tireless work, tremendous leadership, and intestinal fortitude in standing up to Chinese interests and multinational conglomerates who continue to further consolidate American agriculture,” said Taylor Haynes, President of the Organization for Competitive Markets and Founder of the Wyoming Independent Cattlemen’s Association. “If Agriculture Committee leaders want to get a Farm Bill done in 2024 they’d be wise to jettison any language that nullifies state and local agriculture laws and include a provision to reform USDA’s swampy checkoff slush funds.”

“We applaud Rep. Victoria Spartz for going against the grain by pushing back against the leaders of EATS, the USDA’s scandal-ridden commodity checkoff programs, and China’s continuous attempts to takeover American agriculture,” said Marty Irby, President at



Photo provided
OCM and CMA Farm Bill Summit attendees at the award presentation this month in Washington, D.C.

Competitive Markets Action and Board Secretary of the Organization for Competitive Markets. “Industrial agribusiness interests and multinational conglomerates have turned far too many of our hard-working farm families into modern-day indentured servants and we’re amidst an uprising in the farm world Agri-Big Brother never seen before.”

“As a proud American and lifelong producer, I proudly applaud Rep. Spartz for being committed to defeating Big Ag’s Chinese and Brazilian backers that threaten our food supply,” said Jonathan Buttram, Treasurer at the Organization for Competitive Markets, and President of the Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Association and. “The industrial agriculture mafia is petrified of our work because they see the writing on the wall and we hope they soon meet the same fate

as New York’s infamous ‘Five Families.’”

OCM and CMA also conducted its third fly-in since July 2023 to Washington, D.C., this month and engaged in nearly 90 meetings in support of the OFF Act, checkoff reform, and against the EATS Act, H.R. 4417/S. 2019, during those events.

About the OCM

The **Organization for Competitive Markets** (OCM) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit based in Lincoln, Neb. The foundation of the OCM is to fight for competitive markets in agriculture for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. True competition reduces the need for economic regulation. OCM’s mission and duty is to define and advocate the proper role of government in the agricultural economy as a regulator and enforcer of rules necessary for markets that are fair, honest, accessible, and competitive for all citizens.



Photo provided

President & OCM Board Secretary Marty Irby presents the award to Rep. Victoria Spartz.

About CMA

Competitive Markets Action (CMA) is a 501(c)(4) non-profit based in Washington, D.C., that was formed with the mission of shaping policy to promote more regenerative and sustainable agriculture, and competitive markets in the U.S., and to defend against

attacks on states’ rights by the federal government. CMA works to raise awareness of the harm caused by multinational conglomerates to the American family farmer, the consumer, and the U.S. economy as a whole in an effort to bring about legislative and regulatory reforms.



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www.spartz.house.gov

Indiana celebrates National FFA Week

The REPORTER

In honor of National FFA Week, the seven Indiana FFA State Officers, and dozens of FFA members, met in the Statehouse to receive a proclamation and resolution declaring Feb. 17 to 24 Indiana FFA Week.

“It was a pleasure to have these outstanding young professionals representing the State of Indiana and agriculture so well in the Statehouse today,” said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who also serves as Indiana’s Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “FFA is a dynamic youth led organization and I am excited to celebrate National FFA Week this week and agriculture year-round.”

Gov. Eric Holcomb signed a proclamation to name this week National FFA Week in recognition of all the work the Indiana FFA Organization, agriculture educators and FFA advisors do to cultivate the next gen-

eration of agriculturists for the state.

During the week, chapters across the state and nation will host a variety of events to educate, advocate and celebrate the agricultural industry. From a school animal experience to a farmer’s breakfast, these activities pay homage to the dedication and commitment of today’s agriculturalists. Throughout the week, the Indiana FFA State Officers will travel the state to participate in activities alongside local FFA chapters and their communities.

The Indiana FFA Association also received a Senate Concurrent Resolution highlighting the impact of the FFA Organization, which is preparing more than 14,000 members in 90 of Indiana’s 92 counties for the over 250 unique careers in the food, fiber and natural resource sectors. The resolution was led by Sen. Jean Leising, Senate District 42 and Rep. Mi-



Photo provided by ISDA Communications

chael Aylesworth, House District 11.

Indiana FFA State Reporter Carson Rudd was excited to meet with legis-

lators to promote Indiana agricultural education.

“National FFA Week is a week full of celebration and a time to reflect on the

significance the organization has across the country and here in over 220 communities across the state,” Rudd said. “We are honored to have the support of our state’s legislature not only during National FFA Week, but throughout the year as well.”

Tamara Ketchen, Director of the Indiana FFA Association, is looking forward to seeing all the work done this week at FFA chapters across the state.

“National FFA Week is a time for local chapters to highlight their programs showcasing their success and passion for agriculture,” Ketchen said. “We also use this as an opportunity to recognize community supporters and broadcast the mission of the organization.”

FFA members are ag-

riculture’s future leaders, future food suppliers, future innovators, and more. Whether it is through service projects or community gatherings, National FFA Week is a time for FFA members to raise awareness about agricultural education and the role the National FFA Organization plays in the development of agriculture’s future leaders.

The first National FFA Week was held in 1948, when the National FFA Board of Directors designated a weeklong celebration to recognize George Washington’s example and legacy as a leader and farmer. For the past 75 years, FFA members across the country have taken part in agricultural, leadership and service-based activities during National FFA Week.

Crosstown Ventures acquires Fishers-based recruiting firm

Submitted

Crosstown Ventures, an operationally focused private investment firm, has announced its acquisition of Top Talent, LLC, a distinguished talent acquisition firm based in Fishers.

Founded in 2014, Top Talent, LLC has spent the last 10 years establishing itself as a leader in talent acquisition for logistics and supply chain. Crosstown specializes in partnering with companies that provide top service to their clients, and want to expand their reach. This acquisition is a pivotal moment where Crosstown gets to enter the recruiting space while Top Talent receives a financial injection to start its expansion into new verticals beyond transportation.

In line with the acquisition, Top Talent has announced strategic changes to its executive team. Michael Monson, the founder of Top Talent, will move into the role of Chief Revenue Officer. In his new capacity, he will spearhead business development efforts and drive the company’s growth initiatives.

“By combining our strengths and expertise, we are well-positioned to achieve our ambitious goals of elevating careers and empowering organizations globally through talent acquisition,” Monson said.

Additionally, Vice President Brent Burleson will be promoted to President of Top Talent. In his new role, he will oversee the day-to-day operations of Top Talent.

“We’re thrilled to be joining the Crosstown fam-

ily,” Burleson said. “The knowledge and resources they bring will play a pivotal role in helping us execute our growth initiatives.”

Crosstown Ventures CEO Nick Likens expressed his enthusiasm for the acquisition.

“Acquiring Top Talent aligns with Crosstown’s strategy to invest in growth-focused companies, promising dozens of new job opportunities for the city of Fishers,” Likens said. “We’re excited to drive Top Talent’s expansion, enhancing our services and exploring new avenues to better serve our clients.”

About Top Talent

Top Talent, LLC, headquartered in Fishers, is a premier talent acquisition firm established in 2014. The company specializes in identifying and placing professional talent across various industries, catering to the unique needs of each client. For additional information about Top Talent, LLC, please visit toptalentllc.net.

About Crosstown Ventures

Crosstown Ventures is a Columbus, Ind.-based private investment firm that focuses on partnering with exceptional management teams to develop and expand successful companies. The firm’s diverse investment portfolio spans various industries, with an emphasis on the business services sector. Through strategic planning and operational expertise, Crosstown Ventures strives to create substantial value for its portfolio companies. For further details about Crosstown Ventures, please visit crosstownventures.com.

Meeting Notices

The Carmel Mayor’s Housing Task Force will hold its first meeting from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

The Hamilton County Commissioners will meet in an executive session at 12:15 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, in Conference Room 1A at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The regular meeting will follow at 1 p.m. in the Commissioners’ Courtroom.

The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District will meet at noon on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, in the Commissioners’ Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold its monthly Joint Budget and Finance Committee meeting and Board of Trustees meeting at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, the TriCo Office, 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville.

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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.

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Donald J. Trump (R)

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Joan McVey

November 22, 1934 – February 16, 2024



Joan McVey, 89, Westfield, passed away on Friday, February 16, 2024, at Harbour Manor Care Center in Noblesville. She was born on November 22, 1934, to Harry and Thelma (Fosnight) Ballard in Westfield.

Joan lived her entire life in Westfield. She worked as a special needs bus aide for Carmel Schools.

Joan is survived by her sons, Randy & wife Mindy Holliday and Mark Holliday; daughter, Tammy & husband Dennis King; sister, Wanda Camp; eight grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sons, Timothy Holliday and Jay Holliday; sisters, Betty Wildoner and Patricia Stiles; brothers, Richard Ballard and Gene Ballard; partner, Harold Mikesell; grandson, Timothy Carter; and her granddaughter, Monica Patterson.

Visitation will be from 4 to 6 p.m., with services at 6 p.m., on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Rev. Stanley R. Sutton will officiate. Inurnment will be at Eagle Creek Cemetery in Westfield at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society for Hamilton County, 10501 Hague Road, Fishers, IN 46038 (hamiltonhumane.com).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Glenna Marie Farr Rice

February 20, 1934 – February 17, 2024



Glenna Marie Farr Rice, 89, Noblesville, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis after a battle with cancer. She was born on February 20, 1934, to Floyd and Mabel (West) Farr in Stinesville, Ind.

Glenna graduated from Fishers High School in 1952. She married Ralph E. Rice Jr. on September 23, 1956. Glenna worked as Head Cook at Fall Creek Elementary School for 25 years. She was an avid sports fan and especially enjoyed IU basketball. Most of all, Glenna loved the Lord Jesus Christ and her family.

She is survived by her daughter, Deborah Marks (fiancé Brian); son, Rick (Michelle) Rice; six grandchildren, Matthew (Jessica) Marks, Erik (Allyson) Marks, Matthew (Kayla) Onkst, Nicholas (Maria) Marks, Evan (Aubree) Rice, and Ashley (Zachery) Lockwood; six great-grandchildren, Hayden Marks, Hannah Marks, Evelyn Marks, Clark Onkst, Austin Lockwood, and Hazel Rice; and her sister, Doris (Dave) Russell.

In addition to her parents, Glenna was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Emerson Rice Jr.; brothers, Floyd Farr Jr. and Dallas Farr; sister, Rosemary Curnutt; and her son-in-law, Brian Marks.

Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, with services at noon, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers. Pastor Andrew Smiley will officiate. Burial will be at Highland Cemetery in Fishers.

Memorial contributions may be made to White River Christian Church, 1685 N. 10th St., Noblesville, IN 46060 (wrcc.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Adah Eileen Stalker McVey

April 2, 1948 – February 15, 2024

Adah Eileen Stalker McVey, 75, Butlerville, Ind., passed away on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at Majestic Care of North Vernon. She was born on April 2, 1948, to the late Floyd Lowell and Mary May (Reppert) Stalker in Noblesville.

Eileen lived in Westfield until 1977 and moved to North Vernon, Ind., and then Butlerville, Ind. She married James Robert McVey on December 31, 1977, at Jackson Park Church of God in Anderson, Ind. Eileen was a homemaker, beautician, clerk typist, certified medical assistant. She worked in a factory, on computers, and served as a day hostess of a restaurant.

Eileen was involved in the Home Ec Club and the Jennings County Community Choir. She assisted with delivery of produce to people, assisted her mother with cooking at the Lions Club, and was a greeter at Westfield Friends Church.

Eileen enjoyed photography, music, flowers, nature walks, her pets, and her family. Her favorite memories were of all the places she worked, learning together at home, school, church, and community. Eileen was faithful, cherished living in Westfield and on the farm, eating meals together and going to church together, and taking her best friend and mother shopping.

Eileen's greatest life lessons were having a solid basic Christian work ethic leading to her successes in life, being honest, loyal to family and close friends, her family protection and safety, and working as a family unit. She stayed nightly with an elderly lady and cared for small farm animals. Eileen enjoyed family gatherings, farm life, and spending time sharing and talking with older people. She treasured her family upbringing and church youth groups.

Eileen's family, the direct descendants of Ezra Stalker, are celebrating, along with others in Washington Township, Hamilton County, Ind., 200 years (from the 1800s to 2023). The family settled in the former wilderness area to help establish the town of Westfield. Eileen's great-great-grandfather, David (Elvira) Stalker's family, along with others, purchased government land and pioneered building the Westfield area so they could change to today's lifestyle living. Several family members continue to reside in Hamilton County, where others have relocated to Texas, Kansas, and other Indiana cities.

Eileen is survived by her husband, James Robert McVey; brother, Floyd David (Maxine) Stalker; sister, Mary Frances (Howard) Lee; brother, Steven Lee (Brenda) Stalker; niece, Karen Lee; as well as several other nieces and nephews.

Private family services will be held. Burial will be at Summit Lawn Cemetery in Westfield.

Condolences: 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.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING**THE DEATHS OF RACHEL AND ISAAC**

Then they moved on from Bethel. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, "Don't despair, for you have another son." As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin.

So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). Over her tomb Jacob set up a pillar, and to this day that pillar marks Rachel's tomb.

Israel moved on again and pitched his tent beyond Migdal Eder. While Israel was living in that region, Reuben went in and slept with his father's concubine Bilhah, and Israel heard of it.

Genesis 35:16-22 (NIV)

Harold "Hal" Van Dyke Hatch Jr.

October 26, 1942 – February 18, 2024

Harold "Hal" Van Dyke Hatch Jr., 81, Noblesville, passed away on Sunday, February 18, 2024. Hal was born on October 26, 1942, in Oak Park, Ill. In 1965, he married Virginia Kaye Yucell, and one month later, was drafted by the Army and served in artillery. He took a European discharge, traveling for three months with Kaye. They returned to Angola, Ind., where he graduated from Tri State University with a B.S. in 1969.

Hal worked for Montgomery Ward and then ran his own computer company, INSOFIT, in the Noblesville area. After retiring, Hal cared for his grandchildren for several years. Hal enjoyed traveling to St. Maarten with his wife and family for 27 years.

Hal was preceded in death by his parents, Harold V. Hatch Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Hatch.

Hal is survived by his wife of 58 years, Virginia Kaye; children, Jennifer (Mark) Wysong, Leslie (Brent) Crandall, and Kevin (Janell) Hatch; grandchildren, Dylan Hatch, Tiffany Waddell, Dakota Crandall, Trevor Hatch, Terron Lamm, Chase Crandall, Daniel Wysong, and Anastasia Hatch; great-grandchildren, Linkin Waddell and Yunalesca McNeil; and his sister, Gayle Popken.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m., with services and military honors at 7 p.m., on Monday, February 26, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Grace Church Food Pantry, 5504 E. 146th St., Noblesville, IN 46062 (gracechurch.us).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Find more news at ReadTheReporter.com

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REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

Sports Editor Richie Hall | Sports@ReadTheReporter.com | Twitter @Richie_Hall

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

Basketball



Reporter photos by Julie Brown

(Above left) Carmel's Alex Couto scored 20 points, including six 3-pointers, for the Greyhounds during their win over No. 7 Crispus Attucks Tuesday at the Eric Clark Activity Center. (Right) Ryan Clevenger had 13 points and nine rebounds for Carmel.

‘Hounds carry through on momentum for big finish to regular season

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

CARMEL — As the regular season draws to a close this week, it's safe to call the Carmel boys basketball team the Turnaround Hounds.

Carmel finished regular season play on a winning note Tuesday, beating Crispus Attucks 49-37 at the Eric Clark Activity Center. The Greyhounds, ranked No. 17 in the IBCA coaches poll, got out to a fast start against the Tigers, who are No. 7 in both the IBCA ratings and the Associated Press Class 4A list.

The momentum from the opening quarter carried Carmel through to its third consecutive victory and an 8-1 record over its last nine games. The ‘Hounds were 4-9 less than six weeks ago but finished the regular season at 12-10.

“They’ve grown up a lot,” said Carmel coach

Ryan Osborn. “And give them credit because it wasn’t easy.” The Greyhounds played the No. 1-ranked schedule according to the Sagarin ratings, and Osborn said “there wasn’t a night to take off.”

“They never stopped being hungry,” said Osborn. “That’s hard to do when you’ve got a losing record and you’re looking at the schedule and you got all these really good highly-ranked teams coming. They embraced the challenge and proud of them for how hard they played up to this point.”

Carmel never trailed against Attucks. Ben Bremer opened the scoring with a 3-pointer, beginning a 19-4 quarter for the Greyhounds. Alex Couto drained two 3s during the period, Quinn Murphy had one, and Evan Harrell took over the game with a personal 7-0 run – he hit a triple as well. “This group is super

CARMEL 49, CRISPUS ATTUCKS 37				
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF
Alex Couto	7-13	0-0	20	1
Ryan Clevenger	3-8	2-2	8	1
Aiden Dickerson	0-1	0-0	0	2
Ben Bremer	1-3	2-2	5	0
Evan Harrell	4-9	4-4	13	3
Quinn Murphy	1-3	0-0	3	2
Mitchell Mulloy	0-0	0-2	0	0
Max Winders	0-1	0-0	0	1
Owen Huber	0-1	0-0	0	0
Totals	16-39	8-10	49	10
Score by Quarters				
Crispus Attucks	4	11	14	8 – 37
Carmel	19	6	10	14 – 49
Carmel 3-point shooting (9-19) Couto 6-11, Murphy 1-2, Harrell 1-2, Bremer 1-1, Clevenger 0-1, Dickerson 0-1, Huber 0-1. Carmel rebounds (26) Harrell 9, Couto 4, Clevenger 4, Mulloy 4, Dickerson 2, Bremer 2, Murphy 1.				

dedicated to defense,” said Couto. “No one cares how much you put up whatever night as long as we’re getting defensive stops and we’re sharing the ball on offense.”

Carmel stayed in front for the entirety of the next three quarters. The Tigers got within 23-15 late in the second quarter, but Harrell

made a layin to keep the Greyhounds’ lead at double digits going into halftime at 25-15.

Couto sent in his third 3 of the game to start the third quarter, which helped give Carmel a cushion as Attucks went on an 8-0 run, which Couto ended by

See *Finish . . . Page 14*



Photo by Dwight Casler

Sheridan's Damon Winston had eight points, six rebounds and four assists for the Blackhawks during their Monday game with Western Boone.

Stars crash to earth, Blackhawks bounce in big home victory

The REPORTER

Sheridan pulled away from Western Boone in the third quarter Monday night, propelling the Blackhawks to a 61-44 victory over the Stars at Larry Hobbs Hall.

The game was moved from Saturday to Monday to accommodate the Sheridan girls basketball team, who played in the semi-state that day. The Blackhawks boys team got out to a strong start, leading WeBo 21-16 after one

quarter. Trey Page scored 13 points in the opener, including three 3-pointers.

The Stars cut Sheridan’s lead to 29-28 by halftime, but the ‘Hawks responded with a 19-7 third quarter, then added another 13 in the fourth. Caleb Wright had two triples in the second half and went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line.

Wright totaled 17 points, he finished with

See *Bounce . . . Page 14*

SHERIDAN 61, WESTERN BOONE 44				
Sheridan	FG	FT	TP	PF
Trent DeCraene	4-9	3-6	12	3
Tyler Garner	5-11	1-1	11	3
Trey Page	5-8	0-1	13	1
Caleb Wright	5-9	4-4	17	1
Damon Winston	4-6	0-1	8	1
Owen Bell	0-0	0-0	0	2
Carson Wright	0-0	0-0	0	0
Devon Hamilton	0-0	0-0	0	1
Totals	23-43	8-13	61	12
Score by Quarters				
Western Boone	16	12	7	9 – 44
Sheridan	21	8	19	13 – 61
Sheridan 3-point shooting (7-16) Page 3-6, Cal. Wright 3-5, DeCraene 1-4. Garner 0-1. Sheridan rebounds (33) Garner 6, Winston 6, Cal. Wright 5, Page 4, Car. Wright 4, Hamilton 4, Bell 3, DeCraene 1.				

Diving

Four county divers headed to state

The REPORTER

Four Hamilton County divers are headed to state after finishing in the top eight of the Homestead diving regional on Tuesday.

That includes the defending state champion and runner-up, both from Hamilton Heights. The Huskies’ Ethan Swart, the winner at state last year, won the regional title by a thin margin over Oak Hill’s Grant Cates. Swart scored 527.50 for first place, while Cates totaled 525.90 points as runner-up.

Heights’ Nathan Cox, the state runner-up from last season, placed third at the regional this year with a score of 517.30 points. Fishers’ Jacob Schade was fourth by scoring 491.35 points and Noblesville’s Aiden Kless took fifth with a total of 465.95 points; they will join the Huskies duo at state this weekend.

Two Carmel divers also competed at the regional. Henry Summer finished ninth with 360.20 points, while Connor Sweeney took

11th with 340.85 points.

The state diving meet begins at 9 a.m. Saturday morning with the preliminary round, followed by the semifinals. Finals for both swimming and diving start at 1 p.m.

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↓ **4.8%**

Months of Inventory Increased

↑ **1.6%**
1/23 vs. 1/24

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30-Year Fixed

6.875%
With an APR of 7.037%

55
More Homes For Sale
1/23 vs. 1/24

6.6%
Price Increase
1/23 vs. 1/24

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Basketball

Golden Eagles overcome ‘Blazers in big 4th quarter

Guerin Catholic Coach Bobby Allen secures 100th career win

The REPORTER

Guerin Catholic pulled away in the fourth quarter to defeat University 62-44 in an All-County game to give coach Bobby Allen his 100th career victory at Guerin Catholic.

The Golden Eagles led just 40-37 after three quarters but outscored University 22-7 over the final eight minutes behind a trio of three pointers from Robert Sorensen and six points from Bryson Cardinal.

The Trailblazers led for the first 15 minutes of the contest, building a pair of seven-point leads at 10-3 and 19-12, before Guerin Catholic ended the half on a 13-2 run. The Golden Eagles tied the game at 21 with 55 seconds left in the half on Dylan Murans dunk. Cardinal scored with 45 seconds left in the half and Sorensen added a fast break basket with three seconds left to put the Eagles up 25-21 at halftime.

A Cardinal basket off a Jack Cherry assist followed by a Cherry three pointer from the left corner stretched the GC run to 18-2 early in the third quarter and a 30-21 lead. University climbed back in the game on an old fashioned three-point play by Bryce Gray followed by a steal and layin by Gray. Cooper Cammack got the Blazers within 30-28 before Sorensen canned

a three pointer from the left wing to stem the University run.

The Blazers got with-in 40-37 at the end of three quarters after a Robert Russell corner three pointer. Sorensen opened the fourth quarter with a three ball from the top of the key. Cammack scored off a Bryce Gray assist to cut the lead to 43-39 but University would not make another field goal for over four minutes of play.

The Golden Eagles had an 18-3 run opening the fourth quarter. Andy Caron had an offensive rebound basket, one of 10 rebounds, for a 45-39 lead before Sorensen added another three pointer. Cardinal scored and Cherry added a three for a 53-40 lead. Cardinal scored again and Sorensen made another three before Max McComb got University on the board with 2:42 left.

Cardinal put together a double-double of 21 points and 10 rebounds. Sorensen scored 14 points and Cherry dished out 10 assists.

Gray scored 13 points for the Trailblazers and handed out four assists. Cammack pulled six rebounds and Russell collected five. Montgomery Holland blocked three shots and McComb had two blocks.

Guerin Catholic, ranked seventh in Class 3A, finishes the regular season with a 17-7 record. The Golden

GUERIN CATHOLIC 62, UNIVERSITY 44				
Guerin Catholic	FG	FT	TP	PF
Jack Cherry	3-5	0-0	8	2
Robert Sorensen	5-11	0-2	14	0
Andy Caron	4-5	0-0	8	0
Dylan Murans	2-7	1-2	5	0
Bryson Cardinal	10-13	0-2	21	3
Malcolm Houze	1-2	0-0	3	2
Jake Grissom	1-1	0-0	3	3
Ryne Paris	0-0	0-0	0	1
Totals	26-44	1-6	62	11
Guerin Catholic 3-point shooting (9-12) Sorensen 4-6, Cherry 2-2, Houze 1-2, Grissom 1-1, Cardinal 1-1.				
Guerin Catholic rebounds (29) Caron 10, Cardinal 10, Cherry 4, Sorensen 3, team 2.				
University	FG	FT	TP	PF
Bryce Gray	5-9	2-5	13	1
Max McComb	3-7	0-0	7	2
Robert Russell	3-9	2-2	9	2
Montgomery Holland	2-8	0-0	5	2
Cooper Cammack	2-3	0-0	4	6
Jackson Bledsoe	0-0	0-0	0	0
Faisal Mohamud	1-2	1-2	4	0
Zien Bland	1-1	0-0	2	0
Totals	17-39	5-9	44	13
University 3-point shooting (5-17) Gray 1-4, Russell 1-4, Holland 1-4, McComb 1-3, Mohamud 1-2.				
University rebounds (17) Cammack 6, Russell 5, McComb 4, Gray 1, Holland 1.				
Score by Quarters				
Guerin Catholic	8	17	15	22 – 62
University	13	8	16	7 – 44

Eagles, state runner-up last season, will host Sectional 27 and begin play on Tuesday February 27 against Herron at 6 p.m.

University sees its re-

cord drop to 10-12 and will close the regular season Thursday night hosting Phalen Leadership Academy in a Senior Night contest at The U Center.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

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.
Hamilton Heights at Rensselaer Central, 8 p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING
State swimming preliminaries, 6 p.m. at IU Natatorium

GYMNASTICS SECTIONALS
Fishers, Noblesville at The Gymnastics Company, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 24
BOYS SWIMMING
Diving preliminaries and semifinals, 9 p.m. at IU Natatorium
Swimming and diving finals, 1 p.m. at IU Natatorium

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

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

Former Pacers player gets pacemaker after heart transplant, his wife says

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
WISH-TV | wish4.com

Former Indiana Pacers player Scot Pollard has been given an external pacemaker to help his new heart.

His wife, Dawn Pollard, posted a photo to social media just before 9 p.m. Monday. She says in the post that Scot is dealing with effects of the meds and wasn't feeling well.

She says visits from the kids are making him feel better, though.

The 49-year-old has been in intensive care at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., since Feb. 6 and received a heart transplant there last Friday.

Pollard was a first-round NBA draft pick in 1997 after helping Kansas reach the NCAA Sweet 16 in four straight season. He played for the Indiana Pacers from 2003 to 2006. He also played in the NBA for the Detroit Pistons, the Sacramento Kings, the Cleveland Cavaliers, and the Boston Celtics.

IBCA boys basketball poll – Week of Feb. 18

Rank	School	Points	Record
1	Fishers (20)	438	21-1
2	Noblesville	409	19-2
3	Westfield	387	18-2
4	Kokomo	360	21-3
5	Lawrence North	354	20-3
6	Greenfield-Central (2)	320	21-0
7	Crispus Attucks	268	18-5
8	Cathedral	266	15-5
T9	Brownstown Central	254	19-4
T9	Ben Davis	254	15-5
11	Tipton	178	21-1
12	New Palestine	136	18-4
T13	Richmond	126	19-3
T13	South Bend Riley	126	19-4
15	Evansville Harrison	116	17-4
16	Center Grove	99	15-4
17	Carmel	94	11-10
18	Lake Central	80	17-3
19	Brebeuf Jesuit	76	14-5
20	Franklin Community	52	15-3

First place votes are in parentheses.

Other schools receiving votes, with records
Anderson (17-5), Belmont (18-4), Bishop Luers (17-4), Brownsburg (13-10), Concord (16-3), Crown Point (14-5), Danville (18-2), East Chicago Central (18-4), Evansville Christian School (20-2), Fort Wayne Wayne (18-3), **Hamilton Southeastern (15-7)**, Hebron (21-1), Heritage Hills (18-4), Jeffersonville (13-7), Manchester (18-2), North Central (14-7), Northridge (17-4), Scottsburg (17-4), Seymour (16-4), Terre Haute North Vigo (20-3), Valparaiso (18-5), Wapahani (19-2), Zionsville (11-11).



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