

# TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

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THURSDAY, FEB. 22, 2024

ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN  
CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



## TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Periods of rain.  
Thunder possible.  
Tonight: Showers end  
early. Partly cloudy.

HIGH: 55 LOW: 36



# Hamilton Heights salutes its school bus drivers

## The REPORTER

Today, Feb. 22, is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. In their honor, Hamilton Heights is spotlighting the valuable contributions its drivers and transportation department make to the district.

From bus and student safety to route planning and maintenance, it takes good communication and a strong, coordinated effort between Heights personnel, parents, police, and highway departments to provide Heights' roughly 1,200 bus riders safe and timely travel.

In addition to daily routes, drivers also cover athletic event trips, educational field trips, and other school-sponsored activities. With a fleet of some 40 school buses, Heights' bus drivers bring over 360 combined years of safe driving



(LEFT) Rodney Cummings has been driving a Hamilton Heights school bus for 20 years. He loves his job, and it shows. (CENTER) Barrie Summers and her daughter Devon. Summers is one of the newest members of the Hamilton Heights transportation team. For Summers, the job offers the flexibility she needs as a parent. (RIGHT) Driving a bus for Hamilton Heights allows Linda Bragg the opportunity to earn supplemental income and provide a needed service to the school.

experience to the district. They are friends and neighbors who live and work in the community. They are also the first people Heights students and parents see in the morning and the last they see in the afternoon. Some of Heights drivers have been driving for Heights for more than 30 years.

See Drivers . . . Page 2

# A bay of flour

Mother told this story of the day the aroma of freshly baked bread filled our kitchen. Its heady smell greets anyone who opens our door. Does anything smell better?

Once upon a time I (Mom) did not care much for homemade bread – or baker's bread either for that matter. I even wondered why my mother-in-law baked round loaves. Why not the usual rectangles?

When I was 35 or so, Grandma Theresa Adler broke her right arm. That was drastic. Grandpa was a non-cooker; he didn't like nor have the time to eat out. I filled the gap by keeping them supplied with freshly pared potatoes, carrots, etc. Grandma used her left hand and got along rather well.

Verna was five that fall and stayed with Grandma two or three evenings each week. Grandma taught her to scrape carrots and do small kitchen chores.

But Grandpa missed the homemade bread. That was his mainstay. Grandma couldn't knead the dough. Verna was too small.

That fall Grandpa had already taken the wheat to Geneva flour mill. There he exchanged it for the winter's supply of flour. One morning he brought me a 25-pound sack of the white stuff.

I baked pies, cakes, cookies, doughnuts – too many. But yeast bread! Never! Biscuits, pancakes, yes. Bread, no. I didn't like it, I didn't have time. You know the excuses one can find to not do what one does not wish to do.

Grandpa did not ask me to bake bread and I knew he enjoyed the pies. The flour was just a gift he knew I could use.

But Grandpa worked hard and didn't ask for much.

One day I bought some yeast. The children wanted plenty of crust. Round loaves were the answer.

And the aroma. Does anything smell better! Even my initial attempts were edible.

Grandpa soon brought me the second bag of flour.

DHA/10/29/86 (Verna was five so this happened fall of 1952.)

# Vulnerability brings blessings

Openly talking about and sharing my disability and all that comes with it is fairly new to me.

In fact, if you knew me growing up you may even be surprised that I am being so open. I used to be the exact opposite, and except for a select few people, I just didn't talk about my disability, or the struggles that it causes.

Part of that was because growing up, even though I was disabled, I didn't have a diagnosis. So, it was hard to talk about something when I didn't even know what I was talking about. A frequently asked question growing up was, "What is wrong with you?"

That question immediately sent me into a panic. It was hard reliving the fact that I didn't know what was "wrong" every time someone would ask me. I felt so embarrassed when I would say "Well, I don't really know." People would look at me like I had lost my mind, and some would even question me saying, "What do you mean you don't know?"

That happened hundreds of times before I was diagnosed, and I carried a lot of shame around for many years because of that. Until I was officially diagnosed five years ago, I just didn't speak of my disability too much.

## COLUMNIST



RAY ADLER  
Ask Adler

# Ugh . . . that's a pretty big donation!

Hamilton County Harvest benefits from TikTok/Kroger partnership

## Submitted

TikTok influencer @Ugh\_Madison gained national attention for a recent surprise visit to an Indianapolis Kroger store. She put on an apron and went to work, spending several hours on the job, performing different tasks before being recognized. Madison then entertained her subscribers with a TikTok post that followed her day as a Kroger volunteer, also captivating *Business Insider*.

Kroger then reached out to be Madison's first brand partnership, inviting the influencer to its Marketplace store in Fishers to see what it's really like to work at Kroger. During her job shadow day, Madison arranged flowers, bagged groceries, and decorated cakes. In her post after that visit, Madison called it "the best day ever."

This is the first-of-its-kind collaboration for Kroger and an influencer, and the innovative partnership made it possible for Madison to gain experience she had not anticipated in Kroger philanthropy. Kroger pledged to support local hunger relief based on views of Madison's posts.



Photo provided

Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank Executive Director Anita Hagen (second from left) accepts Kroger's \$4,000 donation to the food bank thanks to the volunteerism of TikTok influencer @Ugh\_Madison.

On Wednesday, Madison joined members of the Kroger team for a \$4,000 donation to fund hunger relief in Hamilton County.

Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank received the donation at Kroger Marketplace, 11700 Olio Road, Fishers.

Wednesday's donation in Fishers supports Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste hunger relief plan, a commitment to Kroger communities around the country. Since its inception

in 2017, Zero Hunger | Zero Waste has given more than \$1.3 billion to hunger relief, which includes 582 million pounds of surplus fresh food rescued and donated for a total of 3 billion meals directed to communities.

# Democrats elect Jocelyn Vare as chairperson

Former Fishers City Council member focused on growth & strengthening party

## The REPORTER

On Saturday, Feb. 17, the Hamilton County Democratic Party elected former Fishers City Councilor Jocelyn Vare to serve as its chairperson.

Precinct chairs and vice chairs were called to an election to select a chair to finish outgoing Chair Dayna Colbert's term. Colbert resigned to focus on her role as Executive Director for the Indiana Democratic Party.

"Congratulations to Jocelyn Vare on becoming the next Hamilton County Chair," Colbert said. "Jocelyn knows

how important the upcoming election is and has spent the last few years as an important voice in the Fishers community for fairness and growth. She helped pave the way for past, current and future candidates. Democrats are uniting for 2024 and are ready to bring balance to Hoosier politics."

Vare brings a variety of experience from her time as Fishers City Councilor, her leadership in the communications



Vare

and business world, and her commitment to the Hamilton County community.

"My goal continues to be strengthening Hamilton County Democrats – candidates and voters – to achieve a healthy political balance here for the first time," Vare said. "This goal is shared by a skyrocketing number of Democratic volunteers who devote time and effort to serve as the backbone of our growing party. There are more

Democratic voters in Hamilton County than ever before. Our candidates are strong and ready to lead."

Vare's first priority is supporting Democratic candidates in the upcoming election.

"Voters in Hamilton County will have important choices on their ballot this November and the Hamilton County Democratic Party will make sure that all voters are informed with the facts and prepared to use their voices," Vare said. "When Hamilton County

See Vare . . . Page 2

## COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN  
Disability in the City

See Blessings . . . Page 2

## DRIVERS

For example, Linda Hodgins has some 35 years of experience driving a school bus for Heights. Hodgins, who subbed for two years before a full-time driver job became available, only planned to drive while her own kids were in school. Soon one of her grandsons will be riding the bus to school.

“Driving a bus is a good job,” Hodgins said. “Oh, you will have some rough days. But the good ones outweigh the rougher ones by far.”

For Hodgins, it’s all the people that she meets that help make her job one she really enjoys.

Kim Brown, who was let go from her corporate job after 30 years and has been a Heights bus driver for six years, agrees.

“Heights provided training and it was close to home,” said Brown, whose husband, Jody, has been driving for Heights for eight years. “I wanted something that wasn’t so many hours. The best part of the job is the hugs I get along with getting

to watch the kids grow from year to year.”

Brown said the most difficult part is driving and having discipline problems you can’t see or do anything about. This is where parents can help make a difference in terms of behavior, manners, and respect. These positive behaviors carry on to the bus and at school helping to make students’ school days healthier, happier, and more successful.

Rodney Cummings, who has been driving for Heights for 20 years, says it’s the kids and the people he works with that he likes best about his job.

“Being a bus driver is more than a job,” explained Cummings, who loves his job, and it shows. “It’s an adventure. It truly is an adventure. Day in day out. You never know what you’re going to get from the kids. They’re full of totally different personalities on a daily basis. And for the most part, it’s always a positive experience. So, if you want your summers off and you want

an adventure – this is the job and the place for you!”

Linda Bragg, a driver for Hamilton Heights for nine years, said it’s a secondary job that allows her to still clean houses – something she has been doing for over for over 25 years. For her and the other drivers, it’s a role that you earn through training, lots of testing and hard work – to earn their CDL, hired for the privilege to drive a school bus, and accept the responsibility to get students to and from school and events safely.

A highlight of the day for Bragg is when the kids show that they care and appreciate her.

“Another plus is the beautiful sunrise and scenery most days bring,” she added.

Barrie Summers is one of the district’s newest drivers. She chose to pursue this position because it allows her to maintain a healthy and consistent balance between working and being a full-time single parent, and to be off during the summer.

For her, the best aspect of her work is the daily interaction with the students while transporting them to their destinations safely.

“Making an effort to ensure each student begins and ends their school day by way of a pleasant bus ride is very fulfilling,” Summers said. “School bus driving is much more than simply providing transportation. It is about connecting with students on an individual level, and allowing them to feel seen, heard, and secure by the driver during the bus ride.”

“We have a really great transportation team,” Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood said. “I want to recognize and thank our incredible bus drivers who provide safe transportation to school and home and to and from events. That’s about 940 miles daily to deliver its passengers to their school or home destinations. Our drivers are good stewards, role models and an important link in the education chain at Heights.”

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## BLESSINGS

from Page 1

It was like the script flipped when I was diagnosed. I had this nudging to share more of my story. I felt like I finally knew all of me and I felt more confident to share. As I got involved with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, I felt like I had a purpose to start sharing my story to reach others who may be feeling alone. I started out serving as MDA’s Indiana state ambassador. I would go where fundraisers were being presented to different partners of the MDA with the executive director. He would introduce the fundraiser and goals, and then I did what was called the “mission moment.”

That’s the part where I connected my story to MDA’s mission. He and I would brainstorm ideas of ways we could help and make connections to reach others. He suggested I could start doing some videos they could share to reach families and individuals living with muscular dystrophy. When he first brought up the idea of making videos, I was intimidated by it. I really couldn’t see myself doing that! He encouraged me to do so, and as time went on, I stumbled my way through it. I guess you could say I have gotten more comfortable with it.

Sometimes, we just need that one person to push us outside of our comfort zone.

I will never forget the first message I got from someone from a different country who had run across one of my videos. It said, “I just looked at your page.

Thanks for letting so many available information on growing up with a physical disability. As a parent of a child with a physical disability, has given me one more good prospect to go ahead with HOPE. You are beautiful by the way. May your path ahead be always bright and full of joys.”

If I was still questioning being vulnerable and sharing my story to help others, after reading that, I would no longer question why I was doing what I was doing. Through sharing my experience of living with a disability to help others, I had given ONE person HOPE! I get emotional when I think about the many after that who have sent very similar messages. They felt hopeless, and finding someone who has walked a similar path gives them hope. I longed for that growing up.

Sometimes I don’t feel worthy of some of the messages I receive. However, to me, it just solidifies that by walking humbly courageously, and opening myself up with a mission of reaching others who are feeling alone, I am on the path meant for me. There is purpose in the struggle. I have been blessed by being vulnerable.

Until next time ...

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

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## VARE

citizens pledge to never skip a vote, their voices make Indiana a better place to live.”

Prior to her election as chair, Vare served as an at-large member of Fishers City Council and the first Democrat ever elected to Fishers municipal office. Vare ran for Indiana State Senate in 2022, earning over 16,000 votes from Fishers residents. A Hamilton

County resident for over 25 years, she is a mom of two adult children, a local small business owner, a volunteer, and a champion for the community.

Vare is a member of the current class of Hoosier Women Forward, a statewide leadership training program designed to empower Democratic women to become more active

participants in politics and leaders in their communities. She is a graduate of Fishers City Government Academy, Hamilton County Leadership Academy, Ball State’s Economic Development Course and Community Development Course. She is the chairperson of the Fishers Arts + Culture Commission and has been an advocate for its diverse cre-

ative community. In 2021, she was recognized as an Impact Award nominee, one of 30 alumni designated in the Hamilton County Leadership Academy’s 30-year history.

Vare’s term began immediately upon election on Feb. 17 and will continue until March 2025.

For more information, visit [hamcodemsin.org](http://hamcodemsin.org).

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# How did I get here?

My name is Mary McBride. I am 28 years old. I live here in Hamilton County where I grew up.

After graduating high school in 2014, my boyfriend Justin and I got married. We had big plans. I would work and put him through drafting school. When he graduated and found work, we'd start our family. I always wanted four kids, two girls and two boys. Justin preferred just two, one of each.

Circumstances dictated a different path for our family. Life happened.

By 2018, our second daughter was born, and Justin's progress towards a degree and a job was still over a year away. My dad got sick and, being the only daughter around, it fell to me to help my mother care for him.

We never planned to be hungry. We never planned to bottom out. It just happened. Looking back on our life together, it's clear that we made some poor choices.

First, we couldn't afford tuition, so Justin and I both took jobs. We planned to save money so he could go back to school the following year and we'd be back on track. Then the bank repossessed our car. We moved in with my folks but the strain on our marriage was growing with each week. We rented a small two-bedroom place up north. My parents would try to help us with costs, and I am so grateful for all that they did. We

COLUMNIST



MARK HALL  
The Feeding Team Feature

knew that we had to make it on our own.

The same week that Justin took a job in Oklahoma, I found out that we were pregnant with our third child. Now we are really in a jam, Justin's out of state, I'm working, and my retired parents are on a fixed income and can't help.

We didn't plan to be here, and we certainly don't want to be here. Then I found out that our soon-to-be family of five makes too much money to qualify for public assistance. We are literally on our own.

Boom! Then comes the pandemic. Fortunately, Justin's job was what they call "essential" meaning he kept his job. I, however, wasn't so lucky.

I can remember people telling me, "Mary, hold on, it will get better." As much as I'd like to believe that, I'd see what was in the cupboard. Justin was sending home all that he could, and it just wasn't enough to get the family to a place of stability. We were food challenged.

The next two years were very tough. I took work where I could. My father passed away. I learned about food pantries at churches and was fortunate to meet the wonderful people at the Good Samaritan Network. I don't know what we would have done if it wasn't for their support.

Fast forward to 2024, we are back on track, Justin

works as a supervisor for a large manufacturing company here in town, and we volunteer providing meals to people in need.

I'm telling my story to inform and enlighten people who live in Hamilton County. Hunger is real, the struggle is real, and my family depended on the generosity of others to get us through. I never wanted to be there but if my story helps someone else, wonderful.

*This story is a composite of several people's stories. To protect their anonymity, we blended several stories together to illustrate the point. There are food-challenged neighbors in Hamilton County. Hunger is real in our neck of the woods.*

*Feeding Team provides a way and a place for those in need to get food for their family. While each pantry really is just a big wooden yellow box, it means so much more for donors and for families in need. You are welcome to join us as together we fight to eliminate hunger in Hamilton County.*

\*\*\*

With over 47,000 food-challenged neighbors in Hamilton County, [FeedingTeam.org](http://FeedingTeam.org) is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides outdoor 24/7/365 no-questions-asked free food pantries throughout the county.

The pantries exist to meet the food insecurity needs of gap families, neighbors who may not qualify for public assistance and could use a few meals before payday. The pantries serve as many food-challenged neighbors

**FeedingTeam.org  
Facts**

58 pantries  
10,000 meals in Dec. 2023  
Over 30 volunteer families

as possible, and our hearts are with those who, like my family, could not always make ends meet.

Thank you for supporting the pantries. We love serving with so many neighbors across Hamilton County. In future columns, we will share more stories about how your generosity served neighbors in times of need. The face of hunger in Hamilton County is not what you may think.

In practical terms, this straightforward way to help neighbors is having real impact on lives, families, and our communities. Thank you. A few meals can change the course of a person's life. A can of green beans means so much more when you have nothing to feed your kids.

Would you like to get involved? Volunteer opportunities are available. We are evaluating new pantry locations. If you think you have a potential location, please contact us.

Mark and Lisa Hall are the Founders of Feeding Team. They may be reached at [lisa@feedingteam.org](mailto:lisa@feedingteam.org) and [mark@feedingteam.org](mailto:mark@feedingteam.org) or by calling (317) 832-1123.

**Thanks for  
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The REPORTER**

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# Noblesville Schools listed among the top employers in the nation by *Forbes Magazine*

## The REPORTER

Noblesville Schools announced Wednesday it has been named one of America's Best Midsize Employers by Forbes Magazine. The district was rated No. 18 in the national ranking, the highest of any organization in Indiana.

"Our staff is exceptional and we're proud to be recognized for our unique culture of caring, innovation and excellence," Superintendent Dr. Dan Hile said. "We place a high value on employee recognitions, professional development, community service, staff celebrations, competitive compensation and benefits, mentor networks, and safety and mental well-being. Noblesville Schools is a great place to be and we appreciate this prestigious honor."

The annual ranking is conducted by Forbes in partnership with market research firm Statista and is

based on a survey of more than 170,000 U.S.-based workers at American companies. Organizations with 1,000 to 5,000 employees were deemed midsize employers and survey respondents were asked to rate their employer, and if they would recommend their employer to others. Companies pay no fee to be considered.

Noblesville Schools is the largest employer in Noblesville with approximately 1,800 employees. In addition to educators, the district depends on many other types of employees to serve students including facility personnel, social workers, technology staff, food services, bus drivers, secretaries, human resources, finance professionals, and more.

Learn more about careers at Noblesville Schools [here](#).

[Click here](#) to see the full list of Forbes honorees.



Hile



Photos provided by Noblesville Schools

## RQAW I DCCM announces Lisa Casler as company president

### Submitted

RQAW I DCCM, an architecture and engineering firm located in Fishers, has announced Lisa Casler as the new RQAW President, effective February 2024. This marks a pivotal moment in the firm's trajectory following its acquisition by DCCM, an infrastructure design firm headquartered in Houston, Texas.

Founded in 1954, RQAW I DCCM has established itself as a leader in the industry over the last 70 years, providing exceptional service and helping their clients build thriving communities. Acquired by DCCM in 2022, this partnership has allowed RQAW to expand its reach and enhance its capabilities through DCCM's diverse divisions throughout the United States.

As a graduate of Purdue

University and resident of Hamilton County, Casler has over 27 years of experience in the transportation engineering industry. She began her career in 1997 at the Indiana Department of Transportation, going on to work for an Indianapolis-based engineering firm for 12 years.



Casler

Since joining RQAW in 2016, Casler has made significant contributions to the company's success. She has excelled in her roles of Director of Roadway Services and, most recently, Division Director of Transportation, where she was responsible for overseeing the delivery of all transportation projects and services across seven departments. Her commitment to excellence and ability to lead has been the

See Casler . . . Page 6

## Noblesville & Carmel Lions assist with Gleaners' mobile pantry



Photo provided by Noblesville Lions Club / Jake Doll

On Feb. 15, the Noblesville and Carmel Lions assisted Gleaners in serving over 120 families with food from the mobile pantry. The Carmel Lions and Noblesville Lions are proud to assist Gleaners with this important monthly project in Hamilton County. (Above) Noblesville Lions included Mark Bachar, Ron Williamson, Jeff Kozicki, Joe Arrowood, Ed Shea, Terry Dawson, Steve Shaw, and Joe Connerley. Carmel Lions included Bill Ryan and Bob Yunker.



# NICKEL PLATE EXPRESS

## Easter Express

A farmer has misplaced some eggs and is pretty sure they are somewhere on the Nickel Plate Express!  
Come share in a little rail adventure as you roll through Hamilton County's northern countryside to see the trees in bloom while enjoying a snack and a springtime story.  
**March 23, 24 and 30**  
**Tickets at [NickelPlateExpress.com](https://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



# District South breaks ground in downtown Fishers

Mixed-use village includes office, commercial suites & apartment homes

The REPORTER

The City of Fishers, Rebar Development, and project partners broke ground Wednesday on District South in downtown Fishers.

The \$33 million investment brings an urban village concept to the Nickel Plate District that includes a new headquarters for The Annex Group, as well as four additional buildings with office space, commercial suites, and apartment homes.

“I’m excited to see the Nickel Plate District vision continue to come to life thanks to the leadership of Rebar Development with the addition of District South,” Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness said. “Today’s ceremony marks the beginning of a series of developments on the south side of 116th Street that will spur more vibrancy and opportunities to live, work, and play in downtown Fishers.”

Announced last year, District South consists of five buildings and creates a multi-generational, mixed-use village that is walkable, bike-friendly, and pet-friendly with direct connection to the Cheeney Creek Trail and the Nickel Plate Trail.

Anchoring District South, The Annex Group plans to relocate up to 40 full-time employees to a four-story, 15,060 square-foot, class-A office space in the center of the village. There are 42 residential loft



Photo provided by City of Fishers

apartments on the upper floors of the building with a shared rooftop outdoor patio, cafe, and work from home lounge.

“As a company, we crossed the 100-employee count within the last year, and we anticipate more expansion in Indiana and beyond in the near future,” The Annex Group CEO Kyle Bach said. “District South is unique in the fact that it has the square footage to grow with us. This complex will have so much to offer our team, making collaboration and everyday conversations more plentiful. Fishers will also be a great place for us to call home.”

The four surrounding buildings in the village include a mix of apartment homes and commercial suites designed for small businesses. Residents, en-



Rendering provided

trepreneurs, and employees located in District South will share luxury amenities, including a state-of-the-art fitness center, an engaging civic plaza, a courtyard with a grilling station, fire pit, and water feature, as well as the rooftop amenity in The Annex Group building.

The 84 apartment homes at District South feature one- and two-bedroom floor plans with large balconies or patios, modern kitchens

with stainless steel appliances, a tile backsplash, and quartz countertops, as well as in-unit washer/dryer. Parking options for the development include on-street parking and access to a nearby parking garage along South Street.

“District South will be a great addition to an already thriving Nickel Plate District,” Rebar Development CEO Shelby Bowen said. “The village will be a great mix of District South residents, employees and guests of Annex, and visitors using the Cheeney Creek and Nickel Plate trails to enjoy downtown Fishers.”

District South is expected to start pre-leasing late 2024 with a completion date of early 2025. Future tenants and residents are encouraged to join the interest list at [DistrictSouthApartments.com](https://DistrictSouthApartments.com) or follow the progress on Facebook and Instagram at @DistrictSouthApts.

WESTFIELD

youth

Assistance

PROGRAM

Advocate • Connect • Empower

## Help WYAP make summer camps better for local youth

The REPORTER

One of the connections that the Westfield Youth Assistance Program (WYAP) provides for youth is enrolling them in a variety of summer camps. Kids will learn new skills, meet new friends, and make memories that will last a lifetime. When they return, they are so excited to share stories of all their summer adventures.

WYAP strives to continue to connect youth with these camps, and your help is needed. Attending summer

camp requires many supplies like reusable water bottles, sunscreen, and bug spray. WYAP has made an [Amazon Wishlist](#) for summer camp supply needs, and your help in fulfilling these needs would be much appreciated.

WYAP is looking to collect all of supplies by Thursday, March 28.

[Click here](#) to browse the Amazon Wishlist.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping make summer unforgettable for Westfield youth.

## CASLER

from Page 4

instrumental in advancing the goals of the company.

Troy Woodruff, former President and continuing Chief Executive Officer of RQAW I DCCM expressed unwavering confidence in the direction of the company.

“Lisa is a recognized industry leader in the A&E world and the ideal person to lead RQAW’s next chapter of growth and success,” Woodruff said. “Her strong leadership prepares RQAW well into the future to better serve both our clients and employees. She not only earned this promotion, she is ready for this promotion.”

James F. (Jim) Thompson, DCCM Chairman and CEO, also expressed his enthusiasm for Lisa’s appointment.

“Lisa’s leadership exemplifies the principles we value at DCCM,” Thompson said. “Her tenacity and drive

are the same qualities that define DCCM’s success, and her strategic vision will undoubtedly propel our company to new heights.”

As the first female President of RQAW, Casler will offer a fresh and unique perspective as a woman in a traditionally male-dominated industry.

“I look forward to the challenge of shifting my focus from strictly transportation to the company’s overall bigger picture,” Casler said. “Being a part of DCCM has given RQAW the tremendous opportunity to become a national presence while still nurturing our local client relationships, and I am committed to preserving the reputation we have built over the last seven decades. The future of RQAW I DCCM is very bright, and I appreciate the opportunity to lead this incredible team.”

Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

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# Sen. Baldwin welcomes students to Statehouse

The REPORTER

State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville) welcomed the following local students to the Statehouse who served as Senate pages in January.

- Penelope Cisneros, Indianapolis, attends Creekside Middle School.
- Addy Gray, Carmel, attends Clay Middle School (pictured with State Sen. R. Michael Young).
- Sydney Hilleke, Noblesville, attends Noblesville High School (not pictured).
- Anika Veerapaneni, Carmel, attends Clay Middle School.
- Mia Smith, Carmel, attends Clay Middle School (pictured with State Sen. R. Michael Young).

Pages spend a day at the Statehouse touring the historic building, observing debates from the Senate floor, and interacting with their state senator.

"I always look forward to meeting young Hoosiers at the Statehouse," Baldwin said. "The Senate Page Program is a great opportunity for our youth to learn about state legislation and the role legislators play in it."

Students in grades six through 12 participate in the page program on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays during the legislative session. Groups serve on Wednesdays.

To learn more, visit [IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program](https://IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program).



State Sen. Baldwin and Penelope Cisneros. Photo provided



State Sen. Baldwin and Anika Veerapaneni. Photo provided



Mia Smith (left) and Addy Gray (right) with State Sen. Michael Young. Photo provided

# Clay Terrace invites you to Total Eclipse Viewing Party

The REPORTER

Clay Terrace in Carmel will play host to a Total Solar Eclipse Viewing Party from 1 to 4 p.m. on Monday, April 8. This rare event promises an unforgettable experience, and you are welcomed to share in the excitement at the Clay Terrace Lawn.

The free event will feature various fun-filled activities, including a moon bounce, live music featuring World's Apart Band and delicious local food vendors. Of course, the total eclipse of the sun is the highlight of the event, promising to be a truly awe-inspiring spectacle.

"As a community-focused destination, we are thrilled to bring together families and friends

to witness this historic moment and create lasting memories," Clay Terrace General Manager Jennifer Hillman said. "We invite everyone to mark their calendars and join us at Clay Terrace for an out-of-this-world experience!"

For everyone's protection, **registration is required** to attend. Upon arrival, registered guests will receive complimentary safety viewing glasses. Guests are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the eclipse from the grassy viewing area.



To make the experience smooth and enjoyable for all, you should make a plan ahead of time and allowing extra time to get to and from the viewing location. With some simple preparation, this will be an amazing opportunity to witness this rare celestial event at Clay Terrace.

[Click here](#) for more information on this free event.

Thanks for reading  
The REPORTER

# Indiana House honors Rep. Goodrich for his public service



State Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville) addressed the Indiana House of Representatives on Monday. Goodrich's House colleagues took time from the legislative session to formally honor and recognize his nearly six years of service as a state representative for House District 29, which includes portions of Hamilton County. Goodrich will complete his current term and not seek re-election in 2024. He serves as chair of the K-12 Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, and as a member of the House Education Committee, and the House Employment, Labor and Pensions Committee. [Click here](#) to read House Resolution 18 honoring Goodrich's service. Photo provided

# OneZone welcomes local employers to discuss disability awareness

The REPORTER

OneZone Chamber will welcome Mike Thibideau, Kelly Hartman, Brian Graham, Jason Boyer, and David Glenn as speakers for the March Luncheon. They represent Invest Hamilton County, Outside the Box, Four Day Ray, Hampton Inn Suites, and CoasterStone, respectively.

Join OneZone to hear from business leaders from different industries discuss their experiences with hir-



ing individuals with disabilities. They will share how these experiences enriched their businesses and how your own company can participate.

This event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13 at FORUM Events Center,

11313 USA Pkwy., Fishers. Registration is required by Wednesday, Feb. 28. Members and non-members are invited to attend. The cost for members is \$40 and \$60 for non-members. Reservations can be made at [OneZoneChamber.com](https://OneZoneChamber.com) or by calling (317) 436-4653.

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

Location:  
The Studio  
302 S. Main Street,  
Sheridan, IN  
RSVP to  
317-418-5232

# Artists’ Association welcomes six new members

**Submitted by Walt Thacker**

At the Hamilton County Artists’ Association (HCAA), we juried in six new member artists. After applying, these artists submitted samples of their individual works of art. We have a panel of knowledgeable members who look over their artwork and interview each on their objectives on joining us in our endeavors.

Each new artist, like all of us at the HCAA, have had a strong interest in art since childhood and have a solid education through college or taking classes on their own.

\*\*\*

**Amanda Russo** has spent many years as a middle school art teacher. She paints mainly figures and portraits but recently has been exploring her interest in florals, landscapes, Art NOUVEAU, and Impressionism.

**Laura McCormack** works with most mediums of art, from paintings and even printmaking. She loves nature and being outdoors as her work really reflects this. Her renditions of water, wildlife, and children are spot on!

**Jeff Pass** recently retired from the Army and is studying graphic design and mar-

keting. He mostly enjoys working with reclaimed wood and carving sculptured pieces. Very intricate and very detailed.

**Susan Street Cook** spent time as an elementary art teacher but later became a museum curator. With time off during the u pandemic, she reignited her passion of painting. Susan loves to Plein Air and has reconnected with and made new friends.

**Michael White** is our new photographer. He has taken a serious and creative interest in photography since high school. His passion for art photography has given him the experience for developing film and his own photographs.

**Liz Hamstra** is another multi-talented artist whose work spans across many mediums and genres. She teaches her students about creativity, craftsmanship, and attention to detail. Her passion for expressing and creating her art is obvious when viewing her work.

\*\*\*

At HCAA, we all have our individual strengths and talents in the way we produce our compositions. Come by and visit our gallery or check out one of our satellite exhibits.



**FOLLOW THE REPORTER ON FACEBOOK!**

Art provided  
You can see works from these new artists at the Hamilton County Artists’ Association in Noblesville. (Top row) Amanda Russo and Laura McCormack. (Center row) Jeff Pass and Susan Street Cook. (Bottom row) Michael White and Liz Hamstra.



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### Military Academy Nominations

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



### US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

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

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**www.spartz.house.gov**

## STORYPOINT GROUP

# Seven area senior living communities win national award

### The REPORTER

Seven StoryPoint Group senior living communities in the Indianapolis metro area – Independence Village of Avon, Independence Village of Carmel, Independence Village of Fishers East, Independence Village of Fishers South, Independence Village of Greenwood, Independence Village of Zionsville East, and Independence Village of Zionsville West – were recognized with A Place for Mom's Best of Senior Living Award of 2024.

To be eligible for the **Best of Senior Living Award**, senior living communities must have an average rating of 4.5 stars or higher and receive at least 10 reviews on **APlaceforMom.com** in 2023. This

annual award recognizes the top 1 to 2 percent of senior care providers across the U.S. and Canada, out of nearly 45,000 providers, for their exceptional care and support for seniors. What sets this award apart is that it is based on the reviews and experiences of residents and their families, making it a true honor for the winning communities.

StoryPoint Group has established itself as the foremost senior living provider in the United States, with the highest number of senior living communities to receive both the Best of Senior Living Award and the Caring.com "Caring Stars" Award.

To learn more about StoryPoint Group, please visit **StoryPoint.com**.

## EPA announces \$113M in Indiana drinking water, wastewater & stormwater infrastructure upgrades

### The REPORTER

On Tuesday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced more than \$113 million from President Biden's Investing in America agenda for Indiana drinking water and clean water infrastructure upgrades.

The funding is part of the more than \$50 billion investment in water infrastructure upgrades from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The funding will support essential water infrastructure that protects public health and treasured water bodies across the state. Almost half of this funding will be available as grants or principal forgiveness loans, ensuring funds reach underserved communities most in need of investments in water infrastructure.

"President Biden's Investing in America agenda continues to transform communities for the better with this latest infusion of funds for critical water infrastructure projects," EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan said. "With \$50 billion in total, the largest investment in water infrastructure in our nation's history, EPA will enable communities across the nation to ensure safer drinking water for their residents and rebuild vital clean water infrastructure to protect public health for decades to come."

Communities across the country are facing water infrastructure challenges. Many cities and towns have aging water infrastructure – old, broken or lead pipes carrying drinking water and wastewater treatment plants in need of major upgrades. Some communities struggle to maintain adequate stormwater infrastructure to effectively manage flood impacts from climate change and others need to upgrade their water treatment to address emerging contaminants like PFAS.

"Too many communities struggle to keep up with the costs of maintaining the pipes and pumps and systems to treat drinking water, convey wastewater and manage stormwater, let alone updating them," EPA Region 5 Administrator Debra Shore said. "[Tuesday's] announcement is yet another financial boost for our state and local partners working to protect human health and the environment as they manage our water resources and strive to improve quality of life."

The funding EPA announced for Indiana is part of a \$5.8 billion investment through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF), one of EPA's signature water investment programs. This multi-billion-dollar investment will fund state-run, low-interest loan programs to address key challenges, with \$2.6 billion going to the Clean Water SRF for wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and \$3.2 billion going to the Drinking Water SRF for drinking water infrastructure nationwide.

The funding includes allotments for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law General Supplemental funds and Emerging Contaminant funds for SRF programs for fiscal year 2024. EPA anticipates announcing allocations for billions in additional resources in fiscal year 2024 for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Lead Service Line Replacement fund later this Spring.

For more information, including state-by-state allocation of 2024 funding, and a breakdown of EPA State Revolving Fund funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, please visit the **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund website** and the **Clean Water State Revolving Fund website**.

# Will honored with Franciscan Health Healing Hands Award

### The REPORTER

David Will, MD, an internal medicine physician and hospitalist with Indiana Internal Medicine Consultants (IIMC), who has practiced at Franciscan Health Indianapolis since 2015, was named the latest winner of the Franciscan Health Healing Hands Award.

The Healing Hands Award recognizes physicians for excellence in clinical skills, patient relations, research, stewardship, and reflection of the hospital's ministry values and mission.

The nomination came

from several hospital staff members. Among their comments:

"Dr. Will takes the time to get to know the first names of all the nurses and pharmacists with whom he works. He shares updates about patients so that the entire team knows what to expect each day. As far as patients are concerned, he is patient, gentle and takes time to answer all questions everyone has."

"He made the patients



Will

"One weekend, Dr. Will came in at 4 a.m. to start rounding to help with shortages. He saw more than 35 patients, making sure everyone was safe and taken care of."

"Dr. Will visited with a grieving family and spoke

feel welcome even though he had just met some of them for the first time that day. He sat at their bedsides and listened to their concerns, and patients were very impressed by him."

profound words of compassion and comfort. The family was visibly comforted. Dr. Will is an embodiment of Franciscan values and Christ-like care."

Board-certified in internal medicine, Dr. Will earned his medical degree at Rush Medical College in Chicago. He completed his residency training at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

For more information on the Healing Hands Award or to make a nomination, visit **FranciscanHealth.org/HealingHands**.

# ON-LINE AUCTION for THE TOY COLLECTION & PERSONAL PROPERTY OF RON SOTTONG

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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](http://hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps).

NOTE: Candidates for precinct committee 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

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 Raju Chinthala (R)  
 Max Engling (R)  
 Chuck Goodrich (R)  
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 LD Powell (R)  
 Larry L. Savage Jr. (R)  
 \*Victoria Spartz (R)

### GOVERNOR

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 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

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 Christopher Hartig (D)  
 Alaina Shonkwiler (R)

#### District 32

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

#### District 37

\*Todd Huston (R)

#### District 39

Daniel (Danny) Lopez (R)

#### District 88

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

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 Angela Brown Swenson (R)

### JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT 1

\*Michael A. Casati (R)

### JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT 6

\*Stephenie K. Gookins (R)

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### 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)

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# Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra to present Stravinsky & Carmina Burana

### The REPORTER

Partake in the sacred and the profane with Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

The text of *Carmina*, written by medieval monks, celebrates dancing, drinking, spring, gambling, and other worldly pleasures. The famous "O Fortuna" chorus reminds us that fate will always have her say.

Hans Graf conducts the ISO, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, and the Indianapolis Children's Choir, along with Soprano Ashley Fabian, Countertenor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, and Baritone Hyung Yun.

**Click here** to buy tickets to the ISO's concert. Performances begin at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, and at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24 at Hilbert Circle Theatre, 45 Monument Circle, Indianapolis.

For more information regarding the policies of the Hilbert Circle Theatre, please visit the ISO [website](#).

### About Hans Graf

Known for his wide range of repertoire and creative programming, the distinguished Austrian conductor Hans Graf is one of today's most highly respected and experienced musicians. With Hans

Graf, "a brave new world of music-making under inspired direction" (*The Straits Times*) began at the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, where he was unanimously appointed Chief Conductor from the 2020-21 season, and then Music Director from the 2022-23 season.

Maestro Graf also currently holds the title of Principal Guest Conductor of the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra of Denmark and formerly served as Music Director of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, L'Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine, The Basque National Orchestra Euskadi, and the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg.

### About Indianapolis Symphonic Choir

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir is proud to be one of the nation's most established and dynamic musical institutions, marking its 87th year in the 2023-24 concert season. With a deep commitment to ensuring its musical reach extends to all in its community, including those in underserved populations, the Choir has supported women and minority artists through commissions, collaborative

projects with guest soloists and ensembles, and the presentation and promotion of quality repertoire that is not yet widely recognized. Comprising nearly 200 volunteer singers, this highly active organization reaches over 25,000 patrons each season. The Symphonic Choir – under the direction of Artistic Director Eric Stark – is led by a professional staff and governed by a Board of Directors.

### About Indianapolis Children's Choir

Each year, the Indianapolis Children's Choir (ICC) serves more than 2,500 young people between the ages of 18 months and 18 years who are enrolled in the ICC's choirs and music education programs. Founded in 1986 by Henry Leck, and under the leadership of Artistic Director Joshua Pedde, the ICC nurtures and inspires student achievement through quality music education and the pursuit of artistic excellence in choral music performance.

Now located at the ICC Performing Arts Center in Indianapolis, participants in the ICC's programs represent the diversity of central

Indiana with children from nearly 20 counties, including all the Indianapolis area suburbs and nearby rural communities. These children come from more than 360 schools and 56 school districts. Each week, the ICC holds 110 rehearsals and music classes.

### About the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, at home and thriving in the heart of Indianapolis, offers an exceptional artistic and musical experience. The orchestra is open to all and dedicated to creating an inclusive and innovative experiential environment that is inspiring, educational, and welcoming.

The ISO celebrates historically beloved performances while engaging audiences by introducing new voices through programming including the IU Health Plans Classical Series, the Printing Partners Pops Series, the holiday traditions of AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration and the popular Film Series presented by Bank of America. For more information, visit the [ISO website](#).

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

### THE DEATHS OF RACHEL AND ISAAC

*Jacob had twelve sons:*

*The sons of Leah: Reuben the firstborn of Jacob, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun.*

*The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.*

*The sons of Rachel's servant Bilhah: Dan and Naphtali.*

*The sons of Leah's servant Zilpah: Gad and Asher.*

*These were the sons of Jacob, who were born to him in Paddan Aram.*

*Genesis 35:22-26 (NIV)*

## Marjorie "Jean" Anderson

December 4, 1928 – February 19, 2024

Marjorie "Jean" Anderson, 95, Noblesville (formerly Carmel), passed away on February 19, 2024, in Noblesville. She was born December 4, 1928, to Edith Rachel (Camp) and William H. Wyant in Lapel, Ind.

Jean graduated from Lapel High School in 1947, attended Taylor University and graduated from Indiana University School of Nursing.

She worked as a registered nurse at Indiana University Medical Center, Methodist Hospital, and finished her career as a school nurse at Carmel Clay Schools.

Jean is survived by her husband of 70 years, Myrnest H. Anderson; daughter, Charone Leshner (John) of Venice, Fla.; son, James Anderson (Sue) of Lapeer, Mich.; four grandchildren, Kristen Anderson (Benito LaRosa), Jessica Anderson (Casey Canaday), Jennifer Goldsberry (Aaron), and Joseph Leshner; three great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Joan Everitt of Lapel, Ind., and Rachel Martin (Harold) of Campbellsburg, Ind.

Jean was formerly a member of Carmel United Methodist Church where she was a member of the WSCS, taught Sunday school classes and served on a variety of committees. More recently, she was an associate member at Christ United Methodist Church in Venice, Fla., and member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Carmel.

Visitation will begin at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27 with the Funeral Service to follow at 2 p.m. at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville, with Rev. Brian White officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Alzheimer's Association, Attn: Donor Services, 225 N. Michigan Ave., 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 ([tinymceurl.com/mrffbbduc](mailto:tinymceurl.com/mrffbbduc)) or Operation Classroom, 2705 Shallowford Dr., Valparaiso, IN 46383 ([tinymceurl.com/fszm2zfn](mailto:tinymceurl.com/fszm2zfn)). Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)



### Meeting Notices

The Delaware Township Board and Trustee will meet to discuss the Trustee's Annual Report and the adoption of minutes at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, at the Delaware Township Government Center, 9090 E. 131st St., Fishers.

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, in the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St., Carmel.

### The Reporter's policy on obituaries

The Hamilton County Reporter does not charge families for publishing obituary notices in our pages. Every obituary appearing in online editions Wednesday through Saturday also appears in our Monday print editions. In order to continue to offer this as a community service, we ask that obituaries not exceed 600 words. The limitations of space may not allow for longer ones to appear in print. Families and funeral homes are asked to send obituaries to [obits@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:obits@ReadTheReporter.com).

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# HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

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Swimming

# Carmel boys go for 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive team state title, new champions will be crowned

The REPORTER

This year's IHSAA boys state swimming finals will see many new champions, and Carmel is expected to be in the mix when the prelims begin Friday at the IU Natatorium.

Six of the eight individual swimming events had senior champions last year, with the Greyhounds' Aaron Shackell (200 and 500 freestyles) and Sean Sullivan (100 free) among them. This gives several of last year's top swimmers a chance to swim their way on to the top spot of the podium in 2024.

One of the names to watch is Carmel's Gregg Enoch. As a junior, Enoch placed second in the 500 free (behind Shackell) and the individual medley (behind Zionsville's Will Modglin). Enoch is now a senior and is top-seeded in both events for this year's state competition. His seed time in the IM is 1 minute, 47.51 seconds and 4:26.13 in the 500 free. In addition, Enoch was part of state champion relay teams last year in the medley and 400 free relays.

The Greyhounds could get quite a few points out of all those events. Michael Gorey is seeded second in the IM, while Brian Qian is rated fourth. In the 500 free, Lewis Zhang is the third seed and Anderson Kopp is rated fourth. Lewis Zhang holds the second seed in the 200 free, while Ethan Zhang is the third seed. As for the relays, Carmel is top-seeded in the 200 and 400 free relays and the No. 2 seed in the medley relay.

The 'Hounds have won the last nine team state championships and are in very good position to extend that streak to 10. Carmel qualified 24 out of 27 swims to Friday's state preliminaries by wins and/or state cut times, with the Greyhounds' other three swims receiving callbacks. Those three callback times have the potential to score points: William

Lathrop is seeded 16th in the 200 free, Qian is rated 17th in the butterfly and Landon Holmes is seeded 12th in the breaststroke.

\*\*\*

Fishers will have 12 swims at the state preliminaries. Eleven of them qualified by win and/or time, with one earning a callback. That was Thomas Johanneman in the backstroke.

The highest seed for the Tigers is Jonathan Hines. He is rated second in the 500 free and sixth in the 200 free. Fishers is also seeded fourth in the 400 free relay.

Meanwhile, Hamilton Southeastern has eight swims at the state prelims. The Royals had three qualify by sectional win, another make it with a state cut time, and four more swims got callbacks. Those were Jack Warren in the 200 and 500 freestyles, Derek Robison in the butterfly, and the 400 free relay.

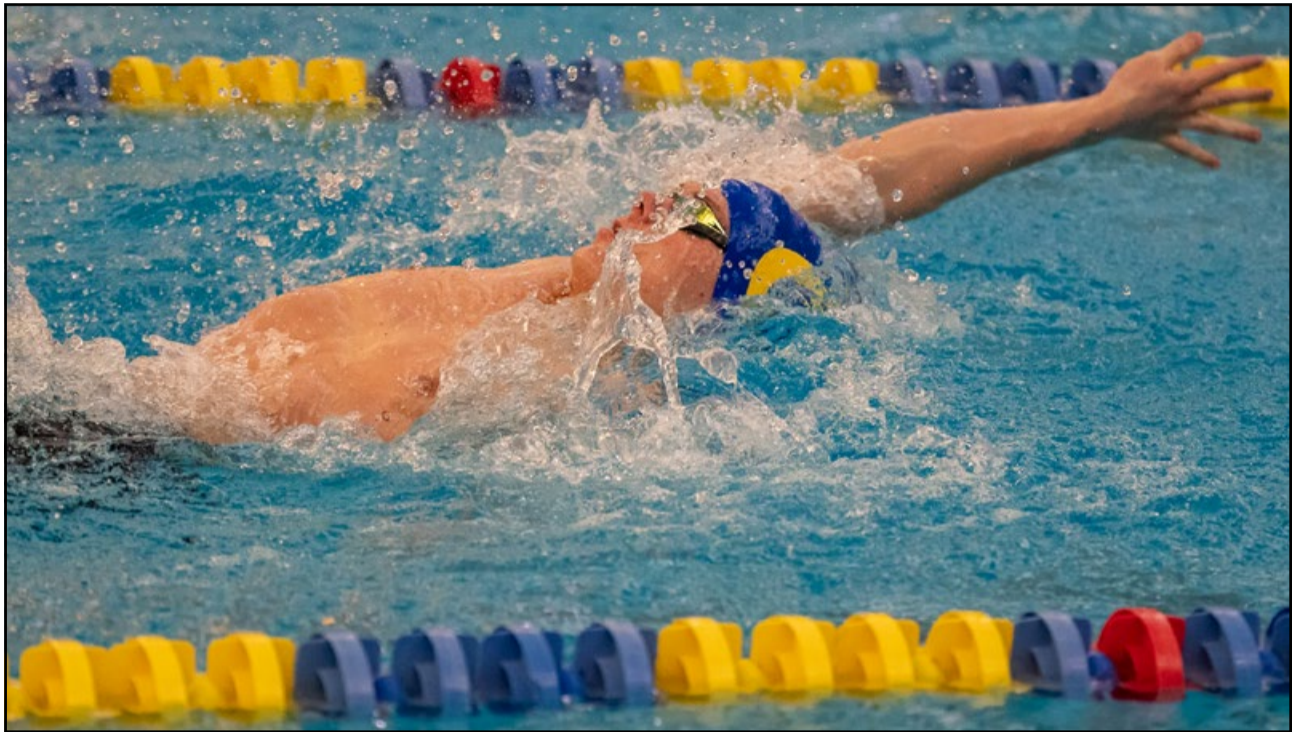
Collin Huston will be one to watch at the prelims, as he is seeded third in the breaststroke. Jihoon Jung holds the fifth seed in the IM and his time of 50.19 seconds rates him ninth in the butterfly, so he could move into the top eight and make the podium there. The top eight swimmers at the prelims qualify for the "A" Final, or championship heat, where they are guaranteed a medal and spot on the podium.

\*\*\*

Noblesville advanced six swims to the state prelims. The Millers had two state cut times at the sectional from the medley relay and Graham Kulp in the IM. Kulp is seeded eighth in that event.

Kulp also got a callback in the backstroke, while Anthony Mathis received a callback in the breaststroke, where he is seeded 14th. Noblesville's 200 and 400 freestyle relays also earned callbacks as well.

Westfield's 400 free re-



(Top) Carmel's Michael Gorey is seeded second in both the individual medley and the breaststroke at Friday's IHSAA state swimming preliminaries. (Above) Noblesville's Anthony Mathis is seeded 14th in the breaststroke.

Reporter photos by Julie Brown

lay qualified for prelims with a cut time. The Shamrocks got three callbacks, giving them a total of four swims at state. Bennett Morse advanced in the 100 free, followed by freshman Zach Welch in the 500 free. Westfield's medley relay team also got a callback.

\*\*\*

Hamilton Heights finished 1-2 in diving at the state meet last year, and the Huskies senior duo of Ethan Swart and Nathan Cox could do it again.

Swart, the defending state champion, won the Homestead regional on Tuesday with a score of 527.50 points. That's the highest score out of the four

regionals from across the state, just beating out Oak Hill's Grant Cates (525.90). Cox totaled 517.30, the third best score; he was the runner-up last year. The two other Hamilton County qualifiers also are among the top eight: Fishers' Jacob Schade has the fifth-highest regional mark (491.35) and Noblesville's Aiden Kless is seventh (465.95).

\*\*\*

Guerin Catholic and University each will have one swimmer at the state prelims. The Trailblazers' Neiman Kumler qualified by winning the 50 free at the Lawrence North sectional and finishing second in the 100 free in a cut time; he is

seeded ninth in that event. The Golden Eagles' Drew Wilhite received a callback in the backstroke.

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

**200 medley relay:** 2. Carmel 1:31.96, 7. Hamilton Southeastern 1:33.86, 13. Fishers 1:35.54, 14. Noblesville 1:36.76, 19. Westfield 1:37.39.

**200 freestyle:** 2. Lewis Zhang (C) 1:39.59, 3. Ethan Zhang (C) 1:40.10, 6. Jonathan Hines (F) 1:41.14, 16. William Lathrop (C) 1:43.10, 20. Jack


Warren (HSE) 1:43.63.

**200 individual medley:** 1. Gregg Enoch (C) 1:47.51, 2. Michael Gorey (C) 1:49.14, 4. Brian Qian (C) 1:50.92, 5. Jihoon Jung (HSE) 1:51.56, 6. Luis Sanchez (F) 1:52.54, 8. Graham Kulp (N) 1:53.17, 16. Anthony Adams Jr. (F) 1:54.35.

**50 freestyle:** 4. Andrew Shackell (C) 20.87, 11. Neiman Kumler (University) 21.24, 12. Brandon Malicki (C) 21.26, 15. Alex Koo (F) 21.32, 16. William Allen (C) 21.36.

See Swim . . . Page 13

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compared to this time last year

Sales Decreased  
January pending home sales  
compared to this time last year

↓ **4.8%**

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


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

Months of Inventory Increased

↑ **1.6%**  
1/23 vs. 1/24


Interest Rates  
30-Year Fixed

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With an APR  
of 7.037%



TOP COUNTIES

Decatur Sales Up 100%  
Putnam Sales Up 82.6%  
Bartholomew Sales Up 19.7%



**FAIR HOUSING CASES**

Total- 7  
Rental- 6  
Sales- 1  
Other- 0

# Gymnastics

## Westfield finishes 2<sup>nd</sup> at New Palestine

The REPORTER

The Westfield gymnastics team finished second in a meet at New Palestine on Tuesday.

The Shamrocks scored 99.975 points. The Dragons won the meet with a score of 101.025, with Shelbyville third (82.925). Elianna Reynolds led the Shamrocks with a second-place finish in the all-around (34.35) and had the team's highest individual score of the night with a 9.125 on the floor exercise.

Other notable performances included Heidi Burke making her backwards roll on the balance

beam, and Blair Watts scoring a 7.60 on the floor. Scores now follow.

**All-around scores:** 2. Elianna Reynolds 34.35, 4. Isa Galan 33.55, 7. Avery Mason 31.15.

**Vault:** 3. Galan 8.475, 4. Reynolds 8.30, 5. Mason 8.25.

**Uneven bars:** 2. Reynolds 8.30, 4. Galan 7.95, 8. Mason 7.55.

**Balance beam:** 2. Reynolds 8.625, 3. Galan 8.375, 6. Sara Borek 7.85.

**Floor exercise:** 2. Reynolds 9.125, 4. Galan 8.725, 7. Mason 8.45.



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## HAMILTON COUNTY SPORTS

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### Basketball

# Heights seventh-grade girls win 2024 MIC Championship

Submitted by  
Diane Handy

HHMS Seventh Grade Girls  
Basketball Head Coach

The seventh grade Lady Huskies Basketball team brought home the 2024 Mid-Indiana Conference (MIC) Championship. Early in the season the players demonstrated they had the potential for great things.

"Throughout the season we have worked on communication, feedback, mistakes, resolutions, humility, and solutions," explained Diane Handy, head coach of the team. "What made the MIC Championship win so special is the girls played with their heart, grit, and refusal to give up. They won with a team-focused approach."

"We started off with playing the Kokomo Wildcats for the MIC Tourney on Wednesday, Feb. 14," continued Coach Handy. "All players were able to contribute to this game on the court with points being scored by eight of the players, offensive plays being disrupted, and a passing game that was accurate. The Huskies won 38-11. They moved to semi-finals on Saturday, Feb. 17,

playing the Logansport Berries with the goal of making it to the final game against either the Tipton Blue Devils or Western Panthers. Again, all players were instrumental in the win with their baskets, their ability to block out and rebound, and their drive. The Huskies won 40-15.

"The championship game had our team facing a defensively aggressive team," explained Coach Handy. "At half time, the ladies were down by three points and were not playing to their ability. However, they came out after half time ready, as a team, together. In the third quarter they turned the game by playing a team-focused approach. They played together, remembered each other's strengths, and ended the quarter trailing the Panther's by five points. In this moment, during a timeout in the fourth quarter, we decided to make a defensive switch, which we believe gave our girls the confidence and the edge to come out on top. The team then saw the court, saw one another, and together they scored 14 points total while holding the Panthers to three points! Huskies take



Photo provided

The Hamilton Heights Middle School seventh Grade Girls Basketball team are this year's MIC Champs. (Back row) Coach Maddie Herr, Hallie Sheller, Annie Sheller, Reagan Van Kirk, Stella Taylor, Kaylee Smith, Skyler Worthman, Kaitlyn Schakel, and Coach Diane Handy. (Front row) Meredith Robinson, Evie Millsaps, and Gabbi Lowe.

the hard-fought win 38-32!"

Coach Handy said each player contributed to the MIC Championship win in her own way and should be proud of the part they played

in this important win.

"The seventh grade Lady Huskies will continue to build upon their success with continued team reflection and having fun," she added.

"While we continue to learn from our mistakes, we will also continue to celebrate our victories and support one another through the challenges. The ladies now know they

have what it takes to beat a tough team when they work together and support one another. The unity they showed will carry them to more victories on and off the court."

# Heights sixth-grade girls win Husky Invitational

Submitted by  
Laurie Prater

HHMS Sixth Grade Girls  
Basketball Coach

The sixth-grade Lady Huskies basketball team won the Championship at the 2024 Husky Invitational last Saturday. The season started off slow with a few big losses, but the girls worked hard physically and mentally to improve, and Saturday showcased it!

"Each player has a hand in the win," explained Coach Laurie Prater. "The girls have worked extremely hard this season. They have not only grown individually but also grown as a team. The energy and aggression on the floor were outstanding on Saturday. The Lady Huskies started the day off strong with a huge win against the Tipton Blue Devils. The final score was 31-13.

"After a brief celebration in the locker room the girls

knew their job wasn't done and began to prepare for the championship game against the Frankton Eagles," Coach Prater continued. "Earlier in the season Frankton had defeated the Huskies but the girls were determined to not allow that to happen again. The Huskies started out strong and took the lead quick and never let up. The final score of the Championship game was 23-14. Special thanks to the 6th grade cheerleaders for being so supportive and for doing such an amazing job cheering on the Huskies!"

"This has been a great group of girls to coach," added Coach Prater. "We have come a long way this season and each and every girl has improved! It's been fun seeing them grow and we are excited to continue to watch as they continue to play. Come out and support our Lady Huskies on home court this Thursday, February 22. Tipoff is at 5:30."



Photo provided

Hamilton Heights Middle School sixth-grade girls basketball team won the 2024 Husky Invite. The team is pictured with their spirit-filled cheer squad.

## SWIM

from Page 12

**One-meter diving:** 1. Ethan Swart (Hamilton Heights) 527.50, 3. Nathan Cox (HH) 517.30, 5. Jacob Schade (F) 491.35, 7. Aiden Kless (N) 465.95.

**100 butterfly:** 3. Shackell (C) 48.94, 7. Emile Haig (C) 50.03, 9. Jung (HSE) 50.19, 17. Qian (C) 51.11, 22. Derek Robison (HSE) 51.54.

**100 freestyle:** 6. Allen (C) 46.28, 9. Kumler (U) 46.45, 11. Carter Hadley (C) 46.64, 12. E. Zhang (C) 46.67, 18. Bennett Morse (W) 47.07, 22. Koo (F) 47.49.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Enoch (C) 4:26.13, 2. Hines (F) 4:30.53, 3. L. Zhang (C) 4:30.91, 4. Anderson Kopp (C) 4:33.29, 6. Adams Jr. (F) 4:36.14, 7. Sanchez (F) 4:39.11, 14. Waren (HSE)

4:42.72, 22. Zach Welch (W) 4:47.02.

**200 freestyle relay:** 1. Carmel 1:24.54, 12. Fishers 1:27.83, 25. Noblesville 1:29.84.

**100 backstroke:** 3. Kopp (C) 49.76, 6. Carson Szotek (C) 51.11, 13. Hadley (C) 51.48, 20. Kulp (N) 52.18, 21. Drew Wilhite (Guerin Catholic) 52.26, 24. Thomas Johanneman (F) 52.49.

**100 breaststroke:** 2. Gorey (C) 55.80, 3. Collin Huston (HSE) 55.84, 6. Malicki (C) 56.31, 12. Landon Holmes (C) 58.47, 14. Anthony Mathis (N) 58.74.

**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Carmel 3:07.42, 4. Fishers 3:09.42, 13. Westfield 3:13.75, 16. Hamilton Southeastern 3:14.31, 20. Noblesville 3:15.00.



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# Jozy Altidore to join Sogility ownership group

## The REPORTER

Sogility is proud to announce Jozy Altidore as one of the newest members of the organization’s board and ownership group.

“I am excited to join Sogility’s vision of using technology driven soccer training to revolutionize player development and performance, making it a pivotal component in the growth of soccer around the world,” states Jozy Altidore.

Jozy Altidore has had an extensive professional soccer career, playing for eight teams in five countries and logging over 100 caps for the United States Men’s National team. Altidore has 157 career club goals and is currently the third all-time goal scorer for the United States Men’s National Team.

“Sogility is extremely excited to have Jozy Altidore join us in our efforts to provide technology driven soccer training. We have been blessed to work with over 70 professionals and athletes of all ages. Having one of the greatest players in USMNT history see the value in our methodology and training tools helps take us to new heights,” adds the CEO of Sogility, Jimmy Carson.

Altidore will play a significant role in Sogility’s franchise expansion efforts and help provide more opportunities across the country to soccer players of all ages.

For more information on how to bring a Sogility franchise to your city, visit [sogility.net/launch-your-sogility](http://sogility.net/launch-your-sogility) or email [info@sogility.net](mailto:info@sogility.net).

# 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](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com).

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# Noblesville’s Anna Elkin commits to Grace College

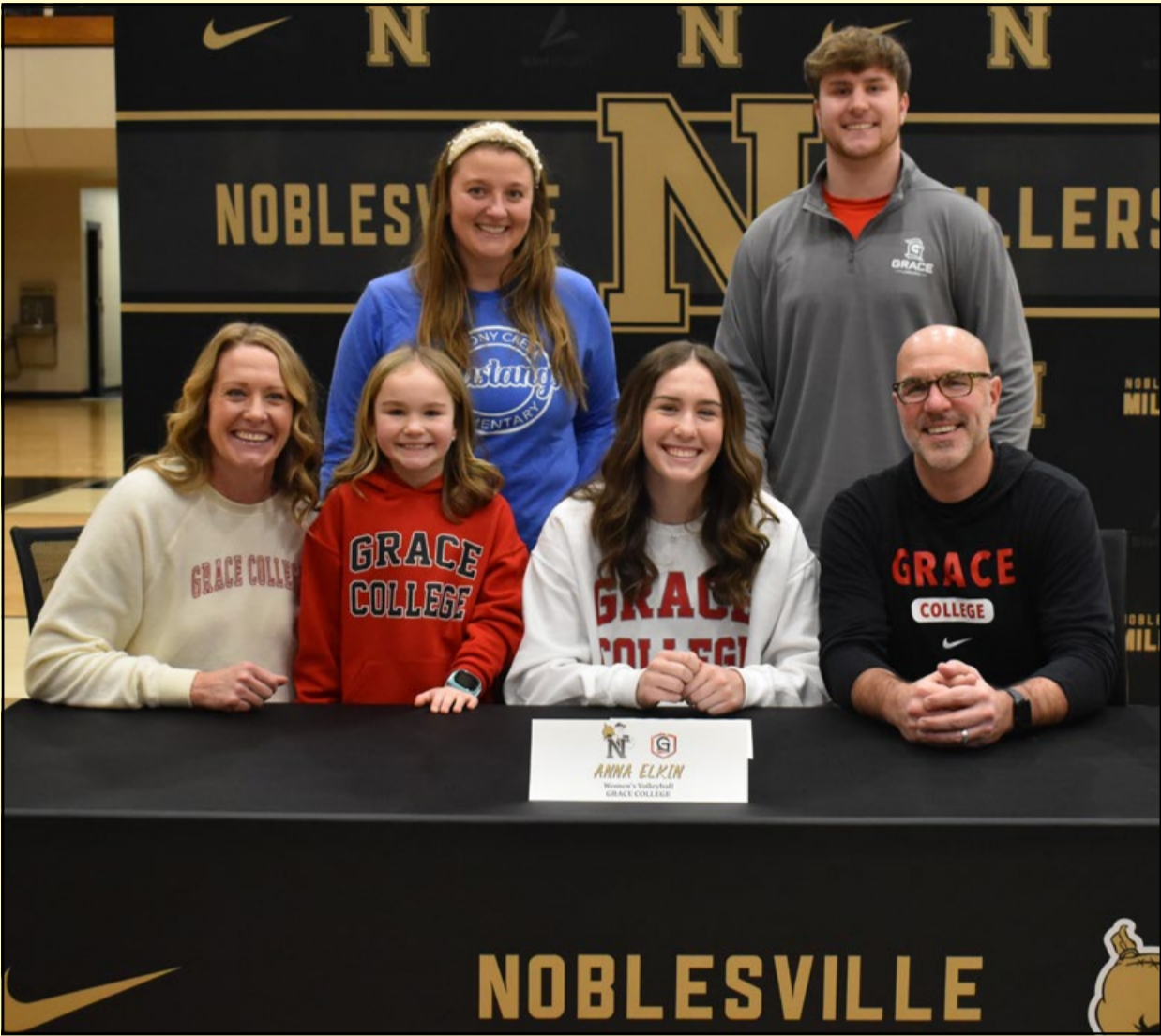


Photo courtesy Landon Denison, NHS Shadow Yearbook

Noblesville’s Anna Elkin has committed to the Grace College women’s volleyball team. (Front row, from left) Corie Elkin (mother), Clara Elkin (sister), Anna Elkin, and Tim Elkin (father). (Back row, from left) Annie Poulson (Noblesville Girls Volleyball Head Coach) and Brayden Elkin (brother).

# Noblesville’s Austin Hastings commits to Rose-Hulman

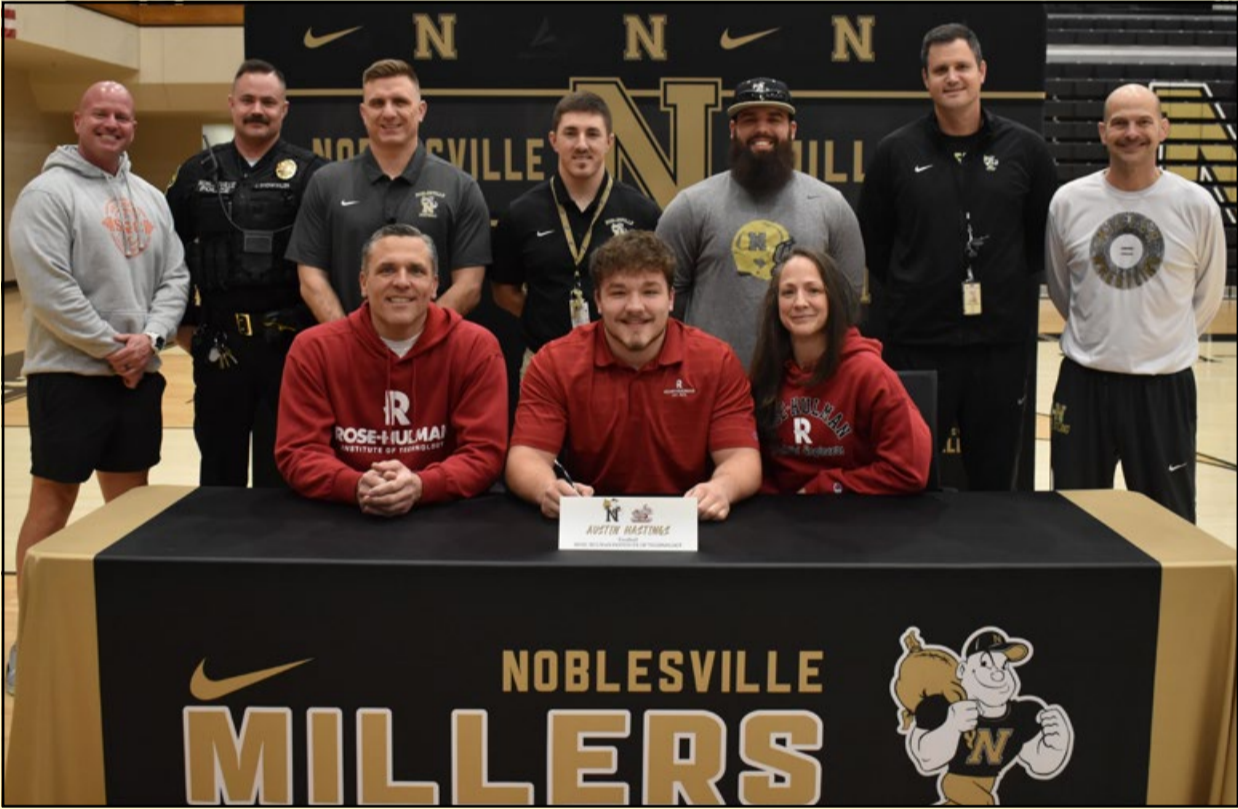


Photo courtesy Landon Denison, NHS Shadow Yearbook

Noblesville’s Austin Hastings has committed to the Rose-Hulman Institution of Technology football team. (Front row, from left) Geoff Hastings (father), Austin Hastings, and Lori Hastings (mother). (Back row, from left) Robb Gunn (personal coach), Jason Shonkwiler (Noblesville Football Assistant), Adam Metzler (Noblesville Football Assistant), Colin Jasper (Noblesville Football Assistant), Joseph Sero (Noblesville Football Assistant), Dave Sharpe (Noblesville Football Head Coach), and Michael Weimer (Noblesville Wrestling Head Coach).

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