

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

See page A5

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FRIDAY, FEB. 23, 2024

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny.
Tonight: Clouding up.
Snow showers overnight,
with a dusting possible.

HIGH: 49 LOW: 22



(LEFT) Battalion Chief Adam Lee and FF Medic Kevin Brolsma, who was named Firefighter of the Year. (RIGHT) Battalion Chief Adam Lee and Lt. Danny Ebbert, who received the Roy Holland Officer of the Year Award.

Fishers Fire names officers of the year & hands out awards

The REPORTER

Fishers Department of Fire and Emergency Services has announced the award recipients from the 2023 Awards Ceremony held on Feb. 17 at Heartland Church in Fishers.

This annual ceremony honors the men and women of the department for their bravery, dedication, and outstanding service as firefighters, EMS, community risk reduction, and support staff.

Community Risk Reduction

Specialist Ashley Heckly emceed the afternoon event with Fishers City Councilor Cecilia Coble presenting the Oath of Office to recently promoted officers, and department Chaplain Gary Stump offering Invocation and Benediction. The department's Honor Guard presented colors, supported by the music of the Indianapolis Public Safety Pipes and Drums.

Chief's Medal

- Captain Neil Sullivan
- FF Ron Stolz

Roy Holland Officer of the Year

- Lt. Danny Ebbert

Firefighter of the Year

- FF Kevin Brolsma

Rookie of the Year

- FF Chris Jessee

Jeannie Clark EMS Provider of the Year

- FF/Paramedic Joe Goad

Recent Promotions and Badge Pinning

- Battalion Chief Michael Zajdel
- Battalion Chief Adam Lee
- Battalion Chief Hugo Wans

- Lt. Chad Mohr

- Lt. John Hinton

Retirees

- FF Travis Sichtung

- EMS Division Chief Steve Davison

- Lt. David Gillespie

- FF William Crew

20 Year Service Award

- Lt. Marty Devine

- Lt. Leann Foster

- FF Seth Johnson

- Captain Todd Rielage

See Awards . . . Page 2

Make your surroundings uplifting at work

If you have an office, cubicle, desk, corner, or some little world inside your company that is your very own, you can make that space as uplifting as possible. If you spend a lot of time in a vehicle for your job, you can transform it into a pleasant atmosphere. It makes a big difference in your mood and energy.

Keep your area organized and decluttered. A good feng shui practice is to make certain 50 percent of your desk or workspace is clear. An atmosphere of chaos makes it difficult to be productive.

Face a door or other opening if possible. However, you may not have that option. Perhaps you're in a cubicle or you have shared desk space. You can still take some steps to brighten up your environment.

I recommend reading through *Cube Chic* by Kelley L. Moore, available on Amazon. This fun book can help you transform those three gray walls into something you'll look forward to working in.

Sarah Ban Breathnach, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Simple Abundance*, talks about how we need to create brief daily rituals to help us feel calm and ready to tackle or end the day. She suggests setting aside 10 minutes each day before it officially begins to enjoy a cup of coffee, tea, cocoa, etc. Breathnach recommends ending the day by straightening up our desks and reviewing the next day's agenda.

See Uplifting . . . Page 2

Duke Energy supports Hamilton County first responders with \$10,000 preparedness grant

The REPORTER

First responders across Indiana, including local police, fire, and emergency management agencies (EMAs), will benefit from more than \$200,000 in grants from the Duke Energy Foundation. The funding will help public safety agencies increase their response capabilities during severe weather and other emergencies through advanced preparation, planning, equipment and training.

Locally, \$10,000 was awarded to Hamilton County EMA to enhance community outreach and preparedness education.

"Preparing local communities to respond to severe weather impacts is key to keeping our region resilient," said Mark LaBarr, government and community relations manager at Duke Energy.

gy. "As the spring and summer storm season approaches, these grant funds will help enhance the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency's community outreach programs and preparedness education to keep families stay safe when severe weather strikes."

During major emergencies and natural disasters, local emergency management agencies play a critical role in providing information, resources and support that Duke Energy relies on to speed power restoration for its customers.

"When severe weather



LaBarr



Pinegar



strikes, we rely on strong partnerships with local emergency management and law enforcement agencies to effectively respond and restore power in affected communities," Duke Energy Indiana President Stan Pinegar said. "These grants will help give first responders the tools and training they need to respond to any emergency."

About the Duke Energy Foundation

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to meet the needs of communities where Duke Energy customers live and work. The Foundation contributes more than \$2 million annually in charitable gifts to Indiana and is funded by Duke Energy shareholder dollars. More information about the Foundation and its Powerful Communities program can be found at duke-energy.com/Foundation.

CSO to hold Women's History Month performance & panel discussions at Carmel Clay Public Library

The REPORTER

As part of Women's History Month, the Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and the Carmel Clay Public Library Foundation are teaming up to present two events designed to explore how to improve the quality of life in the arts and corporate world for women.

On March 3, the discussion will focus on "Navigating Mental Health and Valuing Self-care in the Arts and Corporate World." On March 17, the topic is "Preparing for Competition and Handling Pressure and Passion in our work: Perspectives from Female Musicians and Community Leaders."

Both events will take place

from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the library's Community Room. They are free and open to the public, but registration is required. Register online at carmelclaylibrary.org.

Each event will include brief opening remarks, a 30-minute performance and talk by CCO musicians featuring works by female classical composers, and a 45-minute panel discussion moderated by CSO Executive Director Anne Marie Chastain.

The March 3 event will feature opening remarks by Dr. Jamia Jacobsen, owner of American Behavioral Counseling, LLC followed by the CSO string quartet playing selections by Gabriela Lena Frank, Fan-



ny Mendelssohn, and Florence Price. The panel discussion will include Dr. Jacobsen; new Carmel City Council member Anita Joshi; Wendy Horn, Vice President Business Development for Community Health Network; writer Sandra Hurt; and CSO concertmaster violinist Manami White.

The March 17 event will begin with opening remarks by Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam, followed by the CSO woodwind quintet performing the music of Valerie Coleman, Amy Beach, and Florence Price. Panelists



for this event will be Mayor Finkam; Rachel Cohen, Director Peter Rabbit Nursery; attorney Suzette Bewley; conductor Rebecca Tong; and CSO bassoonist Kara Stolle.

"Some of the questions we're going to tackle include how we handle the struggles

See History . . . Page 2

HSE Schools prepares to new superintendent

By GREGG MONTGOMERY

WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Hamilton Southeastern Schools leaders later this month are expected to appoint a new leader who retired in 2023 from a Marion County school district.

Patrick Mapes

retired in spring

2023 from Perry

Township Schools

in Indianapolis as

the district struggled

with finding enough

bus drivers and the

elimination of the

Perry Township

School Choice program,

which had frustrated

families. The district

switched to intradistrict

school transfers, which

required transfer students

to provide their own

transportation.

Mapes began at Perry

Township Schools in

fall 2016 after serving



Mapes

See Superintendent . . . Page 2

AWARDS

from Page 1



Photos provided by Fishers Department of Fire & Emergency Services
(LEFT) Battalion Chief Michael Zajdel and FF Chris Jessee, who was named Rookie of the Year. (CENTER) Chief Orusa and FF Ron Stolz, who was given the Chief's Award. (RIGHT) EMS Captain Steve Delwey and FF Medic Joe Goad, who received the Jeannie Clark EMS Provider of the Year Award.

- Fishers Fire Foundation Scholarship Award**

 - Annelise Hiner
 - McKinley Underhill

Newly Certified Paramedics

 - Thomas Ford
 - Kurt Globerger
 - Andrew Thomas
- Quinton Camp
 - James Knowles from the Fishers Department of Public Works
 - Lt. William Ortiz
 - FF Greg Morlen

Civilian of the Year

Public Service Award

Safety and Training Award
- FF Matt Rambo
 - A Shift: FF Seth Johnson
 - B Shift: FF Matt Rambo
 - C Shift: FF Michael Schroll
 - #1: C Shift, Engine 394, Medic 394, EDO 309

Pear Leadership Commendation

Meritorious Unit Commendation
- #2: B Shift, Engine 393, Ladder 393, Medic 391, Medic 394, Safety 309, Battalion 309, Tac 391, EDO 309
 - #3: B Shift, Engine 392, Ladder 392, Medic 394

The presentation was livestreamed at heartlandchurch.com/live, and you can rewatch the ceremony at that link.

SUPERINTENDENT

from Page 1

education issues. While he leads HSE, Mr. Mapes will also continue to serve the state as an appointee to the Indiana State Board of Education, which oversees K-12 education policymaking in Indiana.”

At 7:30 a.m. today, Feb. 23, the Hamilton Southeastern School Board will meet to approve a short four-day contract so Mapes can spend time with students, teachers,

and other stakeholders as he prepares to take the helm of our district.

At 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, the board will have a special meeting at the Hamilton Southeastern Administration Building, 13485 Cumberland Road, to consider approval of a contract for Mapes.

The news release did not provide any details about the contract.

According to Indiana Department of Education figures posted online, Hamilton Southeastern Schools has more than 21,000 students, and Perry Township has more than 16,000 students.

Mapes’ wife, Jacinda, and their children say they plan to move from their house on the south side of Indianapolis to a home in the Hamilton Southeastern Schools district.

UPLIFTING

from Page 1

She says we all need a work drawer or locker with items to make the day positive, like mints, tissues, aspirin, or even some grown-up toys for when we just need to get away from being adults for a minute. I love those “popper” toys that are so popular now!

Breathnach also talks about aromatherapy. Diffusers not only make our work environment smell good, but they can put moisture back into the air, which is helpful in heated offices. Be sensitive to your coworkers, though. Make certain whatever you are thinking of using will help them as well, not irritate them.

What about the temperature of your workspace? I almost hesitate to write about this because I know in recent years it has become a hot button (pun intended), especially for women. I've seen varying studies on what experts believe is the ideal workplace temperature. Many of them say between 71 and 72°F is perfect. But I know my husband and several of my male friends would be sweating profusely at this temperature.

My number one strategy has been to wear layers, especially when I used to walk back-and-forth to work. It's

not the perfect solution, but it's a good option. I think it's important for employees to keep respectfully talking to one another and to work with their leaders to find the best compromise for this issue.

Incorporating beautiful, colorful art and photographs is another way to make your surroundings positive. Plants bring both beauty and health benefits to most any workspace. They purify the air, which is important to battle the typical office indoor air pollution. Gardening Know How says they can even help reduce stress. Make certain to select varieties that don't require a lot of care, such as spider plants, philodendrons, and peace lilies.

What if all you have as far as your own personal space at work is a locker? You can have fun with that as well. This is where Pinterest comes in handy! Even HGTV and BuzzFeed have guidance on sprucing up a locker.

What if your “office” is a vehicle? AllTrucking.com estimates are that there are 3.5 million truck drivers in the United States today. Many salespersons and people who drive for Uber, Lyft, and other ride sharing services spend a lot of time

in their cars.

My husband is a salesman and travels throughout central Indiana each day. He is convinced that keeping his car decluttered, organized, and even fragrant thanks to air fresheners helps him stay positive for himself as well as his customers.

It's important to make your workspace come alive for yourself, your coworkers, and potentially your customers. Take small steps to start your transformation. Perhaps the first month you focus on the top of your desk. The following month you can work on creating a better system for filing papers. Then you can eventually move on to the fun stuff like finding art, photographs, or other decor.

Sketch out or write down how you want your workspace to look and feel, map out a plan to achieve that goal in six months or even a year, and think of the peace and joy you'll feel whenever you're in or around it every day. It's worth it.

Amy Shankland is a writer and fundraising professional living in Noblesville with her husband John, two sons, two dogs and a cat. You can reach her via email at amys@greenavenue.info.

HISTORY

from Page 1

and obstacles we face as artists and leaders in our work, and how we can better thrive in our workplaces with confidence, especially if we find ourselves feeling unsupported,” Chastain said. “Audience members can also expect candid conversations regarding depression, our need for finding support, and addressing

power dynamics in the arts and the workforce. I expect a wide-ranging and fascinating conversation.”

Visit carmelsymphony.org for more information.

power dynamics in the arts and the workforce. I expect a wide-ranging and fascinating conversation.”

Visit carmelsymphony.org for more information.

Hello, Hamilton County!

Click to play this week's video

Once you take charge, there's

NO GOING BACK

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To help Hamilton County families affected by domestic violence and abuse, you can drop off the following items at Tom Wood Volkswagen, 14701 Tom Wood Way, Noblesville:

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There’s no tiptoeing around it: you CAN dance if you want to

“Oh do you-do you-do you-do you wanna dance?” – The Beach Boys’ “Today” album, 1965

I often hear people say “I don’t dance,” and if you are one of those, please bear with me and read on!



Dancing is possible (and therapeutic) for *everyone*. Movement to music is not only a physical workout but soothing to the mind and emotions. If music makes you want to move, then indeed you are a dancer.

The Cambridge dictionary defines “dancing” as the activity of moving the body and feet to music. While that is a basic definition, dancing is also an art form, a release, an expression of joy. The words “dance” and “dancing” come from an old German word “danson,” which means “to stretch.”¹ Those of you who tell me they read my column regularly will recognize my affinity for stretching and flexibility!

To dance is to move, generally with music which appeals to our senses.

Dancing does not require a partner at all! Although my husband and I have been dancing for many years and enjoy our swing and cha-cha, I enjoy dancing alone at home through my house listening to everything from Beach Boys to Motown to Mel-lencamp. Classical music encourages slow, graceful movements while Queen and ABBA can accelerate the pace! For those who wish to dance without a specific dance partner, line dancing has gained much popularity the last few years and is great for both an aerobic workout as well as increasing coordination and balance.

I grew up in a home with dancers. My parents were excellent dancers and my dad taught me to swing dance at an early age. Combine that with *American Bandstand* and I was hooked.

Additionally, as a grade school student I walked (a short distance “back then”) to the high school at the end of the day to take my weekly baton twirling lesson. I of-

ten arrived a little early and would plop my small body into one of the booths in the NHS “canteen” to wait for my baton teacher. The high school students would show up, turn on the juke box and dance. Think 1958-59 for music references! I was mesmerized and decided I would dance whenever I could. After ballgame “sock hops” at NHS showcased high school students dancing the Twist, Jerk, Watusi, Swim and of course the “slow dances” that no doubt caused the teacher chaperones to cringe.

I am still dancing and you can too, whether you are 8 or 80+! Dancing tap is great fun and can be learned at any age. Dancing will give you more confidence, enable you to increase your coordination and flexibility, and give you a great outlet for stress.

If you think you cannot dance because you are compromised in your mobility, fear not. Dance is movement and using your upper body movements will gain you much of the effects as noted above. I have taught “chair dancing” in one of my senior classes and they love it. Select your favorite tunes. If you do not wish

to dance in public, dance alone, you will reap the benefits physically, mentally, and even emotionally.

So many types of dance – ballroom, square, line, two-step, and other country dances, ballet, tap, clog-ging, polka, and many more are fun and beneficial to your wellbeing. Free form dancing can be done with a partner or anytime the mood moves you. Belly dancing is the oldest form of dance, originating in India thousands of years ago. Hawaiians have been using the hula to tell their ancestral stories for thousands of years as well.

There are many dance classes and studios in our community and a partner is not necessary to take advantage of what is offered.

Let’s dance!

¹ Compiled from “The Wonderful World of DANCE” by Arnold L. Haskell

Sharon McMahon, CNWC
The opinions expressed in this article are not intended to replace advice of your personal physician or licensed health professional. Please consult your physician for any issues you may have related to nutrition or fitness activity.

Carmel library to host 3D Printing Expo

The REPORTER

The 3D Printing Expo returns to the Carmel Clay Public Library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 9. Attendees will be able to explore booths from a variety of vendors and hobbyists as they learn about 3D printing.

Visitors can also attend a presentation by Jordan Goddard about how AI and 3D printing are used in product development. The owner of Indy Toy Lab, Goddard works with toy and game manufacturers to turn concepts into marketable products. Goddard’s presentation will take place during the Expo at 11 a.m.

Over 1,000 people attended last year’s expo, a number which is expected to grow this time around. Since the library’s Digital Media Lab opened in 2016, 3D printing has been growing



Photo provided

in popularity, catching the attention and imagination of all ages. In 2023, over 8,600 objects were printing on the library’s 3D printers.

The 3D Printing Expo will take place at the Main Library at 425 E. Main St.

Registration is not required. More details about the event can be found at car-melclaylibrary.org/events.

NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS Board Highlights

Feb. 20, 2024 Meeting

Submitted by Noblesville Schools

The school board has responsibility for major district functions including school district governance and oversight, setting school policies, approving funding, strategic planning, and hiring and evaluating the superintendent.

- The board recognized NHS teacher Joe Akers and several of his journalism students for their accomplishments in state competition.
- North Elementary presented on their unified field day program, which enhances relationships between students with special needs and their general education peers.
- The board approved changes to the architectural design of restrooms in the new NHS academic expansion. The final design creates separate areas for girls and boys, while allowing for enhanced restroom supervision and safety. Laura Alerding voted against the measure.
- The board unanimously approved moving forward with renovation plans at the Noblesville Schools Educational Services Center to address the need for additional office space.
- The board decided to start future board meetings at 6 p.m., rather than 7 p.m., to better accommodate families and community members. Misti Ray and Laura Alerding voted against the measure, stating they believed a 7 p.m. start time better accommodates families and community members.

Visit the school board area of the Noblesville Schools website for meeting agendas, minutes, videos and more.

Ten Hamilton County students among Ball State’s ‘Top 100’

The REPORTER

Ball State University has released its third annual “Top 100 Students” list, which recognizes 100 outstanding junior and senior undergraduates who represent the spirit of Beneficence, Ball State’s institutional statue and icon that symbolizes the generosity of the five Ball brothers whose land donation to the State of Indiana allowed the University to flourish.

The following students from Hamilton County made the list. Also included are their hometowns and programs of study.

- Carson Brooks*, Noblesville, Psychological Science
- Lily Bushey*, Cicero, Architecture: BAR
- Eliza Eisenmann, Fishers, Nursing
- KC King, Fishers, Music Media Production
- Carlie Merriweather, Carmel, Psychological Science
- Nathan Ritz*, Noblesville, Architecture
- Archana Sathyamurthy*, Sheridan, Interior Design
- Gizelle Smedley, Noblesville, Predental Preparation, Biology
- Jaden Sparks, Fishers, Psychological Science
- Jacob Young, Carmel, Strategic Communications: Advertising

Students with an asterisk scored in the Top 50. Those students have been invited to attend an awards ceremony on Saturday, March 23, where the Foundation will announce its Top 25 students for 2024.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Top 100 program.



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

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

CARMEL FISHERS NOBLESVILLE WESTFIELD NORTHERN TOWNS

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**





Photo provided
TCC showed its appreciation to local teachers, including one at Deer Creek Elementary in Fishers.

Teachers recognized with appreciation gifts from Verizon retailer

The REPORTER

TCC, one of the nation's largest Verizon authorized retailers and a subsidiary of Round Room, LLC, recently conducted its 11th annual Teachers Rock initiative, where the company gives back to local educators to show appreciation toward those who impact the students of the community.

During the week of Feb. 12 to 16, TCC locations nationwide showered local teachers with love and support during the middle of a busy academic year. Each store selected a teacher to give back to, with appreciation efforts including school supplies gathered during a store-led drive and through

company-allocated funds. "Teachers have left an indelible mark on each of us, inspiring the creation of our Teachers Rock initiative," said Scott Moorehead, CEO of Round Room and TCC. "This initiative stands as a cherished annual event within our calendar for over 10 years now. As we continue to witness the remarkable growth of this program, we are reminded of the essential role teachers play in nurturing future generations. Our unwavering support is a testament to the enduring impact they have on the world."

Click here for more information on the Teachers Rock initiative.

Indiana House honors Rep. Schaibley for her near decade of public service



Photo provided
State Rep. Donna Schaibley (R-Carmel) listens to a colleague share a story about serving with her in the legislature Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, in the House Chamber at the Statehouse in Indianapolis. Schaibley's House colleagues took time from the legislative session to formally honor and recognize her near decade of service as a state representative for House District 24, which includes portions of Boone and Hamilton counties. In October 2023, Schaibley announced her plan to complete her current term and not seek re-election. She serves as vice chair of the House Public Health Committee, and as a member of the House Insurance Committee and the House Statutory Committee on Ethics. Click here to read House Resolution 19 honoring Goodrich's service.

Registration now open for 2024 Carmel International Arts Festival

The REPORTER

Registration is now open for the 27th annual Carmel International Arts Festival (CIAF). The festival will take place Sept. 28 and 29, 2024, in Carmel.

This major festival brings more than 100 talented artists from around the country and around the world. They have an amazing opportunity to share their work with nearly 30,000 people in a two-day event in the Carmel Arts & Design District. Artists specialize in nine different media, including glass, 2D, 3D, paint, jewelry, photography, fiber, ceramics and wood.

This year promises to be bigger and better than ever.

"I'm really looking forward to another fantastic year!" CIAF President Jill Gilmer said. "The talent we had last year surpassed my expectations. We have extended our footprint, which should allow us to have roughly 150 artists, a few small stages for musicians to entertain our patrons in addition to our Main Stage and



Photo provided
This year's festival promises to be bigger and better than ever.

West Stage, a wine garden, more ethnic food, and an interactive youth area that has doubled in size! I hope you will join us for an amazing weekend. It is free to come, family friendly, and dogs are welcome, too!"

Artist booths are set up along the two main arteries of the Arts & Design District: Main Street and Range Line Road. The community is presented with the finest samplings to purchase and

take home.

Each artist goes through a juried process to ensure their art is unique, not mass produced, and the highest of quality. The artwork is judged at the festival and awards are issued to the artists.

The festival is a juried exhibition with prizes totaling \$7,000. Annually, festival goers enjoy an admission-free opportunity to view and purchase art and

mingle with artists.

Applications are now open to artists interested in being a part of CIAF. Friday, May 31 is the deadline for submitting the application. There are specific rules for artists. Click here to sign up and review requirements.

Selected artists will be notified on Sunday, June 30 that they have been chosen.

Artists can visit carmel-artsfestival.org to learn more about the festival.



LIFETIME LEGACY LAWYERS
Podcast

<https://lifetimelegacylawyers.com>



FEINSTEIN'S
AT HOTEL CARMICHAEL

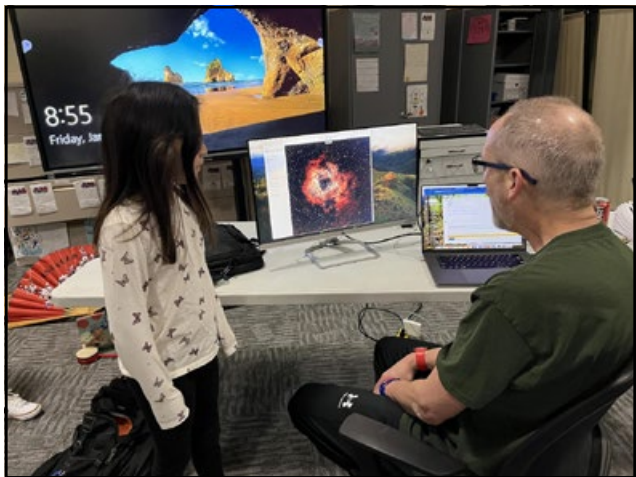
MADDIE POPPE
MARCH 17 & 18

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

Visit FeinsteinsHC.com to purchase tickets.

Young Rocks learn about orbiting the Sun

Students at Carey Ridge Elementary School recently traveled into space using the Digitalium. Kids in all grades explored patterns in the skies, constellations, planets in the solar system, and life on the International Space Station. (Photos provided by Westfield Washington Schools)



Westfield Intermediate School sixth graders in the Bohn/Graveel/Speidel triad have been investigating the solar system. They've explored the Milky Way galaxy with a trip to the Digitalium, simulated eclipses, and wrapped up their unit by creating scale models of the solar system to investigate planet distances from the sun. (Photos provided by Westfield Washington Schools)



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for this solar
spectacle!

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APRIL 8, 2024

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invites you to

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(\$5 food & \$15 game)

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• Sloppy joes,
mac & cheese,
chips & dip,
veggie tray/dip,
desserts, and
drinks

Location:
The Studio
302 S. Main Street,
Sheridan, IN

RSVP to
317-418-5232

\$1 to pay the pig

EUCHRE NIGHT

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

The best mélange this side of *Dune* comes to Carmel

The REPORTER

Mélange: concoction, mixture, combination.

In this new series of performances, audiences will experience art coming to life in front of their eyes in an intimate theatrical setting. Each series will feature a musician (a vocalist or instrumentalist), a dancer (from Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre, GHDT), and a visual artist. Together they will create art at The Florence (Carmel’s newest black-box theatre space), in a collaborative and organic manner.

The performances will be held at 5 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 23 and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 24 at The Florence at The Academy of GHDT, 329 Gradle Drive, Carmel.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at bit.ly/GH-DTthemelangeseries.

The singer will present a set of songs, while the dancer creates choreography inspired by the music, as the visual artist creates art inspired by the movement of the dancer and the music of the vocalist. Audiences will experience live art in a new manner, bringing groundbreaking and creative art to central Indiana.

The premiere performance of The Mélange Series will feature the talented and versatile vocalist, Katie Schuman, who holds a BM in Musical Theatre from



(From left) Katie Schuman, Camden Lancaster, and Mirvia Sol Eckert.

Florida State University, where she played Edwin Drood in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and served as musical director for All-Night Yahtzee, the school’s premiere coed a cappella group. Since then, she has taught and performed around Chicago and central Indiana.

Schuman’s favorite roles include the premiere of *La Casa Azul* (Lupe) with GHDT, *Spamalot* (Lady of the Lake) and *Little Women* (Marmee) with the Booth Tarkington Theatre, and *My Fair Lady* (Ensemble) with Actors Theatre of Indiana. Most recently she appeared in *The Music of La Casa Azul* with The Carmel Symphony Orchestra at The Palladium.

GHDT company dancer Camden Lancaster will be the first dancer in the new series. She received her Bachelors in Dance Performance at Anderson Univer-

sity. While at Anderson, she had the opportunity to perform at The Kennedy Center where she twice received the Allen Choreographer Award.

With GHDT Lancaster has captivated audiences for several years. Some memorable performances include “The Mother of The Chosen” in *Exodus*, “Cinderella” in *Once Upon a Time*, “The Backyard Girl” in *Under the Big Top*, and most recently as the “Mischievous Djinn” in *Angels and Djinn*. Her dynamic dancing will enthrall audiences in this new series.

Mirvia Sol Eckert is a Puerto Rican painter living and working in Indianapolis. Celebrating beauty is the fundamental concept that unifies all her work. Common themes are her Puerto Rican heritage, love of family and friends, spirituality, and her fascination with nature.

Sol Eckert’s beautiful

art has been featured in numerous shows throughout Indiana. She is a recipient of a Creative Renewal Fellowship from the Arts Council of Indianapolis and Lilly Endowment. She co-founded the Indy Latina Artists group and designed its logo. She is also a member of Indiana Artists Club, Inc. Her paintings and prints are in homes across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Spain.

During the Mélange performance, Sol Eckert will create art inspired by the movement of the dancer and the music of the vocalist. The art created during the performance will be available for purchase as well as some of her other works.

The Mélange Series at The Florence has been created by GHDT Executive Artistic Director Gregory Glade Hancock and is presented by Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre.

Indiana hospitals pledge to take action to improve Hoosiers’ public health outcomes

The REPORTER

The Indiana Hospital Association (IHA) on behalf of its 170 member hospitals announced on Thursday a statewide pledge to support the State’s Health First Indiana initiative to improve Hoosiers’ public health outcomes within the counties they serve.

The announcement was made during Public Health Day at the Statehouse, alongside the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), local health departments, Hoosier business leaders, and community partners.

“IHA and its member hospitals are fully committed to partnering with our state and local health leaders to ensure each and every Hoosier has access to the critical services they need to achieve their highest quality of life,” said Steve Holman, IHA Board Chair and president and CEO of Union Health. “This is our opportunity to improve the health of our citizens and the overall delivery of care in communities large and small across the state.”

Health First Indiana, created by [Senate Enrolled Act 4](#) during the 2023 leg-

islative session, provides \$225 million in funding for local communities to prioritize public health and safety. The initiative focuses on providing core public health services, including infant health, childhood lead screening, chronic disease prevention, trauma and injury prevention, and more.

“Our healthcare partners are key to the success of Health First Indiana,” said State Health Commissioner Lindsay Weaver, M.D., FACEP. “Through collaboration with the Indiana Hospital Association and our hospitals across the state we’re transforming lives and empowering communities to reach their optimal health.”

Hospitals’ pledge to act includes goals intended to create community partnerships through collaboration and communication with local health departments to address key public health outcomes, focusing first on infant and maternal mortality, obesity, and smoking cessation.

IHA’s Health First Indiana Pledge can be found [here](#). More information on the Health First Indiana initiative can be found [here](#).

Thanks for reading The Reporter!



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Neo-expressionism movement makes its way to Maple Glen Elementary School



Kindergartners at Maple Glen Elementary School in Westfield learned about Brooklyn-born artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. Painting crowns on the heads was one of his signatures. The theory is that he was showing that we are all kings and queens, so the students made crowns of their own.

Photo provided by Westfield Washington Schools

Center announces New Works commission winners

The REPORTER

Three Indiana artists have been selected to receive cash awards and professionally produced performance opportunities through the Center for the Performing Arts' New Works commission project, now in its third season.

The 2024 New Works Premiere Performances will take place Saturday, June 1, at the Tarkington and will be livestreamed on the Center's website and social media accounts. Free tickets are available now at TheCenterPresents.org and by calling (317) 843-3800.

The New Works project is designed to promote and sustain the area's working artists and artistic communities in an inclusive way by supporting the creation of new works across all performing arts disciplines. The proposed works are limited to 20 minutes each and must reflect the Center's organizational core values of integrity, excellence, innovation, collaboration, and inclusion.

Each winning proposal receives a \$2,500 cash award, technical support in adapting the piece for the stage, onstage rehearsal time prior to the performances, and access to the archived event video for promotional use.

The winning proposals selected by the judging panel are:

All of Us: An Anti-Asian-Hate Opera by Hippocrates Cheng

Cheng is a composer, music theorist and ethnomusicologist from Hong Kong. He completed his music composition doctorate and is pursuing a music theory doctorate at Indiana University in Bloomington.

All of Us is an opera inspired by true stories from people of Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage, shedding light on issues of Asian hate and emphasizing unity and empathy in our diverse society. The music, incorporating Asian traditional and Western classical elements, will be performed by an ensemble of singers and instrumentalists. The presentation will include staging, lighting, and multimedia components.

Pathways/Caminos by Iris Rosa Santiago

Santiago is a Puerto Rican-born choreographer, professor emerita at Indiana University, and founder of Iris Rosa Dance Studio and Seda Negra/Black Silk Dance Company in Indianapolis. *Pathways/Caminos* is a work for 10 to 15 Seda Negra dancers, inspired by spiritual traditions of the African Diaspora in Caribbean and Latin American countries.

The presentation will feature spoken word by Santiago and recorded music from the Indianapolis Pan-African Drum and Dance Ensemble directed by Andre Rosa-Artis, as well as costuming and visual projections designed by Filipino-American artist Kelvin Burzon.

Classical Scratch by Jared Thompson

Thompson is a saxophonist, composer, arranger, and leader of the Indianapolis-based modern jazz quintet Premium Blend, which has been featured in two national award-winning documentaries and has released five studio albums.

Classical Scratch is a three-part composition for tenor saxophone, piano (twin brother Joshua Thompson), and DJ (DJ Boogie Bang) that integrates classical, jazz, and hip-hop music to celebrate the contributions of Black artists over the past 300-plus years. The presentation will include lighting effects and projected images of influential artists.

The three pieces will be performed publicly for the first time at the 8 p.m. June 1 event, and the artists will join in a talkback discussion to close the evening. Tickets are free to reserve at the Center's Fifth Third Bank Box Office at the Palladium, online at TheCenterPresents.org, and by phone at (317) 843-3800.

The livestream and recorded video of the performance will be available free on the Center's website and social media channels.

For this year's round of New Works commissions,

a visual arts category has been added. The winning entry will be announced in March, unveiled at the June 1 performance, and displayed on the Center's campus for one year.

New Works is supported by the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation.

About the Center for the Performing Arts

The mission of the nonprofit Center for the Performing Arts is to engage and inspire the Indiana community through enriching arts experiences. Its campus in Carmel includes the 1,500-seat Palladium concert hall, the 500-seat Tarkington proscenium theater and the black-box Studio Theater.

The Center presents and hosts hundreds of events each year, including the Center Presents performance series, featuring the best in classical, jazz, pop, rock, country, comedy and other genres. Educational and experiential programming for all ages includes



Photo provided by the Center for the Performing Arts

Winners of the 2024 New Works commissions at the Center for the Performing Arts are (from left) Jared Thompson, Iris Rosa Santiago, and Hippocrates Cheng. They will premiere their proposed works at a special event June 1 at the Tarkington.

children's concerts and camps, book clubs, lectures, and classes in music and dance.

The Center is home to the affiliated Great American Songbook Foundation and provides space and support services for six resident arts companies. More information is available at TheCenterPresents.org.

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News

Fishers Arts & Culture Commission awards \$60K in grants to support arts community

11 local organizations awarded in grant program's fourth year

The REPORTER

The Fishers Arts & Culture Commission (FACC) announced on Wednesday the grantees for its 2024 Fishers Arts & Culture Grant program, with 11 local organizations awarded \$60,000 in funding.

The grant program supports local nonprofits and organizations that uplift the arts community within Fishers. This year's grant cycle featured record high funding requests, awarding an additional \$10,000 compared to 2023.

This is the fourth year for the grant program, which was launched in

2021. Funding for the grant program is allocated from the City of Fishers' annual budget. Since the program's launch more than \$202,000 in grants have been awarded to 35 local organizations, funding public art installations, community events, and cultural celebrations throughout Fishers.

"One meaningful way the City of Fishers builds community and vibrancy is through the arts," said Jocelyn Vare, chair of the Fish-



Vare

ers Arts & Culture Commission. "This year's grant recipients will provide unique experiences that demonstrate the talent and creativity of Fishers. Residents can look forward to enjoying new visual art, a showcase of Black artists, interactive music, a new art and tech event, and much more in 2024. These arts experiences will be an amazing complement to the grand opening of the Fishers Art Center in the new Fishers Municipal Center later this year."



Recipients of the 2024 Fishers Arts & Culture Commission Grant Program include:

- 31Svn Dance Academy (\$4,000) to host five hip-hop dance workshops, including free classes and panel discussions open to the public.
- Academy of Dance Arts (\$7,000) for continued de-

velopment of the Academy's Dance Ability studio classes and public performance for youth with developmental or intellectual disabilities.

- Brandon Meeks Music (\$7,000) to perform the Harmony in Motion: Jazz Improve Workshop Series, including live public performances, education sessions, and interactive workshops.
- Emerging Pearls Foundation (\$7,000) to host the third annual Art, Culture, and Appetizers event showcasing Black artists in dance, applied arts, spoke word, hair-art, and more at Hub & Spoke in June 2024.
- Fishers Arts Council (\$5,710) to host monthly Second Friday gallery receptions at the FAC Gallery at the Hub located at the Hamilton County Community Foundation, along with musical groups at the Spark!Fishers Art & Car Show in June and Harvest Fest in September.
- Forward Motion (\$5,040) to host a curated, two concert event entitled Perspective that shares themes of the rotating ex-

hibits of the Ignite Studio at Hamilton East Public Library Fishers.

- Hidden World (\$6,000) to create two unique musical compositions that can be accessed virtually along the Nickel Plate Trail.
- High Frequency Arts (\$5,000) to host a new event called AI: The Intersection of Art & Tech, including interactive film, augmented reality displays, and tech-inspired fashion apparel at Hub & Spoke in June.
- Ignite Studio at Hamilton East Public Library (\$3,750) to install a 75-square-foot mural as you enter the Ignite Studio at the Hamilton East Public Library.
- Lantern Islamic Theater Company (\$7,000) to produce six theater productions and acting competitions at the Alhuda Foundation.
- Noblesville Creates (\$2,500) to host Comic Book in A Day at the Hamilton East Public Library Fishers in January 2025.

For more information, visit [FishersIN.gov/grants](https://fishersin.gov/grants).

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33 named for 2024 500 Festival Princess Program

By DAKARI TURNER
WISH-TV | wistv.com

Thirty-three women have been selected for the 2024 500 Festival Princess Program in advance of May's Indianapolis 500.

The women represent 18 Indiana colleges and universities and come from 23 different cities.

The women have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.74, according to a media release. Each one was chosen on merits according to "leadership, academic stewardship, community involvement, and embodiment of the Hoosier spirit."

The National Bank of Indianapolis presents the **500 Festival Princess Program**, and it sets to honor the women's academic achievements.

A news release said, "While holding the title of a 500 Festival Princess, these 33 women will have the opportunity to create meaningful connections across the state, gain mentorship and leadership from the 500 Festival Board of Directors, and develop professional skills."

The release said the women will contribute over 1,500 hours of community service, which include educating students about the 500 Festival at Indiana elementary schools, Girl Scouts organizations, and The Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

Each participant will get a \$1,000 scholarship.

"We are thrilled to observe all the ways that this year's class of 500 Festival Princesses will impact the communities in Indiana and enable them to showcase their leadership and academic skills," said Bob Bryant, president and chief executive officer of the 500 Festival. "The 500 Festival is proud to see these 33 young women take this opportunity to create lasting memories, outstanding networking experiences, and meaningful friendships for years to come."

The Indianapolis 500 race will be May 26.

Below is a list of those princesses from the Reporter's coverage area.

- Lauren Bailey, Carmel, a graduate of Carmel High School, and a sophomore at Purdue University majoring in business analytics and information management.
- Elizabeth Baker, Noblesville, a graduate of Noblesville High School and a graduate student at Indiana University School of Medicine with an undergraduate degree in Spanish and human biology.
- Marin Davis, Zionsville, a graduate of Zionsville Community High School, and a sophomore at Purdue University majoring in political science.
- Jaslin Martinez, Noblesville, a graduate of Fishers High School, and a senior at Purdue University majoring in public health, pre-physician's assistant.
- Kendrick Mernitz, Carmel, a graduate of Cathedral High School, and a senior at Indiana University majoring in cybersecurity and global policy, and middle eastern languages and cultures.
- Hannah Mullen, Fishers, a graduate of Hamilton Southeastern High School, and a junior at Ball State University majoring in graphic design.
- Parmida Nazarloo, Fishers, a graduate of Hamilton Southeastern High School, and a junior at Indiana University majoring in human biology.
- Kaitlyn Ross, Fishers, a graduate of Hamilton Southeastern High School, and a first-year law student at Indiana University Maurer School of Law with an undergraduate degree in biology.

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 committee and state delegates will appear in upcoming editions of The Reporter.

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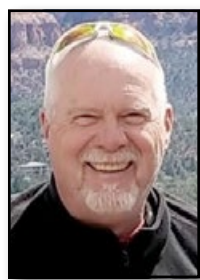
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Meeting Notice

The Carmel Police Department Merit Board will meet at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, in the Training Room at Carmel Police Department Headquarters, 3 Civic Square.

Avery Joseph "Joe" Smith

March 3, 1953 – February 6, 2024



Avery Joseph "Joe" Smith, 70, Noblesville, passed away on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis. He was born on March 3, 1953, to Avery and Corinne (Mann) Smith in Greenfield, Ind.

Joe was a teacher for many years. He was an avid reader and handyman who loved helping with projects. Joe enjoyed wood carving, making knives, riding ATVs, and traveling. Most of all he loved his children and grandchildren.

Joe is survived by his wife, Karol Smith; sons, Colin (Leana) Smith, Cameron (Cristal) Smith, and Trent (Emily) VanEmon; daughters, Betsy (Wes) Federico and Lauren VanEmon; siblings, Benita Smith, Charles Smith, Mary Rose Sipf, and Joann Smith; grandchildren, Connor, Noah, Eli, Ellie, Jacob, Caleb, Evan, Gia, Madison, and the newest grandchild, Olivia; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Carson Smith; and his sisters, Jean Jones and Sarah Hornick.

Private family services will be held.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the oncology patient assistant fund at Community Health Network Foundation, 7330 Shadeland Station, Suite 150, Indianapolis, IN 46256 (ecommunity.com/give).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Cynthia Louise Reynolds

April 27, 1955 – February 22, 2024

Cynthia Louise Reynolds, 68, Noblesville, passed away on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at Hamilton Trace of Fishers. She was born on April 27, 1955, to the late Bill and Norma (Shenefield) Shipley in Marion, Ohio.

Cindy owned Quilt Expressions and enjoyed quilting, gardening, flowers, and reading. She was a member of Fishers United Methodist Church and was the #1 Grandma.

Cindy is survived by her husband, Gary Reynolds; sons, Rich (Danny) Spaulding and Dan (Kara) Spaulding; stepdaughters, Angela (Eric) Hungate and Tereasa (Rodney) Morpew; grandsons, Seth (Alyssa) Hungate, Chance (Kaitlin) Morpew, and Ethan, Dylan, and Logan Spaulding; granddaughters, Victoria (Gio) Menale, Alyson (Ben) DiRuzza, Taylor Graham, Elise (Jeremy) Hodges, Skyler Sandman, and Lacey (Josh) Jarvis; 11 great-grandchildren; sister, Connie Higgins; brothers, Doug (Debbie) Shipley and Russ (Carol) Shipley; brother-in-law, Larry (Patti) Reynolds; sister-in-law, Mary (Dave) Lawson; several nieces and nephews; caregiver and friend, Holly Garber; and her dog, Coffee.

A public funeral service (with no visitation prior) will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2024, at Fishers United Methodist Church, 9691 E. 116th St., Fishers. Rev. Mark Elcessor will officiate. Also, a celebration and fellowship for all will follow the service at the church with Cindy's favorite sweets.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fishers United Methodist Church Food Pantry, 9691 E. 116th St., Fishers, IN 46037 (fishersumc.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE DEATHS OF RACHEL AND ISAAC

Jacob came home to his father Isaac in Mamre, near Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had stayed. Isaac lived a hundred and eighty years. Then he breathed his last and died and was gathered to his people, old and full of years. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Genesis 35:27-29 (NIV)

How this year's eclipse will be different than 2017

By RYAN MORSE
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The United States will be lucky enough to witness its second total solar eclipse in the last decade come April 8.

Many across the country witnessed the spectacular August 2017 total eclipse, which was the first of the 21st century in the U.S.

That raises the question: how will totality be different with our upcoming eclipse?

For one, the length of totality will be different. **Brian Murphy**, a professor of physics and astronomy at Butler University, says that the April solar eclipse will be almost two minutes longer than 2017.

"So, it is nice we will have over three minutes (in 2024) for most people in the path of totality," Murphy said.

Of course, in Indianapolis, the 2017 eclipse was only partial.

On April 8, 2024, totality will last 3 minutes and 36 seconds in Indianapolis beginning at 3:06 p.m. During totality, the planets and stars visible with clear skies will

be different than the 2017 eclipse. Jupiter and Venus will be the most notable planets seen in the 2024 eclipse.

The path of the eclipse will also be much different than in 2017.

The Aug. 21, 2017, path of totality started in Oregon and finished in South Carolina.

April 8, 2024, will have the eclipse go through Texas into Indiana and then northern parts of the Northeast.

Crazy enough, locations in southern Illinois will once again be in the path of totality.

"There will be a few changes," Murphy said. "The 2017 eclipse, we weren't quite near solar maximum, where we have maximum activity of the sun. Here, we will be right near solar maximum. So, there may be intricate details in the corona of the sun."

Butler University will host a free **eclipse festival** from noon to 4:30 p.m. April 8. More than a dozen telescopes will all be equipped with solar filters for safe observation at the event.

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.

Don't miss Saturday's Westfield Winter Market

The REPORTER

The Winter Market will run from 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, Feb. 24 at West Fork Whiskey, 10 E. 191st St. The Market runs weekly through Saturday, March 9.

Stop by for baked treats, fresh produce, meat, cheese, dog treats, honey, fresh flowers, handcrafted items and so much more. The market is free and open to the public.

The presenting sponsor is The Farmers Bank, and the host sponsor is West Fork Whiskey.

Presenting Sponsor

• **Now open in Westfield:** The new Financial Center is located just behind Meijer on Spring Mill Road and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday. During business hours, high-tech drive-up smart ATMs are available to conduct any transaction with or without live help without the need to leave your vehicle. [Click here](#) to visit the Westfield Financial Center website.

• **CD & Money Market specials:** Visit The Farmers Bank's table at the market to learn more about CD and Money Market specials. Farmers Bank staff will be on hand to share information with you and even schedule an appointment to set up a new account.

• **Free tote & enter to win:** Pick up your free Farmers Bank tote bag and then enter to win as you enter the market. This month, The Farmers Bank is giving away a portable Bose speaker (value \$300) and two Yeti thermoses. No purchase necessary. Must be 21 or older to enter.



Feb. 24 Vendors

The following is a list of vendors that have confirmed their participation for this Saturday. This list is subject to change without notice.

- Alcomy LLC
- Angelo's Italian Market
- Baked, A Cookie Company, LLC
- Becky the Baker
- BricksMadeBetter
- Coconut Rose Designs
- Country Fun Freeze
- Creolicious Bakery
- Darling Impressions
- Eagle Creek Apiary
- Emberline Designs
- Emma Mourfield Pottery
- Fungi Meadows
- Glauz Co.
- Gluten Free Creations, Inc.
- H&S Knife Sharpening
- Happy Mutt Pet Bakery
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- The Food Florist
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- The Kafe (Kafeteria LLC)
- Travellin Tom's Coffee
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Thanks for reading!

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REPORTER SPORTS FRIDAY

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

Basketball

University ends regular season on top in victory over Phelan Academy

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

CARMEL – University finished its regular season on a winning note, as the Trailblazers beat Phelan Academy 82-67 Thursday night at the U Center.

It was University’s Senior Night game, so there was a large crowd to cheer on the ‘Blazers. Emotions can run high at a Senior Night contest, but after a shaky first quarter, University settled in and took care of business.

“Senior Night to me is always a little tricky with the emotion and things like that,” said ‘Blazers coach Justin Blanding. “As coaches, it’s tough for us because we change a lot of things. We got down early and then we fought back.”

The Falcons got University down 6-0 to start the game. Appropriately, a senior scored the Trailblazers’ first points, with Robert Russell making an and-1 two and a half minutes into the first quarter. Another senior, Bryce Gray, tied the game at 10-10 with a 3-pointer.

Junior Max McComb hit a 3 to put the ‘Blazers in front 13-12, their first lead of the game. Derek Callahan’s putback moved Phelan ahead 14-13 before Montgomery Holland tied it up at with a free throw.

That was the last point of the first quarter, but the senior Holland stepped up to open the second quarter, nailing a 3. Gray made a lay-in, and University led 19-14. The ‘Blazers stayed in front from that point forward, outscoring the Falcons 21-11 in the second period for a 35-25 halftime lead. An 8-0 run helped things out, with Cooper Cammack scoring six of those points.

“We want to play fast, but at the same time, we got to be disciplined in the half court,” said Blanding. The coach said his team was “trying some new things defensively” as it gets ready for the sectional tournament next week.

“For the most part, we executed pretty well,” said Blanding.

University kept its offense at a high level in the second half, scoring 22 points in the third quarter and 25 more in the fourth. McComb was dominant in the fourth quarter, pouring in 12 points, including a 6-of-6 effort from the free-throw line. McComb made both his free-throw attempts in the second quarter, so he finished a perfect 8-of-8 on his way to 24 points.

McComb reached double-double status by collecting 11 rebounds. So did Cammack, as he totaled 14 rebounds and 13 points. Gray added 14 points and dished out eight assists. The Trailblazers had an astounding 14 blocked shots: McComb made five blocks, Holland had four and Cammack made two. Holland had nine points and six rebounds.

“It’s definitely a collective effort,” said Blanding. “We’ve been on everybody. The last three or four games we haven’t been very efficient on the defensive end, rebounding and things like that. So, we wanted to make it a point to do that tonight because in a tournament, if you don’t rebound, you’re not going to win.”

University finished the regular season 11-12. The Trailblazers travel to Class 2A Sectional 43 at Sheridan next week, taking on the host Blackhawks in the first semifinal at 6 p.m. Friday, March 1.



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

(ABOVE) University senior Robert Russell scored seven points during the Trailblazers’ game with Pheland Academy Friday at the U Center. The ‘Blazers won 82-67. (BELOW) Senior Bryce Gray takes the ball to the basket.



UNIVERSITY 82, PHELAN ACADEMY 67				
University	FG	FT	TP	PF
David Walz	0-0	0-0	0	1
Bryce Gray	5-11	2-2	14	1
Jackson Bledsoe	2-4	0-0	4	2
Robert Russell	3-9	1-3	7	4
Joe Rozembajgier	0-0	0-0	0	1
Max McComb	7-15	8-8	24	3
Montgomery Holland	3-9	2-4	9	4
Cooper Cammack	6-10	1-2	13	3
Zien Bland	2-3	0-0	4	2
Faisal Mohamud	1-7	1-2	4	2
Jalen Scott	0-1	0-0	0	0
DJ Willis	1-1	0-0	3	0
Leslie Carroll	0-0	0-0	0	0
Phil Berebitsky	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	30-70	15-21	82	23
Score by Quarters				
Phelan Academy	14	11	16	26 – 67
University	14	21	22	25 – 82
University 3-point shooting (7-22) McComb 2-7, Gray 2-5, Mohamud 1-4, Holland 1-2, Willis 1-1, Bledsoe 0-1, Russell 0-1, Scott 0-1.				
University rebounds (45) Cammack 14, McComb 11, Holland 6, Gray 4, Russell 3, Mohamud 3, Scott 2, Bledsoe 1, Bland 1.				

HSE falls to North Central

The REPORTER

Hamilton Southeastern dropped its regular-season finale on Thursday, falling at home to North Central 66-47.

The Panthers jumped out to a 16-5 lead after one quarter, extending it to 29-14 by halftime. The Royals got their offense going with 20 points in the third period, keeping them within 47-34 going into the fourth quarter, but North Central outscored Southeastern 19-13

in the fourth.

Donovan Hamilton scored 21 points for the Royals. Michael Griffith led the rebounds with six, while Braeden Totten had five.

Southeastern finished the regular season 15-7 and plays at Class 4A Sectional 8 in Noblesville next week. The Royals will take on the winner of Tuesday’s first-round game between Carmel and Fishers in the Friday, March 1 semifinals at approximately 7:30 p.m.

NORTH CENTRAL 66, HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 47				
Southeastern	FG	FT	TP	PF
Donovan Hamilton	7-11	5-13	21	4
Dejon Miles	0-2	0-0	0	0
Nathaniel Orr	2-9	2-3	7	2
Michael Griffith	0-2	2-4	2	2
Kameron Anthony	1-1	2-3	4	5
Braeden Totten	2-7	1-4	7	2
Maverick Young	2-6	0-0	6	0
Jack Jacobs	0-1	0-0	0	0
Lucas Weemer	0-0	0-0	0	0
Kallen Hoeft	0-0	0-0	0	0
Kian Kelly	0-1	0-0	0	0
Aiden Tappendorf	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	14-40	12-27	47	15
Score by Quarters				
North Central	16	13	18	19 – 66
Southeastern	5	9	20	13 – 47
Southeastern 3-point shooting (7-25) Young 2-6, Totten 2-5, Hamilton 2-3, Orr 1-8, Jacobs 0-1, Miles 0-1, Kelly 0-1.				
Southeastern rebounds (21) Griffith 6, Totten 5, Hamilton 2, Orr 2, Anthony 2, Weemer 1, team 3.				

Shamrocks cruise to big win over Pike to finish regular season

The REPORTER

Westfield cruised to victory in its regular-season finale, beating Pike 72-46 Thursday at CSI Gymnasium.

The Class 4A No. 3 Shamrocks outscored the Red Devils in all four quarters, leading 18-10 after one. Durante Morton had six points in the opening period. Westfield led 32-16 at halftime, then extended that advantage to 49-30 after three quarters. Will Harvey made two 3-pointers in the third.

The Shamrocks sprinted to the finish line with 23 points in the fourth quarter. Drew Haffner helped out with seven points. Nine different Westfield players

scored during the game.

Four Shamrocks reached double figures. Trey Buchanan led the way with 16 points, including four triples. Nic Book added 15 points; he and Buchanan scored in every quarter. Harvey totaled three 3s on his way to 11 points and Morton finished with 10 points.

Westfield completed the regular season at 19-2, which is the best regular-season record in school history. The ‘Rocks will play in Sectional 8 next week, taking on the winner of Tuesday’s Noblesville-Zionsville game in the Friday, March 1 semifinal at 6 p.m.

WESTFIELD 72, PIKE 46				
Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Trey Buchanan	5	2-2	16	1
Will Harvey	4	0-2	11	2
Charles Farrell	1	1-1	3	2
Durante Morton	5	0-2	10	1
Nic Book	7	1-2	15	3
Drew Haffner	3	0-0	7	2
Carsen Melvin	1	0-0	2	1
Caleb Wise	0	0-0	0	1
Rylan Rauch	1	0-0	2	0
Brock Detamore	1	4-5	6	0
Ryan Hunsucker	0	0-0	0	0
Logan Sumpter	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	28	8-14	72	13
Score by Quarters				
Pike	10	6	14	16 – 46
Westfield	18	14	17	23 – 72
Westfield 3-pointers (8) Buchanan 4, Harvey 3, Haffner.				

Thanks for reading The Reporter!

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

4.8%

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

Months of Inventory Increased

1.6%
1/23 vs. 1/24

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30-Year Fixed

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With an APR of 7.037%

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

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Putnam Sales Up 82.6%
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SPORTS SCHEDULE

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.

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Noblesville’s Cameron Wilson commits to DePauw University



Photo courtesy Landon Denison, NHS Shadow Yearbook
Noblesville’s Cameron Wilson has committed to the DePauw University football and track and field teams. (Front row, from left) Rodney Wilson (father), Cameron Wilson, and Jennifer Wilson (mother). (Back row, from left) Jon Glaub (Noblesville Boys Track & Field Head Coach), Jaxson Wilson (brother), and Dave Sharpe (Noblesville Football Head Coach).



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Five central Indiana artists selected to welcome race fans in May

Submitted by IMS
Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Indianapolis Arts Council announced Feb. 22 the five artists selected to create the 2024 Welcome Race Fans artworks, which are a culmination of the Hoosier hospitality that welcomes visitors to the city throughout the Month of May.

Selected from a pool of 38 applicants, the five artists who will create this year’s welcoming artwork are Anna Afshar, Lindsey Lord, Miracle Hall (Ratat Rayay), Jaylei Marie Osting and Carlos Sosa Pagán.

Since 2016, Welcome Race Fans artwork has exemplified what May means to Indianapolis, both on and off track. Each year, Central Indiana artists are challenged to bring to life what “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing” means to the Racing Capital of the World. While some artists utilize vibrant colors with bold strokes and others manipulate computer coding, all Welcome Race Fans artists rely on their own personal connections to tell the beautifully unique story of Indianapolis and its culture.

“The city of Indianapolis



WELCOME RACE FANS

ARTIST ANNOUNCEMENTS



MIRACLE HALL



ANNA AFSHAR



LINDSEY LORD



CARLOS SOSA



JAYLEI OSTING

Lindsey Lord finds inspiration for her artwork in her environment. Motherhood, memories and nature are at the center of her creative process. Through her work, she aims to highlight the beauty in the persistent nature found in the world.

As a young abstract painter, Jaylei Marie Osting uses techniques to create constant movement and an array of color in her artwork. Music is the foundation of her art process, as her paintings reflect what she envisions while listening.

Carlos Sosa Pagán combines an extensive graphic design career with his contemporary interpretations of Latin American cultural imagery. With both hand-drawn and digital imagery, Sosa aims to depict his views surrounding the complexity and uniqueness of the multicultural environments in which

we live.

The five Welcome Race Fans artworks will be unveiled Thursday, May 2 at the Indianapolis Artsgarden with the artists and other special guests.

“‘The Greatest Spectacle in Racing’ meets the ‘Greatest Art in Racing’ in this highly anticipated annual collaboration with the Indianapolis Motor Speedway,” said Julie Goodman, president and CEO at Indy Arts Council. “Welcoming the world to Indianapolis with engaging public art is a key part of our mission, and we are excited to celebrate the creativity of this year’s featured artists in May.”

To explore the full list of Indy 500 community initiatives and programs, visit IMS.com/Community. To see an up-to-date calendar of events IMS will have a presence at this May, [click here](#).



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