

# TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

See page A7

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THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER MARCH 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: LORALAI JAMES (1ST PLACE)  
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THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

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## TODAY'S WEATHER

**Today:** Mostly cloudy. Periods of showers and storms. A few could be severe. Wind gusts to 30 mph.

**Tonight:** Showers and storms. A few could be severe.

HIGH: 68 LOW: 50



(Left) Chief Drake Sterling with his wife Sarah and children. (Right) Mayor Sue Finkam presented retiring Chief Jim Barlow with the Range Line Pioneer Award. [Click here](#) to see more photos from the event.

# Drake Sterling sworn in as Carmel Chief of Police

Retiring Chief Barlow recognized with city's highest honor

## The REPORTER

Drake Sterling was officially sworn in as Carmel Chief of Police on Tuesday evening.

The public ceremony, held at The Tarkington Theater, was led by Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam and open to all members of the Carmel community. In addition to the formal swearing-in ceremony, Mayor Finkam also rec-

ognized retiring police chief Jim Barlow for his dedication to the city by awarding him the Range Line Pioneer Award.

"As our city welcomes Chief Sterling, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Chief Barlow for his years of dedicated service and unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community,"

Mayor Finkam said. "The transition represents a new chapter for our police department, and I am confident that Chief Sterling will build upon the foundation laid by his predecessor, bringing fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to further strengthen the bond between law enforcement and the community we serve."

Chief Sterling joined the

Carmel Police Department in February 2024 after serving in various roles with the Zionsville Police Department. During his career, Chief Sterling served in a SWAT capacity for more than 10 years as well as in Support Services, Investigations, and Uniformed Services.

See Sterling . . . Page  $\pi$

# The kindness of a stranger

Have you ever been in a situation where you were unable to move or speak because you were so terrified? It is a horrific feeling, and one that can bring up many unpleasant emotions, even years later.

Falling for me is one of my biggest fears. Mostly because when I fall, there is a good chance I am not going to be able to get up on my own. This has become especially true as my muscular dystrophy has progressed over the years.

Several years ago, my family was visiting some family members in Colorado. We were visiting a local restaurant that had just opened to the public. When we arrived, it was overwhelmingly crowded. We walked inside, and I instantly knew that it was too crowded for my young boys. My sister-in-law graciously offered to take the boys outside once we knew we wouldn't be there long, and my husband, his brother and I stayed inside to look around.

See Kindness . . . Page 2

## Also true

Here's another story my mom told me.

The mother was one of the most kind and gentle people I have ever met. The daughter was beautiful, a 4-H winner. When we took our small children to visit, I thought, "How kind, gentle. She should be a teacher of young children."

Later she spent four years in college. Two degrees came almost simultaneously. The BA and the MRS. They decided that it was important for him to get a Masters' Degree so she taught school and he studied. They walked in the clouds and dreamed of the day when they would have a dozen children. An even dozen. They hadn't heard quite as much about over-population as you have.

See True . . . Page  $\pi$

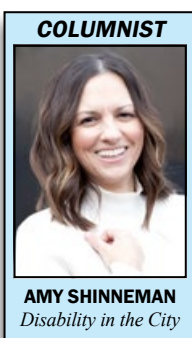
# The King and I returns to Beef & Boards April 4

## The REPORTER

This spring, Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre invites audiences to experience *The King and I* on its stage for the first time in over 20 years. Rodgers and Hammerstein's Tony Award-winner for Best Musical, based on the novel *Anna and the King of Siam* by Margaret Landon, opens April 4.

It is 1862 in Siam when British widow Anna Leonowens and her young son Louis travel to the Royal Palace in Bangkok, having been summoned by King Mongkut to tutor his many children and wives. The King is often viewed as a "barbarian" by those in the West, and he seeks Anna's assistance in changing his image, if not his ways, in a modern world. With both keeping a firm grip on their respective traditions and values, Anna and the King grow to understand and respect one another and their cultures in a truly unique love story.

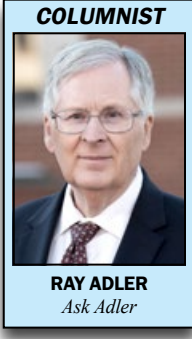
See The King & I . . . Page 2



COLUMNIST

AMY SHINNEMAN

Disability in the City



COLUMNIST

RAY ADLER

Ask Adler

# Don Farrell does it his way

By SHANA SLOMA  
[shana@readthereporter.com](mailto:shana@readthereporter.com)

When Don Farrell, former Artistic Director and co-founder of Actors Theatre of Indiana (ATI), resigned from his position at ATI last August, it allowed him to "hit the reset button" on the administrative direction that his career had taken and refocus his energy on performing.

After spending 19 years

serving in a variety of roles at ATI, Farrell's departure last fall has given him the opportunity to return to the stage full-time. Currently, he is showcasing his formidable talent as Don Kirshner in the Beef and Boards Dinner Theatre production of *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical* running now through March 30.



Farrell

ness partner, musical director Terry Woods, the duo are creating multiple cabaret-style

While Farrell shared with The Reporter that he is enjoying his time playing "the man with the golden ear," he also mentioned that the Indianapolis-based venue is not his only gig. Alongside his busi-

ness partner, musical director Terry Woods, the duo are creating multiple cabaret-style

shows for Feinstein's in Hotel Carmichael, located at 1 Carmichael Square in Carmel. Farrell is busy engaging audiences with classic songs and little-known details about each of the artists he highlights. Every production is a carefully crafted montage of music and educational background designed to entertain and enlighten audiences about the artist.

See His Way . . . Page  $\pi$

# Sheridan Lions roar forward into 2024

By CHUCK GODBY  
Sheridan Lions Club

Since 2024 began, the Sheridan Lions Club has been roaring forward. A myriad of guest speakers, planning and executing fundraisers and donating to the Sheridan Community has kept the local service organization on its toes.

Its first major fundraiser of the year takes place this Saturday, March 16, when the Lions host their annual Mark Sims Memorial Pancake Breakfast. This year's breakfast will be held in the Sheridan High School cafeteria from 7 to 10 a.m. Free-will offerings will be accepted and appreciated.

\*\*\*

Plans are also underway for the Lions' annual pork loin dinner, which will be held April 20.



Photos provided

(From left) District Governor Julia Kozicki, Zionsville teacher Brittany Lozier Moon, and Lions International Director candidate Reed Fish have all recently spoken to the Sheridan Lions.

Tickets are now available from any Lions Club member. They are \$11 for adults, \$5 for children and children under age 3 eat free. The Lions will partner with Phi Beta Psi, and proceeds will help fight cancer.

\*\*\*

Recent guest speakers in-

clude District Governor Julia Kozicki of Noblesville, Brittany Lozier Moon, and Reed Fish.

Local club members praised Kozicki for her positive, upbeat presentation, while Lozier Moon, a teacher in Zionsville Community Schools, introduced members to EEA of Noblesville, Chapter

57. Its purpose is to get young people involved in aviation.

Fish, of the Speedway Lions Club, is a candidate for International Director.

The Sheridan Lions Club is always on the lookout for new members interested in serving the Sheridan Community.



Woo



Fernandes





THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER MARCH 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: CHARLOTTE GOFF (2ND PLACE)  
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## KINDNESS

After a few short minutes, I knew I didn't want to stay inside either. I told my husband that I was going to find my way outside, and I would meet him out there. He was concerned about me getting through the crowd, but I assured him I would be okay.

Crowds are my nemesis. A slight bump can send me to the ground. This was about 15 years ago, so physically I wasn't where I am now. At that time, I wasn't even using a cane to get around.

I carefully made my way to a side exit door. Feeling successful to have made it

through the crowd, I opened the door to go outside. It swung in the opposite direction from what I was expecting. The next thing I knew, I was on the ground, half in and half out of the restaurant, my body propping the door open. I frantically dialed my husband's number, but it was so loud in there, he wasn't hearing his phone. I called over and over before accepting my reality that he wasn't going to rescue me.

I silently cried and tried to think of a way out of this situation. There was nothing around for me to even attempt to hoist myself up on.

First, an older couple came over to me, and bless them, they tried to help me up, but it takes a very strong person. I am kind of a limp noodle in a situation like that. They felt so bad they couldn't help me. They set off to try and locate my husband with the description I gave them.

Shortly after they walked off, the angry restaurant manager came over and proceeded to yell at me that I was letting all the cold air out of the restaurant. He told me I needed to move out of the doorway immediately and stormed off. He assumed

I had too much to drink and had fallen. I hadn't had a drop. Too stunned to argue back, I got on my hands and knees and crawled out of the doorway just inside the restaurant. The crowd watched as I did this, some pointing and laughing. That was such a humiliating moment that still haunts me to this day.

I honestly don't know how much time passed before I was rescued. It felt like an eternity. Many people just walked by me, stared, and kept walking. Suddenly, the crowd parted. I looked up to see a man

with the kindest eyes I have ever seen. He knelt beside me, and said "I'm here to help you, you are going to be okay." He told me he was a physical therapist, and he knew exactly how to help me off the ground.

He got me up, and I assured him I was physically okay. I hugged him and thanked him profusely, making a quick exit (this time correctly).

In my opinion, this man was heaven-sent. He didn't even seem real. His kindness touched me forever. I often think back on that moment because it was so awful, but

so beautiful at the same time. His kind gesture far overshadowed the painful reality of that entire experience.

One thing we all as humans can offer is kindness. It's free to give. You never know the impact you will have on someone by even the smallest act of kindness.

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).

from Page 1

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Maundy Thursday

March 28

7:00 PM

## THE KING & I

*The King and I* is filled with powerful emotions, beautiful costumes, and unforgettable Rodgers and Hammerstein songs including "Getting To Know You," "Something Wonderful," "I Whistle A Happy Tune," and the iconic "Shall We Dance."

Brian Jose, director, is prioritizing authentic details in the Beef & Boards production – including acknowledging that the real Anna Leonowens was of Anglo-Indian descent.

"That slight shift makes all the difference," Jose pointed out. "Instead of a story that can easily be seen as a white savior/colonialism story, we get a more complex story about a woman who has had to suppress her culture in order to advance in society to provide for her children as a single

mother."

Jose added, "In a time when political wars have eliminated a middle ground and religious wars have fueled so much destruction and hatred, a show about exploring our differences and attempts to understand each other seems like just what we need."

Making their Beef & Boards debuts are Hannah Louise Fernandes as Anna and Jae Woo as the King of Siam. Also new to the Beef & Boards stage are Bryan Chan as Lun Tha, Alice Jihyun Kim as Tuptim, and Nathalie Cruz as Lady Thiang. Ian Cruz (*Footloose*) plays Kralahome, and Eddie Curry (*Grumpy Old Men: The Musical*, *Footloose*, *The Addams Family*), plays Sir Edward Ramsay.

*The King and I* is on

stage for 50 performances through May 19 in the intimate space of Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre. Tickets range from \$55 to \$82 and include Chef Larry Stoops' dinner buffet and select beverages.

To see the complete performance schedule and to purchase tickets online, visit [BeefAndBoards.com](http://BeefAndBoards.com). Tickets are also available by calling the Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre Box Office at (317) 872-9664. Discounts are available to groups of 20 or more. Call the Group Sales department at (317) 872-0503, or email [groups@beefandboards.com](mailto:groups@beefandboards.com) for details.

*Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Indiana's only year-round professional dinner theatre, has been serving up exceptional entertainment since 1973.*

from Page 1

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THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER MARCH 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: MASON KAISER (3RD PLACE)  
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## STERLING

“As I step into the role of chief of police, I am humbled and honored to serve this community,” Chief Sterling said. “My commitment is to lead with transparency, accountability and a deep dedication to fostering positive relationships between our police force and the residents we protect. Together, we will work tirelessly to create a safer, more inclusive environment, where

collaboration and communication are paramount.” Retiring Chief Jim Barlow served the Carmel Police Department for more than 40 years. Barlow started with late-night shifts in the patrol division then moved from criminal investigations to special investigations with the department’s drug task force. During his career, he saw promotions from sergeant

to lieutenant to major. He served in leadership roles in the patrol division and the support division, ultimately appointed to chief of police in 2017. “It has been an honor to work alongside dedicated officers and witness the strength of our community partnerships,” Barlow said. “Together, we have faced challenges, celebrated successes and continually

strived to make our city a safer place. The journey has been rewarding, and I am confident that the department will continue to thrive in its mission to protect and serve.”

from Page 1



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## HIS WAY

When Derrick Pfeister, Director of Arts and Entertainment for Hotel Carmichael, first approached Farrell about performing cabaret, the singer was quick to clarify his performance style.

“I told Derrick, ‘I’m not an impersonator,’” Farrell said. “So, if you’re looking for an impersonation of Sinatra, that’s not me. I’m sure you can find those guys anywhere.”

Farrell shares that his enjoyment comes from sharing facts about the artist that the audience may not know.

“I love the backstory,” he said. “Having the context of something elevates the beautiful songs that we all know and love even more.”

Farrell’s recent productions include *Sweet Caroline – The Life and Music of Neil Diamond*, *Because of You: A Tribute to Tony Bennett*, and *One Voice – The Music of Barry Manilow*. Previously, his recurring production of *All the Way: A Frank Sinatra Tribute* played to sold-out crowds in 2021 during the height of the pandemic.

When asked why he thinks people are so moved by his productions, Farrell suggests that people yearn

for memories evoked by music.

“People want the nostalgia,” Farrell said. “They want to see things that bring a moment in time that was important in the songbook of their lives.”

Farrell will return to Feinstein’s stage from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, performing *Frank Sinatra: The Tribute*. The doors open for dinner and drinks at 5:30 p.m. The performance will feature songs like “Fly Me to the Moon,” “In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning,” and “Summer Wind,” as well as new sharing new anecdotal tales about the life of Ol’ Blue Eyes.

Although Farrell has moved on from his administrative role at ATI, his collaboration with Feinstein’s is just getting started. Farrell and Woods have been tasked with curating more content for a monthly show debuting next month.

“I am so grateful for our past successes!” Farrell said. “My company, Crossroads Entertainment, in collaboration and partnership with the great people at Feinstein’s at Hotel Carmichael, are thrilled to announce that beginning April 18, the third

Thursday of each month will be a ‘Don Farrell Presents ...’ curated evening of top-notch entertainment ranging from uniquely created original shows, new docu-cabaret tribute shows, presented artists, bands, and more!”

The “Don Farrell Presents...” debut show will be *Summer Nights: The Music of Grease!* The performance will feature music and stories from the blockbuster hit and will engage the audience with festive sing-alongs.

Farrell explained to The Reporter that he enjoys using his talent to enrich the lives of the people he entertains.

“It’s so powerful what music can do to the human spirit,” he said. “Music transcends political ideology. It transcends cultural differences. It’s so powerful when we come together and celebrate.”

Farrell is also humble regarding the gifts he has been afforded.

“I believe that music is truly a gift from God,” he said. “We are surrounded by beautiful angels on Earth, people that are inspired by God, to write lyrics and melodies that just go right to your heart.”

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## TRUE

But the first of the 12 caused a bit more difficulty than they expected. She couldn’t quite finish the first year of teaching. The budget groaned, but stretched enough to allow him to finish that all-important degree. And then an unexpected, unplanned event occurred: the first baby had to arrive by cesarean section. But one operation did double duty for it wasn’t just one baby. There were twin boys. So they had made a flying start in producing their family of 12.

The grass being “greener on the other side,” he took a job in Hawaii. A new family, a new job, travel. What more could one ask? When you’re planning for 12, you shouldn’t waste too much time. So before long the next edition was on the way. The twins were a lively handful, he had an important job with long hours, the lovely climate was fraught with fungi and things alien to the mainland. She scarcely knew how to cope with it all.

But the plans were rosy: when the new one gets here and the job eases up, we’ll make friends, we’ll get a sitter, we’ll find time for everything. The gentle mother flew over for several weeks. What a relief to have the twins in capable hands! To have a loving grandmother care for the little girl! The hectic life smoothed a bit and life seemed easier.

But the third child was also by cesarean section. Surgery does drain one’s vitality. The children’s needs

did not diminish. Then a promotion came and it was on to California. A new house, a lovely locale. But again the pressure of a new job. Long hours of work. Too little time for wife and family. If we’re having 12, it’s time to get on with it, he said. But she didn’t feel equal to another operation. Three lovely youngsters were enough to cope with now.

Sometimes the grandparents came, but these visits – halfway across the continent – were of necessity rare. One time when they came things had gotten into such a sorry state that they took their lovely daughter to a psychiatric hospital. After several weeks she seemed much improved. The young husband went in, too, on an outpatient basis and again their marriage seemed to flourish. The children grew, became teenagers.

Sad news reached the aging parents. Daughter had walked out without leaving any address. A million worry-years later they found she was working in a motel for her room. The mother prayed – oh, how earnestly she prayed – that God would take care of this daughter who had become incapable of caring for herself.

So she was not surprised when she learned that the motel keeper had said to his wife, “It is not right to hire that girl for her room. We must pay a salary so she can buy food to eat.” In this fashion the girl survived but the mind deteriorated. The husband secured a divorce.

He sold the house they had loved then moved the three high schoolers to a different locale. The job became too much but now there are alimony payments. She secured a small apartment. Alimony and rent came out almost even. So the parents send checks and a once-favored aunt contributes some and a girl – she must be nearing 40 – survives.

When her parents make the long journey to see her, she locks the door and turns them away lest they take her back to the hospital. “Come home,” they plead. The plea falls on deaf ears. Her children are there. The boys can drive a car now and sometimes – yes, very rare sometimes – they come to visit.

Her parents lived for her rare letters:

Dear Mom, Dad,  
Thank you for the check.  
I am very busy. Will write more later.

Love,  
Your daughter  
Always the same two lines. Always “busy.” The “more” never comes.  
5/13/75

from Page 1

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NEWS

# Supporting the Arts

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

## This Week

### Heights Elementary School

winning art is on Pages 1, 2 & 3

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

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# Carmel Park Board votes to dismiss lawsuit against city

Proposed ordinance change addresses concerns regarding impact fee credits

## The REPORTER

In its first meeting since the Carmel City Council passed a resolution outlining proposed changes for the approval of future impact fee credits, the Carmel/Clay Board of Parks and Recreation voted to dismiss the litigation filed against the City of Carmel regarding this matter.

Park Board members expressed appreciation for the commitment of Mayor Sue Finkam and the City Council to enhance transparency regarding the issuance of impact fee credits. While the proposed changes must first be reviewed by the Plan Commission before returning to City Council for final adoption, the Park Board's action demonstrates its confidence that these important changes will be implemented in a timely manner.

"I appreciate the resolution of this issue and would like to thank the Parks Board for taking this action," Mayor Sue Finkam said. "With this lawsuit behind us, we can focus our valuable resources on providing world-class parks and recreation amenities to

Photo provided by Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation

residents and visitors for decades to come."

"Both the City of Carmel and Clay Township have been important partners contributing to the success of Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) and this is an issue we are happy to move beyond," Parks and Recreation Director Michael Klitzing said. "Together we can now focus our attention on the future and how best to serve the park and recreation needs of Carmel residents."

CCPR is currently finalizing its new Comprehensive Parks and Recreation

Plan, which will guide the management and development of the park system for the next five years. Later this year, the Park Board will host a joint meeting with the City Council and Clay Township Board to review recommended priorities and action plans developed based on extensive public input.

The master plan will also identify potential funding options necessary

Finkam

Klitzing

to sustain existing infrastructure and construct new amenities requested by the community.

An update on the master plan was provided at the Jan. 23, 2024, Park Board meeting, and [can be viewed here](#).

# Fishers Century Club continues expanding its charitable efforts

Guys crowd-giving group to meet March 26

## The REPORTER

The Fishers Century Club will hold its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26 at The Club / Knowledge Services building on Crosspoint Boulevard in the recreation room.

At the start of the meeting, the Youth Mentoring Initiative (YMI) will briefly speak about its use of the funds received from the December meeting.

YMI was selected as the winning charity for the December meeting, where Matt Kegley, Board Chair of YMI, spoke passionately about the organization's mission to engage Hamilton Southeastern School students through positive relationships with caring adult mentors.

"We are honored to

have Youth Mentoring Initiative share their impactful work with us," said Anthony Head from the Fishers Century Club. "The club is excited to hear about the impact of our donation on their program. We are also calling all guys in the community to attend and bring a charity of their choice to pitch!"

The Fishers Century Club raised \$3,300 at its December meeting and members hope to continue to grow and surpass that at the March 26 gathering.

The meeting will also include three randomly selected charitable organization pitches from club attendees. For more information and a list of previous winners, please visit [fisherscenturyclub.com](#). To participate in

the crowd-giving group online, visit the Fishers Century Club's [Grapevine site](#).

## About Fishers Century Club

The Fishers Century Club is a group of individuals committed to making a positive impact on the local community. Through collec-

tive giving and active participation, the club aims to support and uplift deserving charities, ultimately contributing to the betterment of Fishers and the local community. For media inquiries, please contact the Fishers Century Club at [fisherscenturyclub@gmail.com](#).

# Meet with State Reps. Schaibley & Torr at Westfield GOP event

## The REPORTER

With the Indiana legislative session in the rearview mirror, the Westfield GOP will welcome State Representatives Donna Schaibley and Jerry Torr for a legislative update.

The event will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20 at the Grand Park Events Center, 19000 Grand Park Blvd., Westfield. Please

RSVP to [westfieldingop@gmail.com](#).

Donna Schaibley has represented Westfield in District 24 since 2014, and Jerry Torr has held the District 39 seat since 1996. Please plan to attend to learn about their experiences in the Indiana General Assembly. Both legislators are retiring, so this will be an opportunity to thank them for their service.

## Primary candidates

There is an extensive list of candidates running for elected offices, precinct committeeman, and state delegates. You can see who has filed by visiting [hamiltoncounty.in.gov/2022/Current-Election-Information](#).

Schaibley

Torr

Also, be sure to research your ballot at [indianavoters.com](#).

# Westfield Chamber talking local government finance with Oscar Gutierrez of Bondy Consulting

## The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber invites business leaders, residents, and guests to attend the March Luncheon featuring Oscar Gutierrez on Thursday, March 21 at The Club at Chatham Hills, 1100 Chatham hills Blvd., Westfield.

As the Founder and Principal of Bondy Consulting, Gutierrez brings with him over a decade of public finance insight and value to his clients. His public service includes serving as the City of Fishers' first Controller where he oversaw its Town-to-City financial transition

and earned Fishers the unique distinction of operating as the only Indiana city with a 'AAA' credit rating from Standard and Poor's. Before his time at Fishers, he held the same position for the City of Lawrence, where he increased cash reserves by 200 percent and helped upgrade the city's credit rating.

Before Bondy, Gutierrez served as the Senior Director of Facility Strategy and Financing for The

Gutierrez

Mind Trust and Adjunct Associate Faculty at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Gutierrez currently serves on the executive board of Bosma Enterprises, the executive board of Quality Connection of Indiana, the Supervisory Committee for Everwise, and most recently joined the board of Student Impact. He was formerly a trustee for the

Indianapolis Marion County Public Library and the commissioner for the Indiana War Memorials. He has been recognized as *Indianapolis Business Journal's* "40 under 40," as well as Indy's Best and Brightest winner in the field of Government by Junior Achievement of Central Indiana.

In his free time, Gutierrez enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife, Madeline, and three children, Darwin, Kenley, and Oscar.

See Finance . . . Page 5



# Hamilton County Tourism awarded for “Best Advocacy Initiative” in Indiana

## Brenda Myers receives Distinguished Service Award

**The REPORTER**

Indiana’s annual tourism conference was held March 11 to 13 in Evansville, Ind., and Hamilton County Tourism was awarded Best Advocacy Initiative in its category.

Additionally, Hamilton County Tourism President and CEO Brenda Myers was recognized as the recipient of the Indiana Tourism Association Distinguished Service Award. The award is for individuals who have seen the importance of developing, promoting, and protecting Indiana’s tourism industry. They have used their position and influence to ensure the success of Indiana tourism assets.

“Tourism has provided me a career that has enriched my life in ways I cannot begin to describe,” Myers said. “My tourism family is very special to me.”

The Indiana Tourism Awards were presented on Tuesday. The awards honor tourism businesses who are creative, innovative and maximize the dollars invested.

Two hundred tourism

leaders from around the state came to the Indiana Tourism Conference for networking and educational sessions over three days.

The Indiana Tourism Association’s mission is advocating the value of tourism in Indiana and supporting the best practices of its members. Established in 1980, the association partners with the Indiana Destination Development Corporation, Association of Indiana Restaurant and Lodging, and other statewide associations to support tourism investment and promotion as an economic contributor to the state.

For more information, visit [IndianaTourismAssociation.com](http://IndianaTourismAssociation.com).

**About Hamilton County Tourism**

Hamilton County Tourism Inc. is a nonprofit, destination management organization that promotes tourism growth through strategic marketing, hospitality and development initiatives providing hospitality to more than four million visitors to Hamilton County each year.



Photo provided  
Hamilton County Tourism was given the award for Best Advocacy Initiative in its category. HCT President & CEO Brenda Myers (center) received the Indiana Tourism Association Distinguished Service Award.

### Ford’s Garage offers St. Patrick’s Day specials

**FINANCE** ————— from Page 4

**Submitted**

Feeling lucky?

Ford’s Garage, located at 13193 Levinson Lane #100 in the Hamilton Town Center, your neighborhood burger and brew joint serving up delicious food with vintage vibes on the side, invites guests to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day the Ford’s Garage way.

Available through March 18, savor limited-edition

menu items, including:

- **Mint Condition Milkshake** – Tillamook Vanilla Ice Cream blended with Mint and OREO. For a boozy upgrade, add a shot of Jameson Irish Whiskey.
- **St. Patty’s Melt** – Half pound of grilled Black Angus, Swiss cheese, corned beef, sauerkraut and spicy mustard on toasted rye bread. Served with Ford’s fries.



Graphic provided  
To view the full menu, visit [fordsgarageusa.com](http://fordsgarageusa.com).

During the luncheon, Gutierrez will cover the state of local government finances. He will cover property taxes and growth at the city and county levels with an in-depth comparison to Hamilton County’s peers around the state.

The event will kick off at 11 a.m. with the opportunity to network with other attendees and business-

es. You will also have the opportunity meet with different companies’ display tables. Guests will then enjoy a delicious lunch. Remarks will begin at 11:45 a.m.

Discounted Partner tickets and Non-Partner tickets are available. Corporate reserved tables (seating for eight) are also available. [Click here](#) to buy tickets.

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# Noblesville Schools’ Sandy Burnette earns state recognition for nursing excellence



On Wednesday, Sandy Burnette, who serves as the Director of Nursing for Noblesville Schools, was recognized by the Indiana Association of School Nurses for her excellence. (Above left, from left) Superintendent Dr. Dan Hile, Scott Showen with Community Health, Sandy Burnette, Deb Rabarge with Indiana Association of School Nurses, and Noblesville Schools Executive Director of Student Services Julie Thacker. (Above right) Burnette with her team of Noblesville Schools nurses. Congratulations, Nurse Burnette!

Photos provided by Noblesville Schools

## Teachers Association says absenteeism bill will help close gaps

By GARRETT BERGQUIST  
WISH-TV | [wish17.com](http://wish17.com)

A top education advocate on Tuesday said he hopes schools and families see an absenteeism bill as an opportunity to work together. On the last morning of the legislative session, state lawmakers sent Gov. Eric Holcomb a **bill to require every traditional public school and charter school** to put together a policy to deal with chronically absent students. Indiana State Teachers Association President Keith Gambill said until now, schools have not had all the necessary pieces in place

to address the problem. He said the bill’s provisions, particularly language to involve a student’s parents or guardians and provide wraparound services, will help schools identify what is keeping students out of class. “We need to get to the heart of why students are being absent, what is the root cause,” Gambill said. “We’ve been in a situation where we really have not been able to drill down into these absences in this way.” According to the **Indiana Department of Education**, 19.3 percent of Indiana students were chronically absent during the 2022-

2023 school year, meaning they missed at least 10 percent of school days. At 84 schools, half of the student population was chronically absent. Black and Hispanic students were more likely to be chronically absent, at 30.7 and 24.4 percent, respectively, while students on free or reduced-priced meal plans were roughly twice as likely to miss class as those who were not. Under the bill, schools will have to notify parents in writing if their child misses at least five days of class over a 10-week stretch without an excuse. School officials will have to schedule an attendance conference

with parents and work with them to put together an attendance plan, including additional services to help the child get to school. Gambill said such services might include tutoring if a child is struggling in a particular class. During floor debate on Friday, Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, a former school principal, said his school once bought 50 alarm clocks for students who were responsible for getting their younger siblings to class because their parents worked early-morning shifts. The bill also includes language to require school attendance officers to report chronically absent students

to child services or juvenile court. Rep. Matt Pierce, D-Bloomington, said Friday that’s already required by state law and the language mainly is meant to ensure schools incorporate the requirement into their absenteeism policies. Bill sponsor Rep. Martin Carbaugh, R-Fort Wayne, said the goal of the bill is to minimize the chances of a chronically absent student or their parents winding up in the court system. Gambill said he hopes parents and teachers see the bill as a chance to build partnerships. “I think developing a true relationship with home

and school and the student knowing that everyone is pulling for them to do a great job in school is going to make a big difference,” he said. The bill currently only affects students in grades K-6. Lawmakers said they might revisit adding upper grades in a future session. Gov. Eric Holcomb officially received the bill on Tuesday. He has seven days to act on it. \* \* \* This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wish17.com/news/indiana-news/teachers-association-says-absenteeism-bill-will-help-close-gaps](http://wish17.com/news/indiana-news/teachers-association-says-absenteeism-bill-will-help-close-gaps).

## Teaching the teachers: Westfield’s inaugural new-educator academy wraps up

By ADAM PINSKER  
WISH-TV | [wish17.com](http://wish17.com)

**Westfield Washington Schools** wrapped up its inaugural new-educator academy on Tuesday. It’s designed to prepare teachers for challenges they may face in the classroom and provide them with resources to solve them. Teacher Kendall Wilkes from Westfield Washington’s Oak Trace Elementary School is the only first-year teacher in the academy. “I think just all the class-

room-management stuff has really surprised me and caught me off guard,” Wilkes said. “I mean, you learn as much as you can in college and student teaching, but it’s just the whole how much you have to think about setting up the classroom, even where you put supplies.” Each month, the academy has a session, and every new teacher in all nine of the district’s schools participated. Each cohort lasts two years. Instructional coach

Karen Schoonover says topics covered include behavioral management and creating an instructional plan for students. “So, we might come alongside a teacher for a multiple-week experience, where we’re planning with them and maybe modeling some teaching and giving them feedback,” Schoonover said. Even veteran teachers like Ken Tucker are required to go through the academy. Tucker taught at Noblesville intermediate

and middle schools for 12 years before taking time off to raise his kids. He returned to the profession 1½ years ago at Westfield Washington’s Monon Trail Elementary. “You think you know everything because you’ve been doing it for over a decade, and then they teach you a different strategy, and, like, wow, and you just can kind of take that into your own classroom,” Tucker said. “But, I think, in terms of what this whole thing’s about is just

collaborating.” In Year 2 of the program, instructional coaches are paired with a teacher to help with professional development and give instant feedback. Tucker says being a good teacher means sometimes you have to deviate from the lesson plan. “Teaching is kind of like jazz in the sense that you can’t really teach it explicitly,” Tucker said. “You can give people all these different tools, but you have to be able to read the room and read all the

people you’re around, and that’s the 24 kids I have in class here.” Westfield Washington’s teachers union just got a new contract with more financial incentives for teachers with experience. Officials are hoping that will keep educators from leaving the district. \* \* \* This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wish17.com/news/education/teaching-the-teachers-inaugural-new-educator-academy-wraps-up](http://wish17.com/news/education/teaching-the-teachers-inaugural-new-educator-academy-wraps-up).



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

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## 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 Koteewi 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***



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Letter to the Editor

Indiana House District 29 candidate wants respectful conversation about America’s foreign policy in Ukraine

Dear Editor:

Last week, an [opinion article by Congressional Representative Victoria Spartz](#) appeared in the Hamilton County Reporter. Rep. Spartz deserves thanks for trying to focus voters' attention on the war in Ukraine and related foreign policy matters.

As the son of a Vietnam Veteran Marine, I understand how much events overseas can mean to Hoosier families. The veteran family and friends, in Noblesville and Fishers, convinced me I am not alone in understanding why we need to pay attention to so many other places in the world. None of us wants to see our loved ones sent overseas to fight.

So, what do we do? We speak out and we vote.

In an age of soundbites, slogans, tweets, and memes, we are all tempted to communicate with cute shortcuts. Unfortunately, foreign affairs rarely seem encompassed within a meme. The war in Ukraine is no different. Sure, we know that Russia invaded Ukraine without provocation and cruelly inflicted a horrible loss of life and property in that country. We also know America and its European allies have been supporting Ukraine's resistance. And still, it is a mess without a consistent message.

Unfortunately, it has been too easy for some folks to use shortcuts when discussing American support for Ukraine, by referring to “unlimited blank checks written by the American taxpayers.” Sounds bad, doesn't it? What has been sent to Ukraine has overwhelmingly been arms and ammunition from the U.S. stockpiles. And what would have been sent (if the most recent proposal in Congress had become law) would be more arms and ammunition made in America, providing jobs and income here, at home. Framing it that way does not feel as much as reckless spending. It makes us think about the true long-term cost of abandoning our promise.

I completely concur with Representative Spartz when she writes that “the situation in Ukraine is difficult and dangerous” and “if we do not deal decisively with Russia, we will have a further escalation of conflicts.”

But here the matter gets even more complex, as illustrated by one question. What would winning the war in Ukraine look like for America? Ultimately, what is a win? The Ukrainians say they want to evict the Russians from all of Ukraine. Representative Spartz is critical of the Biden administration for a strategy she describes as “trying not to lose.” Does not losing mean the Ukrainians win? If more is required, what is it?

It is probably natural to want to blame someone in government for any failures in America's foreign policy and the mess in Ukraine. Representative Spartz seems to blame the “book writers in the Washington bubble” along with the “25-year-old college graduates” and “the naïve political creatures” who don't understand the real situation on the ground. We could have a very short debate about whether any of these labels apply to our elected leaders, but the obvious villain behind the war in Ukraine is Putin.

You might wonder why an educator, like me, would plunge into this topic while running for a seat in the state legislature. The answer is that more respectful and crucial conversations about issues in a public forum are essential for us.

While foreign policy is not made on the state level, it does greatly affect all of us.

**Chris Hartig**  
Noblesville

Letter to the Editor

Bill Shaffer decries loads of debt held by local governments

Dear Editor:

Hamilton County politicians of all stripes must be singing along with the late Tennessee Ernie Ford: “You load 16 tons and what do you get? “Another day older and deeper in debt.”

How else to explain that, in the last two years, Hamilton County’s own debt increased 66 percent even as Fisher’s debt went up 69 percent, Noblesville’s 50 percent, and even Westfield’s 30 percent?

Over in Boone County, Zionsville’s debt jumped 53 percent.

And, since mid-2022, the hands-down champion debtors in Carmel’s city government oscillated between \$1.4 billion and \$1.5 billion as they paid the minimum annual price to remain the Dukes of Debt.

And why not? It isn’t their money.

**Bill Shaffer**  
Carmel

Letter to the Editor

Fishers reader seeks to set the record straight on education issues

Dear Editor:

[In this month's column, Melba Kiser](#) once again misrepresented multiple facets of education, specifically in relation to current legislation. As this now seems to be a trend, I have once again taken to ensuring the facts are presented to the public fairly.

To begin with, Ms. Kiser was incredibly selective of the language she used to discuss [SB1](#). She said, “this bill requires certain schools ... to offer summer school courses for students who are not reading proficient [sic] or at risk of not being reading proficient by third grade.”

It seems that in doing research, Ms. Kiser may have neglected to expand the bill on the website, as this sentence does little to summarize the real implications it has for Hoosier students and families but is the primary sentence if one does not expand the bill. The real meat of the bill states, “Beginning with evaluations administered in the 2024-2025 school year, requires retention of a student in grade 3 in addition to remediation if the student has not achieved a passing score on the evaluation.”

Missing from this bill, however, in its laundry list of additional requirements placed on schools, is an increase in funding to ensure its fidelity. Indiana has required retention previously and did little to nothing to support the remediation of students retained. A statewide focus on the science of reading is incredibly important! However, if the state legislators had investigated other states, such as Mississippi, seeing successes, they would have seen this goes hand in hand with funding.

Later in the bill, it: “Requires schools to administer the evaluation to students who are in grade 2.”

Ms. Kiser had previously commented that students under age 7 can learn elsewhere other than school, so I’m surprised she had nothing to say about this high stakes IREAD test now impacting even younger students than it has previously. We cannot talk about SB1 in generalities or omit its most important pieces. It will have a huge and lasting impact on all Indiana schools.

Interestingly enough, instead of digging into this Reading bill, Ms. Kiser focused on [HB1353](#), and she once again omitted vital information. After this first line, the bill synopsis reads it: “Provides that the parents of any high school student may request a transfer from a school corporation in which the student has a legal settlement to a transferee school corporation in Indiana if the student may be better accommodated by the athletics program offered by the public schools of the transferee corporation.”

Approximately one-third of the bill text dealt with this transfer matter, which is far from the most important aspect of current education. However, it also includes a smaller reference to requiring a report of information.

Once again, if we discuss important legislative matters, we must focus on all pieces, and not omit those pieces that do not serve our narrative.

I would, however, love to make sure that everyone knows plenty of data is available regarding public school performance. It is not now, nor has it ever been, a secret. Public schools provide plenty of information on their individual websites, as do districts. There is also another central location to find data. Located at [in.gov/doe/it/data-center-and-reports](#), interested parties can find all types of historical data about schools and corporations, even including archived ISTEP data!

Wouldn’t you know it – all that data already exists in an easy-to-navigate format. Undoubtedly, some groups, individuals, and organizations will be happy to learn this information.

**Alyssa Roberts**  
Fishers

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

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# Meet the cast of ATI Lab Series’ powerful, thought-provoking new musical coming this Saturday

The REPORTER

ATI’s Lab Series returns this weekend with *IT GIRL* or: *Evelyn and the Eternal Question* at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 16 at the Carmel Clay Public Library, 425 E. Main St.

The play tells the true story of Evelyn Nesbit, a normal teenager who happened to be America’s first supermodel. Her beauty was her blessing when she rose to prominence in New York society at the turn of the 20th century. But, as her star rose, that blessing became a curse with violent ends.

Meet the cast & creative team

Paige Scott (Author)

Scott is a multi-hyphenate performance artist, actor, director, and composer. Performance credits include *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Rock of Ages*, *Miss You Like Hell*, *Jollyship the Whizz Bang*, and most recently *The Minutes* with American Lives Theatre.

As a musical theatre playwright, Scott’s most recent collaboration with KT Peterson, *Razor Creek*, will be a part of the Iowa New Plays Festival in May.

Scott is a member of the Dramatist Guild.

Olivia Wise (Evelyn Nesbit)

Wise is a 20-year-old actor, having participated in theater since only four years old, always having an intense interest in singing and acting. Wise participated in school theatre, along with personal voice lessons for over a decade.

Wise is interested in the theatrical side of art, as well as having a passion for the visual side of things. Wise is currently studying Illustration at School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Wise hopes to one day be able to create a series and to inspire others.

Judy Fitzgerald\* (Flo/Mary Copley Thaw)

Fitzgerald is the Artistic Director/Co-Founder of ATI. Credits include: Radio City Music Hall with Glen Close; Madison Square Garden with Liza Minnelli & Danny Burstein (conducted by Marvin Hamlisch).

Fitzgerald has toured nationally with Debbie Reynolds and Shirley Jones. Off-Broadway productions include *Swingtime Canteen* with Tony Award winner, Charles Busch at the Blue Angel; Placido Domingo’s operetta *VLAD* at the Lamb’s Theatre; *Dodsworth* with John Collum, George Lee Andrews and Dee Hoty at the York Theatre and the John Houseman Theatre; *Irene* at the Sylvia & Danny Kaye Playhouse; *Face the Music* and *That’s The Tick-*



Scott



Wise



Fitzgerald



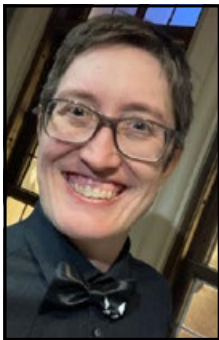
Collins



Mabbitt



Burk-Hartz



Stoltz



Murrell

et! with Tony Award winner George S. Irving for *Musicals Tonight!*

With ATI, Fitzgerald has been seen as Mama Rose in *Gypsy*, Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Fraulein Kost in *Cabaret*, Marie Lombardi in *Lombardi*, and Mary Bailey in *It’s a Wonderful Life – A Live Radio Play*.

A native of Indiana and long-time resident of New York City, Fitzgerald now resides in Carmel.

Cynthia Collins\* (Chorus Girl)

Collins has been a proud member of Actors Equity Association since 1991. Credits include: Off-Broadway, National & International Tours, Regional, Summer Stock, Cabaret, Dinner Theatre, Cruise Lines, Film & TV.

Collins has had the pleasure of working with such artists as Ben Vereen, Sandy Duncan, Claude Aikins, Comden & Green, Cy Coleman, Avery Schrieber, Joel Grey, Cyndi Lauper, Fred Waring & his famous Pennsylvanians, Chita Rivera, Sutton Foster, Jerry Michell, Diane Rehm, Billy Stritch and Patricia Wilson.

Collins is one of the Co-Founders of Actors Theatre of Indiana. A native of New Jersey and long-time resident of New York City, Collins now resides in Carmel.

Clay Mabbitt (Stanford White)

White is thrilled to be involved with his first ATI project. Recent theatre appearances include *Hedda Gabler* at Theatre at the Fort and *Predictor* with American Lives Theatre. Other appearances on local stages include Thomas in Defiance Comedy’s *North Wing*, Ladahlord in *James and the Giant Peach* with The Children’s Museum, Rick in *Building the Wall* with Fonseca Theatre Company,

and Apartment in *Crumble (Lay Me Down, Justin Timberlake)* with Theatre on the Square (now The District Theatre).

Callie Burk-Hartz (Director)

Burk-Hartz is a producer, director, actor, teacher, and mother.

Burk-Hartz made her way back to Indiana in 2012 after working over a decade in Los Angeles, Vancouver, and NYC on stage, on camera, and voicing video games. She currently teaches adult acting classes at the Phoenix Theatre, as well as theatre and film at University High School.

You can hear Burk-Hartz on air across the nation with iHeart Radio or see her local work with her female-centric production company in Indianapolis, Betty Rage Productions.

Ginger Stoltz (Music Director)

Stoltz is excited to musically direct this production of *IT GIRL*.

Stoltz has musically directed and performed with many Indianapolis-based theaters, non-profit organizations, and big bands. Recent projects include *Bright Star* with Purdue University, *Tick, Tick, BOOM!* with Phoenix Theatre, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Spelling Bee*, and *Pippin* with Claude McNeal Productions, Andrew Lipa’s *The Wild Party*, *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical*, *Fun Home* with Footlite Musicals, and *Twelfth Night* with Southbank Theatre Co.

Darrin Murrell\* (Stage Manager)

Murrell has worked as a professional actor, director, producer, and educator for over 35 years with theatres all across the country including extensive work in Indianapolis, Chicago and Portland, Ore.

Murrell has multiple

recent credits as both actor and director at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Human Race Theatre in Dayton, Ohio, Texas Shakespeare Festival and Actors Theatre of Indiana. He is the multi-year recipient of the Indiana Arts Commission’s Individual Theatre Artist Grant Award and served as Artistic Director of Nettle Creek Players from 2015 to 2019 and again in 2023.

Murrell has previously served as Artistic Director of Muncie Civic Theatre, American Heritage Theatre Project, LAFF Shows, The Royal Panto Players, and The Great American Melodrama & Vaudeville.

Murrell served as Executive Director of The Paramount Theatre and in leadership positions at The Capitol Theatre in upstate New York, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Mt. Hood Repertory Theatre, Seaside Music Theatre, The Round Barn Theatre at Amish Acres, and Ghostlight Theatricals. In Chicago, he served as both Executive Assistant to producer Michael Leavitt and Director of Marketing & Advertising for Fox Theatricals.

Also included are *Pete Scarbrough\** (Harry Thaw) and *Christian Condra* (John Barrymore). \*Indicates member of Actors Equity Association, the professional union for Actors & Stage Managers.

\*\*\*

The LAB Series program, in its ninth year, is designed to nurture new plays and playwrights. Each play is given a reading followed by a talk-back session with the staff, cast and playwright.

The Lab Series is presented in partnership with the Carmel Clay Public Library Foundation. The public reading event is free, but seats should be reserved at [this link](#).

## Hoosier Environmental Council’s review of 2024 state legislative session

Submitted by HEC

Following the end of the 2024 Indiana legislative session, the Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC) offers its thoughts on several bills, some which passed both chambers, other which did not. Both new and familiar themes emerged, affecting Hoosier health, quality of life, and the natural environment.

HEC identifies three key areas of focus:

1. Indiana’s water resources require a comprehensive plan

“This session exemplifies the need for Indiana to be thoughtful and strategic about one of our most precious resources – water,” HEC Executive Director Sam Carpenter said. “Governor Holcomb has ordered the Indiana Finance Authority to perform a comprehensive study of our water resources, which represents an important opportunity to begin planning for our future water needs.”

Wetlands protections received a great deal of attention this session and there were both helpful and harmful bills. **HB1383** continued the diminishment of protections for these special water resources by downgrading certain types of wetlands and thus limiting the state’s authority to control the loss. HEC is certain this legislation will lead to further loss of the most effective, least costly stormwater retention and water cleansing tools we have. The good news is that HEC and our allies were able to push for passage of **SB246**, which will allow owners of wetland habitats to receive a tax benefit by voluntarily preserving this land.

Regulating massive groundwater withdrawals was the subject of two introduced bills (**SB249** and **HB1305**) that did not receive committee hearings. These bills, and the industrial water needs that sparked them, challenged the assumptions that Indiana has water resources that are protected in quantity and quality and exist where needed now and into the future.

Other legislative measures affecting water quality and human health also passed into law or were defeated:

- **SB5** facilitates replacement of lead service lines in residential dwellings, especially rental units and other buildings where children, the most vulnerable to lead poisoning, live, learn and play.

- HEC and its allies defeated a bill (**HB1399**) that would have defined a class of toxic chemicals, collectively known as PFAS or “forever chemicals,” in a narrow way that would have

prevented effective future regulation to protect human health.

- A bill that will require the Department of Agriculture to update the Drainage Handbook (**SB140**) should lead to better water management from agricultural fields and residential development projects.

- By contrast, HEC opposed (**HB1108**) that limits county and city regulation of building on steep slopes. The effect of this bill is certain to lead to increased erosion and pollution of state waters.

2. Indiana must build a strategic plan for renewable energy & climate

“Demand for energy is growing and for Indiana to remain competitive, we must significantly grow our supply of affordable, clean, renewable energy,” Carpenter said. “Advanced manufacturing, data centers and EVs are just some of the forces building demand. Until we enact policies that enable both small scale solar on the local level and large utility scale renewable projects, Hoosiers will fall behind in the investments needed to grow our economy.”

The General Assembly did not advance bills that would help secure our energy future. Four positive bills did not receive committee hearings: **HB1193** (to encourage Community Solar); **SB177** (to promote combined farming and solar generation in a form called Agrivoltaics); **SB259** (to facilitate local wastewater and clean energy districts); and **HB1172** (to create a study committee on climate resilience and economic growth). HEC was pleased to see that **HB1382**, a bill that would slow the closing of coal plants, did not advance as well.

3. The General Assembly must refrain from legislative overreach

This session provided dozens of examples where legislators introduced bills as if they were city or county council members or agency regulators.

Perhaps the starkest example was **SB52**, which failed, that aimed to eliminate the Blue Lines bus rapid transit project in Indianapolis. This bill sought to nullify the votes of a strong majority of Marion County voters who eight years ago chose to tax themselves to build a bus rapid transit system. The city and legislators reached a compromise regarding the length and placement of dedicated bus lanes, but some in the General Assembly had no qualms about interfering

See HEC . . . Page 10



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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](https://hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps). NOTE: Candidates for precinct committeement and state delegates will appear in upcoming editions of The Reporter.

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ALS Association applauds Governor Holcomb for signing landmark ALS legislation into law

Submitted by  
ALS Association

The ALS Association celebrates a major victory for ALS advocacy as Governor Eric Holcomb has signed two critical pieces of legislation into law that will significantly improve the lives of Hoosiers living with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis).

**Senate Bill 215 (authored by Sen. Kyle Walker)** ensures that all Hoosiers under the age of 65 diagnosed with ALS can access affordable Medicare supplemental insurance (Medigap) plans. Previously, these individuals faced a financial burden due to Medicare only covering 80 percent of treatment costs. This new law will help alleviate the financial strain on ALS patients and their families.

**Senate Bill 273 (authored by Sen. Ed Charbonneau)** requires insurance companies to cover biomarker testing for ALS and other conditions. Biomarkers are biological markers that can aid in di-

agnosing ALS. Early and accurate diagnosis is crucial for ALS patients, allowing them to access treatment and participate in clinical trials sooner.

“By signing SB 215 and SB 273, Governor Holcomb has joined legislators in enacting the ALS Association’s top two 2024 Indiana state priorities into law,” said Alex Meixner, Managing Director of Advocacy at the ALS Association. “As of July 1, Hoosiers living with ALS under the age of 65 will finally have access to the affordable Medigap coverage they need, and insurance companies will be required to pay for diagnostic ALS biomarker tests as soon as they become available. These new laws represent a big step forward for the ALS community in Indiana, and another step forward for the ALS Association’s efforts to pass ALS-focused laws in statehouses across the country.”

The ALS Association recognizes the critical role played by the following in-



dividuals and organizations in advocating for the passage of these bills:

• **ALS Patient Advocates:** Kelly Cadwallader and Lindsey Black

• **ALS Legislative Champions:** Senators Chris Garten, Scott Baldwin, Cyn-di Carrasco, Rod Bray, Fady Qaddoura, Vaneta Becker, Dan Dernulc, and Representatives Dave Abbott, Matt Lehman, Brad Barrett, Todd Huston, and Martin Carbaugh

• **Coalition Partners:** Dialysis Patient Citizens and the American Kidney Fund  
SB 215 and SB 273 build upon a successful 2023 leg-

islative session for the ALS Association in Indiana, which saw a first-ever state appropriation of \$2 million to support Hoosier families living with ALS, the passage of a law ensuring drug company rebates benefit patients, and the creation of an Indiana Rare Disease Advisory Council.

The ALS Association remains committed to working with the Indiana General Assembly, Department of Insurance, and other state government officials to ensure that Hoosiers living with ALS can fully benefit from these new laws. Learn more at [als.org](https://als.org).

Sen. Mike Braun demands full Medicare audit over \$2.7 billion in catheter fraud

The REPORTER

Senator Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Ranking Member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, along with Senator Rick Scott (R-Fla.) and Senator J.D. Vance (R-Ohio), sent a letter to Comptroller General Dodaro of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) de-

manding an audit of Medicare, following reports of the \$2.7 billion catheter fraud ring and the estimated \$60 billion lost to Medicare fraud per year.

“The victims of Medicare fraud abuse. It’s beyond alarm-



Braun

are often the most vulnerable Americans,” Sen. Braun said. “I’m calling for a full audit of Medicare so we can get to the bottom of the rampant fraud, waste, and

ing that this recent case of alleged Medicare fraud involving overbilling for urinary catheters went undetected for over a year and accounted for an additional \$2.7 billion in taxpayer spending. American seniors deserve better.”

[Click here](#) to read the letter.

Sen. Todd Young demands that Biden Administration increase agricultural exports

The REPORTER

On Wednesday, U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and John Thune (R-S.D.) sent a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack urging them to increase U.S. agricultural exports and improve the competitiveness of

U.S. products abroad.

“We expect trade to fluctuate in response to macroeconomic factors and market conditions,” the senators wrote. “However, the current sharp decline in U.S. agricultural exports is directly attributable to and exacerbated by an unambitious U.S. trade strategy that is failing to meaningfully expand market access or reduce tariff



Young

and non-tariff barriers to trade. While the Biden administration continually refuses to pursue traditional free trade agreements, China, Canada, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and others continue to ink trade pacts that diminish American export opportunities and global economic influence.”

The letter was also signed by U.S. Sena-

tors Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Ted Budd (R-N.C.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.), Jim Risch (R-Idaho), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), and Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.).



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- Cicero Market
- Cool Creek Park – Nature Center
- Kits & Kaboodle, Carmel
- Harbour Market, Noblesville
- Noble Eyes (across from Hamilton Town Center)
- Noblesville Ace Hardware Store
- Noblesville Creates
- Nickel Plate Express, Hobbs Station (on days when there are train rides)
- Market on Main, Tipton
- Schoolhouse 7 Cafe, Fishers

Free glasses in Westfield:

Solar eclipse viewing glasses available for pickup during regular business hours. Glasses are free and limited to four per family while supplies last. Residents are asked to show proof of address.

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- City of Westfield City Services: 2728 E 171st Street
- Community First Bank: 381 South Junction Crossing
- Community First Bank: 707 East State Road 32
- Grand Park Events Center: 19000 Grand Park Boulevard
- Dean Ballenger Agency: 14767 Oak Road, Suite 100
- The Farmers Bank: 360 Tricia Lane
- Westfield Fire Department: 17001 Ditch Road
- Westfield Police Department: 17535 Dartown Road
- Westfield Washington Public Library: 333 Hoover Street
- Wittler Orthodontics: 534 E Main Street

Learn more about the Total Solar Eclipse at: [visithamiltoncounty.com/eclipse/eclipse-prep](https://visithamiltoncounty.com/eclipse/eclipse-prep)

HEC from Page 9

with city business and fore-going hundreds of millions of dollars in federal and private investments secured to support the project.

In addition, **HB1165**, which did not become law, but would have created a separate set of rules for new and “innovative” businesses to apply for and receive environmental permits; and **SB297**, which also created an additional layer of non-agency budgetary review for regulations that might have compliance or implementation costs exceeding \$1 million. The language in SB297 was never considered in the House, but a version was inserted into another bill on the last day of the session and without review by a conference committee, thus effectively giving a legislative budget committee veto power over executive agency rules.

\*\*\*

Hoosier Environmental Council rallied & won:

HEC, together with supporters and allied organizations from across Indiana, advanced its mission and values through the following legislative victories:

• **SB246** passed, and it is a bill that promotes preservation of wetlands. In the fight against **HB1383**, HEC significantly raised awareness of water issues throughout the state.

• **SB5** passed and that will save untold numbers of children from lead poisoning.

• **SB52** was defeated, thus preserving the continuity and effectiveness of public mass transit in Indianapolis and throughout the state.

• **HB1399** was defeated, an ill-conceived bill designed to weaken future regulations of “forever chemicals.”

• **HB1382** was defeated, which would have placed obstacles on the closure of fossil fuel generators throughout the state.

• Finally, HEC strengthened its community of citizen supporters which resulted in over 4,500 individual actions in the form of emails, phone calls, and petitions to advance the vision of a sustainable future for Indiana.

The vision of the Hoosier Environmental Council is to set a new path for Indiana, one in which the state embraces practices and policies that minimize the impact of industry, commerce, development and agriculture on the environment. The HEC believes this path will lead to greater levels of public health, economic well-being, and a sustainable future for generations to come. Learn more at [HECweb.org](https://HECweb.org).





Brian Mark Harrington  
August 14, 1959 – February 26, 2024



Brian Mark Harrington, 64, Noblesville, passed away on Monday, February 26, 2024, with his children by his side following a lengthy battle with health complications. He was born on August 14, 1959, to Brian and Claudette Harrington of Coventry, R.I.

Brian graduated from Coventry High School and received his undergraduate degree from Rhode Island College. Brian went on to receive a Juris Doctorate at Ohio Northern and a Master of Law from the University of Florida.

Brian worked as the Criminal Tax Deputy Area Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service Chief Counsel in Indianapolis for nearly 30 years. He was an active baseball coach for both Noblesville Youth and Babe Ruth baseball. Brian was also a co-founder of The Harrington Group, supporting the slogan of “keeping kids in sports and out of courts” with his best friend, Michael Chevalier, brother Bret, and friend Michael McDermott.

While growing up, Brian served as a bartender at the Maple Route Inn in Coventry, R.I., with Michael Chevalier and held many cherished memories of singing alongside him as one-half of the original “Booze Brothers.” Brian always enjoyed spending time with friends and family, sharing funny anecdotes and carrying a tune wherever he went. Brian was an avid collector and an everlasting Boston Red Sox and Bruins fan. Brian was a loving father, son, and brother.

Brian leaves behind his daughter, Amber (Tristain) Hall of Linden, Ind.; son, Addison (Darby Culp) Harrington of Arcadia; mother, Claudette Harrington of Coventry, R.I.; brother, Bret (Anne) Harrington of Wakefield, R.I.; and sister, Jill (Ed) Harrington-Silva of Richmond, R.I.

Brian was preceded in death by his father, Brian Harrington.

Please join the family for a gathering to celebrate Brian’s life from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at Brian’s home at 19601 Wagon Trail Drive, Noblesville.

A private family burial will take place.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Jimmy Fund in Brian’s name at [jimmyfund.org](http://jimmyfund.org); or by mail: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168.

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

Ruth Kyle Lewis  
June 19, 1926 – March 13, 2024



Ruth Kyle Lewis was born in Gary, Ind., on June 19, 1926, to Emily Schoenfelt Kyle and Joseph Blair Kyle. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 13, 2024, at 97. She was predeceased by her husband, John Lewis, and siblings John, Virginia, and Joe.

Aunt Ruthie, as she was known, grew up in Gary and graduated from Indiana University (Bloomington) in 1949. She loved her post-college life living in Ogden Dunes, Ind., playing bridge and enjoying Lake Michigan for over a decade. Ruth eventually decided she wanted to teach art and returned to Bloomington in the early ‘60s to get her master’s degree. Her second stint at IU was another favorite chapter in her life, primarily because she lived in the graduate dorm and got to know people from all over the world.

She met John Lewis while they were both teaching at North Central High School in Indianapolis. They married in 1967 and moved into a small cottage on White River south of Keystone at the Crossing. In the mid-seventies, John and Ruth built a new house next door to the cottage (two teachers building a house by themselves?! What could go wrong?) from a kit and with the help of a carpenter friend. It would become their home for the rest of their lives. They loved living on the river (except when it flooded!) where they kept a nice flower and vegetable garden and enjoyed watching birds and wildlife. Many trips were taken to the White River Yacht Club in their pontoon boat to enjoy music, dancing, and drinking.

Ruthie had an encyclopedic knowledge of Kyle Family history and regularly regaled anyone willing to listen with stories of summer trips to Duncansville, Pa., with her little brother John. We still have a three-hour recording of Ruth telling us our family history going back several generations. It will be nice to listen to her voice again.

Ruth truly was one-of-a-kind. She was wildly intelligent, charming, a bit eccentric, and more than just a little bit quirky. She was a self-described loner in her later years and lived her life the way she wanted. But she was always willing to gab on the phone. You didn’t call her unless you had at least an hour to spare! And we got such a chuckle when she would announce herself as “Aunt Ruthie on the White River in Indianapolis” ... How many Aunt Ruths did she think we had???

Her nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews, will miss her so much.

Services will be held at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville, on Saturday, March 16, 2024. Visitation will begin at 1 p.m. A service will be held at 2 p.m., followed by a short graveside service at 3 p.m. at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville, where Ruth will be laid to rest next to her husband John.

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

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

JUDAH AND TAMAR

*At that time, Judah left his brothers and went down to stay with a man of Adullam named Hirah. There Judah met the daughter of a Canaanite man named Shua. He married her and made love to her; she became pregnant and gave birth to a son, who was named Er. She conceived again and gave birth to a son and named him Onan. She gave birth to still another son and named him Shelah. It was at Kezib that she gave birth to him.*

*Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. But Er, Judah’s firstborn, was wicked in the Lord’s sight; so the Lord put him to death.*

*Then Judah said to Onan, “Sleep with your brother’s wife and fulfill your duty to her as a brother-in-law to raise up offspring for your brother.” But Onan knew that the child would not be his; so whenever he slept with his brother’s wife, he spilled his semen on the ground to keep from providing offspring for his brother. What he did was wicked in the Lord’s sight; so the Lord put him to death also.*

*Judah then said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, “Live as a widow in your father’s household until my son Shelah grows up.” For he thought, “He may die too, just like his brothers.” So Tamar went to live in her father’s household.*

*After a long time Judah’s wife, the daughter of Shua, died. When Judah had recovered from his grief, he went up to Timnah, to the men who were shearing his sheep, and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went with him.*

Genesis 38:1-12 (NIV)

The Reporter’s policy on obituaries

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

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

Meeting Notices

The Hamilton Southeastern Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at HSE Central Office, 13485 Cumberland Road, Fishers.

All work session meetings of the Hamilton Southeastern Schools Board of Trustees beginning with the March 19 meeting and those scheduled for the remainder of 2024 have been canceled.



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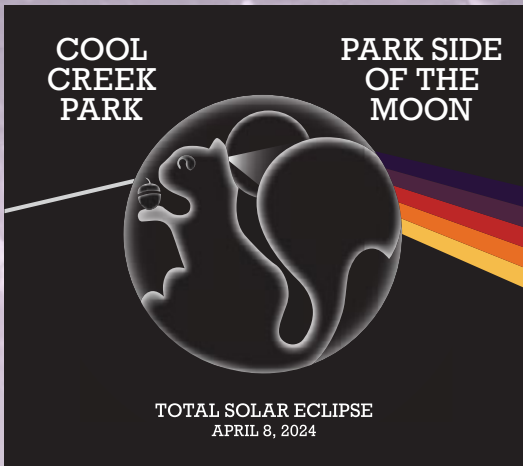
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A rare, total solar eclipse will occur in Hamilton County on Monday, April 8, 2024 and not be repeated in this area until 2153! Hamilton County Parks is staging two events that will entertain and educate, in celebration of this celestial spectacle!



Park Side of the Moon | April 8  
10 AM - 5 PM | Cool Creek Park

\$10 (\$15 out of county)

Get your eclipse on with *Echoes of Pompeii A Tribute to Pink Floyd*. Broadcast personality Paul Poteet\* will serve as host, joined by noted stargazers, Dr. Doug Balogh and Jeff Attebury. Enjoy fun activities, vendors, and for-purchase food and drink throughout the day.

Meet Paul Poteet!



Moon Market | April 8  
12 - 5 PM | Strawtown Koteewi Park

\$5 (\$10 out of county)

Invited artisans will be selling crafts and wares while respected eclipse expert W. Keith Turner presents fascinating eclipse programming. Guitarist Robin Harrison will set the eclipse to music. Special activities and the Duke Energy Nature Education Trailer will be part of the celebration. For-purchase food and drink will also be available.

FREE eclipse viewing safety glasses will be issued to all attendees when entering the event grounds. Free parking for registered guests and the option to tailgate will be offered at both locations. Register online at [MyHamiltonCountyParks.com](https://MyHamiltonCountyParks.com) or scan the QR code below. Hurry, attendance capacities have been set at both park locations!



The perfect way to remember this historic event!

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation is offering commemorative eclipse merchandise online. A select number of the online items (viewing glasses, t-shirts and stickers) will also be sold at Cool Creek Nature Center until sold out. *These items will not be available at either park on the day of the events.* A portion of the proceeds will benefit Hamilton County Parks and Recreation.



Thanks to these valued sponsors for supporting these two very special events.

Scan for event registration or eclipse merchandise online store.



\*Paul Poteet’s hotel accommodations provided by Hotel Carmichael. “We love being Paul Poteet’s hotel of choice! It is always a pleasure having him stay with us. Paul and all of our guests are incredibly important to us.” - Hotel Carmichael Director of Sales and Marketing, Austin Campagna







## Carmel boys track & field ready & set up to make noise this season

By **RICHIE HALL**

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

The Carmel boys track and field team was a close state runner-up last season, and the Greyhounds have several of those athletes returning in 2024.

Carmel has many reasons to take that one step up the podium for this year's campaign, and one of those reasons is to give the Greyhounds' coach one final triumph. Coach Ken Browner is retiring after this season.

Browner took over as Carmel head coach in 2011. He has created a standard of excellence over the past 13 years: the Greyhounds have won four team state championships (2015-16-17-21), finished as state runner-up twice (2014-23) and also claimed 13 individual and two relay state titles.

Browner is a four-time winner of the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's Coach of the Year award and was inducted into the Indiana Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame in 2017.

Asked about this season, Browner said: "It is always exciting to start a new season as you have many questions about who to place where in certain events. The team has put in a lot of work over the summer and fall to get prepared for the upcoming season."

While Carmel had several key graduations from last year, there are still enough returners to help the 'Hounds make some noise this season. A big name coming back is senior Tony

Provenzano, who finished fourth in the 3200 run at the state meet last year, behind Carmel's now-graduated Kole Mathison. Provenzano, headed to Indiana University in the fall, was the state runner-up in cross country in 2023.

Another returning senior is Adom Quist, who placed fifth at state in the 110 hurdles and also qualified for state in the 300 hurdles. Quist is already having success in the early season, as he is sixth in the 60 hurdles qualifying list for the Hoosier State Relays, which take place March 23 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Quist ran the event in 8.22 seconds at the Indiana Wesleyan HSR Qualifier #3 last Saturday.

Two more seniors are Cole Taylor and Gabe Laboyteaux, who ran on the Greyhounds' fifth-place 4x100 relay. Carmel also brings back half of its third-place 4x800 relay. Thomas Biltmeyer and Drew Grogan are both returning; Biltmeyer was a top 25 finisher at the state cross country meet.

"I enjoy the preparation of the athlete for their events," said Browner. "Trying to get them to peak at the right time is a challenge but so enjoyable when you get it right."

Two juniors are also in the HSR mix when it comes to the shot put. Theo Thurmond tossed 52 feet at the IWU HSR Qualifier #2, placing him 10th on the list. Ozzy Pollard threw 49 feet, 5.5 inches at the IWU Qualifier #3. Carmel's 4x800 relay team is presently fifth (8:10.68) and the 4x400 relay team is currently 11th (3:31.14).



Kent Graham / File photo

Carmel's Adom Quist placed fifth in the 110 hurdles at the state meet as a junior last year and is one of the top returners for the Greyhounds this season.

## Hamilton County fills out HCC girls basketball all-conference teams

### The REPORTER

The Hoosier Crossroads Conference announced its All-Conference teams for the 2023-24 girls basketball season.

Hamilton County's four HCC schools were well-represented, with eight on the First Team list and another six on the Second Team. In addition, Hamilton Southeastern coach Brian Satterfield was named the conference Coach of the Year after guiding the Royals to an undefeated HCC championship.

The complete list of All-Conference athletes appears at right.

### FIRST TEAM

**Avon:** Aniah Smith.  
**Brownsburg:** Avery Gordon.  
**Fishers:** Talia Harris, Allison Scheu.  
**Franklin Central:** Lily Graves.  
**Hamilton Southeastern:** Kennedy Holman, Kayla Stidham, Maya Makalusky.  
**Noblesville:** Reagan Wilson, Meredith Tippner.  
**Westfield:** Ellie Kelleher.  
**Zionsville:** Emma Haan, Allie Caldwell.

### SECOND TEAM

**Fishers:** Nevaeh Dickman, Jordyn Smith.  
**Franklin Central:** Payton DuVall.  
**Hamilton Southeastern:** Addison Van Hoesen.  
**Noblesville:** C.C. Quigley, Ava Shoemaker.  
**Westfield:** Reagan Lorenzen.  
**Zionsville:** Faith Leedy, Caroline Sampson.

**Conference standings:** Hamilton Southeastern 7-0, Fishers 4-3, Zionsville 4-3, Noblesville 4-3, Franklin Central 3-4, Westfield 3-4, Brownsburg 2-5, Avon 1-6.



Julie Brown / File photo

Westfield's Ellie Kelleher was named to the Hoosier Crossroads Conference girls basketball First Team.

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# Noblesville's Summer Rempe commits to Army West Point

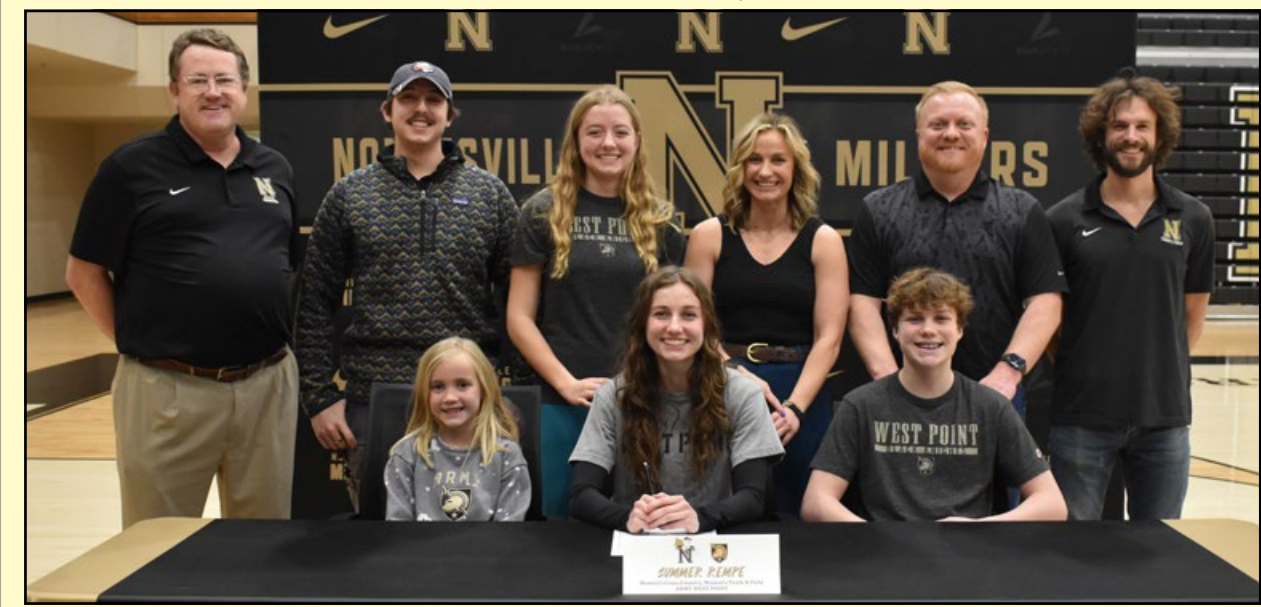


Photo courtesy Landon Denison, NHS Shadow Yearbook

Noblesville's Summer Rempe has committed to the Army West Point women's cross country and track & field teams. (Front row, from left) Luci Rempe (sister), Summer Rempe, and Owen Rempe (brother). (Back row, from left) Jim Pearce (Noblesville Girls Track & Field Head Coach), A.J. Snyder (Noblesville Cross County/Track & Field Assistant), Riley Flynn (sister), Amanda Rempe (mother), Ben Rempe (father), and Aaron Becker (Noblesville Girls Cross Country Head Coach).

# Noblesville's Sydney Elliott commits to Hanover College



Photo courtesy Landon Denison, NHS Shadow Yearbook

Noblesville's Sydney Elliott has committed to Hanover College women's soccer team. (Front row, from left) Aaron Elliott (father), Sydney Elliott, and Shelli Elliott (mother). (Back row, from left) Kristin Hetzel (Noblesville Girls Soccer Assistant), Sitota Elliott (brother), and Mike Brady (Noblesville Girls Soccer Head Coach).



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Carmel's Gregg Enoch is this year's Hamilton County Reporter Boys Swimmer of the Year. Enoch won four events at the IHSAA state meet, helping the Greyhounds to a 10th consecutive team championship.

## Reporter reveals 2024 all-county boys swimming teams

### Carmel's Gregg Enoch named Boys Swimmer of the Year

**The REPORTER**

The Hamilton County Reporter has named Carmel senior Gregg Enoch as its 2024 Boys Swimmer of the Year.

Enoch went 4-for-4 at this year's IHSAA state swim meet. He swept the two long-distance events, claiming the individual medley by over four seconds, then won the 500 free in an equally comfortable margin, just over four and a half seconds. Enoch then swam on the 200 and 400 freestyle relays, helping the Greyhounds to a 10th consecutive state championship.

Hamilton County Reporter's All-County Boys Swimming Teams		
FIRST TEAM		
Name	School	Year
Gregg Enoch	Carmel	Senior
Michael Gorey	Carmel	Junior
Jonathan Hines	Fishers	Junior
Anderson Kopp	Carmel	Junior
Brandon Malicki	Carmel	Senior
Andrew Shackell	Carmel	Junior
Ethan Swart	Hamilton Heights	Senior
Lewis Zhang	Carmel	Sophomore
SECOND TEAM		
Name	School	Year
William Allen	Carmel	Freshman
Nathan Cox	Hamilton Heights	Senior
Jihoon Jung	Hamilton Southeastern	Junior
Alex Koo	Fishers	Freshman
Neiman Kumler	University	Senior
Luis Sanchez	Fishers	Junior
Jacob Schade	Fishers	Junior
Ethan Zhang	Carmel	Junior
<b>HONORABLE MENTION:</b> Anthony Adams Jr., Fishers; Emile Haig, Carmel; Collin Huston, Hamilton Southeastern; Aiden Kless, Noblesville; Hudson Lee, Fishers; Brian Qian, Carmel; Carson Szotek, Carmel.		

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

**Thursday, March 14**  
**BOYS LACROSSE**  
Westfield at Cathedral, 7 p.m.  
**GIRLS LACROSSE**  
Hamilton Southeastern at West Lafayette, 6:30 p.m.  
Carmel at Guerin Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Zionsville at Westfield, 7 p.m.  
**TRACK AND FIELD**  
Carmel girls at Fishers, 5 p.m.  
**VOLLEYBALL**  
Park Tudor at Carmel, 6 p.m.  
Hamilton Southeastern at Westfield, 6:30 p.m.  
Guerin Catholic at Roncalli, 7 p.m.  
Perry Meridian at Fishers, 7 p.m.

**Friday, March 15**  
**BOYS LACROSSE**  
Noblesville at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.

*Please email schedule changes or corrections  
to [sports@readthereporter.com](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com).*



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# Iconic blue envelopes containing Indy 500 tickets mailed to fans across globe

Submitted by IMS

Indianapolis 500 fans will watch their mailboxes after the highly anticipated blue envelopes featuring Race Day tickets were mailed Tuesday, March 12 from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Ticket Office.

AJ Foyt Racing’s Sting Ray Robb and Meyer Shank Racing’s Felix Rosenqvist (photo, left, right, with IMS President J. Douglas Boles) were on hand to assist with the initial mailing, which included shipments to all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and 36 countries around the world as race fans eagerly await the 108th Running of the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge on Sunday, May 26.

“This is really cool,” Robb said. “It’s the start of what we dream about during our offseason, and it feels like it’s becoming real as we approach the Month of May.”

“It’s really cool to see physical tickets still going out to the fans because you see people who have been coming to the track for 50, 60, 70 years for the ‘500,’ and they probably still have some of those tickets laying around. We’re continuing that history here today.”

Rosenqvist and Robb also took time to write notes and signatures on a few envelopes, with Rosenqvist’s special messages going to ticket buyers from his native Sweden.

“It’s cool to give a little message to some select fans back home,” Rosenqvist said. “It gives you a perspective of what we are doing. It’s so cool that people are coming from all around the world to watch this race. It means so much to me. I actually live here in Indy now,

and the Indy 500 is both the greatest race in the world and my home race, but the fact that people are coming from my home country to watch, it gives you an idea how big it is.”

It takes approximately nine weeks to package all pre-ordered tickets for mailing, from orders the day after the previous year’s race up to current orders. Hard work from employees in the Ticket Office and other Penske Entertainment Corp. departments ensures the ticketing process runs smoothly and on schedule.

A few facts and figures about this year’s initial ticket mailing:

- Number of tickets sent: More than 190,000 items (includes 160,000 Indy 500 Race Day tickets, parking, qualification and practice tickets, concert tickets, etc.)
- Number of blue envelopes sent: More than 26,000
- Number of U.S. Postal Service trays to accommodate envelopes: More than 580
- Weight of all ticket envelopes and trays in first mailing: More than 5,300 pounds
- Hours needed to fill envelopes by hand: More than 800 person-hours
- Number of working days to package envelopes: 48
- Number of Penske Entertainment employees who fill envelopes: 48
- Number of states distributed: 50
- Number of countries distributed: 36 (including United States)

Federal postal inspectors came to IMS with a large truck for the first mailing. Robb and Rosenqvist joined



Photo courtesy IMS

several IMS employees in helping to load the trucks.

Receiving an eagerly awaited blue envelope in the mail is a rite of spring for thousands of fans of “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing.” But why are the envelopes blue?

In the 1970s, Indianapolis 500 tickets were mailed in brown envelopes with the IMS return address in the upper left corner. In the 1980s, a heavier-stock, gray-colored envelope was introduced to mail the tickets, with just the IMS Post Office box number in the upper left corner. A computerized printer also was used for the first time in the 1980s to print ticket customers’ name and address on each envelope.

When the NASCAR Cup Series was added to the IMS schedule in 1994, the Ticket Office needed a way to distinguish between the envelopes containing tickets for the Indianapolis 500 and the annual NASCAR race, especially if the Postal Service returned the envelope

as non-deliverable.

So, the IMS Ticket Office decided to color-code the ticket envelopes for each event. Indianapolis 500 ticket envelopes became blue, Brickyard Weekend envelopes became purple, GMR

Grand Prix envelopes became green, and ticket envelopes for other IMS events use a variety of colors, including red, cream, gray and yellow.

Tickets for the 108th Running of the Indianapolis

500 presented by Gainbridge on Sunday, May 26, the Sonsio Grand Prix on Saturday, May 11 and all other Month of May events are available at [IMS.com/Tickets](https://www.ims.com/tickets) or via the IMS Ticket Office at (317) 492-6700.

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**Upcoming Broadcasts**  
**Wed March 13 - Lacrosse**  
6:00 pm North Central vs **Noblesville** | J. Varsity | Boys Lacrosse | HCTV Sports  
7:15 pm **Hamilton Southeastern** vs Bishop Chatard | Girls Lacrosse | SSN Sports  
8:00pm North Central vs **Noblesville** | Varsity | Boys Lacrosse | HCTV Sports

**Wed March 13 - E-Sports**  
8:00 pm YES! Gaming Presents: The Super Smash Open LIVE Weekly Bracket

**Thurs March 14 - Lacrosse**  
6:50 pm **Carmel** vs **Guerin Catholic** | Girls Lacrosse | Indiana SRN

**Fri March 15 - Lacrosse**  
6:50 pm St Xavier vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Boys Lacrosse | Indiana SRN

**Mon March 18 - Lacrosse**  
6:00 pm **Fishers** vs Lawrence North | Girls Lacrosse | Fishers Sports Network

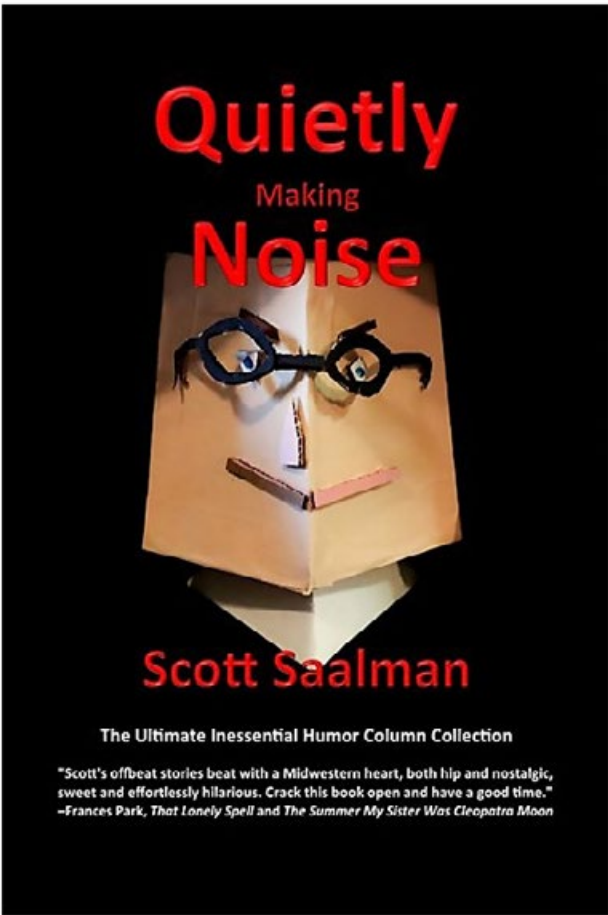
**Tues March 19 - Music**  
7:00 pm Patsy's Pub Open Mic Night | Westfield, IN | Hamilton County TV

**Thurs March 21 - Volleyball**  
6:00 pm **Guerin Catholic** vs **Noblesville** | Boys Junior Varsity | HCTV Sports  
6:45 pm **Hamilton Southeastern** vs **Carmel** | Boys Varsity | SSN  
7:00 pm **Guerin Catholic** vs **Noblesville** | Boys Varsity | HCTV Sports



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