

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

See page A7



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THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

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SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

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



TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Sunny morning.
Mostly sunny afternoon.
Tonight: Mostly clear.



HIGH: 54 LOW: 36

Learn the history of Roberts Settlement with Westfield Washington Historical Society

The REPORTER

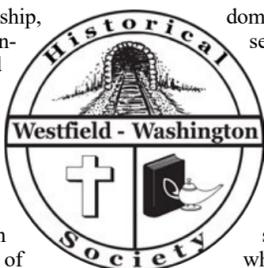
The Westfield Washington Historical Society (WWHS) announces three major events coming up this spring and summer, with the first taking place later this month.

History of Roberts Settlement

From 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, Bryan Glover and LaVella Hyter will share the history of Roberts Settlement, an early pioneer community of free people of color

in Jackson Township, Hamilton County. Glover and Hyter are both descendants of these Roberts pioneers.

Roberts Settlement was established in 1835 by a group of related families who journeyed from North Carolina and Virginia seeking to maintain their liberty and free-



dom. Their storied settlement was about 10 miles from the Town of Westfield where Quakers, many who also came from the same southern regions where the Roberts lived, had already begun to settle. The Roberts Settlement Chapel and Cemetery still exist on 276th Street east

of U.S. 31 and serve as the gathering place for their annual family reunion.

In addition to sharing their history, Glover and Hyter will share plans for The Legacy Walk at Roberts Settlement, an exciting new permanent public exhibit that will open this year at Roberts Chapel.

Everyone is welcome. A Q&A will follow the presentation.

See History . . . Page 3

Her love was blind at the Blind Owl

To commemorate our first date, we returned to Blind Owl Brewery, where we had met face to face for the first time seven years earlier, the final step after surviving a gauntlet of initial online dating site chats, then the exchange of personal email addresses, then an actual phone call, until I was deemed text worthy.

Our 2017 Blind Owl meetup blazed the trail for "Scrynne," the jokey moniker we assumed once the longevity of our relationship started stretching like an irreversible smile. Scrynne – like married movie stars with first names merged to conserve headline space.

Scott + Brynne = Scrynne: a mathematical equation written in the stars of a constellation dotting a private galaxy of love.

See Love Is Blind . . . Page 3



Noblesville Creates featuring three artists & Eclipse Exhibit during April

Submitted by Noblesville Creates

Noblesville Creates (NC) is featuring three artists of the month along with the Eclipse Exhibit in Noblesville City Hall in April.

The artists of the month include Anita Strauss, Claudia Labin & Friends, and Liz Hamstra. Each of their exhibits will be featured at a different NC showcase location.

Stephenson House Anita Strauss

Strauss works with natural elements such as branches, acorns, pine cones, and moss. "Creating a house is like working a puzzle," she said. "The pieces tell you where they go if you listen."

When Strauss couldn't find exactly what she was looking for in a faery house, she took it upon herself to remedy that problem. As she became proficient with power tools like the band saw, belt sander, pneumatic pin nailer, jigsaw, and lots of Dremel tools, her skills improved.

"I still have many ideas that I've yet to try and that keeps

me pushing the limits of what wood can do," Strauss said.

Her personal creativity and skills with various power tools have attracted attention of those from the Indianapolis Art Center, inviting her to teach and empower others to try their hand in the wood shop.

"I didn't think they were serious, but it's definitely something I'm considering," she said.

Strauss' exhibit will be like stepping into her booth at a fair with a variety of styles of faery dwellings including free standing, tree houses, faeryscapes and even hanging designs. "My hope is that people will be inspired to create their own faery garden and open up to the magic that is around us every day."

The full exhibit, "Where Do Faeries Live? Woodland Dwellings for the Faerie," can be seen in the Stephenson House now through April 27, from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday on the Noblesville Creates campus.



Photo provided

Strauss' exhibit includes a variety of styles of faery dwellings, this piece called "Oakhurst Manor."

You can meet Strauss during the upcoming Fairyville event.

Meyer Najem Claudia & Friends

Flowers won't be the only thing cross pollinating this spring.

Claudia Labin, Irwin Labin, Andy Ball, Julie Ball, Jim Barnes, Howard Friedman, Freddie Kelvin, Debbie Kriby, Bonnie Maurer, Tom Mueller, Bill Wehemier, Pat Wehemier, and Gayle Williams will share an exhibit from April through June at Meyer Najem in Fishers. Their body of artwork will showcase the result of a "cross pollination" of ideas, technique, and experience.

This salon of local artists first started meeting around June 2023. Every six to eight weeks, they come together to present and review each other's latest artwork. Labin recounts that because they all come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, there is always a lesson to learn and new chances to think outside the box. "I think this group gave me the opportunity to be more adventurous," she says, later noting that it "reignited my creativity."

See Creates . . . Page 2

Remove invasive species, get free native trees

The REPORTER

Throughout April, Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) offers an Invasive for Native Tree Swap program to promote invasive species awareness.

Remove one or more invasive species from your property and CCPR will reimburse you with one three-gallon native tree sapling per household. There are four species of native trees available: redbud, pagoda dogwood, Kentucky coffee tree, and winterberry.

Take a photo of the invasive(s) you have removed and

submit your work to rterry@carmelclayparks.com for your opportunity to pick up a free native tree sapling.

Removing invasive species from parks, neighborhoods, and other natural areas and replacing them with native plants helps better the ecosystem and provide food and habitat to wildlife. Invasive species are non-native to a particular area, meaning they were intentionally or accidentally introduced. Invasive species outcompete native plants for resources such as water, sunlight, and soil nutrients. This displacement of native species causes



Photos provided

Invasive garlic mustard (left) and invasive lesser celandine.

harm to the environment, public health, and the economy.

For an extensive list of common invasive species in Indiana from the Indiana Invasive

Species Council, [click here](#). To learn more about the importance of native plants, visit the [park stewardship page](#) on the CCPR website.

Support HNPL at silent auction & spaghetti dinner

The REPORTER

The Friends of Hamilton North Public Library will soon hold its annual Silent Auction and Spaghetti Dinner. Bidding on various gift baskets opens Monday, April 15 and closes at 1:45 p.m. on Sunday, April 21 during the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.

The community is invited to attend the Spaghetti Dinner from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 21. It will be held in the Jenkins Room of the Cicero library, 209 W. Brinton St. Come enjoy a meal of spaghetti, meatballs, breadsticks, salad, and dessert for a free-will offering.

All proceeds benefit the Summer Reading Program and other library projects.

Election Board: all voting machines ready for primary

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Election Board met at 10 a.m. on Friday and performed testing of the voting machines for the May 7 primary election. All machines tested fully operational and accurate.

The board discussed background checks for potential people who would work polls and reported to the appropriate appointing party chairman any persons who failed the background check or have not paid Hamilton County property taxes.

Discussion was had concerning several candidates who had not paid fines assessed by the Board at the last meeting for failure to file appropriate financial reports. Those included Cloeva Brown, Carla Cork, Scott Frei, Carmel City Councilmember Dr. Anita Joshi, and Pam Williams. Referral was made to the Hamilton County Attorney for appropriate action.

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Approved by the state of Indiana Charity Gaming Division Permit #011908

April 26th & 27th 2024

Hamilton County Fairgrounds

Proceeds Support Lions Club Charitable Projects

CREATES

from Page 1

Labin began painting seriously in the last 10 years. She credits Noblesville Creates, then known as Nickel Plate Arts, as the launchpad from which her artistic passions took off. Her artwork since then has developed alongside her love of storytelling.

“All of my artwork has a story to tell,” she said. “They’re one of a kind, all unique. Influences from master painters, classical tales, and a bevy of mixed media supplies produces individual pieces rich with meaning.”

Since the salon’s inau-

gural meeting about nine months ago, Labin has found herself experimenting. Her most recent pieces are multi-media with hints of burlap, cheesecloth, and paints. The other salon artists will be bringing their own latest works to the exhibit, including oil portraits, ceramics, steel, and more.

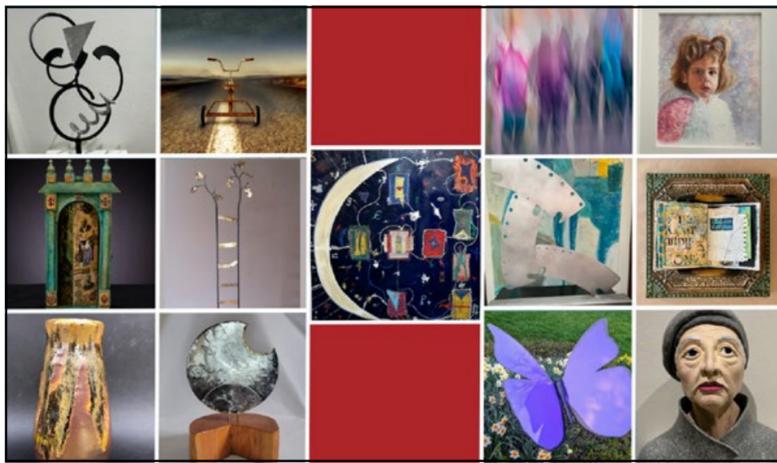
See the full exhibit, “Claudia & Friends,” April 12 through June 29 at the Meyer Najem 2nd floor gallery, 11787 Lantern Road, Fishers, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. You can meet the artists of “Claudia & Friends” at their free public reception from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, April 12 at Meyer Najem.

Four Day Ray
Liz Hamstra

Chromatic shapes, colors, and texture will add wonder to Four Day Ray Brewing in Fishers this spring.

Liz Hamstra’s showcase exhibit, “Into the Kaleidoscope,” will be a one-of-a-kind viewing experience from April through June.

Hamstra graduated from Heron School of Art with a



Photos provided

(ABOVE) See numerous works from several local artists at the “Claudia & Friends” exhibit April 12 to June 29 at Meyer Najem. (BELOW) Artist Liz Hamstra will grace Four Day Ray in Fishers with her “Into the Kaleidoscope” exhibit. Meet her during the public reception on June 4.

JOIN THE FIGHT TO BEAT CANCER!

Community Pork Loin Dinner
Menu: Pork loin, hashbrown casserole, green beans, slaw, applesauce, cornbread & butter, homemade desserts, lemonade, iced tea, and water

Proceeds go toward community support and cancer research



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www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/jobs.aspx
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major in ceramics and minors in photography and art history. She began teaching ceramics in Kentucky before moving back to Indianapolis. There she taught at the Indianapolis Arts Center for about a decade. She has always loved teaching, reflecting that it became a “catalyst for my own creative process and inspiration.”

Starting in 2020, Hamstra has both expanded and refined her intuitive process. She notes that she’s “always been drawn to the entire spectrum of colors,” evident by the bright geometric mandalas from recent years. She has no idea how a painting will look when she starts. In her current process, she starts by figuring a general shape. Then she measures small tick marks to map out the larger angles, swirls, and symmetry. Music plays a large role as well.

“All of my paintings have their own soundtrack,” she said, explaining that she’ll often listen to the same few songs to really capture the emotions and atmosphere she wishes to convey.

“Into the Kaleidoscope” explores dimension and refined color palettes. Hamstra’s recent pieces show a more pastel range that emphasizes shapes. Gold thread sewn into the canvas also accentuates strong an-



gles and lines. All her pieces have no frame, allowing for the geometric designs to extend beyond borders and into imaginary space.

The full exhibit, “Into the Kaleidoscope,” can be seen at Four Day Ray Brewing, 11671 Lantern Road, Fishers, Sunday and Monday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

You can meet Hamstra at her free public reception from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on

Tuesday, June 4 at Four Day Ray Brewing Fishers.

Noblesville City Hall
Total Eclipse:

From Light to Dark

Locals and visitors alike will be able to experience a once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8. Celebrate all things celestial with Noblesville City Hall’s exhibit, “Total Eclipse: From Light to Dark.”

Noblesville City Hall is open to the public through April 26, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Individually packaged snacks • Lysol • Hand Sanitizer • Disinfecting wipes



LOVE IS BLIND

from Page 1

It was much better than the alternative: Brynne + Scott = Brott. “Brott” sounds so wrong in so many ways. Belligerent even. Brott sounds like something eaten by heart-clogged Germans.

Scrynne slides off the tongue tip, sweetly, like a bubble of nectar that forms when thumb and forefinger pinch the base of a honeysuckle stem and daintily coax its threadlike pistil from its goldish white bloom. Scrynne – the sound of Cupid’s arrow in flight.

Having homefield advantage, Brynne had to drive only 20 minutes to reach Blind Owl. I had to drive 2 1/2 hours. For me, online dating meant long-distance driving. Apparently, Dubois County women were cautious enough about me to swipe in a disfavoring direction.

During my online dating stint, otherwise known as my “wonder why years,” most first dates proved disastrous. I once drove three hours only to find myself in an argument over automatic weapons. That Dirty Harriet didn’t even blink when I mentioned Sandy Hook was too much to bear.

Once, I emptied a half tank of gas to reach a Chinese restaurant. I arrived on time. There was only one other customer inside,

a much older woman. I sat alone at an empty booth for an uncomfortable amount of time, certain I had been jilted. Had I cracked open a fortune cookie, it would have said LOSER. But then my AWOL date texted: “I’ve been here for a while. You’re late. Are you OK?”

That’s when I realized she was the woman in the other booth I had walked by earlier. She looked nothing like her profile. Our awkward, half-hearted conversation over moo goo gai pan had all the joy of an arranged marriage. I regretted the wasted tire tread that resulted in no second-date traction.

But virtual Brynne and real-life Brynne looked the same. She was way out of my league looks-wise, but somehow, I kept the conversation going during our first Blind Owl rendezvous. Lucky for me, love was blind for Brynne at Blind Owl. She was well worth the gas money.

Seven years later, I still recognized the first table we occupied, but other first-date details were fuzzy. Now 59, my memory has become the playing field for a ruthless game of Pac-Man. The only positive takeaway from that last sentence is that at least I remember Pac-Man.

“What did we eat?” I asked.

“Pizza.”

The lid to our very first Blind Owl pizza box remains framed on our living room wall, commemorating our first date: March 5, 2017. Brynne artfully pressed actual bird feathers beneath the frame’s glass to accentuate the cartoony owl on the lid.

Our waiter, a personable guy with an alligator claw hanging from his left earlobe, bobbed in and out during our reminisces. He confessed to possessing a proclivity for taxidermy. We told him about our Blind Owl first date, hoping to net free Café Con Leche Bread Pudding. It was worth a shot. Though impressed, Gator Guy didn’t take the bait.

“What ran through your mind as our date approached?” I asked.

“I was excited. I was nervous. I was hoping my breath didn’t smell bad,” Brynne said.

“Yea – about that ...”

“Shut up,” she said. Then she added, “You were smart and funny. Those are my two main things. I remember that you were engaged in talking to me while we ate. This is something you still do that I like about you. You will push your chair from the table and do one of these—”

She mimicked me slid-

ing down the chairback a bit, crossing her left leg over her right knee, putting her left elbow on the table, propping her chin with her left palm, and looking straight at me. “‘He’s comfortable,’ I thought. You are comfortable in your own skin. We each had a beer. That helped. That helped my nerves.”

She reminded me about something else I said to her on our first date: “When I walked toward the restroom, you said, ‘Nice jeans.’ But you meant nice figure. Nice butt.”

She admitted to appreciating the bold comment. Her reaction could’ve gone either way. I was absolved of my lechery.

“You asked me to follow you to your car. You opened your trunk. I thought you were going to abduct me,” she said. “To my surprise, you pulled out chocolate chip bagels with chocolate chip cream cheese from Jasper and gave them to me. I loved that. Later, you called



Photo provided by Scott Saalman

to see if I got home safely.”

The waiter brought our check. “Happy anniversary,” he said.

It has been a happy seven years. There is no seven-year itch to report, not even a seven-year twitch. Still Scrynne

after all these years.

Scott’s new humor collection, **Quietly Making Noise**, is available on Amazon. Contact him to be a guest speaker at one of your gatherings. Contact: scottsmaalman@gmail.com.

HISTORY

Meet Westfield’s founders

From 7 to 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18, Main Street Productions, Inc., will present an entertaining and enlightening evening with the Founders of Westfield: Simon Moon, Asa Bales, and Ambrose Osborne. Word has it there may be surprise guests as well! Everyone is welcome.

Tour Union Bible College

From 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 27, you can find out the answers to these

questions:

- Did you know Westfield had a college – and the longest, continuously running school in the state of Indiana?

- Have you always wondered about that fire escape?

- Did you know the school had a connection to the Underground Railroad?

Join the WWHS for a tour of Union Bible College and Academy. Everyone is welcome.

About WWHS

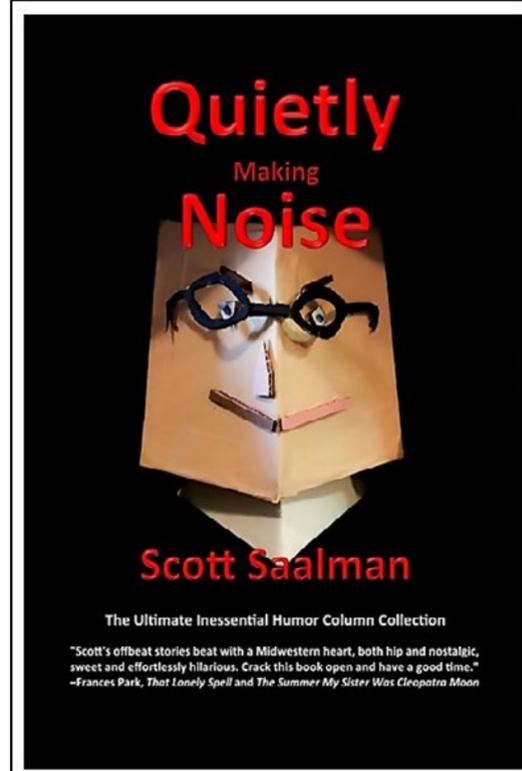
The Westfield Washington Historical Society & Museum is located at 130

Penn St. Meetings, unless stated otherwise, will be held in the Assembly Room of City Hall, located at the same address. Events are open to the public and free of charge.

Parking is available on Penn Street and on the north side of City Hall. Everyone is encouraged to ask questions or share stories. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, visit wwhs.us, email president@wwhs.us or communications@wwhs.us, or call (317) 804-5365.

from Page 1



More than 60 hilarious essays by our humor columnist Scott Saalman. Order on Amazon. Book Scott as a guest speaker.

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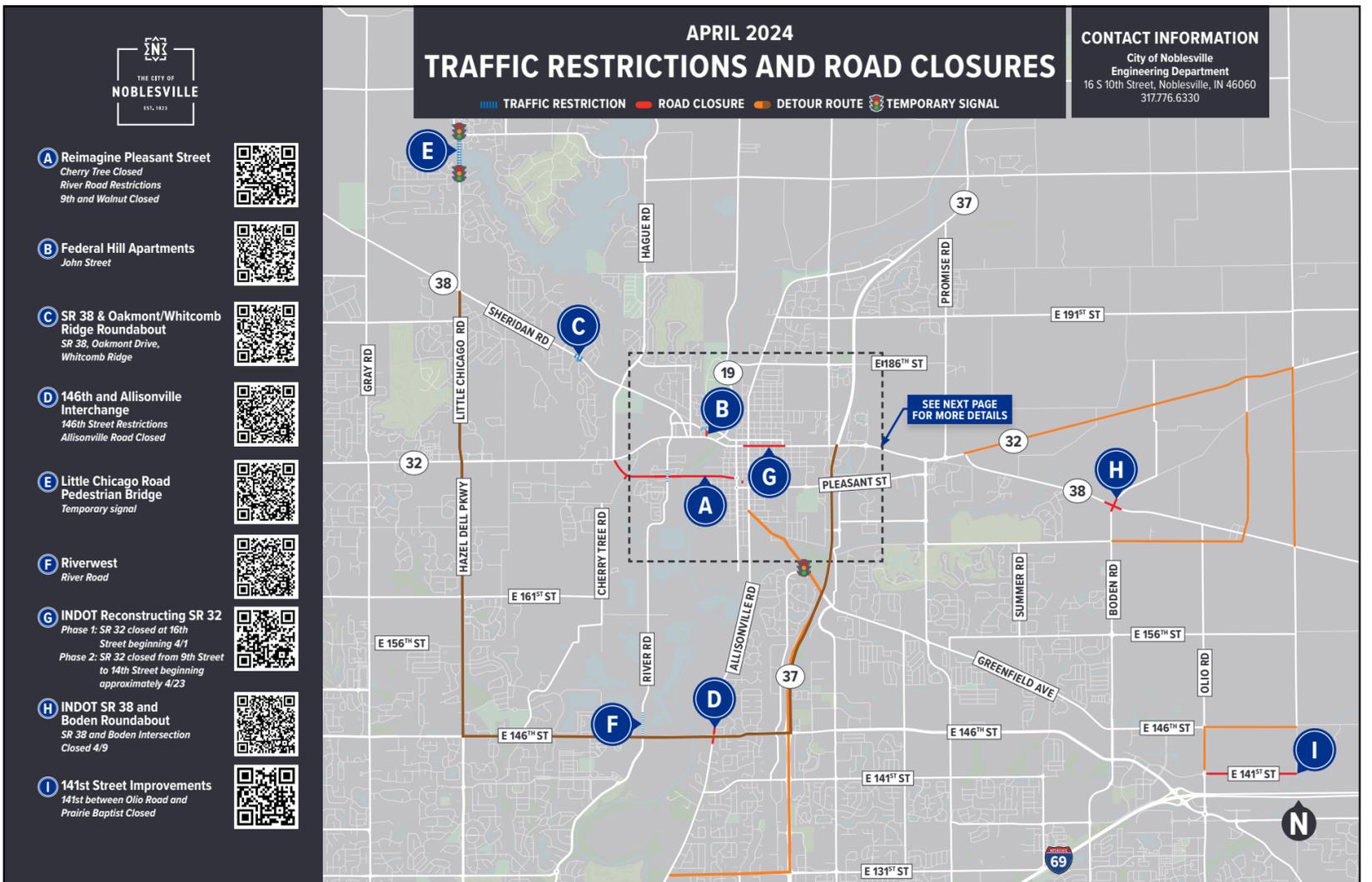
THE DETAILS

May 2, 2024
Ritz Charles, Carmel
Shopping at 10am
Luncheon, Speaker &
Fashion Show at 11:30am

Join us for an afternoon of shopping with a portion of the proceeds being donated back to Prevail!

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Plan your Eclipse Day travel



Weather & traffic are unpredictable ... Paul Poteet isn't.
Your Hometown Weatherman!



County Councilman Mark Hall's March Timesheet

Welcome to the Timesheet. This column is a report of work done on behalf of the people of Hamilton County. It's to be informative, too – a place to learn about projects and how our county government works.



MARK HALL
The Timesheet

As your employee, it's important to me that you know what is being worked on as transparently as possible in government. You hired me as your County Councilman, and my hope is that you'll choose to be informed by regularly reading this column, getting involved, and by asking questions. Council meetings are at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at the Judicial Center in downtown Noblesville. Meetings are also available to watch online for those unable to attend in person.

Here is where my time this past month has been spent.

Spring is in the air, the trees are budding, and potholes are being filled – let the road construction begin! Between federal, state, county, and city road projects, getting around Hamilton County for the next few months is going to be like me trying to lose weight: slow and frustrating.

March's work included investing time in County Finance reviews and research, The Regional Development Commission, the Hamilton County Humane Society, Hamilton County Tourism, and deep dives into upcoming and proposed projects for both the full council as well as the RDC.

March's personnel committee meeting was canceled. Normally, personnel requests are voted on as they occur, first, in the personnel committee and then at the next regular council meeting using a recommendation from the committee. The finance committee did not meet. We are scheduled for an update meeting in April. The challenge ahead will continue to be balancing the expense of upcoming proj-

ects while keeping our reserves strong.

The Regional Development Commission approved moving ahead with the new Police and Fire Training Center this month. We selected a vendor to provide an estimate of operational costs so proper budgeting can occur.

My sense is that we will need to fund the first year's operating costs before each agency using the center is able to begin to contribute to the operational overhead from their 2025 budgets. Westfield is contributing the use of the facilities ground while all the remaining large police and fire departments in the county will contribute pro-rata from their individual department budgets to offset the operational costs of the facility.

We are planning a top-of-the-line training center that will have few rivals in the Midwest. Expectations are high, with many of our public safety officials anxious to implement comprehensive training and inter-departmental cross training programs. The meeting room was full of public safety professionals in a show of support for the new facility.

Based on preliminary estimates, this will require a \$20 million investment to build. A request for quote participation has already been made public. Additionally, there could be public safety income tax dollars used to help with the investment and the remaining amount will be bonded. The bond will be paid with revenue from an RDC TIF district.

This month included a work session review of proposals from the Hamilton County Humane Society and Hamilton County Tourism. The Humane Society is in a tough position and location. As a no-kill shelter located within minutes of Marion County, often animals are surrendered intentionally or dropped off at a nearby park.

The volume of animals cared for continues to increase. With operations costs increasing, we worked through an updated financial model to help. As the number of loose animals also increases, the impact to the public increases.

We arrived at a solution for the county and suggested that the same solution be implemented in the other public safety jurisdictions that bring animals to the shelter for care and housing.

Hamilton County Tourism proposed a new fiscal management process for the innkeeper's tax revenue. The council welcomed and reviewed the idea; then, after much discussion with tourism staff, decided to take the idea under advisement and consult with our attorney and with the treasurer.

In addition to the County Council public meetings, March's work included attending a Council work session, a Regional Development Commission meeting, a combined Cicero and county officials meeting, watching a Board of Commissioners public meeting, attending a Noblesville City Council meeting, doing a patrol ride-along with the Sheriff, and attending a Cicero Town council meeting.

This month there were three constituents service requests. Usually, requests require research with a county department, securing the correct answer and then following up with the taxpayer.

March's first question was regarding Economic Development in Hamilton County. Next, a proposal to build tiny homes on private ground for the homeless in our area. Lastly were questions regarding the County's 2023 commitment of ARPA funds to assist Cicero's town council with the cost of updating their wastewater treatment plant.

A constituent expressed interest in any economic incentives that might be available to build senior, veteran, or affordable housing in Adams and Jackson Townships. The resolution was to

connect them with the right folks in Hamilton County Planning, Hamilton County Economic development and with the Cicero Planning and Economic Development teams.

The tiny house concept is not something new; however, this constituent was concerned about government expectations and zoning considerations if tiny houses were allowed to be built on donated rural farm ground. After a thorough reading of his business plan, a quick check of zoning and how the process could work satisfied the request.

Lastly, I worked with the county attorney and three ARPA committee members to coordinate members of the Cicero town council to appear at the next public ARPA committee meeting to address any confusion with the request.

This month, it was an honor to represent you at the Interfaith Summit, at the DRIVE Indy servant Leadership speaking series, in a ride-along with Sheriff Quakenbush, and in meetings with Police Chief Mann of Noblesville and with Police Chief Gebhart of Fishers.

This is my timesheet. This is where my time went during month 15. There are many projects in the queue for 2024, and while my job is primarily the financial oversight of the county budget, it is important to understand the Board of Commissioners' priorities and balance them with the stewardship of taxpayer dollars. That is the job, and I am excited to do the people's business.

As a taxpayer myself, and listening to so many of you, our employers, it's important for the taxpayers to have access to all the information you want. I work for you and although you may not choose to do a deep dive into what your County Council does, it's important that you can always do so.

Feel free to contact me at (317) 832-1104 or mark.hall@hamiltoncounty.in.gov with questions, feedback or if you would like to talk about county business.

Reflecting on the legislative session while looking ahead to the next one

At the beginning of March, I wrote about certain bills that were going forward at the Legislature. They were a reading skills bill, a reading proficiency bill, and a bill on wireless communication devices. The legislature is now out of session, and those bills have been signed by the governor and have been assigned public law numbers.



MELBA KISER

Since the writing of that column, there have been additional bills signed into law that affect the education system.

First is **SB 17**, now P.L.98. This is a bill that requires the operator of an adult-oriented website that contains material harmful to minors to use an age verification method to prevent a minor from accessing an adult-oriented website. The law further allows for a parent or guardian to seek damages if a child has been harmed by the violation of the age verification requirement as well as requiring that the age verification information be kept confidential.

The second bill was **SB 202**, now P.L.113. This bill is significant because it redefines "diversity" as "cultural and intellectual diversity." Aimed at diversity committees, the bill requires a disciplinary policy to punish disruption of expressive activity, a review at least every five years based on certain criteria and restricts the granting of tenure or promo-

tions if a person is found to be limiting or restricting free inquiry, free expression, or intellectual diversity.

A bill dealing with instruction of human sexuality, **SB 128**, passed the Senate but never got a hearing in the House, so that bill is dead. **SB 128** required that any instruction on human sexuality would first have to be approved by the governing body, the school board, and that information on the subject be published on the school website. Passage of such a law would mean that parents and taxpayers could hold school board officers responsible for their decision on human sexuality curriculum. Unfortunately, that opportunity was taken away from us.

The bill on internet safety curricula, **SB 287**, met the same fate as **SB 128**. The bill on cursive writing, **SB 287**, has been introduced in the Senate for several years now by Senator Jean Leising. There have been numerous studies conducted on how cursive writing helps students with comprehension and retention. Cursive writing is also beneficial for students with mobility disabilities as it does not necessitate lifting the pencil to write every letter. Although it has passed with majority support in the Senate, the House Committee on Education has failed to give it a reading every year.

The last bill I will dis-

cuss is **HB 1072**, Student Immunizations. The legislation was specifically intended for those students who were looking to enter a health profession education program. Not only would the bill obstruct the requirement to receive a vaccination to participate in clinical training, but it would also further allow a student to bring civil action against an entity that violated the law. Regrettably, the bill did not receive a hearing in the House or the Senate. Reports are surfacing about the misleading numbers and disastrous effects of the vaccine mandates and the forced shutdowns, including a **multi-year analysis by Attorney General Todd Rokita**. **HB 1072** could have been a starting point for the medical autonomy of our students which would hopefully have been extended to include K-12 students. Especially when

the report showed a "strong correlation between e-learning programs and lower literacy rates."

Soon we will start hearing from our state legislators about their accomplishments for this legislative season. We can take the opportunity to talk to them about the issues we would like them to take up for 2025.

Lastly, bills can vary from two to 12 pages, or more, depending on the issue. It is impossible with limited space to go into any of the legislation in detail. You can read the full legislation by going to the Indiana General Assembly website, iga.in.gov/legislative/2024/bills.

Melba Kiser is an outspoken advocate for financial responsibility and transparency in government at all levels. Her column appears at least once each month in *The Hamilton County Reporter Newspaper*.

Community News

Early trash service in Carmel

Republic Services will begin residential trash and recycling service at 5 a.m. on Monday, April 8 to accommodate the total eclipse. This will affect Monday residents only.

Carmel Utilities suggests placing your carts at the curb the night before.

Dave Lowe every Thursday 6-9 p.m.



Open Mic
Tuesdays
7-10 p.m.
Trivia
Wednesdays
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NOBLE PC

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APRIL 8
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Thanks for reading!

RSVP today: GOP women invite you to meet local candidates

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Republican Women invite you to their upcoming meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9 at the Grand Park Events Center, 19000 Grand Park Blvd.,

Westfield.

Come meet elected officials and candidate for office. This month's featured speakers are the candidates for Indiana House District 24 and Hamilton County Treasurer.

Light appetizers will be served. There is no cost to attend for members and sponsors; tickets are \$10 for guests.

RSVP to hamcogop-women@gmail.com TODAY, April 6.



New roundabout coming to 96th Street & Allisonville Road

The REPORTER

On April 1, construction began on the 96th Street and Allisonville Road roundabout project. The existing Michigan Left intersection will be eliminated and transitioned to a two-lane roundabout adjacent to the new River Place development.

This project is slated to be completed at the end of the year, with minor enhancements completed in the Spring of 2025. Here's what to expect:

- On April 1, the construction contractor began mobilizing at the construction site. Crews placed temporary pavement and transition Allisonville Road to the northbound lanes.
- On or after Tuesday, April 9, the contractor will close 96th Street to the west of Allisonville Road. This closure will be in place for 30 or more days. During this closure, southbound traffic will not be permitted to turn left onto

96th Street from Allisonville Road. Allisonville Road will remain open to both north and southbound traffic. All access to local businesses will remain in place.

Click here for more information, updates, and detour routes as construction progresses.

Note: Fishers Engineering and Public Works Departments will suspend all road construction work on the day of the eclipse, Monday, April 8.

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 2000 Pleasant St. Noblesville, IN

Approved by the state of Indiana Charity Gaming Division Permit #011908



Photo by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com
 (From left) Coach (Jim Simmons), Tom (Adrian Blackwell), Phil (Ken Kingshill), George (Earl Campbell), and James (Mark Kamish).

Main Street Productions, Inc. Presents

THAT CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

By Jason Miller

Directed by Lori Raffel

April 4th – April 14th, 2024

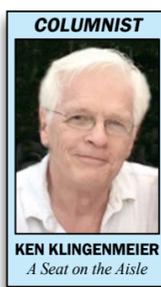
Thursday, Friday, Saturday Shows at 7:30 pm,
 Sunday Shows at 2:30 pm

Basile Westfield Playhouse
 220 North Union St., Westfield, IN - (317) 402-3341
 For reservations, call or visit our website:
www.westfieldplayhouse.org

A show with no heroes is not for the faint of heart

Humans are flawed. Language is raw. Art imitates life.

Jason Miller's 1972 play *That Championship Season* – which won the 1973 Pulitzer Prize for Drama as well as the 1973 Tony Award for Best Play – is rarely produced these days.



Notably direct in its portrayal of five men who once shared the glory of a high school basketball championship, the script is quite raw, with curse-filled anger, disparaging references to blacks, Jews, and women, infidelities, double-dealing, and rough humor. As the playwright did not hold back on language and frankness, neither does Main Street Productions' offering, directed by Lori Raffel.

Set in the Scranton, Pa., home of the Coach, earnestly played by Jim Simmons, what remains of the winning team has gathered to celebrate their glory days of 25 years ago. There is town mayor George Sitkowski, an often-frantic Earl Campbell, whose re-election day is upcoming. His former team-

mates have acted as advisors and beneficiaries of George's position. That includes Phil Romano, an oily Ken Kingshill, whose wealth is derived from his mining operations – with permits provided by the may-

or, junior high school principal James Daley, played with wide open emotions by Mark Kamish, and Tom Daley, James' unsuccessful alcoholic brother, stoically offered by Adrian Blackwell, who seeks nothing more than a chance to be cynical while downing the next bottle.

As the storyline quickly turns from celebrating to strategizing an election plan, the play reflects themes of nostalgia, failure, the importance of winning, and a cacophony of human flaws. The Coach's idealisms, which once drove the team to proud victories, now ring hollow, and he is shown to be a bigot and a fraud. Friendships hard won by shared glories are brutally tested by recent events.

many ways – certainly for the actors playing the nightly anguish and disarray, but also for audience members. There is no one to root for here – there is hardly any protagonist to identify with – perhaps the Coach in his finer moments of encouragements. But *all* are antagonists, leaving us patrons with a dis-balanced feeling at the end – no doubt what the playwright was aiming for.

Bottom line: This ensemble of performers works hard to do the script justice. Though the workings are uneven at times, there is enough energy and understanding of motivation to provide a strong overall production. Be warned of very harsh language and attitudes. Not everyone desired to sit through the opening night show, and it was not surprising to me as our senses are indeed tested.

That Championship Season continues in Westfield through April 14. Information about the schedule and reservations can be found at westfieldplayhouse.org or by calling (317) 402-3341.

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

This is a difficult play in

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

CARMEL FISHERS NOBLESVILLE WESTFIELD NORTHERN TOWNS

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

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

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

Listed below are the Hamilton County American Legion and VFW Posts located in local neighborhoods. Every one of them needs your support to help them stay vibrant and alive to continue assisting and caring for Military, Veterans, their families, and the whole community.

Each Post offers not only a Service Officer to assist Veterans in filing claims or seeking financial help when needed,

but they are always searching for ways to reach into their local communities to assist and donate their time and money to events, special groups, non-profits.

To continue doing all they, they need your continued support by coming into their Posts and enjoying time there with friends and family. They are your local family-oriented Bar & Grill with food, drinks, games and plenty of space to host

personal parties, or you may rent space for meetings or events to support local activities.

Some Posts are open to the public every day while others are open on specific days for food, games, fun and they all look forward to serving you.

As of January 2024, the Posts that are completely smoke-free inside are the Carmel American Legion, Carmel VFW, and

Noblesville VFW.

The Fishers American Legion allows smoking in the enclosed bar area, the rest is non-smoking.

The Noblesville American Legion allows smoking in the small game room, which is a separate building out front, but the Post and meeting rooms are smoke-free.

The Sheridan and Cicero American Legions still allow smoking in the Posts.

Carmel American Legion Post 155

852 West Main St.
Commander Rick Curtis: (317) 846-0001
Post Hours: Mon-Tue 3-10; Wed-Thu 10-10; Fri-Sat 10-11; Sun 12-8



Public is welcome Tue, Thu & Fri, and for lunch 11-2 & dinner 5-8 Wed-Fri

Meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 7pm

Website & Calendar: post155.org

Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094085413679

• Pay attention to their Facebook page for special gaming events like Texas Hold Em, Bingo, their jackpot totals and game day specials

• Euchre is every Tuesday night at 7pm and the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30pm

• Treasure Hunt tickets may be purchased at the bar for their drawing every Friday 7pm

• They have a weekly draw on Wednesday at 7pm

• Pull Tabs are available every day at the bar

• Post Service Officer may be reached at postserviceofficer@post155.org if you need assistance

• Room Rentals call (317) 846-0001 for the Post Manager. They have 3 rooms large enough for 150 people plus outdoor space.



Carmel VFW Post 10003

12863 Old Meridian St.
Commander Darin Bibeau: (317) 846-0917

Hours: Sun-Thu 11-10pm, Fri & Sat 11-12am
Meetings the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30pm

Kitchen serves lunch specials 11-2pm with food service till 8pm. They have a great breakfast every other Saturday. Public is welcome in for food and anytime when signed in with a member.

Facebook page: facebook.com/CarmelVFW

• Check their Facebook page for their weekly updates, lunch specials, music and special events

• Poker is Tue, Fri & Sun 12pm-12am, dealers provided, food snacks & drinks available

• Thursdays 7pm is their Treasure Hunt – open to the public

• Post Service Officer Shawn Ransford may be reached at shawn.ransford@va.gov if you need assistance

• Contact carmelvfw10003@yahoo.com to rent space for your special events



Noblesville VFW Post 6246

654 S. 9th St.
Commander Rob Loy: (317) 773-9956

Hours: Mon-Thu 3-8pm, Fri 2-10pm, Sat 12-10pm, Sun 12-8pm

Meeting is the second Saturday of the month at 11am

Food service is available Mon & Fri 6-9pm & public is welcome

No website/calendar but they have a Facebook page:

facebook.com/post6246

• Bingo every Friday at 7pm and the public is welcome

• Karaoke is every Saturday 7pm and the public is welcome

• Queen of Hearts is every Wednesday 7pm and the public is welcome

• Pay attention to their Facebook page for special events & food specials

• Post Service Officer Linda Behrens may be reached at (317) 773-9956 if you need assistance



Noblesville American Legion Post 45

273 S. 8th St.
Commander John Morris: (317) 773-9985

Hours: Mon-Thu 11-10pm, Fri 11-12, Sat 12-12pm, Sun 12-8pm

Meeting is the third Thursday of the month at 7pm

Food is served 4-9pm Tue-Sat

Public is welcome for food and games plus every Friday and the first three Saturdays of the month

Website: noblesvilleamericanlegionpost45.com

Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063496781153

• They moved into the Historic Ron Wilson Home and are still restoring the history in the home to make it a wonderful environment for their community.

• Shuffleboard games are every Wednesday at 7pm – they have two tables

• Treasure Hunt drawings are every Friday 6:45pm – Public is welcome

• Pay attention to their Facebook page for updates and special events like Music Bingo on the first & third Saturdays at 7pm

• Rental space is available as well as the kitchen – Rental space address 610 Hannibal St. Contact huntzingerpost45@yahoo.com or call (317) 773-9985

• Post Service Officer may be reached on their website link above if you need assistance



Cicero American Legion 341

50 Washington Ave.
Commander Jeremy Delph: (317) 984-4441

Hours Mon-Thu 3-10pm, Fri-Sat 12-11pm, Sun 12-10pm

Meetings are the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30pm

Kitchen hours are 4-8pm Tue, Wed, Fri & Sun – eat in or order food to go

Public is welcome Mon, Fri & Sat and for their Treasure Hunt at 7pm Tuesdays

Website and calendar: cicerolegion341.org/events

Facebook page: facebook.com/cicero-legion341

• Pay attention to their Facebook page for special events & Treasure Hunt results

• Weekly drawings are Sundays 6pm, Wednesdays 7pm, Fridays 8pm

• Euchre tournaments are Mondays at 7pm and Saturdays at 4pm

• Bingo is every Friday, 6pm for Early Bingo and 6:30 for Bingo

• Post Service Officer Mary Ringer may be reached by calling the Post at (317) 984-4441 if you need assistance

*** The Cicero VFW meets at the Cicero American Legion Post on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. ***



Sheridan American Legion Post 67

406 E. 10th St.
Commander Mike Brunell: (317) 758-5007

Hours: Mon 3-9pm, Tue-Thu 11-9pm, Fri & Sat 11-10pm, Sun 1-6pm

Public is welcome for lunch and games

Meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm

Food service – lunch from 11am-2pm Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri, after lunch bar food (fries, burgers, etc) is available.

Facebook page – facebook.com/ALPost67

• Pay attention to their Facebook page for everything:

- Lunch specials posted weekly

- Treasure Hunt Friday night at 7pm – Public welcome

- Bingo 2nd & 4th Thursdays 6:30pm early bird, 7pm start

- Events for the community you can help with

- Post Service Officer may be reached after they find a qualified member to help Veterans



Fishers American Legion Post 470

9091 E. 126th St.
Commander Matt Rapp: (317) 842-5944

Hours: Mon 12-10, Sat 3-11, Tue, Wed, Thu, Sun 12-11, Fri 12-12 – Open to the public but only members & signed in guests may order alcohol

Meetings are the second Monday of the month at 7pm

Food is served 1-9pm Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri

Website and calendar: legion470fishers.org/index.php?id=1

Facebook page: facebook.com/FishersLegionPost470

• Bingo is Sunday at 1:30pm and Tuesday 6:30pm

• Texas Holdem is Every Friday at 7pm

• Treasure Hunt is on Fridays at 7pm

• Pool Tournaments are at 6pm, 8 ball 2nd Saturdays, 9 ball 4th Saturdays of the month and American Poolplayers Assoc 7pm Wed & Thu

• Pull Tabs are available at the bar every day

• Every month the Aux schedules a euchre tournament to raise funds for a local non-profit to help our community

• Pay attention to Facebook and their calendar for live music dates, times

• Room rental space is available – email Rhonda.Cree78@gmail.com

• Post Service Officer Greg Cyrus may be reached at (317) 698-3745 if you need assistance



Meeting location of the



Fishers Armed Services Commission

The drive for this commission is to make a more vibrant community where Military Service is Honored and recognized as a key component to our community's future and wellbeing.

• Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month, 4-5:30pm, in the Pavilion

Conference Room at 10 Municipal Drive, Fishers.

• Website: fishers.in.us/1419/Fishers-Armed-Services-Commission where you will find this info and links to make comments, suggestions and see the members of the commission.

Hamilton County CVSO Office

1 Hamilton County Square, Suite 179, Noblesville, IN
CVSO Office Phone: (317) 776-9610; Fax: (317) 776-8525

• Assistant Director of Administration Hamilton County Board of Commissioners – Dianna Lynch: dianna.lynch@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

• CVSO – Tom Logan: tom.logan@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

• Assistant CVSO – Robin Wilson: robin.wilson@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

• Assistant CVSO – Caroline Franz: caroline.franz@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

• Administrative Assistant – Christina Ellis: christina.ellis@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Please call to setup an appointment or walk in, as your Hamilton County Veteran Service Officers are ready to help our Military, Veterans, and families

in the following areas:

• Obtaining your DD-214 military discharge

• Discharge Review

• Filing claims for service-connected disability or nonservice connected pensions

• Education benefits

• Survivor Benefits

• VA Medical Care

• G.I. Bill Benefits

• Vocational Rehabilitation

• Burial Benefits

• Property Tax Abatement

• Tuition and Fee Exemption for Children of Disabled Veterans

• Motor Vehicle License Plates

• Resident Veteran Hunting & Fishing License

• Golden Hoosier Passport

Hamilton County Stronger Veterans Stronger Communities Coalition On the Prevention of Suicide for Service Members, Veterans, their Families & Caregivers

The Coalition has been working with many different resources in Hamilton County for the past 2.5 years and are now teaming up with the IDVA to be the first county in Indiana to launch the Governor's Challenge, a nationwide initiative for suicide prevention.

The structure of The Governor's Challenge helped us create our teams and projects to start implementing the Governor's Challenge through grant dollars from the IDVA. We use the three Pillars of the challenge to guide our work – Identification, Connection, and Lethal Means and Safety – and we are currently putting together our Community Plan.

We have been encouraged to think big with our ideas and include those organizations that currently serve veterans and bring in their ideas to reach into their local neighborhoods.

We are also applying for a Planning Grant to create a 12- to 24-month Strategic Plan for Hamilton County. The Strategic Plan will include our Coalition working with many community partners to reach our Military and Veterans who are not connected, help them feel connected to their communities and further train everyone on lethal means and safety.

More to come . . .

ATTENTION: ALL U.S. ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS
LIVING IN HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA
Navy – Marine – Air Force – Space Force – Army – Coast Guard – National Guard - Reserve

HAMILTON COUNTY Veterans CORP

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WANTS YOU!!!
TO JOIN OUR RANKS AND HELP OUR MILITARY/VETERAN COMMUNITY
WE MEET AT 7PM ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
Fishers American Legion American Room 9091 E 126 St
across from the YMCA
<https://www.hamiltoncountyveterans.com>

Website  Donate 
ANNUAL DUES IS ONLY \$25.00

WE ARE "VETERANS SERVING VETERANS – THAT'S WHAT WE DO BECAUSE WE CARE!"

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1 Hamilton County Square, Suite 179, Noblesville, IN
CVSO Office Phone: (317) 776-9610; Fax: (317) 776-8525

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More to come . . .

Invest Hamilton County launches new InvestAbility initiative

The REPORTER

Invest Hamilton County has launched a new initiative throughout the county called InvestAbility, which is aimed at delivering dynamic and inclusive career exploration services to students and adults who have disabilities.

Through inter-governmental coordination between Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration's Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and Hamilton County, and through dynamic public-private partnerships with the OneZone, Noblesville, and Westfield Chambers of Commerce and Hamilton County Leadership Academy, the InvestAbility program will expand in 2024 to encompass five community-based, paid trainings county-wide. Locations will include three hotels, a senior living facility and a fifth site yet to be determined. The program's goal is to ramp up to training more than 130 participants per year.

InvestAbility will also facilitate one-on-one career discovery meetings for local students and adults with disabilities who are looking to learn more about a given career or occupation. This activity will occur in coordination with school-based and vocational rehabilitation service providers.

InvestAbility was first launched as a pilot training in 2022 at the Hampton Inn in Fishers, in partnership with Janus Developmental Services and with support from Hamilton County Tourism. More than 80 percent of project participants

saw positive employment outcomes.

"The careers a person is exposed to should not be dependent on their zip code or family connections," said Mike Thibideau, president & CEO of Invest Hamilton County.



Thibideau



"Our community thrives because of the collaboration shown in initiatives like InvestAbility, and we are excited to help people build a more solid foundation for their dreams and aspirations. Dreams should not be limited by disabilities, and every person in our community is a great fit for the right role – we just need to help them discover it."

InvestAbility's community-based, paid adult training opportunities will be managed by Janus Developmental Services and supported through a partnership between the Hamilton County Commissioners, the Indiana FSSA's Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, and investments by Invest Hamilton County, Hamilton County Tourism, and the Hamilton County Community Foundation.

"The Bureau of Rehabilitation Services is pleased to collaborate with Hamilton County to connect job seekers with disabilities with career exploration and employment opportunities," said Theresa Koleszar, director of the Indiana Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. "This partnership has excellent potential to become a model for increasing workforce participation of individuals with disabilities, while meeting business needs."

Click here to learn more about InvestAbility.

When should you take Social Security?

One of your important sources of retirement income will likely be Social Security – but when should you start taking it?

You can start collecting Social Security benefits at 62, but your checks will be considerably bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. You could even wait until you're 70, at which point the payments will max out, except for yearly cost-of-living adjustments.

But if you need the money, you need the money, even if you're just 62 or any age before full retirement age.

However, if you have adequate financial resources to meet your monthly needs, whether through earned income, your investment portfolio, or a combination of the two, you could have some flexibility in choosing when to take Social Security.

In this case, you may want to weigh these considerations:

Life expectancy

For all of us, it's one of life's great mysteries: how long will we live? Of course, we can't see into the future, so the question can't be answered with total confidence. But to make an informed decision on when to take Social Security, you don't need to know your exact lifespan – you just need to make a reasonably good estimate.

So, for example, if you're approaching 62, you're enjoying excellent health and you have a family history of longevity, you might conclude it's worth waiting a few years to collect Social Security so you can receive the bigger payments.

Conversely, if your health is questionable and your family has not been

fortunate in terms of longevity, you might want to start taking your benefits earlier.

Employment

You can certainly continue working and still receive Social Security benefits.

However, if you're under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefits for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit of \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above \$59,520. So, you may want to keep these reductions in mind

when deciding when to begin accepting benefits.

Once you reach your full retirement age, you can earn any amount without losing benefits. (Also, at your full retirement age, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amount to credit you for the months you received reduced benefits because of your excess earnings.)

Spouse

Spouses can receive two types of Social Security benefits: spousal and survivor. With a spousal benefit, your spouse can receive up to 50 percent of your full retirement benefits, regardless of when you start taking them. (Your spouse's benefit can be reduced by the amount of their own retirement benefit and whether they took

Social Security before their full retirement age.)

But with a survivor benefit, your decision about when to take Social Security can make a big difference. A surviving spouse can receive the larger of either their own benefit or 100 percent of a deceased spouse's benefit, so if you take benefits early and receive a permanent reduction, your spouse's survivor benefit may also be reduced for their lifetime.

When to take Social Security is an important – and irrevocable – decision. So, consider all the factors before making your choice.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.



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Here's the latest news from Center for the Performing Arts

Submitted

This coming Monday – in case you missed it – the Moon is expected to blot out the Sun, which sounds like a big deal. Despite our dedication to the Center's mission, we can't compete with a show like that, so our offices will be closed April 8.

Never fear: There are tons of other places where you can experience the Total Solar Eclipse of 2024, alongside thousands of new friends from out of town. If you live in the area, the folks at Hamilton County Tourism have compiled a comprehensive list of local events and official viewing sites that probably includes your neighborhood pub, CVS, and auto parts store, so you're all set!

Meanwhile, we have plenty of exciting news to report here at the Center. Take a look (no eclipse glasses required)!

Take a ride on the Concert Truck

Well, you don't literally ride on the Concert Truck – it comes to you, bearing a grand piano and two talented classical players determined to turn any outdoor location into a temporary concert hall.

Because we love the idea of taking music to the people, the Center has

enlisted the South Carolina-based Concert Truck to visit 10 central Indiana locations from April 23 to 27, delivering private concerts to schools and other organizations as well as two free performances open to the general public. **Where can you catch the Concert Truck?**

Are you ready?

A new performance season is in the works.

Only six shows remain in the 2023-2024 Center Presents Season, presented in partnership with Allied Solutions, which means we'd better hurry up and book the 2024-2025 Season.

Will we succeed in time? You'll find out when we make our official public season announcement on May 21. But if you simply can't stand the suspense, you can get the scoop one day early at the 2024-2025 Center Presents Season Announce Party. The occasion is for the Center's donors and subscribers, but it's easy to become one of those if you're not already. **Click this link.**

One fall show is already announced and on sale: **Backstreet Boy Nick Carter** will play the Palladium on Sept. 26.

Livestream series to feature country-rocker

People who know Carm-

el resident Mike Wells from his corporate day job might not know about his alter ego, a guy who has written and recorded three albums of original folk- and country-rock music with some of the area's finest musicians. He's rounding up a team of players for the April 24 episode of **Live at the Center**, our monthly livestream concert series featuring Indiana-based artists. **You can watch Wells' set** in person at the Palladium or catch the livestream free online.

The March installment of LATC featured Bullet Points, a guitar-driven indie-rock quartet from Indianapolis. **Click here** to watch that performance.

In other news ...

On March 20, the Center held its fifth naturalization ceremony in cooperation with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Years of effort and waiting paid off for approximately 100 Indiana residents from more than 30 countries who left the Palladium that day as U.S. citizens. It's always an inspiring thing to see, and **you can watch the replay on YouTube.**

If you regret missing any recent Center Presents performances, local photographer Mark Sheldon has cap-

tured some cool images that will make you regret it even more. Visit the NUVO website for photos and recaps from March shows by **Rickie Lee Jones, Carrie Newcomer, and A.J. Croce.**

Would you like to sing on the Palladium stage? You have a chance April 16 when the Center hosts its annual **World Voice Day** celebration. It's free to participate or just watch, but there are important details to know first, so be sure to click that link.

Sammy Miller and The Congregation, a gang of young folks from NYC playing old-school jazz for maximum fun, will appear at the Palladium on Friday, April 19, for two shows: a **free matinee** for local school groups, and a **regular evening affair** for the rest of us. As it turns out, the Grammy-nominated Mr. Miller is a kind and generous guy who loves sharing his favorite music, especially with students. For more on his philosophy, you can watch a video of his recent appearance on the **Center's JazzTalk show**, read his interview with **Applause magazine**, and read the **brand-new interview in Current.**

Be sure to put away distractions while behind the wheel

The REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has launched a national high-visibility enforcement effort this month to deter distracted driving.

"Distractions behind the wheel can have devastating consequences," said Devon McDonald, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. "We urge all

motorists to focus on the road and avoid any activity that takes their attention away from driving safely."

Law enforcement officers nationwide will work together to enforce texting and distracted-driving laws and remind people to put away distractions while on the road. This effort comes



Quakenbush

during National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

"Stay focused and keep Hamilton County safe," Hamilton County Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush said.

Drivers will see increased law enforcement efforts, as officers will be stopping and ticketing anyone who is caught texting

and driving.

Violating Indiana's distracted-driving laws can be costly. Violators of Indiana's **hands-free law** could face a Class C infraction with fines of up to \$500 and have points added to their license.

Cell phone use while driving is dangerous and illegal. Break the cycle. **Click here** for more information.

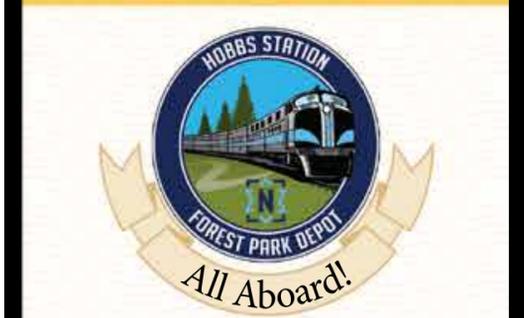
Click here to learn more about Hamilton County Traffic Safety Partnership.

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 MyHamiltonCountyParks.com

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NickelPlateExpress.com



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 Step back in time to the golden age of the 1950s and experience the thrill of the 1956 Murder Mystery Express! Join us, Nickel Plate Express, on a nostalgic journey as we embark on the inaugural run of the newly built Santa Fe El Capitan Hi-Level cars on July 8, 1956.

April 27 at 5 p.m.
 NickelPlateExpress.com

History and Lunch Express
 A scenic and educational train ride down the historic Nickel Plate Road. It's a 90-minute ride through Northern Hamilton County. While on board learn about the history of the railroad and the towns we go through. This all-ages ride is a perfect way to enjoy an afternoon on the rails.

April 14 at 12:30 p.m.
 NickelPlateExpress.com

Eclipsed Spirits Express: Wine, Whiskey and Trains
 Step for an unforgettable 90-minute journey that's as enchanting as the celestial event to come. Passengers may choose between a whiskey or wine tasting to enjoy during this unique train ride. Sit back, sip on a drink while enjoying the scenery from our historic train car.

April 7 at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
 NickelPlateExpress.com

Murder Under the Big Top
 A family-friendly murder mystery where the passengers will be the actors!

April 6 at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
 NickelPlateExpress.com



- Places to purchase glasses:**
- All Things Carmel
 - 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.
- Centier Bank: 3002 State Road 32
 - 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

Sheriff Quakenbush to speak at next GOP Chairman's Breakfast

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Republican Party Chairman's Breakfast will take place from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 17 at Bar Louie, 1111 W. Main St., Carmel.

Hamilton County Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush will serve as the guest speaker.

Reservations must be made by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 15. Cost is \$35 per person if you aren't a Chairman's Breakfast

member. [Click here](#) to register for the breakfast. * * *

There's still time to register for the Hamilton County Lincoln Day Dinner.

Vivek Ramaswamy, former Republican presidential candidate, will be the featured speaker.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, May 2 at the



Quakenbush

Embassy Suites in Noblesville.

With a VIP reception including photo opportunity commencing at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m., the evening promises insightful discussions and networking opportunities for attendees.

Tickets are available for purchase at HamiltonCountyGOP.org.

Next blood drive at Carmel City Hall set for April 19

The REPORTER

The need for blood is constant.

A blood transfusion is needed every two seconds in America. Most blood products are used for cancer treatments, organ and bone marrow transplants, inherited blood disorders, traumas, pre-mature babies, and cardiovascular surgeries.

Donate at the next City

Hall Blood Drive from 8 to 11:15 a.m. on Friday, April 19. Donors must be at least 16 years old, be in good general health and present photo I.D. prior to donating.

Donors who are 16 years old must have written parental/guardian permission on an approved form.

For more information call (317) 571-2400 or email cdixon@carmel.in.gov.

Want to serve on Carmel's Germany Sister City committee?

The REPORTER

The Carmel-Seiffen Sister City committee is recruiting volunteers to serve in various ways to help further the mission of connecting these two communities.

The committee will be meeting from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 21 in the boardroom at the Carmel

Clay Public Library, 425 E. Main St.

Please plan to attend and help build this new committee and develop this partnership with a city in Germany. RSVP to carmel.seiffen@gmail.com.

If you're not able to make the meeting, send an email and let the committee know of your interest.

Westfield Young Professionals invite you to April 23 happy hour

The REPORTER

Join the Westfield Young Professional from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23 at Birdies for an exciting happy hour event.

Birdies, located at 632 State Road 32, Westfield, is a Grill-house and Sports Bar over-

looking a 36-hole miniature golf course. Whether you're craving a hearty meal, catching up with friends over drinks, or aiming for a hole-in-one on the mini-golf course, Birdies has something for everyone.

[Click here](#) to register.



Meeting Notices

The Carmel Advisory Committee on Disability will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, in Meeting Room C at Carmel Clay Public Library, 425 E. Main St.

The Carmel Plan Commission will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1-5.5, the Hamilton County Election Board will convene a public meeting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, in the Hamilton County Clerk's Office at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Suite 106, Noblesville.

The Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Board will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2024, at Osprey Pointe Pavilion, 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville.

The Noblesville Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

The Noblesville Common Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

The Westfield City Council will meet at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn St.

Laura ALERDING
State Representative District 29

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

PHARAOH'S DREAMS

"It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.

"And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."

The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?"

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you."

Genesis 41:28-40 (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.

Sharron Kay Mayfield
November 24, 1940 – April 4, 2024

Sharron Kay Mayfield, 83, Cicero, passed away on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at Maple Village Park Nursing Home in Westfield.

She was born in Bloomington on November 24, 1940, to the late Otto and Margaret (Porter) Hughes. On March 2, 1956, she married David Mayfield and shared 68 years of marriage.

Sharron grew up in the Cicero area and attended Jackson Central High School. She was a dedicated homemaker and was passionate about taking care of her family. She loved to cook and entertain and was always well-known for keeping a clean house. Sharron was a longtime member of the Assembly of God Church and was an honorary member of the Eastern Star. After the children were grown, Sharron ran several side businesses, one of which she traveled making signs and knitting for people at conventions. She enjoyed doing floral arrangements, doing macro may, knitting and crocheting, and traveling. However, her true love was her family and being a grandmother and mother. Those who knew Sharron know that she is one of the kindest and most caring souls that you could ever meet. She will be missed by so many.

Sharron is survived by her husband, David Mayfield of Cicero; daughter, Christina (Charles) Reichel of Noblesville; son, David (Marie) Mayfield of Anderson; grandchildren, Mike (Jocelyn) Reichel of Danville, Ind., Charlie (Kathleen) Reichel of Noblesville, and David (Deanna) Mayfield of Elwood; great-grandchildren, Nolan, Logan, Emma, Carson, Roman, Stella, Atlas, Lacy, and Mary; sister, Philanna Polk of Kokomo, and Ruby Blake of Tipton; and several nieces and nephews.

Sharron was preceded in death by her parents, Otto and Margaret Hughes; son, Robert Mayfield; and sisters, Virginia Hughes and Barbara Babb.

Sharron's funeral service will be at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at Hartley Funeral Home, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero, with Pastor Jim Stout officiating. Burial will follow in the West Grove Cemetery, located at West 226th Street and Anthony Road.

Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at Hartley Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation and/or the Dementia Foundation.

Online condolences can be given at hartleyfuneralhomes.com.



Gregory De Swhier, Jr.
November 23, 1978 – April 2, 2024

Gregory De Swhier, Jr., 45, Noblesville, passed away on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. He was born on November 23, 1978, in Indianapolis.

Gregory was a construction contractor. He enjoyed preparing to hunt and hunting for deer, hog, and turkey. Gregory liked cooking on the grill and loved his dogs, Rex and Storm.

He is survived by his mother, Rosalind Hair; father, Gregory De Swhier, Sr.; siblings, Alison Swhier, James Swhier, and Ami (Sam) Wallace; nieces, Ivy Wallace and McKenna Nix; aunts and uncles, Nancy (David) Zeller, Linda (Tony) Roberts, Pam (Gregory) Cammack, and Susan (David) Galloway; and several cousins.

Services will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville. Visitation will be from 2 p.m. to the time of service at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Humane Society for Hamilton County, 10501 Hague Road, Fishers, IN 46038 (hamiltonhumane.com).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Margaret Ruth "Peggie" Gould
January 16, 1946 – March 23, 2024

Margaret Ruth "Peggie" Gould, 78, Fishers, passed away on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at IU Health Saxony Fishers. She was born on January 16, 1946, to the late John and Ruth (Conaghan) Kelly in Cleveland, Ohio.

Peggie graduated from Shaker Heights High School, Class of 1963. She attended The Ohio State University and received her bachelor's degree from Ball State University. Peggie received her master's degree in social work from Indiana University and was a social worker for over 20 years in discharge planning, dialysis, and hospice care. She was a vigorous advocate for her clients, often butting heads with hospital administration in the process. Peggie lived in New Castle for 38 years before moving to Fishers in 2013. She was a member of PEO woman's philanthropic organization and attended Cyntheanne Christian Church. Peggie was an all-around lovely person.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Robert Gould; sons, Robert John (Katie) Gould and Evan (Vina) Dowling; and her sister, Patricia Titgemeyer.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to noon, with services at noon, on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at Cyntheanne Christian Church, 13151 Cyntheanne Road, Fishers.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cottey College, 1000 W. Austin Blvd., Nevada, MO 64772 (cottey.edu).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

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HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Contact Information

Email
News@ReadTheReporter.com

Web Address
ReadTheReporter.com

Publisher Stu Clampitt
765-365-2316

Subscription Inquiries
Subscribe@ReadTheReporter.com
765-585-9519

Advertising & Public Notices
Ads@ReadTheReporter.com
765-365-2316

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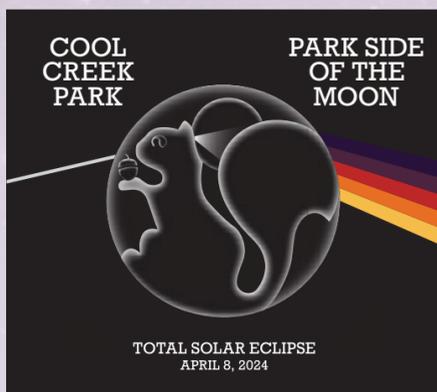
A rare, total solar eclipse will occur in Hamilton County on Monday, April 8, 2024 and not be repeated in this area until 2153! Hamilton County Parks is staging two events that will entertain and educate, in celebration of this celestial spectacle!



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.

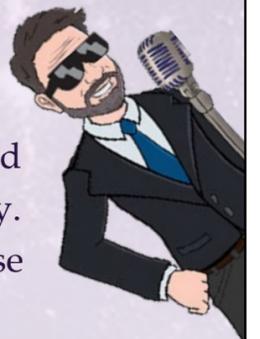


Park Side of the Moon | April 8 10 AM - 5 PM | Cool Creek Park

\$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!



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 at 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. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Hamilton County Parks and Recreation.



Scan for event registration or eclipse merchandise online store.

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



*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





REPORTER SPORTS WEEKEND

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

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

Softball

Huskies get aggressive & beat Taylor

By **RICHIE HALL**

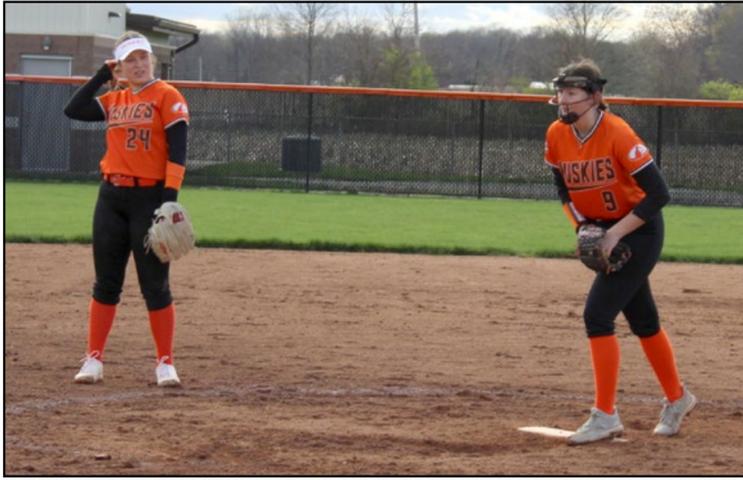
sports@readthereporter.com

ARCADIA – After three games of the season, things are going well for the Hamilton Heights softball team.

The defending sectional champion Huskies returned to action after a Spring Break layoff with a home game against Taylor on Friday. Heights got off to a great offensive start and rode that momentum to a 10-1 victory over the Titans.

The Huskies are a solid blend of experienced players – Heights coach Ken Olovich said the team returned its entire sectional roster except for one starter – and several young players. There are six freshmen on the Huskies roster for 2024; Olovich calls them “quality freshmen.”

“The challenge always is trying to put all the pieces together and I think so far we’re blending pretty well,” said Olovich. “We work hard in practice. The first three games here, things look pretty good.”



(LEFT) Hamilton Heights’ Melanee Forrester (9) pitched the first four innings of the Huskies’ Friday game with Taylor. Pictured at left is Kamryn Rhoton (24), who scored two runs and batted in another two. (RIGHT) Taya Trospser (13) scores the first of her two runs. Also pictured is Lily Roush (2), who also scored two runs.

The Huskies scored five runs in the first inning. Heather Crays led off the inning with a bunt single, then eventually scored when Taya Trospser reached on a dropped third strike. Trospser later got home on a passed ball.

Senior Lily Roush (an IU Indianapolis commit) was walked, then was brought

in by a Kamryn Rhoton single. Rhoton later scored on an error, then Natalie Vann scored Heights’ fifth run.

Taylor scored its run in the top of the fourth inning, but the Huskies got it back in the bottom of the fourth after Crays got home on a passed ball. Rhoton scored in the fifth inning on a passed ball.

Heights finished its scoring with three runs in the sixth inning. Crays hit a double early in the inning, then Trospser drove her in with a line drive, Roush brought in Trospser with a single, then Roush scored on Rhoton’s RBI groundout.

Crays, Trospser and Rhoton each had two hits. Starting pitcher Melanee



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

Forrester got the win, going four innings with three strikeouts. Crays pitched the other three innings in relief, striking out seven.

The Huskies were aggressive on the base paths, totaling eight stolen bases. Trospser and Rhoton both made two steals.

“We want put the pressure on defenses to make

them make plays,” said Olovich. “We have a lot of girls who can put the ball in play, bunt the ball.” The coach said the team is changing its mentality this season: The Huskies still want to go for the big hit, but they also want to move baserunners.

Heights is 2-1 and hosts Maconaquah at noon today.

Baseball

University beats both out-of-state competitors at 2024 Summer Prep

The **REPORTER**

University picked up two wins Friday at the 2024 Super Prep at Louisville Ballard High School.

In their first game, the Trailblazers beat host Ballard 6-5 in six innings. The Bruins scored all five of their runs in the second inning. University began its comeback with three runs in the third inning: Les Carroll scored on Owen Schellhase’s sacrifice fly, then Ryan Castetter doubled in Jasper Owens and Cooper

Burnett to get the ‘Blazers within 5-3.

Burnett tied the game in the fourth inning with a two-out, two-run home run. Carroll also scored after getting on base with a single. In the fifth inning, Beckett Suh got on base with a two-out walk, then Jimmy Caldwell smacked a triple into left field to bring Suh home and put University in front.

Carroll had two hits for the ‘Blazers. Caleb Stocker got the pitching win, tossing seven strikeouts over five in-

nings.

University breezed past Greenon 12-0 in four innings for its second win of the day.

Castetter provided the offensive highlights, hitting two home runs. His first was a solo homer into right field in the first inning. Castetter then blasted a three-run homer in the third inning, part of a nine-run inning for the Trailblazers. Earlier in the inning, Castetter singled in a run, giving him five RBIs for

the game; he finished with three hits and three runs.

Owens, Schellhase and Cooper Cammack all had two hits, while Schellhase and Caldwell both scored two runs. Schellhase also drove in two runs. Mark Hamby hit a third-inning double. Laine Spears got the pitching win, with four strikeouts in three and two-thirds innings.

University is 2-1 and finishes play at the Super Prep today by taking on Boyd-Buchanan.

Shamrocks dominate Ohio team, lose first game of the season to Tennessee team

The **REPORTER**

The Westfield baseball team played two games on Friday at the Donny Everett Classic at Clarksville, Tenn. One turned into complete domination and the nightcap wound up being a heartbreaker for the Shamrocks’ first loss of the season.

Westfield 12, Whetstone (OH) 0 (5 innings)

It only took five innings and scoring in bunches for Westfield to defeat the Whetstone Braves from Columbus, Ohio, 12-0.

Westfield kept their offense going in its first two games Friday. Matt Drozlek drove in Brayden Hibler for the early 1-0 lead.

Starting with Ethan Colling’s double after Alex Rudolph walked, the Shamrocks scored five runs in the inning. Consecutive singles from Tyler Gentry and Gabe Garcia helped push the margin to 3-0. A couple of Whetstone errors contributed to the score being 6-0 through two.

Drew Law made it 8-0 on a two-run triple that scored Lincoln Hoffman and Caden Lindsey in the third.

Gentry hit a sacrifice fly for a 9-0 in the top of the fourth.

After singling to start the fifth, Law raced home on a wild pitch. Jake Russell’s two-run single scored Beck Jordan and Hibler for the final of 12-0 in five innings.

Jackson Blevins got the win on the mound, throwing two innings with a pair of strikeouts and allowed the only Whetstone hit.

Law led at the plate with a 2-of-4 performance with two RBIs. Russell would join him with two RBIs.

Clarksville Academy (TN) 1, Westfield 0

The second game of the day was a pitcher’s duel against a tough squad from Clarksville.

There would be just seven hits combined between the two, but unfortunately for Westfield, it came down to the bottom of the seventh in a scoreless affair for the Cougars to secure the win on their own field.

Owen Swinford threw four and two-thirds innings of one-hit baseball with 12 punchouts and walked four. Law worked one and one-third innings with three strikeouts but suffered the loss on the mound.

Hibler (2), Jordan and Rudolph accounted for the four hits for the Shamrocks.

Colton Wallace worked a complete game for Clarksville Academy, fanning 11 Westfield hitters, giving up just four hits, while not walking any ‘Rocks.

Westfield (5-1) will play its final game in Tennessee today at 2 p.m. against the Henry County Patriots (11-2) from Paris, Tenn.

See **Rocks ... Page 16**

Royals start HCC play with Brownburg sweep

The **REPORTER**

The Hamilton Southeastern baseball team picked up a Friday sweep of Brownburg to open up Hoosier Crossroads Conference play.

In their first game, the Royals beat the Bulldogs 8-5. Alex Billman got Southeastern’s first run in the second inning, getting home on a passed ball.

The Royals added three runs in the third inning, all with two outs. Tyler Noel singled in Maddux Bach, then Kam Seitz and Noel got home on separate

passed balls.

Brownburg stormed back in the fourth inning, scoring four runs to tie the game. The Bulldogs took the lead with a sixth-inning run, but HSE put up four in the bottom of the sixth to clinch the conference contest.

Parker O’Steen singled in Colin Goley to tie the game. Drew LaFleur came in to run for O’Steen and was eventually sent home by a Seitz double. Seitz and Bach later scored on a Noel single, giving Noel three RBIs for the game. Billman hit a double in the

fifth inning.

Dylan Cope got the pitching win, with six strikeouts in three and one-third innings. He only allowed two hits. Ethan Lund threw three and two-thirds innings of no-hit ball in relief, striking out seven.

Southeastern took care of Brownburg 6-0 in the second game.

The Royals scored two runs in the third inning. Noel led off with a triple, then scored on a wild pitch. Nolan Colbert got home after LaFleur reached on an error.

Southeastern put up its other four runs in the fourth inning. Michael Hoog got home on a wild pitch, then Evan Haas scored after Luke Sivak drew a bases-loaded walk. LaFleur came up next, and he was hit by a pitch to bring in Colbert. Bach was then hit by a pitch, and that scored Goley.

Josh Lesniewski went six and one-third innings for the win, striking out seven against two hits.

The Royals are 2-0 in conference play and 5-2 overall. Southeastern’s next game is Tuesday at Carmel.

Tigers split doubleheader with Zionsville

The **REPORTER**

The Fishers baseball team split a doubleheader with Zionsville on Friday to begin its Hoosier Crossroads Conference season.

The Eagles won the first game 1-0, scoring their run on an error in the seventh inning. The Tigers got an incredible effort from pitcher Zach Brown, who struck out 12 in a complete game, allowing just two hits and two walks.

Brown also had two hits at the plate, with Ben Hammond getting one hit.

Fishers turned things around in Game 2, beating Zionsville 11-7.

The Eagles scored a run in the first inning, holding that 1-0 lead through the third

inning. The Tigers got on the board in a fourth-inning rush, putting up five runs. Evan Doran batted in Jack Brown, Huston Dunn scored on a balk, Jase Ruggles bunted in Doran on a fielder’s choice, and Caulin Brown’s left field single brought in Ruggles and Trevor Hall.

Zionsville singled in a run during the bottom of the fourth, then added four runs in the fifth inning to take a 6-5 lead. Fishers grabbed the lead back in the top of the sixth after Hammond and Hall scored on an error.

The Eagles got another RBI single in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game at 7-7. The Tigers scored four runs in the top of the seventh. Deagan Repp got home on

a wild pitch, Hall singled in Owen Lukac and Dunn, then Ruggles blasted a double to score Doran.

Mayo Fernandez hit a seventh-inning double, while Hall finished with two hits. Hammond pitched the final two innings for the win, tossing three strikeouts. Starter Gavin Kuzniewski threw four and two-thirds innings, striking out five.

Fishers began conference play 1-1 and is 4-3 overall. The Tigers play at Mount Vernon today in another doubleheader.

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Former NASCAR Cup Series star Kyle Petty to pass through Indianapolis in May during his iconic charity ride

Typically, the month of May in Indianapolis is synonymous with open-wheel racing and the Indianapolis 500. This May will be no different, but it does come with a pleasant twist.

COLUMNIST



ZECH YODER
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On May 7, former NASCAR Cup Series standout, Kyle Petty, and approximately 250 fellow bikers will rumble through the streets of downtown Indianapolis en route to Greensboro, N.C., for the 28th Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America, one of the most successful and popular charity events in the country.

I had the privilege of speaking with Kyle about the ride, what the ride benefits, and even got his take on the Brickyard 400 coming back to Indianapolis Motor Speedway this July.

To those new to NASCAR, Kyle Petty is a third-generation stock car driver. His grandfather, Lee Petty, was a stock car pioneer and won the very first Daytona 500. His father, Richard Petty, holds the record for most Cup Series wins (200) and most Cup Series Championships (seven). Kyle won eight Cup Series races during his NASCAR career, and made a championship run during the 1992 season before eventually finishing fifth in the final points standings.

According to Kyle, the idea for the charity ride was born out of his love for motorcycles. Kyle had been a motorcycle enthusiast for nearly his whole life and remembers riding from the age of five. In the early 90s, he and a few of his buddies, including fellow Cup Series driver Harry Gant, had discussed doing a cross-country ride to Phoenix, Ariz., for the next-to-last race of the year.

The plan finally came together, and they made the ride. Eventually, Kyle got the idea of making the event a charity ride.

In 1994, with the help of their sponsors, the Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America was born. Kyle

spoke nostalgically about the early years of the ride. Eating buckets of chicken by the side of the road. Carrying their gear on their bikes. Stopping at children's hospitals to pass out die-cast cars and provide donations to families in need. Through the years, the ride gained incredible traction and now runs better than a well-tuned Harley.

Today, the ride benefits Kyle's labor of love, Victory Junction. Victory Junction was born out of conversations between Kyle and his son, Adam Petty. Adam Petty, a fourth-generation NASCAR driver, was ascending the stock car ladder when he tragically lost his life during a racing accident at New Hampshire Speedway in May of 2000. Kyle and Adam discussed starting a camp for children with serious medical needs and chronic medical conditions.

In honor of Adam and his desire to serve others, Victory Junction Camp opened in June of 2004. The racecar-themed camp is geared to serve children with serious medical conditions. The camp is staffed by medical personnel, including doctors and nurses, who are able to perform procedures from chemotherapy to dialysis to small emergency procedures. Through its 20-year existence, Victory Junction has empowered tens of thousands of children to experience activities that they might not have otherwise experienced, including archery, horseback riding, ropes courses, and arts and crafts.

The best part: Victory Junction is completely free of charge to its campers, relieving the significant financial burden on families with children who attend the camp.

Through its partnership with NASCAR teams and drivers, Victory Junction has done extraordinary things in the last 20 years. I asked Kyle what is in store for the next 20 years. He reiterated his commitment to reach-



Photos by Kevin Kane Photography

ing as many kids as possible, including the REACH program, which is designed to take Victory Junction to children's hospital in North Carolina and the surrounding states.

Being a resident of Indiana, I had to ask Kyle about Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the return of the Brickyard 400 this July.

While Kyle acknowledged his enjoyment of road racing in NASCAR, he stated that the oval is what Indianapolis Motor Speedway is all about. Recent NASCAR races on the oval have not provided the best racing, which led to the road course races. I asked Kyle about his expectations of the NextGen car on the oval. He commented on the NextGen's ability to draft, which could lead to closer racing and could stand the chance

of creating one of the best "racing" races NASCAR has had at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

There were a few interesting conversations we had about Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Brickyard.

One of them was Kyle's initial perspective on racing at Indy. He believed that NASCAR was stepping on hallowed ground and should not be racing at the yard of bricks. Certainly, an understandable perspective coming from the son of arguably the greatest NASCAR driver of all time and the grandson of the winner of the first Daytona 500. It would be equally controversial seeing INDYCAR

on the high banks of Daytona, even if INDYCAR stuck to the road course.

However, after seeing the 40,000 plus fans that came out for the tire test before the first Brickyard 400 and the encouraging words from Tony George on the old and new traditions of IMS, Kyle came around to the idea of NASCAR on the Brickyard.

It was a pleasure speaking with Kyle Petty. As he has discussed recently, his family has been in NASCAR for 75 years since its inception in the late '40s. He is a wonderful ambassador of the sport and provides excellent analysis as a television personality and broadcaster on NBC Sports.

If you are interested in learning more about the charity ride, visit kylepettycharityride.com. If you are interested in learning more about the Victory Junction Camp, visit victoryjunction.org. And if you are interested in hearing Kyle's hot takes and racing analysis, you can find him on [X @kylepetty](https://twitter.com/kylepetty).

In my mind, Kyle Petty will always be associated with the No. 42 Mello Yellow car he drove for SABCO. To this day, it remains in my mind one of the best paint schemes in the NASCAR garage.

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

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Upcoming Broadcasts

Wed April 3 - Hamilton County Council & E-Sports
7:00 pm Hamilton County Council Regular Meeting
8:00 pm YES! Gaming Presents: The Super Smash Open LIVE Weekly Bracket

Fri April 5 - IHSAA Baseball
6:00 pm Avon vs Noblesville | IHSAA Baseball | HCTV Sports

Tues April 9 - Noblesville City Council
7:00 pm Noblesville Common Council Meeting

Wed April 10 - IHSAA Softball & E-Sports
6:00 pm Carmel vs Noblesville | IHSAA Softball | HCTV Sports
8:00 pm YES! Gaming Presents: The Super Smash Open LIVE Weekly Bracket

Thurs April 11 - IHSAA Baseball
6:45 pm Hamilton Southeastern vs Zionsville | Southeastern Sports Network
7:00 pm Fishers vs Noblesville | IHSAA Baseball | HCTV Sports

Fri April 12 - Girls Lacrosse
6:30 pm Fishers vs Bloomington North | Varsity Lacrosse | Fishers Sports Network

Sat April 13 - IHSAA Baseball
6:00 pm Carmel vs Noblesville | IHSAA Baseball | HCTV Sports

Available on the Web www.HCTV1.com

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Girls Tennis

Millers begin with win over Cathedral

The REPORTER

The Noblesville girls tennis team opened its season Friday with a 3-2 win over Cathedral at the Millers' Tennis Complex.

The Irish won the Nos. 1 and 3 singles matches to quickly go up 2-0 in the meet. Noblesville got its first point at No. 2 doubles, with Jayde Stamm and Ava

Shoemaker winning 6-2, 6-4. The Millers' No. 1 doubles team of Lina Hamashuk and Cami Crist won a tough 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 match to tie the score, then No. 2 singles Allie Stamm clinched the team victory by coming back to win 4-6, 6-0, 6-4.

Noblesville's next meet is Wednesday at Lawrence North.

Softball

HSE wins first game at Terre Haute South bash, Carmel & Fishers fall

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Southeastern softball team won its first game at the Terre Haute South Lady Braves Bash Friday night, beating Beech Grove 5-3 in eight innings.

The Hornets scored first with a run in the bottom of the third inning. The Royals tied the game in the top of the fifth when Lani Wyrick doubled Emmy Seifferlein home. In the sixth inning, Ava Kiemeyer doubled in Chloe Smith to put Southeastern up 2-1.

Beech Grove tied the game in the bottom of the sixth, then neither team scored in the seventh inning. The Royals scored three in the top of the eighth: Jenna Chase got home when Kiemeyer was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, Leah Paris scored on Sayla Stock's sacrifice fly and Reese

Garland was brought in by a Makenna Selm single.

Grace Swedarsky stepped up for Southeastern in the bottom of the eighth, scattering three strikeouts around a base hit to clinch the victory. Swedarsky totaled 17 strikeouts and allowed five hits and no walks. Wyrick and Kiemeyer both had two hits.

The Royals are 4-0 and play three games at Terre Haute today, starting with a 9 a.m. contest against Edgewood.

Carmel fell to Brownsburg 9-6 Friday in its first game at the Castle Invitational.

The Greyhounds scored three runs in the bottom of the first inning. Jayden Kleiner blasted a triple to score Alex Longstreth and Ellie Goddard, then Paxton

Law's right field double brought in Sophie Patterson, who came in to run for Kleiner.

The Bulldogs jumped ahead by scoring four runs in the second inning, then added a run in the top of the fifth for a 5-3 lead. Carmel grabbed the lead back in the bottom of the fifth with three runs: Longstreth led off with a triple, Goddard got a walk, and both Greyhounds scored when Law reached on an error.

Law was brought home by a Mia Fleming single, and Carmel was up 6-5. But Brownsburg tied the game in the top of the sixth with an RBI single, then the Bulldogs added three runs in the seventh to get the win.

Longstreth finished 3-for-3 at the plate, hitting a triple, a double and a single. Fleming had two hits and

Law hit one double.

The Greyhounds are 1-4 and play host Castle at 9 a.m. today, followed by an 11 a.m. game with Pike Central.

Fishers dropped a 17-4, five inning game to Penn on Friday at the Castle Invitational.

The Kingsmen led from the start, scoring five runs in the top of the first inning. The Tigers got three runs back in the bottom of the first: Jenna Grubb scored the first run on a passed ball, then Hailey Trueblood and Kendall Jordan got home on a wild pitch later in the inning. Liv McNall singled in Taylor Duplessis in the fifth inning.

Fishers is 2-2 and plays three more games today at Castle, starting with Tecumseh at 10 a.m.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 6
BASEBALL

Fishers at Mount Vernon doubleheader, 11 a.m.
Hamilton Heights at Anderson doubleheader, 11 a.m.
Carmel at Penn doubleheader, noon
University vs. Boyd Buchanan, 12:30 p.m. at Louisville Ballard
Westfield vs. Henry County (Tenn.), 2 p.m. at Clarksville (Tenn.)
Hamilton Southeastern at Pendleton Heights, 6 p.m.
PBR Invitational at Kokomo Championship Park
Noblesville vs. Mooresville, 10:30 a.m.
Guerin Catholic vs. Plymouth, 1 p.m.
Noblesville vs. Lake Central, 1:30 p.m.
Guerin Catholic vs. Warsaw, 3:30 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE

Avon at Noblesville, 1 p.m.

GOLF

Guerin Catholic, Noblesville at Yorktown Invitational, 10 a.m. at The Players Club

SOFTBALL

Carmel at Castle Invitational - games at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m.
Fishers vs. Tecumseh, 9 a.m. at Castle
Hamilton Southeastern at Lady Braves Bash, 10 a.m. at Terre Haute South
Maconaquah at Hamilton Heights, 10 a.m.
Fishers vs. Mooresville, 11 a.m. at Castle
Fishers at Castle Invitational, 2 p.m.

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

Guests encouraged to plan ahead for Total Solar Eclipse with IMS.com

Submitted by IMS

Those attending the Total Solar Eclipse Event presented by Purdue University on Monday, April 8 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway are encouraged to "Plan Ahead" through IMS.com/PlanAhead, an interactive web page that serves as a home base for everyone headed to the track.

The "Plan Ahead" page features detailed information about the entire experience at IMS, including directions, parking, schedule, gate regulations, digital ticket and parking guide, ADA accessibility and much more. This information will help guests prepare for their trip to IMS.

"More than 75 percent of ticket buyers for the solar eclipse are visiting IMS for the first time," IMS President J. Douglas Boles said. "We have a full day of fun and educational activities planned to welcome both new and old fans to the Racing Capital of the World. Arrive early, plan for traffic, bring your cooler and be prepared for an amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience."

"After two years of planning and more than 60 special events being offered across the city, we're anticipating 100,000 visitors will arrive for the Total Solar Eclipse," said Morgan Snyder, senior director of public relations at Visit Indy. "Fortunately, Indy is no stranger to hosting large-scale events, and as the Crossroads of

America, know that we're prepared and excited to welcome this influx of eclipse enthusiasts. As with any of the large-scale events we host, we encourage visitors to plan ahead. We recommend visitors make a day of it by arriving early and staying late to help avoid traffic congestion."

More information

All IMS patrons should be aware of the following to ensure a successful day at the track:

Tickets

Tickets for the Total Solar Eclipse Event presented by Purdue University are available for purchase at IMS.com or by walking up to the gates April 8.

Digital tickets can be accessed via a smart phone's web browser or by saving the digital ticket to the mobile device's wallet. Fans are encouraged to ensure the brightness on their smart phone is turned up before approaching the gate for a seamless scanning of their digital ticket. They also are encouraged to visit the [IMS Digital Ticket guide](http://IMS.com/DigitalTicketGuide) to manage their digital tickets and enhance their at-track experience.

Cashless facility

IMS is a cashless facility. Please be prepared to complete your ticket, concession, and merchandise purchases with ease during your event via debit or credit card.

Tap-to-pay phone payments will be accepted, as



Graphic courtesy IMS

will credit and debit transactions.

Eclipse glasses

"The Greatest Spectacles" Solar Eclipse glasses are included with every admission. Once inside the facility, IMS Staff will hand out glasses. There will also be a pick-up location in Pagoda Plaza. Solar Eclipse glasses will not be distributed upon entry at the gates.

Things to bring

Fans will be allowed to bring one cooler and one standard backpack or book bag per person.

No coolers larger than 18 inches long by 15 inches high by 15 inches wide can be brought into the facility, which will be strictly enforced.

Telescopes will be permitted on viewing mounds only for the event. Review the gate regulations to confirm prohibited and permitted items before arriving.

Gates, parking & rideshare

Gate 2, Gate 3, and Gate 6 will be open.

Free parking will be available in Lot 2, Lot 3G, Lot 3P and Main Gate. Park-

ing within the IMS infield is available while space permits. Please enter through Gate 2 from 16th Street.

If you are coming from the west / Crawfordsville Road, turn left on Auburn Street to park in Lot 2, or turn right into Main Gate lot on 16th Street. If you are coming from the east / 16th Street, turn left into Lot 3G or Lot 3P, or turn right into the IMS infield at Gate 2. Maps are available online.

Guests using a rideshare option will be dropped off and picked up from Lot 3P.

Additional resources & information

For more information regarding access to IMS, visit IMS.com.

The Speedway Police Department can be reached for non-emergency services by dialing 311 on a cell phone. The goal of 311 is to provide an easy-to-remember number for non-emergency services while freeing up 911 lines for timely emergency response.

Visit IMS.com to purchase tickets for the Total Solar Eclipse Event presented by Purdue University.

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ROCKS

Thursday game: Westfield 8, Beech (TN) 4

Thursday night's opener for the Shamrocks at the Donny Everett Classic saw them play in Hendersonville to face the Beech Buccaneers. A final four-inning surge was what Westfield

needed for an 8-4 win.

Tyler Gentry gave the Shamrocks a 2-1 lead in the top of the fourth, doubling in Ian Wilson.

Two more crossed home in the fifth. Brayden Hibler doubled to score Camden Lindsey. Matt Drozlek

scored Hibler to make it 4-1. Beech plated two and after five it was 4-3.

Drew Law doubled in two to push the lead back to three at 6-3. The Buccaneers added their final run in the bottom for 6-4.

Wilson put the exclamation

from Page 14

tion on it with a two-run home run, finishing off Beech 8-4.

Ty Anderson threw four innings, striking out seven for the win. Hibler and Gentry both went 3-for-4, combining for two doubles and three RBIs. Lindsey and Wilson each had two hits.

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