

INDIANA **PEONY** Festival MAY 18 10AM-4PM SEMINARY PARK - NOBLESVILLE

SPONSORED BY: **Smith's JEWELERS**

INDIANAPEONYFESTIVAL.COM



THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER APRIL 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: SYDNEY FORRESTAL (1ST PLACE)
 SPONSORED BY: TOM WOOD VOLKSWAGEN NOBLESVILLE • GAYLOR ELECTRIC (CEO CHUCK GOODRICH) • ADLER ATTORNEYS

Shining a light on young artists

Works from three Heights Middle Schoolers featured in this week's pages

By **STU CLAMPITT**
 news@readthereporter.com

As is now true the second week of each month, the tops of our first three pages are a little different. Our thanks go out to some talented young artists at Hamilton Heights Middle School, an art teacher who wants students to succeed, and a group of sponsors who jumped at the chance to support these young people.

At the top of the front page of every newspaper is the name of the publication and some branding known as "the flag." It is also called the nameplate. Some people like to refer to it as the masthead. We have gone to great lengths to perfect ours, and while there may be another newspaper out there that would be willing to give that up to support young artists, we've never heard of it.

Without further ado (drum-roll please), our April 2024 Young Artist of the Month award winners are: Sydney Forrestal (Page A1), Victoria



Sydney Forrestal, Victoria Conner, and Zeke Kikta are The Reporter's Young Artists of the Month for April. All three are students in Hamilton Heights Middle School fifth-grade art teacher Erin Goodman's class.

Conner (Page A2) and Zeke Kikta (Page A3) from Erin Goodman's fifth-grade art class at Hamilton Heights Middle School.

It is clear to us that all these kids (or maybe their teacher) had spring break in mind this time around. On Page A1 we have a self-portrait of someone dreaming of time on the beach.

On Page A2 we have a beach at sunset.

And then there is Page A3.

We can neither confirm nor deny rumors of UFO sightings in northern Hamilton County, but we do like your imagination, kid. That is the submission that locked in our "shining a light" headline this month. It's not a beach at noon. It's not a

beach at sunset. But that cov in the anti-gravity beam is definitely seeing the light!

Goodman has some talent in her care. We trust she will cultivate it well.

Their artwork will grace the pages of The Reporter in print and online all week long.

See Shine . . . Page A3

The Solar Eclipse is finally here!

I am over the moon excited for the total eclipse of the sun.

As I write this column, it is two days before it happens.

The next one will be in 2045, depending on whether I'm still alive (and writing this column) will make me 89 years old.

I plan to watch from the Little House on the Alley and document what happens and how it feels. Pictures will be taken, but I want words to explain my feelings.

Chuck plans to golf early so he can be home with me when totality occurs. He may be on the last leg of Stony Creek Golf Course as it begins.

My grandson, Matthew, and his girlfriend, Keerstin, experienced the total eclipse in August 2017. They traveled to Nashville, Tenn. Six hours to get there and fourteen hours to get home. Matthew said that the traffic was unbelievable. They ended up taking the backroads.

While we are encouraged to ensure our cars are filled with gas, many say it's unnecessary. It's kind of like when we are warned of a possible blizzard. Naysayers shake their

See Solar Eclipse . . . Page A4



JANET HART LEONARD
From the Hart

Everyone deserves dignity in death

He Knows Your Name works to ensure that everyone is laid to rest with respect

By **AMY ADAMS**
 news@readthereporter.com

On Thursday, April 4, a couple dozen people gathered in the cold rain at the ossuary at Prairie Waters Funeral and Event Center in Westfield to pay their last respects to George Podolan. However, no one in attendance had ever met the man.

Podolan passed away in his Carmel home on January 25, 2023, at the age of 77, and his remains have been in the care of the Hamilton County Coroner's Office for more than a year.

"Even though we didn't not know him in life, we know him here in death," said Linda Znachko, founder of He Knows Your Name.

Znachko's organization is rooted in the conviction that every life is sacred to God and gives children and adults dignity in death by celebrating their life. The memorial service marked the first time that He Knows Your Name has laid to rest unclaimed remains in Hamilton County.

"This allows them to have that special ceremony that we all hope for years versus remains being in storage for years and years," said Sarah Cox Dedrick, senior public relations and marketing strategist with Pence Media Group, who attended the interment service.

Znachko, who lives in Indianapolis, began the organization in 2009 following a



(LEFT) He Knows Your Name Founder Linda Znachko and Flanner Buchanan Vice President of Advanced Planning Ben Upton pay last respects to George Podolan. (RIGHT) Chaplain Daniel Hester, with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, reads Psalm 23.

phone call to a coroner's office regarding a news story she saw about a baby found in a dumpster. She felt called to action.

"Once we know about something, we're responsible for it," Znachko said.

In September 2022, He Knows Your Name helped lay 173 unclaimed adult decedents to rest in partnership with the Marion County Coroner's Office. They invited every coroner in the state. Only Hamilton County Coroner Jeff Jellison attended.

"I realized this was a new relationship starting," Znachko said. "We are honored to partner with the Hamilton County Coroner's Office and applaud their recognition of the need to honor George's life."

She described those who work in coroners' offices as being "somewhat invisible" first responders who are not often thanked or recognized for what they do.

"Today is not about organizations, and it's not about coroners," Jellison said. "It's about dignity. No one deserves to sit on a



Reporter photos by Amy Adams

shelf. Everyone deserves a resting place."

The ossuary which includes stones, markers, plantings, and benches has been in place at Prairie Waters for about three years, and there are plans for expansion, according to Flanner Buchanan Vice President of Advanced Planning Ben Upton. A family-owned business, Flanner Buchanan has offered burial and cremation services to families in the Indianapolis area for 140 years.

A public marker in the ossuary will memorialize not only Podolan but also future unclaimed persons in Hamilton County. Plans include an annual ceremony similar to the third such Marion County event which will be held at Floral Park Cemetery in Indianapolis sometime in June.

"This is not happening anywhere else in the country," Znachko said.

She hopes these partnerships will raise awareness across the state and the greater

See Dignity . . . Page A2

PREVAIL
 Advocating for Victims of Crime & Abuse
 www.prevailinc.org (317) 773-6942

Prevail's Spring Fashion Show returns May 2

The REPORTER

Prevail announces the return of its highly anticipated Spring Fashion Show, set to take place on Thursday, May 2 at the Ritz Charles for the 12th consecutive year.

This signature event promises attendees an unforgettable experience, featuring an afternoon of shopping, a delectable luncheon, an eagerly awaited runway show, and more.

Prevail, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting victims of crime and abuse on their path to healing, will be the beneficiary of all ticket sales and a portion of vendor proceeds.

"By attending this event, our guests will not only enjoy a day of fashion and fun, but also contribute to Prevail's vital mission of advocacy, support services, and prevention efforts," Prevail Executive Director Tami Wanninger said. "We are grateful for the continued support of our community and especially our Premier Sponsor, Gaylor Electric."



Wanninger



Crosser

See Fashion Show . . . Page A4

WESTFIELD LIONS INTERNATIONAL **Poker for Sight® Tournament**
 Indy's Largest Poker Tournament
 \$10,000 WINNER'S PURSE/\$25,000 TOTAL PAYOUT
 Reserve a seat at www.lionspoker.org
 Discount for Earlybird Entry On Line or \$135.00 at the door
 Approved by the state of Indiana Charity Gaming Division Permit #011908
 April 26th & 27th 2024
 Hamilton County Fairgrounds
 Proceeds Support Lions Club Charitable Projects



THE HAMILTON COUNTY
REPORTER

THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER APRIL 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: VICTORIA CONNER (2ND PLACE)
SPONSORED BY: TOM WOOD VOLKSWAGEN NOBLESVILLE • GAYLOR ELECTRIC (CEO CHUCK GOODRICH) • ADLER ATTORNEYS

Sheriff's Office takes part in Autism Awareness Month

The REPORTER
The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) is participating in Autism Awareness Month throughout April.

As part of HCSO's commitment to fostering understanding and support for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), you may have noticed some patrol vehicles adorned with multi-colored puzzle piece wraps.



Photo provided

This meaningful initiative stems from a profoundly positive interaction with a young autistic man in the HCSO lobby last year. During his visit, deputies engaged with him using simple sentences, positioning themselves at his seated level, and using the Autism Emergency Communication Board – a newly acquired communication tool at the time. Witnessing the compassionate and effective communication firsthand, the young man's father was deeply impressed with the deputies and their training.

Inspired by this encounter, HCSO has collaborated with community members

to observe Autism Awareness Month throughout this month. By participating, HCSO aims to raise awareness about autism, promote understanding, and highlight the importance of inclusive practices in law enforcement interactions.

"Our encounter with the young man last year reinforced the significance of empathy and adaptation in our interactions with individuals with autism," Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush said. "By participating in Autism Awareness Month, we demonstrate our commitment to fostering a supportive community for all residents of Hamilton County."

Throughout April, HCSO will continue to engage in educational initiatives, outreach programs, and organization visits aimed at promoting autism awareness and acceptance. All community members are encouraged to join in this important endeavor.

For more information about HCSO's Autism Awareness Month activities, to inquire about resources for individuals with autism, or about visits by one of the department's wrapped vehicles, please call Public Information Officer Deputy Bryan Melton at (317) 776-4140 or email him at bryan.melton@hamilton-county.in.gov.

DIGNITY

U.S. about affordable burial options to ensure every individual is laid to rest in a respectful manner.

Znachko points out that "unclaimed" doesn't mean unidentified, and it doesn't necessarily mean that these people don't have family members who have been contacted. It means that no one came to pick up the remains in order to properly inter them. Funeral homes have hundreds of unclaimed, according to Znachko.

"I find it appalling," she said. "It's disrespectful to human life."

In the past 15 years,

He Knows Your Name

Znachko has helped honor nearly 400 adults and 50 babies in their deaths.

"I don't step off the grass without my next assignment," she said. "There's so much to do."

Znachko encourages everyone to help make a difference by asking the hard questions within their own families to make sure that any remains of relatives have been picked up.

To find out more, visit HeKnowsYourName.org.

from Page A1



Reporter photo by Amy Adams
A marker bears the name of George Podolan with room for the names of more unclaimed decedents to be added in the future.

Support local artists & veterans at Carmel VFW

The REPORTER
Save the date for Mother's Day weekend for an afternoon of shopping while supporting local veteran programs.

Spend an afternoon at Art

& Country, and art and craft fair at the Carmel VFW, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 11. Admission is free.

Find a wide variety of art and handcrafted creations. It's an indoor, non-smoking

event, and you may also order food and drinks and enjoy outdoor seating on the patio.

The Carmel VFW is located at 12863 Old Meridian St. Shop local and support local vets.

PREVAIL

YOU'RE INVITED!

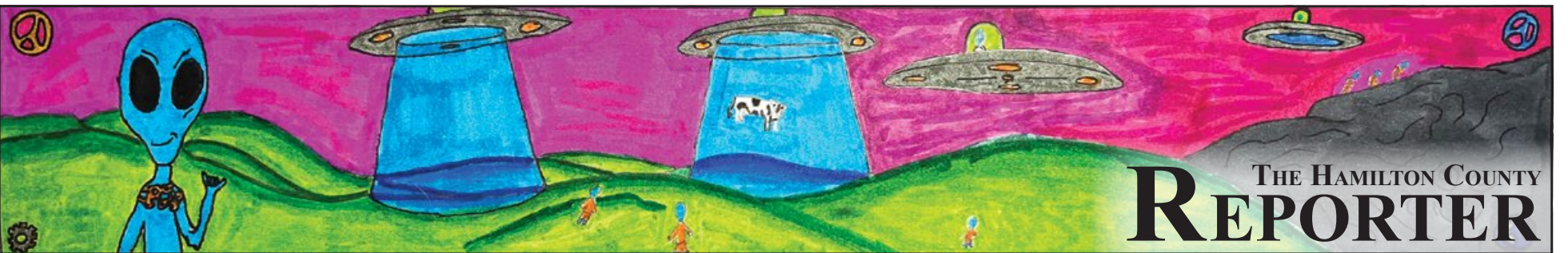
PREVAIL'S SPRING FASHION SHOW

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!

CLICK HERE TO BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER APRIL 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: ZEKE KIKTA (3RD PLACE) SPONSORED BY: TOM WOOD VOLKSWAGEN NOBLESVILLE • GAYLOR ELECTRIC (CEO CHUCK GOODRICH) • ADLER ATTORNEYS

Hamilton Heights BPA students score big at state, 16 advancing to nationals

The REPORTER

Students from Hamilton Heights High School's Chapter of Business Professionals of America (BPA) recently returned from the State Leadership Conference in Indianapolis with bragging rights.

Several students placed among the Top 10 in their respective categories with 16 qualifying for the 2024 BPA National Leadership Conference set for May 10 to 14 in Chicago, Ill.

This year's National Conference is expected to bring together an estimated 6,000 delegates from across the country to vie for top honors in business and information technology skills competitions, attend leadership and professional development workshops, receive awards for community service activities and elect BPA's 2024-25 national student leadership team.

The National Leadership Conference represents the culmination of a year's work for those students and chapter sponsors attending.

"All of our students have worked hard and did well throughout the year," Kim Kaiser explained. "It's the icing on the cake for students who get to take their leadership and career skills to the national stage in May."

Hamilton Heights BPA Chapter also received campaign awards for "Quality Chapter Distinction," "Chapter Activities Award," "Marketing & Communications," and "Community Service."

State contest winners

- Sophia Hulen – 3rd Entrepreneurship, 1st Broadcast News Team
- Hailey Hall – 2nd Human Resource Mgmt., 1st Broadcast News Team
- Lizzy Smith – 1st Broadcast News Team, 3rd Digital Media Production
- Joely Hardacre – 1st Broadcast News Team
- Melissa Lovell – 2nd Global Marketing Team, 3rd Human Resource Mgmt., 9th HR Mgmt. & Marketing
- Adrianna Kauffman – 2nd Global Marketing Team, 2nd Meeting & Event Planning, 10th Medical Terminology

- Bekah Beechler – 2nd Global Marketing Team
- Jessa Steffen – 2nd Global Marketing Team
- Hannah Beechler – 1st Interview Skills, 4th Admin. Support Team, 3rd HR Mgmt. & Marketing
- Jackson Massicotte – 4th Admin Support Team, 6th Business Law
- Bella McDole – 4th Admin Support Team
- Camryn Runner – 4th Admin Support Team
- Andrea Ward – 2nd Networks using Cisco, 6th Admin Support
- Landon Faubion – 4th Networks Using Cisco, 7th Financial Math Analysis
- Audrey Meyer – 7th Networks Using Cisco
- Brinley Flaherty – 9th Networks Using Cisco
- Carson Lenze – 1st Python Programming, 2nd Information Technology Concepts
- Katelynn Bishop – 2nd Digital Marketing
- Hailey Barnes – 9th Digital Communication & Design
- Natalie Newman – 8th Networks Using Microsoft
- Sarah Stapleton – 8th Computer Security
- Jack Morris – 8th Computer Network Technology
- Phillip Sliwa – 9th Computer Network Technology
- Alayna Kauffman – 9th Meeting & Event Planning
- Corbin Landrey (Virtual Member) – 1st Advanced Accounting, 1st Payroll Accounting, 1st Admin Support, 1st HR Mgmt. & Marketing, 2nd Financial Math Analysis, 5th Digital Communications & Analysis, Running for National BPA Officer Position in Chicago

The 2024 National Leadership Conference is presented by Certiport, a Pearson VUE business, the leading provider of certification exam development, delivery, and program management services. Conference attendees can also obtain valuable industry certifications during the event.

While in Chicago, participants will also have opportunities to network with other BPA members and business leaders, visit fa-

mous Chicago attractions, and participate in community service activities. The conference's opening session on May 10 and awards ceremonies on May 14 will be streamed live online at thinkybis.com/bpa-live.

To donate to assist with these students in their trip to compete at nationals in California, contact Ms. Kim Kaiser, Hamilton Heights HS DECA, at kkaiser@hhschuskies.org or (317) 984-3551 ext. 1562.



Members of Hamilton Heights High School Chapter of Business Professionals of America (BPA) chapter shine at this year's State Leadership Conference in Indianapolis. Sixteen students qualified to compete at the National Leadership Conference in Chicago, Ill., in May. See more photos at ReadTheReporter.com.

Photo provided

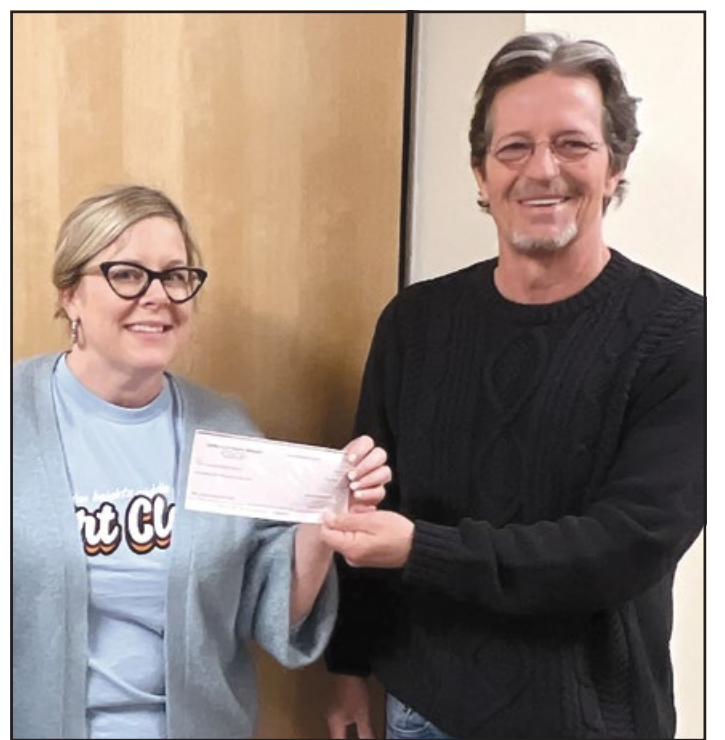
SHINE

from Page A1



(ABOVE LEFT) This month's art contest winners are (from left) Victoria Conner, second place; Sydney Forrestal, first place; and Zeke Kikta, third place. (ABOVE RIGHT) Reporter Editorial Cartoonist Tim Campbell gives a check to Hamilton Heights Middle School art teacher Erin Goodman.

Photos provided



When we explained to potential sponsors that we were willing to give our flag away to showcase student artwork, the support was incredible. That support has grown a little each month as individuals have chipped in to help keep this contest going.

Gaylor Electric, Tom Wood Volkswagen Noblesville, Adler Attorneys, and three private citizens – Peggy Georgi, Bill Miller, and Emily Pearson – are the sponsors who showed us their commitment to local artists this month by opening their checkbooks so these kids can have the time in the limelight they deserve.

In addition to having their artwork at the

top of the page in Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper, each of these students received a framed certificate from The Reporter, signed and presented by Editorial Cartoonist

Tim Campbell. They each received a gift certificate from Hobby Lobby so their parents can take them to pick out more art supplies, and a gift certificate from Bien Mexicana, 150 S.

Peru St., Cicero, to go celebrate a little.

Our sponsors even allowed us to write a check to the school, which will go to Erin Goodman's art class.

SUMMER POSITION AVAILABLE
Engineering Technician

Duties include:
Conducting traffic counts, evaluating roads and pavement marking, inspecting and inventorying signs and small structures. Will also assist the engineering department in traffic studies, traffic investigations and inspection of projects. Must be 18 and have a valid driver's license.

Pay range starts at \$15.00 per hour depending upon qualifications.

This is a great opportunity for a student considering a career in engineering.

Applications are available here:
www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/jobs.aspx
(See part-time Seasonal Engineering – Highway)
An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Supporting the Arts

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

This Week
Heights Middle School
winning art is on Pages 1, 2 & 3

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

Please support the sponsors who make this possible

GAYLOR ELECTRIC
The Highest Performing National Contractor of Excellence
CHUCK GOODRICH President & CFO

TOM WOOD Volkswagen NOBLESVILLE

ADLER attorneys

Additional Sponsors:
Peggy Georgi
Bill Miller
Emily Pearson

If you would like to help encourage young artist by sponsoring this contest as either an individual or a business, call 765.365.2316

SOLAR ECLIPSE

from Page A1

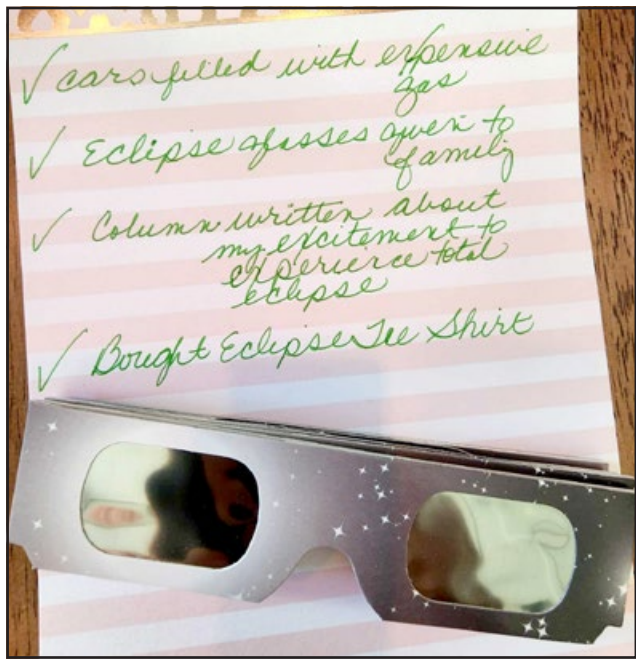


Photo provided by Janet Hart Leonard

heads and scoff at the warnings of trying to travel during the day on Monday, April 8th. Time will tell. I don't want any part of being on a major highway on Monday.

You might have noticed a significant jump in gasoline prices in the past few days. The powers that decide the prices may have timed the jump right before the eclipse – just my opinion. I'm sure they would give more complicated reasons. Pffft.

Days before the eclipse, the prices of flights into Indy went through the roof and to the moon. Out of curiosity, I checked the cost of Southwest flights coming into Indy from Tampa on April 8. While we usually pay \$129, some flights are \$640 to \$665, and those are not nonstop. Leaving on Tuesday the 9th, few flights are available. The cost is \$565.

I'm not one to research a lot of scientific data; however, I did some Googling and found these statistics:

- In 2017, the path of totality was 62 to 71 miles wide. In 2024, it will be 108 to 122 miles. This has to do with the distance the Moon is from the earth.

- In 2017, 12 million people lived in the total solar eclipse path. In 2024, 31.6 million people live in the path. This has much to do with the eclipse being over larger populated areas.

- In 2017, the longest time of totality was 2 minutes and 42 seconds.

Central Indiana has some of the longest totalities, almost 4 minutes. If you think we aren't the place to be, why are Lester Holt and NBC coming to Indianapolis? He will be at the Indianapolis Speedway broadcasting LIVE. William Shatner, a.k.a. Captain

Kirk on *Star Trek*, will be in Bloomington. Janelle Mon e, who portrayed NASA mathematician and engineer Mary W. Jackson in the movie *Hidden Figures*, will also perform in Bloomington that day.

On Monday, I will have my eclipse glasses, my journal ready, and my phone in my hand. I might be heard singing, *There goes the sun, or I can't see clearly now, the sun is gone.*

My curiosity is heightened. How will the traffic be? How will the birds and animals react? Just how awesome will it be to experience such a historical moment? Years from now, people will be asking, "Where were you when the sun didn't refuse to shine but was hidden?"

The alignment of the sun, moon, and earth is said to impact people's feelings. Will I feel differently? Time will tell.

I do know that I will be in a state of AWE. It is mind-boggling to be able to say I witnessed such an event.

Where will you be? In the crowds? Alone? On a highway needing to go to the bathroom?

Next week, I may share my thoughts on how this experience went down as I looked up. Until then, after the eclipse, I'll be "Walking on Sunshine" as "Sunshine on my Shoulders" makes it a "Good Day Sunshine." I couldn't resist including those songs in this column.

Stay safe, and you'll hear from me later, during the *seasons in the sun, when we have joy and fun and let the sunshine in.*

Janet Hart Leonard can be contacted at janethartleonard@gmail.com or followed on Facebook or Instagram (@janethartleonard). Visit janethartleonard.com.

Westfield church responds to local mental health needs

By SHANA SLOMA
shana@readthereporter.com

With the growing burden of mental health issues throughout the community, Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC), 318 N. Union St., has answered the call for accessibility to counseling services in Westfield.

CUMC Pastor Dr. Jeremiah Gibbs is the driving force behind a new counseling center slated to open its doors on Sept. 1. The center, which is currently unnamed, will contain five rooms to be shared by no less than seven licensed therapists on a rotational basis. The combined private therapy services will include both individual and group counseling sessions.

Though housed within a refurbished portion of CUMC, the new center is non-religious and accessible to the public without church affiliation. Following the completed construction, the center will subsist through a sustainable model where each therapist will rent the space based on a full or part-time schedule. This business model will not only allow the center to run with no

additional financial support from the church's funds but will also bring in additional revenue to support the church's mission to minister to the public.

Dr. Gibbs shared with The Reporter his enthusiasm about the current employment status of the center well before its intended start date.

"We're excited that we already have a number of therapists who have indicated they are looking for space," Dr. Gibbs said. "Including a director, we believe we have five of the seven spots already full, and it's still six months from being done."

During the ongoing "planning period," Dr. Gibbs indicated that the church is reaching out to prospective therapists, as well as donors, to gauge interest and secure additional resources for the center's opening in the fall. At the time of this interview, Dr. Gibbs shared that the church has currently raised \$17,000 of the \$40,000 required to complete renovations through matching donations.

The collective practice approach will give residents seeking services a multitude



of therapeutic specialties to serve their mental health needs. In turn, the center will support the therapists by assisting them with building their websites and sharing their information on social media in an effort foster widespread clientele growth.

According to Dr. Gibbs, there will be therapists accepting new clients to meet the mental health needs of the community, but some therapists will require a waitlist to schedule services. For example, the center's director, Deanne Kinsey, will provide counseling services while triaging new clients for placement with other counselors, although she is currently waitlisted for new clients.

Dr. Gibbs' short-term goal is to get the center up and running, but he also hopes to expand the center's outreach to include programs that provide substantial mental health support

for first responders. Due to the significant rate of depression and suicide among first responders, Dr. Gibbs is considering offering both acute and employee wellness programs in the future.

While Dr. Gibbs indicated that his intention is to provide a constituency of people with otherwise inaccessible and much needed mental health services, this opportunity creates a "win-win" effect for both the church and the community at large.

"My whole philosophy of ministry is to figure out how do we align the resources we have available with others who can use those resources in mutually beneficial partnerships and relationships," Dr. Gibbs said. "If we have people coming in our building on a regular basis that are receiving healing and help, they are also going to identify positively with the church."

Learn the history of Roberts Settlement at 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 freedom. 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 al-

ready 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.

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. Every-

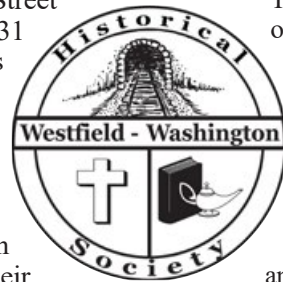
one is welcome.

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.





LIFETIME LEGACY LAWYERS
Podcast

<https://lifetimelegacylawyers.com>

HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

USPS 22200 | Volume 2024, Issue 4.8

Contact Information

Publisher Stu Clampitt News@ReadTheReporter.com 765-365-2316	Subscription Inquiries Subscribe@ReadTheReporter.com
Mailing Address 136 S. 9th St., Suite 12 Noblesville, IN 46060	Sports Editor Richie Hall Sports@ReadTheReporter.com Twitter: @Richie_Hall
Web Address ReadTheReporter.com	Public Notices PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com 765-365-2316

The Hamilton County Reporter is published weekly by 4th Hawk Media LLC.
Periodicals postage paid at Noblesville, Ind.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Hamilton County Reporter, 136 S. 9th St., Suite 12, Noblesville, IN 46060.

FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION
"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."
It should be noted that The Reporter does not specifically endorse any elected official, political candidate, or their policies. Our support of the First Amendment's free speech clause includes both our policy of offering all parties a voice in our pages and also in our defense of our right to exclude those who make personal attacks on individuals rather than their ideas.

FASHION SHOW

from Page A1

The boutique row at the Spring Fashion Show will showcase nine local vendors, including Bash Boutique, Clutch & Kindle, Jill Duzan Jewelry, Juler's Row, Just Lagom, Linden Tree, Tangerine Cards and Gifts, The Field – Women's Provisions, and Vintage Revival. With a diverse array of clothing, jewelry, accessories, and more, attendees can look forward to discovering unique pieces that cater to every style and preference. Shopping at the event allows guests to express their individuality while supporting Prevail's impactful work in the community.

Prior to the runway

show, Prevail will welcome a survivor onto the stage to recount her extraordinary journey of strength. It is a profound privilege to offer a platform for such a remarkable and inspiring individual to share her story with our audience.

"This event has gotten bigger over the past 10 years in size and popularity," Committee Chair Christi Crosser said. "Prevail benefits from the support of existing supporters as well as new attendees. It's a wonderful time to hear from a client of Prevail and shop spring fashion."

For more information, visit prevailinc.org.

Election Board: all voting machines ready for primary

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Election Board met at 10 a.m. last 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.

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 invit-

ed 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.

Want to subscribe, but don't have a computer?

Cut out and fill in this form, include check or cash, and mail it to:
Hamilton County Reporter, 136 S. 9th St., Suite 12, Noblesville, IN 46060

IN-COUNTY rate: \$36/year OUT-OF-COUNTY rate: \$72/year

Or, pay with a card by calling Circulation Director Isaac Taylor at (765) 585-9519

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

You can win big & help local charities at Poker for Sight

Submitted by
Larry Clarino
Westfield Lions Club

In what has become a tradition at the Westfield Lions Poker for Sight Texas Hold'em Tournaments, the club will make a "Big Check" presentation at the start of each round of play to a local charity.

The club holds two national level poker tournaments each year that are said to be the best in the Midwest, each with a payout of \$25,000 with \$10,000 to the winner. The spring event will take place on April 26 and 27 at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds in Noblesville.

At the upcoming tour-

ney, \$1,500 Big Checks will go to Chairs of Honor, Indiana Diabetes Youth Camp, Third Phase Mission, and Indiana Blind Children's Foundation. In addition, a check for \$500 will be presented to Indy Edge Beep Baseball.

Chairs of Honor, Indianapolis, tells the story of military veterans' sacrifice and service through hand-crafted chairs that contain an individual digital record of each veteran's story.

Indiana Diabetes Youth Camp gives kids with Type 1 diabetes a chance to just be a kid for a couple of weeks of



summer camp.

Third Phase Mission is not only a homeless shelter, but a thrift store helping the needy of Hamilton County grow and prosper.

The Indiana Blind Children's Foundation is a philanthropic foundation that financially supports the unique work of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The world champion Indy Thunder Beep Baseball has received support from the Westfield Lions for several years. Beep Baseball is a national league allowing the sight impaired

to participate in very real, very serious baseball competition.

For more information on Poker for Sight or to enter, go to lionspoker.org.

About the Lions

Lions Clubs International is a non-political service organization of over 1.7 million members worldwide, established originally by Melvin Jones in 1917 in Chicago. It now has over 46,000 local clubs in more than 200 countries. The Lions' motto is "We Serve." Local Lions Club programs include sight, hearing, and speech conservation, diabetes awareness, youth outreach, international relations, environmental issues, and many other programs.

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. "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."

Learn more at invest.hamiltoncounty.com/initiatives/investability.



Thibideau



Unity through food & tradition

Get ready for FUN Fest & Noblesville Mayor's Youth Council's Culture Fair on Friday, April 12

Submitted by
SERVE Noblesville

Noblesville is gearing up for a celebration unlike any other as it prepares to host SERVE Noblesville's FUN Fest in partnership with the Noblesville Mayor's Youth Council's Culture Fair.

Both events will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, April 12 at the Noblesville Schools Community Center, 1775 Field Drive. This collaborative event promises to be a vibrant showcase of the city's diverse cultural heritage and its rapidly growing community spirit.

Student initiation is at the core of this collaboration and event. This project was the vision of organizer Vaibhav Patel entering the Mayor's Youth Council, and the essence of this project was captured by the young leaders of the Mayor's Youth Council's Diversity Focus Group.

"This project does not only represent a project that I'm profoundly passionate about," Patel said, "but this is a legacy from last year that I wanted to expand upon."

Highlighting the essence of Noblesville, organizers emphasize that the event is more than just a festival; it's an opportunity for residents, both old and new, to come together and celebrate the unique tapestry of cultures that make the city so special.

With a history deeply rooted in small-town charm, Noblesville has experienced remarkable growth in recent years, with nearly a 40 percent increase in population over the past decade. This influx of residents presents a unique opportunity to honor the city's rich heritage while embracing the diverse perspectives and traditions that newcomers bring.

"We have the unique opportunity to uphold the roots of this community that have nurtured and sustained us as we simultaneously embrace and cultivate the newer branches that now call Noblesville home," SERVE Noblesville Executive Director Patrick Propst said. "This is the space we get to come together to celebrate all things Noblesville and showcase the No. 1 asset that makes our town so undeniably awesome: our people!"

"FUN" in FUN Fest stands for Food, Unity, and Neighbors. Food, often considered the universal language of community, will take center stage at the festival. From traditional dishes passed down from one generation to the next to cultural dishes shared among the delectable delights being offered, attendees will have the opportunity to embark on a culinary journey like no other.

"Food is the ultimate vehicle for bringing people together!" Noblesville Community Relations Manager Lexie Rock said. "It allows us to share our culture and traditions with others, provide nourishment, and step out of our comfort zones to experience new flavors and cuisines. I look forward to the Mayor's Youth Council hosting their Culture Fair alongside SERVE Noblesville through these welcoming and fun events happening in our community."

In addition to culinary delights, the festival will feature booths representing the myriad cultural facets of Noblesville. Attendees can expect to immerse themselves in diverse traditions, languages, games, and more, fostering a greater sense of community connection and belonging.

"We stand united with our neighbors - everyone is welcome who welcomes everyone!" the organizers emphasized.

The event aims to promote unity and mutual understanding among residents, regardless of their backgrounds or origins. The organizers hope to strengthen the bonds that tie the Noblesville community together by celebrating diversity and inclusivity.

"We want to expand our shared sense of belonging and ensure that it includes every individual - thus, every culture - within our diverse community," said Patel, a junior at Noblesville High School. "When we are strongly connected, we stand united and are able to work toward our common goal: to keep Noblesville a convivial and welcoming place to live."

From long-time residents whose families have shaped the city's history to newcomers eager to contribute their unique perspectives, the festival invites everyone to join in the celebration.

"If your family laid the foundations of this community back in 1823, this festival is for YOU," Propst said. "If you relocated here last week from out of town, this festival is for YOU. Please join us as we showcase what



Photo provided

In addition to culinary delights, the festival will feature booths representing a myriad of cultures.

this place is all about."

Booth applications are currently open to those interested in sharing their cultural heritage with the community. Whether it's a cherished family recipe, traditional attire, or customs passed down through generations, organizers encourage residents to participate and celebrate the diverse mosaic that is Noblesville.

Hosting a booth at the Noblesville Fun Fest is free of charge, with organizers welcoming all contributions that promote cultural exchange and community cohesion.

As Noblesville prepares to come together for this momentous occasion, residents young and old eagerly anticipate a celebration of unity, diversity, and the vibrant spirit of their beloved city.

For those interested in hosting a booth or participating in the festivities, more information and booth applications can be found at servenoblesville.com.

Booth sponsorships to help families offset the cost of the food are also available; email info@serveville.org to learn more.

Please plan to attend and celebrate all things Noblesville and the incredible people who call it home.

Carmel Christkindlmarkt team now accepting designs for 2025 mug contest

The REPORTER

Artists of all ages and abilities are invited to submit a design for the 2025 Carmel Christkindlmarkt mug.

These iconic mugs have become a must-have for the nationally ranked holiday Market, with more than 55,000 mugs sold in 2023.

"Our classic boot mugs are beloved by so many of our visitors, and have become a staple souvenir item," Carmel Christkindlmarkt President & CEO Maria Rosenfeld. "We are so excited to see what members of our community can dream up in their designs for this contest."

For the 2025 mug de-

signs, artists can choose to stick with the signature boot mug shape or come up with an entirely new idea. Applicants can choose the colors, imagery, handle, shape, material for the mug, and more when submitting their design.

Applications will be accepted through June 30, 2024. The applications will be reviewed by the Carmel Christkindlmarkt team and will be judged based on artistic merit, manufacturing feasibility, manufacturing cost, and how they are re-



flective of Market experience and the City of Carmel.

As far as design criteria, mugs must hold 0.2 liters, have a handle, say "Carmel Christkindlmarkt" and "2025," have the Carmel Christkindlmarkt logo, and feature only original or fair use imagery.

The winner will be announced in August 2024 and will be awarded \$1,000 in prize money, four 2024 Christkindlmarkt mugs, and four 2025 Christkindlmarkt mugs. They will also be asked to participate in open-

ing day and/or VIP Day festivities. The mug design will be unveiled in February 2025.

"We have seen so much creativity from our artisans, vendors and visitors when they come and create in our activity area," Rosenfeld said. "We know that the community will come up with something incredible that our guests in 2025 are sure to love."

For more information or to apply, please visit carmelchristkindlmarkt.com/mugcontest.

Please note: The 2024 mug will be the familiar boot shape in a yet-to-be-announced color; this competition is for the 2025 Market season.

Celebrate spring with a wildflower walk at Blatchley Nature Study

The REPORTER

Wander the woods and welcome spring on both Saturdays, April 13 and April 27, at Blatchley Nature Study Club, 125 Boulder Drive, Noblesville. Explore the trails with guided tours anytime between 1 and 5 p.m. either day - or both.

"From shooting stars to trillium, phlox to bluebells, trout lilies to wild geraniums, Blatchley Nature Study Club sanctuary boasts one of the best varietal displays of wildflowers in the state of Indiana," Club President Rick Towle said. "Come learn all about them with a guided tour from one of members."

"The Wildflower Walk is one of our favorite events of the year," Club Vice President Emma St. Dennis said. "Especially after



a cold winter (and spring), spending an afternoon in the woods is an incredible treat."

The event is free, open to the public, and great for all ages, kids, scout groups and adults. Although the walking path is moderate, it is not wheelchair accessible.

In the event of lightning or downpours, the event will be canceled. Check the Blatchley Facebook page for updates at tinyurl.com/BNSCFacebook.

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.

Thanks for reading!

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.

Ride the rails . . . on a “bike”?

NPX offers unique railbike excursions starting this summer

The REPORTER

Individuals and groups can soon “bike” the historic Nickel Plate Express (NPX) line north and south from Forest Park using unique “railbikes” that operate on the existing railroad tracks. The NPX Railbike is the first of its kind in Indiana and one of the few available in the Midwest.

The specially designed family-friendly sturdy Rail Gliders look like “dune buggies” and are manufactured in Pennsylvania. They allow up to four passengers (plus two optional seats for very young children) to travel together north or south from Forest Park in scheduled tours lasting from 45 minutes to two hours. The rail bikes use foot power and follow the existing rail lines north to the Devin Wye (located north of Noblesville and south of Cicero), or south to downtown Noblesville.

“During warmer months we wanted to offer a one-of-a-kind experience in Indiana through the railbike program,” NPX Executive Director Emily Reynolds said. “This program seemed like the perfect complement to

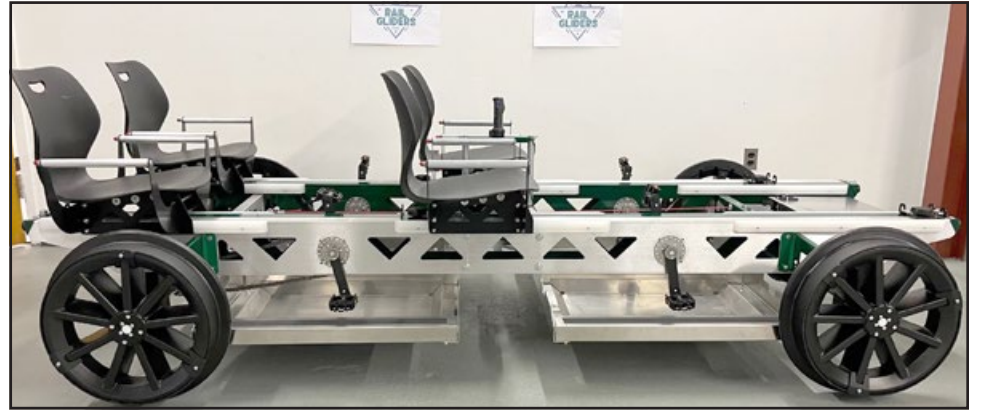


Photo provided

Coming soon, you can bike the rails across northern Hamilton County.

our regular rail excursions.”

The railbike’s Forest Park Rail Adventure lasts two hours and departs north on the rail line. It features seven available bikes or 30 seats plus two additional seats and may be purchased in single or multiple seats. It is available beginning in late May. Single seats are \$45, and an entire quad bike rental is \$129.

The White River Family Cruise lasts 45 minutes plus a 60-minute layover in downtown Noblesville to shop or dine. It also features seven available bikes or 30 seats plus two additional seats and may be purchased in single or multiple seats. It is available in June. Single



seats are \$30, and an entire quad bike rental is \$109.

Adults up to 6-foot-4 and children of all ages may railbike. All children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. All riders must be secured safely in a seat of their own and harnesses are available for toddlers. Infants under the age of 2 may ride strapped security to an adult in an infant carrier. Excursions are accompanied by trained staff members. The railroad does not operate on the line

during railbike periods.

“Northbound tracks do have a slight incline, but the bikes have been thoroughly tested and found not only manageable but also fun for riders of all levels,” Reynolds said.

Summer schedules and how to make reservations, which are recommended, can be found at NickelPlateExpress.com.

Find a comprehensive list of Frequently Asked Questions at readthereporter.com/ride-the-rails-on-a-bike.



ENJOY THE RICH HISTORY OF RAIL TRAVEL!

Sit back and enjoy the sights, sounds and experience of a ride in our 1950s Santa Fe equipment.

The Nickel Plate Express operates on 12.5 miles of the former Nickel Plate Road between Noblesville and Atlanta.

Excursions board out of Noblesville at 825 Forest Park Drive.

NickelPlateExpress.com



1956 Murder Mystery Express

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

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.



KEN KLINGENMEIER
A Seat on the Aisle

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 teammates 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 mayor, junior high school principal James Daley, played with wide open emotions by Mark Kamish,



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

This is a difficult play in 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 disbalanced 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 BasileWestfieldPlayhouse.org or by calling (317) 402-3341.

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

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

Local Men TRAIN, PIN BRAKEMAN
e MAIN STREET PRODUCTIONS Riding En
Basile Westfield Playhouse
220 North Union St., Westfield, IN - (317) 402-3341
For reservations, call or visit our website:
www.basilewestfieldplayhouse.org
WOW! CLASSIC SERVICES
my logo shop
mylogoshop.com



The Farmers Bank offering new scholarship for Westfield seniors

The REPORTER

With 147 years of dedicated service to Indiana communities, The Farmers Bank will award its first-ever scholarship in the Westfield community and recognize the best and brightest graduating from Westfield High School (WHS) this academic year.

Just a few months ago on Jan. 10, The Farmers Bank announced the establishment of an endowment with the Westfield Educational Foundation.

Committed to investing in education, The Farmers Bank is particularly focused on supporting WHS graduates pursuing careers in finance, accounting, or business. The bank firmly believes that nurturing the educational aspirations of young individuals is a key driver for future community success.

Applications for The Farmers Bank Business and Finance Studies Scholarship are now open at wwwswef.org/scholarships. To qualify for the \$1,000 scholarship, applicants must be enrolled or accepted at a two- or four-year accredited college or university, with preference given to those attending Indiana institutions. The student should have an area of study in finance, accounting, or business, and been an active participant in a high school student organization such as DECA, yearbook, or other business/

accounting clubs. Application reviewers will consider character, financial need, and grade-point average, with preference given to those with a GPA of 2.8 or higher.

The \$15,000 endowment established by The Farmers Bank is aimed at providing scholarships well into the future. For every new account at the new Westfield location, \$100 will be donated to this endowment, up to \$5,000 this calendar year. With continued community support, The Farmers Bank aspires to offer even more scholarships in the years to come.

The application deadline is midnight on April 11 via the Westfield Educational Foundation website, wwwswef.org/scholarships. Scholarship recipients will be announced at the WHS Awards Banquet on May 28.

Westfield Financial Center Director Steve Latour expressed his excitement about the initiative.

“As a community bank serving Westfield, this is a tremendous opportunity for us to acknowledge the hard work and effort of graduating seniors pursuing finance, accounting, or business degrees,” Latour said. “Our hope is that this is just the first of many opportunities to support the school district, its students, and the



Latour

faculty and staff that make Westfield one of the premier school districts in Indiana.”

The Westfield Financial Center is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and open on Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The drive-up ATM is available 24/7.

To learn more about how The Farmers Bank can help you or your business, please contact Financial Center Director Steve Latour at steve.latour@thefarmersbank.com. For additional information and Center hours, please visit thefarmersbank.com.

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

3-Month	5.25% APY*
6-Month	5.20% APY*
9-Month	5.10% APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today



Zachary Rinehart
Financial Advisor

120 W Jackson
P O Box 916
Cicero, IN 46034
317-984-4845

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 04/04/24. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867N-A AECSPAD 21810332

The King and I is ‘Something Wonderful’ at Beef & Boards

The REPORTER

Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre welcomes audiences to experience the grandeur of 19th-century Siam with the famous musical *The King and I*, now on stage through May 19. Based on the novel *Anna and the King of Siam* by Margaret Landon, the show by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II won the Tony Award for Best Musical.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Rodgers & Hammerstein's
The King and I

Now on stage!

Beef & Boards
DINNER THEATRE

beefandboards.com | 317.872.9664 | 9301 Michigan Rd. Indianapolis, IN 46268

Running the Boston Marathon, part 1

About a year ago, I participated in the 127th Boston Marathon. My husband, a.k.a. my legs for the race, and the other part of my team, was of course by my side. Without him, I wouldn't be racing!



AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

importantly, I'm in charge of keeping open communication with my pusher. I help him with his nutrition and staying on track with his water etc. during his race, so he stays safe and able to run well. It's multitasking at its finest.

We use a special running bike built just for me, called a duo bike. Our first race was in 2019 at the Chicago Marathon, and we have also completed the New York City Marathon and the Indianapolis Monumental Marathon.

My marathon experience was very different from the majority of the more than 30,000 runners. This isn't a typical recap of someone running the marathon. I was a rider, so that's the story I can tell. The other half you'd have to hear from my teammate. Even though we ran the race together, we had two completely different experiences.

Since we flew to Boston, the bike had to be disassembled and carefully packed up in a special bag. Our sons joined us for the trip, as it takes more than one person to handle the bike. Once in Boston, my husband put the bike back together and got it race ready.

Race morning arrived, and we headed out with all our race gear. It was piled high on top of me. Plus, I was juggling two coffees and our breakfast we picked up along the way. I can't tell you how many comments I've gotten like, how nice you just sit back and enjoy the ride!

Well, not exactly. I'm in charge of managing A LOT of stuff. I have two bags attached to me with many different necessities. Plus, for colder weather and a wet race, the necessities are multiplied. I take all the pictures and videos and do live updates to share the experience as we go. Most

So, leisurely ride, not so much! A good reminder that things aren't always as they seem.

Probably the best, and most physically exhausting part of the race for me, is engaging with the crowds. For roughly 3.5 hours I am smiling, cheering, ringing my cowbell and thanking all who are engaged with us along the way. As soon as the crowds along the way see the duo bike, they go crazy! It's really an emotional and awesome thing to experience. You really feel the human spirit in full force, and quite honestly it can be overwhelming (in a good way)! It's amazingly moving and takes a lot out of me physically and emotionally.

We were then taken to the start line, which was an incredible experience. Just being there at one of the greatest marathons in the world was an experience I'll never forget. We started before the elite athletes and right behind the hand cyclists, so we were all in this one special space. I was just in awe of the many ways I was seeing that one can "run" this race. It was, for lack of a better word, cool. Of all the marathons we have done, this one felt the most inclusive to me.

It's a difficult course with several sizable hills late in the marathon. The last and most difficult hill is appropriately named Heartbreak Hill. Luckily, since my husband had already run the Boston Marathon twice, he knew what to expect and was great

See Run... Page A9

Bringing joy to your workplace can ease tensions

Showing how much you care at work can ease potential tensions. My father-in-law, Ron, was a great example of this before he retired.

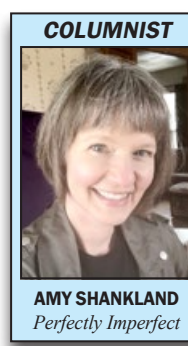
Ron worked for Celanese Corporation years ago making plastic bottles. Thanks to his observations that helped increase safety and decrease leakage in their systems, he was quickly promoted. Ron was assigned to learn about some new machinery and to create a manual for it so anyone could run it.

He became a shift supervisor after only 2 1/2 months and was promoted ahead of others who had been there for years. But he always remembered where he came from.

Ron gathered everyone together and said, "They've chosen me to do this, and I don't know why. You guys taught me what I know now. We can work together as a team and try to make things better, or you can fight me." Thanks to his humility and honesty, everyone chose to work together - and later, people were asking to join his crew! I'll tell you why later in this series.

No matter what your level is on the job, you can be a powerful force for change. Being a positive example at work is like the start of a ripple in a body of water - your bit of joy may be just a drop in the pond, but it can make circles and expand to all its edges and reach so many.

Let's touch on to the first way we can start bringing joy to others at work - cel-



AMY SHANKLAND
Perfectly Imperfect

brations! Birthdays. Administrative Professionals Day. Boss's Day. Christmas. Groundhog Day. Halloween. These are all occasions when we can do something special for others, recognize them on the

job, or just simply dress up and look goofy for a day. Well, maybe not necessarily Groundhog Day, although during a particularly tough, long winter it could be the perfect excuse for some fun!

The first thing I do when I start a new job is learn everyone's birthday in my company or, if it's a large one, my department. It's easy to put the dates in an Outlook calendar and set a recurrence for a reminder to pop up every year.

If you're more of a paper planner/calendar person, you can buy a perpetual calendar at a reasonable price - I've seen some for as low as \$3 - so once you write down a birthday, you'll always have it. I also make certain to highlight what months Boss's Day and Administrative Professionals Day fall in since these dates change every year.

Once you've marked down everyone's birthdays or other special days and you get to know your co-workers a bit, it's time to create a plan! We'll delve into this process next week.

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

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



MARK HALL
The Timesheet

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 interdepartmental 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.

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.

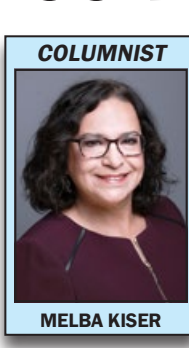
Here is where my time this past month has been spent. Spring is in the air, the trees are budding, and potholes are being filled - let the road construction begin! Between federal, state, county, and city road projects, getting around Hamilton County for the next few months is going to be like me trying 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 projects while

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 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 promotions 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 safe-

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.

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.

REBIRTH

from Page A9

It is in this garden they develop an imagination all from a little common boy who grew up friends with birds and squirrels. Dickon teaches Mary and Colin how to clear the dead debris of winter in the garden. Flowers and roses that look dead at first glance are filled with life. The two children are amazed at Dickon and believe him to be some sort of fairy boy with magic because of the relationship he has with nature. Dickon often refers to the happenings in the garden as magic. There is an unassuming innocence to his character that I cherish and hope for my own children and myself.

The birth of spring is truly remarkable. You don't get to experience the season of spring before you've gone through winter. You don't get to experience Easter without Lent. Life doesn't let us fast forward to the parts we enjoy, and press pause to make it last lon-



Photo provided by Megan Rathz

ger, but we can appreciate something from every season.

This is a season of rebirth. The season of Easter represents new life and reminds all of us that after the tomb of winter, the

stone will be rolled away. Just as He rose on the third day, the green bits will pop up and make themselves known. May we all have a spark of Dickon in our hearts and relish the magic of this season. Nature

is speaking to us. Are we listening?

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

John Pearce, Hamilton County's good friend & political reformer

A longtime friend of Hamilton County died April 1. John Pearce brought more change to county politics and the local judiciary than most people realize.

John was an attorney who grew up in the southern part of the county, but following college and law school, he and his wife, Polly, moved to Noblesville in the 1960s where John joined with Paul Smith and Jerry Barr to form the law firm of Smith, Pearce and Barr.

Offices were located at 11th and Logan streets, and as the firm grew Gordon Byers joined the organization. The general practice included representing individuals, corporations, and municipalities.

John enjoyed politics and quickly jumped into the local Republican political scene at a time when there was great division between the rural northern and southern suburban portions of Hamilton County.

Bitter factional fights were constant.

Since all local government was run by Republicans, this feuding showed up in such places as county highway operations, auto license branch management, and even hospital board appointments.

In 1978, John ran for GOP county chairman and won by making friends in both camps



COLUMNIST

FRED SWIFT
The County Line

and essentially bringing the factions together. It may not have been a perfect marriage, but it generally ended the north vs. south fighting. Even today there is little of the former political discord.

As the county became the fastest growing in the state, John gained favor with governors Otis Bowen and later Robert Orr. This became important as vacancies in the local judiciary developed and new courts were established in Hamilton County.

At a time when a county or district chairman's influence was often pivotal in judicial appointments, John's recommendations were important. Those recommendations included respected judges Judith Proffitt, Jerry Barr, William Hughes, and the late Donald Foulke.

As the century came to a close, John and Polly decided to retire to Florida. John died unexpectedly in his Bradenton home. He was 83. Besides his wife, he is survived by daughter, Cara, and four grandchildren.

He will and should be remembered as a reformer and good public servant.

Columnist Fred Swift has worked in newspapers for decades. He has been sharing his opinions in the pages of The Reporter since it began. Email him at swiffred19@gmail.com.

Actors Theatre of Indiana welcomes new board members & new president

The REPORTER

Actors Theatre of Indiana (ATI) welcomes two new members to the Board of Directors. John M. Murphy will join the board, as well as assume the role of board president. Deborah Newman also joins the board. Julie Eckert will step into the Vice-President position.

Murphy is a senior insurance executive whose career spans 45 years. He is the retired President of Ivy Tech Foundation, the largest community college foundation in the U.S. In his eight years in that position, he set forth new strategic direction and significantly increased revenue.

Prior to Ivy Tech Murphy was Managing Director of Wells Fargo Insurance Services, Inc., the fourth largest insurance broker internationally.

Murphy will take on the position of President of the ATI board, as former Pres-

ident Dan McFeely steps down from that role. McFeely remains an active member of the board.

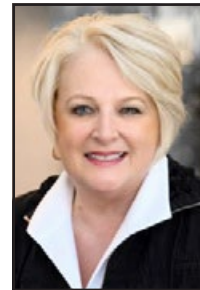
Also joining the ATI Board is Deborah Newman. She was raised in Madison County, studied at Anderson University, and relocated to Carmel in 2007. For the past 29 years she has been a Real Estate Broker and is currently associated with BHHS Indiana Realty.

Newman's prior occupations include various positions in city and county government and the Unified Court System of Madison County. She has presided over and served on boards of directors, management committees and other governing boards. She has also participated in directing strategic planning efforts that enabled the organization to achieve short-term goals while positioning itself for long term success.

Learn more about ATI at atistage.org.



Murphy



Newman

Dave Lowe every Thursday 6-9 p.m.

Open Mic Tuesdays 7-10 p.m.
Trivia Wednesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m.

17419 Suite C, Carey Rd., Westfield
317.867.0397

Live Music At Pasto Italiano

Benito DiBartoli Every Wednesday
1/2 Price Bottles of Wine On Wednesdays
Reservations Recommended
317-804-2051
3150 East State Rd. 32, Westfield

INDIANA UNCLAIMED RETURNS \$1.5 MILLION EVERY WEEK TO HARDWORKING HOOSIERS

VISIT INDIANAUNCLAIMED.GOV TO SEARCH FOR YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES

TEXT "DISCOVER" TO 46220

Randall & Roberts Funeral Homes
 Our family has been serving Hamilton County since 1953
 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville • 1150 Logan Street, Noblesville • 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers
(317) 773-2584
 The professional service you want - with the personal service you need

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.

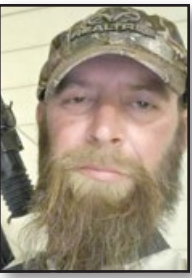
Gregory was a construction contractor. He enjoyed preparing to hunt and hunting for deer, hog, and turkey. Gregory liked cooking on the grill and loved his dogs, Rex and Storm.

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.

Visitation and services were held on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville.

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

Condolences: randallroberts.com



Gary W. Robinson
 January 7, 1953 – April 1, 2024

Gary W. Robinson, 71, Noblesville, passed away on April 1, 2024. He was born on January 7, 1953, to Kenneth and Jean (Campbell) Robinson of Noblesville.

Gary graduated from Noblesville High School in 1972. He worked at Hooks Drugs and American National Bank. He also served as a Postman at the post offices in Noblesville and Fishers for 36 years until he retired in 2014.

Gary was a loving devoted father and husband. He enjoyed traveling to places such as the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, and seeing family. He served the community of Noblesville in many ways, such as a Scout Leader for one of his sons and he also volunteered as a coach of various youth sports over the years such as Boys and Girls Club basketball, bambino baseball and Noblesville Soccer Club. Gary never met a stranger and would always help anyone in any way he could. He also was avid bowler. He and his brother Jim Robinson bowled every Thursday at Stardust Bowl in Noblesville. Over the years he also re-found a love in wood working that started when he was in high school. He loved making woodcraft from bunny chairs to checker sets to penny banks for all the grandkids.

Gary is preceded in death by parents, Kenneth and Jean Robinson; in-laws, Carl and Patricia Pardieck; brother, James "Jim" Robinson; and stepbrother, Michael Robinson.

He is survived by wife, Christine Robinson; children, Matt (Kiffon) Lewis, Karrie (Mike) Leblanc, Adam (Brittany) Lewis, Amy (Brian) Johnson, and Emily Robinson; 12 grandchildren; siblings, Steve (Julie) Robinson, Dale (Katrice) Robinson, Janice Robinson, and Kris Lancashire; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation and memorial service were held on Friday, April 5, 2024, at White River Christian Church, 1685 N. 10th St., Noblesville. A private funeral service for family only followed.

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to the White River Food Pantry of Noblesville in Gary's name.



Robert D. "Bob" Stephenson
 March 14, 1944 – March 28, 2024

Robert D. "Bob" Stephenson, 80, passed into the loving arms of his Heavenly Father on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at his home in Sheridan, surrounded by family and friends. Bob was born in Indianapolis on March 14, 1944, to the late Lawrence "Bud" and Melba Catherine (Young) Stephenson.

Growing up in the small town of Sheridan, Bob enjoyed basketball, sock hops, and drive-in movies. Bob and his sister, Marcia Kay (Stephenson) Carr, were so close in age that they had many of the same friends growing up. These lasting friendships would continue to grow even stronger throughout both of their lifetimes.

After graduating from Sheridan High School with the Class of 1962, Bob went on to attend Ball State University. He later moved to Richmond, Va., where his youth and ambitious nature led him into the business world. It wasn't long before he was burning the candle at both ends, selling insurance during the day and teaching adult education classes at night.

As time passed by, Bob felt the call to return to Indiana, where he could be closer to family and friends. Not long after his return, he met and married Barbara Sanders. Barbara already had two grown daughters and several grandchildren, but when the great-grandchildren came along, that really kept the two of them on their toes. When they weren't doing family outings, they loved to go dancing. Bob liked working at the downtown Indianapolis stadiums and arenas, which to his benefit, gave him the best seats in the house for the countless ballgames, as well as the many world class entertainers that came to the Circle City. Faith and God were Bob and Barbara's guiding light. They deeply cherished the friendships they cultivated while attending St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis.

After Barbara passed away, Bob returned to Sheridan and lovingly cared for his elderly mother until her death in 2022. During this time back home, he picked right back up with his fellow schoolmates as if no time had passed. He was an ardent supporter of the Sheridan Alumni Association and Sheridan Historical Society and enjoyed attending worship services at Sheridan First United Methodist Church and Six Points Church.

In 2023, just months before he was diagnosed with cancer, Bob attended an Alumni celebration where he was reintroduced to Linda (Ogle) Bailey. Their relationship instantly flourished, and remained one of the happiest times for both, right up to the end.

Bob is survived by stepdaughter, Rhea Harlan (George); two step-grandsons, Ryan Walters (Marissa) and George Harlan, Jr.; step-granddaughter, Jennifer Walters; six step-great-grandchildren, Kylee Harlan, Grand Harlan, Aiden Harlan, Matt Walters, Mariah Walters, and Austin Burris; nephew, Micah I. Carr of Pendleton; his beloved cat, Mandy; and by his special friend and companion, Linda (Ogle) Bailey.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence "Bud" and Melba Catherine (Young) Stephenson; sister, Marsha Kay Carr; stepdaughter, Lenna Sanders; his cats, Callie and Michael; and by his wife, Barbara Jean Sanders-Stephenson on October 13, 2010.

Visitation and services were held on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan. Burial followed at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan. Pastor John Meunier officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the American Cancer Society, or to the Epilepsy Foundation of America.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.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.



Regina Lynn Carter-McCullough
 September 22, 1971 – March 11, 2024

Regina Lynn Carter-McCullough, 52, Sheridan, passed away on Monday afternoon, March 11, 2024, at Maple Park Village in Westfield. Born on September 22, 1971, in Noblesville, she was the daughter of the late Charles Burnard Carter, Sr. and Linda Mae (Reeves) Carter.

Regina was a 1990 graduate of Sheridan High School, and for the last 17 years, has worked for Wesco Commercial Lighting Company as a billing specialist.

There was nothing more important to Regina than her family (both two-legged and four-legged). Her grandson was her world. Her house was the place to be for holiday celebrations, and as with any family gathering, food was always a big part of the festivities. Regina loved to cook and entertain, so when family get-togethers (Christmas being her favorite) would come around, she was right in her element.

Regina also enjoyed reading and watching movies. As far as movies were concerned, she didn't really have a favorite genre ... action and adventure as well as comedies were always on the list, but sometimes Regina just needed a movie that could give her a good cry.

There is a special place in this world and beyond for people that have a deep love for animals. Regina was one of those people. She loved her Boston Terriers, as well as any other critter that was lucky enough to cross her path.

Regina is survived by her loving husband, Michael Andrew McCullough. She and Michael were married on December 9, 2016. Also surviving are her two stepdaughters, Michelle McCullough and Britney McCullough; grandson, Brantly McCullough of Sheridan; brother, Charles B. Carter, Jr. (Joann) of Sheridan; niece, Stephanie Carter-Markfort (Chase) of Elwood; father- and mother-in-law, Michael C. and Brenda J. McCullough of Ocala, Fla.; many cousins, aunts, and uncles; and by her new puppies, Hank and Lola.

She was preceded in death by her parents; Charles Burnard Carter, Sr. and Linda Mae (Reeves) Carter; and by her fur babies, Jack, Sadie, and Jax.

Graveside services were held on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan. Pastor George Cooper officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, or to the Hamilton County Humane Society.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kercheval Funeral Home of Sheridan.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.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



Gary Gilbert Hill
 January 22, 1951 – March 31, 2024

Gary Gilbert Hill, 73, Cicero, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, March 31, 2024, surrounded by his family, at Ascension St. Vincent on 86th Street in Indianapolis.

Gary was born in Indianapolis on January 22, 1951, to the late Garnet and Elsie (McNeff) Hill. Gary graduated from Pike High School with the Class of 1969. He went on to attend Indiana University, graduating in 1973 with his bachelor's degree in education.

On December 31, 1975, he married Pam Douglas, and they shared 48 years of marriage. To this union two sons were born: Aaron and Jarrod. The family lived in the Broad Ripple area of Indianapolis for 12 years before moving to Cicero, where they enjoyed their lake home on Morse Reservoir for 37 years. Gary and Pam started their own construction and carpentry company, G & P Enterprises, Inc., and Gary built the business for 44 years into what it is today.

Gary was a "water dog" who learned to water ski at age 10. He was a great slalom skier and also barefooted. He and his sons participated in skiing and knee board competitions and the Cicero 4th of July Ski Shows held in the past. In addition to water and boating activities, he enjoyed quail and pheasant hunting, and target shooting with his brother-in-law and best friend, Chuck Stein. Gary was a member of the Martinsville Conservation Club, Elwood Conservation Club, Crooked Creek Conservation Club. Gary lived life fully, enjoyed hosting parties and socializing, and was an avid fan of IU Hoosiers basketball. He loved spending time with his family and had a special place in his heart for his grandchildren. They all looked forward to their sleepovers with GPa and Nana having pizza on Saturday night and homemade waffles made by GPa on Sunday morning. Gary also had a special love for his two dogs, Cabo and Stryker.

Gary is survived by his wife, Pam Hill of Cicero; sons, Aaron (Amanda) Hill of Tipton, and Jarrod (Aimee) Hill of Westfield; grandchildren, Kaitlyn, Jacen, Jaina, Owen, Aubree, Harper, Cormack, and Barrett; sister, Susie (Jerry) Ludlow of Fishers; brother, Dan Hill of Indianapolis; sister-in-law, Betty Hill of McCordsville; and several nieces and nephews. His many friends will truly miss him for his gifted carpentry and easy-going ways.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Garnet & Elsie Hill; and brother, John Hill.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, April 15 at Hartley Funeral Home, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero. A Celebration of Life will immediately follow visitation starting at 1 p.m. at Hartley Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

Online condolences can be given at hartleyfuneralhomes.com.



Bien Mexicana
 150 S Peru St, Cicero

ACCURATE. BALANCED.
You're reading
THE REPORTER

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.

JUST LISTED!

Located in Essex of Noblesville
 4 BR, 2.5 BA with office and loft, gourmet kitchen, 3-car garage, finished basement, beautiful pond lot.
Listed at \$589,900

"Speak to Deak!"
 317.439.3258 PEGGY
 317.695.6032 JENNIFER
www.speaktodeak.com

16715 BIRDBROOK ROAD
 NOBLESVILLE

Jennifer
 Peggy

THE Deak & Jean REALTORS
 F.C. TUCKER COMPANY

Westfield Washington Public Library will close April 22

Grand opening of new 43,000 square-foot library set for June 1

The REPORTER

The Westfield Washington Public Library (WWPL) will temporarily close its doors on Monday, April 22 as staff embark on the monumental task of packing up the library's collections, furniture, and equipment and moving it to a new building at the corner of Westfield Boulevard and Park Street.

"The closure is necessary to ensure a seamless and efficient transition to the new building," Executive Director Sheryl Sollars said. "Patrons are encouraged to keep any items they have checked out until the new building is open as nothing will be due during the closure."

A grand opening of the new library is scheduled for Saturday, June 1 – the same day the library's summer reading program launches. The new 43,000 square-foot space will include a makerspace and digital media lab, coffee shop, event space, additional parking, and outdoor patio seating.

"While we're sad to say goodbye to our current lo-



Photo provided

The site of the new Westfield Washington Public Library will open June 1.

cation, we're incredibly excited about the opportunities that the new building will bring," Sollars adds. "We can't wait to welcome everyone to our new home."

During the closure, the library will not be answering phone calls, emails, or social media inquiries; however, patrons



Sollars

can still access some services. The library's extensive digital collection, available for download and streaming, will remain accessible. Patrons are encouraged to take advantage of the countywide borrowing agreement, which allows cardholders to check out materials from

non-Evergreen Indiana public libraries in Hamilton County. They can also visit or call any other location in the Evergreen Indiana consortium of over 130 libraries to borrow items or get assistance with their accounts.

For more information and updates on the relocation process, please visit the Westfield Washington Public Library website at wwpl.lib.in.us/moving.

Seed Library promotes biodiversity, sustainability, local agriculture

The REPORTER

The Westfield Library Foundation (WLF) announces the grand opening of a new Seed Library at the Westfield Washington Public Library.

This new addition, generously sponsored by Community First Bank of Indiana, provides a space where residents can access, borrow, exchange, or donate seeds for a variety of plants, including vegeta-

bles, herbs, and flowers. "The Seed Library will feature a diverse selection of seeds suitable for different growing conditions and seasons, catering to both novice and experienced gardeners alike," WLF Executive Director Erin Downey said.

Seed libraries have gained significant popularity in recent years for their role in promoting biodiversity, sustainability, and

local agriculture. By providing free access to seeds, libraries encourage community members to grow their own food, support local ecosystems, and engage in the age-old tradition of seed sharing.

"We are thrilled to partner with Community First Bank of Indiana to bring this valuable resource to our community," Downey added. "We are deeply grateful for their commit-

ment to fostering community engagement, education, and sustainability."

In addition to sponsoring the Seed Library, Community First Bank of Indiana also contributed to the construction of a playhouse in the Children's Department of the new library building. The playhouse will provide a welcoming space for children to engage in imaginative play and storytelling.



WESTFIELD LIBRARY FOUNDATION

VIP fundraising party will offer first glimpse of new Westfield Washington Public Library building

The REPORTER

The Westfield Library Foundation is gearing up for an unforgettable VIP Preview Party at the new Westfield Washington Public Library on Saturday, May 18.

Those lucky enough to attend the Indy 500-themed soiree will be among the first to tour the brand-new library building. Tickets for "Race to Check-Out the New WWPL" go on sale today, April 3 – aptly enough, on National Library Giving Day.

"This unique event offers the public a chance to see the new library before we open it to the public," said Erin Downey, Executive Director of the Westfield Library Foundation. "But more than that, every ticket sold will benefit the new library by outfitting our makerspace with cutting-edge equipment, expanding our collections, and providing free programming for all patrons."

The high-octane, adults-only evening will include a scavenger hunt through the new library, a silent auction, raffles, food and drink, and live music. Guests are encouraged to wear festive black and white attire.

"We are on the brink

of something truly extraordinary," said Sheryl Sollars, Executive Director of the Westfield Washington Public Library. "This VIP Preview Party isn't just about unveiling a brand-new building; it's about unveiling a new chapter in the story of our community."



Downey

Tickets for the VIP party are \$125 per person. Members of the library's 1902 Society enjoy a discounted rate of \$100. Anyone eager to join the ranks of the 1902 Society can purchase a special ticket for \$290.20 that combines the membership fee and discounted event admission.

Space is limited and the event is expected to sell out. Tickets can be purchased tinyurl.com/library-vip-event.

About Westfield Library Foundation

The Westfield Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supporting innovative programs and services for the Westfield Washington Public Library and its patrons through major gifts, bequests, corporate sponsorships, naming rights and private donations. For more information on the Westfield Library Foundation visit westfieldlibraryfoundation.com.

American Bank of Freedom

www.americanbankoffreedom.bank



Certificate of Deposit Specials

7 Month

5.35% APY*

18 Month

5.20% APY*

*CD Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is current as of this issue and subject to change at any time. *CD APY assumes that interest remains on deposit until maturity. Minimum deposit of \$1,000.00 to open this account. Minimum balance requirement of \$1,000.00 to earn interest. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings. Contact your local branch to learn more.

APPLIES TO NEW DEPOSITS ONLY.

American Bank of Freedom. Member FDIC.

Stop by or call your local branch today to learn more!

14611 N. Gray Road
Westfield, IN 46062
(463) 622-2930





NOBLESVILLE YOUTH SPORTS ALLIANCE

ONE COMMUNITY • 6500+ KIDS • 17 PROGRAMS
 www.noblesvillesports.com @noblesvillesports

HAMILTON COUNTY SPORTS

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

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

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



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

well,” said Olovich. “We work hard in practice. The first three games here, things look pretty good.”

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

Senior Lily Roush (an IU Indianapolis commit) 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 Trospen drove her in with a line drive, Roush brought in Trospen with a single, then Roush scored on Rhoton's RBI groundout.

See *Huskies* . . . Page B3



Former Carmel boys basketball coach **Scott Heady** has been hired as the men's basketball coach for the University of Indianapolis. A two-time state champion coach for the Carmel Greyhounds, Heady is coming off a successful seven-year as the Marian University men's basketball coach.

UIndy alumus Scott Heady named men's basketball coach

Former state champion Carmel coach is once again a Greyhound

The REPORTER

The University of Indianapolis has named Scott Heady as its next head coach of the Greyhound men's basketball program. A UIndy alumnus, Heady takes over after spending the last seven years as the head coach at crosstown Marian University.

Heady will be the 12th head coach in UIndy men's basketball history. One of the most respected head coaches in basketball throughout the State of Indiana, Heady brings with him one of the most diverse portfolios of experience at both the high school and collegiate levels.

In making the announcement, University of Indianapolis President Dr. Tanuja Singh and Interim Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics Dr. D. Scott Gines noted that Heady was the ideal candidate to be UIndy's next men's basketball head coach.

“I am so pleased to welcome Coach Scott Heady back home to the University of Indianapolis as our next head coach of men's basketball,” said Singh. “Scott embodies UIndy's commitment to excellence in academics and athletics. He was a successful student-athlete at UIndy and has built a career that demonstrates why Indiana is the focal point for all things basketball – Scott is a genuine legacy and mentor of the game. Scott is ideally positioned to carry on UIndy's commitment to basketball excellence. As we have come to say, a Greyhound always finds his way home.”

Gines agreed that Heady was the ideal choice to lead the team into the future. “This is an important day for UIndy Athletics as well as the University of Indianapolis,” said Gines. “Scott Heady reflects excellence and a winning approach in all he does, and we are thrilled to have him on campus to further our program's success.”

Heady returns to his alma mater after seven successful years as the men's basketball head coach at nearby Marian University, compiling an impressive 168-56 (.750) record. The Knights racked up at least 20 wins and an NIAA Tournament berth each year under his guidance, a run that included the school's first-ever national semifinal appearance in 2019 and a Crossroads League title in 2020.

“I want to thank Dr. Singh and Dr. Gines for this tremendous opportunity,” said Heady. “UIndy is highly respected academically, has an impressive campus, a winning tradition throughout the athletic program and offers all we need to compete for GLVC and National Championships.”

“I am extremely proud to once again be a Greyhound and excited to get started. Go Hounds!”

A 1986 graduate of the University of Indianapolis, Heady played for former Purdue All-American and Indiana Pacer legend Billy Keller. While at UIndy, he lettered three years and served as team captain

See *Heady* . . . Page B2

Girls Basketball



Hamilton Southeastern sophomores **Kayla Stidham** (left) and **Kenney Holman** (center) and Noblesville sophomore **C.C. Quigley** (right) have been selected to the South Team for the 2024 *IndyStar* girls' All-Star Futures Game, which take place Monday, June 3 at Southeastern.

Three county players will take part in All-Star “Futures Game” this June

The REPORTER

Three Hamilton County girls basketball players are among those named to the rosters for the 2024 *IndyStar* girls' All-Star “Futures Game,” games director Mike Broughton announced on March 29.

The Futures Games, one each for boys and girls, are a second-year part of the Indiana All-Star basketball program. The Futures Games will pair teams of current Indiana freshmen and sophomores in a North-South format. The second Futures Games will be played Monday, June 3 at Hamilton Southeastern High School in Fishers, Ind. The girls' game is set for 6 p.m., and the boys' game will follow about 8:00 p.m.

Hamilton Southeastern sophomores Kennedy Holman and Kayla Stidham, along with Noblesville sophomore C.C. Quigley, have been selected to the South Team for the 2024 Futures Game. They will be joined by sophomores Lola Lampley and Aniyah McKenzie of Lawrence Central, sophomore Mollie Ernstes of Jennings County, sophomore Denell Jacobs of Warren Central, freshman McKenzie Koch of Eastern Hancock, freshman Hannah Menser of Plainfield, sophomore Brooklynn Renn of Silver Creek, freshman Paige Schnaus of Gibson Southern and sophomore Madalynn Shirley of Evansville Central

on the South squad.

Sophomores Myah Epps and Gabby Helsom of Homestead will team with 10 others on the North Team. Completing that squad are sophomore Lillian Barnes of Valparaiso, sophomore Kenedi Bradley of Chesterton, sophomore Joslyn Bricker of Warsaw, sophomore Laniah Davis of Marquette Catholic, sophomore Gracyn Gilliard of Munster, freshman Lillie Graves of McCutcheon, sophomore Vanessa Rosswurm of Norwell, sophomore Miley Wareing of Fort Wayne Bishop Luers, sophomore Khala Williams-Thomas of Fort Wayne Northrop and sophomore Laniah Wills of Lapel.

Kyle Brasher of Gibson Southern is head coach for the South Team. He will be assisted by Tyler Choate of Evansville North. Lisa Finn of Indianapolis Cathedral is head coach for the North Team. She will be assisted by Amy Shearer of Columbia City.

Brasher is 124-31 in six seasons, and his Titans were 2024 Class 3A state champions with a 26-4 record. Choate is 135-61 in eight seasons at Evansville North, including 16-11 last season with sectional titles in 2020 and 2024. Finn is 63-57 in five seasons at Cathedral, including 12-12 in 2023-24. Shearer is 197-137 in 14 seasons at Columbia City, her alma mater, including 22-3 last season.

Players and coaches for the All-Star Futures Games are picked by a Futures Games committee chaired by Broughton. In a change from last year, the 2024 Futures Games will feature only freshmen and sophomores. The inaugural Futures Games in 2023 included freshmen, sophomores and juniors.

In the inaugural girls' Futures Game, Maya Makalusky of Hamilton Southeastern scored 15 points and Jordyn Poole of Fort Wayne Snider tallied 11 points as the North girls defeated the South girls 73-63. Talia Harris of Fishers added eight points, nine rebounds,

five assists and two steals for the North and was named Game MVP. Jaylah Lampley of Lawrence Central and Juliann Woodard of Jennings County each scored 12 points to pace the South girls.

In the first boys' Futures Game, Braylon Mullins of Greenfield-Central scored 16 points to lead a balanced South Team to a 100-96 victory. K.J. Windham of Ben Davis added 15 points, while Jack Benter of Brownstown Central and Azavier Robinson of Lawrence North each netted 14 points, Taray Howell of Evansville Bosse

See *Futures* . . . Page B3

The Dani Robinson difference

- What's the market value of my home?
- What is my process for buying a home?
- Who should I call for home repairs/remodeling?
- How do I learn about building a new home?
- Who should I call to refinance my home?
- Who should I call when I have someone who wants to buy my home?



407 DEER WALK TRACE

WESTFIELD, IN 46074

3 Bed | 3 Bath | 2224 Sq Ft.
\$389,900 (Pending)

This warm and cozy home is just perfect. The large kitchen offers you plenty of room. Steps away, you can enjoy the seasons in the screen porch and a yard with a fully fenced backyard. Exterior of the home was recently painted. Newer paint, updated fixtures throughout the home. Upper level includes 3 generously sized bedrooms. The common bathroom has recent updates that include flooring. You will love this neighborhood that adjoins a wonderful public park, walking distance to downtown Westfield. Welcome Home!

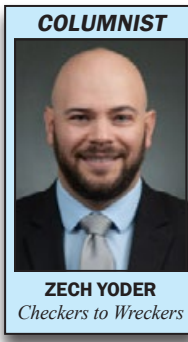
317.407.6969
 DaniR@talktotucker.com
 DaniRobinsonHomes.com

Talk to Dani Robinson
 REALTOR/BROKER/SRES

Scan here to view Dani's current listings.

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.



ZECH YODER
Checkers to Wreckers

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.

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

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 proce-



Photo by Kevin Kane Photography

dures. 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 reaching 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 NA-

SCAR 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.

Once you take charge, there's

NO GOING BACK

ID.4 Electric SUV

Up to \$13,000 in Lease Bonus Cash

*For well-qualified customers leasing through Volkswagen Credit. See dealer for details.

TOM WOOD
Volkswagen
NOBLESVILLE

14701 Tom Wood Way Noblesville, IN 46060 • 317.853.4552

TomWoodVolkswagenNoblesville.com

Next To The
New Costco
on 146th St.

Proud Partner of Prevail, Inc.

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

Individually packaged snacks • Lysol • Hand Sanitizer • Disinfecting wipes