

THE HAMILTON COUNTY
REPORTER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

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



TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Periods of rain, mainly in the afternoon.
 Tonight: Showers.



HIGH: 65 LOW: 57

Funbelievable event
You'll always remember where you were

The REPORTER

"Fun. Unbelievable. Creepy – along with respect for the galaxy."

That's how Lori Schwartz described the eclipse to The Reporter. A photo of Schwartz and her granddaughter are on **Page 4** of today's Reporter.

Donna Holmes drove all the way from Arlington Heights, Ill., to Strawtown Koteewi Park's Moon Market with her brother to see this eclipse. She told The Reporter, "The experience could not have been more perfect." She had high praise for the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation staff, for The Reporter's photographer who took her picture, and for the food at Erika's Place, 40 W. Jackson St., Cicero, where she and her brother stopped for dinner after the event. A photo of Holmes is on **Page 9** of today's edition.

A group of kids at Park Side of the Moon at Cool Creek Park were caught on camera counting down the last 10 seconds before totality began. Then counting it down again and again because they were almost a minute early. You can see them on our Facebook page [at this link](#). During totality you can hear one of those youngsters exclaim, "Oh my God, it's crazy!"

A family from the Chicago area tailgated in the parking area at Cool Creek Park. They told The Reporter they just drove south toward the path of totality with no real destination in mind. They saw information pointing them to Cool Creek, and that's where they ended up. You can see their photo on **Page 5** today.

The Reporter's own Paul Poteet was the MC at the Cool Creek event, and he brought with him not only the patented Poteet wit, but also some surprisingly good weather. It rained Sunday. It rained Tuesday. But Monday, April 8 was 73 and mostly sunny. We didn't know Paul had that kind of pull!

You probably have stories like those. It was, for many people, a once-in-a-lifetime

event. For others, eclipses are old hat as they have traveled to see several.

In every case, you will remember where you were when the wind turned cool, the sky darkened, and you got to see day become night become day in moments.

Mashcraft Fishers General Manager David Halt told The Reporter he spoke to lots of people from outside the county while he was manning the Mashcraft booth at Cool Creek Park.

"It was really nice to see and meet everyone who is coming in from out of town," Halt said. "When they came up and visited with us, they all had a story about where they came from and how far they traveled. It was exciting to talk to more people just than here in Hamilton County, but from all over the place."

Duke Energy Government and Community Relations Manager Mark LaBarr said his people were on standby in case anything went wrong.

"In anticipation of significantly increased traffic during the day of the eclipse, Duke Energy strategically staged crews throughout our service territory to respond quickly in the event of an outage," LaBarr told The Reporter. "Our company also donated hundreds of pairs of



Zora & Stephen Cambalik of Berwyn, Ill. (Reporter photo)

See Funbelievable! . . . Page 4

Stuff that annoys me, part 1

I have been blessed with a wonderful life. So, in return I try not to be overly cynical of the world around me. That being said, I also love to complain. So here we go.

There are certain things in life I encounter from time to time that annoy me to no end. I do realize that one man's treasure is another's annoyance. And I certainly am guilty of many things that annoy others. Just ask my wife about how I chew my food. I am not under any illusion that the general public cares at all about what annoys me. But I'm the one writing this column, so there! (insert spitty tongue emoji)

So, here are a few things, in no particular order, that make my eyes roll so hard I almost topple over. And yep, this list is completely random. You know, so I can get annoyed by some more stuff and share those with you at a later date.

Jeans. My first order of business is to make it completely clear that jeans with holes in them are not more comfortable than jeans without holes. I've heard so many people say how their most comfortable pair of jeans are the ones that are full of holes that they've had for the last 20 years. I'm sorry, but as soon as my jeans tear open, they are outta here.

I recently put this to the test. A pair of my comfortable jeans recently finally wore through at the left knee. I decided to give these comfy pants one last shot, to see if maybe the theory is true. Well, it isn't. I could concentrate on nothing all day except how much colder my left knee was than the right one. This was just simply not working for me.

I mean, think about it. No one says holey socks are more comfortable than socks without holes. Why would this same rule not apply to the rest of our clothes? It's become so bad that people are buying pre-ripped jeans.

I'm thinking I'll come out with a line of pre-ripped socks and underwear to cash in on this fad.

See Annoying . . . Page 2

Hamilton County Tourism begins its search for new President/CEO

The REPORTER

A national search begins soon to replace Hamilton County Tourism, Inc. (HCT) President/CEO Brenda Myers, who will retire mid-summer. Diversified Search Group – specifically its non-profit and mission-driven division Koya Partners – will lead the HCT Board of Directors in a national search.

Myers announced her planned retirement in 2022. It ends a 19-year tenure as the organization's leader during a time when the tourism economy grew significantly. Hamilton County now attracts an estimated

six million visitors annually. She also served as a founding board member of the tourism organization more than 30 years ago as a representative of Conner Prairie. Koya Partners will guide a search committee comprised of members from the HCT Board, HCT Commission, and local community. Diversified Search Group has almost 50 years of experience in identifying transformational leaders for the future in more than 14 offices nationwide



Myers

through a network of more than 180 consultants representing all sectors. It also has experience in the global marketplace. "The firm's strengths match the strengths of the unique organization HCT has become,"

Koya Partners has extensive international background in working with arts and culture, social impact, philanthropic, advocacy organizations, and agencies that serve a variety of audiences.

"We hope the choice of this company communicates that there is a commitment to seek new leadership that will carry on the legacy of responsible tourism demonstrated by our outgoing president," Burns said. The goal is to have a new leader in place by mid-summer. Learn more about HCT at [VisitHamiltonCounty.com](#).

HCT Board Chair Norman Burns, II said. "It supports the power of authentic nonprofit leadership, and we think that will be critically important as HCT continues to grow and seek ways to support the community."

CICERO
Kiwanis
 SERVING THE CHILDREN

Kiwanis Club of Cicero's Flower Sale now underway

The REPORTER

The Kiwanis Club of Cicero is in the midst of holding its most-popular and top-selling fundraiser of the year – the annual flower and plant sale.

"We are delighted to announce the eagerly awaited return of our Annual Flower and Plant Sale, an event that promises to infuse color and vitality into the heart of our communities," Club President Todd Clevenger said. "This year's sale aims to surpass previous successes, uniting residents in a celebration of nature while supporting so many worthy causes."

Each year, the Flower and Plant Sale serves as a vital fundraiser for the Cicero Club, enabling the organization to continue its invaluable work throughout our communities. Proceeds from the sale will directly contribute to initiatives aimed at enhancing the lives of children from education programs to youth development initiatives.

"Our annual Flower and Plant sales go right back into our communities," Event Chair Dottie Carlson said. "We sponsor a number of programs such as Books for a Bright Future where all elementary students receive a free book to call their own. King's Treasure where children throughout our communities, who may not otherwise be able to enjoy the joys of Christmas morning, receive several presents, visit with Santa and enjoy lunch with their families. Our annual scholarship program where we provide scholarships to graduating seniors."

See Flower Sale . . . Page 3

Community First Bank of Indiana named Five Star Member of IBA

The REPORTER

Community First Bank (CFB) has been honored as a Five Star Member of the Indiana Bankers Association (IBA).

The award was presented on April 2 by IBA President and CEO Amber Van Til in recognition of CFB's Association involvement throughout 2023.

The Five Star Member designation recognizes those IBA-member banks that demonstrate outstanding commitment to the Association in five areas: political awareness, issues advocacy, life-long learning, IBA volunteerism, and Preferred

Service Provider utilization. "We very much appreciate the dedication of Community First Bank of Indiana as a Five Star Member bank," Van Til said. "Our Association is strong thanks to our supportive members who strive to grow stronger communities."

About CFB

Community First Bank of Indiana (CFB) was chartered in 2003 in Kokomo and is committed to keeping outstanding customer service, local decision-making, and relationship-building at its core. Learn more at [CFBIndiana.com](#).



Photo provided
 IBA President & CEO Amber Van Til presents the Five Star Member Award to CFB CEO Robb Blume.

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 Hamilton County Fairgrounds
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THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER APRIL 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: SYDNEY FORRESTAL (1ST PLACE)
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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 online:
www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/jobs.aspx
 (See part-Time Seasonal Engineering – Highway)
 An Equal Opportunity Employer.

ANNOYING

from Page 1

My next annoyance is bow ties. Unless you are literally, currently in a wedding party, or you're a magician, don't wear them. You don't need to stand out of a crowd that badly. Unclip that thing from your neck and go on with your day.

Stop using smart people words when talking to me. Clear, concise and to the point please. That's all I need. If it's not in a child dictionary, don't say it. No more than two three-syllable words per conversation. And the first time you drop a "I digress" or "juxtaposition" on me, I'm walking out of the room. We're making small talk, not diagnosing pneumonoultramicroscopic-silicovolcanoconiosis. Yep, that's a word.

Stanley cups. No, it's not just the prize for being a good hockey team any-

more. Stop pretending like these are the end all, be all of beverage consumption (whoops, too big of a word, my bad). Stop playing like these are the end all, be all of drink drinking. There are lots of quality containers that keep my drinks cold or hot that don't require a second mortgage.

This one is going to be controversial. You know when you are driving at a normal speed, and someone gets right on your tail for no reason? Or when there's an ice storm followed by a blizzard, and a car tailgates you then passes like it's lap 200 at the Indy 500? Take a second look at that vehicle. Seven times out of ten, it's someone in a white pickup truck. I don't know why that is, or why the truck is that specific color, but trust me, my science is sound. To my friends out there with white pickup trucks, please know I love you ... but stop driving like animals!

I will stand absolutely firm on this one. Do not try to tell me that leftover cold pizza is better than, or just as good as fresh, hot pizza. No, it's not. Stop it. Stop it right now. Stop your lying

lies. You want leftover pizza? Put it on a sheet pan and get it into the oven. Not the microwave. Heat it up until that melty, cheesy goodness comes back to life. It will never be as good as when it was freshly made, but oven heated will do. Treat pizza the way The Polar Express treats hot chocolate ... "never ever let it cool!"

Finally, I want to discuss hamburger buns. No, I don't have a problem with hamburger buns. What else would I want to house my delectable burger in?

Big word again. Dang it. Sorry.

What else would I want to put my yummy yum yums in? The problem I do have is how inconsistent store brand buns are. Most of the time it's a top-heavy sandwich with the equivalent of a thong G-string of a bottom bun. It's never strong enough to hold ketchup, let alone any topping I might want to put on the bottom part. Please start slicing them evenly, so I can stop paying \$10.99 for name brand buns!

Well, that's the end of my complaint session for now. Stay tuned. I have no doubt I'll find more annoying things in life soon.

The moral of the story is ... the stuff I complain about makes me appreciate the stuff I love even more. So, maybe now I'll do a "stuff I love" column.

Nah, I like complaining too much!

Tim Rathz can be reached at 40somethinginfishers@gmail.com. Follow on Facebook or Instagram.

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 Individually packaged snacks • Lysol • Hand Sanitizer • Disinfecting wipes



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

Poll workers needed FLOWER SALE

from Page 1

The REPORTER

Early voting workers are needed to help at polling places in Carmel, Westfield, and Fishers.

To work early voting, you must submit to a background check and complete a couple hours of county orientation. The pay is \$19 hour. Below are the locations where workers are needed, with the dates and times they are open. (Take note that these are open times; you would have to be there early to open the equipment and stay a little after closing to seal the equipment.)

Westfield

- Westfield City Hall,

130 Penn St.

- Cool Creek Nature Center, 2000-1 E. 151st St.

Fishers

- Roy G. Holland Memorial Park Building, 1 Park Drive

- Billericay Park Building, 12690 Promise Road

Carmel

- Wilfong Pavilion at Founders Park, 11675 Hazel Dell Pkwy., Building A

- Jill Perelman Pavilion, 3000 W. 116th St.

- Carmel Clay Public Library, 425 E. Main St.

Times

- Wednesday and Thursday, April 24 & 25 from 2 to 7 p.m.

- Friday and Saturday, April 26 & 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Wednesday and Thursday, May 1 & 2 from 2 to 7 p.m.

- Friday and Saturday, May 3 & 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you'd like to work the polls, please contact Beth Sheller as soon as possible at bethany.sheller@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or (317) 770-4414.

Election Day workers are also needed. You can get information and complete an online form at [this link](#) or email or call Sheller at the contact information listed above.



Photos provided

Whether you're an experienced gardener seeking rare blooms or a novice eager to cultivate your green thumb, the Kiwanis Club of Cicero's Annual Flower and Plant sale promises something for everyone.

Plus, the community members who purchase the plants, receive the most beautiful flowers and plants."

From now until Saturday, April 13 anyone wishing to place an order may do so one of two ways: reach out to a Kiwanis member and place an order through them at cicerokiwanis.org and fill out and submit an electronic order form. Orders will be ready for pickup from 2:30 to 6 p.m. on Friday, April 26 at the Cicero Park Pavilion.

"We do order a number of extra top sellers every year, so if you didn't get a chance to place a pre-order you can stop by and see if any of the extras are what your porch or garden needs," Carlson said. "Then if we have extras after the sale on Friday,

we will be at the park Saturday morning selling those on a first-come, first-served basis, until they are gone."

Fundraising partner Hoods Garden in Noblesville helps the club secure the Plant and Flower sale's selection of beautiful blooms.

"Hoods has been with us from the start," Clevenger said. "We greatly appreciate their support, as well as the knowledge and expertise they provide to help ensure our annual event is a success."

The Kiwanis Club of Cicero extends a warm invitation to all residents of Cicero, Atlanta, Arcadia, and beyond to join them at the annual flower and plant sale.

"Together, let's sow the seed of kindness and compassion while celebrating

the beauty of spring," Clevenger said.

For more information about the Annual Flower and Plant sale or to learn more about the Kiwanis Club of Cicero and all its community initiatives, visit cicerokiwanis.org.

About the Kiwanis Club of Cicero

The Kiwanis Club of Cicero is a service organization dedicated to serving the children of the Cicero, Arcadia, and Atlanta communities. Through various service projects and fundraisers, the club aims to make a positive impact on the lives of children. With a focus on leadership development, community service and fellowship the Kiwanis Club of Cicero strives to create a better world, one child at a time.

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 2, 3 & 4

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

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

Candidates can click this box to submit their information for publication in The Reporter.

Candidate bios will appear in The Reporter beginning with the Thursday, April 11 edition.

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 NEWSPAPER APRIL 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: ZEKE KIKTA (3RD PLACE)
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FUNBELIEVABLE!

from Page 1

eclipse glasses to organizations and sponsored events throughout our Indiana service area supporting the opportunity to witness the rare event.”



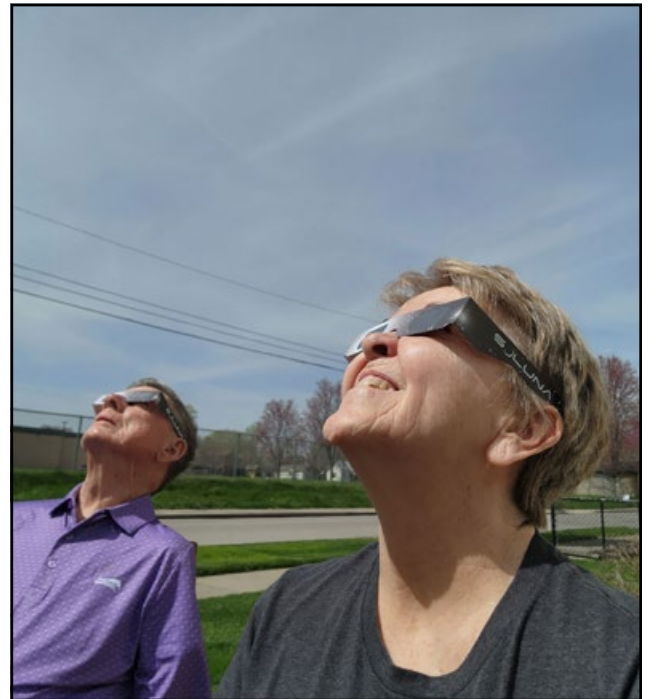
LaBarr

Mike Berry got a shot over Morse Lake you won't believe. People we met along the way sent us their own photos to use. Everybody came together to get their memories in Hamilton County's newspaper.”

On the news coverage side, The Reporter couldn't be everywhere, but we certainly gave it a shot.

“I'm so proud of this crew,” Publisher Stu Clampitt said. “Amy Adams, Bill Miller, Nik Roberts, Janet Hart Leonard, and Richie Hall just nailed it. Thanks to Janet we have permission to use an amazing aerial shot by Matt Doudt. Thanks to Amy we have photos from the City of Westfield. Our friend

If you were at a Hamilton County Parks event, you can thank Community First Bank of Indiana, Duke Energy, Fredericks, J.P. Morgan, Sobczak Construction, Compass Realty, Ashlin Hadden Insurance, and Hamilton County Tourism. Without their sponsorship, memories like you will find in these pages would not have happened.



(ABOVE LEFT) Emmalee and Lori Schwartz snap a quick selfie. (ABOVE RIGHT) Reporter Columnist & Ambassador Janet Hart Leonard and her husband Chuck Leonard are in awe of the impending total eclipse.

Photos provided



Photos provided

Sarah Cox Dedrick's son Cameron could hardly contain his excitement for the eclipse! Dedrick is the Senior PR & Marketing Strategist for Pence Media Group.

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Hamilton County, where memories are made



Reporter photos

Cool Creek Park & Nature Center in Westfield was totally packed Monday. And yes, that is a pun, since this shot was taken at the beginning of totality.



(ABOVE LEFT) We are calling this look a cross between The Cat In the Hat and Where's Waldo. So let's go with "that Waldo cat." (ABOVE RIGHT) This group of eclipsians wandered down from Chicagoland with no real destination in mind. Serendipity and good advertising brought them to Cool Creek Park so they could be in Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper. (From left) Tania Sebastian, John Sebastian, Sofia Sebastian, Doris Ayres, Andy Phalen, Caroline Teichner, Sloane Phalen (little girl), Theo Phalen (little boy), Jason Sebastian, and Lester Teichner.



(ABOVE) Hannah Balogh and Kiyo were all smiles!



(ABOVE & RIGHT) Everyone wants to be friends with Hoosier Weather Daddy Paul Poteet. He practically had to hold court in order to address all the praise lauded upon him for bringing such perfect weather for a perfect day. (BELOW) The night before the eclipse, Publisher Stu Clampitt (wisely holding the camera to stay out of the shot), Paul Poteet, Brett Morrow, and Don Nicholls gathered at The Shack in Tipton for last-minute logistics and tasty treats.



Mama always told me not to look into the eyes of the sun, but mama, that's where the fun is . . .



Reporter photos

You knew it was going to happen, right? You knew, without the moonshadow of a doubt, that The Reporter was going to get at least one photo of people staring at the sky in the middle of totality instead of looking up at the spectacle ourselves.



Photo provided by Teresa Whittern

Musical group The Echoes of Pompeii provided entertainment at "Park Side of the Moon" on Monday.



Be proud, Hamilton County Parks & Recreation staff! Many months of planning certainly paid off.



Thank you to all law enforcement for ensuring everyone's safety on the big day.



(ABOVE LEFT) Hamilton County Parks & Recreation offered this map of the continental United States for people to place a pin to signify their home locations. You may notice that some travelers originated outside the United States! (ABOVE RIGHT) MashCraft Fishers General Manager David Halt took a moment to smile for The Reporter's camera. If you didn't get any Sol Invictus during the solar eclipse, go to MashCraft.com.



(ABOVE LEFT) Teresa Whitman, Elijah Setters, and Brian Setters rolled up on The Reporter's camera three deep.



(ABOVE RIGHT) Evan Nicholls (far right) gets in a hippie state of mind by throwing up the peace sign while waiting for beer.

So many roundabouts, only one eclipse

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

CARMEL – On a picture-perfect spring day, several hundred people gathered in Carmel’s Civic Square were happy to see the sun – and then watch it disappear for three minutes.

The City of Carmel hosted its solar eclipse party on Monday at the square, located near City Hall. Spectators for the eclipse were joined by dignitaries, special guests, and a diverse array of music.

The Indiana Wind Symphony played as the moon made its way across the sun. As totality drew near, hosts Carmel City Councilman Jeff Worrell and Hamilton County Councilman Tim Griffin spoke with Dr. Tom Sale, Emeritus Professor from Colorado State Uni-

versity who gave updates on the eclipse.

Once totality began, there were plenty of oohs, aahs, and cheers as the moon blocked out the sun, sending the sky into darkness for a few minutes. The party didn’t stop when totality ended, as the popular group The Bishops entertained the crowd with an array of upbeat songs. Marielle Sellers and DJ Jesse White also provided music during the day.

In all, it was a successful event.

“I’m super pleased with the turnout,” Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam said. “When you plan something like this, you’re never sure what you’re going to expect. You don’t know what the weather’s going to be. But people seem to be happy and engaged and excited, so, couldn’t be more thrilled.”



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Several hundred spectators converged on Civic Square to watch the eclipse.



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

(ABOVE LEFT) Carmel City Councilman Jeff Worrell (left), Dr. Tom Sale, Emeritus Professor from Colorado State University (center) and Hamilton County Councilman Tim Griffin talk to the crowd a few minutes before totality begins. (ABOVE CENTER) Even the statues along Carmel’s Monon Trail were fitted with special glasses during the hours leading up to the eclipse. (ABOVE RIGHT) Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam (center) talks with new Carmel Chief of Police Drake Sterling (left) and Carmel City Councilman Adam Aasen.



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

(ABOVE LEFT) Popular local band The Bishops entertained the crowd after totality had finished. (ABOVE RIGHT) Moon shadows were seen on the pavement as totality drew near.

Transcontinental eclipse trip for Zadraks family

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

CARMEL – The out-of-state cars were already in Carmel the day before the solar eclipse.

Many of them were from Illinois, easily a short drive to see such a rare event. There were a couple vehicles from Ohio, and cars from Iowa, Wisconsin, Arizona, and even California.

But it’s likely that the Zadraks family made the longest trip to see the eclipse. The Zadrakses are from Latvia, one of the Baltic countries of Northern Europe.

Latvia’s capital is Riga, and a flight from there to Indianapolis takes nearly 15 hours. Gints Zadraks, along with his wife Marika and daughter Zile, live in Riga. Gints’ father Vilis Zadraks was also there; he is from Valmiera, about an hour-and-a-half drive from the capital.

Gints Zadraks first learned about Carmel when he met Andris Berzins, a Latvian-American who is an

Honorary Consul between Latvia and Indiana. Berzins is the president of the Carmel & Jelgava Sister Cities Committee, Jelgava being one of several sister cities of Carmel.

“I was working in Washington (D.C.) for our embassy,” said Zadraks. He currently works in economic affairs at the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia to the United States.

Zadraks and his family were making their third visit to Carmel. “We basically came to see the eclipse,” he said. “And of course, visit friends.”

“I like it here,” said Zadraks. “The city’s so beautiful and so livable. We got a chance to walk around the city center, to sit down, to grab a beer.”

Vilis Zadraks was making his first visit to Carmel, and Gints Zadraks said his father likes it here as well. Gints Zadraks said they enjoy being around the people in the U.S.

“We like to be around Americans,” said Gints Zadraks.



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

The Zadraks family from Latvia were among the many people in Carmel’s Civic Square watching Monday’s solar eclipse. (From left) Marika Zadraks, Gints Zadraks, Vilis Zadraks, and Zile Zadraks.

Weather is unpredictable . . . Paul Poteet isn't.
Your Hometown Weatherman!



The sun, the moon, the great dance



Photo provided by Mike Berry / MorseLakeWeather.com

Friend of The Reporter Mike Berry gave us this shot and our minds were blown. We don't know how he managed to do it, but if you look close you can even see a boat on Morse Lake in the reflection of the eclipse on the water.

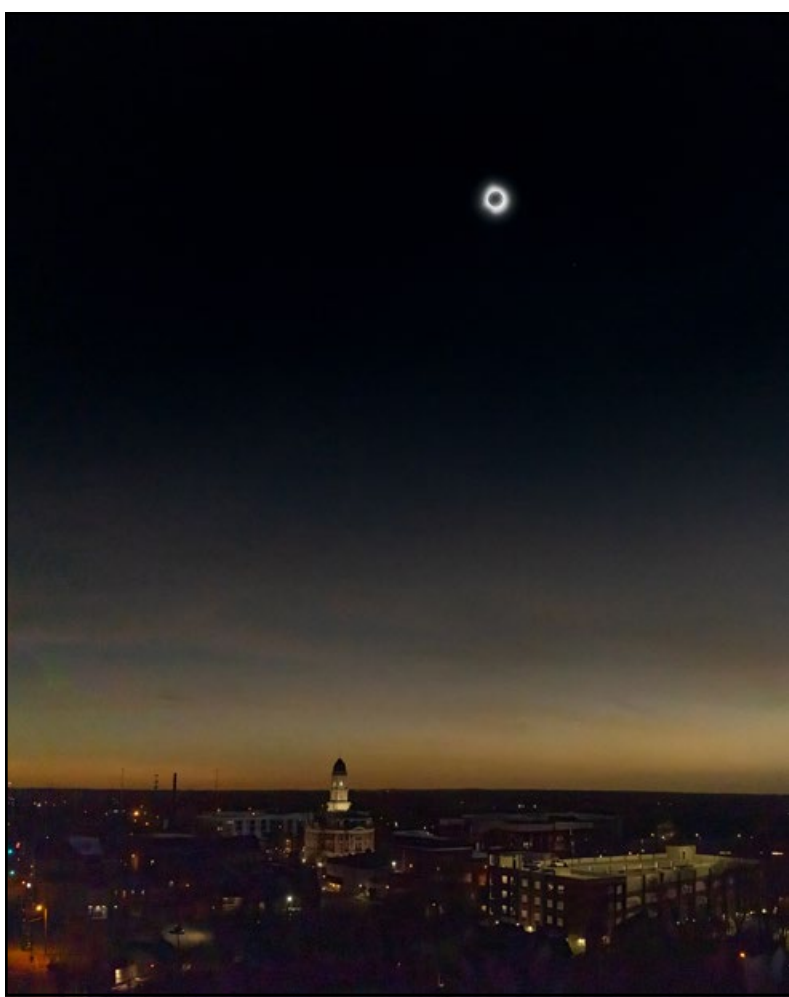


Photo provided by Nik Roberts / noble-pc.com

(LEFT) Photo by Matthew Doudt Photography. Printed Copies available by contacting Matt@MatthewDPhotography.com. (ABOVE) Few places are more iconically Noblesville than the Hamilton County Courthouse clock tower, so how could we resist asking Nik Roberts to get us an eclipse shot there? Answer: we could not.



Photo provided by Mike Berry / MorseLakeWeather.com

(ABOVE) The horizon over the lake during totality in a 360-degree view, Cicero and the causeway can be seen on the right. On the left, looking south is the Morse Marina. Notice how the lights have come on.



Photos provided by Robert D. Bridges

(ABOVE & RIGHT) Once the word was out that The Reporter was running eclipse photos, it spread far and wide. Almost wider than the path of totality. These shots were given to us by someone in Montgomery County, right on the edge of the moonshadow.



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Magic at Moon Market in Strawtown



Reporter photos by Bill Miller

(ABOVE LEFT) Donna Holmes of Arlington Heights, Ill., was caught by Reporter photographer Bill Miller getting crafty before the eclipse hit Strawtown Koteewi Park's Moon Market. She reportedly had a great time at the event itself and at Erika's Place in Cicero for fine local fare after the ... uh ... fair? (ABOVE RIGHT) Finding the right words became difficult as totality approached.



Acea & Missy McIntosh with Busy Bee's Mom & Me (above left) and Huna MaKaReSa with Place of Afia (above right) were among the many vendors helping visitors make the eclipse into something much more than just a celestial event.



(ABOVE) Robin Harrison serenaded folks during the solar eclipse at Strawtown Koteewi Park. (BELOW) Stephen Brooks of Indiana Paper Co.



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Times were Grand at the Park in Westfield



Reporter photos by Amy Adams
(ABOVE LEFT, from left) Tim Nimtz and Kathy Fohr of Carmel welcome Daniel and Emy Vig of Raleigh, N.C., and Nikole Fohr, behind, of Madison, Wisc. They watched the 2017 total solar eclipse together in South Carolina. (ABOVE RIGHT) The band 1985 makes sure eclipse viewers at Grand Park Sports Campus have plenty of tunes to enjoy.



Reporter photos by Amy Adams
(ABOVE LEFT) Carl Smith, Jr., and Olivia Smith take advantage of their new Westfield residence to watch the total eclipse at Grand Park. (ABOVE CENTER) Elijah Egan, visiting with his family from Griffith, Ind., is all smiles for his first eclipse. (ABOVE RIGHT) Susan Neff of Sheridan and Jerry Regan of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, sport custom eclipse shirts made by Regan's wife.



Reporter photos by Amy Adams
(ABOVE LEFT) Sisters Lizzy and Abby Collins from Madison, Ala., came north to visit family in the path of totality. (ABOVE CENTER) Bill Soule of Rochester, Mich., readies his cameras with solar filters to catch photos of the eclipse. (ABOVE RIGHT) Dr. Cher Samonte and her son Reid of Westfield take photos to remember where they were on this momentous day.

Westfield Lions Club gets crash course in astronomy




On April 8, six Westfield Lions volunteered to assist the City of Westfield's "Total Solar Eclipse" event at Grand Park. With a LOT of coaching from Greg McCauley, the president and CEO of Westfield's Grand Universe, the Lions helped people use three special telescopes to view the sun and the eclipse. These telescopes showed sunspots, solar flares, and eventually the total eclipse. It was a tremendous preview of some of the special technology Grand Universe will feature once it's constructed. To find out more about Grand Universe and all that it will offer, go to granduniverse.org. Also, anyone interested in learning more about the Westfield Lions Club, including how to become a member, should go to westfieldlions.org. (ABOVE LEFT, from left) Lions Jeff Larrison, Gary Smith, Bill Nesbitt, Jeff Schneider, Carrie Larrison, and Bob Benson. (ABOVE RIGHT) Lion Carrie Larrison adjusts one of the telescopes.




Westfield held the city's official celebration on the fields at Grand Park Sports Campus.

Dave Lowe every Thursday 6-9 p.m.



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

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Photo by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com
Hannah Louise Fernandes as Anna Leonowens and Jae Woo as King Mongkut in *The King and I*.



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Beef & Boards takes you for Siam in *The King & I*

Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I*, which opened this week at Indianapolis' Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, is celebrating its 73rd year of existence. Opening on Broadway in March of 1951 to solidly positive reviews, the show has since enjoyed a long series of productions all over the world. It made a star of Yul Brynner and won the 1952 Tony Award for Best Musical.



B&B director Brian Jose develops a production rich in talent, design, and diversity. With musical direction by Kristy Templet and choreography by Jennifer Laddner, Jose strikes a triumph in his directorial debut. Keying on the diverse characters in the script, we gain focus on cultural differences and attempts at better understanding. The cast is led by Hannah Louise Fernandes as visiting school teacher Anna Leonowens, who with her stunning soprano voice sets a bar for excellence. A consummate performer, Ms.

Fernandes is engaging throughout and provides a strong characterization of a woman somewhat ahead of her times. Siam's King Mongkut is offered by Jae Woo in a sharply clever performance. Highly animated and confident in his position as ruler, Woo's King effectively utilizes a wide berth of emotions—from the humor of his curiosity to a harsh outrage. As a pair, Woo and Ms. Fernandes provide much entertainment, especially in their enlightening conversations and in "Shall We Dance."

Secondary roles are filled with a plethora of skillful performers from around the country and the world. Actors and actresses with roots in Japan, Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, and Hong Kong have come together for this production. Highlights include Nathalie Cruz as Lady Thiang, whose enchanting solo work in "Something Wonderful" is a pleasure to experience. Also, "We Kiss in a Shadow" as rendered by the lovers Lun Tha (Yu Hin Bryan

Chan) and Tuptim (Alice Jihyun Kim) is sweetly moving. And the company's presentation of "The Small House of Uncle Thomas" is colorful, bright, and charming. Finally, the cadre of little princes and princesses provide some adorable moments.

Ryan Koharchik's lighting scheme augments Michael Layton's fine set design, and costume coordinator Kathy Henry makes good use of her resources. Kristy Templet flawlessly leads the orchestra through the detailed score.

Bottom line: a top-notch cast supported by B&B's always remarkable designers and musicians give this musical from the deep past a freshness and liveliness that lifts one's spirit. Congratulations to all involved—personally, I prize this high level of musical theatre.

The King and I continues at Beef and Boards Dinner Theatre through May 19. Show times and reservation availability can be viewed at BeefAndBoards.com or call the box office at (317) 872-9664.

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

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Letter to the Editor

Shaffer grateful for services public libraries provide youth

Dear Editor:
It's National Library Week and all of us in Hamilton County have lots to celebrate. In a nation where, we are told, fully 18 percent of adults are functionally illiterate, readers in Hamilton County have literally a bottomless supply of literate resources in our libraries. Sure, the libraries are supported by taxes and many of them are running in debt to keep up with demand, but their services

are priceless. You don't have to believe this old cliche. Just visit a library and look at the faces of children going in and coming out of the library. You're looking at knowledge on two legs thanks, in no small part, to our public libraries.
Bill Shaffer
Carmel

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

Mid-States Minority Supplier Development Council holding Procurement Conference in Carmel

The REPORTER

The Mid-States Minority Supplier Development Council (Mid-States MSDC) will hold its 48th Annual Procurement Conference today, April 10 and Thursday, April 11 at the 502 East Event Centre in Carmel.

This two-day conference will bring together prominent organizations from central Illinois, Indiana, and eastern Missouri for interactive discussions, educational workshops, and networking

opportunities. Attendees can expect exclusive insights into emerging innovations and business strategies aimed at fostering supplier diversity initiatives among leading organizations and Mid-States' certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs).

Through a blend of workshops, networking and on-site matchmaking opportunities attendees will gain access to valuable market intelligence, business train-

ing, and relationship-building opportunities.

Mid-States MSDC's mission is to accelerate economic growth by driving opportunities and collaboration between corporations and minority businesses. This conference serves as a pivotal platform for advancing that mission.

For more information about Mid-States MSDC or to register for the event, please visit midstatesmsdc.org.

Hamilton County Reporter

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Ben's Ranch Foundation to hold annual Barn Bash this Saturday

Updated event will be a square dance & dinner

The REPORTER

Teens struggling with mental health will benefit from Ben's Ranch Foundation's annual Barn Bash this Saturday, April 13. The event at Conner Prairie has been updated to be adults-only and will include square dance instruction, square dancing, dinner, a silent auction, prizes, and more.

Ben's Ranch Foundation operates and supports programs designed to connect teens who have mental health challenges to jobs on farms and at stables and equine therapy facilities. The organization has found that exposure to structured work, nature, and animals complements traditional therapies and helps teens relieve stress, build confidence, and learn new skills. "More than one-fourth

of Indiana kids have considered taking their own lives," Ben's Ranch Foundation Founder and Executive Director Brose McVey said. "Ben's Ranch is focused on improving the lives and futures of teens by connecting them to experiences outdoors, on farms and at stables. My own son, Ben, experienced incredible mental health benefits when he spent 18 months on a Wyoming ranch. We are trying to replicate that experience here in Indiana in a small – but equally beneficial – way."

The top sponsors of the Barn Bash include Northwind Pharmaceuticals, Round Room, Barthuly Irrigation, Delta Faucet, and Dean Dorton.

Tickets start at \$50 and can be purchased [here](#). The event also features an online



silent auction that is now open. You can see items and bid at app.galabid.com/2024barnbash. Bidders don't have to attend the event or even live in central Indiana. The organization will ship items to winners. The Barn Bash kicks off at 5 p.m. and the silent auction closes at 7 p.m.

About Ben's Ranch Foundation

Ben's Ranch Foundation is a nonprofit organization

based in central Indiana. The organization operates and supports programs designed to connect teens who have mental health challenges to jobs on farms and in stables and equine therapy facilities. Businessman Brose McVey founded the organization in honor of his late son, Ben, who suffered from mental illness before his unexpected death at 24 years old. For more information, visit bensranch.org.

Indiana Members Credit Union among best places to work in state

The REPORTER

Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU) was recently named one of the Best Places to Work in Indiana for 2024. This marks the 19th edition for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce initiative.

The statewide survey and awards program is designed to evaluate participating organizations and honor those with the highest levels of employee satisfaction and engagement in the workplace.

"The honored companies offer a blueprint for employee attraction and retention, and we are excited to celebrate their success," Indiana Chamber President and CEO Vanessa Green Sinders said. "We hope the values and strategies on display in their workplaces can serve as models for other Indiana employers as we work together to address Indiana's talent pipeline needs."

To be considered for participation, companies had to fulfill the following eligibili-

ty requirements:

- Be a for-profit, not-for-profit business or government organization
- Be a publicly or privately held organization
- Have a physical operation in Indiana
- Have at least 15 full- or part-time permanent employees working in Indiana
- Have been in business for at least one year, at the program registration deadline

"IMCU is honored to have been named one of the 'Best Places to Work in Indiana' for 2024 by the Indiana Chamber," IMCU President & CEO John Newett said. "Thank you to our team for sharing their feedback and making this happen! It has always been an important part of our culture here at IMCU to create a positive and friendly work environment, and it is one of our key strategic initiatives to remain an employer of choice. We will continue to

strive for excellence for our team, ultimately to provide our members with the best possible service."

Companies from across the state entered the two-part survey process to determine the Best Places to Work in Indiana. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated company's workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems, and demographics. This part of the process, the Employer Assessment, was worth approximately 20 percent of the total evaluation. The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience. This part of the process, the Employee Feedback Survey, was worth approximately 80 percent of the total evaluation.

The combined scores determined the top companies and the final rankings. Workforce Research Group managed the overall registration and survey process in Indiana, analyzed the data,

and determined the final rankings.

The final rankings will be announced at an awards ceremony on May 8 and then published in the Indiana Chamber's *BizVoice* magazine after the event.


For more information on the Best Places to Work in Indiana program, visit BestPlacestoWorkIndiana.com.

About Indiana Members Credit Union

Indiana Members Credit Union, headquartered in Indianapolis, was founded in 1956 on the campus of IU-PUI. IMCU has since grown to 31 branches, serving central and southern Indiana, offering consumer and business members a better financial alternative and a full array of products and services. Traditionally offering better rates on loans and deposits, IMCU maintains true to its roots by "Keeping It Simple" for members. For more information, please visit imcu.com.



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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



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Who's on my ballot for the May 7, 2024 Primary Election?

Note that * indicates the candidate is the incumbent for that office. To view precinct and district maps, please visit hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps.
NOTE: Candidates for precinct committeement and state delegates will appear in upcoming editions of The Reporter.

PRESIDENT

*Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D)
Donald J. Trump (R)

U.S. SENATE

Jim Banks (R)
Marc Carmichael (D)
Valerie McCray (D)

U.S. HOUSE, 5TH DISTRICT

Raju Chinthala (R)
Max Engling (R)
Chuck Goodrich (R)
Mark Hurt (R)
Patrick Malayter (R)
Matthew Peiffer (R)
Ryan Pfenninger (D)
Deborah A. Pickett (D)
LD Powell (R)
Larry L. Savage Jr. (R)
*Victoria Spartz (R)

GOVERNOR

Mike Braun (R)
Brad Chambers (R)
Suzanne Crouch (R)
Eric Doden (R)
Curtis Hill (R)
Jennifer G. McCormick (D)
Jamie Reitenour (R)

STATE SENATOR

District 20
*Scott A. Baldwin (R)
Joel Levi (D)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 24
Bill Gutrich (R)
Josh Lowry (D)
Hunter Smith (R)
District 29
Laura L. Alerding (R)
Christopher Hartig (D)
Alaina Shonkwiler (R)
District 32
Patricia Bratton (R)
*Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D)
District 37
*Todd Huston (R)
District 39
Daniel (Danny) Lopez (R)
Matt McNally (D)
District 88
Starr Joy Hairston (D)
*Chris Jeter (R)
Stephanie Jo Yocum (D)

JUDGE, CIRCUIT COURT

*Andrew R. Bloch (R)

JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT 1

*Michael A. Casati (R)

JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT 6

*Stephenie K. Gookins (R)

COUNTY AUDITOR

Todd Clevenger (R)

COUNTY SURVEYOR

Gary Duncan (R)

COUNTY TREASURER

Robert (Bob) Bragg (R)
*Susan Byer (R)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District 2
*Steven C. Dillinger (R)
District 3
*Mark E. Heirbrandt (R)

COUNTY COUNCIL

At Large
*Brandon (Brad) Beaver (R)
Elizabeth Fouch (R)
Keely J. Gladieux (D)
*Sue Maki (R)
*Steven R. Nation (R)

Letter to the Editor

Reader wonders why the country is stuck with two bad candidates

Dear Editor:
Honestly, I hardly ever discuss politics outside of a small group of family and friends. It's just not worth the emotions and turmoil that may come about as a result of such discussions in open company.
People have ALWAYS had hard-wired beliefs about one political party or the other – since America was formed it has been our right to be wrong. And few of us are about to have our minds changed for any reason, logical or illogical. It's just the way it is.
Lately though, I have felt that as we approach the upcoming election season, with all that is at stake, we truly are all ensnared in a dilemma.
Consider this: is anyone who is offering to lead the country honestly

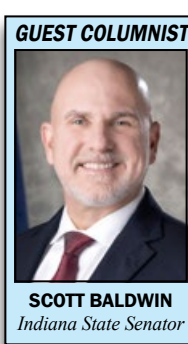
a good choice? I don't think it matters which party you pledge your allegiance to, neither one is offering what I would boldly call "the right man."
Age is most definitely a factor here. Why is it that no man or woman of middle age – or younger – has the abilities, the traction, the following to fill the most important executive job in the country? Are we really going to be forced to re-employ one of these tired old men? What happened to our younger generations? Or is the job at hand just so undesirable that no one cares to fight for it?
The dilemma is real. Neither of the main candidates have much appeal and to choose between them is more likely going to be a choice against, rather than for. So we will hope to settle for the lesser mess, I

guess. The least problematic. The least disliked – or even the least hated.
What could be the solution? A third-party candidate? That never has worked in the past and will probably never work ever. All a third party does is chop up the fragile balance that exists now. It never results in that third party winning – at least not in presidential elections.
Is there a solution?
Let's be honest – we really are facing a most dismaying reality that we are screwed – no matter which old guy wins, we are going to be toast, or worse. The divide which exists now can only result in unimaginable problems.
Morris Bedlam
Indianapolis

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

Indiana legislative session ends with important wins for Hamilton County

The 2024 legislative session ended with several important wins for Hamilton County and our state. I was proud to champion new laws that will bolster community response to mental health needs, improve our schools, strengthen public safety, and support our first responders and veterans.



SCOTT BALDWIN
Indiana State Senator

One of my priorities this session was legislation to create the Community Cares Initiative, which is a statewide grant program to help communities establish mobile crisis teams to better respond to mental health and addiction issues among residents. This program is modeled after the City of Noblesville's NobleACT, which Mayor Chris Jensen launched in 2020 to equip first responders to address these issues and help more residents access care.
House Enrolled Act 1385

encourages other communities to adopt programs like this to ensure Hoosiers are getting the help they need. Moving through several vehicle bills and amendments, this effort passed with broad, bipartisan support and will help save lives.

We also took steps this session to address the reading crisis occurring in our schools, where one in five students is ending third grade without basic reading skills. **Senate Enrolled Act 1**, which I co-authored, adds reading proficiency requirements in schools to address low literacy rates among young Hoosiers. The ability to read is a crucial building block for success later in life, and we must ensure all our students are gaining this foundational skill.

Another important issue we worked on this session addresses public safety con-

cerns around the use of lead pipes across the state. **Senate Enrolled Act 5**, which I co-authored, will set up a procedure to help utility companies in Indiana replace lead water lines quicker and more efficiently. Lead pipes pose a major health risk to Hoosiers, which is why it's critical that we replace them as quickly as possible.

Efforts to support our first responders and military veterans are always top of mind for me as your Senator. Having served as a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and law enforcement officer, I know the sacrifices our first responders make and the challenges they face every day to keep us safe.

I sponsored **House Enrolled Act 1142** this session establishing the Hoosier First Responder Medal of Honor, which will be awarded to first responders who go above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an act of public service. Additionally, I co-authored **Senate Enrolled Act 49** to allow

certain disabled veterans to participate in Indiana's free hunting days. The days can serve as a healthy outlet for veterans who have sacrificed so much for this country.

As a Hamilton County business and residential taxpayer, I also feel the pressure of rising property taxes. While this is predominantly a local government issue, I am working with other legislators as part of the State and Local Tax Review Task Force to find ways to make rates more predictable and ease the property tax burden for Hoosiers.

Even though this was a short session, the General Assembly made great strides to improve the lives of Hoosiers. Over the summer and fall, I will continue to meet with my colleagues in the Legislature and constituents in our district on the issues important to our community.

Please reach out to me at my Senate office at IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Baldwin if I can assist you in any way.

Secretary of State Diego Morales endorses Laura Alerding for State Representative

Submitted

Laura Alerding of Noblesville has been endorsed by Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales.

Morales, like Alerding, spent many years working on conservative Republicans' campaigns prior to seeking public office. Below is a statement from Secretary of State Diego Morales.

"I am pleased to endorse Laura Alerding for State Representative District 29," Morales said. "Laura's experience as a Noblesville School Board member and her leadership within the Republican

Party demonstrate her commitment to our conservative values. In the face of opposition from the liberal media, Laura has shown resilience and determination, qualities that will make her an invaluable ally in defending Indiana's elections and upholding our conservative principles."

Alerding said she is deeply thankful for the faith shown in her candidacy by Secretary of State Morales.

Alerding encourages you to vote on or before Tuesday, May 7. Early voting in-person began Tuesday, April 9 at the Hamilton



Photo provided

County Fairgrounds and the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center.

Learn more about the candidate at AlerdingForStateRep29.info.

Former Noblesville Mayor Mary Sue Rowland endorses Laura Alerding for House District 29

Submitted

Laura Alerding of Noblesville has been endorsed by former Noblesville Mayor

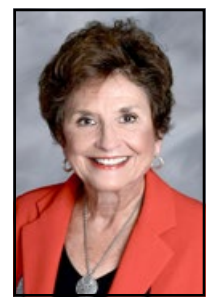
or Mary Sue Rowland.

Rowland currently serves on the Noblesville Township Board and was an At Large City Councilor. During her tenure in city government, she was a champion of Downtown Noblesville. She made this statement about Laura Alerding.

"Seldom do you meet a candidate who has conviction, dedication and does the right thing for the right rea-

son every time," Rowland said. "Laura Alerding has a proven record of accomplishment and is the most prepared to serve at the State level as your House Representative for District 29. Consider Laura Alerding – she will not let you down."

Alerding said she is deeply thankful for the faith



Alerding

shown in her candidacy by Rowland. Alerding is committed to shared conservative principles and protecting the community of Noblesville including its key pillars of Faith, Families, and Freedom.

Learn more about the candidate at AlerdingForStateRep29.info.

Spartz gets Indiana Right to Life PAC's only endorsement in Fifth District race

Submitted

Rep. Victoria Spartz has earned the sole endorsement for a District 5 congressional candidate of Indiana Right to Life PAC.

Congresswoman Spartz said she is proud to accept the endorsement.

"Whether it is stopping taxpayer dollars from funding abortions or advocating for the religious liberty of health care providers who refuse to perform abortive procedures, it is imperative to remember that life is at stake and must be defended every

time," Rep. Spartz said. "I will never stop fighting to remind Congress of the value of life – especially for the unborn."



Spartz

Indiana Right to Life PAC works to safeguard the right to life through education, advocacy, and promotion of healthy alternatives to abortions.

ReadTheReporter.com

Laura ALERDING
State Representative District 29

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LEARN MORE ABOUT LAURA

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Thanks for reading The REPORTER

Obituary

William Randolph "Randy" Horton
January 19, 1948 – April 2, 2024

William Randolph "Randy" Horton, 76, passed away peacefully at his home in Tipton, Ind., surrounded by his loving family. Born January 19, 1948, in Tipton, he was the son of the late Gail Horton and Lois (Day) Horton.

Randy was a 1966 graduate of Tipton High School. At the age of 21, he enrolled in the Police Academy in Kokomo, Ind. He was a member of the third graduating class of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, Class of 1970. During his 30-year career with the Tipton Police Department, he proudly and honorably served his community as a Patrolman, Sergeant, Captain, and was later promoted to Assistant Chief, before retiring on April 1, 2000. Retirement was not something that sat very well with Randy. So, without giving it a second thought, he returned to the job he loved so much, finishing out his career in law enforcement as a dispatcher with the department from 2001 until 2005. Randy was an active member of the Tipton F.O.P. and the Tipton Moose Lodge.

Randy truly loved life and lived his in a way that made him proud: having five kids, seven grandkids, one great-grandchild (with two more on the way), as well as serving his community as a police officer for 30 years. He would say that these were his greatest accomplishments. He could look quite intimidating if you didn't know him, but he was a gentle giant. Showing affection wasn't his way, but his kind and accepting nature was shown toward everyone who knew him. He was always up for a fun time and a good laugh, and absolutely loved getting together with family. After a big meal, you could usually find him fast asleep in the nearest recliner.

Randy was a good friend to many, and in return, had many faithful friends who loved him unconditionally. He always loved visiting them, and never turned down an opportunity to go out and have a little fun. Whether it was a party, a wedding, or really anywhere that had a dance floor or karaoke machine, you could always find him with a microphone in hand, picking out his next song ... or running over to one of his daughters (or a friend), dragging them onto the dance floor to "cut a rug" and saying "just follow my lead."

Randy also loved just relaxing at home. Believe it or not, catching up on his soap operas was a high priority. *The Young and the Restless* and *The Bold and the Beautiful* were a couple of his favorites; he faithfully watched when he could and recorded them to watch later when he couldn't.

When the kids were young, he loved taking them to amusement parks; he never grew tired of riding the roller coaster and other rides with them. Road trips and traveling were something Randy enjoyed very much, and he always wished he could do more. He always wanted to go to New York, as well as see more of the mountains.

Randy was funny without even knowing that he was. He was one of those people who was always making everyone laugh and usually leaving everyone he met with a good story to tell. He was loved by many people in this life and will continue to be loved and remembered by them for years to come.

Randy was a two-time cancer survivor. He always had a positive outlook and a strong will to live.

Randy is survived by his four daughters, Shelly Horton of Arcadia, Rebecca Horton-Hadley of Arcadia, Amy Horton-Beckey (Brad) of Noblesville, and Kacy Horton of Tipton; one son, Randy Horton (Shannon) of Cicero; seven grandchildren, Brennen Horton, Chase Hadley, Chloe Hadley, Lilly Beckey, Asher Beckey, Kaylee Horton, and Eric Balcon; one great-grandchild, Alex Huber; and two great-grandchildren on the way.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gail and Lois (Day) Horton; brother, Robert "Bob" Horton; three sisters, Janet (Dolan) Horton, Ruth Ann (Anderson) Horton, and Lu Ann Horton.

A Celebration of Randy's Life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at Heartland Church, 3611 State Road 19, Sharpsville, Ind., with visitation from 11 a.m. until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Tipton F.O.P.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

Meeting Notices

The Cicero Fire Commission (merit board) will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at the Cicero Fire Station, 1359 Stringtown Pike, Cicero.

The Hamilton County Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, in the courtroom on the second floor of the Hamilton County Historic Courthouse, 33 N. 9th St., Noblesville. Please enter using the west-side doors.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5(a) The Hamilton County Health Board will hold its quarterly meeting to discuss health department issues at 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at the Hamilton County Highway Department, 1700 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Council Finance Committee will meet to discuss county finances at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2024, at Big Woods Hazel Dell, 14741 Hazel Dell Crossing, Noblesville.

The Noblesville Firefighter Merit Commission meeting scheduled for 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, has been canceled.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Personnel Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday April 10, 2024, in Conference Room 1A at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

Law enforcement groups endorse Alaina Shonkwiler for House District 29

Submitted

Alaina Shonkwiler has earned the backing of two critical law enforcement groups in Hamilton County – Noblesville Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #198 and Hamilton County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #103.

Shonkwiler, a conservative Republican, is running for the open House District 29 seat, which is entirely within Hamilton County and includes the city of Noblesville and a small part of Fishers.

"The Noblesville Fraternal Order of Police stands with Alaina Shonkwiler for State Representative, because Alaina stands with us," Noblesville FOP Lodge

#198 President Sgt. David Barnes said. "Our officers know Alaina and her incredible family, we know Alaina's heart for public service, and her heart for those in uniform and OUR families. It is crucial for us to have a strong partner for the law enforcement community in the State Legislature, and I know Alaina is the tough-on-crime partner we need. She will always have our backs, and we have hers."

Shonkwiler stressed the importance of public safety.

"Ensuring strong public safety for thriving commu-



Shonkwiler

nities is not just a duty; it is the cornerstone upon which the very foundation of government rests, and I will always stand with those in law enforcement, and their families," Shonkwiler said.

"In a time where we are seeing nationwide calls to defund the police and policies that coddle criminals instead of holding them accountable and off our streets, supporting those on the frontlines has never been more important. As your next State Representative, I will work to ensure the men and women in law enforcement have

the tools and support they need to keep our communities safe, and criminals know Hamilton County is not a place they are welcome. I am humbled by the support of both Fraternal Order of Police organizations in District 29, and I won't let you down."

Married to Jason Shonkwiler, a Noblesville Police Department Sergeant and current School Resource Officer at Noblesville High School, Alaina Shonkwiler and her family are deeply embedded in the local community. The couple has two children, Hannah and Kyle, and together, they are dedicated to building a brighter future for all Hoosiers.

The Reporter: Accurate. Balanced. Local.

David A. Metsker

December 16, 1946 – April 7, 2024

David A. Metsker, 77, Noblesville, passed away, surrounded by his loved ones, on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at Riverview Health in Noblesville. He was born on December 16, 1946, to the late Richard and Maxine (Yancey) Metsker in Noblesville. He spent his younger years raising cattle on the family farm with his dad and uncle.

David graduated from Noblesville High School in 1966. He retired as a dye setter with Guide Corp. in Anderson after 37 years. David was a member of Noblesville Masonic Lodge #57 and York Rite. He loved traveling with his wife and friends, Sunday afternoon drives in his Mustang (which is for sale), and spending time with family. David loved sports and supported the Noblesville Millers. He especially loved basketball and received the Miller Fan of the Year award in 2020. David loved watching the Colts, both Purdue and IU basketball, and NASCAR.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Barbara Newby Metsker; two stepsons, Scott Haskett (Karen) and Craig Haskett; two granddaughters, Olivia and Meredith Haskett; and two step-grandchildren, Aidan and Emma Flynn.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with services at 2 p.m., on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, P.O. Box 414238, Boston, MA 02241-4238 (themmr.org); or Lymphoma Research Foundation, Wall Street Plaza, 88 Pine St., Suite 2400, New York, NY 10005 (lymphoma.org); or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959 (stjude.org); or Shriners Hospitals for Children, P.O. Box 947765, Atlanta, GA 30394 (shrinerschildrens.org/en).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

**Thanks for reading
The Reporter!**

Glenna Arlene Conatser Wrestler

October 3, 1941 – April 7, 2024

Glenna Arlene Conatser Wrestler, 82, Tolono, Ill., died on Sunday, April 7 after a month-long battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her family and friends until the time of her passing.

She was born on October 3, 1941, to Robert and Marie Sandberg Conatser in Terre Haute, Ind. They preceded her in death, along with her three older brothers Kenny, Ronnie, and Normie. She is survived by her sister Wanda Hackett (Willard) of Port St. Lucie, Fla., as well as nephews Wilton (Corinne) and great-nephews, Kyle and Cory; Wendell (Sharon) and great-nephew Carl (Heather); niece, Wynelle Stevens (Gene) and their children Andrew (Delaine), Jeremy, Erica, and two great-nephews, Sky and Riot; and nephew Wayne (Michel). Her first-born son, John, preceded her in death in September 2014. John is survived by daughter Maia from Greensboro, N.C.

Surviving are son David and grandson Devin of Bellflower, Ill.; and daughter Janelle Dodds (John) and their children Dawson of New Orleans, La., Kenzie of Bellevue, Wash., Brice (Natalie) of Tolono, Josh (Bek) of Champaign, Ill., and Clint (Katie) of Wauwatosa, Wis. Also surviving are great-grandchildren Kinsley, Hudson, Kolsyn, and Keenan, as well as Judah, Jonah, and Rory.

Glenna will be sorely missed by all who knew her. She was known for throwing a killer tea party, making a mean sub sandwich and her mouth-watering cinnamon rolls, and showing up to support those she loved. Known as Mom, Gram, Great-Grandma, Geena, Aunt Glenna, and friend, she could always be counted on. She was the craftiest of them all. Toilet paper and Kleenex box covers, crocheted hats and scarves, themed clocks, picture collages, owl and flower displays, and on and on. She loved decorating for the holidays, flower gardening, and making other people happy; a more selfless person has never walked this earth.

There will be a memorial service held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, with visitation from 1 to 3 p.m. at Freese Funeral Home, 407 N. Bourne St., Tolono, Ill. Services will be officiated by Pastor Charlie Thompson of Cicero, Ind. There will be no graveside services.

In lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted to help defray final expenses.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

JOSEPH IN CHARGE OF EGYPT

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt." Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt.

Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt. During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.

Genesis 41:41-49 (NIV)

The Reporter's policy on obituaries

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

Families and funeral homes are asked to send obituaries to obits@ReadTheReporter.com.



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REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

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

Baseball

Roundup: Sheridan gets huge comeback win, 'Hounds take all-county contest, Guerin Catholic gets conference victory

The REPORTER

The Sheridan baseball team came back from Spring Break on Tuesday and made a comeback for the ages.

The Blackhawks trailed Bethesda Christian 9-0 midway through the third inning but powered back to tie the game by the sixth inning. Sheridan eventually scored a walk-off win, 12-11 in eight innings.

Camden Spencer drew a walk to lead off the bottom of the eighth, stole second base and was bunted to third base by Chance Spencer. Keegan Stout came up to bat; while he was at the plate, Chance Spencer stole second.

Stout then drew a walk to load the bases. That brought up Gavin Schwerdtfeger, and he drew a walk to send Camden Spencer home for the victory.

The Blackhawks began their comeback with one run in the third inning; Schwerdtfeger scored on a wild pitch. Sheridan then put up seven runs in the fourth inning. Cole Macintosh got home on Chance Spencer's RBI fielder's choice, then Camden Spencer scored on a wild pitch.

Chance Spencer got home on an error, then Dayne Voegel drove in Stout with a left field hit. Zach Bales cracked a double to bring in Voegel, Jack Crail drove in Bales with a center field hit, then later scored on a passed ball.

The 'Hawks were now within 9-8. The Patriots scored two runs in the top

of the fifth to lead 11-8. Sheridan pulled even with Bethesda in the sixth inning with three runs: Crail drove Bales home with a right field hit, Macintosh's center field hit brought Alex Cravens home, then Macintosh scored on a wild pitch. The score stayed tied at 11-11 until the eighth inning.

Voegel finished the game with three hits. Bales got the pitching win.

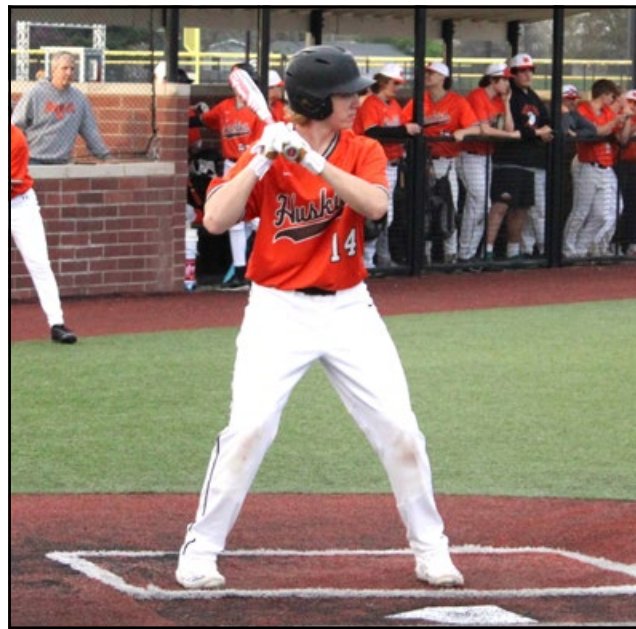
The Blackhawks are 3-1 and play Thursday at Western Boone.

Carmel won an all-county game over Hamilton Southeastern 10-3 Tuesday at Hartman Field.

The Greyhounds started with a run in the second inning; Carson Mace got home on a Nash Skelton single. Hunter Snow blasted a three-run home run in the third inning, also scoring JD Stein and Gabe Mathison.

Carmel put up five runs in the fourth inning, starting with a Stein double to bring in Joe Cunningham. Mathison batted in Silas Neal with a center field hit, James Charland's left field hit brought Mathison and Stein home. Parker Heaney singled in Sam Woodward for the final run of the inning; Woodward was running for Charland.

The Royals got a run back in the top of the fifth inning. Alex Billman led off with a double, then Nolan Colbert tripled him home. In the bottom of the sixth, Charland smacked a solo home run, putting the Grey-



(ABOVE LEFT) Hamilton Heights' Kyle Michael had two hits for the Huskies in their game with Western on Tuesday. (ABOVE RIGHT) University's Beckett Suh threw six strikeouts over five and two-thirds innings during the Trailblazers' game with Harrison Tuesday.

hounds up 10-1.

Southeastern added two runs in the top of the seventh. Billman scored when Ty Earlewine reached on error, then Evan Haas singled in Parker O'Steen.

Charland and Mathison each had two hits. Mathison went two innings for the win, striking out eight.

Carmel is unbeaten at 6-0 and hosts Lawrence North on Thursday. The Royals are 5-3 and start a Hoosier Crossroads Conference series by hosting Zionsville on Thursday.

Guerin Catholic won a road Circle City Conference game 5-0 Tuesday at Covenant Christian.

The Golden Eagles were up early, scoring two runs in the first inning. Tate Troxell

batted in Ian Taylor for the first run, then Cuinn Morrow sent a double into left field to score Troxell.

In the third inning, Davis Wagner hit a two-out double, after which Troxell hit his own RBI double to bring Wagner home. Guerin Catholic sprinted to the finish with two runs in the seventh inning: Bryson Dorsey scored on an error and Grant Beard got home on Karson Smith's sacrifice fly.

Wagner went six innings for the win, striking out eight and allowing just one hit and one walk.

The Golden Eagles are 2-0 in conference play and 5-1 overall. The host Covenant Christian at 5:30 p.m. today to complete the conference series.



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

University played to a 1-1 tie with Harrison after eight innings at RoundTripper Academy. The game was called due to darkness.

Both teams scored their respective runs in the sixth inning. Oliver Kingery scored the Trailblazers' run, getting home after Owen Schellhase reached on error. Mark Hamby had two hits for University, with Jasper Owens getting one hit. Beckett Suh pitched five and two-thirds innings, striking out six and allowing one hit.

The 'Blazers are 2-2-1 and play at Muncie Burris Thursday in a Pioneer Conference North Division game.

Hamilton Heights dropped its Hoosier Conference East opener on Tues-

day, falling to Western 6-3 at Grand Park.

The Huskies scored their first run in the third inning when Levi Chandler got home after Phoenix Vonderhaar reached on an error. In the fourth inning, Adam Hughes hit a one-out double, then got home on Kyle Michael's left field double.

Logan Hickman led off the fifth inning with a double and later scored on a Dean Mason single. But the Panthers scored two runs in the sixth inning and took the lead with four runs in the seventh.

Michael finished with two hits. Nick Hulén pitched six innings, tossing six strikeouts.

The Huskies are 0-4 and play at Western this afternoon to complete the division series.

Softball

Roundup: Millers take all-county contest, Carmel wins high-scoring game, Sheridan rolls to first win of season

The REPORTER

The Noblesville softball team won a Hoosier Crossroads Conference and all-county game at Fishers Tuesday 4-1.

Both teams scored a run in the second inning. Makayla Jacquay scored for the Millers after Delaney Rundle reached on an error, then Kendall Jordan got home for the Tigers when Azstryd Alexander was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Jacquay doubled in the go-ahead run for Noblesville in the third inning, bringing Gabby Fowler home. The Millers added two runs in the fourth inning: Rundle drove in Neaveh Nash with a left field hit; Rundle then scored on Fowler's sacrifice bunt.

Claire Cullen pitched a complete game for Noblesville, striking out eight. Fishers' Kate Murray also went the distance, throwing seven strikeouts.

The Millers are 2-0 in HCC play and 4-1 overall. They host Carmel at 5:30 p.m. this afternoon. The Tigers played their conference opener; they are 4-4 overall and play two games on Saturday, taking on Indianapolis Lutheran at 10 a.m. and

Whiteland at 12:30 p.m.

Carmel picked up a 12-10, eight-inning win at Lawrence North Tuesday.

The Greyhounds put up five runs in the second inning to take an early lead. Ellie Goddard singled in Katherine Smith for the first run, then Jayden Kleiner blasted a three-run double, bringing Goddard, Avery Klein and Alex Longstreth home. Mia Fleming hit her own double to score Winni Owens, who was running for Kleiner.

The Wildcats got a run back in the fourth inning, but Carmel answered in the top of the fifth with another run. Paxton Law hit a double, moved to third base on a wild pitch and was brought home by Katherine Warren's sacrifice fly.

Lawrence North hit two three-run home runs to take a 7-6 lead in the bottom of the sixth inning. The Greyhounds took the lead back in the top of the seventh: Kleiner smacked a two-run homer, also scoring Goddard. Warren hit another RBI sacrifice fly to bring in Kathryn Merryman, then Law got home on a wild pitch.

The Wildkats scored

twice in the bottom of the seventh to tie the game at 10-10. Carmel took the lead for good in the top of the eighth, as Fleming singled in Longstreth, then Law hit a sacrifice fly to bring Kleiner home.

Law finished the game with two doubles, with Kleiner and Fleming totaling three hits. Gracyn Erickson got the pitching win.

The Greyhounds are 3-6 and play at Noblesville this afternoon.

Sheridan beat Herron 20-1 in a five-inning game on Tuesday for its first win of the season.

Abby Dallas, Emma Settles, Abbi Merritt and Claudia Headlee all had two hits for the Blackhawks, with Merritt hitting a triple. Dallas scored

four runs, with Settles and Headlee both scoring three. Merritt drove in five runs, with Settles batting in three runs.

Maelei Casler got the pitching win, tossing nine strikeouts and allowing three walks and one hit.

Sheridan is 1-4 and hosts Bishop Chatard at 5:30 p.m. this afternoon.

Westfield dropped a 5-4, eight-inning HCC game at Brownsburg on Tuesday.

The Shamrocks scored two runs in the top of the first inning thanks to Grace Fanelli's left field home run. Sofia Easterhaus also scored. The Bulldogs got a run back in the bottom of the first, then scored three in the second inning to take a 4-2 lead.

Chloe Tanner answered



Photo by Dwight Casler

Sheridan's Maelei Casler threw nine strikeouts in the Blackhawks' Tuesday win over Herron.

in the top of the sixth with her own two-run homer; she also got Ava Kainrath home. The score would stay 4-4 until the bottom of the eighth, when Brownsburg won on a walk off base hit.

Tanner pitched the complete game, striking out five.

Westfield is 1-1 in the conference and 5-1 overall. The 'Rocks play at Greenfield-Central tonight.

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SPORTS SCHEDULE Tennis match for a cause

NHS girls tennis to support IPGR at Tuesday dual meet

Wednesday, April 10

BASEBALL

Covenant Christian at Guerin Catholic, 5:30 p.m.

Westfield at Cathedral, 5:30 p.m.

Hamilton Heights at Western, 6 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE

Bishop Chatard at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.

Brownsburg at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.

Homestead at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.

GOLF

Hamilton Southeastern vs. Westfield,

3:30 p.m. at Prairie View

Greenfield-Central at Fishers, 4:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Bishop Chatard at Sheridan, 5:30 p.m.

Carmel at Noblesville, 5:30 p.m.

Hamilton Heights at Western, 6 p.m.

Hamilton Southeastern at Zionsville, 6 p.m.

Westfield at Greenfield-Central, 7:30 p.m.

TENNIS

Western Boone at University, 4:30 p.m.

Taylor at Hamilton Heights, 5 p.m.

Noblesville at Lawrence North, 5:15 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Pike boys at Noblesville, 5:30 p.m.

Westfield girls at Zionsville, 5:30 p.m.

Zionsville boys at Westfield, 5:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Westfield at Carmel, 7 p.m.

Perry Meridian at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.

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

The REPORTER

The Noblesville High School girls tennis team is inviting the public to attend its dual meet with Brownsburg on Tuesday to support Indiana Great Pyrenees Rescue (IPGR).

The meet takes place at the Noblesville High School Tennis Complex, 1610 Field Drive. Admission is free, but donations to IGPR will be greatly appreciated. The doors open at 4:45 p.m. and spectators will receive an opportunity to learn more about adopting, fostering and donating to support these amazing family pets who are looking for their forever homes.

The seniors on the Millers team selected IGPR due to their love of dogs and sincere wish to help more of these sweet Prys find their forever homes. You can learn more about IGPR and make donations at igpr.org.

There is a national crisis of animals being surrendered to rescues and shelters. Your donations will go towards housing and medical expenses of the IGPR foster dogs. Finn, a recently adopted Pyrenees, and his



Photo provided

The Noblesville girls tennis team's dual meet with Brownsburg on Tuesday will support Indiana Great Pyrenees Rescue (IGPR). (Front row) Great Pyrenees Bernie and Lina Hamashuk. (Back row) Maren Dean, Cami Crist, Ava Shoemaker, Becca Kreimer, Allie Stamm, and Josie Flinchum.

new "Mom," NHS science teacher Carrie Huffman, will be present to showcase the Great Pyrenees' sweet demeanor and answer any

questions about the breed. Great Pyrenees are majestic, intelligent, and loyal family dogs. They are very social and typically get

along extremely well with other pets. Great Pyrenees are calm companions and vigilant guardians of their home and families.

Thanks for reading the Hamilton County Reporter!

www.NoblesvilleTrophies.com

Upcoming Broadcasts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Submitted by IMS

More than 50,000 guests from all 50 states and 33 countries around the world flocked to Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Monday to stare at the greatest show in the sky during the Total Solar Eclipse Event presented by Purdue University.

Guests arrived early for a full day of exhibits, experiments, panel-led discussions, demonstrations, photo opportunities and, of course, the big show – the once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse that included breathtaking totality from 3:06 to 3:09 p.m. More than 80 percent of the guests were first-time visitors to the Racing Capital of the World.

Among the guests were members of Indiana's congressional delegation, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, NASA Deputy Administrator Pam Melroy, and Mark and Rick Armstrong, the sons of Purdue graduate and first man on the moon Neil Armstrong.

NTT INDYCAR SERIES drivers also participated in an autograph session with fans,



Photo courtesy IMS

and three-time Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge pole winner Ed Carpenter turned demonstration laps of the famous 2.5-mile oval at IMS in his No. 20 Ed Carpenter Racing Chevrolet before the oval opened for fans to view totality.

Among the 33 countries from which fans came to IMS were Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, England, France, Germany, Greenland, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Northern Ireland, Philippines, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. All fans were provided with special eclipse viewing glasses – “The Greatest Spectacles,”

a fun play on the nickname of the Indianapolis 500, “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing.”

The IMS Total Solar Eclipse Event presented by Purdue University was designated one of several official broadcast sites for NASA TV's coverage of the astronomical phenomenon. The huge crowd and the fact Indianapolis was in the direct path of totality also attracted a throng of local, national and global news coverage from the Speedway.

Media outlets covering the event live from IMS included NBC (*TODAY* and *NBC Nightly News*), CBS, ABC, CNN, FOX News, and NewsNation.