

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny.
 Tonight: Mostly clear.
 HIGH: 95 LOW: 74



Community spirit shines bright: Beck's 5K raises funds for two vital causes

By **HANNAH FUSSNER**
Beck's Hybrids

Beck's, the largest family-owned retail seed company in the United States, hosted its fifth annual 5K on June 8 at their headquarters in Atlanta, Ind. Beck's 5K promotes health and wellness among Beck's employees and their families, customers, seed dealers, and the community.

"Through the continued growth, the success of Beck's 5K has allowed us to expand our reach and increase our impact," said Laura McKee, benefits specialist and chairman of the Beck's 5K committee. "We are happy to support two organizations focused on a similar mission of helping children and building families."

Through a combination of in-person and virtual participants, 442 people registered



This year, Beck's 5K generated \$52,629.83 in proceeds to benefit We Care for Orphans and Safe Haven Baby Boxes, which was split evenly between the two organizations.

for the race. Through registrations, sponsorships, and generous donations, Beck's 5K generated \$52,629.83 in proceeds to benefit **We Care**

for Orphans and Safe Haven Baby Boxes.

Selected as one of the 2024 charities, We Care for Orphans was started in 2011 to assist

families with the large financial requirements that the adoption process entails.

See Beck's... Page 2



"Mayor's Grand Gala" announced to benefit Advancing Westfield Foundation

The REPORTER

The City of Westfield has announced the inaugural Mayor's Grand Gala, a night of giving, presented by Card and Associates, Keystone Group, and Indy Eleven, on Saturday, Oct. 5, at Grand Park Sports Campus. The event will run from 6 to 10 p.m.

The Mayor's Grand Gala promises to be an event unlike any other, offering a blend of elegance, entertainment, and philanthropy.



Willis

"We are excited to announce the launch of the Mayor's Grand Gala benefiting the newly established Advancing Westfield Foundation that underscores our commitment to the wonderful non-profit partners throughout the city," Mayor Scott Willis said. "This gala presents a unique opportunity for our residents and business owners to come together, celebrate our shared vision, and contribute to the continued growth of our city."

The evening's festivities will include entertainment from a DJ, a silent and live auction, and food from a variety of Westfield restaurants. Highlighting the event will be an exclusive reverse raffle, offering attendees the chance to win a 2025 Cadillac CT5 generously donated by Chariot Automotive Group in Kokomo. This exciting opportunity allows guests to take home a Cadillac on a two-year lease. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase the evening of the event for \$100, which significantly increases attendees' chances of winning.

The Mayor's Grand Gala supports the efforts of the city's non-for-profit partnerships through the Advancing Westfield Foundation. Together, these partnerships ensure sustainable support for the vital services that enhance the lives of those in need. Proceeds from the gala will support the Westfield Youth Assistance Program and other local Westfield non-profit organizations.

Tickets for the Mayor's Grand Gala start at \$200 and are expected to sell out. To purchase tickets and for sponsorship information, please visit WestfieldGrandGala.com.

HHEF Golf Outing packs the green to enrich student learning

The REPORTER

Members of the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation (HHEF) extend their sincere appreciation to all individuals who helped make this year's golf outing a resounding success. Money generated through the annual event, now in its 35th year, gives students and teachers a chance to grow and explore beyond traditional boundaries through grant money.

"We were extremely pleased with the outcome," HHEF President Melissa Martin said. Martin, along with the help of the entire HHEF board, has organized the annual event during her more than 11-year tenure (ninth year as president) with the Foundation. "We are so grateful to Mark Wiseman and

the dedicated staff at Bear Slide and the opportunity to play on one of the state's most impressive courses that is right in our back yard. They are an incredible community partner for the support they give us on this day along with all the other things they do throughout the year for our students and staff."

The team consisting of Mark Sullivan, Dean Mason, Cyrus Mason, and Caleb Sullivan took first place at this year's scramble. The team of Michael Bechert, Trent Caldwell, Ken Dilger, and Brain Doak placed second. Justin Bowman had the longest drive for men, Ellie Arrowood had the longest drive for women. Matt Sullivan won the closest to the pin for men, and Amanda Sylvester won closest



Photo by Gary Perkins

The team consisting of (from left) Mark Sullivan, Dean Mason, Cyrus Mason, and Caleb Sullivan took first place at the 2024 HHEF Golf Scramble at Bear Slide Golf Course in Cicero.

to the pin for women. Brett Tip-ton won the putting contest.

"We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all

our sponsors, players, and volunteers who helped make this

See Outing... Page 3

Governor's race: Democrat Jennifer McCormick names her running mate

By **GREGG MONTGOMERY**
 WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Jennifer McCormick, Indiana's Democratic candidate for governor, on Thursday named Terry Goodin as her pick for lieutenant governor.

The 57-year-old from Austin is a former Indiana representative, serving from 2000 to 2020. The Scott County city of Austin is about a 35-minute drive north of Louisville, Ky.

In February 2022, President Joe Biden named Goodin as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Indiana state director for rural development. Goodin also served as superintendent of Crothersville Community Schools for 24 years. He lives with his wife on the family beef-cattle farm near Austin. Indiana's lieutenant governor runs four state agencies, ceremoniously presides over the Senate and would break tie votes there, if that would ever happen in a chamber where the GOP enjoys a supermajority. McCormick's pick will be confirmed at the July 13

Quotes from McCormick & Goodin

"Terry Goodin is a life-long public servant and has both the experience and the heart to serve Hoosiers as the next Lieutenant Governor of Indiana. Terry understands that to govern effectively for all Hoosiers, we must restore civility, common sense, and bipartisanship to the Statehouse. With 24 years of experience as a public school superintendent and 20 years as a member of the Indiana General Assembly, he knows how to lead. Terry's recent service as State Director for Rural Development with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) demonstrates his knowledge and passion for rural Indiana. I am proud to bring Terry's credentials, skills, and passion to this ticket to win in November."
 — Jennifer McCormick

"I am truly honored and humbled to have been chosen by Jennifer to run as her Lieutenant Governor candidate. It is time to get our Hoosier state back on the right track and Jennifer McCormick is the right person at the right time to get this done. I will work closely as her partner to make Indiana a better place to live, work, and raise a family."
 — Terry Goodin



McCormick



Goodin

Indiana Democratic Party Convention. McCormick will face the Republican candidate for governor, U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, and his running mate, Micah Beckwith; and the Libertarian nominee for governor, Donald Rainwater. Democrats haven't won a statewide office in Indiana since 2012. This story was origi-

nally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/election/indiana-governors-race-democrat-mccormick-names-her-running-mate.

Sheridan Kiwanis donate \$500 for literacy program



Photo provided

The Sheridan Kiwanis Club held a pancake breakfast in April at the Sheridan Public Library to raise funds that were donated to the library to help improve literacy in the community of Sheridan. Kiwanis Club President Brian Bragg presented SPL Board of Trustees President Loretta Moore-Sutherland a check for \$500 from the pancake breakfast fundraiser. Kiwanis empowers members to pursue creative ways to serve the needs of children, such as fighting hunger, improving literacy, and offering guidance.

BECK'S

from Page 1

"We Care for Orphans is extremely grateful to the Beck's family of employees not only for their hard work in putting this event together, but for allowing our organization to be part of it," said Jordyn Beck, chairman of We Care for Orphans. "Seeing the community rally for a specific mission and unite for this cause was truly remarkable. Through the contributions raised from Beck's 5K, we will be able to support at least five future families this year in their adoption process."

The mission of Safe Haven Baby Boxes, the second selected 2024 charity, is to prevent the illegal abandonment of newborns by raising awareness, offering a 24-hour hotline for mothers in crisis, and offering the Safe Haven Baby Boxes as a last resort option for women who want to maintain complete anonymity.

"We are so grateful for the organizers and participants prioritizing our mission to end infant abandonment," said Monica Kelsey, founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes. Each year the number of women in crisis we serve increases, along with surrenders. Our generous supporters make it possible to continue to meet the level of demand we experience and expand our outreach."

The event was open to all ages. In addition to the 5K run/walk, children ages 3 to 11 had the chance to participate in a Kids Fun Run. James Goddard, 37,

Fishers, was the overall winner with a time of 17:45. Behind him was Noah Walker, 16, Tipton, with a time of 18:07, and Isaac Lust, 16, Marion, Ohio, with a final time of 18:44.

[Click here to see a full list of finishers.](#)

Over the last five years, Beck's 5K Run/Walk has generated more than \$196,000 in proceeds that have directly benefited six different charities.

Beck's thanks these generous sponsors who made this year's event a success:

Platinum Sponsors: 2nd Shift Garage Doors, IceMiller, Ryan FireProtection, Inc., and Martin One Source

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Silver Sponsors: AgriNews (SHAW Media), Hearn Construction, Reynolds Farm Equipment, Specified Lighting, Tynan, Farm Journal, Rabo Agri-Finance, Trailhead Media, AVC Auto, Behlen Building



Photos courtesy Via Creations Photography

(ABOVE LEFT) The top three female finishers were Lexi VanAlstine of Noblesville (center), Allie Bushey of Carmel (right), and Gabby Behr of Carmel (left). (ABOVE RIGHT) The top three male finishers were James Goddard of Fishers (center), Noah Walker of Tipton (right), and Isaac Lust of Marion, Ohio (left).

Systems, First Mid Bank & Trust, Lee Agri Media, McGavic Outdoor Power, NISCO LLC, Northside Garage Doors, Omni Electric, QBE, R&K Outdoor Advertising, Shepherd Financial, Clifton Larson Allen LLP (CLA), and Nyhart

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rial Park, Charlie Callari, DJ Strick, Dodd Technology, Shoup's Country Foods, Needler's (Tipton), Dodd

Technologies, All American Outdoor Advertising, Gaskill Signs, Via Creations Photography

Hannah Fussner serves as the Media and Industry Relations Coordinator for Beck's Hybrids in Atlanta, Ind.



Photos courtesy Via Creations Photography

(ABOVE LEFT) Sarah Sears of Carmel. (ABOVE CENTER) Morris Guyer of Atlanta. (ABOVE RIGHT) Hannah Fussner of Noblesville. (BELOW) Linda Bane of Noblesville (left) and Kelli Bracho of Carmel (right).

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- JULY 4 - CSO WITH ACTORS THEATRE OF INDIANA
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- AUGUST 9 - ANTONIA BENNETT
The Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts in partnership with Carmel Jazz Festival
- AUGUST 23 - MOTOWN & DISCO CONCERT
Coxhall Gardens in Partnership with Artomobilia and Hamilton Co. Parks

OUTING

from Page 1



Photos by Gary Perkins

(ABOVE) Volunteers ready to register a record number of golfers at this year's Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation's 35th annual best ball scramble at Bear Slide Golf Course earlier this month. (BELOW) OneZone Chamber of Commerce President Jack Russell and Heights School Board Member Julie Davis are among the many supporters of this annual event.

another successful event that will provide benefit to teachers and students well into the future," Martin said. The Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation Board includes officers: Melissa Martin (President), Jack Russell (Vice President), Melissa Bernero (Secretary), and Caryn Provence (Treasurer); Directors: Steve Becker, Julie Day, Brian Doak, Tim Johnson, Gary Perkins, Amy Prater; Student Directors: KateLynn Bishop, Jackson Cantlon, Sam Dawson, Will Duncan, Sam Harpham, Karson Herrell, Taylor Morrison, and Lily Schuler; and Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood. "This fundraiser helps raise money to support

the additional needs of the school district to elevate the educational experience for our students and provide opportunities and extras they wouldn't have otherwise," Dr. Arrowood said. "It's a coordinated group effort of volunteers, community members, and business partners who come together to invest in Heights' kids. These opportunities and extras can make the overall learning experience more impactful, meaningful, and richer for our students – and that's what it's all about." To stay up to date with the latest happenings and projects funded through the Foundation go to hhschus-kies.org/hhef. Follow on X @hhedfoundation.



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- Special Contest Sponsors**
Cicero Chiropractic – Jim Carr Memorial Putting Contest; Corey Sylvester/ Edward Jones - Closest to the pin – Male; Keith Ecker - Closest to the pin – Female; Morgan Irwin (ReMax Realty) – George Silberberg Memorial Longest Drive Contest– Male; and The Bailey Family - Longest Drive – Female; Jim Dandy - 19th Hole Donation.
- Lunch was catered by Big Dog's Smokehouse.**

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Braun introduces bills highlighting priorities for Older Americans Act

The REPORTER

On Tuesday, U.S. Senator Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Ranking Member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, introduced four bills highlighting his priorities for the Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization. These bills address long-term care programs, nutrition programs, national resource centers, and disease prevention and wellness programs for seniors.



Braun

The OAA was last reauthorized in 2020 and will expire on Sept. 30, 2024.

“Every American deserves to live their golden years with dignity and respect,” Sen. Braun said. “The priorities I have introduced for the Older Americans Act reauthorization ensure essential services are delivered efficiently for older Americans so they can continue to lead healthy, productive, and meaningful lives independently or in care homes.”

Senator Braun introduced the following bills:

1. The Long-Term Care Transparency Act with Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.), Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, aims to increase transparency by requiring the Administration on Aging to collect and report findings by States’ Long-Term Care (LTC)

Ombudsman programs to Congress. States’ LTC Ombudsman programs resolve problems related to the health, safety, welfare, and rights of people living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other residential care settings. Endorsements: National Association of State

Ombudsman Programs, Elder Justice Coalition, ADvancing States, and National Council on Aging

2. The Innovative Nutrition for Seniors Act with Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.) would increase local flexibility to improve the reach of nutrition services under OAA. Endorsements: National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and National Council of Aging

3. The Evidence-Informed Health Promotion Act would allow health and wellness programs to be evidence-informed to expand the reach of services, particularly for seniors living in rural areas. Endorsements: USAgeing, ADvancing States, and National Council of Aging

4. The Senior Center Transparency Act aims to increase transparency and give policymakers more information on how resource centers are serving older Americans.

“The most fundamental psychological need is to be appreciated.” – William James, the father of psychology

Do you feel appreciated as much as you should be in life? Chances are the answer is no.

Appreciation is so powerful. Showing it well at work will help you retain customers and attract more in the future. Essentially, we want to knock their socks off! Let's delve into some simple yet memorable ways to accomplish this goal and bring joy to customers.

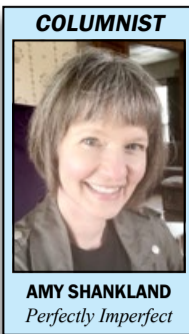
Like a real birthday card given to a coworker, a handwritten thank you note or card stands out to a customer. It's so rare, but still costs little in terms of time and effort. If you own a company or have money in your department budget, invest in some simple thank you cards with your logo.

If you are typically short on time, have them pre-printed with a short message such as “We appreciate your business and hope to see you again soon!” Make certain to always have at least one person sign it by hand.

Your thank you note can also do triple duty. It can not only show appreciation but serve as a receipt AND an invitation for your customer to return.

Your company might be so huge or time-crunched that anything handwritten just won't work. You can still get ahead of the competition by being original with your typed and online thank

Spreading joy to your customers: knock their socks off thank you notes



AMY SHANKLAND Perfectly Imperfect

you notes and/or receipts.

I once received one of the most creative, outstanding thank you notes/receipts I'd ever seen in the mail from the Dallas Zoo. Here is an excerpt:

Please accept a huge gorilla-size thank you and gratitude for your contribution of \$50 received on February 6, 2013. We're all going ape over your generosity.

Your gift will help our friends at the Dallas Zoological Society meet all the needs of our growing animal family.

Contented purrs from the cheetahs, toothy smiles

from Nile crocodiles, and two-wing salutes from the Rock at Travis and Zach's Bird Landing are just a few of the ways you may see a show of appreciation for those who help our herds. That's just our nature.

On behalf of all the animals in our Dallas Zoo kingdom, we thank you for playing in important role in the success of your zoo.

Many bananas to you, Patrick Gorilla, President, Board of Animals (signed with a gorilla hand-print of course.)

At the bottom of the letter was a small box that served as my tax receipt. The box had a note saying, “If you have any suggestions or want to talk to a human, please call me at

the following number.” It was signed by the development director.

The note beautifully illustrates why we need to focus on the customer in what we write – the WHO vs. what. It's also an example of how a thank you note should make the funder feel good and give details, painting a picture if possible. This extra effort will keep those customers coming back and they'll probably spread the word about your “genius” thank you notes!

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.

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David Gabrick of Carmel makes Furman dean's list

The REPORTER

David Gabrick of Carmel has earned a place on Furman University's dean's list for the 2024 spring semester.

Furman's dean's list is composed of full-time undergraduate students who earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher on a four-point system. Gabrick is the

son of Michael Gabrick and Elizabeth Gabrick.

Furman is a private, undergraduate liberal arts and sciences university of 2,500 students in Greenville, S.C. The university is noted for its rigorous academic program and strong faculty. Its 750-acre campus is widely recognized as one of the most beautiful in the nation.

Local family band set to rock Midwest Homeschool Expo

The REPORTER

The Midwest Homeschool Expo has announced that the talented family band, Heads of Stone, will perform live at this year's event, including their original song, "Broken Stones."

The band, comprised of the Heddleston brothers: Xander, 12, on guitar, Lincoln, 10, on guitar, and Eli, 8, on drums. Their dynamic sound, which blends rock and pop has already earned them a growing fanbase as they play often around the Hamilton County area, and they recently became the 2024 Battle of the Bands Elementary Division winners.

The Heddleston brothers take lessons at local music school Bach To Rock in Carmel. They have been playing together since they were very young, and their strong family bond is evident in their seamless harmonies and tight-knit performances.

"We are thrilled to have Heads of Stone perform at the Midwest Homeschool Expo," Event Director Jean Lee said. "Their passion for music and incredible talent will inspire and entertain attendees, showcasing the



Photo provided

The band Heads of Stone, consisting of brothers Xander, Lincoln, and Eli, will perform Saturday, June 22 at the Midwest Homeschool Expo. They are pictured here with their band coach Stephen Flickner.

amazing possibilities of homeschool education."

In addition to their musical performance, the Heddleston brothers will participate in a Q&A session, sharing their experiences of balancing homeschooling with music and lessons. Attendees will have the oppor-

tunity to meet the band, ask questions, and gain insight into the unique homeschooling journey that has shaped their success.

The Midwest Homeschool Expo will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 22 at Ascension St. Vincent Education Center, 1801 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. The event will include a vendor hall featuring homeschool curricula companies, businesses offering educational programs, local activities providers, special needs services, and colleges. There will be over 100 presentations for parents, workshops for children, and exhibitors.

"The Midwest Homeschool Expo is more than just a homeschool conference; it's an inclusive community gathering that recognizes each child has unique learning needs, celebrates diversity and provides valuable resources for families who choose any method of home education," said Jean Lee, Event Director of the Midwest Homeschool Expo. "We are excited to offer a space where families can explore alternative learning options, connect with local resources and grow relationships as we all learn together."

Learn more at MidwestHomeschoolExpo.com.

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The safety & accessibility of our community is a top priority

The City of Noblesville is proud to be named a Tree City USA for 34 consecutive years.

One of the requirements to maintain status as a Tree City is to spend at least \$2 per capita each year on urban forestry efforts. Noblesville has consistently invested well above that threshold because we value trees and the benefits that they provide our community. From helping filter our air and water, reducing soil erosion, noise reduction, and providing oxygen, trees are a critical asset to any city.

Last year, the city, in a strong commitment to our tree canopy, partnered with SMC Corporation on a tree planting matching grant to offer trees to HOAs, businesses, and nonprofits. We have secured over \$200,000 in federal and state grants to support tree planting and management in the city. Our commitment and investment in the tree canopy across our city is a top priority, and with that, we also have to take into consider-

GUEST COLUMNIST



CHRIS JENSEN
Noblesville Mayor

ation the health and wellness of the tree and the area around it.

Unfortunately, we have inherited a legacy of issues resulting from poor decision-making regarding tree selection and planting. The issue of municipal tree management is complex. In cases where the wrong tree is selected in the wrong place, they can create several expensive issues that require city funding that should otherwise be used for the betterment of the city.

The City's Urban Forester, who has nearly 40 years of experience, and the Engineering Department work closely together to evaluate the health of a tree and its impact on our infrastructure. Our city representatives have been working diligently to improve processes related to new construction to halt the planting of inappropriate trees in the right of way. When the wrong tree is planted in a space where it cannot thrive, it results in overgrowth of roots, which

impacts our city sidewalks. A raised sidewalk is not only a hazard to pedestrians but is not ADA-compliant. Noblesville has worked diligently through our Street Rehabilitation Program to ensure ADA compliance, raising our standard from the required standard.

When our team performs evaluations, we consider and, where appropriate, take measures to level sidewalks so that we can make tree removal a last resort necessity. The removal of trees is a decision that is thoroughly vetted and evaluated before the tree is removed and the sidewalk is repaired.

The most important thing to consider is public safety. We have to consider every scenario and impact of the uneven sidewalk or tree that is past its life expectancy, or both. We cannot ignore the sidewalks that need to be repaired, and unfortunately, once the sidewalk has to be lifted, the tree roots are compromised. We have evaluated other options that are costly and less effective long-term.

When removing trees from a neighborhood, the city does our best to come

back and replant trees that are appropriate for the space in which they will be planted. Our Urban Forester allows residents to prioritize which tree they would like to have replanted. No decision is made without thorough consideration.

We all love this community. I was born and raised in Noblesville, I'm raising my family in Noblesville, and only want what is best for our city for generations to come. The recent correspondence I have had with residents in various neighborhoods has not been easy, as we understand and respect the different opinions on how to handle street rehab and tree removal.

We are committed to moving forward in a way that best balances the factors involved but remain open to constructive input as we manage trees, sidewalks, roads, sewers, utilities, and development throughout the community.

As your Mayor, I welcome your input. You can email me at cjensen@noblesville.in.gov or call/text me on my personal cell phone at (317) 509-3134.

Chris Jensen is Mayor of the City of Noblesville.

Letter to the Editor

Residents desperate to stop Noblesville cutting down trees

Dear Editor:

What is the value of a tree? Arborists, environmentalists, and even city planners in many locales would readily say that there are many.

In a November 2021 article of the *Noblesville Current*, Tree Board President Ashley Mullis said, "What John [John Easley, the City Arborist] and I have found in our careers as arborists is, many people are unaware of the health benefits trees provide the community. Flooding and poor air quality and erosion are all effects of the loss of canopy cover. More importantly, tree canopy has a huge effect on physical and mental health."

The current heat wave sweeping through Indiana and much of the nation brings special emphasis to another important value offered by trees: they produce a natural cooling effect from their shade and the evaporation of water vapor that is emitted from tree leaves. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the presence of trees can reduce temperatures in the immediate surrounding area by up to 6°F or more (Landscaping for Shade – Energy Saver, [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)). This feature makes the preservation (and planting) of trees an important adaptation strategy as climate change impacts worsen.

Unfortunately, though, trees have little value to the city administration of Noblesville. Their days are literally numbered according to the City's plans.

According to Mayor Jensen, nearly 50 percent of the mature trees in the city's Oakmont neighborhood are scheduled to be cut down starting late this month because they are said to interfere with street resurfacing and create unsafe walking conditions as their roots uplift sections of sidewalk. Most other neighborhoods of the city would experience similar loss of mature trees. Residents of the Oakmont neighborhood are aghast as they contemplate the prospective loss of sixty foot maple tree canopies that line most of the streets. In the fall, when these maples turn a beautiful bright red, people come from all over the city to admire them.

Such plans set the city of Noblesville in stark contrast to many other municipalities from around the country that apply more enlightened policies to save trees while addressing sidewalk safety concerns. Such communities include, as examples: Bristol, Ind.; Wapakarusa, Ind.; Washington, D.C.; Key West, Fla.; Lake Forest, Ill.; Spring Lake Borough, N.J.; Columbus, Ohio; Napoleon, Ohio; Pottstown, Pa.; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Seattle, Wash. Then, there is the city of Savannah, Ga., which places so much value on the historic live oak trees that residents are not allowed to trim or prune them without a permit from the city.

Moreover, the current plans of the city of Noblesville differ markedly from its plans of only a few years ago, as explained in the November 2021 *Noblesville Current* article in which Ashley Mullis stated "The [Tree Board] is working on a five-year plan to increase the tree canopy cover in Noblesville and raise community awareness of the benefits of trees."

Noblesville residents and other experts have reached out to the Noblesville Street Department with other alternatives that will allow the city to maintain ADA compliance and resurface streets without sacrificing trees – but to no avail.

If other cities across the Midwest, some even in Indiana, can repair sidewalks and streets, and make sure they are ADA compliant, without removing trees, why is the city of Noblesville unable to do so? This important question needs to be answered, and soon. The city's residents want to save their trees before it is too late.

Jaime Rychener

Noblesville

Larry Kane, retired environmental attorney

Carmel

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West District Office: (317) 848-0201

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www.spartz.house.gov

Emagine offers free movie tickets for educators in July

The REPORTER

July is Educator Appreciation Month, and Emagine Theaters appreciates all educators and school staff.

Once again, Emagine will acknowledge the hard work educators put in throughout the school year. Educators are encouraged to stop by Emagine Noblesville on Wednesdays during July to receive one free movie ticket. The free ticket is only valid for shows beginning before 5 p.m. that

day. Online advance tickets are not available, as educators must present proof of school employment at the box office to receive their free ticket.

To purchase additional tickets and for a full list of showtimes, visit Emagine-Entertainment.com or check out the Emagine App.

Emagine Noblesville is located at 13825 Norell Road in the Hamilton Town Center.

Sen. Young reintroduces bipartisan bill to address student debt crisis by improving institutional accountability

The REPORTER

Amid skyrocketing student debt across America, U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) reintroduced the Student Protection and Success Act, bipartisan legislation to address the mounting student debt crisis by increasing higher education institutions' accountability for their students' ability to repay their loans and requiring institutions to have a vested interest in the success of their students.

"Our Student Protection and Success Act will help ensure colleges and universities are preparing hard-working students for meaningful careers that will better enable graduates to repay their student loans," Sen. Young said.

The Student Protection and Success Act would enact a series of measures to hold higher education institutions accountable by requiring them to share responsibility for student success. The bipartisan bill would remove federal student loan eligibility from all colleges and universities where less

than 15 percent of their students are able to begin repaying their loans within three years of graduating or leaving school.

The bill would also require schools to pay a "risk-sharing fee" based on the total loan volume their students are not able to repay, and the Department of Education would then allocate those funds to support schools that are better assisting low-income students.

According to the U.S. Federal Reserve, student loan debt has more than doubled in the past two decades, yet there has been little recent bipartisan collaboration about how to address affordability for the long term. The Student Protection and Success Act would better protect both borrowers and taxpayers by incentivizing colleges and universities to help ensure students are actually able to repay the loans they take out to attend.



Young

The Student Protection and Success Act would:

- **Reform the eligibility standard for federal student aid.** Currently, institutions' access to Title IV federal student aid is based on a school's cohort default rate, which is the percentage of students who default on their federal loans over a given timeframe after going into repayment. While this metric is designed to remove low-performing and predatory schools from the system, it does not consider a complete picture of students' ability to repay their loans. This bill would include a cohort repayment rate metric in this eligibility standard, such that schools with less than 15 percent of students repaying their loans would be deemed ineligible for receiving Title IV student aid.

- **Require higher education institutions to pay a risk-sharing fee to the Department of Education based on a percentage of**

their students' unrepaid loan balance. This provision requires schools to have "skin-in-the-game" and share responsibility in the success of their students. Under this section, institutions pay a fee equal to a percentage of the loan balance that is not being repaid to the U.S. Department of Education. This fee will be pegged to the unemployment rate, ensuring that schools pay smaller fees during economic downturns.

- **Pay those funds directly back out to institutions serving low-income students well.** This bonus payment is designed to reward institutions that serve a significant number of low-income students. The payments will be entirely funded through revenue gained from the risk-sharing provision and allocated based on the number and percentage of Pell grant recipients enrolled in an institution, their repayment rates and the school's spending on student services.

[Click here](#) to read the full text of the bill.

Letter to the Editor

Hamilton County GOP Chair Mario Massillamany condemns "failed Democrat immigration policies" after trafficking incident involving Indiana teen

Dear Editor:

Editor's note: In the wake of a harrowing incident involving a 14-year-old girl from Cass County, Ind., Hamilton County Republican Chairman Mario Massillamany today expressed his deep concern and condemnation of what he calls the Biden administration's failed immigration policies. Five men, believed to be in the United States illegally from Honduras and Mexico, are currently in jail in Missouri, accused of trafficking the young girl. Police reports indicate that the men kidnapped her and were planning to transport her to California.

This tragic event is a stark reminder of the real and present dangers posed by the current administration's lax and ineffective immigration policies. Our community, like many others across the nation, is suffering the consequences of open borders and inadequate enforcement measures.

There are the critical points of failure in the Biden administration's approach to immigration:

1. Weak Border Security: The administration's inability to maintain strong and secure borders has allowed dangerous individuals to enter and operate within our country.

2. Inadequate Enforcement of Immigration Laws: The lack of rigorous enforcement and deportation of individuals who are in the country illegally has exacerbated safety concerns for American citizens.

3. Failure to Protect Vulnerable Populations: The administration's policies have left children and other vulnerable groups exposed to the risks of trafficking and exploitation by criminal elements.

4. Increased Crime Rates: The influx of illegal immigrants has been correlated with a rise in criminal activities, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, and violent crimes.

5. Strain on Local Communities: Local law enforcement agencies and community resources are overwhelmed and underfunded, struggling to cope with the increased burden imposed by the federal government's immigration failures.

We need immediate action and comprehensive reform to address these critical issues. We must prioritize the safety and security of our citizens. This means enforcing our immigration laws, securing our borders, and providing our law enforcement agencies with the resources they need to protect our communities.

Mario Massillamany

Hamilton County Republican Chairman

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.



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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE ISRAELITES OPPRESSED

These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; Issachar; Zebulun and Benjamin; Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.

Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

Exodus 1:1-7 (NIV)

Independent congressional candidate Robby Slaughter qualifies for November ballot

Submitted

Robby Slaughter has filed as an independent candidate for the U.S. Congress to represent Indiana's 5th District.

On Tuesday, he visited six election offices and dropped off forms totaling more than 5,500 signatures, which is beyond the threshold to appear on the general election ballot Nov. 5.

"This campaign is about the people of our district, and there is no better way to begin than by having direct, in-person conversations with over 5,000 individuals who all agree they want more choices on the ballot come November," Slaughter said.

According to Slaughter, current trends indicate a strong opportunity for his run. The last non-partisan, independent candidate to run for U.S. Congress in Indiana was in 2010. Slaughter offers voters the opportunity to consider another choice.

Slaughter brings decades



Photo provided

Robby Slaughter (left) was joined by several supporters when he turned in signatures on Tuesday at the Hamilton County Election Office.

of business and community experience to the campaign, breaking the belief that Representatives must have a background in professional politics. For two decades, he ran a national speakers bureau. He is the author of five business books and has presented at events ranging from intimate functions all the way to national conferences with more than 1,000 attendees.

Slaughter says that un-

like party candidates who focus on partisan messaging, his campaign is grassroots and inclusive. Placing priority on being active in the community, he frequently attends town council meetings, craft fairs, and farmers markets. He is also often spotted at high school sporting events, concerts in public parks, community fundraisers, and ribbon cuttings for new businesses.

"Politics is about people," Slaughter said. "My duty as a candidate is to be out with people from our district to listen and learn from them."

According to Slaughter, Indiana's 5th District is uniquely positioned to flip to an independent. Republican incumbent Victoria Spartz faced a tough primary, earning only 39 percent of the

vote. Democratic candidate Deborah Pickett has only raised \$4,000 in outside donations. Participation in the primary remained low, with approximately 80 percent of registered voters in the 5th District choosing not to vote for a party candidate.

According to Gallup, national polling on the question of non-party affiliation is at an all-time high: some 44 percent of voters consider themselves independent with the remainder evenly split between Republican and Democrat. Furthermore, according to the American Enterprise Institute, 37 percent of young men and 26 percent of young women have an unfavorable view of both parties.

Learn more about the candidate at RobbySlaughter.com.

Live Music June 21 - Riding Roughshod Duo
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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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7158 SUMMER OAK DRIVE
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 Lovely home on beautiful lot in Oakmont, 4 BR, 2 full, 2 half baths, freshly painted, finished basement, updated kitchen.
 Listed at \$480,000

NEW LISTING/PENDING!

17752 CROWN POINTE CT
 NOBLESVILLE
 Easy living! 2BR, 2BA low maintenance home, updated kitchen, office, two sided fireplace and sunroom.
 Listed at \$300,000

PENDING!

18877 PRAIRIE CROSSING DRIVE
 NOBLESVILLE
 Over 2,700 square feet of living space in this 4BR, 2.5BA home in the heart of Noblesville. New flooring, HVAC, roof, water heater...home is move in ready!
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CARMEL, FISHERS, GUERIN CATHOLIC, HAMILTON HEIGHTS, HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN, NOBLESVILLE, SHERIDAN, UNIVERSITY, WESTFIELD

Gatorade Indiana Soccer Players of the Year announced



Julie Brown / File photo

Noblesville's Cole Thompson was named the 2023-24 Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year last week. An integral part of the Millers' Class 3A state championship team last fall, Thompson is the third straight Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Noblesville High School.

Cole Thompson of Noblesville named Boys Player of the Year

The REPORTER

Noblesville's Cole Thompson was named the 2023-24 Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year last week. Thompson is the third straight Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Noblesville High School.

senior goalkeeper led the Millers to an 18-0-5 record and a third straight Class 3A state championship this past season. Thompson conceded 12 goals and recorded 10 shutouts, including a 2-0 blanking of Cathedral High in the state title game.

The 6-foot-1, 165-pound See *Thompson* . . . Page 12



Julie Brown / File photo

Noblesville's Meredith Tippner was announced as the 2023-24 Gatorade Indiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year on Thursday. Tippner helped the Millers to a second consecutive Class 3A state championship last fall.

Meredith Tippner of Noblesville named Girls Player of the Year

The REPORTER

Noblesville's Meredith Tippner was announced as the 2023-24 Gatorade Indiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year on Thursday. Tippner is the third Gatorade Indiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Noblesville High School.

and passed for seven assists, netting a goal and recording two assists in Noblesville's 3-1 win over Bloomington South High in the state final. A United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection, she was an Indiana Soccer Coaches Association First Team All-State honoree.

The 5-foot-10 junior forward led the Millers to a 17-1-3 record and a second straight Class 3A state championship this past season. Tippner scored 23 goals

Tippner has volunteered locally with the Humane Society for Hamilton County and she has donated her See *Tippner* . . . Page 12

Olympic Swim Trials



Reporter photo by Julie Brown

Carmel's Alex Shackell, shown here at an earlier event, is officially an Olympian. Shackell placed second in the Women's 200 butterfly at Thursday's evening session of the Olympic Swim Trials at Lucas Oil Stadium, joining her older brother Aaron Shackell on the 2024 Paris team.

Class act Alex Shackell will compete in Paris

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

INDIANAPOLIS - Another Shackell has made it official when it comes to getting on the 2024 Paris Olympic team.

Alex Shackell, an incoming senior for Carmel, qualified for the United States' Olympic squad Thursday as the Olympic Trials continued at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Shackell earned her place by finishing second in the Women's 200 butterfly finals in front of another large and enthusiastic crowd.

Shackell clocked in with a time of 2 minutes, 6.69 seconds. Regan Smith of Longhorn Aquatics won the race in a time of 2:05.70 and she had plenty of nice things to say about the 17-year-old

Shackell during the medals ceremony after the race.

"Alex is so important to me," said Smith. The two met last summer at another meet, and Smith said "she is everything that I wanted to be when I was her age. She is such a class act. She's so unbelievably talented and I had so much fun with her. I'm so, so proud of her."

Smith and Shackell were involved in a battle with two other Longhorn Aquatics swimmers, Lindsay Looney and Emma Sticklen. Smith led after the first 50 meters, with Sticklen second and Shackell third. Sticklen moved up to first at the 100-meter mark, with Smith second and Shackell still in third.

Shackell moved into the lead after 150 meters, but Smith came back in the final 50 meters to take

first place. Shackell held on for second place, finishing ahead of Looney by 0.33 seconds.

"It's a dream come true," said Shackell, who is now the second Paris Olympian in her family. Older brother Aaron Shackell finished first in the Men's 400 freestyle last Sunday to claim his spot on the 2024 squad. Alex Shackell was happy to make the team "at home, too, in front of all the Carmel fans," who were among the large crowd there Thursday night.

The siblings will be second-generation Olympians. Alex and Aaron's father Nick Shackell represented the United Kingdom at the 1996 Atlanta games.

Other county swimmers

Fishers' JoJo Ramey placed 18th in the Women's 200 backstroke prelims

Thursday morning, making her an alternate for the evening semifinals, although there were no scratches. Ramey finished in 2:11.95; she just finished her freshman year at the University of Florida. Carmel's Ellie Clarke, 14, placed 50th in the prelims, clocking in at 2:16.00.

In the Men's 200 freestyle, Carmel graduate Sean Sullivan, who also just finished his freshman year at Florida, placed 36th in the prelims with a time of 2:01.87, while Fishers graduate Kyle Ponsler 43rd in 2:02.55. Ponsler just completed his sophomore season at North Carolina State.

Another Carmel graduate, Gregg Enoch, placed 50th in 2:03.02. Enoch will attend the University of Louisville this fall.

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↑ 2.9% Price Increase <small>5/23 vs. 5/24</small>	↑ 26.2% Months of Inventory Change <small>5/23 vs. 5/24</small>	Interest Rates 30-Year Fixed 7.125% <small>With an APR of 7.291%</small>

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The Reporter selects Tyler Tarter as Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Reporter has named Fishers senior Tyler Tarter as its 2024 Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

Tarter was a dominant force in the hurdle races during the season, culminating

in state championships in both the 110 and 300 hurdles. Tarter swept both races in the sectional and regional events, something he also did at the Hoosier Crossroads Conference and county meets. He also was part of the Tigers' sixth-place 4x400 relay team at state.



Photo provided

The Reporter's 2024 All-County Boys Track & Field Teams

FIRST TEAM		
Name	School	Grade
Mason Alexander	Hamilton Southeastern	Junior
Josiah Bird	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Joel Gates	Fishers	Senior
JonAnthony Hall	Fishers	Junior
Matthew Kim	Fishers	Senior
Peyton McQuinn	Hamilton Heights	Senior
Christian Ortiz	Hamilton Southeastern	Junior
Tony Provenzano	Carmel	Senior
Tyler Tarter	Fishers	Senior
SECOND TEAM		
Name	School	Grade
Elijah Adams	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Caden Click	Noblesville	Senior
Michael Griffith	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Kyle Grove	Carmel	Senior
Connor Langsford	Hamilton Southeastern	Junior
Adom Quist	Carmel	Senior
Mason Schmitz	Hamilton Southeastern	Freshman
Theo Thurmond	Carmel	Junior
Damon Winston	Sheridan	Junior
HONORABLE MENTION		
Name	School	Grade
Makell Wiggins	Fishers	Senior
Dylan James	Hamilton Southeastern	Junior
Luke Mumaw	Noblesville	Senior
Silas Newton	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Jack Strong	Noblesville	Junior
Cole Taylor	Carmel	Senior
Dario Torres	Noblesville	Senior
Chandler Weston	Hamilton Southeastern	Junior
Alex Wilson	Westfield	Junior

Boys Golf

Harvey & Wessel take part in 106th Western Junior golf tourney

The REPORTER

Two Hamilton County golfers were part of a six-way tie for 26th place at the 106th Western Junior, which took place this week at Ruth Lake Country Club in Hinsdale, Ill.

Will Harvey, a senior-to-be at Westfield and Leo Wessel, a recent Guerin Catholic graduate, both finished the tournament with a four-round score of 285, five over par for the event. The event began Tuesday with the first round,

continued with second-round play on Wednesday, then golfers played 36 holes on Thursday, which featured third- and fourth-round competition.

Harvey carded a 75 in the first round, but put himself into the mix in the second round with a four under 66. He made five birdies in both rounds. Harvey went under par again in the third round with a one under 69, then finished with a 75 in the fourth

round. He drained four birdies in the third round and one more in the fourth.

Wessel began with a 74 in the first round, making one birdie. He got going in the second round with a one under 69, then repeated that score in the third round, again carding a one under 69. Wessel put in four birdies in the second round, then made two each in the third and fourth rounds; Wessel scored 73 in the fourth round.

THOMPSON

from Page 11

The Indiana Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year, "Mr. Soccer," he saved 8 of 18 penalty shots on the season and was the winning goalie in three consecutive postseason shootouts leading up to the championship match.

Thompson completed an internship at the Mojo Up Sports Complex last fall, and he has volunteered locally with Fueled for School, a local food distribution initiative, as well as with Serve Noblesville. "Cole was crucial to Noblesville's incredible defense and championship this year," said

David Stroup, head coach of Southport High School. "Saving nearly half of the penalties made Noblesville feel unstoppable. He's a good distributor and decent with his feet, which is pretty rare in high school keepers."

Thompson has maintained a 3.96 grade-point average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Oakland University in Michigan this fall.

Thompson joins recent Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Sam Divis (2022-23, Noblesville High School), Palmer

Ault (2021-22, Noblesville High School), Zack Bowser (2020-21, Chesterton High School) and Chris Freeman (2019-20, Zionsville Community High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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TIPPNER

from Page 11

time to multiple community service initiatives through her school's Key Club as well as the National Honor Society. "Meredith is the reason they won the state title again," said Harold Spooner, head coach of Fishers High School. "She took her game to a different level that opposing teams were unable to match. Throughout the tournament, she proved again and again that she was the best player in the state."

Tippner has maintained a weighted 4.27 grade-point average in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school this fall.

Tippner joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Ava Bramblett (2022-23, Noblesville High School),

Amelia White (2021-22, Homestead High School), Quincy McMahon (2020-21, Guerin Catholic High School) and Addie Chester (2019-20, Delta High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking

down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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