

**THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024**

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



**TODAY'S WEATHER**



Today: Mostly sunny, and less humid.  
 Tonight: Partly cloudy.



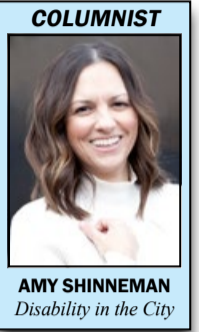
HIGH: 79 LOW: 61



Photo courtesy Nikki Heflin

Nearly 20 students from Westfield High School and Westfield Middle School qualified to compete at the FCCLA National Conference in Seattle, Wash., at the end of the June.

**Dear diary**



AMY SHINNEMAN  
 Disability in the City

Anyone else have a diary with a lock on it in your early school days? Where you kept your deepest secrets and privately wrote about your childhood crushes? Under NO circumstances was anyone to even try to open that masterpiece under lock and key!

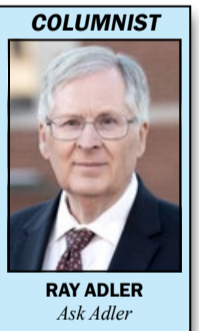
During a recent attic clean-up my husband brought a couple of boxes down for me to go through. They contained the last shreds of my life before adulthood. In the boxes were two diaries I kept. One during my younger years, and one during college days.

There was some talk about young relationships, but mostly there were pages and pages filled with my insecurities regarding my disability in both. Not much changed between the two. Insecure and silently struggling with something no one understood. In these pages I referred to my disability as my "problem." How sad that makes me to read. No wonder I couldn't accept myself. I was seeing myself as a very damaged person who drew a bad hand. Lost. Needing answers.

Countless times I expressed, "why me?!" My young mind wasn't yet grasping that I could choose to focus on the good in my life. There was lots of it. I was laser focused on my "problem." When you give something in your life that much attention, it's almost impossible to clearly see anything else. Everything going on in my life always went back to my problem. Whether it was to blame or not, I blamed it for everything that went wrong in my life.

See *Diary* . . . Page 3

**Mother was a drop-out, part 2**



RAY ADLER  
 Ask Adler

Freshmen took whatever subjects they were assigned. I took Algebra I, English I, Biology, Home Ec, and Physical Education. After that year, students chose their "course" and took whatever subjects that were in. I chose academic, which was college preparatory. Subjects required included English four years, Latin two years, Algebra two years, Geometry one year, Physics, and Civics.

One year, I took Music Appreciation. During the senior year each student should take one elective. I wanted Solid Geometry, but only a couple of us wanted it. They couldn't afford to have a class for two, so I signed up for typing. That class was too full - not enough typewriters for everyone. My friend Coyita and I said we'd take Home Nursing and Related Arts instead.

Every year there was some kind of contest. Coyita and I won Freshman Algebra. As Moore's Melba Wilhite and I won in Algebra. I also won in Latin I. The DAR gave a metal to the Junior who wrote the best essay. (That was part of a history class, probably a required course.)

My essay was a winner. My freshman year was the George Washington Bicentennial. Our school put on a play as part of the celebration. There were five characters, one from each of the four high school grades and one little girl from the near-by elementary school. I had the leading part and enjoyed my colonial costume.

It was customary for the senior class to put on a play. I had the role of a middle-aged mother and had more speaking parts than anyone. It was not a "leading lady" type role. My English teacher loaned me a brown silk dress to wear and offered me her diamond. I wouldn't wear the diamond, but felt quite grown-up and sophisticated in Ms. Branham's dress.

I belonged to a girls' organization called Girl Reserves and was an officer in it. There also were parties, wiener roast, dinners, ballgames, proms and such. A few of my close friends and I sometimes stayed overnight with each other. After my junior year and again after my senior year, I worked for Dr. Owens while Ruth had her vacations. I was so dumb and ignorant; I don't know how he put up with me. I learned one thing: I was not cut out to be a nurse.

See *Mother* . . . Page 3

**Cooking with the best**

Westfield High School's Nikki Heflin named National Teacher of the Year

By AMY ADAMS  
 news@readthereporter.com

Chef Nikki Heflin, Westfield High School culinary instructor, recently returned from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences National Leadership Conference in Minneapolis having been honored as the AAFCS National Teacher of the Year.

Nominated by Indiana AAFCS, Heflin had to go through a rigorous process of submitting a curriculum vitae and body of work for consideration. Sponsored by textbook publisher Goodheart Wilcox,

the award comes with a \$2,500 stipend.

"Getting an award of this magnitude cannot happen without the support of a great school, first, coworkers, parents, students, and the AAFCS association," Heflin said. "That support is what builds a strong education. I celebrate the award with everyone who has been with me along the way."

In addition to receiving the award, Heflin gave a presentation on how WHS has built a successful secondary Family and Consumer Sciences program.

See *Cooking* . . . Page 2



Photo courtesy Nikki Heflin

Westfield High School teacher Nikki Heflin (center) has been named American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year.

**The Chris Center receives transformational donation to launch Rudy's Fund: Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Rudolph Moreira**

**The REPORTER**

The Chris Center (TCC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving youth mental wellness through nature and human-animal interaction, announced on Monday the creation of Rudy's Fund: Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Rudolph Moreira.

Rudy's Fund springs from a transformational donation from Dr. Kathryn "Kathy" Moreira of Noblesville that will allow the organization to expand its programs in Hamilton and Marion counties.

Kathy is Dr. Rudy Moreira's daughter and the sister of The Chris Center's co-founder and executive director, Dr. Sandra "Sandy" Moreira. Sandy, who lives in Carmel, co-founded The Chris Center with Nancy Elbert, also of Carmel, and became executive director in January, following Elbert's retirement. Kathy has seen TCC's profound impact in the three years since its inception and recognized that the organization was at a crossroads - ready to take its



Photo provided

(From left) Dr. Sandy Moreira, Dr. Rudy Moreira, and Dr. Kathy Moreira at the Grand Canyon in 2020, just one year before Rudy's passing.

programming to the next level. She also knew how much their father, a regarded surgeon in Cincinnati who passed away

May 26, 2021, embodied The Chris Center's mission.

"Kathy is savvy enough to know that donations of this size

and magnitude that elevate an organization are rare for young

See *Rudy's Fund* . . . Page 2

**BBQ & beer will help fund Ivy Tech scholarships thanks to Noblesville Rotary**

**The REPORTER**

Noblesville Rotary Club's popular BrewBQ returns in August. The food and fun will fill Federal Hill Commons from 4 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17.

"We're excited to formally announce the 8th annual Noblesville BrewBQ to be held

on Saturday, Aug. 17 at Federal Hill Commons!" Noblesville Rotary Club President Carrie Dixon said. "This is a fun charitable event that allows the community to come together to support a great cause, while also sharing their love of BBQ and beer."

This is not just a fun event

for the community to enjoy the outdoors and music. Proceeds go to supporting local students who attend Ivy Tech Noblesville Campus with scholarship funds.

"There are not many scholarships available to students in technical fields of study," Dixon said. "We are passionate

about providing opportunities in these fields especially with Noblesville's focus on economic development."

"Ivy Tech Hamilton County cherishes our partnership with the Noblesville Rotary Club," Ivy Tech Hamilton

See *BrewBQ* . . . Page 3

# COOKING

from Page 1

Ten years ago, Heflin was the only teacher in the department, and she started by offering two courses. She is quick to share credit with Chef Bryan Ferreira who joined her on staff and helped her develop the culinary program. Going into the fall, the program now consists of five instructors at WHS offering 24 FCS courses, including 11 culinary arts and hospitality courses in a fully-functioning commercial kitchen.

Heflin and other staff members work hard to make

sure their students' educational experiences extend beyond the classroom. Heflin serves as an academic coach and sponsor for Family Career and Community Leaders of America, the ProStart culinary team, and Foodies Rock, which allow students the real-world experience of entering competitions and providing catering services.

"We really want to be able to offer everything that's out there for the students, from certifications to competitions," Heflin said.

The program currently offers dual credit classes and allows students to earn professional certifications, such as the ServSafe certificate.

At the end of June, Heflin will be traveling with 18 students from WHS and Westfield Middle School to compete at the FCCLA National Conference in Seattle.

"FCS is so much more than food, though, more than the culinary program," Heflin said.

Courses in the FCS program include nutrition, dietetics, and visual design,

but they also include instruction in early childhood education and health and human services, such as social work, mental health counseling, and emergency response. Heflin said WHS is currently working toward expanding its visual arts and design pathway to include fashion and textiles in addition to interior design.

"Our programs are more critical than ever in high schools and universities," Heflin said. "We are continuously hearing on the news and in our communities about the importance of bringing back home economics classes. What many people don't realize is that 'Home Ec' was not disbanded. We pivoted to Family and Consumer Sciences as the content name in the '90s because we realized we were not only training students for home life but we were training students to be successful in careers."

Heflin, who serves as the Indiana AAFCS director of advocacy and public policy, said that an important topic of conversation at the national convention was the fight to have the American Association of Career and Technical Education recognize FCS as a career field, alongside trades in business,



Photo courtesy Nikki Heflin  
Westfield High School student Tilly Fricker prepares for competition in Baking and Pastry.

mass media, engineering, and construction.

"We're producing some pretty incredible careers," Heflin said.

One of many examples discussed at the conference was the necessity of sewing skills to the mission of NASA in making space-

suits, parachutes, thermal blankets, and more.

"These are the kinds of careers we're talking about when we say we can't lose these skill sets," Heflin said.

For Foodies Rock catering information, email [whs-foodiesrock@wvs.k12.in.us](mailto:whs-foodiesrock@wvs.k12.in.us) or call (317) 701-4440.

# Garage Sale

**208 Sedwick Ct., Noblesville  
(North Harbour)  
Friday 6/28 8am-1pm  
Saturday 6/29 8am - noon**

**Athletic - javelin, bosu ball, weights, baseball gear, bike  
Legos, Wii games, crib, puzzles, jewelry  
Paintball guns w/accessories - 6 sets  
Outdoor furniture w/cushions, outdoor storage unit  
Home education supplies - K-12 and MUCH MORE**

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From the novel by L.M. Montgomery

Directed by: Amber K. Roth

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## RUDY'S FUND

from Page 1

nonprofit organizations, so she stepped up to make it happen and took the beautiful step to honor our father's legacy in the process," Sandy said. "With this gift, Kathy has so generously, graciously, and beautifully weaved together everything that was most important to our father."

Dr. Rudy Moreira had a strong connection with and deep love for animals his entire life, evidenced by the stories upon stories of him rescuing, saving, and even housing countless injured and stray animals – from dogs and cats, to fish and ferrets, to goats and geckos. He is described by those who love him as a fierce man with a very soft heart for his animals, and especially at the end of his life, they gave him great comfort and peace.

The Chris Center's programs leverage the power of connecting with nature and animals to improve wellness and teach teens and pre-teens critical coping skills to build resilience. Its flagship program, PAWS Therapy Dog Program, is in seven middle and high schools in Hamilton and Marion counties. It also has alpaca-assisted wellness programs, in partnership with Zionsville's Stone Farms, a



Photo provided  
The Moreira family at the launch of Rudy's Fund: Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Rudolph Moreira. (From left) Dr. Robert Malinzak, Mackie Malinzak, Dr. Sandy Moreira, Emily Moreira, Dr. Kathy Moreira, and Jake Malinzak.

Mindful Arts Program, and a Parent Education Series, done in partnership with the Carmel Clay Public Library.

TCC's board of directors has committed 2024 to strengthening the organizational infrastructure for sustainable growth.

"Kathy knew we would need additional resources to further the strategic planning, fundraising and programming needed to achieve the kind of growth that will have a lasting impact on our community," Sandy said. "There is such great need and demand for

our programs, but we can't grow into new schools and maintain the highest quality programming with our current resources. Kathy's donation will allow us to hire a Program Coordinator at a competitive salary, who will help us take TCC to the next level, support sustainable growth, and have a lasting impact."

Now, when anyone makes a **donation to TCC**, they will have the option of donating to Rudy's Fund, which will honor his life and continue to build upon his legacy.



# THE MUSIC OF EARTH WIND AND FIRE

SERPENTINE FIRE WITH CSO

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3 | COXHALL GARDENS

Opening Act: Bashari Asad - 6:45 p.m.

Patriotic Tribute to George M. Cohan with ATI - 8:00 p.m.

CSO featuring "Serpentine Fire":  
The Music of Earth Wind & Fire - 8:30 p.m.

Jump start your holiday celebration! Scan the QR code to purchase tickets or visit [CarmelSymphony.org](http://CarmelSymphony.org)



DIARY

from Page 1

BREW BQ

from Page 1

These days I still try to journal every day. Over time, my journals have slowly but surely become a place where gratitude is recorded more than hardships. Where the good outweighs the difficult. The hardships are still there, but more in the background.

My old diaries still contain many empty pages. My current journal I'm writing in is almost full, and it's time to start a new one. I think I'll finish the pages of my old diaries. The story that started soaked in questions, insecurities and self-doubt will instead be finished with striving for gratitude, while still being truthful with my words. Staying true to myself. Giving myself the

grace, love and acceptance I needed as that young girl, but so often denied myself.

I'm so grateful I kept these diaries for all these years. It takes humble courage to open up old diaries. Especially when they contain such raw and tough emotions. I now realize that life is an imperfect journey with lots of room for improvement. There is always room to grow.

Until next time ...

*Amy Shinneman is a former National Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, disability blogger, wife, and mom of two boys. You can find her blog at [humblycourageous.com](http://humblycourageous.com) and reach her on Instagram @ashinneman.*

County Chancellor Dr. Rachel Kartz said. "The annual BrewBQ is a great event that brings the community together around great food and great times while also supporting Rotary's efforts of providing scholarships to local students attending Ivy Tech Hamilton County. We are thankful for this long-standing relationship with the Noblesville Rotary Club and look forward to many more years to come."

The BrewBQ holds a BBQ tasting contest with an opportunity for attendees to taste some of the best BBQ around. The contest will feature an immense array of unique recipes, from BBQ'ers across Noblesville and Indiana alike.

Live music throughout the evening will be played from local bands including Strawberry Jam and That's What She Said. Beer will be on tap from several local vendors. The Bier Brewery will be back this year and has won multiple medals at prestigious brewing competitions, including The Indiana Brewers' Cup, the Great American Beer Festival, and the World Beer Cup.

Primeval Brewing in Noblesville is also returning for a second year.

"We love being part of the community and are super

excited to be able to serve beer this year at the Rotary Clubs's BrewBQ!" Primeval Owner Tim Palmer said. "Beer and barbeque pair so well together that this will be a wonderful combination to bring together."

Joining the festivities for the first time this year is Northbrook Brewing of Arcadia. For those who enjoy wine, Spencer Farms Winery will also return this year.

**Cook-off**

For those interested in participating in the cook-off, registration is available at [NoblesvilleRotaryClub.org/brewbq](http://NoblesvilleRotaryClub.org/brewbq).

**Sponsorships**

UPS Store returns as Title Sponsor this year with a prime location at Logan Street just behind Federal Hill Commons. Associated Drywall Partners and 317 Plumbers will serve as Platinum Plus Sponsors. Other committed sponsors include Meyer-Najem Construction, USI Consultants, Porter Roofing and Restoration, Rake Development, Talk To Tucker - Andy Liechty & Associates, Thienaman Construction, and many more.

Sponsorships are still being accepted; Noblesville Rotary Club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

**Tickets**

Advance tickets are

**BrewBQ FAQs**

**Are there ID or minimum age requirements to enter the event?**

Must be 21 with valid ID to attend. Guests under 21 will not be permitted inside the gate.

**How can I contact the organizer with any questions?**

Email Carrie Dixon at [carrie@cdi-cares.com](mailto:carrie@cdi-cares.com).

**What's the refund policy?**

Since this is a fundraising event to benefit Ivy Tech Community College in Noblesville, tickets are non-refundable. Rain or shine.

**What should I bring to the event?**

Bring a valid photo ID if you're planning on consuming alcoholic beverages. You may also bring lawn chairs to the event.

**What can't I bring to the event?**

Coolers, outside food, and beverages.

**What kind of beer will be served at the event?**

Beer will be provided by The Bier Brewery, Primeval Brewing, Northbrook Brewing and Upland Brewery. Wine will be provided by Spencer Farms Winery.

**How will the BBQ contestants be judged?**

Judging will be by a panel utilizing a blind judging method with a winner for ribs and a winner for chicken. There will also be an overall People's Choice winner.

available for \$55 each and unlimited beer, wine, and designated driver tickets are available for \$40. Tickets will also be available for \$65 at the gate on the day of the event. Tickets include designated driver ticket features water and soda instead of beer. Tickets can be purchased at [this link](#).

MOTHER

from Page 1

A few times I baby-sat for Dr. Owen's two boys. Brothers paid for odd jobs. Leslie said he would finance two-year teacher training. Some years passed and no one mentioned college. Leslie was married, had a wife and small child to support plus house payments. I wasn't about to ask him for a loan. Two weeks before the fall semester began Leslie asked, "Are you ready to go to college?" He was seri-

ous about it.

The next two weeks were a flurry of sewing and packing. Everett bought me an overnight bag. The final decision as to which college was made. My parents thought I should go to State Teachers' College, but I wanted to go to Indiana Central College in Indianapolis.

*Be sure to read The Reporter next Thursday for Part 3 of this series.*

**ACCURATE. BALANCED. THE REPORTER**

**JULY 4**

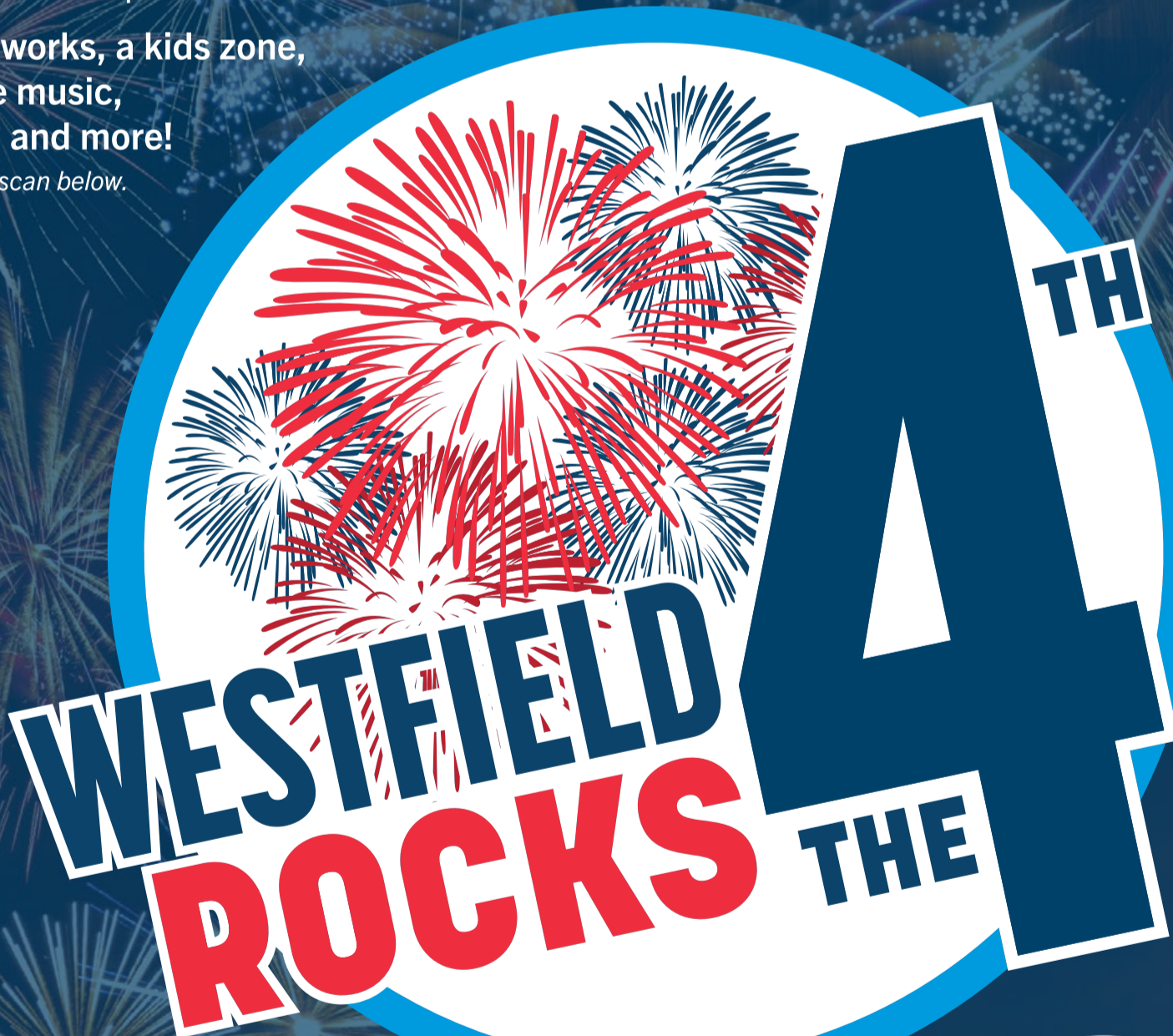
4:00 - 10:30 P.M.

**Fireworks start at 10 P.M.**

Grand Park Sports Campus

**Come enjoy fireworks, a kids zone, food trucks, live music, carnival games, and more!**

*For more information, scan below.*



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



# Hamilton County completely sells out

*No open seats at Wednesday's State of County address at Embassy Suites*



Reporter photos

Hamilton County Commissioner Steve Dillinger gave the annual State of the County address on Wednesday. The Noblesville Chamber of Commerce played host to the event, which brought a sold-out crowd to Embassy Suites in Noblesville. Dillinger gave updates on the county's numerous infrastructure projects, as well as the remodeling of the former Humane Society building, expansion of the Judicial Center, sewer and water utilities at Bakers Corner, a new Public Safety Training Center, a new 911 center, and a county-owned childcare center. The entire presentation can be viewed online thanks to Hamilton County Television at [hctv1.com](http://hctv1.com). The broadcast is sponsored by Logan Street Signs & Banners in Noblesville. (ABOVE RIGHT) Commissioner Dillinger and Good Samaritan Network Executive Director Nancy Chance share a moment at Wednesday's event.

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**WESTFIELD**  
 FARMERS MARKET

## Vendors at this week's Westfield Farmers Market

**The REPORTER**

The Westfield Farmers Market, presented by Duke Energy runs from 5 to 8 p.m. at Grand Junction Plaza, 225 S. Union St., each Thursday through Sept. 26.

My Dad's Sweet Corn is ready and will be stocked for everyone's favorite summer veggie.

**June 27 vendor lineup**

- Alcomy
- Almost Paradise Farms
- AMAZN AZN Food Truck
- Atchley Farm
- Ben's Pretzels
- Bier Brewery
- Circle City Smoke
- Country Fun Freeze
- D's Biscuit Co.
- Dune Collection
- Eagle Creek Apiary
- Earl B's Catering
- Epic Coffee
- Gomez BBQ
- Happy Mutt Pet Bakery
- Joy Through Dawn
- Kernel King
- Kora's Kitchen
- Lazy Labs Pet Bakery
- Lexi Lu's Boutique
- Local Stems Farm
- MacDesigns
- Midwest Shirt Co.
- Moore's Pies
- Mr. T's Icecream
- My Dad's Sweet Corn
- Nate's Jerky
- Old Major
- Paper Pie
- Park Wagyu
- Pastry Sweet Salty
- Peace Water Winery
- Preservation
- Schooley's Hots & Brats

- Stephan Orchard
- Taco Loco M&C
- The Barn at Helm
- The Kafe
- The Lemon Bar
- Three Shepherds Dog Accessories
- Tomi Makes
- Urban Vines
- Victoria In Design
- Wild Loaf
- Willowood Apothecary
- Winegard Workshop
- With Wonder Cake House
- Without Borders Boutique
- Wrightway Crafts

*This list is subject to change without notice.*

**Kid's Activity Booth**

A kid's activity area sponsored by Centier Bank is new to the market. It will include a kid's activity booklet, sticker sheets and kid-sized canvas bags to decorate with custom stamps.

The Westfield Farmers Market thanks additional sponsors, including Renewal by Andersen, Leaf Home LLC, and Market District.

Public parking is available in the lot at the southwest corner of Poplar and Park streets, and a courtesy shuttle will run throughout the market. There are also designated on-street spots along Union and Mill streets. Please note that Jersey Street will be closed each market day at 2:30 p.m.

For more information and weekly vendor updates, visit [facebook.com/westfieldinmarkets](http://facebook.com/westfieldinmarkets).

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Letter to the Editor

# Carmel reader: it's up to us as parents to decide what our children can read

Dear Editor:

I write not to attack, but to discuss the recent letter **Cindy Black sent to this publication**. But, I do think it's important that Ms. Black, who chastises the "emotional appeal" of some in the community during a recent Carmel Clay Schools school board meeting, then turns around and spends the rest of her letter in an emotional appeal.

We can agree that rationality is called for in this matter, and the rationale is simple conservative values of less bureaucracy, less meddling, and more individual parenting. It takes a village (unfortunately that phrase has been co-opted by political parties, but it's still a good one) so I appreciate people looking out for the community. But calling for any book's removal for fear of a child being exposed to something akin to empathy is like the boy crying wolf.

If Ms. Black's concern (and those she is supposedly speaking for) is truly that "the overwhelming majority of students that grow up in caring homes without abuse should not be exposed to the ugliness portrayed in this book without parental consent," then that comes down not to a school board or a state government to decide but parents.

Again, anything that adds guard rails to my ability to parent my kids in the CCS (of which I have two, whereas most speaking against this and other literature have no kids or grandchildren in this school system) as I see fit, and goes against the conservation of free speech – even if they make me and others uncomfortable – just piles on unnecessary bureaucracy for the ongoing battle of socio-political wedge issues that have no place in non-partisan school board elections and actions.

So, I appeal to the same people that Ms. Black is likely trying to appeal to and ask in response: why do we need to remove something that can easily be avoided for those who wish to not be exposed to it, and leave it readily available for those who are?

As a parent, I am aware of what my children interact with, even knowing as a recovering child myself, that kids can also push boundaries and be sneaky. I don't expect the community to do the work I should put in, but rather make sure that I am doing my best to raise respectable, admirable, and genuine members of the community who may never need a book such as *All Boys Aren't Blue* to understand their own abuse experiences but may develop empathy and understanding for those who have.

And maybe, when they are of age that I'm comfortable with them reading *All Boys Aren't Blue* and other books of its ilk, they will grow to be a compassionate and caring member of the community who got the right to exercise their freedom of speech and expression not because we as a community chose to fall for anyone's emotional appeal, but made the difficult decision to stand up for a conservative value such as live and let live under the rights granted by the Bill of Rights.

Justin Spicer  
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](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com). Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.

## Kroger Symphony on the Prairie starts this weekend with tribute to Queen

### The REPORTER

Excitement is building as the 2024 season of Kroger Symphony on the Prairie kicks off this weekend with two nights of rock.

On Friday, celebrate the start of the 2024 Kroger Symphony on the Prairie season with Windborne's hottest classical rock symphony show: the Music of Queen with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Hear the ISO perform all your favorite Queen hits with pitch-perfect vocals from singer Mig Ayesa. Get ready for a fun, high-energy night of classic Queen hits with the ISO.

Then get ready for another night of classic rock as the Music of Led Zeppelin with Windborne and the ISO rocks the prairie on Saturday, June 29. The show features a massive array of songs from the Zeppelin catalog, whether the orchestra is playing lush harmonies or lick-based lines created by Plant, Page, and John Paul Jones. The driving tunes

allow the musicians to dig into their instruments and rock with the band or play counterpoint melodies to the guitar solos or singer.

Tickets for these shows and for all other concerts in the 2024 summer season of Kroger Symphony on the Prairie are available on the [ISO website](#), at their box office downtown, and at most central Indiana Kroger stores. From symphonic rock hybrids to tributes to ABBA, Jimmy Buffett, and more, there's something for everyone this season.

Concerts will be offered through Labor Day weekend at the [Conner Prairie Amphitheatre](#) in Fishers. [Click here](#) to see the complete 2024 schedule.

Purchase tickets to three or more concerts and automatically receive a 10 percent discount; no code needed; discount calculated at checkout. Don't sweat the weather forecast – you may exchange your tickets before the start of the concert.

# BeeFree finds its home in the Olympic trial snackverse



Photo provided

Local company BeeFree and its Autism Training Crew were on the job last Saturday during the Olympic Swim Trials at Lucas Oil in Indianapolis. The truck was on Georgia Street under the Eiffel tower all afternoon and evening. BeeFree is helping to lower the number of un- and underemployed autistic individuals – 85 percent of whom are not fully employed. Learn more about the company at [BeeFreeGF.com](http://BeeFreeGF.com).



Photos provided

## Westfield Democrats celebrate Juneteenth & Westfield's history of abolition

### The REPORTER

The Westfield Democrats celebrated Juneteenth with an enlightening session from Michael Kobrowski with the Westfield Washington Historical Society.

Attendees explored the community's history of standing against slavery and visited the Anti-Slavery Friends Cemetery, where one of Westfield's abolitionist founders, Asa Bales, is laid to rest.

The Westfield Washington Historical Society preserves and promotes the history of Westfield Washington Township for current and future generations. To learn more, visit [whws.us](http://whws.us).

For updates on future events from the Westfield Democrats, follow them on social media or sign up for their newsletter [here](#).



Thanks for reading!

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# Noblesville Creates to feature Mark Rouse, Marianne Glick & Bobbi K. Samples during July

## The REPORTER

Noblesville Creates (NC) is featuring three artists of the month in July. The artists of the month include Mark Rouse, Marianne Glick, and Bobbi K. Samples, and each of their exhibits will each be featured at a different NC showcase location.

Information on the exhibit dates, receptions, and artist details are available below.

### Stephenson House Bobbi K. Samples

The summer months are full of life. From blooming flowers and buzzing insects, there is activity everywhere you look. Artist Bobbi K. Samples will channel both the most passionate and refined summer moments through her July showcase exhibit, *Garden Party*.

While Samples is mostly self-taught, she began exploring art by taking lessons with another artist, Maggie Shively. She credits those first lessons as having “remained invaluable” as she continues her fine arts journey. She has always been a creative person in mind and heart, having experience in dance, teaching, and design alongside her painting.

Florals have always captivated Samples’ imagination. She works large-scale to bring out the subject matter’s details. Working large also allows her to utilize large brushes in broad strokes. This creates an abstract effect “without losing the desired image.” Layers of saturated oil paints eventually build into striking blooms. If she’s unable to get the exact depth she’s searching for, she’ll use knives to add in texture. Once satisfied, pieces are typically finished with two coats of glaze, which makes “them glisten, as if in the sun.”

Samples notes that the recent works to be featured will channel “a time before

movies when people got together in the afternoon for tea or champagne to stroll through the garden and talk. Ladies with their hats and parasols and gentlemen leading with their arms.” Viewers can expect bright and bold poppies, roses, peonies, lilies and more as they promenade through the Stephenson House gallery in July.

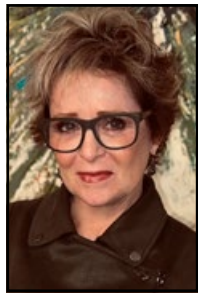
The full exhibit, *Garden Party*, can be seen in the Stephenson House July 5 to 27, Wednesday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can meet Samples during her reception from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 13 on the Noblesville Creates on 8th campus.

### Four Day Ray Mark Rouse

Mark Rouse’s artistic journey is a reflection of his ability to treat each new day as an opportunity for accomplishment. His upcoming Four Day Ray showcase exhibit, *The Thrill of Victory* will be a celebration of the Olympics and a reflection of his own passions.

In 2015, Rouse was declared legally blind due to Diabetic Retinopathy. Recovery was slow, but possible through revolutionizing techniques and care. He had been painting and taking photographs for decades and needed a new way to create artwork. A digital painting/mixed media method was his solution.

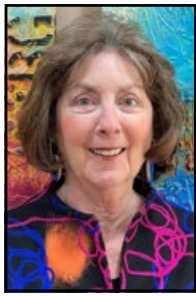
His process has remained largely unchanged since the early days of his recovery. When blind, he discovered that he could hook his computer up to his large television and zoom in to digitally paint. Nowadays he doesn’t need such a large screen but will still digitally paint. Once a piece is printed on canvas or another material, he may add further texture and depth with physical paint and other materials.



Samples



Rouse



Glick



## NOBLESVILLE CREATES

Rouse found that his energy has been renewed in recent years. He’s always been active and realized that “there’s not enough time to do all the art that is in me,” then counted eight current works in progress. He’s always looking forward to the next inspiration and the next piece. When he’s not working, he participates in several exhibits, art fairs, and events throughout Indiana. His accolades include being awarded Best in Show at the Fishers Arts Council’s 2023 Annual Juried Exhibit of Hamilton County Artists.

“Flying in the Lead,” a dynamic piece of a swimmer seemingly flying through the water, is an apt reflection of Rouse’s recovery and outlook. He had been a swimmer in high school, then later a high school swim coach along with a junior high art teacher. *The Thrill of Victory* will be a culmination of his love of sports and art. In addition, he notes that “the thrill of victory has been regaining my vision and painting again.” Visitors can expect to see this and more sports images in his signature style.

The full exhibit, *The Thrill of Victory*, can be seen at Four Day Ray Brewing July 5 through Sept. 27, located at 11671 Lantern

Road in Fishers, Sunday and Monday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Visitors can meet Rouse at his free open house reception at Four Day Ray from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 5.

### Meyer Najem Marianne Glick

“My personal mission is to ignite, inspire, and direct energy for positive action, and hopefully bring joy to those who view them,” Marianne Glick says of her art. Her multimedia works are enigmatic and complex, each one a master class in intuitive painting.

Glick started painting in 2005 as “a way to positively approach the winter months after a career in corporate training.” She took workshops in Indianapolis and around the country to build a fine arts foundation, eventually finding her own unique style. In the years since, her work has been accepted in juried competitions sponsored by the Hoosier Salon, California Art Day, Indianapolis Art Center, International Society of Acrylic Painters, International Society of Experimental Artists, Midwest Abstract National Exhibit, Watercolor Society of Indi-

ana, and Women’s Works.

Philanthropic work and community building are also important to Glick. She donates paintings to benefit some non-profit organizations like Women’s Fund, Dress for Success, Community Health Network Foundation, Girls, Inc., Planned Parenthood, TeenWorks, Indianapolis Symphony, and United Way. When not painting, she focuses on giving back, serving on the board of directors for the Glick Family Foundation, the Gene Glick Company, the Glick Housing Foundation, ASCEND, Central Indiana Community Foundation, Ivy Tech Community College, RISE Indy, TeenWorks, and United Way of Central Indiana.

Layers have captivated Glick’s interest in her current painting process.

“I enjoy the use of rich colors and textures in my work,” she said. “Exploring the interplay between transparent & opaque, warm & cool, brush work, and pouring fascinates me.”

She will start by laying down pieces of self-made collage, usually from papers or magazines with patterns. Then, she’ll map out the infrastructure of the painting with stencils and a layer of black paint. Once satisfied, she’ll start layering up paint at different thicknesses, then sand down certain layers, then repaint.

“Most recently,” she said. “I have been delving deeper by creating multiple layers and sanding back to reveal parts of early layers in the final painting.”

In her upcoming showcase exhibit, *Old, New, Borrowed, and Blue*, visitors can expect a collection of Marianne’s latest pieces alongside some old favorites. Due to her natural approach to painting, the work completed this past winter in Florida contains many shades of blue and an “oceanic” feel.

Each one-of-a-kind piece is a colorful expression of her community-minded mission and an innate sense of time, place, and emotion.

See the full exhibit, *Old, New, Borrowed, and Blue*, from July 5 through Sept. 27. This exhibit is viewable at the Meyer Najem 2nd floor gallery, located at 11787 Lantern Road in Fishers, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Visitors can meet Marianne at her free public reception from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 23 at Meyer Najem.

### Noblesville City Hall Phocus on Photography

The June Judge Stone House exhibit, *Phocus on Photography*, is traveling to Noblesville City Hall for the month of July. This exhibit consists of works by photographers who have an uncanny ability for capturing moments, angles, and beauty that many of us simply miss. The real, the imagined, the joys, and the sorrows of life are shared through the gift of photographs.

*Phocus on Photography* is open for viewing July 5 to 27. Noblesville City Hall is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### About Noblesville Creates

Noblesville Creates champions the arts as an essential element of the economic health and cultural vitality of Noblesville and central Indiana. As Noblesville’s local arts agency, NC catalyzes opportunities for the arts and local creatives of all skill levels to thrive and lead in central Indiana. NC is also the Region 7 Arts Partner for the Indiana Arts Commission, serving the six counties at the center of the state. NC cultivates classes, events, programs, and services for art-lovers and artists of all backgrounds and experience levels. Start your creative journey with NC: they’ll help you connect and flourish.

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# The \$400 billion wake-up call that Washington won't answer

Our country is careening toward a debt disaster of epic proportions, and Washington just stomped on the gas pedal.

The latest report from the Congressional Budget Office projected that this year's federal deficit will be \$400 billion higher than estimated in February, a staggering 27 percent increase. It's set to contribute to an already-rising national debt, soaring from 99 percent of GDP at the end of 2024 to an unprecedented 122 percent of GDP by 2034.

While the report points to military aid, student loan forgiveness, and social programs as the reason behind the higher deficits, the blame lies with the leaders at both ends of Pennsylva-



AARON SMITH

nia Avenue who overspend without a credible plan to rein it in. This cavalier attitude threatens economic calamity, a future of persistent inflation, higher interest rates, and decline of the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency.

What's worse is that the millennial generation, to which I belong, will be left holding the bag.

It's a stark contrast to the disciplined approach that local leaders across the country take. I serve on the city council in Noblesville – a growing city of just over 75,000 people. Together, our council works with the mayor to carefully construct a budget every year that strategically invests and safeguards the city's long-

term financial stability.

Last year's budget made record infrastructure investments, funded key capital projects, and gave well-deserved raises to public safety personnel – all while maintaining our tax rate and saving 15 percent of annual revenue, exceeding the state's recommended 12 percent reserve level.

Like a business, we've reduced the other side of the balance sheet too. Since public safety accounts for more than 50 percent of our annual budget, we've taken proactive steps to address the financial burden that repetitive and non-emergency calls have on the 911 system – and it's been successful. In fact, during this past legislative session, we shared the blueprint with the Indiana General Assembly so other communities can replicate our plan and

see the same benefits.

While needs always outpace resources, our budgeting process is transparent and demands clear accountability. Should the federal government continue its unsustainable binge of tax-and-spend policies, it will serve as a distraction to real issues we all recognize as important to tackle like rising healthcare costs, aging infrastructure, and the challenges that come with artificial intelligence.

We should demand better from our elected leaders and hold them to account so our country can accomplish real challenges, rather than litigate the issue of the day.

*Aaron Smith lives in Old Town and represents District 3 on the Noblesville Common Council. You can read and subscribe to his monthly newsletter at noblesville.substack.com.*

# Bradley Pease named Carmel's new Director of Engineering

The REPORTER

The City of Carmel has announced the hiring of Bradley Pease as Director of Engineering. In his new role, he will be responsible for guiding major initiatives for the city and assisting in the continued modernization of Carmel's infrastructure.



Pease

"We are thrilled to welcome Brad Pease as the new Director of Engineering for the City of Carmel," Mayor Sue Finkam said. "Brad's extensive experience and innovative approach will be invaluable as we continue to enhance and expand our city's infrastructure. His leadership and vision align perfectly with our commitment to excellence in engineering."

Pease comes to the City of Carmel after a stint with the City of Fishers. Prior to that position, he played a key role on the Carmel engi-

neering team for nearly eight years, where he was responsible for the management of various roadway, intersection, path, and stormwater projects throughout the city. He also managed utility relocations for all capital improvement projects.

"I am honored to rejoin the City of Carmel as the new Director of Engineering," Pease said. "I look forward to collaborating with the talented team here to build on the city's strong foundation and drive forward initiatives that prioritize innovation, sustainability, resilience and the well-being of our community."

Pease, a Professional Engineer (PE), holds a Bachelor of Science from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, along with a Master of Jurisprudence from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

# Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen elected to U.S. Conference of Mayors Advisory Board

Submitted by City of Noblesville

Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen was elected to the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) Advisory Board during the USCM's 92nd annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo., where nearly 200 city officials gathered.

Mayor Jensen has been a member of the USCM since January 2020, when he was a newly elected mayor. At the USCM's annual meeting, in addition to electing new leadership, the mayors adopted a comprehensive policy agenda for the year ahead.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to represent my hometown on a broader scale through the U.S. Conference of Mayors Advisory Board," Jensen said. "This group provides an opportu-

nity for mayors to come together to share ideas and best practices and adopt a policy agenda to better our communities and our nation. I look forward to serving and helping lead our cause of strong, bipartisan leadership in a time where our county so badly yearns for it."

Noblesville is the ninth-largest city in Indiana, home to over 75,000 hardworking residents rooted in civic pride and community development. From Mayor Jensen's first days in office, he has shared in the mission and values of the USCOM through Noblesville's investments in mental health



Jensen

and infrastructure, both pillars of USCOM.

Mayor Jensen was elected to leadership alongside the following members:

- President – Mayor Andrew Ginther (Columbus, Ohio)
- First Vice President – Mayor David Holt (Oklahoma City, Okla.)
- Second Vice President – Mayor Todd Gloria (San Diego, Calif.)
- USCM Trustee – Mayor Jim Ross (Arlington, Texas)
- USCM Trustee – Mayor Justin Bibb (Cleveland, Ohio)
- USCM Trustee – Mayor Kate Gallego (Phoenix, Ariz.)
- Advisory Board Member – Mayor Lacey Beatty (Beaver-

ton, Ore.)

- Advisory Board Member – Mayor Barbara Buffaloe (Columbia, Mo.)
- Advisory Board Member – Mayor Daniel Rickenmann (Columbia, S.C.)
- Advisory Board Member – Mayor Arunan Arulampalam (Hartford, Conn.)
- Advisory Board Member – Mayor D.C. Reeves (Pensacola, Fla.)
- Advisory Board Member – Mayor Heidi Lueb (Tigard, Ore.)
- Advisory Board Member – Mayor Ethan Baker (Troy, Mich.)

### About the United States Conference of Mayors

The United States Conference of Mayors is the official non-partisan organization of cities with a population of 30,000 or larger. Each city is represented by its chief elected official, the mayor.

## TONIGHT: public meeting in Fishers on Duke Energy rate increase request

The REPORTER

Duke Energy customers are invited to comment on the utility's pending rate request.

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will hold a public field hearing at 5 p.m. today, June 27, at Hamilton East Public Library, in the East-Center Room, 5 Municipal Drive, Fishers.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

(OUCC) is inviting written public comments on Duke Energy's request through Friday, July 5.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is using its technical and legal resources to review the utility's proposal. Formal testimony from the OUCC is due Thursday, July 11.

Click here for more information on this process.

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# Lights Over Morse Lake turns 25 and America turns 248 next week



This year is the 25th anniversary of Cicero's Lights Over Morse Lake celebration, and lots of events are planned from July 3 to July 7. Please go to [LightsOverMorseLake.org](http://LightsOverMorseLake.org) to find the full list of events as well as a digital program.

Nik Roberts / File photos

## Letter to the Editor

### Noblesville reader: city should spend resources to remove invasive trees, not cut down healthy trees

Dear Editor:  
This is in response to the letter from Tom Roberts regarding the Noblesville City tree actions.

Neither Roberts nor the City have mentioned much about the invasive species Bradford Pear. At the turn of the century, many of the new developments planted the Bradford Pear. It grows fast and has a fortnight of beauty in the spring.

It also has a very weak structure; the various limbs tend to split off. More recently, I think the nurseries have been limited in selling them.

Twenty-some years ago, the City acquired crop fields at the corner of State Road 38 and Hauge Road to extend Hauge Road on south to SR 32. Some park facilities have been constructed, but little attention has been paid to the invasive species.

Canada thistles and a newer Cutleaf Teasel thrive. And anyone who drives by the corner in the spring has noticed the beauty of the "nursery" for the Bradford Pears on the northeast corner.

I doubt that the city was named Tree City because of the pears, more likely in spite of the pears. The pears in the developments have a short life span and are not likely to be replaced with pears. The

branches may start splitting off before the roots raise the sidewalks. No such limits will occur in the city parks, where the pears have been reproducing geometrically.

The city would better earn their Tree City award by attacking the blight in their parks rather than removing the self-destructing shade in the developments.

Carl Holl  
Noblesville

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

## What Will I Take with Me?



When all is said and done and this world is no more, what will I have to show for my life? When I cross the great divide from life to death what will I take with me? I cannot answer the first question for you, but I can the second – NOTHING but my soul. The only thing of eternal value is my soul.

Am I making prudent use of it?

We meet at 15530 Herriman Blvd. in Noblesville. Our building is behind the doctor's office and at the stop sign.

At the **Stony Creek Church of Christ**, we assemble on Sundays and Wednesdays to seek a better understanding of Jesus and His ways. You are encouraged and invited to join us for those studies or call for a private study.



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Sunday Bible Study 10:00 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm



Letter to the Editor

# Commissioners point to DLGF report regarding potential funding shortfall for Sheridan & Adams Township

Dear Editor:

The power to choose their form of representative government rightfully belongs with the people of Adams Township. As elected representatives of Hamilton County, we want to ensure that the leaders and residents of both Sheridan and Adams Township receive the most accurate, realistic information in making that decision.

To that end, county commissioners and/or members of our staff have attended at least four Sheridan Reorganization Committee meetings, as well as recent meetings of the Sheridan Town Council and Adams Township Advisory Board. We have also emailed, called and in-person reached out to the Reorganization Committee multiple times to schedule further meetings to discuss the details of the proposal and the financial impacts. In May, we, the commissioners, sent a formal letter to the Committee requesting a public meeting, proposing a May 28 meeting date with all three commissioners, which was not granted.

Our primary concern is that the reorganization proposal does not account for several public safety and infrastructure costs. Hamilton County currently provides several services to unincorporated Adams Township, including policing and public safety, road maintenance and construction, and significant local funding match-

es for federal and state funding aid – particularly for infrastructure.

It is highly uncommon for the county to provide any of those services to a city or town. As such, we want to ensure the proposed new entity is equipped and adequately funded to take on these services for residents.

After conducting a third-party audit, the county estimates that at least \$2.5 million in public safety and infrastructure costs are not reflected in the proposal. On top of that, there are four active and federally funded critical infrastructure projects scheduled for Adams Township that will need nearly \$16 million in local funding matches to proceed.

The state Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) recently issued a report that identifies several of these same financial questions and potential funding gaps, which can be read [here](#).

We caution that without a full accounting of these costs, the proposal is likely under-projecting the new tax rates. This could result in either a reduction in services provided to the area or increased tax rates to residents, both of which could be significant.

We sent our most up-to-date cost projections and concerns in a recent letter to the Committee, as well as to the Sheridan Town Council and the

Adams Township Advisory Board. At that time, we asked the Committee to table a vote so we could have more time to work together with the Committee to discuss costs and determine whether or not we can reach an interlocal agreement for the county to continue delivering some of these critical services.

Despite our repeated attempts, the Committee did not respond to requests for meetings to discuss the details or the potential of reaching an interlocal agreement for services.

For anyone to say the commissioners have not participated in this process is disingenuous and a disservice to residents. We stand ready to discuss the potential costs and tax and service impacts for residents with both the Committee and residents of Adams Township and the Town of Sheridan.

Our primary goal is to ensure the residents of Hamilton County live in a safe, prosperous, low-tax community that ensures the quality infrastructure and services they would expect. We will continue to work every day to do just that.

**Christine Altman**  
County Commissioner, District 1

**Steve Dillinger**  
County Commissioner, District 2

**Mark Heirbrandt**  
County Commissioner, District 3

Letter to the Editor

# A critical moment for America: thoughts on tonight's presidential debate

Dear Editor:

As we approach the first presidential debate of the 2024 election cycle, I encourage all Hamilton County residents and Americans across the nation to tune in today at 9 p.m. ET. This debate marks a pivotal moment in our democratic process, bringing President Biden and former President Trump face-to-face for the first time since 2020.

The stakes couldn't be higher. Our nation faces numerous challenges, from border security and immigration to economic concerns and questions about leadership. This debate offers a unique opportunity for voters to directly compare the vision and capabilities of both candidates.

I expect former President Trump to highlight his strong record on border security and immigration, issues that remain critical to the safety and prosperity of our nation. His commitment to law and order and economic growth stands in stark contrast to the current administration's policies.

While Democrats may attempt to focus on issues like abortion rights, it's crucial that we address the pressing concerns affecting everyday Americans – rising costs, crime rates, and the integrity of our institutions.

Undoubtedly, both candidates will face tough questions about recent legal issues. However, I urge viewers to look beyond sensationalism and focus on the policies and leadership qualities that will shape our nation's future.

The economy remains a top priority for Hamilton County residents and Americans nationwide. We need a leader who can navigate global challenges while fostering growth and opportunity at home.

As we watch this debate, let's consider not just the words spoken, but the vision, energy, and capability demonstrated by each candidate. The health and vitality of our leaders directly impact their ability to guide our nation through complex times.

This election is about the future of America. Let's ensure we make an informed decision based on substance, not sound bites. Tune in, engage in respectful discussion with your neighbors, and let's work together to build a stronger Hamilton County and a more prosperous America.

**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](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com). Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.



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### Military Academy Nominations

High school students in our district may contact my office to request a nomination to attend one of our nation's service academies.



### US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

My office can help arrange tours throughout our nation's capital.

See you in the parks!



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# Fishers unveils plans for White River Park

New 120-acre park to add to Fishers' extensive parks system, Allisonville Road corridor revitalization with trail & waterway connectivity

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**The REPORTER**

The City of Fishers announced plans Wednesday for the new Fishers White River Park, coming just west of the 96th Street and Allisonville Road intersection in 2025. The new park is a key addition to connecting visitors to existing trails and waterways throughout Fishers.

The park features over 120 acres of parkland with over 5,000 feet of riverfront and unique amenities along the west side of Fishers and Allisonville Road corridor. Groundbreaking is slated for fall 2024, with an anticipated opening in summer 2025.

Click here to see renderings.

"Fishers White River Park is a transformational project that will significantly enhance connectivity across our city, offering our residents access to beautiful parkland," Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness said. "This new park is a cornerstone of our vision to revitalize the Allisonville Road corridor,

creating a vibrant and thriving community space everyone can enjoy."

The park plans are based on community feedback and surveys gathered in summer 2023, and include:

- 2.45 miles of trails, including trail connectivity to Fishers Heritage Park at White River
- Kayak launch
- Native plantings
- Creek stumping area
- Two scenic overlook boardwalks
- Year-round restrooms

The White River Park is made possible with funding from Governor Eric Holcomb's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) program that is moving communities forward by encouraging regional collaboration and data-driven long-term planning to transform Indiana communities, attract talent and improve quality of life for Hoosiers in the short and long term. Through the program, which is led by the Indiana

Economic Development Corporation, the White River region was awarded \$20 million in READI 1.0 funding and allocated \$4.7 million to the project in 2022.

"Our vision for Fishers White River Park is to showcase the natural beauty of this 120-acre landscape and provide our community with unparalleled access to the White River," said Jake Reardon-McSoley, Director of Recreation and Wellness for the City of Fishers. "We want this park to be a sanctuary where residents can escape the daily grind and reconnect with nature."

Significant revitalization efforts have already begun along the Allisonville Road corridor. The 96th Street and Allisonville Road roundabout project currently underway is a crucial element in the broader revitalization effort, enhancing traffic flow and accessibility in the area. For more information on the roundabout project, visit [FishersIN.gov/96th](https://fishersin.gov/96th).

"As a state, Indiana is

making unprecedented investments in quality of place assets to ensure we have vibrant communities that attract top talent and support Hoosiers and their families," said Jim Rawlinson, READI Director at the IEDC. "With the support of READI, Fishers White River Park will increase public green spaces and connectivity throughout the community while furthering regional efforts to better leverage the White River waterway throughout the central Indiana region."

The area also experienced a significant transformation with the introduction of CRG Residential's River Place development. This \$135 million mixed-use project, situated at the northwest corner of 96th Street and Allisonville Road, features a premium apartment community, for-sale townhomes, and vibrant commercial retail spaces.

Learn more about the Fishers White River Park at [FishersParks.com/White-River](https://fishersparks.com/White-River).

## Enjoy "A Live Conversation with Helen Hunt" after *Twister* screening

**The REPORTER**

Get ready for a whirlwind experience. Come to the Old National Centre in downtown Indianapolis for a special screening of the iconic film *Twister*, followed by an exclusive live interview and audience Q&A with Academy Award-winning actress Helen Hunt at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29.

Tickets go on sale to the public Friday, June 28 at 10 a.m. and will be available at [OldNationalCentre.com](https://OldNationalCentre.com).

Prices are \$29.95 to \$79.95 for normal tickets then a \$179.95 VIP Meet & Greet (plus applicable fees).

Witness the storm-chasing adventure on the big screen once more and delve into the making of this thrilling blockbuster. Hear behind-the-scenes stories, insights, and personal anecdotes directly from Helen Hunt herself.

For those chasing an extra special experience, a limited number of VIP tickets will be available which include an exclusive photo-op with Helen Hunt after the event. Capture a memorable moment with one of Hollywood's most beloved talents.

Don't miss out on this electrifying event. Grab your tickets now and be part of an



A LIVE CONVERSATION WITH HELEN HUNT plus a screening of TWISTER

September 29  
Murat Theatre at Old National Centre

Graphic provided

unforgettable evening with Helen Hunt" following a "A Live Conversation with screening of *Twister*."

## Two arrested after chained dog dies in hot car; other dog honks horn for help

By KYLA RUSSELL  
WISH-TV | [wistv.com](https://wistv.com)

A 53-year-old man and a 74-year-old woman were arrested last Thursday after police say a dog was found chained up and dead in their hot car.

Around 6 p.m., Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officers were sent to the Intown Suites Hotel, 5820 W. 85th St., on the city's northwest side on a report of a dog left in a Chevrolet sedan.

Upon their arrival, they spoke with a hotel manag-

er and were shown the car parked in the hotel's lot.

The 53-year-old man, identified as Charles Thomas, approached an officer to tell him "one of the dogs inside his vehicle was dead," court docs say.

News 8 spoke with witness Kiarah Miller, who saw the dog in the car just before officers arrived while she walked her own dog, King.

"I knew something had to be deeper when I saw poor little paws just stretched out there," Miller said.

An additional witness said they heard Thomas

asking the pit bull earlier to "wake up."

Police also saw a chain that had held the pit bull was tied to the floorboard of the car with a weight.

According to the probable cause affidavit, a pit bull, a German Shepherd and a cat were locked in the car.

Court docs say the hotel manager believed the two adults had arrived at the hotel around 3:10 p.m. Police say the dogs had likely been in the car for about three hours without water.

See Dog... Page 11

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# New sound & lighting systems installed at The Palladium

*Stately concert hall now has top technology to match its architecture*

**Submitted**

A new era begins at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel with the installation of new, state-of-the-art concert sound and lighting systems at its flagship venue, the Palladium.

Opened in 2011, the elegant concert hall features interior architecture designed to optimize acoustic classical music with a minimum of electronic amplification. The Center's original production team spent the first few seasons reconfiguring the modest sound system under the remaining construction budget to an adequate level that has supported performances over the past decade.

Now, for the first time, the 1,500-seat hall has a custom-built PA system designed from scratch to handle the full range of performances presented there, from spoken word and chamber music to rock, pop and country bands with drums, amplified instruments and stage volume levels that can create challenges for sound engineers.

"In a sense, the Palladium is finally complete," said Jeffrey C. McDermott, the Center's President and CEO. "The technology has advanced so far since our opening that we were growing concerned about our ability to attract top artists. Now we're heading into the new Center Presents season with the latest sound technology to complement the room's natural acoustics and deliver the kind of experience that today's artists and audiences expect."

The Center's staff worked with the Carmel Redevelopment Commission, which oversees capital improvements on the campus, to solicit three bids for the design and installation of the system. The winning proposal came from two Greenfield-based companies that are leaders in audio technology, Force.Tech and Mid-America Sound. Their design was based on an acoustic analysis conducted by Carmel-based Haverstick Designs, which

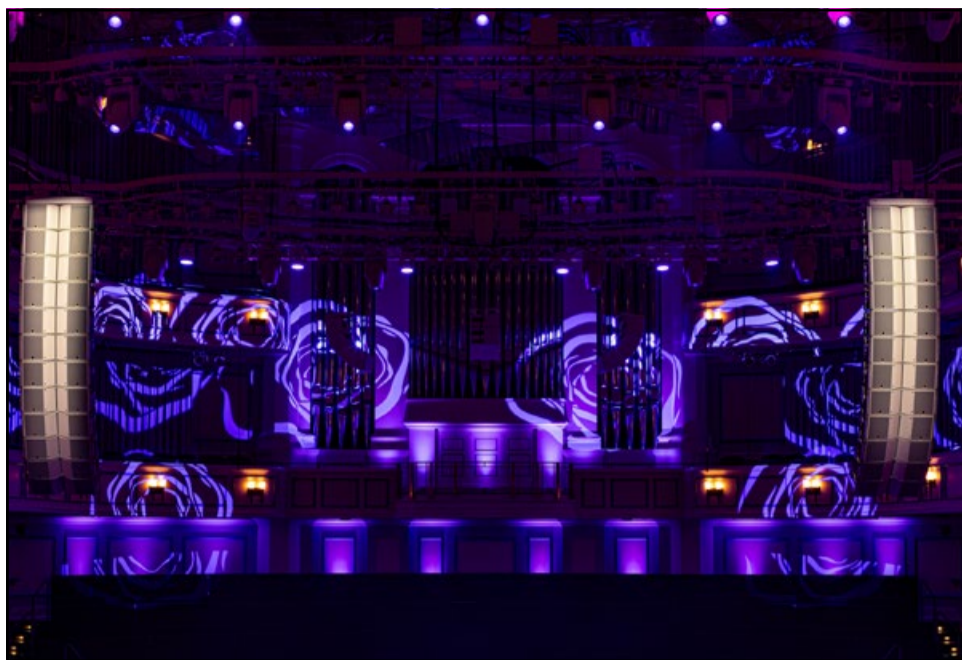


Photo by Joshua Hasty

**Key components of the Palladium's updated sound system include the two large speaker arrays that hang over either side of the stage.**

included microphone testing throughout the room and the use of LiDAR technology to create a three-dimensional digital model of the interior surfaces.

Installation of the key components has taken place this month. Most notable are the two line arrays – the curved speaker stacks that hang over each side of the stage and produce most of the volume – which have grown from nine to 12 speakers each for better coverage throughout the room. Other components include two subwoofers on either side of the stage for bass reproduction and new fill speakers that supplement the sound in areas not fully covered by the main speakers.

The new lighting system, installed by the production staff earlier this year, replaced outdated incandescent lamps with LEDs, which are brighter, more durable, and more energy-efficient while offering superior color-mixing capabilities. The new control console makes it faster and easier to change settings in the moment during a concert.

The remote-controlled lights have quieter motors and cooling fans that can be switched off for silent operation, particularly important during classical performances. The new equipment also includes floor lighting and

an expanded set of gobos, the stencil-like screens that create patterns on the walls and ceiling.

The combined cost of the new sound and lighting systems is approximately \$1.5 million, paid from the city's 2021 tax increment financing bond issue.

**About the Center for the Performing Arts**

The mission of the non-profit Center for the Performing Arts is to engage and inspire the Indiana community through enriching arts experiences. Its campus in Carmel includes the 1,500-seat Palladium concert hall, the 500-seat Tarkington proscenium theater

and the black-box Studio Theater. The Center presents and hosts hundreds of events each year, including the *Center Presents* performance series, featuring the best in classical, jazz, pop, rock, country, comedy and other genres. Educational and experiential programming for all ages includes children's concerts and camps, book clubs, lectures, and classes in music and dance. The Center is home to the affiliated Great American Songbook Foundation and provides space and support services for six resident arts companies. More information is available at [TheCenterPresents.org](http://TheCenterPresents.org).

## Presale tickets available now for Floyd Nation concert at The Palladium

**The REPORTER**

Experience the magic of a Pink Floyd concert when you attend the Oct. 25 show from Floyd Nation at The Palladium in Carmel.

Attending a Floyd Nation concert is so much more than listening to live music and watching a light show. This group delivers an authentic experience connecting them to their fans on a deep and soulful level. Some call it theater, others call it brilliant, and most say if you close your eyes, you'll swear you're listening to Pink Floyd themselves.

Presale tickets are on sale now. [Click here](#) and enter the promo code

"MONEY" to access the presale. Act quickly – general public tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, June 28.

**VIP Soundcheck Experience**

The Floyd Nation VIP soundcheck experience includes a preshow performance along with a full light show beginning at 4:30 p.m., plus access to early merchandise sales and a meet-and-greet opportunity by the merch table.

When promo code MONEY is used during the pre-sale period, every VIP add-on is complimentary. Following this pre-sale opportunity, VIP add-on pricing is \$25.

**Thanks for reading The Reporter!**

## DOG

*from Page 10*

Shortly after their arrival, the manager said he "was alerted to the vehicle by the horn honking from the dog inside the vehicle."

The documents say the German Shepherd did the honking, and that claw marks could be seen on the car's window.

The manager said the car was turned off and he called for Animal Control.

The woman, identified as 74-year-old Norma Light, said she had not gone to check on the animals and her choice to leave the animals in the car was due to the fact that the hotel was not pet-friendly. News 8 confirmed only service animals are permitted inside the hotel.

The pit bull, named Masus, was confirmed dead by Animal Control and collected. The cat and German Shepherd were given water and taken to an air-conditioned area.

Thomas was arrested for

felony animal cruelty-kill and Light was arrested for misdemeanor animal cruelty. Both were taken to the Marion County jail.

"It's horrible," Miller said. "If you ask me, it's just as bad as someone leaving a child in the car."

IMPD Lt. Shane Foley called for better heat safety for people and dogs.

"Dogs need to have water. They need to have food. They need to have shelter," Foley said. "They need to have a way to get out of the heat."

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/crime-watch-8/dog-chained-inside-hot-car-dies-other-dog-honks-horn-for-help](http://wishtv.com/news/crime-watch-8/dog-chained-inside-hot-car-dies-other-dog-honks-horn-for-help).*

**Meeting Notice**

The Hamilton County Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

**— NOBLESVILLE —**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Noblesville Plan Commission  
City of Noblesville, Indiana

This notice is to inform you of a Public Hearing that will be held by the Noblesville Plan Commission on the 15th day of July 2024. This hearing, to discuss application LEGP-000109-2024 will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers, Noblesville City Hall at 16 South 10th Street. Property owner Meijer Stores Limited Partnership requests approval of an amendment to the Promenade Planned Development Ordinance (45-07-16) to permit additional drive-through windows and associated waiver requests for landscaping, driveway location and width, parking calculations, and roofline located at approximately 5957, 5985, and 6010 Promenade Shops Boulevard. Written suggestions or objections relative to the application above may be filed with the Department of Planning and Development, at or before such meeting, and will be heard by the Noblesville Plan Commission. Interested persons desiring to present their views, either in writing or verbally, will have an opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place. This hearing may be continued from time to time as found necessary by the Noblesville Plan Commission. A copy of the proposal is on file in the Department of Planning and Development at 16 South 10th Street, Suite B140 and may be reviewed during regular office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A copy of staff report will be posted on the agenda on the city website, <http://www.cityofnoblesville.org> at least 5 days prior to the hearing. Noblesville Plan Commission  
Caleb Gutshall, Secretary  
R4549 6/27/24, 7/1/24

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**TODAY'S BIBLE READING**

**THE BIRTH OF MOSES**

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

*Exodus 2:1-10 (NIV)*

**The Reporter's policy on obituaries**

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

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



Photos provided by Merchants Bank

The new HQ2 for Merchants Capital in Carmel is the second Merchants Capital building to open in 10 years.

**Merchants Bank continues "topping-off" tradition with new HQ2 building in Carmel**

**The REPORTER**

Merchants Bank held a topping-off ceremony last week to commemorate the highest structural element being placed for the new HQ2 for Merchants Capital, located at 410 Monon Blvd. Carmel.

This is an ongoing tradition for Merchants Bank symbolizing the hard work completed by each member of the organization.

HQ2 is second Merchants Capital building to open within the last 10 years. This is Merchants Capital's sixth of-

fice (Indianapolis, New York, Chicago, Boston, Washington D.C., Minneapolis).

The building will have a bridge from HQ1 (Merchants Bank) to HQ2 (Merchants Capital).

Merchants Bank's chairman and co-founder Mike Petrie, Merchants Capital's president and CEO Mike Dury, and Merchants Bank's president and CEO Mike Dunlap each spoke during the ceremony.

Learn more about Merchants Bank at [Merchants-BankOfIndiana.com](http://Merchants-BankOfIndiana.com).



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**839 PEBBLE BROOK PLACE**  
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Listed at \$629,900

**NEW LISTING/PENDING!**

**7158 SUMMER OAK DRIVE**  
NOBLESVILLE  
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!  
Listed at \$334,900

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**1485 CENTRAL AVENUE**  
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2 BR, 2 BA ranch on a corner lot in the heart of Noblesville. New detached garage and large fenced yard.  
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# REPORTER SPORTS THURSDAY

Sports Editor Richie Hall | Sports@ReadTheReporter.com | Twitter @Richie\_Hall

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

## Golf

# Brown has “major breakthrough”

Westfield star plays in U.S. Women’s Open, gets victory at Women’s Western Junior

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

From hitting golf balls with a major champion to breaking through for a victory at a prestigious tournament, it’s been quite the past few weeks for Samantha Brown.

The Westfield High School graduate spent the end of May playing in the biggest tournament of all: the U.S. Women’s Open. A few days after that, she traveled to Chicagoland to win the Women’s Western Junior.

“It’s been crazy, but it’s been good,” said Brown. She is taking a well-deserved break from tournament action, although she wouldn’t trade the experience of playing in one of golf’s major tournaments for anything.

“It was definitely a dream come true, just getting to be out there with all the people that I’ve looked up to over the years,” said Brown. “It was the toughest set-up I’ve ever played in my life, but it was good.”

Brown earned her place at the Open by winning a qualifier May 9 at Sunset Country Club in St. Louis. Three weeks later, she was in Lancaster, Pa. at the Lancaster Country Club, the site of the 2024 Open, and immediately realized this was unlike any other golf tournament she had played in.

“It was different atmosphere-wise because there were so many fans and you have to learn to block that out when you play in an environment like that,” said Brown. While she had played in big tournaments before, like the 2023 IHSAA state finals where Brown claimed the individual state title, “it’s nothing compared to that,” she said. “There are grandstands all around you and everyone was watching.”

Brown got a chance to see some famous golfers up close, such as Nelly Korda, the current world No. 1-ranked player and two-time major championship winner.

“I saw Nelly on the range,” said Brown. “It

was nuts. And then Lexi (Thompson) was hitting right next to me.” Thompson won the Chevron Championship in 2014 at age 19, the second-youngest woman ever to win a major.

Brown finished the first round with a score of 85 but rebounded in the second round to score 77. She made one birdie in her first 18 holes and two more in the second round.

“I approached the golf course differently in the second round,” said Brown. “In the first round, if you missed, it was incredibly hard to get out of some of those spots, because the greens were so hard.” Brown said there if any chip shots were hit in the wrong spots, “you can’t get out of them.” Some good shots would go well off the green and would keep rolling.

“It was such a good learning experience, just in how to approach golf course setups like that,” said Brown. She noted that “some things you can get away with on easier setups, you cannot get away with it out there.”

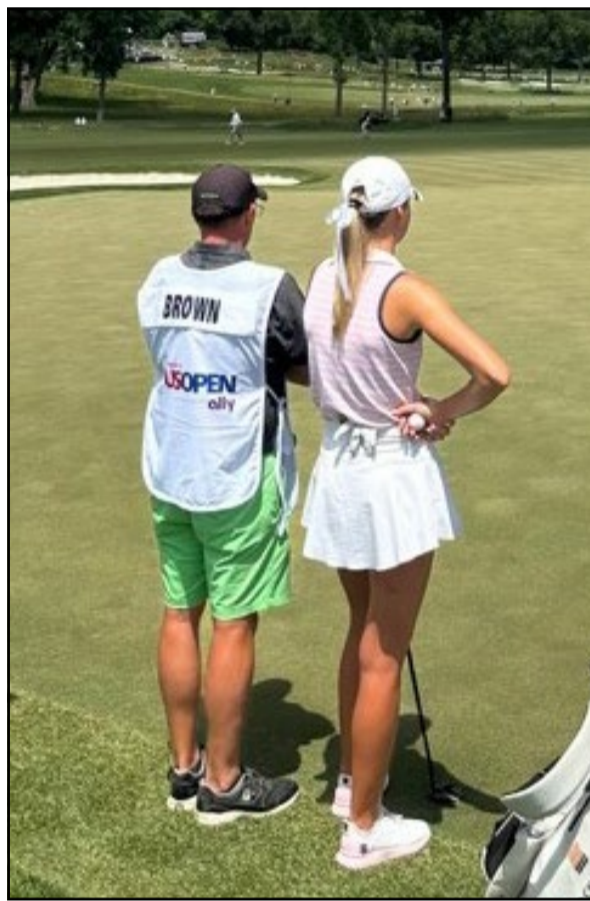
### Playing free

A little over a week later, Brown was in Clarendon Hills, Ill. at the Hinsdale Golf Club for the Women’s Western Junior. This was the fourth time she played in the event, and she got by far her most successful result, breaking through to win a tournament that had been a tough one in the past.

First there was a 36-hole stroke play tournament to determine the 16 players that advance to match play. Brown qualified 10th with a two-day total of 72-76=148. She was seeded 13th in the match play but powered her way through four matches to get to the trophy, culminating with a 4 & 3 win in the championship round.

“I played pretty well,” said Brown. “I worked my way around the golf course and I didn’t lose control of any of the matches. The first match was the toughest. It was just back and forth all the way and I wound up winning 2 Up in that match.”

Brown missed the cut in her first try at the Women’s Western Junior, then made



Photos provided

Westfield graduate Samantha Brown played in two big tournaments over the past month. First, Brown competed in the U.S. Women’s Open in Lancaster, Pa., then traveled to Chicagoland to play in – and win – the Women’s Western Junior championship.

the cut the next two times but lost her first match.

“Going into the events, I just wanted to make match play,” said Brown. Once Brown got through her Sweet 16 match, she said she was able to go out and play free, “cruising through” all of her matches.

“All the girls I played

with are great, they were super sweet,” said Brown.

In between those events, Brown played in the Pete & Alice Dye Junior Invitational, which took place June 3 to 5 at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel. Brown tied for 19th in the Alice Dye Division with a three-day score of 80-78-72=230.

“One of my biggest goals this year was to play in some big events and get some good finishes, which thankfully I’ve been able to do,” said Brown. “It’s nice to see all the work paying off.”

After a few weeks off, Brown will be playing in some more summer tournaments, including the U.S. Ju-

nior tournament, the Indiana State Amateur and the Junior PGA tournament, which takes place July 30 to Aug. 2 at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md.

Then it’s off to Purdue, where she will join the Boilermakers team. Brown said she is considering majoring in finance.

## Westfield’s Cesare & Guerin Catholic’s Wessel make it to Round of 16 at Boys State Junior Championship

### The REPORTER

Two Hamilton County golfers are into the Round of 16 at the Boys State Junior Championship, which is taking place at Purdue University’s Ackerman-Al-len course.

The match play portion of the tournament began Wednesday with first-round play, immediately followed by second-round play.

Jake Cesare, an incoming senior at Westfield, advanced with a 2 Up victory over Charlestown’s Samuel Harris in his second-round match. Recent Guerin Catholic graduate Leo Wes-

sel also won, cruising past Lafayette’s Charlie Seaburg 6 & 4.

Jake Cesare and Wessel will play each other in this morning’s Round of 16, with their match beginning at 8:40 a.m. The winner advances to the quarterfinals, which take place this afternoon.

Westfield junior-to-be Ryan Cesare also played in the second round, falling to Fort Wayne’s Alex Holder 3 & 2. Ryan Cesare edged out Hamilton Southeastern incoming junior Mattingly Upchurch in 20 holes in a first-round match.

Wessel defeated Bargersville’s Brody Holubar 5 & 3 to win in the first round, while Jake Cesare won a first-round match over HSE graduate Jordan Huxford 2 Up.

In other first-round matches, Guerin Catholic senior-to-be Robbie Burt fell to Richmond’s Brady Moore 2 & 1, while Westfield incoming senior Will Harvey was edged out by Ellettsville’s Luke Garrett in 19 holes. Fishers junior-to-be Thomas Klinker lost to Indianapolis’ Johnny Leaman 2 & 1, while incoming

Westfield junior Hudson Kutchma dropped a 3 & 1 match to Lafayette’s Sam Peter.

Incoming Southeastern senior Kai Warner fell to Whiteland’s Jack Besner 2 & 1, with recent HSE graduate Vijeet Akala dropping a 2 & 1 match to Lafayette’s Charlie Seaburg. Noblesville senior-to-be Lance Decker lost 5 & 4 to Fort Branch’s Peyton Blackard, while another Noblesville golfer, incoming junior Dustin Turpin, fell to Roanoke’s Landon Snyder 5 & 3.

## Numerous local players compete in Indiana PGA Women’s Open tourney

### The REPORTER

Several Hamilton County players are competing in the Indiana PGA Women’s Open championship, taking place this week at Orchard Ridge in Fort Wayne.

The tournament began Wednesday with the first round. Fishers’ Janelle Garcia is the top Hamilton County golfer so far with 74, tying her for sixth place. Garcia made four birdies in her round. Carmel’s Sydney Longstreth is tied for eighth place with 75, making two birdies.

The tournament concludes today. Here is a list

of players with Hamilton County ties.

**T6.** Janelle Garcia, Fishers 74, **T8.** Sydney Longstreth, Carmel 75, **T14.** Lauren Stewart, Fishers 76; Yanah Ralston, Fortville 76, **T18.** Eleanor Schuitema, Carmel 77, **T21.** Becky Williams, Zionsville 78, **T25.** Caroline Whallon, Noblesville 79; Lauren Tibbetts, Carmel 79; **T32.** Sydni Zebrauskas, Cicero 81, **T38.** Macy Beeson, Harbour Trees 83, **42.** Brette Hanavan, Westfield 85, **T44.** Marissa Spreitzer, Fishers 88, **T46.** Abigail Bladen, Carmel 89.

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## CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET

CENTRAL INDIANA STATISTICS FROM THE 16-COUNTY REGION

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↑ \$360,893 compared to this time last year	May pending home sales compared to this time last year ↓ 3.4%	5/23 vs. 5/24
↑ 2.9% Price Increase 5/23 vs. 5/24	Months of Inventory Change ↑ 26.2% 5/23 vs. 5/24	Interest Rates 30-Year Fixed 7.125% With an APR of 7.291%
TOP COUNTIES Morgan County Sales Up 31.1%	Johnson County Sales Up 14.5%	Brown and Putnam County Sales Up 11.1%
FAIR HOUSING CASES Total-8 Rental-7 Sales-1 Other-0	F.C. TUCKER COMPANY	

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# Coaching future Blackhawk volleyballers



Photo by Dwight Casler

The Sheridan High School volleyball team hosted a Youth Volleyball Camp this week on Monday and Wednesday. The camp was for students entering grades 2-5 this school year. Blackhawks coach Melissa Jump said there were 26 campers this year. "They did really well," said Jump. "They got better from the beginning to the end and that's what we were looking for." Jump said there will be "five or six" incoming freshmen on the team. Jackie Johnson is moving up from junior varsity assistant to JV head coach, with Karen Carter becoming the new JV assistant coach.

# Colts & Girls Inc. hold flag football clinic to empower girls

By REYNA REVELLE  
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The Indianapolis Colts and the Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis teamed up Tuesday for an extraordinary event: A flag football clinic that promised to be much more than just a sports activity for girls ages 6 to 12 who are ready to lace up their cleats.

The unique flag football clinic wasn't just about throwing touchdowns or making catches; it was about fostering confidence, teamwork, and determination in these young girls.

"Girls don't have a lot of access to football programming so this is their intro into football and movement," said Lindsay Gramlich, president and chief executive officer of Girls Inc.

Participants from the Girls Inc.'s summer camp program stepped onto the field at Matchbook Learning at Wendell Phillips School to learn the fundamentals of football. "Our mission is to be strong, smart and bold. So, this is really focusing on the strong piece of movement. Our partnership with the Indianapolis Colts, they

are an amazing organization with so many amazing female leaders," Gramlich said.

Fifty girls were under the guidance of Colts players and coaches. Andy Matis, senior manager of football development for the Colts, said, "Now, you can pick up a football at a young age and continue to play all the way through adulthood without having to worry about, 'Hey, do I want to jump to the boys side of tackling things.'"

The collaboration was designed to promote inclusivity and diversity with-

in flag football, and bring more opportunities to those who may not have access to the sport. Gramlich said that "82 percent of the girls that we serve identify as girls of color. So, we have diversity across the board in ages and race."

Through drills, teamwork exercises, and spirited play, they built confidence while honing in leadership skills. Matis said, "Being able to work as a team, stay disciplined, have good character and sportsmanship. I mean we consistently rely on the values that our game instills in the youth."

Through the sport of flag football, the girls could earn valuable life skills that will stay with them long after the whistle blows.

Sixth-grader London Harris said that she gained "better sportsmanship and more into learning how to play most games."

"I love that I get to see my friends, and I get to improve on my friendships and get to learn how to be a better leader."

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/local-news/flag-football-clinic-empowers-girls](http://wishtv.com/news/local-news/flag-football-clinic-empowers-girls).*



## Community Resource Fair

**JULY 20, 2024** From **11am till 3pm**  
NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS COMMUNITY CENTER • 1775 FIELD DR. NOBLESVILLE, IN

The Hamilton County Veterans Corp is hosting a county wide Resource Fair again in 2024! We hope to reach as many of our Military/Veteran population as possible and to encourage our whole community to stop in and see what we are doing in Hamilton County. The more we know about the resources readily available to address all our issues and needs, the more connected and stronger we will be as a community of friends helping friends/Veterans Serving Veterans.

At this fair we will have over 85 resource tables there for you to get the assistance you need for the following topics and so much more from several local, regional and national providers:

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VA Hospital	Mental Health	Retirement	Suicide Prevention
CVSO's	Housing	Legal	Family Programs
County/City Health	Dental Health	Financial Help	HVAF
IDVA	Employment	Homeless	Faith Based

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presents 13th Annual

**FREE**

**2024 Outdoor Movies at Shelter 1 Forest Park in Noblesville**

**MOVIE NIGHT**



**June 28th**

**That Touch of Mink**  
(1962 - NR)

**FREE Movies for the public, starts approx 9:15 pm. (dusk)**

**Bring your blankets, chairs and refreshments.**

Visit Wafford Theater Facebook page for info and weather alerts

We Thank the following Partners

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