

**FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024**

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

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Today: Partly sunny morning. Mostly cloudy afternoon.  
 Tonight: Scattered showers and storms. Humidity returns.  
 HIGH: 85 LOW: 71



# Recipe for success

*Carmel culinary community lends support as students prepare for national competition*

By **AMY ADAMS**  
[news@readthereporter.com](mailto:news@readthereporter.com)

Recently, Carmel High School (CHS) needed professional space for its culinary arts students to practice their skills for the upcoming Family Career and Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference in Seattle. Chefs at Woodland Terrace, Ritz Charles, and Market District gladly opened the doors to their kitchens.

"We have been fortunate to be supported by an incredible culinary community here in Carmel," said Chaya Reich, president and founder of Carmel Culinary Boosters.

Chef John Williams, whose grandmother owned a catering



Reporter photo by Amy Adams  
 (From right) Chef Nick Carter, CHS culinary instructor, and Chef John Williams, Woodland Terrace culinary services director, provide guidance and space for CHS juniors Rylenn Garner and Elizabeth Siders to prepare for competition.

See Recipe . . . Page 2



## Westfield to seek intervention in Duke Energy rate increase case

Submitted by **City of Westfield**

In response to Duke Energy's proposed rate increase, the City of Westfield has announced its intent to seek permission to participate in the case from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC).

This decision comes after carefully considering the potential impact on residents and businesses within the community.

On April 10, 2024, Westfield Mayor Scott Willis released a statement urging Duke Energy to explore alternative solutions that prioritize the well-being of Westfield residents and how he will advocate for the best interests of residents.



Willis

Duke Energy's proposal seeks to adjust rates for electricity distribution, citing infrastructure upgrades and operational costs as primary drivers. This would result in approximately a 16 percent average bill increase in two phases: 12 percent in 2025 and 4 percent in 2026. However, Westfield officials expressed concerns regarding the magnitude and timing of the proposed increase, emphasizing the potential financial strain on local consumers, given Duke Energy received a rate increase of \$146 million in June 2020.

The City's participation in the IURC proceeding underscores Westfield's commitment to advocating for affordable and reliable energy services. The City aims to reach a balanced resolution through a transparent and collaborative process with Duke Energy and regulatory authorities.

City officials will work closely with legal counsel to prepare a comprehensive case for the IURC review. The City has engaged energy attorneys at Bose, McKinney, and Evans, LLC, to represent the City. There are currently 11 intervenors in the rate case including environmental groups, small and large business customers, Citizens Action Coalition, and the OUC.

Updates will be communicated through official city channels.

Click here to learn more about the rate case, and click here to learn more about submitting written comments.

# Mentally healthy as a horse

*Ben's Stables helps young people find balance*

By **ANNA MITCHELL**  
[news@readthereporter.com](mailto:news@readthereporter.com)

Brose McVey started Ben's Ranch for youth who struggle with mental health, and in 2023 their reach extended to Koteewi Stables and Trails. On Saturday, June 22, volunteers and teens gathered to build fences around 17 acres, doubling the size of the stables.

The day was a "Boot Camp," one of the three programs that Ben's Ranch Offers. Boot Camps are free of charge. They run for half a day and center around one project. The students, staff, and volunteers work together towards a common goal, building relationships and fences at the same time.

"They basically give us a chance to meet young people whose families think they might be good candidates for our program, or who need an activity," McVey said. "And they give us a chance to give young people



Photo provided  
 Volunteers turned out last weekend to give their time and labor so Ben's Stables at Koteewi Park could double in size.

who want to participate a kind of a touch and feel of working on a farm or a stable and learning a skill or two while they're

at it. Even if it's just a half a day, it gives them that exposure, and if they are interested in our programs, then we're able to assess

their physical health, their interest level and so forth."

See Ranch . . . Page 3

## Packing the pantries one pancake breakfast at a time



Photo provided

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Sheridan recently had a pancake breakfast to raise money for the Sheridan Library. The club accepted donations of food from members and attendees of the breakfast. Fifty pounds of food was collected and donated to the Feeding Team. Mark and Lisa Hall, founders of the Feeding Team, used this food to stock their Sheridan yellow free-standing food pantry. (From left) Kiwanis member Bob Chance, Kiwanis President Brian Bragg, and Feeding Team founders Lisa and Mark Hall.

## Noblesville Lions Club assists Teter Retreat Organic Farms



Photo provided by Noblesville Lions Club / Jake Dill

On Wednesday, the Noblesville Lions were entertained by speaker Katy Rogers, Farm Manager at Teter Retreat Organic Farms. Teter Farms is an outreach mission of Noblesville First United Methodist Church; which grows mixed vegetables on five acres of land. Ms. Rogers outlined all the activities of Teter Farms for the club and was presented with a check for \$1,000 for a project the farm is working on. (ABOVE) Lion President Walt Scheid and Katy Rogers.

**UNCLE PAUL WANTS YOU TO PRESS PLAY**

Click to play video

Enjoy another episode of "Hello, Hamilton County"

# Garage Sale

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Friday 6/28 8am-1pm  
Saturday 6/29 8am - noon**

**Athletic - javelin, bosu ball, weights, baseball gear, bike  
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## RECIPE

from Page 1

company in Muncie, serves as culinary services director at Woodland Terrace of Carmel, a senior living facility at 689 Pro-Med Lane. He oversees four kitchens in the Woodland Terrace main dining room, ballroom, bistro, and fine dining restaurant.

"We don't have commercial kitchens at the high school yet, but the kids needed a place to practice," CHS Culinary Instructor Nick Carter said.

When Carter reached out to Williams about allowing several students to come into one of the Woodland Terrace kitchens to practice preparing recipes, Williams didn't hesitate to offer up his space.

"For us to be able to offer our kitchen up to them is huge," Woodland Terrace Executive Director Nick Halstead said. "A lot of people have this stereotype of senior living that the food isn't great. But Woodland Terrace really takes pride in the food we offer."

CHS juniors Rylynn Garner and Elizabeth Siders and senior Julia Hohne gathered in the main kitchen at Woodland Terrace on Wednesday, June 19. Garner and Siders, who will compete in the culinary arts category, prepared medallion pork with quinoa, mushroom sauce, sauteed vegetables, and salad. Hohne, who will compete in the baking and pastry category, baked blueberry muffins, chocolate chip cookies, and cream puffs.

Williams is no stranger to working alongside CHS students as he has participated in Cheftacular, an event which Carter helped start six years ago. Cheftacular pairs CHS culinary students with local professional chefs for a charity tasting event and culinary competition that raises money for the CHS culinary arts, the Cheftacular scholarship, and the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank.

In May, Williams and his student partner, 2024 graduate Korede Igbalaye, took first place from among 18 chef-student teams. Williams said residents at Woodland Terrace not only taste-tested and helped select the smoked duck on crostini with peach goat cheese mousse, whiskey cherries, and thyme as their Cheftacular entry, some of the residents even showed up to support Igbalaye in the competition. Williams also said that Igbalaye still shadows him in the kitchen about once a week.

Williams likes having students in his kitchen.

"It brings a new atmosphere," he said. "Plus, I



(TOP, from left) CHS culinary arts students Julia Honhe, Elizabeth Siders, and Rylynn Garner will compete at the Family Career and Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference in Seattle. (CENTER) CHS juniors Elizabeth Siders (left) and Rylynn Garner practice preparing pork medallions at Woodland Terrace of Carmel. (ABOVE) Medallion pork with quinoa, mushroom sauce, and sauteed vegetables is the competition recipe for the culinary arts category at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Seattle this year.

get to see who's coming up and maybe I can hire one of them."

Emily Daily placed second at FCCLA nationals prior to graduating from CHS several years ago. A graduate of Sullivan University, Daily now works at Le Petit Gateau in Carmel and returned to Cheftacular this year as a mentor chef.

"The gift that I've had watching her go to a confident professional chef is priceless," Carter said.

Carter taught biology and chemistry in high school and at Ivy Tech before going to culinary school. He helped open the culinary kitchens at Pike High School and will be doing the same at CHS in the near future.

"Part of what I enjoy about teaching culinary is that it's really a life skill,"

Carter said. "Even if they don't go into restaurants, it's helping kids learn to cook for themselves. There is no situation where you don't need to eat for the rest of your life. I find that it is not only a valuable thing, but it also gives students the opportunity to explore a career option without investing in schooling."

Garner, Honhe, and Siders, along with 2024 CHS graduate Scout Phillips will compete in Seattle June 29 to July 3.

"Everyone wants to see these kids do great at nationals, but it's not just about competition," Reich said. "The Carmel culinary community actively supports culinary education in Carmel, believing that these kids, with support and guidance, can and will do amazing things."



# THE MUSIC OF EARTH WIND AND FIRE

SERPENTINE FIRE WITH CSO

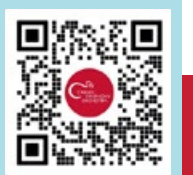
WEDNESDAY, JULY 3 | COXHALL GARDENS

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)



# RANCH

from Page 1

The other programs Ben's Ranch offers are Small Groups and Internships. Small Groups are run continuously and encourage the youth to get outside, interact with nature and animals, and engage in physical outdoor labor. Unlike the Small Groups, the Internships are paid. These part time jobs take place on farms on the 15 various locations in central Indiana, including the Koteewi Stables and Trails.

While the Boot Camp ended last Saturday, work continued throughout the week until the project was finished. Youth and volunteers from the Small Groups and Internships helped with the project in an ongoing opportunity.

Building fences expands the Koteewi Stables and Trails and, in turn, expands the opportunities that Ben's Ranch can offer the youth.

Around 30 people worked on the project. McVey said he is thankful for all the volunteers and youth who worked hard under the hot sun. They put their sweat into the fences, but had fun, gathered experience, and met new people along the way.

"Our youth that we work with as part of our programs are invited and encouraged to come out and be part of that process so they learn about measuring and tools," McVey said. "It's kind of a satisfying process to actually build something, and so it gives us not only an opportunity to expand our capacity out there and our platform, but also to get the kids involved."

Ben's Ranch does more than build fences, though. McVey said they strive to have creative topics and different settings. They design their experiences so



Photos provided

Learn more about the Ben's Ranch Foundation at [BensRanch.org](http://BensRanch.org), and about Koteewi Stables and Trails [KoteewiTrails.org](http://KoteewiTrails.org).

the youth can have fun and learn all at the same time.

While the skills the students learn and the work they do looks good on a resume, the real value is in helping their mental health.

The ranch's mission is stated on their website: "Ben's Ranch seeks to improve the lives of youth struggling with mental health issues by connecting them to jobs and experiences on farms, at stables and in other natural and agricultural settings."

McVey started the ranch because of his son Ben and dedicated it to his memory. Ben was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder when he was 14. Hoping to save his son's crumbling mental health and their struggling family relationships, McVey enrolled Ben on a ranch.

Ben's mental health improved. He found drive and confidence, and from the talks he shared with his father, he sounded happier. Although Ben died at 24, he died with a job and with

friends. McVey saw the positive impact the ranch had on his son and dedicated himself to try and provide that hope and healing to other people.

Volunteer opportunities can also be found on the website. Ben's Ranch Foundation can be flexible with people's schedules. They always appreciate the special skills people can bring to the table, or in this case, fences.

"We'll always welcome folks that want to help with stuff like that," McVey said. "But also our volun-

teer opportunities span a wide range of roles and ways that people can help. Again, even if they have to do it from a home office or if they have to restrict their role to one they can do once in awhile or on an ongoing basis for us. So there's just a lot of ways to get involved if you're interested."

At Koteewi Stables and Trails, they are starting new small groups in July, and they are hosting Boot Camps on July 13 and Aug. 3. McVey continues to work

full time at the ranch. He said they are also working with schools, specifically Sheridan and Hamilton Heights. McVey said they will continue to deepen their relationships with schools as they expand Ben's Ranch and reach more youth.

Learn more about the Ben's Ranch Foundation, as well as Ben's full story, online at [bensranch.org/bens-story](http://bensranch.org/bens-story).

Learn more about Koteewi Stables and Trails online at [KoteewiTrails.org](http://KoteewiTrails.org).

# 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.

# WESTFIELD ROCKS THE 4<sup>TH</sup>





## Still time for family fun at Spark!Fishers

**The REPORTER**

The Spark!Fishers festival presented by Meijer continues through Saturday, June 29.

New this year, don't miss the fireworks display to conclude the concert on Friday night at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater. Fireworks will be launched from Holland Park (closed to the public during the show) and the best viewing spot is the NPD AMP lawn.

For Saturday's festivities, Spark!Fishers attendees are encouraged to park at the FORUM Conference Center, 11313 USA Pkwy., and take the free shuttle running from

2 to 10 p.m. Shuttles will stop between 5 and 7 p.m. due to the parade at 6 p.m. Shuttles will resume at 7 p.m. and end at 10 p.m.

**Remaining Events**

- **Friday, June 28** at 8 p.m. / Free Concert featuring Red: A Taylor Swift Tribute at the NPD AMP, followed by a fireworks show
- **Saturday, June 29** from 2 to 9 p.m. / Street Fair, with Parade at 6 p.m.

Please be aware of road closures; see a full list [here](#). Parking information is available [here](#).

Learn more about the festival at [SparkFishers.com](#).

**The REPORTER**

Earlier this month, the Hamilton County Leadership Academy (HCLA) added 35 community leaders to their alumni ranks. With this graduating class, HCLA's more than 30-year legacy grew to nearly 900 alumni who have and continue to make their mark in Hamilton County.

"As my time as Dean comes to an end, I can't help but wonder what the future holds for this remarkable group of individuals," said Patrick Propst, who served as the Class of 2024 Dean. "While I may not know exactly what is in store, one thing is certain: they are equipped with the knowledge, resources, and network provided by HCLA to make a significant impact in their respective spheres of influence – be it individually, family, career, or community."

The HCLA program is made possible by the support of community partners with a special thank you to the Hamilton County Community Foundation and Duke Energy, who served as

the program sponsors for the Class of 2024.

**HCLA Class of 2024**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Katie Abernathy   Alpha Gamma Delta                     | Emily Hitchcock   Conner Prairie Museum                 |
| Billy Adams   Westfield Police Department               | Danielle Humphrey   Conner Prairie Museum               |
| Sandy Allen   Hamilton County Tourism                   | Tonya Hyatt   Community Advocate                        |
| Joshua Andrews   Westfield Washington Schools           | Stephanie Lay   3Rivers Federal Credit Union            |
| Chris Beaver   Beaver Gravel Corporation                | Julie Plake   United Way of Central Indiana             |
| Aaron Collins   OfficeWorks                             | Brian Price   Wessler Engineering                       |
| Christina Collins   Ivy Tech-Hamilton County            | Bailey Rayford   Kendal Logan Logistics, LLC            |
| Brittany Delph   Student Impact of Westfield            | Jennifer Roam   City of Fishers                         |
| Murry Dixon   Noblesville Fire Department               | Elizabeth Roberson   Krieg DeVault LLP                  |
| Brien Donahue   Performance Contracting, Inc.           | Jennifer Rozelle   Indiana Estate & Elder Law           |
| Pete Dunbar   American Bank of Freedom                  | Hyacinth Rucker   The Children's Museum of Indianapolis |
| Katie Ellis   Purdue University                         | Emily J. Schmale   Church Church Hittle + Antrim        |
| Patricia Ellis   Tegria                                 | Alexis Sowder   KSM Location Advisors                   |
| Jenell Fairman   City of Westfield                      | Peg Strass   City of Westfield                          |
| Derrick Ferguson   Inherent Construction                | Jordan Willy   City of Fishers                          |
| Anthony Gary   Village Capital Corp. - A Pedcor Company | Ashley Woodward Fischer   Beck's                        |
| Samuel Gibson   Custom Concrete                         | Lindsay Zehren   Resounding Joy Indiana                 |
| Heather Haas   ADVISA                                   |   |

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**HCLA**

the program sponsors for the Class of 2024.

HCLA's legacy will continue to grow as preparation for the HCLA Class of 2025 is in motion. A formal announcement of the next cohort will be made in July.

**About HCLA**

Hamilton County Leadership Academy (HCLA) unites, inspires, and empowers confident leaders from varied industries to support Hamilton County. The 10-month program provides those who work or live in Hamilton County with unique access to knowledge, community leaders, and local organizations. HCLA graduates gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the coun-

ty; create meaningful, life-long connections with their peers, HCLA alumni, and community leaders; and are inspired and empowered to drive and amplify community impact. Learn more at [hcla.net](#).

*Letter to the Editor*

### Lowry cites "greedflation" as Duke Energy's reason for rate increase request

Dear Editor:

Do you have an extra \$504 that I can take from you and put into my bank account? That is exactly what Duke Energy is asking Hoosiers.

Our energy utility corporation has requested to increase our rates by 16.2 percent while providing the same services. At a time when our paychecks are stretched further than ever, Duke Energy wants to increase your utilities bill by an average of \$504 per year.

I strongly oppose this rate hike and ask that you join me in asking the Indiana Utility Regulatory Committee to reject this unreasonable rate hike.

For a massive rate increase, you would think Duke is struggling, right? WRONG. Last year, the North Carolina-based company made \$2.87 BILLION in pure profit, with \$497 million coming from Hoosiers.

This price hike isn't a partisan issue. I applaud Westfield Mayor Scott Willis for publicly opposing the rate hike, and I hope other elected officials will be brave enough to speak out as well.

Duke claims the rate hike is for improvements to the grid. But, Duke is also asking to have its profit margin increased from 9.7 percent to 10.5 percent. When corporations pass their business costs onto consumers, THAT is what causes inflation. Or, more appropriately ... greed-flation. Investments in infrastructure are necessary, but our bank accounts shouldn't suffer for Duke Energy to do their job when they already profit billions each year.

Greedflation is not new, but now it has shifted into overdrive. From 1980 to 2020, profits accounted for 11 percent of inflation; in 2023, corporate profits caused inflation to spike more than 50 percent!

It's time we take action. Let the IURC know that Duke's 16.2 percent rate hike is unacceptable.

Submit a written comment, by July 5, to the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, the state agency that represents all consumers in cases before the IURC at [in.gov/oucc](#) or by email to [uccinfo@oucc.in.gov](#).

Our collective voices are more powerful than ever. So, send a message to the IURC, Duke Energy, and all big corporations that we won't stand for putting profits over people.

**Josh Lowry**  
 Westfield

*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.*

**Thanks for reading The REPORTER!**  
 For more news, visit [ReadTheReporter.com](#)

# Jumpstart your July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration with ATI & CSO

## The REPORTER

Actors Theatre of Indiana is joining forces once again with the Carmel Symphony Orchestra. Bring your friends and family and join ATI and CSO on Wednesday, July 3 as they celebrate the country's independence in the best way – with live music.

From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., ATI will kick off the celebration with a patriotic tribute of George M. Cohan medleys.

Cohan was an American entertainer, playwright, composer, actor, singer, and dancer. He wrote more than 50 shows and published more than 300 songs during his lifetime, including "Over There," "Give My Regards to Broadway," "The Yankee Doodle Boy" and "You're a Grand Old Flag."

Joining ATI for this patriotic performance will be Jacob Butler, Cynthia Collins, Judy Fitzgerald, and Darrin Murrell.

This delightful evening will continue as the CSO presents the second in the



Butler



Collins



Fitzgerald



Murrell



Summer Concert Series. This concert, featuring Serpentine Fire, a tribute to the music of Earth, Wind & Fire, begins at 8:30 p.m., immediately following a performance by Indianapolis' own Bashiri Asad.

The Centerpiece Amphitheater at Coxhall Gardens is an exceptional venue for

creating memories for your family, friends, or associates. Bring a picnic and spread out on the lawn or buy seats in the Terrace and VIP sections for a more comfortable evening and better views.

Food trucks will be available throughout the night, along with stations

featuring Sugar Creek Winery and Bier Brewery. CSO is partnering with Artomobilia this year, so you can also enjoy strolling along and looking at some of the special automobiles that will be on display.

Click here for ticket information. Kids under 5 are free to attend.

## Spreading joy to your customers: knock their socks off thank yous

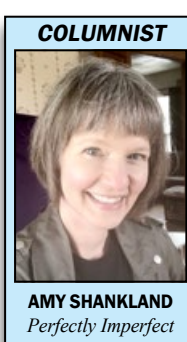
We're continuing our discussion about how to spread joy to customers by being creative when thanking them. Last week I covered thank you notes. This week I'll highlight other, simple things we can do to make a customer's day.

**Send or Share a Photo**  
This thank you method is probably the simplest of all, but it is my favorite way to show appreciation to customers – or really, anyone. When I worked for the City of Noblesville, I ordered a large "thank you" sign from our Logan Street Signs and Banners. At the time it cost \$30.

Whenever we received a grant for a piece of equipment, project, or program, I would gather the appropriate staff to have them hold that sign and take their picture. This was fun for both us and the recipient!

**Show Versus Tell**  
If there's any way to show a customer how much of an impact they're making versus just telling them, take advantage of it. Here are some ideas:

1. If you're a nonprof-



COLUMNIST

AMY SHANKLAND  
Perfectly Imperfect

it, host an open house one day where your donors can see programs they helped fund in action.

2. Perhaps your business has experienced tremendous growth. Give your existing customers the chance to have a "sneak preview" one evening of, for example, the new physical therapy wing in your building.

3. Customer site visits for a variety of places can be fun for everyone involved. If you manufacture a product, open your door once a month for some guided public tours.

### News Releases & Social Media

This thank you method might be appropriate for only specific types of industries or organizations, but it's a simple one if you have a public relations person or department.

### Mention Customers in an Annual Report or Newsletter

Some of us might remember the excitement of seeing our photo and an article about us in the local paper growing up. It was always a thrill to open the

newspaper and see myself on stage in my high school play, on the tennis court during an intense match, or leading a fundraiser in college.

Why not feature customers in your annual report or newsletter? If you have way too many customers to mention them all, you can do a "customer of the year" or "customer of the month" corner with a photo and brief paragraph.

### Artwork/Thank You from Children or Clients Served

Once again, this may only work for certain workplaces, but sharing artwork or thank you notes from children or clients served all because of your customers is one of the most memorable ways to show

appreciation. **Tree or Shrub Planting**  
If you do any sort of yearly improvements for your landscaping, this is almost a no-brainer. When you plant that new tree or shrub, why not order a durable outdoor plaque recognizing an outstanding customer to be placed in front of it?

Next week we'll wrap up how to spread joy to customers through "thank yous" with some ideas that take a bit more effort but offer tremendous benefits!

*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](mailto:amys@greenavenue.info).*

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High school jazz quintet Europa (above left) and young vocalist Teliah McClung (above right) are among the slate of performers scheduled to appear at this year's Carmel Jazz Fest in August.

# Carmel Jazz Fest puts focus on youth & education for 2024

### The REPORTER

The second annual Carmel Jazz Fest (CJF) returns Aug. 9 and 10.

In addition to Carmel Jazz Fest featuring top international, regional, and local acts in jazz, blues and R&B, CJF will shine a spotlight on emerging artists from local high schools and Indiana colleges.

This year, CJF welcomes high school-level performers from Carmel High School, Zionsville High School, and The Classical Academy in Indianapolis. **Europa** – a high school jazz quintet – will perform with special guest high school vocalist **Delila Seal** from 9 to 9:30 p.m. on Aug. 10 on the Carter Green Stage.

**Teliah McClung**, a senior at The Classical Academy in Indianapolis, is a rising vocalist who has lent her voice to studio recordings for Plank Road Publishing, participated in Midtown's Got Talent, and has performed at Feinstein's in Carmel. McClung will perform at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Rotary Amphitheater at Carter Green.

Carmel Jazz Fest also welcomes four Indiana universities to the weekend event. CJF's organizers say they believe featuring university talent allows guests

and students to be educated and inspired by experiencing the best of Indiana collegiate musical programs. The Studio Theatre will host the University of Indianapolis, Butler University, Indiana University, and Ball State University on Aug. 9 and 10. Please see the schedule at [carmeljazzfest.org](http://carmeljazzfest.org) for performance times and tickets.

CJF will also feature a special collaborative musical ensemble: **The College Professors**, comprising four university professors performing together. Mark Buselli of Ball State University, Mark O'Connor of University of Indianapolis, Matt Pivec of Butler University, and Tom Walsh of Indiana University will perform together at 9:30 p.m. on Aug. 10 at 9:30 p.m. on the Carter Green stage.

Also on Aug. 10 will be the CJF Music Education Panel from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Studio Theater. The CJF Music Education Panel allows festival patrons and students the opportunity to learn about music education. Guests will have the opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer session with university music educators and collegiate musicians.

Prepare to experience



The College Professors will take the Carter Green stage on Aug. 10 as part of Carmel Jazz Fest.

incredible live music inside all three venues within The Center for the Performing Arts – The Studio Theatre, The Tarkington, and the world-renowned Palladium – as well as outside at Carter Green and at Feinstein's

inside the Hotel Carmichael. To buy tickets or learn more about Carmel Jazz Fest, visit [carmeljazzfest.org](http://carmeljazzfest.org). Follow Carmel Jazz Fest on **Instagram** and **Facebook** to "Get Informed, Get Involved, and Get Jazzed!"

## West Fork Whiskey shines at worldwide competition

### Submitted

Ladies and gentlemen, whiskey aficionados and enthusiasts, a toast to West Fork Whiskey for its outstanding achievements at the prestigious 2024 International Whiskey Competition.

Amidst stiff competition, West Fork's brand has garnered multiple accolades that speak volumes about its commitment to excellence and innovation in the world of distilling. This competition is unlike any other as it only awards three whiskeys or bourbon in each category.

### Award-Winning Performances

#### Best Cask Strength Whiskey

• 3rd Place in the WORLD: Old Hamer Cask Strength

• Rating: 92.49 Points  
Standing proudly alongside industry giants, West Fork Whiskey's Old Hamer Cask Strength whiskey claims a well-deserved third place. With a stellar rating of 92.49, this exceptional offering embodies the finest craftsmanship and dedication to quality.

#### Best American Cask Finish

• 3rd best cask finish in the WORLD: Hugh Hamer Straight Bourbon Double Oak 103 Proof

• Rating: 91.42 Points

In the realm of cask finishes, West Fork Whiskey's Hugh Hamer Straight Bourbon Double Oak 103 Proof secures a remarkable 3rd place with a rating of 91.42 points. A testament to West Fork's ingenuity and unique flavor profiles.

#### Best Micro Distillery Whiskey (100K Bottles)

• 3rd Place: West Fork Whiskey Co.

In a celebration of micro-distillery craftsmanship, West Fork Whiskey clinched third place. A nod to West Fork's dedication to producing exceptional spirits, recognized on a global scale.

#### Best Indiana Whiskey

• 1st Place: Old Hamer Cask Strength Bourbon

• 3rd Place: Hugh Hamer Straight Bourbon Double Oak 103 Proof

West Fork Whiskey's prowess shines in its home state of Indiana, with the Old Hamer Cask Strength Bourbon claiming the top spot and the Hugh Hamer Double Oak 103 Proof securing a well-deserved third place.

\*\*\*

You can buy these bourbons at West Fork Whiskey in Westfield. If you are looking for them elsewhere, [click here](#).

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# Carmel plans for district that allows carrying alcohol outdoors

By **CHRISTOPHER CLAFFEY & GREGG MONTGOMERY**  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

The Carmel city government is looking to establish a Designated Outdoor Recreational Area.

Established by state law in 2023, DORAs allow alcohol to be carried outdoors in designated containers from designated businesses.

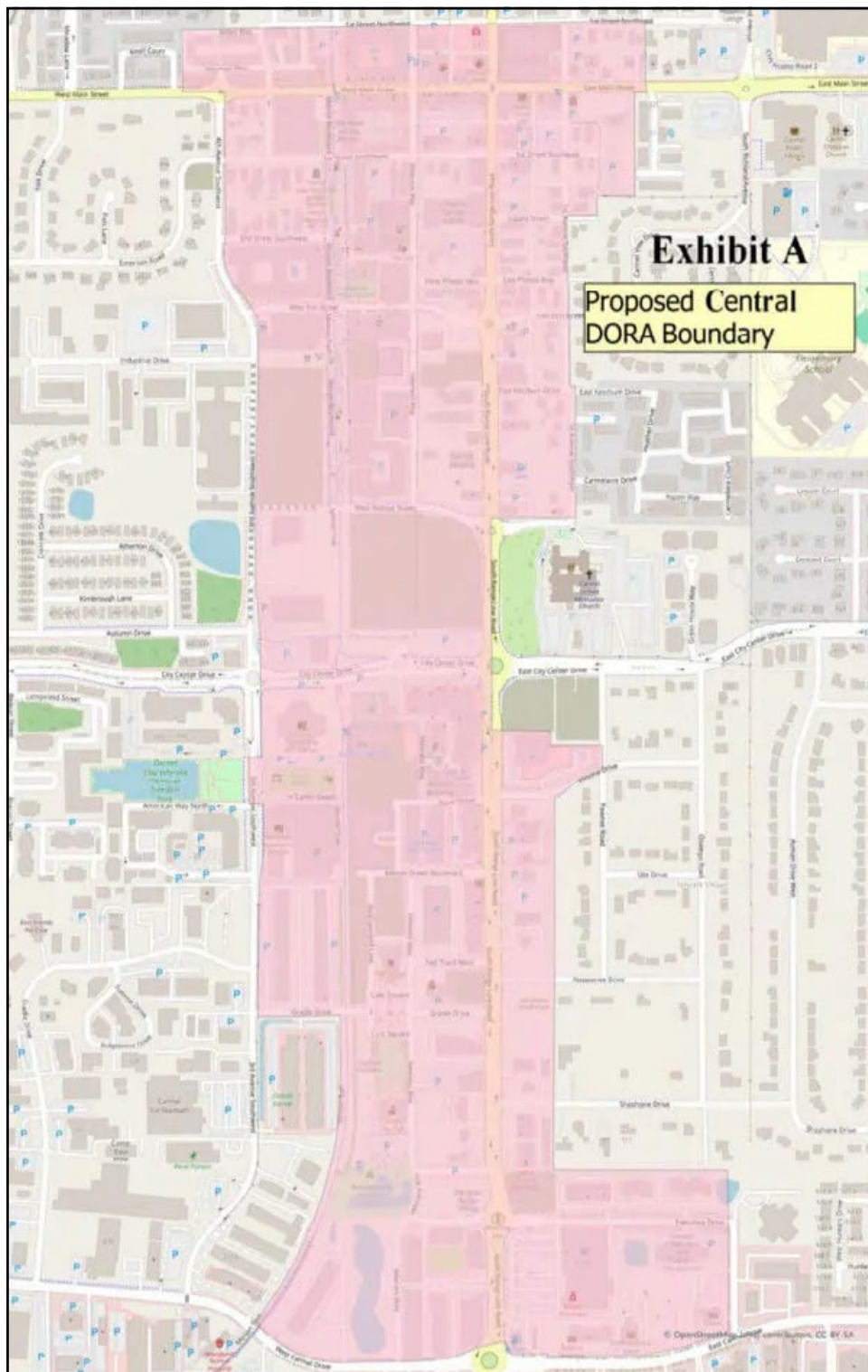
City Councilor Matthew Snyder, one of three sponsors of an ordinance to create the district, is supporting the proposal. The Republican says the upsides outweigh the downsides, and says it has support.

“There is a huge amount of support from the business owners around,” Snyder said. “In fact, I haven’t spoken with one against it yet. Our chamber of commerce, OneZone, has come out formally and in great support of this. We have not heard of anybody against it yet. We’ve had a few questions that people have wanted clarified, and, once they were, they were supportive.”

The ordinance will be introduced to the City Council at its next meeting at 6 p.m. Monday at City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

A map in the ordinance shows the district roughly bordered on the north by First Street Northwest; on the west by Fourth Avenue Southwest and Third Avenue Southwest; on the south by West Carmel Drive; and on the east by Executive Drive, the businesses along both sides of Range Line Road, and First Avenue Southeast. The Carmel Arts & Design District and The Center for the Performing Arts would be within the district.

It’s not clear if the ordinance will be voted on at



Graphic provided by City of Carmel

Monday’s meeting or sent to a committee for further review.

According to the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, these cities and towns have active DORAs: Batesville, Fort Wayne (it has two DORAs), Greensburg, Hunting-

burg, Jasper, Jeffersonville, Kirklint, Lawrenceburg, Logansport, Shelbyville, Warsaw, Winona Lake, and Yorktown.

Noblesville City Council in April approved the startup of a DORA, and Westfield City Council on

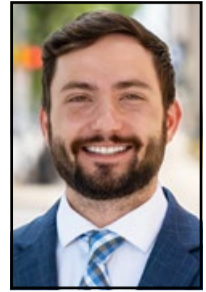
Monday approved one of its own.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/local-news/carmel-plans-for-district-that-allows-carrying-alcohol-outdoors](http://wishtv.com/news/local-news/carmel-plans-for-district-that-allows-carrying-alcohol-outdoors).

# Hallowell Consulting, LLC hires Luke Thomas as Director of Government Relations and Communications

## The REPORTER

Indianapolis-based Hallowell Consulting, LLC, a government relations and communications consulting firm, has hired southern Indiana native Luke Thomas as director of government relations and communications. He brings additional statewide relationships and



Thomas

Thomas formerly served as press secretary and digital director for the Indiana Republican Party and Eric Holcomb for Indiana. He also gained experience as the communications director for Chambers for Indiana.

For three years, Thomas served on the Perry County Council as both vice president and president. He also

served as the chairman of the Perry County Republican Party.

“Luke’s communications and public relations skills, combined with his background in government, make him a strong asset to our team,” Hallowell Consulting, LLC President Jennifer Hallowell said. “We’re thrilled to have him on board as we continue to grow our communications and government relations work and better serve our clients.”

Thomas earned his Master of Public Policy from Liberty University and his Bachelor of Science in applied geography with a concentration in urban and regional analysis from the University of Louisville.

# IMAX Indy announces remaining lineup of ‘Giant Films’ on state’s largest screen

## The REPORTER

After a successful first half of the year, the IMAX Theater in the Indiana State Museum unveiled the rest of the installations of the 2024 Classic Film Series lineup:

- **July 9:** *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), presented in IMAX Digital Format, and the 85th anniversary of the original release
- **Aug. 13:** *Pacific Rim* (2013), presented in IMAX Digital Format, and viewers’ choice Classics Film Vote runner-up
- **Sept. 17:** *The Godfather Coda: The Death of Michael Corleone* (2020)
- **Oct. 29:** *Pan’s Labyrinth* (2006)
- **Nov. 5:** *V for Vendetta* (2005)

• **Dec. 17:** *The Thing* (1982)

“I love highlighting movies, old and new, that shine on the giant screen,” IMAX Theater Manager Neale Johantgen said. “Seeing these larger-than-life stores with a crowd, in a theater setting, adds so much depth to the experience. You notice details you never knew were there from watching at home. We can’t wait to share these six films with Indianapolis!”

The downtown IMAX theatergoers enjoy validated parking in the White River State Park parking garage. To view the ever-updating list of films, visit [imaxindy.com](http://imaxindy.com).

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# Governor Eric J. Holcomb & Attorney General Todd Rokita seek execution date for convicted murderer

### The REPORTER

Governor Eric J. Holcomb announced Wednesday that he and Attorney General Todd Rokita are seeking the resumption of executions in Indiana prisons – starting with a convicted murderer responsible for the deaths of four people.

“After years of effort, the Indiana Department of Correction has acquired a drug – pentobarbital – which can be used to carry out executions,” Gov. Holcomb said. “Accordingly, I am fulfilling my duties as governor to follow the law and move forward appropriately in this matter.”

found guilty of the 1997 murders of four people. He exhausted his appeals in 2016 and has been awaiting execution.

“In Indiana, state law authorizes the death penalty as a means of providing justice for victims of society’s most heinous crimes and holding perpetrators accountable,” AG Rokita said. “Further, it serves as an effective deterrent for certain



Holcomb



Rokita

offenders who might otherwise commit similar extreme crimes of violence. Now that the Indiana Department of Correction is prepared to carry out the lawfully imposed sentence, it’s incumbent on our justice system to immediately enable executions in our prisons to resume. Today, I am filing a motion asking the Indiana Supreme Court to set a date for the execution potential of Joseph Corcoran.”

# Cicero Community Park: “I’ve got a sign! I’m somebody now!”



Photo provided

Come by Cicero Community Park and check out the new sign. Thank you to Abrasive Waterjet of Indiana for getting this done. (From left) Cicero Parks Superintendent Jim Hunter, Kathy Brown, Mike Hiatt, Sara Millis, Mike Heinzman, Mike Lynch, Dennis Schrupf, and Paul Leeman.

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# “Creative Aging” supported at 36 libraries across Indiana

Anderson & Westfield Washington public libraries will offer programming

### The REPORTER

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) announced Thursday that 36 libraries have received training and grant funding through Life-long Arts Indiana, a program that promotes arts and creativity services for adults ages 65 and older.

• **Westfield Washington Public Library:** “Harp Exploration with Melissa Gallant of Tuneful Harps” and “Sizzling with the Steel-

band: An interactive exploration of the Steel Drum”

• **Anderson Public Library in Madison County:** “Creative Aging: Art Workshop for Older Adults”

Click here to learn more about each of the projects, including dates.

Participating libraries were identified through a partnership with the Indiana State Library and were offered an opportunity to attend a training on creative

aging best practices and apply for an early action grant to deploy their learnings in their own communities.

Each library will receive up to \$5,000 to host programming for older adults, supported by the Indiana Arts Commission in partnership with the Family and Social Services Administration.

Funded programming will take place now through Dec. 13.

# 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.



## Stony Creek Church of Christ

*“First Century Christianity in the Twenty First Century”*

15530 Herriman Blvd., Noblesville  
 (317) 219-5852  
 Sunday Bible Study 10:00 am  
 Sunday Worship 11:00 am  
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm



# Families to lose access to key Medicaid program in Indiana

By **GARRETT BERGQUIST**  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

Families and advocates for medically complex children on Monday said Indiana officials did not clearly communicate who would qualify for a pair of cost-reimbursement programs through Medicaid.

Beginning July 1, parents will no longer be eligible to take part in the attendant care program, which reimburses caregivers of people with serious disabilities at a rate of \$34 per hour. If parents wish to continue to be reimbursed directly for caring for their medically complex children, they will have to sign up for the structured family caregiving program, which pays up to \$133 per day.

Jennifer DeWitt, whose son has several severe medical conditions and who has become a key advocate for

such families, said some families also have begun signing up for the state's home health aide program. Then last week, the state **Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA)** issued guidance that clarified one person can't participate in both programs.

"For a family that already has a whole lot of anxiety due to their kid's medical conditions in their life, to have this additional anxiety put in there of not every knowing when FSSA is going to pull the proverbial rug out from underneath them, you know, it's not necessary," DeWitt said. "They should have had their plans specified when they made these changes."

FSSA officials said their agency has never allowed one person to sign up for both structured family caregiving and the home health aide program. The same family

can receive both programs, but the same person cannot be signed up to be the designated caregiver for both. Officials said they updated the FAQs on their website last week to better communicate that in response to families' questions.

DeWitt said agency officials should have made that clearer to families. She said the rule makes things especially difficult for single parents, who have to choose which program best fits their child's needs and their financial situation.

Even families who do have both programs say it will be a struggle. Susan Graham's daughter, Paisley, has several conditions including cerebral palsy and intractable epilepsy. She still uses a feeding tube. Graham said her husband signed up for home health aide while she signed up for structured family caregiving. Still,

she said, the loss of the attendant care program will hurt her ability to save for college for her two older children. It also will make it harder to buy Paisley a new wheelchair. Graham said the current one doesn't fit her daughter well, and Medicaid only covers one new wheelchair every five years.

"I really feel that FSSA has harmed my family. They've harmed my daughter by adding that stress that we don't need," she said.

Graham said she plans to continue to lobby lawmakers to make changes to the program. Lawmakers return to the Statehouse in January for the 2025 legislative session. The session will include the state budget.

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/politics/families-to-lose-access-to-key-medicaid-program-in-indiana](http://wishtv.com/news/politics/families-to-lose-access-to-key-medicaid-program-in-indiana).*

# Rep. Banks introduces Conscience Protection Act

**The REPORTER**

Congressman Jim Banks (R-Ind.-03) introduced the Conscience Protection Act, which would protect health care providers from being forced to participate in induced abortions or similar procedures that violate their sincerely held beliefs.



**Banks**

More specifically, the Conscience Protection Act would prevent any federal, state, or local government from penalizing or discriminating against a health care entity that does not facilitate, perform, refer, pay, participate, or provide abortion or abortion coverage. Those whose conscience rights are violated will be provided a civil right of action.

In January 2024, the Biden administration rescinded and replaced President Trump's 2019 Conscience Rule, which expanded the conscience rights of health care providers and other individuals.

Rep. Banks said Congress must act to protect Americans who have a religious or moral objection to being complicit in abortion.

"Forcing someone to

choose between their career or their conscience is un-American and should be illegal," Rep. Banks said. "My bill ensures health care providers that value the sanctity of life will not be punished for their deeply held beliefs."

Senator James Lankford (R-Okla.) introduced the Senate companion to this bill earlier this month. Rep. Banks's legislation has 36 original cosponsors.

Organizations supporting this legislation include Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Alliance Defending Freedom, National Right to Life Committee, EPPC's HHS Accountability Project, Heritage Action, CatholicVote, Americans United for Life, Concerned Women of America Legislative Action Committee, Family Policy Alliance, and March for Life.

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

# ISP asks for public's help in cold case

**The REPORTER**

In January 1998, a state highway employee found skeletal remains along Fruitridge Avenue near the Interstate 70 overpass in Vigo County.

Over the past 26 years, several investigative techniques and many hours have been spent trying to identify the skeletal remains, without success. Details of the case were entered into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) and were sent to LSU (Louisiana State University) where they developed a forensic facial

reconstruction and released it to the public in hopes the remains could be identified.

In 2023, the Vigo County Coroner's Office in conjunction with Indiana State Police and the University of Indianapolis, submitted forensic evidence to Othram, a corporation specializing in forensic genetic genealogy, in hopes that advanced DNA would assist in identification of the unknown skeletal remains. Othram was able to develop a DNA profile producing new investigative leads.

Detectives with the Indiana State Police Cold Case

Team contacted potential family members of the unidentified human remains. Additional DNA testing and investigative efforts have now identified the skeletal remains as Mitchell Preston of Anderson, Ind. He was last seen in August 1997 in Anderson and was 47 years old at the time of his disappearance. He was on foot and traveling to California.

Although Indiana State Police Detectives are pleased



**Preston**

to bring some closure to Preston's family, they are asking for the public's assistance for anyone who may have seen him or have any knowledge of what might have happened to him.

Anyone with information should call Indiana State Police Cold Case Team Trooper Detective Brad Miller at 1-800-225-8576. This is an active investigation, and all tips will be investigated and can remain anonymous.

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# Tickets on sale now for Veronica Swift, Matteo Bocelli, Damien Escobar & more

**The REPORTER**

While tickets for most shows in our upcoming season will go on sale in August, tickets are available now for these early performances in the 2024-2025 *Center Presents* Season presented in partnership with Allied Solutions. Take a look and snag some great seats now.

**Songbook Academy in Concert**  
Saturday, July 20 at 7 p.m.  
*The Palladium*

The Songbook Academy in Concert is an exciting showcase of the next generation of artists celebrating the enduring influence of the American Songbook. Hosted by Michael Feinstein, this multimedia concert features talented young vocalists from across the nation in solos and production numbers paying tribute to iconic composers and lyricists of American popular music from George Gershwin to Duke Ellington.

The Songbook Academy is the flagship education program of the Great American Songbook Foundation. Tickets are also available now for the Songbook Academy's **Songbook Showcase** at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 18. Stay tuned for info on the Public Masterclass, which will take place earlier in the week.

[Click here](#) for tickets.

**Average White Band: A Funk Finale**  
Saturday, Aug. 10 at 8 p.m.

*The Palladium*

One of the great soul and funk bands of all time brings its farewell tour to the Center, performing its biggest hits and fan favorites such as the U.S. No. 1 single "Pick Up the Pieces," "Cut The Cake," "Queen of My Soul," "Walk On By" and "Schoolboy Crush." Formed in London in 1972, the Average White Band took the influences of R&B heroes such as Marvin Gaye, James Brown and Stevie Wonder, along with jazz greats like Cannonball Adderley and the Crusaders, and developed a sound that connected with audiences worldwide. The performance coincides with the second annual **Carmel Jazz Fest**.

[Click here](#) for tickets.

**Jerome Collins: Rewind - A Journey to Motown & Beyond**  
Friday, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m.

*The Tarkington*

Rewind: A Journey to Motown and Beyond is a captivating solo performance featuring Jerome Collins of the famed a cappella group Straight No Chaser, 2022 inductee to the Great American Songbook Hall of Fame. This show pays homage to the legendary

sounds of Motown and classic R&B, taking the audience through electrifying renditions of timeless hits from some of the world's most iconic musicians and renowned artists. With a set list that includes songs from legends like Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Sam Cooke and Stevie Wonder, Collins' soulful delivery ensures an unforgettable experience.

[Click here](#) for tickets.

**Veronica Swift**  
Saturday, Sept. 14 at 8 p.m.

*The Tarkington*

Veronica Swift established herself as one of the world's top young jazz singers with her first two albums, *Confessions* (2019) and *This Bitter Earth* (2021), showcasing her virtuosic technique, interpretive ingenuity, bracing songwriting and keen arrangements. She describes her latest album, 2023's *Veronica Swift*, as "transgenre," with influences that include French and Italian opera, European classical music, bossa nova, blues, funk and industrial rock. "As rooted in jazz as I've been, there's a uniquely visceral power in rock and soul music that's always fueled my creative passion," she says. "The people I admire most show themselves unabashedly, and that's the kind of tradition I want to be



## THE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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[Click here](#) for tickets.

**Nick Carter: Who I Am Tour**  
Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

*The Palladium*

Nick Carter was only 12 when he auditioned for what would become America's biggest boy band. Since then, the Backstreet Boys have sold more than 130 million records worldwide and earned five Grammy nominations, along with countless *Billboard* Awards, MTV Video Music Awards and more. Carter's solo career has produced three albums, along with singles including last year's "Hurts to Love You," which topped charts in the U.S. and Canada. His TV and film work has included his own VH1 series, *I Heart Nick Carter*, and appearances on *The Masked Singer* and *Dancing with the Stars*. After completing a world tour with the Backstreet Boys in 2023, Carter launched the current *Who I Am Tour*, his first

solo outing in seven years.

[Click here](#) for tickets.

**Leonid & Friends: The Music of Chicago and More**  
Friday, Sept. 27 at 8 p.m.

*The Palladium*

Hailing from Russia, Leonid & Friends have drawn legions of fans with their uncanny ability to capture the spirit, musicality and fire of the American classic-rock group Chicago. Gaining attention with viral videos, the group has since expanded its repertoire to include such artists as Earth Wind & Fire, Blood Sweat & Tears, Ides of March, Stevie Wonder, and Steely Dan, along with new original material. The 11-piece band now has more than 700,000 followers across social media, an astonishing 200 million-plus video views, and over 200 successful U.S. shows under its belt.

[Click here](#) for tickets.

**Damien Escobar: Victory Lap Tour**  
Saturday, Sept. 28 at 8 p.m.

*The Palladium*

Contemporary soul violinist Damien Escobar returns to the Palladium to celebrate 20 years of music. Hailing from Jamaica, Queens, he began studying music as a child and at age 10 became the youngest artist ever admitted to the Julliard School, graduating at age 13. The Emmy winner and NAACP Image Award nominee began playing at New York City subway stations and first gained national attention as half of the duo Nuttin' But Stringz before launching a solo career with his energetic performances and crossover mix of classical, jazz, pop, R&B and hip-hop.

[Click here](#) for tickets.

**#IMOMSOHARD: Ladies' Night**  
Friday, Oct. 11 at 8 p.m.

*The Palladium*

Kristin and Jen of #IMOMSOHARD have been the voice and comedic relief for millions of women (and a few men) for nearly a decade. With more than 300 million views of their viral videos, an Amazon stand-up special, a New York Times bestselling book, a children's book, a wine line,

a podcast and a CBS pilot, these moms have been spreading the truth and the laughter about womanhood and motherhood. The OGs of the Internet, the original accidental influencers, the comedians with early bed-times, Kristin and Jen cover the topics no one else will – with each other, with wine, with big, gummy, loud laughs. Recommended for ages 18 and older.

[Click here](#) for tickets.

**Matteo Bocelli: A Night with Matteo**  
Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m.  
*The Palladium*

At 25 years old, singer-songwriter Matteo Bocelli has already performed on some of the world's biggest stages, sharing his sensitive songs and dynamic vocal performances. In 2018, he and his father, renowned tenor Andrea Bocelli, released "Fall on Me," a stirring duet that has amassed over 400 million streams worldwide. His debut solo album, *Matteo*, displays not only his strong but vulnerable vocal style, but also his songwriting on tracks including lead single "For You." The album also includes the sweeping ballad "Chasing Stars," written for the project by his pop hero Ed Sheeran, and the disco-tinged "Fasi," sung in Italian.


[Click here](#) for tickets.

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# Lebanon insurance broker sentenced to over seven years in federal prison for stealing nearly \$4 million from clients, friends & family

## The REPORTER

Brian Simms, 46, Lebanon, has been sentenced to 90 months in federal prison, followed by three years of supervised release, after pleading guilty to wire fraud.

According to court documents, between 2012 and 2020, Simms was a licensed insurance broker and registered agent at Brendanwood Brokerage.

Beginning in 2013, and continuing through Aug. 4, 2021, Simms defrauded at least 22 victims by promoting investment services to current Brendanwood insurance clients and others. During that period, neither Simms nor Brendanwood were registered through the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority to provide financial advising services, or by the Indiana Securities Division or licensed to sell securities.

As part of his scheme, Simms advised victims to liquidate their traditional and long-term insurance investments, such as 401(k)-retirement savings accounts and life insurance policies. He encouraged the victims to re-invest the funds with him at Brendanwood. In exchange,

Simms told victims he would invest their money on their behalf and yield higher rates of return than their current investments. He directed them to deposit those liquidated funds into their personal bank accounts and wire transfer or make checks payable to Brendanwood.

Instead of investing clients' money as promised, Simms took it for his own personal benefit, such as paying Brendanwood's payroll and other business expenses, and for his own personal expenditures including credit card payments, Amazon purchases, and other personal expenses.

Simms concealed the scheme through Ponzi-scheme type payments – using funds wrongfully taken from some investors to pay purported returns to others. He also falsified financial reports and made it appear that the victims' funds were earning an increased rate of return and properly invested in traditional, legitimate investment products.

In total, Simms' scheme caused 200 fraudulent deposits of client funds into Brendanwood's accounts, totaling approximately

\$3,995,535.46 from at least 22 victim investors from Indiana, Ohio, and elsewhere. He stole significant portions of victims' life savings, including six who lost over six-figure amounts, and two who lost over \$1 million.

"This fraudster targeted those closest to him – friends, family, current customers, even widows and the elderly – folks relying on their savings to fund retirement, send kids to school, or simply live their lives with dignity," said Zachary A. Myers, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. "He stole his victims' financial security and damaged or derailed their plans for the future. Fraudsters and Ponzi-schemers cause tremendous harm to the public, and their crimes merit serious punishment like the federal sentence imposed against Mr. Simms. Working closely with our partners at the FBI and the Indiana Securities Division, our federal prosecutors will continue to seek accountability for financial crimes and justice for victims."

"Simms' sentence reflects the ongoing efforts of

collaboration between law enforcement agencies to protect Hoosier investors," Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales. "The Securities Division will continue to work with our partner agencies to investigate these types of crime and ensure investment fraud is investigated and disrupted."

"The victims placed their trust in Mr. Simms with the expectation he would manage and invest their money for their future needs and not exploit that trust through lies and deceit," FBI Indianapolis Special Agent in Charge Herbert J. Stapleton said. "The FBI and our partners are committed to investigating these types of crimes to protect Hoosiers from swindlers such as the defendant."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Indiana Secretary of State investigated this case. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker. Judge Barker also ordered that Simms must pay \$2,617,028.36 in restitution.

U.S. Attorney Myers thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany J. Preston, who prosecuted this case.

### — COUNTY —

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE**  
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### Meeting Notice

The Noblesville Downtown District Council Committee meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, June 28, 2024, has been canceled.

**Send Meeting Notices to:**  
[News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com)

### 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).

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

### MOSES FLEES TO MIDIAN

One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?"

The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, "Why have you returned so early today?"

They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock."

"And where is he?" Reuel asked his daughters. "Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat."

Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, "I have become a foreigner in a foreign land."

During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

Exodus 2:11-25 (NIV)

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**PENDING!**

**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**  
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**18877 PRAIRIE CROSSING DRIVE**  
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# REPORTER SPORTS FRIDAY

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

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

## Softball

# Reporter names all-county teams

## HSE's Grace Swedarsky named Hamilton County Player of the Year

### The REPORTER

The Reporter is announcing its All-County softball team, and there was no shortage of talent from which to choose.

It was a memorable season in the county, with Hamilton Southeastern winning the Class 4A state championship for the third time in school history. The Royals finished with a 25-4 record, culminating in a walk off win over New Palestine for the 4A trophy.

Hamilton Heights defended its sectional title from last season, and added a regional title as well, the Huskies' first since 2016. An experienced pitcher teamed up with some young players, and they worked together to help Heights compile a 22-8 record.

Here's a list of this year's First Team honorees.

**Grace Swedarsky, Hamilton Southeastern.** Swedarsky is the Reporter's Player of the Year. Swedarsky was unstoppable in the circle, tossing 270 strikeouts

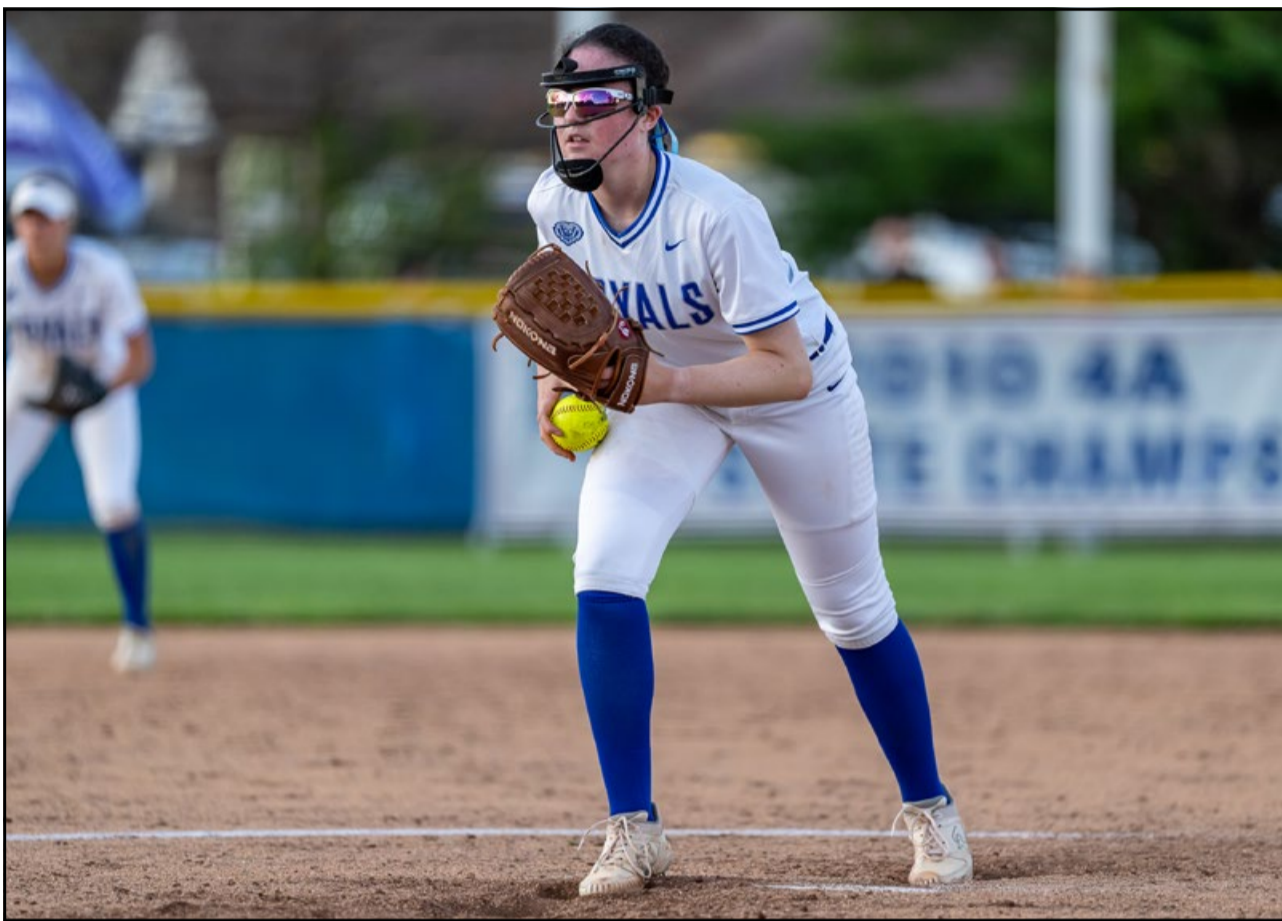
and putting together a 1.05 earned run average while finishing the season 18-2. Swedarsky was also named the Max Preps Indiana softball player of the year.

**Gabby Fowler, Noblesville.** The big-hitting Miller senior led the county in the batting average statistic with a .506 and was named as an Indiana All-Star. Fowler also was on top of the county list with 37 runs batted in and 11 home runs.

**Lily Roush, Hamilton Heights.** The IU Indianapolis commit was a leader whether pitching the ball or facing the ball. Roush tossed 160 strikeouts and compiled a 2.24 ERA. At the same time, she batted .360 and drove in 19 runs.

**Addy Justice, Hamilton Southeastern.** The Royals senior who scored the winning run in the state championship game, Justice hit .480 for the season and was a perfect 3-for-3 at state. She led the county in total hits with 48.

See Softball . . . Page 13



Julie Brown / File photo

Hamilton Southeastern's Grace Swedarsky is this year's Hamilton County Reporter Player of the Year. Swedarsky helped the Royals power to a Class 4A state championship, finishing the year with 270 strikeouts and a 1.05 earned run average.

## Football

# Shiny, new schedule for Huskies, Greyhounds & Rocks to face off in Week 2

### The REPORTER

There has been some re-arranging going on with the Hamilton Heights football schedule.

With the changes in the Hoosier Conference, the Huskies will be facing some new teams, as well as moving some familiar teams to different spots on the calendar. The conference is switching from West and East divisions to Big School and Small School division, with the Huskies in the Big School division.

Heights is playing with familiar opponents in the Big School league. Twin Lakes, West Lafayette and Western are also in that group, while Logansport, a longtime member of the North Central Conference, is joining the Hoosier Big School division this season.

The only games that are the same this season for the Huskies are Lapel for Week 1, Western for Week 5 and West Lafayette for Week 9, although the Week 9 game is now a regular-season contest and not for the conference championship. Heights is still playing Twin Lakes and Tipton,



Photo provided

The Hamilton Heights football team will have a new look to its schedule this season. The Huskies will play in the Hoosier Conference's new Big School division and welcome Logansport to its schedule, in addition to adding three new teams and moving previous opponents to different weeks. Pictured for Heights is Eric Balcom.

but both games are a week later: the Huskies play Twin Lakes during Week 7 and Tipton during Week 8. The Blue Devils are no longer a division opponent; they will play in the Small

School league. Heights will play at new division opponent Logansport for Week 6. The other new games for the Huskies are all non-division: Triton Central for

Week 2, McCutcheon for Week 3 and Danville for Week 4.

As for the other Hamilton County schools...

See Football . . . Page 13

## Hamilton County High School Football Schedule, Fall 2024

### CARMEL

- Aug. 23: Homestead
- Aug. 30: at Westfield
- Sept. 6: at Centerville (Ohio)
- Sept. 13: Louisville Trinity
- Sept. 20: Brebeuf Jesuit
- Sept. 27: at North Central
- Oct. 4: Ben Davis
- Oct. 11: at Warren Central
- Oct. 18: Lawrence Central

### FISHERS

- Aug. 23: at North Central
- Aug. 30: Pike
- Sept. 6: Noblesville
- Sept. 13: at Hamilton Southeastern
- Sept. 20: Brownsburg
- Sept. 27: at Avon
- Oct. 4: at Franklin Central
- Oct. 11: Westfield
- Oct. 18: at Zionsville

### GUERIN CATHOLIC

- Aug. 23: McCutcheon
- Aug. 30: Lebanon
- Sept. 6: Heritage Christian
- Sept. 13: Brebeuf Jesuit (7:30 p.m.)
- Sept. 20: at Roncalli
- Sept. 27: at Bishop Chatard
- Oct. 4: Pike
- Oct. 11: at Terre Haute North (7:30 p.m.)
- Oct. 18: at Lafayette Central Catholic

### HAMILTON HEIGHTS

- Aug. 23: at Lapel
- Aug. 30: Triton Central
- Sept. 6: at McCutcheon
- Sept. 13: at Danville
- Sept. 20: Western
- Sept. 27: at Logansport
- Oct. 4: Twin Lakes (7:30 p.m.)
- Oct. 11: at Tipton
- Oct. 18: West Lafayette

### HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN

- Aug. 23: at Fort Wayne Carroll
- Aug. 30: North Central
- Sept. 6: at Avon
- Sept. 13: Fishers
- Sept. 20: at Westfield
- Sept. 27: Zionsville
- Oct. 4: at Noblesville
- Oct. 11: at Franklin Central
- Oct. 18: Brownsburg

### NOBLESVILLE

- Aug. 23: Mount Vernon
- Aug. 30: at Homestead
- Sept. 6: at Fishers
- Sept. 13: Westfield
- Sept. 20: at Zionsville
- Sept. 27: Franklin Central
- Oct. 4: Hamilton Southeastern
- Oct. 11: at Brownsburg
- Oct. 18: Avon

### SHERIDAN

- Aug. 23: Western Boone
- Aug. 30: at North Miami
- Sept. 6: Tri-Central
- Sept. 13: at Clinton Central
- Sept. 20: at Clinton Prairie
- Sept. 27: Taylor
- Oct. 4: at Delphi
- Oct. 11: Eastern
- Oct. 18: at Carroll

### WESTFIELD

- Aug. 23: at Center Grove
- Aug. 30: Carmel
- Sept. 6: Zionsville
- Sept. 13: at Noblesville
- Sept. 20: Hamilton Southeastern
- Sept. 27: at Brownsburg
- Oct. 4: Avon
- Oct. 11: at Fishers
- Oct. 18: Franklin Central

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# Pacers draft Newton & Freeman

## Team agrees in principle to acquire draft rights to Furphy

**The REPORTER**

As part of the 2024 NBA Draft, the Indiana Pacers selected Tristen Newton with the 49th pick and Enrique Freeman with the 50th pick in the second round. The team also agreed in principle to acquire the draft rights to Johnny Furphy from the San Antonio Spurs in a trade that is not yet final.

Johnny Furphy, the 35th pick in the draft, is a 6-8, 189-pound guard/forward from the University of Kansas. Originally from Melbourne, Australia; Furphy was named to the Big 12 All-Freshman team for the 2023-24 season.

With the 49th pick in the draft, the Pacers selected two-time National Champi-

on Tristen Newton from the University of Connecticut. Newton, a 6-3, 192-pound guard, was named to the 2023 NCAA Final Four All-Tournament Team and was named the Most Outstanding Player of the 2024 NCAA Tournament. For the 2023-24 season he also won the Bob Cousy Award and was an All-American First

Team selection.

Freeman, the 50th pick in the draft, is 6-7, 212-pound forward from the University of Akron. He was a four-time MAC All-Defensive team member, two-time First-Team All-MAC member, two-time MAC Tournament MVP (2022, 2024) and won 2022 MAC Defensive Player of the Year.

# Golf

## Westfield's Cesare headed to Boys State Junior semifinals

**The REPORTER**

Westfield's Jake Cesare has reached the semifinals of the Indiana Golf Foundation's Boys State Junior Championship at Purdue's Ackerman-Allen course.

The Shamrocks' senior-to-be won two matches on Thursday to advance to the final four. In the Round of 16, Cesare beat Guerin Catholic graduate Leo Wessel 2 Up. That sent Cesare into

the quarterfinals, where he cruised to victory against Fort Wayne's Alex Holder 6 & 5.

Cesare will take on Goshen's Brayden Miller in the second semifinal, which begins at 8:08 a.m. Their match follows the first semifinal between Fort Wayne's Justin Hicks and Lafayette's Sam Peter, which starts at 8 a.m. The championship match will take place later that afternoon.

# SOFTBALL

**Ava Kainrath, Westfield.** A Shamrocks junior that can always be counted on for a hit, Kainrath was .462 at the plate, driving in 22 runs. She also hit four homers.

**Jayden Kleiner, Carmel.** Kleiner was another powerful hitter in the county, blasting six home runs as part of a 36-RBI season. She could also score, with 35 runs to her credit, and batted .438.

**Hannah Dent, Hamilton Heights.** One of many talented freshmen that played for the Huskies, Dent smacked 41 hits and finished with a .414 average. She drove in 23 runs for the season.

**Delaney Rundle, Noblesville.** Rundle knew how to run: she led the county in runs scored this

**The Reporter's 2024 All-County Softball Teams**

FIRST TEAM		
Name	School	Grade
Hannah Dent	Hamilton Heights	Freshman
Gabby Fowler	Noblesville	Senior
Brooke Johnson	Fishers	Senior
Addy Justice	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Ava Kainrath	Westfield	Junior
Jayden Kleiner	Carmel	Sophomore
Lily Roush	Hamilton Heights	Senior
Delaney Rundle	Noblesville	Junior
Grace Swedarsky	Hamilton Southeastern	Sophomore
SECOND TEAM		
Name	School	Grade
Lily Cash	Hamilton Heights	Sophomore
Mia Fleming	Carmel	Junior
Reece Gariand	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Mack Harvey	Noblesville	Senior
Kate Murray	Fishers	Junior
Reese Newsom	Noblesville	Freshman
Kamryn Rhoton	Hamilton Heights	Freshman
Makayla Watson	Westfield	Sophomore
Lani Wyrick	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
HONORABLE MENTION		
Fishers: Kendall Jordan. Guerin Catholic: Lucy Kemp. Hamilton Heights: Addie Doak, Kassidy Schakel. Hamilton Southeastern: Jenna Chase, Alex Kiemeyer. Noblesville: Addi Emmerson. Sheridan: Maelei Casler. Westfield: Cara Snedeker.		

season with 38. She was good at the plate with a .400 average, batting in 15

runs. **Brooke Johnson, Fishers.** The Tigers senior put

together a .400 average, driving in 15 runs and scoring 23 more.

from Page 12

# Ralston & Longstreth tie for 6<sup>th</sup> at Indiana PGA Women's Open

**The REPORTER**

Two Hamilton County golfers tied for sixth place after the second and final round of the Indiana PGA Women's Open, which finished Thursday at Orchard Ridge in Fort Wayne.

Yanah Ralston, a 2022 Hamilton Southeastern graduate, finished with a two-day score of 147. Ralston improved her Wednesday first-round score by five strokes, carding a 71 on the second day, including three birdies.

Carmel's Sydney Longstreth also made an improvement, dropping three strokes for her second day to score a 72. Longstreth had four birdies in her second

round.

Here is a list of players with Hamilton County ties.

**T6.** Yanah Ralston, Fortville 76-71=147; **Sydney Longstreth,** Carmel 75-72=147. **T13.** Becky Williams, Zionsville 78-74=152; **Janelle Garcia,** Fishers 74-78=152, **T21.** Lauren Tibbets, Carmel 79-79=158, **T25.** Caroline Whallon, Noblesville 79-81=160, **T31.** Macy Beeson, Harbour Trees 83-79=162, **T35.** Sydney Zebrasukas, Cicero 81-83=164; **Lauren Stewart,** Fishers 76-88=164, **40.** Marissa Spreitzer, Fishers 88-78=166, **44.** Brette Hanavan, Westfield 85-87=172, **48.** Abigail Bladen, Carmel 89-88=177.

# FOOTBALL

Carmel, as the Greyhounds will have two new early-season opponents. Carmel does have the same opening-week opponent, hosting Homestead for its opener.

In Week 2, the Greyhounds will travel to Westfield. The Shamrocks have been a consistent post-season opponent for Carmel, as the two teams have played each other four times in the sectional

since 2019. The 'Hounds will make another road trip for Week 3, heading east to new opponent Centerville, Ohio.

Westfield will also have a new opponent for its opener. The Rocks and new head coach Josh Miracle to Center Grove for a re-match of the Class 6A state championship games in 2020 and 2021.

Guerin Catholic has added a new team to its

schedule. The Golden Eagles will welcome Lebanon to the Eagles Nest for their Week 2 game. That moves Guerin Catholic's annual Bishop's Cup game to Week 9; replacing the Golden Eagles' game with Culver Academies.

The schedules for Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Noblesville and Sheridan are all unchanged from last season.


Games kick off at 7 p.m.

unless otherwise noted in the schedule on Page 12.

from Page 12

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