



Cicero Kiwanis launches book drive for elementary students

Goal: \$6,000 to fund spring & summer reading programs

Submitted by
Kiwanis Club of Cicero

The Kiwanis Club of Cicero has launched an “online book drive” – a fundraising campaign accepting donations directly on the club’s website – with the goal of raising \$6,000 by January 2025 to support its Books for a Bright Future initiative.

The program, which provides free books to elementary students, focuses on fostering a love of reading and improving literacy outcomes.

“Book ownership has been directly linked to improved mental health in children and increased reading for pleasure,” said Todd Clevenger, a Kiwanis board member. Clevenger conceived the idea in 2023, which led to the program’s launch at Hamilton Heights Elementary School in spring 2024.

“Reading fluency directly impacts academic achievement and lifetime success,” he added.

Club President Mark Bailey emphasized the importance of the online campaign.

“This fundraising effort is essential to the program’s success,” Bailey said. “Providing one book to every student



Photo provided by Kiwanis Club of Cicero
Club Member Karen Stout reads to a group of children.

during the spring book fair is meaningful not just for the kids but for parents, teachers, administrators, and the members of the Cicero Kiwanis.”

Bailey continued: “A donation of just \$10 provides two books, a \$25 gift provides five books, \$50 provides 10 books, and so on. A gift of \$500 guarantees books will be provided for 100 students. We’re simply asking folks to visit our website, learn about the program, and consider a gift of any amount to support this great cause.”

Within 24 hours of launching the campaign, the club be-

gan seeing online gift transactions, and quickly raised over 15 percent of their goal.

“It was thrilling to see the immediate response,” Bailey noted. “Now, we need a push to reach our target.”

If the \$6,000 goal is met, both the spring and summer 2025 programs will be fully funded.

“These are exciting times,” Bailey said. “Let’s get children reading books they love!”

To learn more and support the Books for a Bright Future initiative by contributing to the campaign, visit cicerokiwanis.org/programs/books.

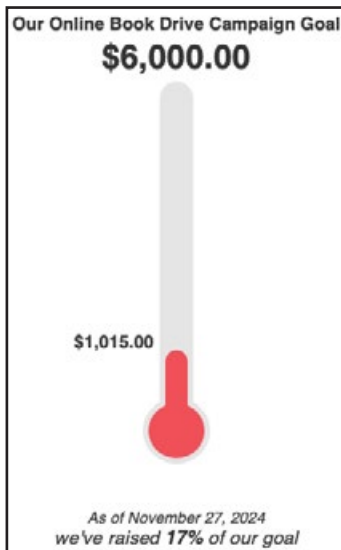


Photo provided by Kiwanis Club of Cicero
Club Member Mark Bailey emphasizes the importance of just one book to a child.

Burn that taper!

‘Tis the season for comfort and joy ... and less perfection.

This year, I vowed to stop needing everything to be perfect and to enjoy the present moments that bring me joy. Present over perfect!

I sit in the dark, except for the lights on the Christmas tree, sip my coffee, and listen to Christmas music. It’s good for my soul.

The day after Thanksgiving, I am usually a busy little Martha Stewart wannabe, scampering back and forth between the garage and the house, bringing Christmas to all the nooks and crannies of our Little House on the Alley. Lifting and toting the totes give me quite the workout. It’s too much, says my aching right hip.

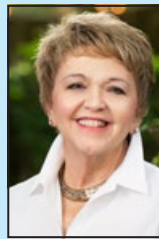
This year, I’m doing things differently. I’m giving myself a gift: less perfection and more relaxation.

I enjoy bringing Christmas into the house, but I’ve lessened my need to embrace the “more is merrier” philosophy. My granddaughter, Abby, is happy to take what I don’t use. Merry Early Christmas, Abigail!

I must confess I did not put ALL the ornaments on the tree. No one will notice, I’m sure of it. I still go a little heavy on the number of Christmas trees placed in the Nativity scene, around my snowmen, and on my kitchen windowsill and shelves with farm animals, all decked out for Christmas. Yes, the bathroom has a Christmas tree.

I discovered that Trader Joe’s has “real” greenery (\$3.99 a bunch) that will blanket the center of our dining room table. I tucked a few golden tapers into antique candlesticks. Guess what? I’m burning them! For some reason, I never lit my tapers. I’m not sure

COLUMNIST



JANET HART LEONARD
From the Hart

See Taper . . . Page A4



Photo provided

If ever a wonder Wiz there was . . . the Wizard of Oz is one because . . . of all the wonderful things he does!

I’ve seen yellow stripes in the middle of a road before, but never quite that wide!

By STU CLAMPITT
news@readthereporter.com

A school with barely more than 600 students is offering the community a classic seasonal story with 53 young actors on stage.

For one weekend only, Our Lady of Grace, 9900 E. 191st St., Noblesville, is staging *The Wizard of Oz*. There will be exactly two shows: Friday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m.

The Reporter spoke with Director Sarah Szerlong to find out what it takes to stage a musical when such a large portion of the student body makes the cut after auditions.

“This is the third produc-

tion that we’ve put on with the school and it’s very exciting in that our performing arts program is really growing with the school,” Szerlong told The Reporter. “Our Lady of Grace serves preschool all the way through eighth grade. By nature of the school, it’s a Catholic education, but we’re also STEM-certified and the growth of the fine arts program is new and much needed. We can’t all be STEM, we can’t all be STEM geniuses. So for the kids that are more creative than inclined, this has been excellent.”

Szerlong said this is the first year the school has opened their theater program to all grade levels, K through 8, to audition.

“We had a formal audition

process and be in the show,” Szerlong said. “It’s a pretty good percent of the student population that’s in the show. We’ve got our kindergartners as the classic munchkins or flying monkeys. We go all the way up to our middle school students holding more of those lead roles in that classic *Wizard of Oz* style. The students have been working really hard on it twice a week since the beginning of the year to put on this production.”

Given how well-known the story is, this is a bold choice for a small school.

“It has some solos and duets, but a lot of larger ensemble pieces and some dance numbers, and so, from a theatrical perspective, it was a strong

choice,” Szerlong said. “And it’s certainly been both challenging and fun to teach this kind of diverse range of student ages how to put on a show – not just how to sing or how to act, but the things that we don’t think about as much from a musical or theatrical perspective.”

Those skills include blocking, entering, and exiting the stage, listening for cues, and much more.

For the last two years, Our Lady of Grace’s English Literature teacher oversaw the plays. That teacher has since taken on a new role at a new school, so Szerlong stepped up to run the school’s biggest production yet.

See Wizard . . . Page A4

Giving Machine makes it easy to help spread the Christmas spirit

The REPORTER

On Tuesday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. to noon, Indiana leaders and local charities will come together at Clay Terrace in Carmel for the Giving Machine Community Kickoff. This special Giving Tuesday event celebrates the spirit of giving and provides Hoosiers with a unique way to make a difference both locally and globally.

State Treasurer Dan Elliot, Comptroller Elise Nieshalla, and Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam will share the stage with charity leaders to highlight the Giving Machine’s mission of empowering Hoosiers to support their neighbors and global communities. Longtime Indiana broadcaster Rafael Sanchez will host as emcee, adding his signature warmth and energy to the celebration.

The Light the World Giving Machines campaign kicked off on Nov. 23 with a heartwarming unveiling event at Clay Terrace, where hundreds of Hoosiers gathered to celebrate the season of giving. Children from across Indiana participated in service projects, creating kindness cards for Ronald McDonald House Charities and hygiene kits for families in need through Boys and Girls Clubs of Indianapolis.

See Giving . . . Page A4

Not the holiday play you were expecting



Photos by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com

Greetings, a funny, festive, feel-good holiday play, is coming to Basile Westfield Playhouse Dec. 5 to 15. The show is about Andy, who has a sweet Catholic mother, a sour Catholic father, and an intellectually disabled younger brother named Mickey. When Andy brings his Jewish atheist fiancée to meet the folks on Christmas Eve, Mickey, whose entire vocabulary has been limited to “oh boy” and “wow,” suddenly spouts the word “Greetings!” The entire family’s belief system is turned upside down because it appears an ancient, wise, and witty spirit who is set upon healing the family’s wounds has borrowed Mickey’s body! Get your tickets online at BasileWestfieldPlayhouse.org and keep reading The Reporter for our upcoming interview with Director Jeremy Tuterow.

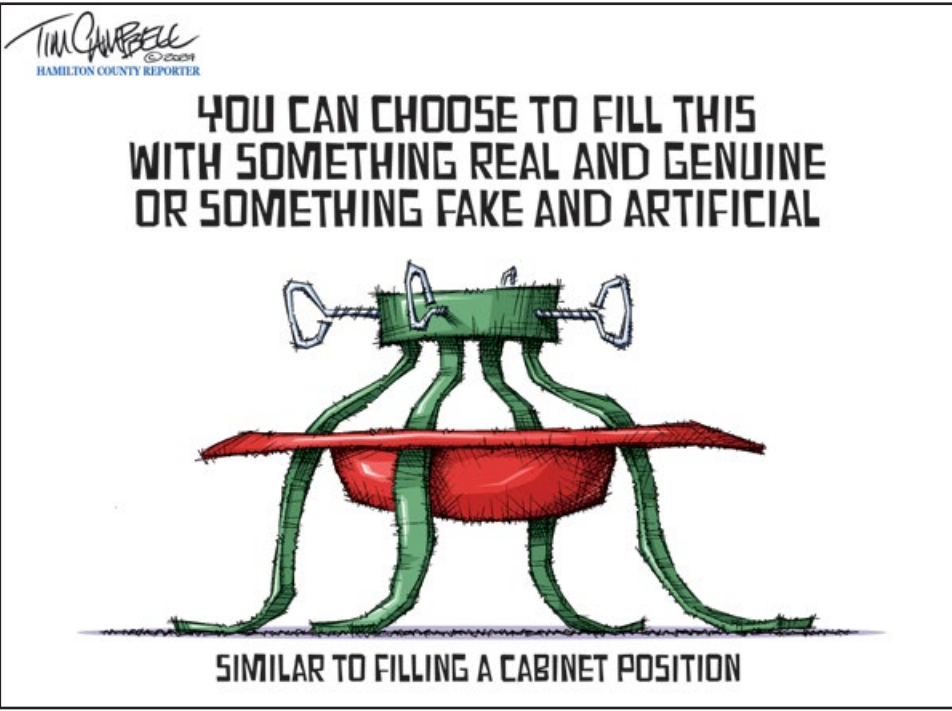


Photo provided
The 60-voice community choir boasts members from numerous towns across Hamilton County and surrounding counties, all under the direction of Lisa Jennings.

Behold the Lamb invites you to free Christmas concerts

The REPORTER

Behold the Lamb Ministries, Inc., an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has announced its 2024 Christmas Concert season.

The BTLM Soli Deo Gloria Community Concert Choir, featured annually in the Hamilton County Passion Play, will present *The Story of Christmas* (a mix of new and traditional Christmas music) in three concerts. Admission is free. Tickets are not required.

The 2024 Indiana con-

certs will be at the:

- Carmel Christkindlmarkt on Friday, Dec. 6 at 3 p.m.

- Arcadia Christmas Tree Lighting (mini concert) on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 6:45 p.m.

- NEW LOCATION – Hope Bible Fellowship, 772 N. 10th St., Noblesville, on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.

Under the direction of Lisa Jennings, the 60-voice community choir has members from across central Indiana (Noblesville, Westfield, Sheridan, Cicero,

Tipton, Arcadia, Atlanta, Kokomo, Fishers, Carmel, Zionsville, Frankton, Elwood, Anderson, Indianapolis, Speedway, Greenfield). Featured soloists are Jim Burchette (Tipton), Michael Donahue (Middletown), Katie Martin (Speedway), Monica McMain (Kokomo), Leslie Barker (Anderson), and Betty VanAlstyne (Anderson).

For additional information, please visit BeholdTheLamb.com or email beholdthelamb129@gmail.com.



Reporter photos by Amy Adams

(LEFT) Second graders from Loree Marroquin's class at Washington Woods Elementary School listen closely as Jim Peyton tells about Nicholas and Fanny Barker, who built the cabin in 1835. (RIGHT) WWES teacher Julia Fry works with her second-grade students on filling in a Westfield timeline.

Westfield students experience hands-on history at Barker cabin

By AMY ADAMS
news@readthereporter.com

Second graders from Washington Woods Elementary School have a few more items to add to their thankful list this holiday season – namely, electricity and indoor plumbing.

Students took a field trip Tuesday, Nov. 26, to learn more about the history and culture of Westfield. They visited the Barker cabin, the Westfield Washington Historical Society, the Basile Westfield Playhouse, and the Friends Cemetery, among other spots in downtown Westfield.

"We tie this into our social studies program," WWES second-grade teacher Julia Fry said.

Fry, who has taught for 28 years, said her class

used to do similar field trips, but this is the first in quite a few years.

"We heard that they updated the tour, and our curriculum also expanded to include the history of Westfield," she said.

Jim Peyton, Westfield Washington Historical Society treasurer, said that this was the fifth school group to come through the Barker cabin this year alone. The cabin was built in 1835, restored, and opened to the public in summer 2023.

"We've had over 1,000 children come through here in that time," Peyton said.

He talked to classes of students about the history of the cabin and what life would have been like for the 11 children of Nicholas and Fanny Barker. Peyton talked about the

chores the students might have had if they had lived in the cabin, including gathering wood, keeping the fire going, churning butter, and taking care of farm animals.

Students got to pass around wooden implements that would have been used for cooking, watch a spark made from steel and flint, and see first-hand how tightening bed ropes led to the expression "sleep tight."

"They had so many questions, which is good," WWHS volunteer Sharon England said.

In addition to visiting the historical sites, students spent some time at Grand Junction Plaza playing on the playground and converging in the Cafe Pavilion to create a timeline of Westfield's growth through the years.

Slam Sip \$pend sends \$\$\$ for safe turf surface to BGCN



Photo provided by Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville

On Nov. 22, the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville Auxiliary presented the organization with a check for \$80,000 for a recent playground refresh that added a new, safe turf surface. Funds were raised at the Auxiliary's annual auction, Slam Sip \$pend, which took place in March at Harbour Trees in Noblesville. Last March's event raised \$200,000 to support the turf project and "fund the fun" for many other Club projects. Over 300 members currently attend the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville each day after school. Since the early 1980s, the Club's Auxiliary group has raised millions in imperative funds to support the mission of the organization.

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GREETINGS!

By Tom Dudzick

Directed by Jeremy Tuterow

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Performances by Noblesville Elementary School Choirs

Paul Poteet ... Your Hometown Weatherman!



Photo provided

Longtime Noblesville business owners Stephen and Moffett Craig will serve as the grand marshals for this year's Holiday in Lights parade.

Noblesville names Holiday in Lights Parade grand marshals

The REPORTER

Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen has announced that long-time Noblesville business owners Stephen and Moffett Craig will serve as the grand marshals of the Holiday in Lights Parade. The 2024 Holiday in Lights Parade, sponsored by Hare Chevy and your Central Indiana Chevy Dealers, begins at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.

"Over the years, the Craigs have supported the public through their business and countless hours of community service," Jensen said. "I'm excited to recognize Stephen and Moffett for all of the things they've done during their lifetime and wish them the best as they approach the next chapter in their lives."

"We were shocked and elated when asked to be grand marshals," Stephen Craig said. "We couldn't ask for anything better as the beginning of our retirement."

The Craigs, owners of Adrienes Flowers & Gifts in Noblesville, are retiring at the end of the year. The downtown business has been in Moffetts' family for 45 years.

"It's the right time," Stephen Craig said. "We've been overwhelmed by the outpouring from Noblesville to our announcement. It's been special and we look forward to being grand

marshals this year."

In addition to the Craigs and more than 50 participating groups, Santa Claus will join the parade as the last entry. To encourage the Christmas spirit, the Holiday in Lights Parade includes awards for the best holiday-themed entry, best use of lights, and most hometown-inspired. Parade registration is open until Monday, Dec. 2. Entry forms can be completed online at cityofnoblesville.org/parade.

The parade route will start at 16th and Harrison streets and travel south on 16th Street to Logan Street, head north on Ninth Street, turn east on Harrison, and end back at 16th Street. The Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency will assist the city by providing additional portable lights to better illuminate the roadway and sidewalks along the route.

"The public turnout for the inaugural Holiday in Lights Parade last year was amazing," Jensen said. "The nighttime parade through historic downtown is breathtaking with all of storefronts, Courthouse Square, and homes decorated and lit up for the holidays. It's a magical experience for parade goers and participants. Along with the Friday events, it's going to be a very festive weekend in Noblesville and a great way to kick off the holiday season."

New Westfield Community Choir invites you to first concert on Dec. 8

The REPORTER

A recently formed Community Choir in Westfield will perform its inaugural concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 at Christ United Methodist Church, 318 N. Union St., Westfield.

The concert is free and

open to the public. The choir is led by Sandy Wood and will present a variety of seasonal hymns and anthems.

Information on the concert or joining the choir can be obtained by contacting Wood at sandywood167@gmail.com.

Too many Turkey trotters to count



Photo provided by City of Noblesville

Hundreds of trotters crowded downtown Noblesville Thanksgiving morning to take part in the Michael Treinen Foundation Turkey Trot. We're not sure exactly who caught this great shot, but wow! We knew we had to include it in the pages of Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper.

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GIVING

from Page A1

“The Giving Machine has become a beacon of generosity in Indiana,” said Giving Machine Indy Co-Chair Rhonda Petersen. “We’re thrilled to see even more people join us this year to support their favorite charities and experience the joy of giving to those in need.”

The Light the World Giving Machines, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, offer an easy and impactful way to give back. Visitors can ‘purchase’ items like chickens for family farming, books for students, and meals for the hungry. Every donation goes directly to local and global charities, making it a meaningful way to celebrate the season of giving.

Since the Giving Machine opened eight years ago, 2.2 million people have donated \$32 million in goods and services to care for those in need. Visitors donate by purchasing items ranging in price from \$3 to \$300.

The Giving Machines are open at Clay Terrace, 14540 Clay Terrace Blvd., Carmel, through Jan. 5.

Don’t miss this opportunity to make a difference. Learn more at [Facebook.com/givingmachineindy](https://www.facebook.com/givingmachineindy).

- Nonprofit beneficiaries selected this year include:
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana
 - Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana
 - Helping Veterans and Families (HVAf) of Indiana
 - Horizon House
 - Second Helpings
 - Care.org
 - Right to Play

About the Giving Machines

The Giving Machines, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, provide an instant act of kindness and service for people looking to help those in their communities and around the globe. Since the Giving Machine opened eight years ago, 2.2 million people have donated \$32 million in goods and services to care for those in need. Visitors donate by purchasing items ranging in price from \$3 to \$300. Learn more at tinyurl.com/AboutGivingMachines.

Fishers Rotarians’ gift of water is the gift of life

By MIKE BYERS
Fishers Rotary Club President

“All it takes is one look in the eyes of the people in the villages and communities we’re serving, and you’ll see that the gift of water is not lost on them. It is clear, their new well is their most prized possession,” says Fishers Rotarian Valory Meyers.

She is describing the very happy outcome of the Fishers Rotary Water is Life Gala that will occur on Dec. 7.

Now in its 16th year, this event has raised nearly \$2 million, which helps fund the digging of wells in the West African nation of Sierra Leone.

This nation, with a population of over eight million people, has been working to recover from a devastating civil war that ended in 2002. Fifty-three percent of its inhabitants live in poverty and 58 percent lack access to clean water, which contributes to frequent water-borne illnesses.

According to a 2019 study of the National Library of Medicine in Sierra Leone, diseases related to water, sanitation, and hygiene remain among the leading cause of morbidity and account for 20 percent of all deaths, and 4,000 children die every year as a result.

Armed with these facts, this Club envisioned a plan that, to date, has provided over 200 water wells, which currently impacts about

500,000 people annually.

Such a massive undertaking would not be possible without the help of matching grants from The Rotary Foundation, of which the Fishers Rotary Club is now on their seventh 100 percent-successful grant.

Another Rotarian, Tom Branum, has been part of the project since this idea was birthed.

“We are proud that 100 percent of the proceeds of the Gala go to fund our next grant application and will push our total number of wells to 225,” Branum said.

The Fishers Club has applied to the Rotary Foundation to participate in a worldwide competition called the Programs of Scale Grant, which awards one winner \$2 million. Branum proudly reports, “This would directly benefit the people of Sierra Leone.”

The Freetown Rotary Club in Sierra Leone has been a wonderful partner, and they are responsible for selecting and recommending locations for the wells, most of which are in small rural villages, schoolyards, and near hospitals. Entire communities sprout up around these wells, which have become the central focus of the community.

One of the many benefits that these wells provide is that it keeps girls and women from having to walk many miles to water sources

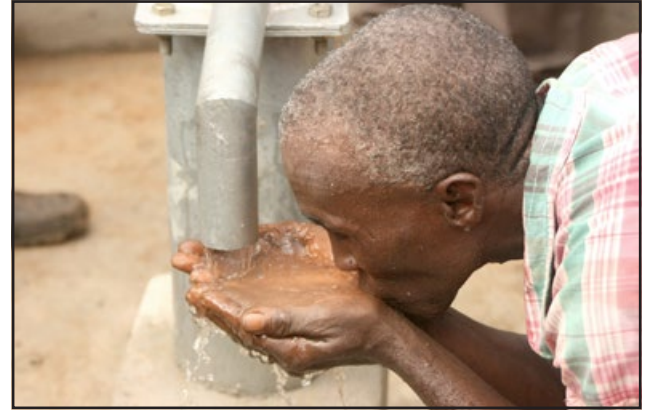


Photo provided by Fishers Rotary Club
The Fishers Rotary Club has, to date, provided over 200 wells to the people of Sierra Leone.

that are tainted; it even protects these women from being sexually assaulted while they travel to these sources. Myers relates that “these are hours per day devoted to the fetching of water that can now be used for girls being in school, parents working, and caring for their families. That’s invaluable!”

The WaterIsLife Charity Ball is presented by Fishers Rotary and will be held at the FORUM Events Center, 11313 USA Pkwy., Fishers, with the main event and event sponsor being the Celebrate Life Foundation.

A contingent of 15 Freetown Rotarians will be on hand to share in the festivities and witness Ed Gebhart, Chief of the Fishers Police Department, be recognized for his service to our city as the event’s Honorary Chair, and speak to the over 300 attendees.

Carolene Mays, creator

of “Community Link” on WISH-TV, will emcee the event and The Doo! Band will provide live entertainment. A silent auction will augment a live auction conducted by Wayne Addison, past president of the Greenfield Rotary Club. Past auction items include IU basketball courtside tickets, local restaurant and private tasting experiences, vacation trips, suites for local sporting events, and much more including designer-decorated Christmas trees, and ready for under the tree presents for all ages.

Branum concludes, “It is our mission to give everyone in Sierra Leone clean water by 2030.”

For more information about the Fishers Rotary Club, please go to [FishersRotary.org](https://fishersrotary.org). More information about the Fishers Rotary WaterIsLife project can be found at [FishersWaterIsLife.com](https://fisherswaterislife.com).

WIZARD

from Page A1

“I’m a volunteer, actually, who potentially took on more than expected to make this happen, because to me, it was important value-wise to continue to offer this,” Szerlong said. “I have other parent volunteers who are helping with management, schedules, and stage production. And then my husband, Jason, is helping with the technical side of things.”

Szerlong called the experience so far fun and fulfilling in many ways.

“Our kindergarten through third graders are going home excited from play rehearsal, or dancing around in a living room,” Szerlong said. “I’m getting these stories back from parents. So that’s been very rewarding for me, but it’s certainly been challenging. It’s a very large cast, and in terms of the overall management of that number of children, it has been a learning curve for me. I’m not a teacher – I think – for a reason. And I have more respect for them coming out of this experience.”

Directing large ensemble numbers has been one of many new experiences for Szerlong.

“I think our largest one is probably that Munchkinland scene and that runs

about 10 minutes, which is about one sixth of the total show’s run time,” Szerlong said. “That has been both challenging but a lot of fun to get the kids moving around the stage and doing what would never be considered Broadway style dancing, but they’re certainly moving and smiling and it should be pretty adorable. So absolutely it’s been challenging and exhausting some evenings, but rewarding in the way that I wanted. The reason that I wanted to step into it was to hopefully inspire these kids and to get them involved and excited about it, especially in Hamilton County where sometimes my impression is that we are very athletics-focused. To me there is a lot of value in offering something else.”

You can show these young actors that all their hard work this year has been worth it by being a member of the audience this weekend.

Our Lady of Grace, 9900 E. 191st St., Noblesville, is staging *The Wizard of Oz* on Friday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$10. You can buy them at the door or online at ologs.org/wizard.

County Health Department launches online food permitting

New system designed to streamline process & provide online payment

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Health Department has launched an online system for food permit applications. The system allows both new and established food vendors to apply for and renew their permits, provide necessary documents like floor plans and menus, and pay for their permits online.

“Our goal is to make the application process easier for vendors, helping us ensure timely permits for temporary events and new food establishments alike,” said

Amy Ballman, Director of Environmental Health for the Hamilton County Health Department.



Ballman

A soft launch of the system allowed the Health Department to work through some early kinks. It has received 12 permanent and 74 temporary food permit applications since April. Starting in 2025, food establishment renewals can be processed through the online system, reducing the

number of late renewals and making the process much easier for both applicants and staff.

Ballman offers this tip for renewals, however. “If you’re already in our system, please don’t create a new account,” she said. “Instead, contact our office directly to secure the access code associated with your business.”

Once approved, applicants can pay for their per-

mits online through Google or Apple IDs. Vendors will still be allowed to apply or renew permits in-person or by mail if they prefer.

“We are excited to see how this system evolves,” Ballman added. “Ultimately, we hope to expand this tool to other environmental programs in the future.”

For more information or to apply for a food permit, visit the Hamilton County Health Department’s Food Establishment Program page at hamiltoncounty.in.gov/256/Food-Establishment-Program.

TAPER

from Page A1

why. I’ve decided to burn them this year. I’m even burning them while I write. They make me happy. Let’s hear it for the little things that bring joy.

I’m bringing out the antique dishes to use every day. Although they are mismatched, they have one thing in common: They remind me of the dinners my mother would make. She made everything special, and I love the reminders.

As a child growing up, fried ham found its place on the floral cream platter with tiny flowers on the edges. Fried candied sweet potatoes created a contrast of color in the Jadeite bowl. Ribbon candy was placed into the ornate crystal dish as if it were part of the décor. Mom’s homemade fudge was stored in a well-used tin. Mom nev-

er threw away a pretty tin.

Have you ever thought about gifting an antique bowl or candlestick from an antique store? Every antique has a story. Find an antique store and maybe a unique candlestick to burn a taper! Trust me, your heart will smile. Buy one for yourself and a friend or two. Thistle and Thyme and the Annex in downtown Noblesville have some really pretty ones. Tell them Janet sent you.

Now that the house is decorated, I can sit by candlelight, curl up with my comfy blanket, watch a Christmas movie or turn on a lamp, and read a Christmas novella by my author friend, Laura Thomas. I have learned to no longer feel guilty about slowing down and enjoying the things I used to feel guilty about doing.

Over the years, while I loved shopping and decorating, I realized how overstimulated I would become and, shall I admit, exhausted. Overstimulated means mentally overwhelmed. Can I get a witness?

It was exhausting to deal with traffic, find a parking spot, and play defense around so many people in the mall as I searched for the perfect gift. I might have been a bit bah humbug by the time I got home. Only once did I give in to the temptation of early morning Black Friday sales, and I vowed never to do it again.

Now, I stay close to home and support local small businesses, as the gifts are unique. I love hearing, “Where did you find this?”

And, of course, I feel the need to reward myself at one

of the coffee shops or cafes where everyone seems to know my name. I love indulging with a latte or chai. We have a brand-new bookstore nestled into our downtown. Welcome to Chapter Book Lounge! How about a unique book for a special friend?

What brings you comfort and joy? Do you have a taper candle tucked in a drawer that needs to be burned?

What is keeping you from enjoying the Christmas season? Less perfection = less stress.

May you find your comfort and your joy this Christmas! Buy the candlestick and ... BURN THAT TAPER!

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

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HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER
USPS 22200 | Volume 2024, Issue 12.2
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PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com
765-365-2316
The Hamilton County Reporter is published weekly by 4th Hawk Media LLC. Periodicals postage paid at Noblesville, Ind. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Hamilton County Reporter, 136 S. 9th St., Suite 12, Noblesville, IN 46060.

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Heights middle schoolers master art of the interview

The REPORTER

Hamilton Heights Middle School (HHMS) students recently participated in a mock interview experience designed to equip them with essential career-ready skills.

Representatives from a handful of area businesses provided over 210 eighth graders with a valuable opportunity to practice interview techniques in a real-world setting, helping them to build confidence and gain practical knowledge they can apply for their future careers while instilling a sense of responsibility and ambition, setting a strong foundation for their future academic and career endeavors.

“The interviews were conducted by nine area business professionals from various industries, offering students valuable feedback and insights into professional communication, resumes, and job preparedness,” said Connor James, CTE Business and Preparing for College and Careers Teacher and Reaching New Heights contact at HHMS. “Ninety-eight percent of the eighth graders who completed the interview said



Photos provided

(From left to right, top to bottom) Itzlenny Rodriguez from Ryan Fire Protection interviews Riley Suarez. Matt Mitchell from Will Power Excavation & Bulldozing interviews Jayda Morris. Matt Rhinesmith from Arrow McLaren Indy Car Team greets Kaden Cantlon. Sarah Walker from Hagerman greets Dorian Minix. These were just four of more than 210 students who took part in the mock interview process.

this experience strengthened their confidence and helped them feel more prepared for their next interview.”

This experience underscores the importance of early career education

and its impact on students’ personal and professional growth. Special thanks to Arrow McLaren Indy Car Team (Matt Rhinesmith), Hagerman (Kevin Hammonds, Sarah Walker), Hamilton Heights Youth

Assistance (Mary Ann Haymaker), Ryan Fire Protection (Brittany Knight, Itzlenny Rodriguez), and Will Power Excavation & Bulldozing (Matt Mitchell, Will Schuler, Mitchell Wingham).



Photo provided by City of Carmel

Don't delay: send your letters to Santa

The REPORTER

The holiday season has arrived, and the City of Carmel is here to help you and your family prepare.

Write your letter to Santa (and please don't forget to include your name and return address) then drop it in one of the city's four custom-made mailboxes placed around Carmel for a direct delivery to Santa and his elves at the North Pole.

Don't delay – letters will be accepted through Sunday, Dec. 15.

Mailbox locations

You can drop your letter at any of these four lo-

cations:

- **Arts & Design District** – next to The Carmel Arts Council Children's Art Gallery (40 W. Main St.)
- **Midtown Plaza** – outside Sun King (351 Monon Blvd.)
- **City Center** – outside Hotel Carmichael (1 Carmichael Square and Veterans Way/Hanover Place)
- **Indiana Design Center** – at Santa's House (200 S. Range Line Road)

Not sure where to drop your letter? Reggie the Elf will show you a way in a YouTube video at tinyurl.com/ydwzyws4.

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office achieves CALEA Law Enforcement reaccreditation

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office announces its successful reaccreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA).

The achievement was celebrated during the CALEA Conference, held Nov. 13 to 16 in Jacksonville, Fla. Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush, Chief Deputy John Lowes, and Assistant Accreditation Manager Stephanie Ruggles were in attendance to accept the reaccreditation award from CALEA.

The rigorous CALEA accreditation process involves a thorough evaluation of policies, practices, and adherence to established best practices. This achievement reflects a steadfast commitment to operational excellence, public accountability, and con-



Photo provided

(From left) CALEA Commissioner Marlon Lynch, Chief Deputy John Lowes, Hamilton County Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush, HCSO Assistant Accreditation Manager Stephanie Ruggles, and CALEA Executive Director Craig Hartley.

tinuous improvement in law enforcement.

CALEA accreditation promotes the principles of community-oriented policing, fostering collaboration between law enforcement agencies and community members to address and mitigate challenges. It provides agencies with clear

guidelines aligned with community expectations, ensuring trust and transparency.

Established in 1979, CALEA serves as a credentialing authority developed by major law enforcement executive associations. Agencies earning CALEA accreditation are recog-

nized for their dedication to professionalism and compliance with stringent standards.

Hamilton County's exceptional accomplishment underscores its leadership in public safety and community partnership, setting a benchmark for other jurisdictions nationwide.

INDOT to hold public meeting on SR 37 at Noblesville High School

The REPORTER

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will hold a public information meeting regarding the State Road 37 Improvement project in Noblesville.

The meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at Noblesville High School, 18111

Cumberland Road. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the meeting will take place in the Large Group Instruction Room (Area #1239). Attendees should enter the school through Gate 1.

Representatives from INDOT, the City of Noblesville, Lochmueller Group, and American Structurepoint will provide

information and gather feedback about the project.

INDOT, in partnership with the City of Noblesville, is kicking off the State Road 37 Improvement project. This project will include improvements along SR 37 from south of Greenfield Avenue to north of State Road 32. The goal of the project

is to address traffic congestion and pedestrian and vehicular safety along the SR 37 corridor.

The entire project team is committed to robust project communications and collaboration. INDOT and the project team value feedback and will consider all comments and concerns.

Major Fishers AgriPark expansion features indoor restrooms, programming space & country store

The REPORTER

The Fishers AgriPark, the city's 33-acre urban farm and popular community destination, will soon feature major new additions.

With an investment of \$800,000, this enhancement will include indoor restrooms, classroom and programming space, and a country store designed to deepen the visitor experience. The new multi-purpose building will be constructed near the front of the property,

just west of the existing barn.

Construction of the building is set to be completed by May 2025, just in time for the AgriPark's busy spring and summer season. While the building will be operational at that time, certain elements, such as the country store, will open later in 2025.

“This addition reflects our commitment to making the Fishers AgriPark a premier destination for education, engagement, and

enjoyment,” Fishers Parks Director Marissa Deckert said. “The new amenities will not only enhance convenience but also provide more opportunities for interactive programming and hands-on experiences for visitors of all ages.”

Along with indoor restrooms, the upgraded facilities feature additional space for AgriPark workshops, school-based programs, and community events, as well as a new country store and

coffee shop that will offer specialty and seasonal food products and more from local vendors. The store is anticipated to open in 2026.

The new building comes on the heels of a record-breaking year for the Fishers AgriPark:

• **Visitor numbers:** Over 35,000 visitors enjoyed the AgriPark this season, with 30 percent visiting for the first time.

See Agri . . . Page A6

Holiday news from Lake Meadows Assisted Living

The REPORTER

Here is some of the latest news this holiday season from Lake Meadows Assisted Living in Fishers.

Food & Toy Drive

Lake Meadows' food drive is underway now until Dec. 17. The toy drive ends on Dec. 19, and residents and staff are compiling homeless bags to be delivered on Dec. 10. Pet supplies will also be accepted for the Humane Society. The residents would love for the community to donate. To donate, the public can bring items to Lake Meadows, 11570 E. 126th St., Fishers, where there are barrels in the lobby for food,

toys, and pet items.

Noblesville Christmas Parade

Lake Meadows is also participating in the Christmas parade for the Noblesville Holiday Lights at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, which will be televised.

Holiday door decorations

Lake Meadows resident Gene Fulmer formerly worked at McNamara Florist and is famous for the over-the-top Christmas decorations on his door. All residents join in the fun, and there's a door decor contest in mid-December. Fulmer would love to share his tips with residents.

Indiana State Police superintendent reflects on career triumphs, tragedies

By **DAKARAI TURNER**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Doug Carter, the superintendent of the Indiana State Police, is just days away from stepping down after leading the state's largest police force for over a decade.

As his tenure comes to a close, Carter reflected on a career that has spanned four decades, marked by both personal and professional challenges, triumphs and tragedies.

Carter's journey in law enforcement began in 1984. He rose through the ranks to become Indiana's top cop in 2013.

His leadership over the state police has seen him through numerous high-profile cases and incidents, but also through grief and heartache. Carter will retire as Gov.-elect Mike Braun assumes office in January.

Carter said, "It's been my life. I remember when I called my dad and told him I had an interview with [former governor] Mike Pence for this position."

Carter served two governors, navigating through turbulent times, including the loss of five law enforcement officers on duty within the first six months of 2023. Among them: troopers James Bailey and Aaron Smith.

Carter was tasked with the somber duty of presenting the American flags draped over their caskets to their grieving families.

Carter also led the state police during some of Indiana's most heartbreaking and unresolved cases, such as the 2016 deaths of four young Black girls in Flora, killed in an arson that remains unsolved. Despite the challenges of the investigation, Carter maintains hope.

"People talk about a cold case, but as long as people are alive, it's not cold," he said, adding that he believes the fire may not have been an intentional murder.

Another case that Carter thinks about is the 2017 murders of two teenage girls, Abby Williams and Libby German, in Delphi. The murders shocked the state and launched a years-long search for the killer, who was convicted earlier this month.

While the Delphi Murders case was not directly handled by the state police, Carter often found himself

in the public eye as the face of the investigation. A judge has a gag order in place until the convicted killer's sentencing, set for Dec. 20.



Carter

"I can't think of a case in our history that has gained that much attention for that length of time," Carter said. Asked if he had run into "political influence" during any investigation, Carter said, "I would not be sitting here if I did. I would retire that day."

A handwritten note that bears the names of the all six girls – Keyana, Keyara, Kerriele, Kionnie, Abby and Libby – sits on his desk, affixed to a rock he said was given to him by members of the Flora community after the fire there.

Carter's leadership, he said, is also defined by his efforts to address policing reforms, particularly in the wake of high-profile deaths of Black men at the hands of law enforcement, most notably George Floyd in 2020.

"We're a damaged profession, and it's going to take time to climb out of that," he said.

Carter said he believes conversations race and policing are essential to improving the culture of law enforcement.

Carter said the scrutiny on police forces is deserved.

Carter has also used his final years to push for changes within the department, including improvements in the state's aviation unit and forensic laboratory systems, which had been operating out of outdated facilities.

However, he expressed regret about leaving behind a "broken" recruitment system.

"We have fewer troopers today than we had in 1984 when I started," Carter said. "And that's one of my biggest regrets."

As Carter prepares for retirement, he envisions a quieter life, perhaps carving wood in the comfort of his home, he said.

Before he leaves, Carter has a message for his successor.

"Always care about others, not yourself," he said. "That's the most important thing I would say."

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/crime-watch-8/indiana-state-police-superintendent-reflects-on-career-triumphs-tragedies.

Fighting overdose deaths, one naloxone kit at a time

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

Overdose Lifeline recently distributed its one millionth naloxone kit. Meanwhile, Indiana has seen a 19 percent decrease in overdose deaths – a larger decline than the 14.9 percent nationally.

This month, Overdose Lifeline Founder Justin Phillips was awarded Indiana's highest honor, the Sagamore of the Wabash. The Reporter spoke to Phillips about the work that led to her award and the work that led to it.

"We are basing this [one million doses] on the numbers starting in 2020 when we formed this partnership with the state of Indiana," Phillips told The Reporter. "If we counted the smaller quantities that we distribute before 2020, we'd be over a million. But when the pandemic came and the state approached us about setting up this distribution model, that is when we're counting from to get to the one million."

Phillips said they could never have reached this milestone without the network of volunteers. Approximately 50 people show up every other Tuesday night to make kits at the Overdose Lifeline office. They also have partnerships with Marion University, IU School of Nursing, National Bank of Indianapolis, and Center Bank, all of whom have encouraged their employees to help get to the one million naloxone kits mark.

"We could absolutely not do it without those volunteers," Phillips said. "We used to make kits ourselves, but because now we've built

this army of volunteers, we don't have to do that as frequently anymore, which is a tremendous lift of burden."

Now Overdose Lifeline is free to focus on processing and fulfilling requests, as well as tracking the data from their now huge network.

"We have a request form on our website," Phillips said. "It's at the very top of the webpage that all someone has to do is fill out a simple form that can or cannot be anonymous. And we will mail naloxone to them at their address. It's also possible for you to visit a NaloxBox, which is something that can be found in public spaces. It's also possible to visit a local distributor. There is a map on our website, in addition to the request form."

With the holiday season upon us, the potential for people suffering or recovering from addiction to turn to opioids is higher. Naloxone (a.k.a. Narcan) distribution can be a controversial topic, so The Reporter asked Phillips to address that stigma for our readers.

"Substance use disorder addiction is a chronic disease," Phillips said. "The organ effected is the brain, in much the same way we have organs affected by other chronic diseases like pancreas or the heart. We would never deny someone health care because they have a setback in their disease. A Type 2 diabetic is not going to be denied life-saving insulin because they struggled with following their diet one day. And this is no different. Unfortunately, it's very stigmatized."

Phillips also spoke about



Photo provided

Overdose Lifeline Founder Justin Phillips (right) was recently presented with the Sagamore of the Wabash award by Indiana NextLevel Recovery Executive Director Doug Huntsinger.

the perception that naloxone is often seen as a kind of "safety net" for drug users.

"The truth of the matter is access to naloxone does nothing but keep someone alive long enough to get them to recovery," Phillips said. "No one finds recovery if they're dead and no one uses with the idea that there is a safety net for them because they're not using it. It's just not how addiction works. Addiction is very complicated hijacking of the brain. There's just not really a lot of logic, unfortunately, for people with addiction."

Overdose Lifeline has vending machines available, each of which holds 350 doses of naloxone. They also have community partners available to distribute doses across Indiana. In all cases, it is free to those who need it.

A map of locations is available online at overdosedlifeline.org/nalox-one-indiana-distribution.

one-indiana-distribution.

"There's no need to worry about shame or stigma," Phillips said. "There's plenty of opportunity to access it without having to interact with the human. And we have other harm reduction resources for individuals who are interested as well."

Justin Phillips founded Overdose Lifeline after the death of her youngest son, Aaron, from a heroin overdose at the age of 20. Phillips started the organization as a way to help those with substance addictions and the people who love them.

For more information about Overdose Lifeline, visit OverdoseLifeline.org. You can also request naloxone and fentanyl test strips on that website.

If you would like to help Overdose Lifeline continue its work, you can donate online at overdosedlifeline.org/donate.

Maintaining a piece of iconic downtown Noblesville history



Reporter photo

The remodeling of the old Kirk's Hardware building on the north side of the square in Noblesville is underway. The Reporter happened to catch one worker who was just about to clear the top of the building.

AGRI

from Page A5

• **Produce harvest:** Guests participated in harvesting over 150,000 pounds of produce, including more than 100,000 vegetable plants and nearly four acres of sweet corn.

• **Educational impact:** Thousands of participants engaged in hands-on learning through the U-pick program, animal encounters, and educational events.

Owned and operated by Fishers Parks, the Fishers AgriPark celebrates the city's agricultural roots while inspiring future generations. From fields and gardens to animal encounters and a sensory nature play area, the AgriPark offers a unique experience that combines farming, education, and fun.

Visitors can immerse themselves in a working farm, meeting animals like

Otis the pig and learning about cutting-edge farming practices needed to feed a growing world. In partnership with Hamilton Southeastern Schools, the AgriPark also hosts school-based programs to engage students in agricultural sciences and sustainability.

"The addition of the new building is part of Fishers Parks' ongoing efforts to enhance the AgriPark's role as a community resource," Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness said. "With upgraded facilities and new features, the AgriPark will continue to connect residents and visitors to the land, the food they eat, and the importance of sustainable agriculture."

For updates on the project and upcoming events, visit FishersParks.com/AgriPark.

State Rep. Garcia Wilburn to advocate for sexual assault survivors in 2025 legislation

The REPORTER

As the 2025 legislative session fast approaches, State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D-Fishers) has unveiled two of the 10 bills she intends to file this session, both supporting sexual assault survivors.

One piece of legislation would establish a sexual assault survivor bill of rights, which advocates called for during a 2024 Interim Study Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code. One advocate testified during committee that her efforts to seek justice and receive a full investigation were met with hostility and additional trauma from not being supported by the criminal justice system. This includes provi-

sions such as addressing Indiana's rape kit backlog and guaranteeing that victims can obtain a copy of the law enforcement report concerning the sexual assault.

"From our extensive rape kit backlog to a reporting process that further violates victims, Indiana has work to do when it comes to truly supporting survivors of sexual assault," Garcia Wilburn said. "The legislature has not been in session since March, and since then, I've focused on meeting with survivors and advocates, members of our very own community,



Garcia Wilburn

One in every five Hoosier women has been sexually assaulted and I know we can improve the sexual assault investigation process in our state. I believe that a sexual assault survivor bill of rights that affirmatively states what promises Indiana must keep to survivors is a necessary step to ensure that we move past statements of support to implementing statewide change."

The second bill would create a sentencing enhancement for sexual battery that is committed against a law enforcement officer. Under the bill, this crime would

result in a Level 4 felony, whereas other instances of sexual battery incur a Level 6 felony.

"Our law enforcement officers need to know that the state has their back if they experience the horror of sexual battery while in the line of duty," Garcia Wilburn said. "Putting on the badge is no light undertaking, and the sad reality is that there are individuals out there who want to harm and violate our officers. My hope is that this legislation would serve as an additional deterrent for those who would commit an unimaginable crime against a brave member of our blue family."

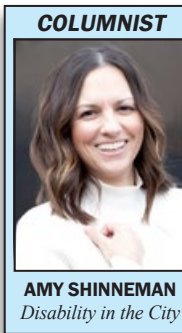
The 2025 legislative session is set to begin on Jan. 8.

Thanks for reading!

Teach your parents well

I wonder if my children will ever grasp the truth that watching them run has healed my hurts from never being able to run? Or all that watching them run has taught me. Not their job, but it is what happened. God knew the next best thing would be for me to watch my children run. What a beautiful thing it is.

When you have children, you often think about all you will teach them. Sometimes you even stress about what you need to teach them in the time you have with them under your roof. It can seem overwhelming when thinking too far ahead. One thing no one talks too much about is all that your children will teach you. I have learned so



COLUMNIST
AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

much about myself through raising my two sons. I have learned that I do some things well, and I have also learned that some things that I do/did, need/needed to be let go or changed. In fact, I am still learning from them and my boys are 17 and 21.

I have learned so much watching them and others run these last several years. I have seen a lot of joy, pain and hardworking kids pushing to the max, day in and day out, nearly all year around. I relate in the way that I can, knowing the toll that daily taxing on a body takes. What it does physically as well as mentally. I know it differently, but I know.

In many ways, I think that watching them run all these years has given me the strength to keep going with my own daily "training." Each day is a feat of physicality for me, and a mental mountain to climb. Seeing their persistence and drive has been extremely inspiring to me. I doubt I would be doing as well physically as I am today without their motivation in my life. I truly do not think I would have the same attitude towards my workouts, or the spirit to keep going after 50 years of it.

I think it is a good reminder that we can gain inspiration and motivation from others who are doing different things than we are. We can take something positive from others and apply in an applicable way in our own lives. Who knew

that something I have never been able to do would have such a monumental impact on my life?

Another thing I have learned from my boys is humility. What stands out the most is not their successes in running, but rather the times when it was difficult, or they were injured and how they handled those instances. Staying humble, even in the moments of defeat. That is not easy to do. It is easier to be angry at the let-down's life throws our way. That anger seems warranted. What is not easy is facing tough times with humility. I watched each of them grow tremendously in humility throughout their years of running. Accepting that life throws everyone curveballs, and handling those in a humble way is taking the more difficult path.

First came paper football, then came girls

Four seventh-grade boys. Four seventh-grade girls. Two telephones – rotary dial dinosaurs adhered to parents' kitchen walls. Thick, twisted, dangled cords, like entangled anacondas in heat.

Four seventh-grade boys on a Friday night sleepover. Four seventh-grade girls at a slumber party barely a mile away.

Before the number is dialed, though, the boys must muster a collective courage while flicking a piece of paper that has been folded into a triangle for a sport called "paper football," during which a kitchen tabletop becomes an imaginary gridiron. *The Grand Illusion* plays.

Four seventh-grade girls await the call while doing whatever it is they do at slumber parties. Maybe they play Milton Bradley's Mystery Date board game, excited to see which date awaits them from behind the door: dancer, bowler, skier, beach boy – or the dreaded dud. Sort of like *The Dating Game* TV show, minus serial killer contestants. Or maybe they debate the cutest Hardy Boy. Parker Stevenson never has a prayer, not with Shaun Cassidy in the picture. Of all the Tiger Beat cover boys, Shaun Cassidy's the Tiger Beat-iest.

Paper football was the greatest sport ever invented, the only competition I excelled at. I could've gone pro. It was the great equalizer of jock versus non-jock athletic competition. It didn't require speed, nor height, nor strength. Just a magic forefinger possessing flicking finesse, working the paper triangle downfield and coaxing it to stop on the table's edge without dropping to the floor. Touchdown!

I'm undefeated. I've practiced for days. I'm not popular like my guests: M, D, and The Other Scott. But D is my cousin. That's why the others agree to spend the night. Glory by association. I drop D's name anytime I can, especially around girls, who seem surprised by my claim no matter how many times they've heard it since first-grade roll call. The echoes of their incredulity still play in my mind. "First cousins!" I remind.

Four seventh-grade boys finally tiring of Friday Night Paper Football (well, three boys ... I could flick all night ... I'm 6 and 0 ... the only time in my life that I'm on top).

Our imaginations run wild about slumber parties. No boy in history has ever been privy to the slumber party inner sanctum. One tried, but he was drowned in a vat of Dippity-do.

—I wonder what they do?

—I bet they fart a lot.

—That's it? That's all you're thinking about?

—Funny farts. Like *Blazing Saddles*.

—We don't even do that.

—I bet their farts smell like Bubble Yum.

I spit out my Bubble Yum.

—Girls don't fart. Mom tells me this all the time.

like paper football.

—Pillow fights.

—Goose feathers falling like winter snow.

—Jesus, Scott. Who are you? Walt Whitman?

—More like Slim Whitman.

—Someone dial the number.

—You dial.

—It's Scott's house. He should dial.

Earlier that day, A's phone number had been written on a strip of paper, secured beneath a tray, and slid toward M in the cafeteria. We had to be discrete, what with the nuns patrolling the lunchroom, blood-encrusted wooden rulers ready to be drawn from holsters like Dirty Harry's Smith & Wesson. Sister Dirty Mary Harriet.

I inhale. I dial. 5. 4. My armpits feel swampy. I hang up.

—Let's play finger football.

M, D, and The Other Scott groan.

M takes the strip of paper from me and dials. He's the class sports star. Mr. Popularity. Leif Garrett. Correction: Leif Garrett wishes he were M. M dials with the same ease he demonstrates catching touchdown passes. He rests the handset on the floor, receiver side up.

"Hello?" A girl's voice, acting surprised. It's A. The others say hello: K, J, and C.

We talk movies and music. Somehow, A and K got into *Saturday Night Fever*. We only hear the dirty parts. Bay City Rollers, Andy Gibb, Peter Frampton, and Foreigner. I roll out the sensitive guy schtick (me in mind-over-muscle mode ... chicks love it) and proclaim, as if reciting an original poem, "Love hurts, love scars, love wounds." Cousin D calls me out for plagiarizing Nazareth, making me feel shorter than I already am.

Then K says, "Earlier, we made a Top Ten list of the hottest boys at school. Want to hear it?"

"Tell us," M says confidently.

"Number 1: M."

M smirks at me, as if payback for me kicking his ass at paper football.

"Number 2: D."

"We're cousins," I announce, hoping for third place. "First cousins." I add.

D looks embarrassed. "Number 3: Scott."

I smile.

"The Other Scott," A, C, J, and K clarify simultaneously.

I frown. Oh, well, fourth out of 10 isn't so bad, I think.

Five more names follow. Spots 4 through 9. None are me. You'd think I'd get pity votes for hosting the sleepover. I consider hanging myself with the phone cord.

"Number 10: Scott. The Other Scott's Other Scott."

Finally, I sigh with relief, like the second-to-last kid picked in kickball. Thank you, Playground Jesus. Pity placement. I'll take it!

The sleepover officially marked the reality of where I stood with girls. I've been self-conscious of this ever since. Hello, dysmorphia, my old friend. I wish we'd just played paper football that night, but a new chapter had begun.

To contact Scott, or to play paper football, email scottsaaalman@gmail.com.



COLUMNIST
SCOTT SAAALMAN
Scaramouch

Dr. Feldman advises against Medicare Advantage Plans

We're in the Medicare open enrollment season. I strongly advise patients signing up for Medicare to avoid Part C Medicare Advantage programs (MAPs). Rather, I recommend "traditional"



COLUMNIST
RICHARD D. FELDMAN, M.D.
State of Our Health

to facility-based rehabilitation, skilled nursing facilities, and long-term acute care hospitals are examples.

MAPs' primary goal is profit. The federal government pays more to these plans than it would expend in traditional Medicare costs (\$27 billion more in 2023). Nevertheless, Congress anticipated that risk-based contracting with MAPs would result in more cost-effective care and reduced governmental costs. Unfortunately, most cost savings from MAPs are returned to the insurance companies in profits rather than in savings to the government or patients. A big part of "cost-effective care" is denial of services.

My wife has an MAP plan. She recently underwent an extensive orthopedic surgery. She was advised that recovery would take a year. The surgeon wasn't exaggerating.

Her surgeon assumed insurance would approve a rehabilitation hospital on discharge. The MAP denied it. We alternatively requested rehab in a nursing home.

Denied. The MAP said her rehabilitation could be met with a "lesser level of care," meaning intermittent home physical therapy. Multiple appeals failed.

We opted to self-pay several thousand dollars for the nursing home with physical therapy. The facility's physician told us that if she had returned directly home from the hospital, it would have been a disaster.

The MAP said she was doing so well with post-op physical therapy in the hospital, that she did not qualify for facility-based rehabilitation. The nursing home physical therapist told us how it really works: Either the patient doesn't do well enough or does too well to qualify. Either way, care is denied.

The Kaiser Family Foundation issued a recent analysis that found MAPs denied 3.4 million prior authorization requests in 2022 (denial rates do vary among the MAPs). KFF also reports these denials create barriers and delays in care that double the risk for adverse outcomes including life-threatening events, permanent disability, and death.

The Department of Health and Human Services

was circumspect that MAP denials are used to increase profits, prompting a 2022 study from its Office of the Inspector General. It commonly found prior-authorization denials for services that would have been covered by traditional Medicare. The report concluded that there were "... widespread and persistent problems related to inappropriate denials of services and provider payments ... even though the requests met Medicare coverage and billing rules."

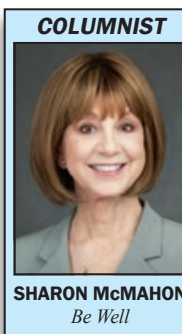
Congress is considering legislation, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services passed regulations to contain the out-of-control prior authorization process. What effects they may have are uncertain.

If you have common straight-forward health conditions you may never experience problems with MAPs. But if you ever have an unusual illness or the need for rehabilitation, high-intensity care, or other expensive services, be wary of MAPs.

Richard D. Feldman, M.D. is an Indianapolis family physician and former Indiana State Health Commissioner who served in the administration of Governor Frank O'Bannon.

When it comes to clutter, the more you have, the more stress you feel

"For every minute spent organizing, an hour is earned." – Benjamin Franklin



COLUMNIST
SHARON MCMAHON
Be Well

Most of us do not necessarily equate being organized with factors involving our health, but it is quite true that feelings of being unorganized can greatly affect our health.

We all need to sleep better. Physical, mental, and emotional clutter can make you more anxious, which can make it harder to fall or stay asleep. When you're disorganized it's not uncommon to have thoughts running through your head because you're trying to remember so many different things. If you spend more effort to be organized, you will have more time to relax or enjoy quality sleep. People who are organized tend to be better about taking care of their health. You may be more likely to schedule doctor appointments and health screenings. You also may be

more likely to schedule time for regular exercise and to set aside time to plan and prepare healthier meals.

Chronic stress takes a toll on your body. So by reducing your stress level through increased organization, you can improve your overall health.¹ When you're organized and managing your time well, you have enough time left over to take care of yourself. You can create a daily exercise routine, plan meals, and keep your kitchen organized to encourage healthy eating habits. Although I am usually a very organized person, the recent move along with the pending holidays has caused me to think more about the importance of organization and how it helps us to take the best care of ourselves. Practicing self-care allows us to also take better care of our loved ones.

We live in a world that demands our attention most

of the time through social media and busy schedules. (Count me guilty on that busy scheduling issue!) I have written many times about the importance of physical balance and I will add that practicing good organizational skills will aid you greatly in your mental and emotional health as well.

As our Founding Father's quote shares with us, it seems like a very good return on our investment of organizing to enjoy an hour earned for every minute.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and organized Thanksgiving!

Sharon McMahon, CNWC
pnhhealth.org
The opinions expressed in this article are not intended to replace advice of your personal physician or licensed health professional. Please consult your physician for any issues you may have related to nutrition or fitness activity.

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Community News

Come have breakfast with Santa!

Bring your littles and come eat breakfast with Santa from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Red Bridge Community Park Building in Cicero.

Call (317) 796-8672 to reserve your spots at \$7 each. Besides breakfast, Phi Beta Psi, Delta Chapter will provide crafts, stories, coloring for little ones, and a sales table for adults.

Revolutionary War patriot Eli Coverdale honored

By Shirley Hunter Smith
Horseshoe Prairie Chapter, DAR

Horseshoe Prairie Chapter, DAR, commemorated the life and patriotic service of Eli Coverdale with a program and plaque at Bethel Church Cemetery Saturday, Nov. 16. Special guests were Mr. Robert Goode, fourth great-grandson of Eli and Margaret Passwater Coverdale; and Mrs. Elaine Sholty, Indiana State DAR Regent, who delivered remarks at the ceremony.

Volunteers from the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) posted colors, Mr. Don Vermillion played the bagpipes, an Honor Guard from The Noblesville Navy Club Ship 29 fired a rifle volley salute, and Mr. David Bechtel played taps, followed by the audience singing "God Bless America."

Eli Coverdale served our country at the age of



Photo provided by Horseshoe Prairie Chapter, DAR
Horseshoe Prairie Chapter DAR members, SAR Volunteers, and Robert Goode, in brown with the brown hat. Brown is the fourth great-grandson of Eli and Margaret Passwater Coverdale.

15. Born in Sussex, Del., he later became a resident of Hamilton County. Coverdale died of burns having fought a brush fire on his farm in Wayne Township in April 1853, when he was over 96 years of age.

The National Society

Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) is a women's service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. To-

day's DAR is dynamic and diverse, serving the community through service, education, and historical preservation. Do you have a patriot in your family? Visit dar.org or contact Shirley Hunter Smith at shirley1776@yahoo.com.

Carmel Christkindlmarkt announces winners of Kulturecke Docent Scholarship Program

The REPORTER

The Carmel Christkindlmarkt team and the Indiana German Heritage Society (IGHS) Kulturecke committee have chosen the winners of the 2024 Kulturecke Docent Scholarship Program, sponsored by the Indiana German Heritage Society (IGHS).

The first-place winner and recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship is Ellen Rozmaryn, Carmel High School, Class of 2027.

Rozmaryn developed a love for German culture as a child living in Munich. A third-year high school German student in Carmel, she has excelled academically and earned a gold medal on the Level 2 National German Exam. She actively participates in local German cultural initiatives, such as volunteering on the new Carmel-Seiffen Sister Cities Committee. Her essay focused on the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis, highlighting its connection to German im-

migrant contributions, its significance as a symbol of freedom and unity, and a special place for Rozmaryn's family during the holidays.

The second-place winner and recipient of the \$500 scholarship is Abiola Olutayo, Fishers High School, Class of 2027.

Olutayo became passionate about German culture during a trip to Germany, which inspired a love for Christmas markets. She has volunteered for the Carmel Christkindlmarkt docent program and is the leader of her school's German club. She plans to pursue a German major in college. Her essay focused on specific German celebrations in Indiana. She took a special interest in local-specific foods, music, and art expressions at these events, reflecting the immigrants who founded these communities.

The third-place winner and recipient of the \$250 scholarship is Sam Vrtismarch, Carmel High School,



Photo provided
(From left) Travis Jerde (Kulturecke Program Coordinator, IGHS), Sandra Richardson (VP of Cultural Programs, Carmel Christkindlmarkt), Abiola Olutayo (2nd Place winner), Maria Adele Rosenfeld (CEO & President, Carmel Christkindlmarkt), Sam Vrtismarch (3rd Place winner), Brian Griesemer (President, IGHS), Ellen Rozmaryn (1st Place winner), Sheena Zhao (Director of Corporate Sponsorships, Carmel Christkindlmarkt), and Leah Hess (Cultural Events Manager, Carmel Christkindlmarkt).

Class of 2025.

Vrtismarch is a Carmel High School IB German student in his fifth year of German study. He has participated in two exchange programs in Germany, and his family has hosted a German exchange student in Carmel. Sam's essay explored the role of beer brewing in Indianapolis, highlighting its historical significance and recent resurgence, and analyzed the impact of prohibition on German-American culture.

The Kulturecke Docent

Scholarship Program is an opportunity for high school and college students to get involved in the Carmel Christkindlmarkt and partner in bringing history and cultural awareness to the city. In addition to the scholarship prizes, docents will attend special appearances requested for various events around the Market throughout the season.

Learn more about the Kulturecke Docent Scholarship Program at tinyurl.com/Kulturecke.

Rep. Victoria Spartz announces 2024 Military Academy nominations

The REPORTER

On Nov. 22, Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-05) announced the names of 20 high school seniors from Indiana's Fifth District who have been nominated to attend the United States Military Academies. These prestigious academies offer exceptional young people the opportunity to serve our country while receiving a world-class education and full scholarships.

"It is a true honor to nominate these outstanding students," Rep. Spartz said. "This year's applicants represent the best and brightest of our district, and I have no doubt they will excel in their academic and military careers."

U.S. Air Force Academy

- Norah Brandenburg – Hamilton Southeastern High School
- Cameron Echard – Westfield High School
- Daniel Liu – Park Tudor School
- Daniel Liu – Park Tu-

dor School

- Alex Munn – Westfield High School
- Robert Shaw – Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School

- Warner Sims – Pendleton Heights High School
- Jonathan Tangara – Fishers High School

- Andrew Wolfe – Homeschooled, Metamora Township High School

- U.S. Naval Academy
- Norah Brandenburg – Hamilton Southeastern High School

- Cameron Echard – Westfield High School
- Daniel Liu – Park Tudor School
- Alex Munn – Westfield High School
- Jackson Nevil – The Citadel

- Robert Shaw – Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School
- Braeden Strothkamp – Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School

- Jonathan Tangara – Fishers High School
- Andrew Wolfe – Homeschooled, Metamora Township High School



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Tuesday, December 10th from Noon - 6pm

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Julia Ann Irwin Richter

November 15, 1943 - November 15, 2024

Julia Ann Irwin Richter passed away peacefully surrounded by love at her home in Fishers on November 15, 2024.

Julia lived a precious life between the arc of her birth and death. She was born in Washington, D.C., on November 15, 1943, to Edna Prater Irwin and John P. Irwin.

After the end of the war, Julia and her parents moved to Ohio while her father finished college on the GI bill at Miami University of Ohio.

Julia was a proud graduate of the Portsmouth High School Class of 1961. She graduated from Hanover College in 1965.

Julie was active in her community. She was one of the founders of the Dyslexia Institute of Indiana and Camp Delafield for Children.

Frederick William Pfau II

May 28, 1943 - November 25, 2024

Frederick William Pfau II, 81, Noblesville, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 25, 2024.



He was a University of Michigan alum, earning his MBA. Fred proudly served his country in the United States Air Force.



Fred loved his community and was a familiar face among many Noblesville small businesses.

Fred also enjoyed volunteering in many different capacities over the years including as an EMT, and at the VA Hospital in Ft. Wayne.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Jeanene Pfau; children, Frederick William (Lora) Pfau III, Debbie (Chris) Harris, Tari (Chris) Klemme; stepchildren, Jennifer (Chris) Reuter, Laura (Roger) Bolender; 22 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Fred's family has entrusted his care to Randall & Roberts Funeral Homes.

Condolences: randallroberts.com



slushies at The Apple Store, and they have been a hit since it opened! She was a docent at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, a 50-year member of the Junior League of Indianapolis, and a 50-year member of Noblesville First United Methodist Church.

Julie was thankful for her decades of Bible study meetings and friendships with the ladies of the Monday Group. Her Phi Mu sorority sisters, members of the Orchard Book Club, the Connerwood Book Club, and the Connerwood Art Group were also dear to Julie.

Julie cherished her family. She was a loving wife, mother, and Nana. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, James "Jim" Arthur Richter, daughter Krista Ann Richter, son James "Jamey" Irwin Richter (Stacie Hertenstein), grandchildren Nikhil Richter, Zoi Richter, Myles Hertenstein (Jessica), Taia Hertenstein Perkins (Holden), and Owen Hertenstein, sisters-in-law Kay Richter, Judy Dass (AI), and Marcia Richter, nieces Jennifer Richter, Lindsay Kookoethe (Chris), and Jessica Downs (Lucas), grandniece Luna Richter, and grand-nephews Henry Kookoethe, Milo Downs, and Teddy Downs.

She is predeceased by her parents, Edna Prater Irwin and John P. Irwin, her father-in-law Dr. Arthur B. Richter, mother-in-law Lyda Mary Richter, sister-in-law Dr. Mary Alex Richter, and brother-in-law Thomas R. Richter.

Julie fought to stay in the land of living as she battled a long, challenging illness with courage, determination, and strength. She held on to her faith. She was grateful to spend the last 10 months of her life at her beautiful home of 52 years in Fishers, and appreciated the memories and moments she shared with her family, friends, and Connerwood neighbors.

A visitation and celebration of life service will be held for Julie on Friday, December 6, 2024, at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St., Noblesville. Visitation is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the chapel, with the service immediately following at 1 p.m. in the sanctuary. The burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the Richter Family has requested that donations may be made to the Julia Irwin Richter Educational Fund. Donation checks should be written to the Dyslexia Institute of Indiana with the name of her fund listed on the memo line and mailed to: The Dyslexia Institute of Indiana, Attention: Julia Irwin Richter Educational Fund, 8395 Keystone Crossing, Suite 350, Indianapolis, IN 46240.

Julie's legacy of love and learning live on through her family, work, students, and everyone she helped. She is forever in our hearts.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Gretchen K. Dickison

March 13, 1942 - November 25, 2024

Gretchen K. Dickison, 82, Noblesville, passed away on Monday, November 25, 2024, at Wellbrooke of Westfield. She was born on March 13, 1942 to Edgar and Esther (Harr) Stahl in Indianapolis.

For 32 years, Gretchen was an elementary teacher for IPS. She was the former president of the Kiwanis Club, and a member of P.E.O., the Hamilton County Extension, and the Newcomer's Club. In 1975, Gretchen was awarded the National P.T.A. Teacher of the Year award.

Gretchen is survived by her sons, Jeffrey (Lori Ann) Dickison, and Greg Dickison; and her two granddaughters, Page & Courtney Dickison.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, George I. Dickison in September; and her sister & brother-in-law, Margaret "Meg" & Phillip Tomlin.

Visitation will be from 10 to 11 a.m., with services at 11 a.m., on Friday, December 6, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Rev. Stanley R. Sutton will officiate. Private enticement will be at Hamilton Memorial Park Cemetery in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Humane Society for Hamilton County, 10501 Hague Road, Fishers, IN 46038 (hamiltonhumane.com).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Leona Jean Peachey

March 3, 2023 - November 20, 2024

Leona Jean Peachey, daughter of Steven and Jessica (Morgan) Peachey, went to heaven on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

Leona Jean was born in Indianapolis on March 3, 2023.

Leona was everything you want in a beautiful baby girl. She shined her light as bright as the sun. For all of us blessed to be with her, we could never get enough time. Although her time with us was short, her impact was immense.

With her parents, she got to travel to 10 states seeing the ocean, mountains, and her first national park. She loved reading books, exploring outside, singing and dancing to music, but most of all she loved being with her family. She will be forever missed.

Private family graveside service were held November 29, 2024 at Arcadia Brethren Church cemetery. Donations on Leona's behalf can be made to the Catherine Peachey Fund.

Along with her parents, Leona is survived by her grandparents, Steven (Lorianne) Peachey, Sr. of Florida, and Kevin (Denise) Morgan of Arcadia; aunt, Christian (Ilie) Travis of Noblesville; great-grandmother, Marieta Macy of Noblesville.

Leona's care has been entrusted to Hartley Funeral Home, Cicero.

Online condolences can be given at hartleyfuneralhomes.com.

Lynn (Henning) Degnan

April 9, 1943 - November 22, 2024

Lynn (Henning) Degnan, 81, Westfield, passed away November 22, 2024, surrounded by her loving family, leaving a legacy of joy, warmth, and unforgettable laughter. She was born April 9, 1943, in Toledo, Ohio.

A proud graduate of St. Ursula Academy in 1961, Lynn continued her education at Marygrove College in Detroit, where she earned a degree in education in 1965. The following year, she married her high school sweetheart, Dan Degnan, in a beautiful ceremony at Jesu Catholic Church in Toledo.

Lynn had a remarkable ability to turn strangers into lifelong friends and create bonds that spanned decades. A devoted mother, she balanced raising her children with working in various fields, leaving a mark of kindness and dedication wherever she went.

A woman of many talents, Lynn excelled as a card player, cookbook collector, seamstress, and storyteller. She was also a philosopher of sorts, reminding all to approach life with humor and wisdom, often captured in her playful admonition to "never swim in your tuxedo."

Lynn's memory will be cherished by her brother Richard (Mary) Henning; her children, Dan (Michelle) Degnan and Kelly Degnan-Lauster; her beloved grandchildren, Zach Lauster, Charlie Degnan, Emmy Lauster, Max Degnan, Sam Degnan, and Danny Degnan IV.

She is reunited in peace with her parents and her beloved husband, Dan.

Lynn's love, laughter, and unshakable spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. Her family invites those who loved her to honor her legacy by continuing to spread kindness and joy, just as she did every day of her extraordinary life.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to serve the Degnan family.

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

Jason Krebs

July 15, 1972 - November 26, 2024

Jason Krebs, 52, Noblesville, passed away on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at Riverview Health in Noblesville. He was born on July 15, 1972.

Jason worked for Janus Developmental Services and loved people.

He is survived by his chosen family and friends. Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at Crownland Cemetery, 1776 Monument St., Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Elysian Foundation, 1812 Walnut Way, Noblesville, IN 46062.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Real estate listings for 18794 Prairie Crossing Drive, 540 Zephyr Way, 1880 E. 75 North, 1940 Nantucket Drive, and 275 Wyandotte Court. Includes photos and descriptions of properties.

The Reporter's policy on obituaries. The Hamilton County Reporter does not charge families for publishing obituary notices in our pages.

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Thank you for reading The Reporter!

RocksGiving II: the sequel is bigger & rocks harder than the original

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

On Monday evening, Nov. 25, volunteers and diners from all over the community filled the cafeterias at Westfield High School to overflowing for the second annual RocksGiving.

Approximately 200 parents, teachers, students, and community members volunteered to welcome guests, man craft tables, and serve up around 1,500 turkey dinners, complete with all the fixings.

Well over a year ago, Westfield Washington Schools Superintendent Paul Kaiser approached WWS Director of Community Engagement Ashley Knott with the idea of providing a community dinner that brought people together and also raised awareness of needs within the community.

“The best way to do that is to break bread and sit around the table,” Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction John Atha said. “All are welcome, no matter what. The whole purpose is to come have a Thanksgiving meal, be grateful for the wonderful community of Westfield, and meet somebody you might not know – and there might be some way you can connect and help them out.”

Kaiser’s dream became a reality last year and has only expanded this year.

According to Knott, who also serves as executive director of the Westfield Education Foundation, RocksGiving was made possible entirely by donations from community partners.

“Zero dollars come from

the school budget,” she said. “This is put on and hosted by community in support of community.”

Duke Energy played a leading role as the title sponsor, providing all the dinner food and serving supplies.

The Reporter has learned that Duke Energy’s donation was \$15,000.

Duke Energy Government & Community Relations Manager Mark LaBarr said that Duke Energy likes to help fight food insecurity anywhere it can.

“This is a great opportunity for the community to come together, especially those among us who may be distressed or may not have another opportunity for a Thanksgiving meal,” LaBarr said.

Each meal included turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and green beans. Rolls and ever-popular cinnamon butter were donated by Texas Roadhouse, Costco contributed 150 pumpkin pies, and Coca-Cola Consolidated ensured everyone had water, tea, or soda to wash their meal down.

Riverview Health provided festive yellow T-shirts for volunteers, and BMW Dreyer & Reinbold supplied the kitchen staff with aprons. Northview Church helped cover any remaining expenses in order to make the night a success.

“The number of volunteers that have reached out to support others in the community speaks to what amazing youth, parents, community members and businesses we have in Westfield,” Knott said.

WWS Director of Food Services Paul Sherrer said he and his team had been



Reporter photos by Amy Adams
(TOP LEFT) Kelly Coker and Andy Tigulus were among the couple hundred volunteers who helped serve approximately 1,500 meals. **(TOP RIGHT, from left)** Junior Dani Montgomery, senior Megan Krueckeberg, and junior Garrett Tucker took a break from volunteering to give some love to the Coca-Cola bear. **(ABOVE LEFT)** Westfield Intermediate School fifth grader Alex Tuck dressed like a turkey ... because why not? **(ABOVE RIGHT)** The Westfield Intermediate School Choir provided entertainment.

working on preparing for the meal for months. And when they ran into a snag with the turkey orders, they did what they had to do, right down to picking up the turkeys themselves, to make sure the meal went off as planned.

“Our goal is that people don’t see all the running around we do,” Sherrer said.

“They just come in and enjoy the meal.”

Knott acknowledged that the WWS food team goes above and beyond to make sure students are fed on a daily basis.

“Tonight is just another extension of how much they care,” she said.

In addition to the free meal, students from the

Westfield Intermediate School choir serenaded guests with holiday tunes, and craft stations offered children activities such as decorating cookies and making friendship bracelets. The event also welcomed organizations such as Hamilton County Public Health, Heart & Soul Clinic, Westfield Washington

Township, and Westfield Youth Assistance to offer information and services to whoever might need it.

Any leftover food was delivered to Westfield police and fire stations as well as to Second Helpings, a hunger relief agency which accepts food donations to make sure people are fed throughout central Indiana.



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High School Football State Championship



Photo by Joshua Herd

The Westfield football team dropped a hard-fought Class 6A state championship game to Brownsburg last Friday night 22-17 at Lucas Oil Stadium. The Shamrocks finished their season 12-2.

Shamrocks fall short at state

Brownsburg Bulldogs win first state championship since 1985

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

INDIANAPOLIS — Westfield's bid to win the first ever all Hoosier Crossroads Conference state football championship game fell short last Friday night.

The Shamrocks took on Brownsburg at Lucas Oil Stadium for the Class 6A state title, the first time two HCC teams were playing for a 6A trophy. Westfield jumped out to an early lead before the Bulldogs took over in the second half for a 22-17 victory. It's the first time Brownsburg has won any football state title since 1985.

"Kudos to Brownsburg," said Westfield coach Josh Miracle. "That's an excellent-coached team and they made a few more plays than us down the stretch and that's just kind of how it went. Two good teams that hopefully showcased the HCC tonight."

Westfield got the ball to start the game, and both teams' first possession finished in punts. The Shamrocks made a long drive to get on the board first.

Two fourth-down conversions kept Westfield's

drive going. Parker Knott made a 21-yard run to get the 'Rocks into Bulldogs territory, then Carsen Melvin made a 10-yard pass to Deacon King on fourth-and-9.

King did most of the work on that drive with short runs. He finished things up with a five-yard run into the end zone on third and goal with 30 seconds left in the first quarter. Owen Wright kicked the extra point.

Westfield held Brownsburg to a quick three-and-out for its next possession. The Shamrocks were stalled in their next drive at the Bulldogs' 28, but Wright was there to save the day: he blasted a 45-yard field goal midway through the second to give Westfield a 10-0 lead.

Brownsburg responded with its first score. On third and 19, Kovon Sumpter-Bay broke loose from a couple Shamrock tackles and turned a short pass into a 71-yard touchdown reception. Will Orlando made the extra point kick, and that would be the last score of the half.

Westfield began the second half ahead 10-7, but Brownsburg tied it the game after Orlando made

a 25-yard field goal. That would be the only score of the third quarter, but the Bulldogs were driving as they went into the fourth.

Brownsburg finished the drive at the 9:40 mark of the quarter, with Iosua Stephens throwing to Branden Sharpe on fourth and 3. Sharpe caught the ball in the far left corner of the end zone and held on to it, resulting in a 20-yard touchdown reception. The extra-point kick was no good, so the Bulldogs held a 16-10 lead.

But Brownsburg scored again minutes later. Jamere Pendleton blocked a Westfield punt, then returned it 11 yards for a touchdown, giving the Bulldogs a 22-10 lead.

The 'Rocks answered with a quick 75-yard drive. Melvin threw a 30-yard pass to Beau Braun, then sent another throw to Parker Knott, a 17-yarder to the Brownsburg nine. Westfield had first and goal, and only needed one play: King bulldozed his way into the end zone for the touchdown. Wright made the extra-point kick.

Brownsburg then began a long drive that got it down to the 24 with two minutes left. Westfield

had to start taking its timeouts, and the Bulldogs had fourth and 1 at the Shamrocks' 15.

But Westfield's defense stepped up, pushing Sumpter-Bey back nine yards and giving the Shamrocks' offense one more chance. Melvin made a couple of first-down passes and Westfield got as far as the Brownsburg 36, but the Bulldogs intercepted a fourth and 10 pass close to the end zone with no time left.

"We could have easily packed it in at that point," said Miracle. But Westfield kept fighting, which Miracle called "a testament to our kids' character. Rally back and we had a chance there."

Melvin finished the game 13-of-25 for 156 yards, with Braun, Knott and Nick Fero all making three catches. Deacon King totaled 72 yards rushing.

Westfield finished its season 12-2, with those only two losses to Brownsburg. The Shamrocks were making their first appearance in the state finals since 2021, but it was their fifth time playing in a state title game since 2013.



Photos by Joshua Herd

(TOP) Westfield's Beau Braun made three catches for 59 yards. (ABOVE) Westfield's Carsen Melvin completed 14 of 26 passes for 167 yards.

BROWNSBURG 22, WESTFIELD 17

Score by Quarters				Scoring		
Brownsburg	0	7	3	12	22	First Quarter
Westfield	7	3	0	7	17	WFLD, 0:30 — Deacon King 5-yard run (Owen Wright kick)
Team stats	BRO	WFLD	Second Quarter			
First Downs	12	14	WFLD, 6:19 — Wright 45-yard field goal			
By Rush	7	6	BRO, 4:17 — Kovon Sumpter-Bey 71-yard pass from Oscar Frye (Will Orlando kick)			
By Pass	4	7	Third Quarter			
By Penalty	1	1	BRO, 9:05 — Orlando 25-yard field goal			
Rushes-Yards	38-117	33-104	Fourth Quarter			
Passing Yards	181	167	BRO, 9:40 — Brendan Sharpe 20-yard pass from Iosua Stephens (kick failed)			
Comp-Att-Int-TD	8-12-0-2	14-28-1-0	BRO, 8:44 — Jamere Pendleton 11-yard blocked punt return (run failed)			
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-0	WFLD, 7:03 — King 9-yard run (Wright kick)			
Penalties-Yards	3-20	3-24				
Punts-Average	4-37.5	5-21.6				

Westfield individual stats

Rushing: King 20-76, Parker Knott 1-21, Carsen Melvin 10-20, Broc Parker 1-minus 3, team 1-minus 6.
Passing: Melvin 14-26-167, Knott 0-1-0, team 0-1-0.
Receiving: Knott 3-60, Beau Braun 3-59, King 3-19, Nick Fero 3-16, Parker 2-13.



Photos by Mike Navarro

(ABOVE LEFT) Deacon King rushed for two touchdowns during the Class 6A state championship game. (ABOVE RIGHT) Cameron Echard made a quarterback sack during the third quarter.

Kevin Wright rehired to coach Carmel football

The REPORTER

Kevin Wright has returned to Carmel High School.

Wright was re-hired as the Greyhounds head football coach last week, with the official announcement coming at the Carmel Clay Schools board meeting on Nov. 25. Wright's first stint as Carmel coach was from 2010 to 2014, where he led the Greyhounds to a state title in 2011 and runner-up finishes in 2013 and 2014.

"Kevin brings a wealth of experience and success to our program. We are ex-

cited for him to work with our Greyhounds again," said CHS athletic director Jim Inskeep.

Wright played for his father Bud Wright at Sheridan High School, graduating in 1983. He then played four years of college football at Western Kentucky University, where he was a wide receiver. He coached at Noblesville from 1992 to 1998, leading the Millers to a sectional title in 1997.

You can read the full version of this story on our website, ReadTheReporter.com.

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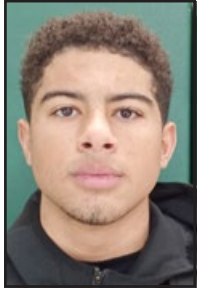
Boys Basketball

Rocks open season by crushing Frankfort

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

WESTFIELD – The Westfield boys basketball team dominated its season-opener last Saturday at CSI Gymnasium, beating Frankfort 87-17.

The Shamrocks were in control from the beginning, only allowing the Hot Dogs three points in the second half. Westfield led 18-2 after one quarter, then expanded its lead to 49-3 by halftime. Eight different players scored for the 'Rocks in the half, with Drew Haffner putting in nine points.



Malone



Detamore

“Really excited to play somebody,” said Westfield coach Shane Sumpter. “It’s been a couple weeks just practicing against ourselves. So, it was exciting to get in the gym and play somebody. Thought we got off to a really good start. Defensively I thought we were really good.”

The Shamrocks added 38 more points in the second half, the entirety of which was played under a running clock. A total of 10 Westfield players scored during the game, with four reaching double figures.

Jalen Malone led the way with 17 points, while Brock Detamore scored 12 points. Drew Haffner and Luke Vandegriff both added 11 points.

“Jalen had a really good summer for us and we’re expecting a lot of good things,” said Sumpter.

Logan Sumpter hit three 3-pointers for nine points. Two seniors from last year’s team also added points: Durante Morton scored eight and Will Harvey totaled six.

Westfield plays two road games this week, traveling to Pendleton Heights on Tuesday and to Zionsville on Friday for its Hoosier Crossroads Conference opener.

Guerin Catholic’s season off to great start with two solid wins

The REPORTER

Guerin Catholic opened its season with a 63-45 win at Park Tudor last Wednesday.

The Golden Eagles outscored the Panthers in all four quarters, leading 14-10 after one period and 28-18 at halftime. Guerin Catholic put the game away in the third period by outscoring Park Tudor 17-10.

Jake Grissom and Bryson Cardinal both scored 13 points for the Golden Eagles, with Cardinal collecting 10 rebounds for a double-double. Carter Murans added nine points and Malcolm Houze scored eight.

Guerin Catholic played its first home game of the

season last Saturday and got another win, taking care of Cardinal Ritter 69-51.

The Raiders led 11-9 after one quarter, but the Golden Eagles jumped ahead in the second period, outscoring Ritter 19-5 for a 28-16 halftime lead. A 24-point third quarter clinched the game for GC.

Cardinal earned another double-double with 25 points and 10 rebounds. Grissom scored 18 points, with Ryne Paris and Jack Toles both scoring eight.

Guerin Catholic is 2-0 and plays two road games this week, at Muncie Central on Wednesday and at Hamilton Heights on Saturday.

Blackhawks have no problem handling Cowan

The REPORTER

The Sheridan boys basketball team cruised through its season opener last Tuesday at Larry Hobbs Hall, taking care of Cowan 89-47.

The Blackhawks led Cowan 25-15 after the first quarter. Trey Page threw in two 3-pointers for six points, with Damon Winston and Devon Hamilton also both scoring six. It was Caleb Wright’s turn in the second quarter, as he poured in eight points, including two 3s. Winston added another seven, all part of a 30-point period that gave Sheridan a 55-31 lead at halftime.

Winston scored in all four quarters, putting in 11 points in the second half to finish with a game-high 24. Five Blackhawks reached double figures: Trey Page scored 17, Hamilton had 13, Calen Wright scored 11 and



Photo by Allison Waitt

Sheridan’s Damon Winston scored 24 points in the Blackhawks’ season opener last Tuesday. Sheridan beat Cowan 89-47.

Carson Wright added 10. Sheridan dropped an away game 63-58 at Southmont last Saturday. Stats from that game were not available at press time.

The Blackhawks are 1-1 and hosts Clinton Prairie on Friday to begin Hoosier Heartland Conference play.

Giants no match for Tigers

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

FISHERS – The near-capacity crowd at the Tiger Den was prepared for excitement as the Fishers boys basketball team opened its season last Wednesday by hosting Ben Davis.

But it’s safe to say no one was prepared for how dominant the defending Class 4A state champion Tigers would be. In a re-match of the 2024 state championship game, Fishers played incredible basketball as it took down the Giants 71-36.

The Tigers were in control from the beginning. They scored the first 10 points of the game: Cooper Zachary sandwiched two 3-pointers between a JonAnthony Hall steal and dunk. Jason Gardner Jr. finished the run with a layin.

In other words, Fishers was ready to go from the beginning. Coach Garrett Winegar said the team was “ready to play somebody else” after what he called a long fall with the players going against each other.

Three of the five starters from last year’s title team are back: Hall and Millen McCartney, both seniors and the sophomore Zachary. Gardner, also a sophomore but often first off the bench last year, is also starting, along with senior Nathan Baker, another returning varsity player. Senior Justin Kirby also returns; he had several big games for Fishers last season.

Kirby was one of five Tigers to score in the first quarter, which finished with Fishers ahead 20-11. Millen McCartney became the sixth Tiger to get points, opening the second period with a 3. McCartney made two more triples in the quarter, with his third pushing Fishers ahead 40-20.

Ben Davis’ JaShawn Ladd threw in a 3 at the halftime buzzer, so the Tigers went into the locker room ahead 40-23. Fishers had to guard against the Giants making a run in the second half.

“It’s a heck of a program,” said Winegar. “We talk all the time about, when we first started here, about becoming like Ben Davis, how hard they play, how good coach (Don) Carlisle does with those guys. We really respect what they do, so we knew they weren’t going to quit. So, it was just really emphasizing winning those first four minutes.”

Winegar said if the team came out in those first four minutes and “really put our foot on the gas,” the Tigers would be okay. And Fishers did just that: the Tigers began the half on an 11-0 run, denying the Giants any points until the 4:01 mark of the third quarter.

Gardner played brilliant during those first minutes. He made a layin and a dunk, then made two assists to Hall: a layin and a dunk. Baker got into the act with two 3s. Zachary and Kirby also made 3s in the quarter, which fin-



Reporter photo by Julie Brown

Fishers sophomore Jason Gardner Jr. helped the Tigers to two overwhelming wins last week as the defending state champions began their season. Fishers beat Ben Davis 71-36 and Arsenal Tech 91-64.

ished with Fishers up 63-32. Kirby began the fourth quarter with an and-1, then Gardner added a free throw and a layin, the latter of which instituted a running clock.

Gardner scored 23 points, while Kirby finished with 11. McCartney and Zachary both made three 3-pointers for nine points.

Fishers continued to roll last Saturday, overwhelming Arsenal Tech 91-64.

The Tigers got off to another strong start, leading the Titans 30-12 after the first quarter. Fishers slowly

increased its lead throughout the remainder of the game, outscoring Tech in each period.

Four players scored in double figures for the Tigers. Zachary and Baker were the co-leaders with 17 points each, while Gardner and Kirby each scored 14 points. Eleven different Fishers players scored at least one point.

The Tigers are 2-0 and begin Hoosier Crossroads Conference play Friday at Noblesville, then travel to Mount Vernon Saturday.

Millers cruise to victory over Huskies to open season

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

NOBLESVILLE – The Noblesville boys basketball team couldn’t have asked for a better start to its season.

The Millers cruised to a 76-38 victory over Hamilton Heights last Wednesday at The Mill. Noblesville played in front of a packed crowd and put on a show, leaping out to a big first-quarter lead, then extending the lead even further in a dominant fourth quarter.

“Good first win,” said Millers coach Scott McClelland, who is back for his fourth season as Noblesville coach. “Like I just told the kids, getting the first one out of the way is always important and always nice. But I think the other things you learn from a first game is, you find out you got a lot to work on.”

The Millers sailed through the opening period and finished with a 21-4 lead. Justin Curry, one of several key players back for Noblesville, scored seven points, including a 3-pointer. Returners Baron Walker and Adam Fine also both 3s as well.

The Huskies challenged the Millers in the second and third quarters, although Noblesville extended its lead in the second period to go up

40-19 by halftime. Logan Saunders was a bright spot for Heights in that quarter, pouring in 10 points, including two triples.

“I though the Heights kids really competed and battled that we couldn’t get away from them there for a while,” said McClelland.

Walker scored six points for the Millers in the second period, and he matched that amount in the third quarter. Both teams put up 17 points in the third, so Noblesville went into the fourth quarter up 57-36.

The Millers ran away with the fourth period, outscoring the Huskies 19-2. T.J. Davidson threw in a 3 as part of eight points in that quarter. Davidson and Curry tied for leading-scorer honors with 17 points each.

Noblesville’s balance was solid, as Ryan Vetur and Walker added 15 points each. Aiden Brewer, another returning player, helped out with seven points. Curry led the rebounds with seven and Vetur pulled six. The Millers were 10-of-18 from 3-point range, with Curry and Walker both nailing three triples each.

“Anytime you got four in double figures and three other guys that score, that’s always encouraging,” said McClelland. “The guys shared the ball and made



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Noblesville’s T.J. Davidson (right) scored 17 points for the Millers during their season-opening game last Wednesday with Hamilton Heights. At left is the Huskies’ Logan Saunders, who led his team with 15 points.

some extra passes and shot the ball pretty well from the outside.”

Saunders finished as Heights’ leading scorer with 15 points and collected six rebounds. Dreydin Serna had nine points.

Noblesville picked up another big win last Saturday, getting a 59-41 road victory at Franklin Community.

The Millers outscored the Grizzly Cubs in each quarter, leading 19-16 after one period and 34-27 at halftime. Walker scored 13 first-half points with Curry

adding 11, including a pair of 3s. Noblesville led 50-37 after three quarters, then finished strong defensively, allowing Franklin three points in the fourth.

Walker scored 15 points and Curry totaled 13 points. Vetur hit three 3s on his way to 11 points.

Noblesville is 2-0 and hosts Fishers on Friday to begin Hoosier Crossroads Conference play. Hamilton Heights hosts Clinton Central on Tuesday, travels to New Castle on Friday and welcomes Guerin Catholic on Saturday.

Royals fall to Pike in season opener

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Southeastern boys basketball team dropped a hard-fought season-opener at Pike last Saturday, 63-57.

The Royals led 15-12 after one quarter before the Red Devils came back to lead 30-23 by halftime. Pike extended its lead to 33-23 early in the third period, but Southeastern came back to hold a 47-46 advantage after three quarters. Pike

outscored HSE 17-10 in the fourth to get the win.

Lucas Weemer led the Royals with 17 points and seven rebounds, while Braeden Totten scored 10 points and dished out four assists. Maverick Young also handed out four assists.

Southeastern plays its first home game Friday, hosting Avon in its Hoosier Crossroads Conference opener. The Royals then travel to Marion for a Saturday game.

Greyhounds jet in third quarter to win season opener

The REPORTER

The Carmel boys basketball team used a big third quarter to win its season opener last Tuesday, beating Zionsville 54-43 at the Eric Clark Activity Center.

The first half was close: the Eagles led 11-10 after the first quarter, with the Greyhounds coming back to tie the game 24-24 at halftime. Carmel used a 7-0 run to take control in the third period, with Julian Vogt hitting a 3-pointer. Later in the period, Alex Couto and Zach

Michaels hit triples and that helped the ‘Hounds to a 41-28 lead after three quarters. Carmel maintained that lead in the fourth quarter.

Couto led the way with 20 points, totaling three 3-pointers and four assists. Harrell finished with 11 points and pulled eight rebounds.

The Greyhounds are off until Friday when they host Lawrence Central, then travel to Plainfield on Saturday for their first road game of the season.

Thanks for reading the Hamilton County Reporter!

Girls Basketball

Millers takes down Hounds in all-county showdown

By CRAIG ADKINS For The Reporter

NOBLESVILLE - From the opening tip, the intensity was there like it always is between the Carmel and Noblesville girls basketball teams.

There were four lead changes in the first quarter, but Noblesville found different stretches throughout to eventually widen the gap for a 61-49 win over county rival Carmel.

The two teams exchanged the lead four times early in the first. Once C.C. Quigley took a pass down low from Meredith Tippner for a 6-5 lead, the Millers would never look back.

"I thought we got off to a pretty good start," said Noblesville head coach Donna Buckley. "Tipp really kind of got us rolling and their kid (Lizzy Shepherd) started off on fire.

game-high 25 in the opening quarter.

Noblesville led 23-15 after one, thanks to freshman Norah Vetur's three from the right wing in the final seconds.

Carmel tightened up its defense in the second and closed the gap and were able to keep it close, heading into halftime trailing just 32-29.

"We started out and knew exactly what they were going to do," said Carmel head coach Rick Risinger. "We talked about it, but unfortunately, we didn't quite defend against it. I give credit to Noblesville. They came out with probably more intensity than we had.

The Millers had a great plan coming out after halftime. On four straight offensive possessions, Kate Rollins lofted passes over the top to Quigley, who laid it up, pushing the lead to 40-29.

"We talked about it at halftime that we need to do a better job of getting everybody involved and getting that ball in the paint. C.C. got touches right away and Kate had really nice passing into her," Buckley said on Quigley's big third quarter.

The Greyhounds finally

stopped the bleeding with a Shepherd three that cut it to 40-32. That would be the last time it was in single digits.

Noblesville frosh duo Maia Blower and Norah Vetur made consecutive triples to extend it to 46-32, forcing Carmel to burn a timeout late in the third.

The lead grew to 16 on Vetur's third field goal in the final seconds of the period for a 50-34 advantage.

"Vetur comes in and hits some shots. They weren't going to guard her and we talked to her about that before the game and told her it's got to be a rhythm shot," Buckley said.

After Carmel freshman Madison Wallace drained a three to start the fourth, Quigley sank a couple free throws and Tippner nailed her third trey for the Millers' largest lead of 17 at 55-38.

"Tippner's an excellent player. She's a go-to player that can control the game," Risinger stated.

Quigley and Tippner scored the final two baskets for the Millers and Shepherd the last two on fast breaks for Carmel.

"Our kids all stepped up. We had several kids hit some big shots. Kate (Rollins) was awesome on Shepherd, chasing her all

over the gym and making her second half frustrating," Buckley added.

Carmel (3-3) was able to get a pair into double-figures. Shepherd had a team-high 23 and Izabella Ramsey finished with 10 off of the bench.

The Greyhounds host Lawrence North on Tuesday and Richmond on Saturday.

Noblesville was led by Tippner's game-high 25 points and 12 rebounds. She was joined in double figures by Quigley's career-high 20 points to go along with seven rebounds. Freshmen Vetur (8) and Blower (6) were also key scorers.

On Saturday, the Millers cruised past Mount Vernon 64-32. Noblesville outscored the Marauders in each quarter, leading 17-10 after one and 35-21 at halftime. A 16-5 third quarter put the game further in the Millers' control.

Tippner again led the Noblesville scoring with 31 points, while Quigley poured in 20 points. Tippner also dished out six assists.

Noblesville is 4-2 and hosts Hoosier Crossroads Conference rival Hamilton Southeastern on Wednesday.

Golden Eagles take down Cardinal Ritter

The REPORTER

Guerin Catholic's girls basketball team dropped a hard-fought game at Lapel last Tuesday, 69-54.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 22-11 lead after the first quarter. The Golden Eagles fought back, holding Lapel to five points in the second period and cutting the Bulldogs' lead to 27-22 by halftime.

Bills added another seven points in the third quarter, helping GC to stay in the game as it trailed 43-36 going into the fourth. But the Bulldogs poured in 26 points in that period to clinch the game.

Bills scored 20 points to lead the Golden Eagles. Caroline Ford also had a nice game, scoring 15 points.

Guerin Catholic played

Cardinal Ritter as the first game of a girls-boys doubleheader last Saturday, winning 55-27.

The Raiders led the Golden Eagles 8-6 after the first quarter, but GC dominated the middle periods, outscoring Ritter 41-11 in the second and third quarters. Bills went off for 13 points during that time, with Dana Dues scoring seven points in the third period.

Guerin Catholic led 27-13 at halftime and 47-19 after three. Bills finished the game with 15 points, while Ford totaled eight points; 10 different Golden Eagles players scored in the contest.

Guerin Catholic is 3-3 for the season. The Golden Eagles play Tuesday at Shortridge, then host Covenant Christian Saturday afternoon.

Tigers have great week, get third straight win

The REPORTER

Fishers won another Hoosier Crossroads Conference game last Tuesday, pulling away from host Zionsville in the fourth quarter for a 72-57 victory.

The Tigers outscored the Eagles in each quarter, leading 14-11 after one period and 32-18 at halftime. Makayla Triplett had a nice first half with three 3-pointers, which translated to nine points.

Schellhammer stepped up big from in the second half, making all 10 of her free-throw attempts. She also made another 3 in the fourth quarter for 19 points. Allison Scheu took over the game in the fourth with nine points; Fishers outscored Zionsville 22-14 in that quarter.

Dickman and Triplett both added 13 points to give the Tigers four double-digit scorers.

Fishers returned to the Tiger Den last Saturday and cruised past Fort Wayne Snider 59-38 for its third consecutive victory. Fishers led 17-7 after one quarter, with Schellhammer making two 3s. Schellhammer poured in 11 points in the second period, helping the Tigers to a 36-13 halftime lead.

Schellhammer scored 27 points, while Dickman added 13 points.

Fishers is 2-0 in conference play and 6-2 overall. The Tigers host North Central on Tuesday, then play two games at Evansville North on Saturday, facing off against Floyd Central at 11 a.m. and Gibson Southern at 6 p.m.

Royals keep winning streak going

The REPORTER

Hamilton Southeastern's girls stayed perfect on the season last Tuesday, beating Brownsburg 66-60 in a home Hoosier Crossroads Conference game.

The Class 4A No. 2 Royals got off to a strong start, leading the Bulldogs 22-14 after one quarter. Southeastern enjoyed a 38-26 lead at halftime. Brownsburg cut into Southeastern's lead in the second half, but the Royals held on for the win.

Maya Makalusky had

an outstanding game with a career-high 38 points, including six 3-pointers. Makalusky, last week's IBCA District 2 Player of the Week, also made five steals and blocked two shots. Kennedy Holman scored 11 points and collected eight rebounds, while Kayla Stidham dished out four assists.

Last Saturday, the Royals returned to Brownsburg to play Chicago Fremd in the annual Sneakers for Santa tournament and toughed out a 46-41 victory.

Southeastern trailed early, but came back with a strong second quarter to lead 24-19 at halftime. The Royals then surged ahead 37-25 after three periods, then held off a comeback by Fremd to get the win.

"We had a great defensive effort tonight," said HSE coach Brian Satterfield. The coach said the team got off to a slow start and was down by five points early, but after that was able to settle down and "build a double-digit win. This was a great team win."

Makalusky scored 23 points, making four 3-pointers. Stidham scored nine points, collected six rebounds and made four steals. Holman pulled nine rebounds and dished out six assists.

The Royals are 2-0 in HCC play and 7-0 overall. Southeastern plays a conference game Wednesday at Noblesville, then plays two games at Evansville North this weekend, taking on Evansville Memorial Friday night and the host Huskies Saturday afternoon.

Blazers get first season win in overtime

The REPORTER

University's girls overcame a nine-point second quarter deficit to pick up their first win of the season with a 45-39 road overtime win over Brebeuf Jesuit.

The Trailblazers outscored the Braves 10-4 in overtime to pick up their ninth consecutive win over Brebeuf and take a 9-8 series lead over the Braves.

Sydney Culp led University with 14 points on 4 for 6 shooting on three pointers. Taylor Seay had 11.

Trailing 19-10 with 4:33 left in the second quarter, University held Brebeuf scoreless the rest of the

half to climb within 19-17 at halftime. Leah Norvell started the rally by scoring in transition with 1:55 left. Seay added a basket with 40 seconds left before Sydney Culp hit a 25-foot three at the halftime buzzer.

Seay knotted the game at 19 early in the third quarter before Gabby Culp scored off a feed from Mack Feeney for a 21-19 Blazers lead. Brebeuf broke a seven-minute scoreless skein to tie the game. The teams traded the lead before Brebeuf took a 31-27 lead on a three pointer on the third-quarter buzzer.

Sydney Culp's three pointer with 5:35 left in

regulation put University up 32-31 but Brebeuf scored the next four points to lead 35-32 with 4:15 left. The Trailblazers scored the game's only three points during the rest of regulation. Seay split a pair of free throws after gaining possession on a steal before Gabby Culp's offensive rebound with 2:03 left knotted the score at 35.

Feeney opened the scoring in overtime off a Norvell assist. Brebeuf knotted the score at 37 before Norvell's three pointer with three minutes remaining put University up for good at 40-37. Seay split a pair of foul shots

with 1:07 left for a four-point lead. The Trailblazers put the game away at the charity stripe, with Sydney Culp and Anyah Turley each going 2 for 2 at the line in the last 35 seconds.

After not shooting a free throw in the first half, University went 8 for 10 at the line in the second half and overtime.

Feeney led University with eight rebounds and six assists.

University is now 1-3 on the season. The Trailblazers will be back in action Tuesday at Sectional 42 host Monrovia. Brebeuf falls to 3-3.

Shamrocks fall to Pike, get tough win over FC

The REPORTER

Westfield dropped a tough game at Pike on Tuesday, 43-42.

The Shamrocks led 16-13 after one quarter, with MaKayla Hatcher and Sam Price both scoring seven points. The Red Devils came back to take a 25-24 halftime lead, but Westfield pulled back ahead with a strong third quarter to go ahead 36-32. Pike answered with an 11-6 fourth quarter to get the win.

Hatcher scored 12 points for the 'Rocks, with Sam Price adding 10 points.

Westfield returned to CSI Gymnasium last Saturday and toughed out a Hoosier Crossroads Conference win over Franklin Central 55-53.

The Shamrocks led 28-24 at halftime. Meg Hamilton hit a basket at the buzzer to win the game for Westfield; it was the 'Rocks first HCC win of the season.

Hatcher and Aubrey Crockett both scored 12 points, with Crockett hitting a 3-pointer out of a timeout. Audra Parker added 10 points, while Hamilton scored eight points.

Westfield is 1-1 in conference play and 3-4 overall. The Shamrocks hosts Brebeuf Jesuit on Thursday.

COURT NOTICE 29C01-2410-MI-011400 STATE OF INDIANA) COUNTY OF HAMILTON) IN THE HAMILTON) CIRCUIT COURT) Cause No. 29C01-2410-MI-011400 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: ROBERT ERIC ZIEGLER-DAVIS NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME ROBERT ERIC ZIEGLER-DAVIS, whose mailing address is: 7769 Kane Court, Fishers, Indiana 46038, in Hamilton County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that ROBERT ERIC ZIEGLER-DAVIS has filed a petition in the Hamilton Circuit Court requesting that his name be changed to ERIC ROBERT ZIEGLER. Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on February 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. ROBERT ERIC ZIEGLER-DAVIS Date: October 14, 2024 Kathy Kream Williams Clerk, Hamilton Circuit Court R5350 12/2/24, 12/9/24, 12/16/24

Carmel basketball court named in honor of iconic coach Bill Shepherd

The REPORTER

The patriarch of Carmel basketball's first family will now have his name forever etched on the Greyhounds' court.

The court at Carmel High School's Eric Clark Activity Center has been renamed the Bill Shepherd Court. Shepherd coached the Greyhounds from 1958 to 1970, leading Carmel to the state championship game in 1970. Two of his sons, Billy Shepherd (1968) and Dave Shepherd (1970) were named Indiana Mr. Basketball and a third son, Steve Shepherd, played for the Greyhounds' first state championship team in 1977.

"Bill Shepherd left his mark on the Carmel com-

munity as an administrator, coach and visionary leader," said Carmel principal Tim Phares, reading from a statement during last Monday's Carmel school board meeting. "During a time when Carmel was a small town becoming a larger city, Bill laid the groundwork for the extra-curricular success at Carmel High School."

Shepherd was named Carmel's athletic director in 1961 and held that position until retiring in 1992. Phares said during that time, Shepherd "oversaw tremendous growth during an era where Carmel went from being a rural community to a rising suburb on the Indiana map."

Shepherd was there

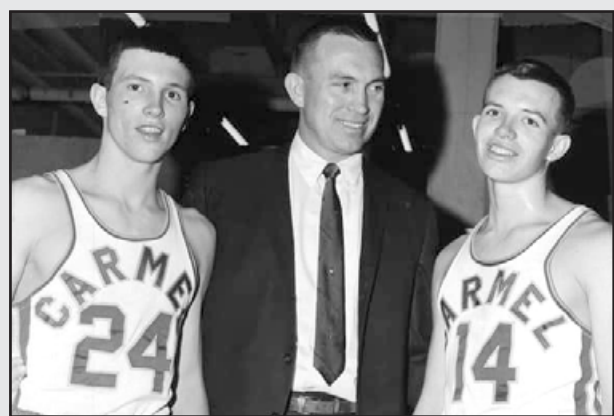


Photo provided

The basketball court at Carmel High School's Eric Clark Activity Center has been renamed Bill Shepherd Court, in honor of the legendary Carmel coach and athletic director. Bill Shepherd is pictured with his sons David (left) and Billy, both of whom went on to be named Indiana Mr. Basketball.

when the Greyhounds won their first-ever state title: the 1970 boys golf cham-

pionship. Carmel won 41 team state championships under Shepherd's tenure.

COUNTY STATE OF INDIANA))SS BEFORE THE HAMILTON) COUNTY OF HAMILTON) DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Anchoring Drain, Bank Stabilization Project) NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the Hamilton County Drainage Board at its regular meeting November 25, 2024 adopted the reconstruction report of the Surveyor and the Amended Schedule of damages and assessments including annual assessment for periodic maintenance, finding that the costs, damages and expense of the proposed improvement would be less than the benefits which will result to the owner of lands benefited thereby. The Board issued an order declaring the proposed improvement established. Such findings and order were marked filed and are available for inspection in the Office of the Hamilton County Surveyor. If judicial review of the findings and order of the Board is not requested pursuant to Article VIII of the 1965 Indiana Drainage Code as amended within twenty (20) days from the date of publication of this notice, the findings and order shall become conclusive. HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD BY: Steven C. Dillinger PRESIDENT ATTEST: Lynette Mosbaugh SECRETARY R5345 12/2/24

COUNTY

STATE OF INDIANA)) SS BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF A.F. Ingerman Drain Reconstruction NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA)) SS BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Elwood Wilson Drain, Craig Holleran Arm Reconstruction NOTICE

COURT NOTICES

STATE OF INDIANA)) COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) IN THE HAMILTON CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2409-MI-010658 IN RE THE MATTER OF: Alando Carl Nicks Petitioner

STATE OF INDIANA)) COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) IN THE HAMILTON CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2410-MI-011549 IN RE THE MATTER OF: Walter Lutz Petitioner

29C01-2411-MI-012455 STATE OF INDIANA)) COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) IN THE HAMILTON CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2411-MI-012455 IN RE THE CHANGE OF NAME)) OF A MINOR CHILD: INFANTBOY SARKARIA, GURDAMAN SARKARIA, Petitioner

STATE OF INDIANA)) COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) IN THE HAMILTON CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2407-MI-7559 IN RE THE MATTER OF: Lillian Ivey Lightcap Petitioner

29D02-2411-EU-000521 STATE OF INDIANA)) COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) IN THE HAMILTON SUPERIOR COURT Cause No. 29D02-2411-EU-000521 IN RE THE MATTER OF: Lillian Ivey Lightcap Petitioner

29D01-2411-EU-000521 STATE OF INDIANA)) COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) IN THE HAMILTON SUPERIOR COURT Cause No. 29D01-2411-EU-000521 IN RE THE MATTER OF: STEPHEN W. COOK Attorney for Estate

29D02-2411-EU-000507 Hamilton Superior Court 32 CHARLES R. GRAHN CLARK, QUINN, MOSES, SCOTT & GRAHN, LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW 320 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET, SUITE 1100 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-2011 NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION IN THE HAMILTON SUPERIOR COURT

29D01-2411-EU-000521 STATE OF INDIANA)) COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) IN THE HAMILTON SUPERIOR COURT Cause No. 29D01-2411-EU-000521 IN RE THE MATTER OF: KAREN LEVENHAGEN, DECEASED, NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

29D02-2410-EU-000476 Hamilton Superior Court 2 Webster & Garino, LLC 209 E. 175th Street, Suite A Westfield, IN 46074 NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Cause Number: 29D02-2410-EU-000476

STATE OF INDIANA)) COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) IN THE HAMILTON SUPERIOR COURT CAUSE NUMBER: 29D02-2411-EU-000508 IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF)) KAREN LEVENHAGEN, DECEASED,)) NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

29D02-2410-EU-000476 Hamilton Superior Court 2 Webster & Garino, LLC 209 E. 175th Street, Suite A Westfield, IN 46074 NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Cause Number: 29D02-2410-EU-000476

STATE OF INDIANA)) COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) IN THE HAMILTON SUPERIOR COURT CAUSE NUMBER: 29D02-2411-EU-000508 IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF)) KAREN LEVENHAGEN, DECEASED,)) NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

29D02-2410-EU-000476 Hamilton Superior Court 2 Webster & Garino, LLC 209 E. 175th Street, Suite A Westfield, IN 46074 NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Cause Number: 29D02-2410-EU-000476

STATE OF INDIANA)) COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) IN THE HAMILTON SUPERIOR COURT CAUSE NUMBER: 29D02-2411-EU-000508 IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF)) KAREN LEVENHAGEN, DECEASED,)) NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

WESTFIELD

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the City of Westfield, Hamilton County, Indiana, that the City Council at their regular meeting place at Westfield City Hall at 130 Penn Street, in Westfield, IN at 7:00 PM, on the 9th day of December, 2024, will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget and the following reduction to appropriations for the current year.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the City of Westfield, Hamilton County, Indiana, that the City Council at their regular meeting place at Westfield City Hall at 130 Penn Street, in Westfield, IN at 7:00 PM, on the 9th day of December, 2024, will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget and the following reduction to appropriations for the current year.

CARMEL

Notice Public Auction 402 N Union St Westfield on 12/13/24 @ 10am 2011 Jeep Compass sport VIN 1J4NF1FB98D154876 starting at \$2100.00

Notice Public Auction 13722 Foxdale Lake Dr Carmel on 12/13/24 @ 11am 2018 Jeep Wrangle Rubicon VIN 1C4HJXFG8JW148487 starting at \$10,500.00

NOBLESVILLE

NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION Notice is hereby given that the City of Noblesville Common Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on December 17, 2024, in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 16 South 10th Street, Noblesville, Indiana.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION Notice is hereby given that the City of Noblesville Common Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on December 17, 2024, in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 16 South 10th Street, Noblesville, Indiana.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION Notice is hereby given that the City of Noblesville Common Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on December 17, 2024, in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 16 South 10th Street, Noblesville, Indiana.

TIPTON

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF TIPTON PLAN COMMISSION CTI-ZO-28-24

Notice is hereby given that the City of Tipton Plan Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Meeting Room of Tipton City Hall, 216 South Main Street, Tipton, Indiana, to consider the following:

COUNTY

STATE OF INDIANA)) SS BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY OF HAMILTON)) DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Long Branch Drain, Sanctuary at 116th Street Arm, Cold Creek Court Redesign NOTICE

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Anchorage Drain, Maintenance Assessment Increase NOTICE

SHERIFF SALES

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Hamilton County, Indiana, in Cause No. 29D01-1911-MF-010334, wherein MidFirst Bank was Plaintiff, and Robert Horan Jr., Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Meadow Brook Village Homeowners Association and AJC Construction, LLC d/b/a Indy Roof Company were Defendants, AJC Construction, LLC d/b/a Indy Roof Company was Intervening Defendant, Counter-Claimant and Cross-Claim Defendant, MidFirst Bank was Counter-Claim Defendant, and Robert Horan Jr. and Meadow Brook Village Homeowners Association were Cross-Claim Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 9th day of January, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. of said day, at the 18100 Cumberland Road, Noblesville, IN 46060, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Hamilton County, Indiana.

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTEREST PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Hamilton County, Indiana, in Cause No.: 29D07-2402-MF-001372 wherein NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC was Plaintiff, and Robert Cowan was the Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 9th day of January, 2025 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 18100 Cumberland Road, Noblesville, IN 46060, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Hamilton County, Indiana.

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTEREST PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Hamilton County, Indiana, in Cause No.: 29C01-2403-MF-003491 wherein U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST, was Plaintiff, and JENNIFER SUZANNE RIDER, KEVIN EUGENE RIDER were the Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 9th day of January, 2025 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 18100 Cumberland Road, Noblesville, IN 46060, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Hamilton County, Indiana.

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTEREST PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Hamilton County, Indiana, in Cause No.: 29D07-2405-MF-005823 wherein PNC Bank National Association successor by merger to National City Bank, was Plaintiff, and Barbara J. McLain (deceased), et al were the Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 9th day of January, 2025 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 18100 Cumberland Road, Noblesville, IN 46060, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Hamilton County, Indiana.

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES SHERIFF'S SALE NOTICE By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Hamilton Circuit Court of Hamilton County, Indiana, in Cause No. 29D03-2407-MF-008353 wherein Townd Point Mortgage Trust 2015-6, U.S. Bank National Association as Indenture Trustee was Plaintiff, and David A Bowyer, and Indiana Members Credit Union were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the January 9, 2025, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., or as soon as thereafter as is possible, at Sheriff's Office at 18100 Cumberland Road, Noblesville, IN 46060 the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Hamilton County, Indiana.

Hamilton County Veterans Community Page

Hamilton County Veteran Service Organizations

American Legion Posts

Carmel Post 155 Kim Kilburn
852 West Main St Breakfast Sat & Sun 8-12
Carmel, In 46032 Treasure Hunt Fri 7p
317-846-0001 Tx Holdem Thurs & Sat

Cicero Post 341 Tye Anderson
50 Washington Ave Treasure Hunt Tues 7p
Cicero, In 46034 Weekly Draw Su 6p, W 7p
317-984-4441 Bingo Fri 6p, Weekly Draw 8p

Fishers Post 470 Pat Menc
9091 E 126th St Treasure Hunt Fri 8pm \$25K
Fishers, in 46038
317-842-5944 Breakfast 1st & 3rd Sun 8-11

Noblesville Post 45 Gil Soria
273 S 8th St Fri 645pm Treasure Hunt
Noblesville, in 46060 Sunday Football Menu
317-773-9985 Trivia Wednesdays 7pm

Sheridan Post 67 Tom DeShon
406 E 10th St
Sheridan, In 46069
317-758-5007

VFW Posts

Carmel Post 10003 Darin Bibeau
12863 Old Meridian St
Carmel, In 46032 Breakfast 2 & 4 Sat 8-11
317-846-0917 Thurs Treasure Hunt 7pm

Noblesville Post 6246 Eric Behrends
654 S 9th St
Noblesville, In 46060
317-773-9956

If you are a member of our American Legions & VFWs and you would like to see your Post activities in the paper, please speak at your next meeting to see if your Post would create or nominate an Outreach Coordinator to automatically send me your Post information weekly with a 14 day lead time before the event happens.

Non-Profit Veteran Orgs

Hamilton County Veterans Corp
P.O. Box 503
Noblesville, in 46061
secretary@hamiltoncountyveterans.com
Meets 7pm the 1st Monday Monthly at the Fishers American Legion. Our website <https://www.hamiltoncountyveterans.com/> has 40 pages of resources for our Military Veteran community

If you would like to step up in Hamilton County to assist your Military Veteran community to live a more connected and fulfilled life, please come to the Hamilton County Veteran Corp meetings the first Monday of the month 7pm at the Fishers American Legion Post 470 located at 9091 E 126th St. No annual fees, just a commitment to helping our Military Veteran community. Military, Veteran family members may also join. We are ready to make Hamilton County the leader in the country as we step into the future, caring for our Military Veteran community! Join us

Navy Club Ship 29
Noblesville, In
president@hamiltoncountyveterans.com
Meets 2nd Thurs 630pm at Gingers 1804
Conner St Noblesville

Hamilton County Veteran Service Officers

317-776-9610 Hours – 9am-4pm Weekdays
CVSO – Tom Logan
Tom.logan@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Assistant CVSO – Robin Wilson
robin.wilson@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Assistant CVSO – Caroline Franz
caroline.franz@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Admin Assistant – Christina Ellis
christina.ellis@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Hamilton County Military Veteran

Christmas Tree Giveaway Dec 7th 9-11am at Twin Peaks 6880 E 82nd St by I-465



Write Letters To Santa – Drop Off or Email



Come See Santa at the Sheridan American Legion

Saturday Dec. 14th

1:00 - 4:00



Upstairs at The Legion (ages 0-12)

Carmel American Legion Music & Food Dec 14 8-11

Activities & Events

Come See Santa & Mrs Claus at the Carmel American Legion Dec 14th from 1-3pm



Children's Christmas With Santa at the Noblesville American Legion Dec 15, from 11am to 1pm

Children's Christmas Party at the Noblesville VFW Dec 21st at 3pm – Sign up By Dec 15th by calling or stopping by the Post

Veterans, Come to the Veteran Resource Tailgate at the Indy Fuel Military Appreciation Game Dec 7th All Under the Hero Hut Tent Out Front Including the Roubush VA Hospital

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