

**SATURDAY, DEC. 7, 2024**

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



**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Today: Mostly sunny.  
 Tonight: Mostly clear.



HIGH: 41 LOW: 34



**Hop on Sheriff's Christmas Express!**

**The REPORTER**

This coming Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 10 and 11, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) Community Foundation will help save Christmas for 48 children in Hamilton County.

Santa's little helpers shopped for gifts at Target and collected warm winter coats from Old Navy. HCSO staff and members of the public filled personalized stockings, and volunteers and employees wrapped presents. The next step involves the Hamilton County Sheriff's Christmas Express. Santa Claus, Deputy Justice (mascot), patrol deputies, corrections officers, and family members will load large red bags full of toys into police vehicles. The jolly group will then hand-deliver the gifts to

the front doorsteps of participating families.

A special thank you goes out to the HCSO Citizens Academy Alumni Association, Target of Fishers, Old Navy at Hamilton Town Center, Mercantile 37, Hamilton County Youth Assistance Programs, and many contributions from the community for helping to make this event possible.

The HCSO Community Foundation's is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and its goals involve:

- Providing financial aid and helping for those in need in the community, particularly children.
- Supporting the hardworking employees at the Sheriff's Office.
- Building stronger relationships between deputies, correc-



Photo provided by Hamilton County Sheriff's Office  
**Santa and Deputy Justice help carry gifts during last year's Hamilton County Sheriff's Christmas Express.**

tions officers, and staff with all members of the community. ALL ABOARD! The Hamilton County Sheriff's Christmas Express is coming to a neighborhood near you.

*How I Broke This*  
 ep. 9: Shy Bladders  
 Anonymous

"Should I stay, or should I go?" – *The Clash*

GUY RAZZ: I'm Guy Razz, host of *How I Broke This*. Welcome to my narrative journey about business ineptitude and the failed leaders who failed to learn from their failures. Listen as my guests reveal what led to their crushed entrepreneurial spirits. Today's guest is Whiz Wagstaff, founder of the short-lived Shy Bladders Anonymous (SBA) support group for sufferers of Shy Bladder Syndrome (SBS).



WHIZ: I had no idea your studio is actually an aluminum shed.

GUY: I got the shed. My ex got the house. The shed landed here during tornado season. No neighbor claimed it, so we kept it. I'm pretty sure Marc Maron started this way, too. We'd been hoping for a trampoline for the kids, but a free shed is nothing to scoff at. My ex allows me to keep using the shed for this podcast, but she draws the line at going into her house to use her bathroom.

WHIZ: But what if you need a toilet?

GUY: See that bucket of sawdust?

WHIZ: I hope I never get divorced.

There's no way I could pee in an orange Home Depot bucket. Marriage can be challenging. I get it, man. Having a shy bladder can compound the challenge. Most marriages involving SBS don't last. Shared bathrooms are not fun. Most men feel pressure from their spouses to pee in front of them. Bathroom bashfulness often raises questions about true togetherness. I'm lucky. My wife sees SBS for what it really is – a disease. She is supportive even though she has an extroverted bladder. My wife could pee center stage at The Hollywood Bowl.

GUY: Your wife does that?

WHIZ: I'm exaggerating to make a point.

GUY: Thanks for clarifying. I was worried that was something Ticketmaster might promote. Well, actually, I was hoping ...

WHIZ: To her, peeing in front of others is as natural as sneezing – which, for her, often goes hand in hand.

GUY: Have you always suffered from SBS?

WHIZ: It became noticeable once I started school. That's when I had to first face the eternal bane of my existence: public urinals. I had always been a stall boy. I need enclosure. Privacy. But stall boys like me were ridiculed by the boy packs. "What are you doing in there, peeing like a girl?"

See *Shy Bladders* ... Page 2

**Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* kindles hope of the holiday season**  
*One-hour production now on stage at Beef & Boards*

**The REPORTER**

Celebrating redemption against the odds, Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre's one-hour production of the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol* is now on stage through Dec. 23. There are just 11 performances of this stage adaptation of the beloved tale, which features traditional carols.

A miserly businessman, Ebenezer Scrooge's bitterness has grown through the years until it consumes him. Caring little for the needs of his fellow man, Scrooge strives to keep money in his pocket rather than coal on the fire. Meanwhile, his employee Bob Cratchit faithfully endures the ongoing chill from both his workplace and his boss. Faithfully, Cratchit keeps

Scrooge in his prayers, even though his own family struggles to survive on his meager salary. The health of Cratchit's young son Tiny Tim is equally poor, but Scrooge's heart is as cold and dark as London's unforgiving winter, and his coffers remain shut tight.

Scrooge's mercilessness stirs the spirit of his late business partner, Jacob Marley, who appears to him on Christmas Eve. Warning of the fate that will befall Scrooge if he does not change his ways, Marley tells him that he will be visited by three more spirits and advises to heed the messages they bring. The ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come

See *Carol* ... Page 2



Photo provided  
**The Ghost of Jacob Marley (Michael Davis), left, warns his former business partner Ebenezer Scrooge (Jeff Stockberger) what will befall him if he continues on his chosen path in life.**

**Westfield City Council to vote on Grand Park Public-Private Agreement**

**Submitted by City of Westfield**

At the Monday, Dec. 9 meeting, the Westfield City Council is set to vote on a Public-Private Agreement (PPA) with Grand Park Sports & Entertainment, LLC (GPSE) to manage and operate Grand Park, beginning Jan. 1, 2025.

This collaboration aligns with the city's ongoing efforts to enhance community amenities,

support youth sports, and stimulate local economic growth.

As one of the premier sports destinations in the country, Grand Park will continue to serve as a hub for youth sports events and community activities that contribute to Westfield's cultural, recreational, and economic development. GPSE will manage the park in a way that reflects the city's goals, ensuring it re-

mains an accessible and valuable resource for residents and visitors alike.

The agreement ensures that signature events, such as Westfield Rocks the Fourth and the Indianapolis Colts Training Camp, will remain integral to Grand Park's schedule. Additionally, Westfield residents will continue to enjoy free access to all youth sports events organized by GPSE through the

Bullen Gives Back program.

A dedicated Escrow Fund will be established to maintain and improve Grand Park's facilities, with the city and GPSE contributing annually. This fund will support maintenance, capital improvements, and facility upgrades, ensuring that the park remains a top destination for generations.

See *Grand* ... Page 2

**Watch local FFA students take on Make48-Corteva Agriscience Challenge**

*Episodes premiere Dec. 18 on This Old House Makers Channel on Roku*

**The REPORTER**

Get ready to watch the future of agriculture as Make48 puts the focus of Indiana's FFA students on display.

On Wednesday, Dec. 18, two new episodes will be available on This Old House Makers Channel (Roku), revealing the results of the fourth Make48 competition of the season.

"National FFA is excited to be partnering with Make48 as we watch our students show their creativity and innovation," said Christine White, chief program officer of the National FFA Organization. "We know our FFA members are the next creators, innovators, and leaders. Through Make48, our members show that talent to an even larger audience. We are excited that Make48 is making it possible for this select group of students to come together, collaborate, and create."

See *FFA* ... Page 3



Photo provided  
**Behold ... the future of agriculture! Among these seven Indiana FFA teams were three from Hamilton County: Heights, Fishers, and Hamilton Southeastern.**

**See Indiana's judicial system in action at Fishers High School**

**The REPORTER**

The Court of Appeals of Indiana's award-winning civics education outreach program, Appeals on Wheels, is coming to Hamilton County next week.

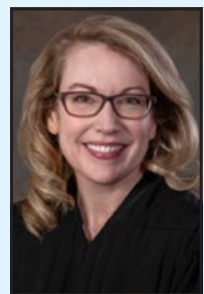
A panel of judges will hear live, in-person arguments in *Colvin v. State* beginning at 1:50 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12 at Fishers High School, 13000 Promise Road. The judges will be Paul D. Mathias, Dana J. Kenworthy, and Peter R. Foley.

The event is open to the public and the audience will have a chance to ask the judges questions about the judiciary following the argument; however, they are unable to speak about the specific case. [Click here](#) to read the case synopsis.

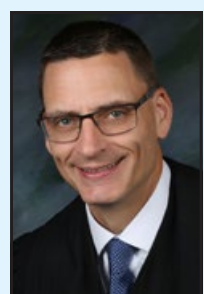
The Court of Appeals of Indiana is the second highest court in the state, hearing appeals from Indiana's trial courts and some state agencies. The 15 judges of the Court issue over 2,000 opinions per year.



Judge Mathias



Judge Kenworthy



Judge Foley



## SHY BLADDERS

they'd shout and laugh. I succumbed to peer pressure and waited in the urinal line.

GUY: But at least you finally conformed socially.

WHIZ: Not really. I only pretended to pee when others were behind me. I'd unzip and feign the necessary movements, fake a loud sigh of relief, wiggle and jiggle, from first grade on through high school – and beyond. I am The Great Pee-tender. I deserve a lifetime achievement award for my performance art.

GUY: Tell us about your shy bladder support group.

WHIZ: Guy, for most of my life, I thought I was the only one with a shy bladder. I didn't dare discuss it with anyone. Not too long ago, though, I stood at a urinal beside a coworker, Bob,

who was at the other urinal. Our workplace has those dreaded urinals without side shields. We stood so close together we bumped elbows. There we stood. Me and Bob, making uncomfortable small talk. Apparently, he's a big believer in UFOs. While I waited for Bob to flush, I pretended to pee. I was already late for a meeting since I had been pretending to pee beside a succession of three other guys before Bob's arrival. Finally, I fake flushed. Bob flushed. I unnecessarily washed my hands. Bob followed me out the door. I moved through the maze of hallways and entered a different restroom. Just when I was about to finally let it flow, someone entered and stood at the adjacent uri-

nal. It was Bob! I mean, gee whiz! It was a revelatory moment. Like I said, I always thought I had the world's only bashful bladder, but, thanks to Bob, I realized there are others like me. I was not alone. That planted the seed for Shy Bladders Anonymous.

GUY: Tell us about your first meeting.

WHIZ: The turnout was tremendous. We convened in the basement of the local Snipe Hunter Lodge. We shared SBS horror stories. We offered helpful tips on how to pee in public. One guy said he eventually got into his mental pee zone and blocked out those behind him by imagining he was mowing grass, reliving every swath required to complete his backyard.

The first hour of our meeting whizzed by – pardon the pun. Finally, we had a safe place to discuss SBS. It was a bladder bonding experience.

GUY: Your first SBA meeting also marked your last SBA meeting. Why did SBA fail?

WHIZ: At the meeting's midpoint, we paused for a biological break. A lot of beer was chugged to calm our nerves that night. All 12 of us rushed into the restroom at the same time. The line stretched out the door since there was only one urinal. No one dared use the stall. The line never moved. My poor coworker Joe was first in line. Time stood still as he imagined mowing his yard. Each of us knew we'd do the same

from Page 1



Photo provided by Scott Saalman

### Scott's restroom from hell.

thing. Although he failed to pee, we admired his effort. The real problem was, we rented the lodge's meeting room for only 90 minutes. Time ran out before we could reconvene to com-

plete our inaugural meeting. We knew that would never change.

To join Hamilton County Shy Bladders Anonymous, contact [scottsaalman@gmail.com](mailto:scottsaalman@gmail.com).

## CAROL

from Page 1

then appear to Scrooge in succession – reminding him of what was, showing what is, and foretelling the bleak and lonely future that is his destiny should he continue on his present path. Not only will his life be quickly forgotten if he maintains his miserly ways, but those around him are destined to face hardships that he could have easily prevented.

Jeff Stockberger plays the role of Ebenezer Scrooge, with Jacob Butler as Bob Cratchit, and Michael Davis as Jacob Marley. Joining them are Bradley Allan Lowe as Fred, and Kamryn Sarratt as Mrs. Cratchit. The ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come are played by Vickie Cornelius Phipps, Tristan Ross, and Reno Moore respectively.

A *Christmas Carol* is directed by Elizabeth Stark Payne and choreographed by Phillip Crawshaw. Music arrangements are by Michael Hoagland, with Debbie Myers as musical director.

Limited tickets remain for Beef & Boards' production of *A Christmas Carol*. Tickets range from \$41 to \$49 and include Chef Larry Stoops' holiday buffet. Parking is always free. For tickets, show schedule, or additional details, visit [BeefAndBoards.com](http://BeefAndBoards.com). For more information, call the box office at (317) 872-9664.

*Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Indiana's only year-round professional dinner theatre, has been serving up exceptional entertainment since 1973.*

## GRAND

from Page 1

The agreement also prioritizes local youth sports organizations, with Westfield Youth Sports, Inc. (WYSI) continuing to utilize Grand Park's facilities at discounted rates. GPSE is committed to honoring its existing agreements with WYSI, ensuring that their scheduling needs are met, and supporting the growth of youth athletic programs in the community.

"As Westfield continues to grow rapidly, Westfield Youth Sports is experiencing a surge in participation from the city's young athletes," WYSI Board President Chad Schenkel said. "This agreement helps the organization offer access to diamond and field facilities for the community's youth, while helping to address some of the challenges we face in securing athletic spaces."

Beyond sports, the partnership lays the foundation for the future development of the Grand Park District, a mixed-use area designed to attract businesses, particularly in the sports technology sector. GPSE will collaborate with city officials and developers to help bring this vision to life, promoting innovation and creating economic opportunities in the region.

"The partnership with GPSE is a transformative step forward for the City of Westfield," Mayor Scott Willis said. "By aligning with them, we're ensuring that Grand Park remains a premier destination for youth sports and community events and investing in our City's long-term growth. This agreement recognizes that the private sector is uniquely positioned to

effectively manage and operate Grand Park, ensuring its long-term stability and success. It will enhance our quality of life, attract new opportunities for economic development, and provide lasting benefits to our residents for years to come. It's an exciting time for Westfield, and we look forward to seeing the continued success of this incredible community asset."

Performance metrics will be in place to ensure that Grand Park's management meets the city's standards. These metrics will include visitor counts, out-of-area attendance, and partnerships with local hotels. Regular audits and reviews will ensure that GPSE's operations align with the City's expectations for the park's success. Metrics include a 15 percent increase in unique visitors to Grand Park over the first 10 years, and at least 50 percent of tournament visitors travel from over 50 miles away.

If approved, the agreement's initial term will be 10 years, with the option for four five-year extensions based on performance. This long-term partnership underscores Westfield's commitment to building a vibrant and sustainable community, enhancing the quality of life for residents, and strengthening the local economy. The revenue generated from the agreement is expected to be more than \$184 million.

The meeting will be held at Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn St., and begins at 7 p.m. The meeting can also be viewed via live stream on the [City of Westfield YouTube page](http://City of Westfield YouTube page).

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# Eric Utterback showcased as Noblesville FFA Creates' newest Artist of the Month

from Page 1

**Submitted**

Noblesville Creates will feature artist Eric Utterback in the Stephenson House and *Gifted: Handmade Wonders* in the Judge Stone House, along with other Artists of the Month, in December.

The Artists of the Month include Eric Utterback, Michael Jack, and Jerry Mannell, with each of their exhibits showcased at different Noblesville Creates locations. Information on exhibit dates, receptions, and artist details is available below.

**Stephenson House**

**Eric Utterback**

Familiar genres often follow familiar styles. One might expect a painting depicting knights or dragons to be illustrative and straightforward, or an abstract painting to be a conceptual exploration of technique, color, or another element. New perspectives and practices can be developed through the combination of genre and styles, as artist Eric Utterback has discovered. He aims to blend his passion for illustrative and abstract paintings and lay out the processes that got him there in his showcase exhibit, *Diverging Worlds*.

Utterback studied at Vincennes University for graphic design and at Heron School of Art & Design for painting. He's always had an interest in fantasy as a genre and began drawing monsters and mayhem at an early age. Past university, he pursued workshops and mentorship programs to re-

fine his repertoire. For him, "fine art is one mindset, illustration is another one entirely." Fine art requires careful study to build strong compositions and foundational skills, whereas he can create more freely when illustrating.

As his process evolves, it remains largely an organic one. Utterback will wash the painting surface in color to build movement before layering in geometric shapes. Representational images threaded throughout the composition twist with the more elusive shapes and create a dynamic push and pull visual effect. He enjoys employing a "dichotomy of hard edges, soft edges, abrupt breaks, and juxtaposition." He also strives to utilize materials that will lengthen the longevity of his work. For example, he's recently begun using Aluminum Composite Materials, or ACM panels, as his painting surface. The lightweight material can be purchased in bulk, cut down to size, and does not warp.

Visitors can expect newer works of this variety as well as older paintings that mark Utterback's creative journey. Paintings from 2020 onward track a variety of subjects, including florals, fantasy, abstracts, and more. The exhibit will showcase his growth in quality and expression and the work he's done to merge illustrative and abstract representations.

See the full exhibit, *Diverging Worlds*, in the Stephenson House Gallery



Utterback



Art provided

**"Hydra's Nest" by Eric Utterback.**

at the Noblesville Creates campus through Dec. 28. The campus is open for exploration Wednesday to Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can meet Utterback during his free open house reception from 6 to 9 p.m. tonight, Friday, Dec. 6.

**Judge Stone House**  
*Gifted: Handmade Wonders*

Noblesville Creates' annual artistic celebration returns for another holiday season. Stop by the historic campus at 8th and Maple to shop truly unique gifts. *Gifted: Handmade Wonders* features a wide variety of artisanal items from Hoosier creatives in the cozy Judge Stone House Gallery. From woodworking, stoneware, textiles, and more, there is something for everyone on your shopping list. A large portion of each purchase also goes back to the artist behind each piece, meaning that you are directly supporting a local artist in our community.

Purchases can be made in person or through the online shop featuring all of the *Gifted: Handmade Wonders* items. Items purchased online will be available for pick up only.

*Gifted: Handmade Wonders* will be viewable through Dec. 28 in the Judge Stone House gallery. The Noblesville Creates campus is open Wednesday through Friday noon to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The reception for this exhibit will be from 6 to 9 p.m. tonight, Friday, Dec. 6 at the Judge Stone House.

**Four Day Ray**  
**Jerry Mannell**

See the full *Mindful* exhibit at Four Day Ray Brewing, located at 11671 Lantern Road, Fishers, through Dec. 28. Hours are Sunday and Monday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

**Meyer Najem**  
**Michael Jack**

See the full exhibit, *Stories from the Coast*, through Dec. 27. This exhibit is viewable at the Meyer Najem 2nd floor gallery, located at 11787 Lantern Road in Fishers, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## Goodness Gracious! Meet Santa & Grinch at new Carmel restaurant Dec. 14

**The REPORTER**

"Santa on the Move" is coming to Goodness Gracious Kitchen Cupboard from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. Santa and Grinch will be available to meet with kids – and grown-ups – and pose for pictures.

Local event and marketing business MEG & Associates started a new initiative this holiday season to help local nonprofits raise end-of-year donations. MEG & Associates is offering a \$250 per half-hour donation or \$500 for one-hour donation to local nonprofits in exchange for Santa, Grinch and/or Mrs. Claus to come to holiday parties or gatherings. This opportunity is being offered through Dec. 16.

One of the stops for Santa on the Move will be to Goodness Gracious Kitchen Cupboard – a new restaurant located at 24 N. Range Line Road, Carmel. Goodness Gracious offers

a unique menu built on the idea of preserving the past with food and tradition. Their food is crafted from old recipes, old stories, and old memories. Visit their website at [ilovegoodness-gracious.com](http://ilovegoodness-gracious.com).

As for the fundraising initiative, MEG & Associates is working to aid the following Carmel arts organizations:

- Actors Theatre of Indiana
- Carmel Symphony Orchestra
- Central Indiana Academy of Dance and Ensemble
- Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre
- Carmel Arts Council
- Carmel Clay History Museum
- Carmel Clay Public Library
- CarmelFest – Carmel Rotary
- Carmel International Arts Festival
- Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre



Photo provided

- Indiana Wind Symphony
- Carmel Education Foundation

MEG & Associates will consider other nonprofit organizations upon discussion. Please contact [meg@megpromo.com](mailto:meg@megpromo.com) to set up

your appointment. In the meantime, make plans to join Santa and Grinch at Goodness Gracious on Dec. 14. Get a hug from the Big Guy, a high five from Grinch and some fun photos to share this holiday season.

JOIN US FOR THE 9TH ANNUAL

# ARCADIA CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 • 4-8 PM

**FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT 4PM - TREE LIGHTING IS AT 7PM**

Visit Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, dance to the DJ's music, cozy up to the fire pits. Enjoy a chili supper, activities for the kids & shop the artisan market.

Seven teams of high school students from Indiana FFA chapters participated in the 48-hour challenge sponsored by Corteva Agriscience. The competition provided a platform for FFA members to exhibit their design and critical thinking skills.

Their challenge? To construct and build interactive displays that educate the public about the diverse and positive impact of the agriculture industry.

"This is a great opportunity to share Indiana FFA with a new, global audience," said Amanda Mullins, Indiana FFA Assistant Director for Career and Leadership Development. "This competition helped FFA members grow and brought presentation and leadership challenges to the forefront of their development. The show will both entertain, showcase our outstanding FFA members and help broaden the depth of agriculture knowledge with viewers on Dec. 18."

Each team, consisting of three students and a team captain, engaged in a challenge that mirrors Corteva's commitment to the theme of Agriculture Education. High schools from around the region participated. Teams included the Hamilton Heights FFA; Agridabra (Purdue Polytechnic H.S.-Broad Ripple Campus); EH Royals (Eastern Hancock FFA); Mud Flaps (Frankton-Lapel); HSE FFA (Hamilton Southeastern); Clever Connersville FFA (Connersville) and Fishers High School FFA.

**Editor's note: We won't completely spoil the surprise, but one of the three teams from Hamilton County won the competition and earned 1st Place for Best Innovation. You'll have to watch the episodes to find out which school won!**

"Corteva Agriscience was honored to sponsor this year's Make48 competition in Indianapolis that involved seven Indiana FFA teams," said Heidi Spahn, Global Corporate and Community Investment Leader at Corteva. "Corteva's commitment to innovation and creativity aligns perfectly with Make48's vision that allows competing teams to

create groundbreaking solutions."

To assist the teams, Make48 brought in experts to help build their ideas, create one-minute videos, and refine their pitches at Fishers Maker Playground. This state-of-the-art facility offers the tools designed for tinkering and creating without limits. Nick Snyder and his MPG team hosted the three-day event at Fishers Park.

A panel of expert judges, including Kristie Larson (DeBruce Foundation), Stephanie DeCamp (Indiana State Fair), and Shondria Seaton (Past Make48 Participant and People's Choice Award Winner), evaluated the teams on their creativity, problem-solving skills, and presentation abilities.

"We're thrilled to see Maker Playground and the city of Fishers showcased on Make48!" Maker Playground Manager Nick Snyder exclaimed. "Hosting this innovation competition was an incredible way to celebrate Fishers' entrepreneurial spirit and support creative problem-solving in our community. We can't wait to share this experience with everyone when the episode airs!"

Tune in to Roku on Wednesday, Dec. 18 to watch the FFA Make48 episodes. Here's how:

- Roku Users: Add the Roku Channel to your Smart TV, search for "Make48," and click to watch. For a live viewing experience, tune in to Channel 458.
- Samsung TV Plus Users: Find the This Old House Makers Channel on Channel 1214.
- Amazon Fire TV Device: Roku can be installed on Amazon Fire TV streaming devices.
- Watch it online on the Roku Channel [here](#).
- For more information, visit [Roku support](#).

"Viewers can expect to see some impressive creations from the FFA teams as they highlight the importance and future of agriculture," Make48 CEO Tom Gray said. "These young leaders demonstrated their passion and problem-solving skills, as well as bringing insights into the diverse career opportunities within the agriculture industry."

glimmer lights

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# GET AHEAD OF THE WEATHER

## WINTER IS COMING... ARE YOUR PIPES PREPARED?

When temperatures start to drop, freezing pipes become a serious problem for Hoosiers at home. A frozen pipe can burst, prevent water from flowing, and even disrupt your heating system.

To combat this icy threat to your comfort and safety, always prepare your pipes for the upcoming cold weather. **The experts at Indiana American Water recommend taking the following precautions before the thermostat drops too low:**

**1.**



**Check your pipes for cracks and leaks.**

**3.**



**Insulate pipes in unheated areas of your home.**

**2.**



**Turn outdoor faucets off for the season.**

**4.**



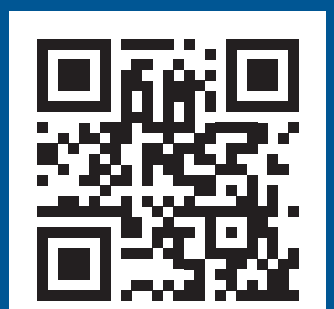
**Schedule seasonal maintenance on your plumbing and heating systems.**



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AMERICAN WATER

**Contact Indiana American Water to learn more about how to protect your pipes and other water infrastructure and resources this winter.**

At Indiana American Water, we work hard year-round to ensure our customers have reliable access to clean, fresh water no matter what weather extremes come their way. Contact us today to learn more about how to protect your home's water supply and infrastructure or for help with an already frozen pipe





## From the desk of Heights Supt. Dr. Derek Arrowood

Update No. 140

The Hamilton County Community Foundation recently highlighted the six educational foundations serving school districts in Hamilton County as part of American Education Week. I couldn't agree more with their statement that "education foundations aren't just resources – they're champions of educational excellence in our community!"

Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation (HHEF) has long been a champion in our district helping to enhance the overall educational experience at Heights for more than three decades. The Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit entity, provides monetary grants for teachers who initiate classroom instruction proposals that demonstrate a high degree of creativity and instruction enhancement.

The Foundation is dedicated to transforming the educational experience so that all students can acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, technology, and skills necessary to thrive at school, in their careers, and adult lives. It helps support rich, authentic opportunities that bring learning to life. In fact, it would be difficult to find a student who did not benefit from Foundation money during their PreK-12 journey at Heights.

We are deeply grateful for the work and dedication of the Foundation volunteers. It is through their efforts and the continued support and generosity of Foundation advocates that our students are given an academic advantage. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Foundation and how you can be involved.

I would like to give a shout out to the 31 graduates of the Hamilton County A Chance to Serve (ACTS) Class of 2024. Among this year's graduates are **11 Hamilton Heights freshmen:** Illiana Bowyer, Ben Butor, Selah Heuer, Jubilee James, Fiona McDonald, Will Monnin, AJ Smucker, Quinn Thompson, Nora Trees, Aleah Trump, and Celeste Wiegman.

The special leadership program, created and sponsored by the Purdue Extension Hamilton County, offers freshmen the opportunity to participate in five, day-long training sessions their first semester of high school. Graduates then get to apply those skills coupled with real-time learning experiences by serving as a member of a local board for one year, with the option to continue serving on the board through high school. Lori Watson, our freshman guidance counselor, serves as the coordinator for the program.

These students will begin their first year of board service in January for several local organizations. Congratulations to these aspiring leaders of tomorrow who are getting a jump start today!

Friday was our first "Synchronous" E-Learning Day of the year. The purpose of this type of E-Learning Day is to have LIVE online learning between students and teachers during inclement weather days so that we do not need to add make-up school days at the end of the year.

Each year, we plan one of these days in early December to ensure teachers and students can participate in Synchronous E-Learning. Our goal is to provide a meaningful learning alternative and quality access to teachers for days when the regular school day is not possible due to weather or some other issue, while also not extending the school year into the summer.

We appreciate our parents preparing and helping your students get the most out of this type of E-Learning Day.

As a note of community interest, HOPE Clinic in Cicero will offer free walk-in medical and flu shot clinics on Saturday, Dec. 7 and Saturday, Dec. 21 from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. See the flyer at [this link](#).

As I look around at the love, support, and kindness that our students, staff, and community are showing each other, the quote from William Carey Jones comes to mind:

*"The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each other's burdens, easing each other's loads, and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts, becomes for us, the magic of the holiday season."*

#WeAreHuskies

# Sheridan boasts new water treatment plant, thanks to \$34.5M investment from Indiana American Water

## The REPORTER

Indiana American Water recently placed a new, advanced water treatment plant into service for the Town of Sheridan.

This new facility represents a significant investment of \$34.5 million and brings the company's total investment in the town to \$65.4 million since it acquired Sheridan's water and wastewater systems in 2018. This level of investment is part of Indiana American Water's ongoing commitment to enhance water quality, reliability, and service capacity in this fast-growing central Indiana community.

The new water treatment plant replaces a previous facility built in the 1950s, which had a production capacity of 500,000 gallons per day. With substantial community growth and increased demand, the upgraded plant will now support a production capacity of 1.5 million gallons per day, helping ensure sufficient water supply for residents, businesses, and essential services in Sheridan.

"Indiana American Water is dedicated to delivering safe, reliable and affordable water service to our communities," Indiana American Water President Matthew Prine. "This new plant will not only increase



Photo courtesy Indiana American Water  
A birds-eye view of Indiana American Water's new water treatment plant in Sheridan, taken during construction in October 2024. The new water treatment plant is located in northeast Sheridan, near the high school.

capacity but also improve service reliability, quality, energy efficiency, and public safety, particularly by enhancing fire-fighting capabilities through increased water pressure and flow."

Key features of the new Sheridan Water Treatment Plant include:

- **Improved Filtration Process:** provides more effective removal of iron and manganese to provide better water quality.
- **Advanced Chemical Feed Systems:** supporting compliance with current and future drinking water standards, along with improved safety for personnel and the surrounding community.

- **Centralized Data-Monitoring System:** optimizes plant operations and provides real-time oversight.

- **Emergency Power Generator:** secures continued operation during power outages.

- **Additional Source of Supply:** added a new well to provide additional capacity for the next five years.

In addition to the new water treatment plant, Indiana American Water has invested nearly \$31 million in infrastructure investments in Sheridan, including new water mains, fire hydrants, valves, and meters. Indiana American Water also

brought a new \$11.4 million wastewater treatment facility into service in Sheridan in 2021.

These system-wide improvements reflect Indiana American Water's long-term partnership with the Town of Sheridan, helping ensure sustainable and professional management of its water and wastewater operations, and safeguarding the community's resources and public health.

The company is planning to host a Community Open House in the spring of 2025. In the meantime, a video showing the new water treatment plant construction and its features can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

## In the bustle of the holiday season, know the warning signs of suicide

Submitted by Mallory Wire

It's that time of year that brings joy, busyness, reflection, and a few reasons for making lists. A list of wants and needs to receive as gifts or promises to oneself for the near future. Lists of people to invite to holiday gatherings or send cards to. There's always an overwhelming focus on lists as one year ends and another begins.

However, all the reflection and introspection this time of year can stir up different thoughts and feelings for people. Not all those thoughts or feelings are positive. Some can even be harmful. It's easy to get caught up in the busyness of the season and not notice the internal struggles those close to us may be facing.

There's one list this sea-

son to make sure you check: the list of warning signs for suicide.

Four out of five people

who die by suicide exhibit one or more of the warning signs prior to their death. Warning signs of suicide include

threats of suicide, depression, increased irritability, sudden

See Signs . . . Page 6

## WESTFIELD IN LIGHTS

### GIRL SCOUTS GINGERBREAD COMPETITION

DECEMBER 7, 2024

HOSTED BY BROWNIE TROOP 2397

PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO BENEFIT  
HANDS OF HOPE & CURE SMA

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE WONDERFUL ORGANIZATIONS:  
<https://handsofhopein.org/> \* <https://www.curesma.org/>

VOTE ONLINE FOR YOUR FAVORITE GINGERBREAD DISPLAY:

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/online-gingerbread-competition/barriers/timing?cart>

(online voting begins Friday, 12/6 at 3:00 PM and ends Saturday, 12/7 at 4:45 PM)

VOTE IN PERSON FOR YOUR FAVORITE GINGERBREAD DISPLAY:

at Christ United Methodist Church (318 N Union Street, Westfield)

\*dollar bills only - no change please\*

(in-person voting begins Saturday, 12/7 at 3:00 PM and ends Saturday, 12/7 at 4:45 PM)

AWARDS

JUDGES CHOICE: 1ST, 2ND, & 3RD

PEOPLE'S CHOICE: 1ST, 2ND, & 3RD

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT WESTFIELD IN LIGHTS ON THE MAIN STAGE AT 5:20 PM!

Please contact Anne DeWeese or Chelsie Markland with questions:  
[adeweese@c21scheetz.com](mailto:adeweese@c21scheetz.com) \* [chelsie7markland@gmail.com](mailto:chelsie7markland@gmail.com)

Presented by

# THE Story OF Christmas

WORSHIP THE KING

**Soli Deo Gloria Community Concert Choir**  
*Featured annually in The Hamilton County Passion Play*

**2024 Christmas Concerts**  
*Directed by Lisa Jennings*

**Carmel Christkindlmarkt Concert**  
10 Carter Green, Carmel, IN  
Friday, December 6, 3:00 pm

**Arcadia Tree Lighting - Mini Concert**  
Main Street, Downtown Arcadia, IN  
Saturday, December 7, 6:45 pm

**Hope Bible Fellowship Concert**  
(Cookie Reception Following Concert)  
NEW LOCATION - 772 N 10th Street, Noblesville, IN  
Sunday, December 8, 6:00 pm

Admission is free.  
No ticket required. Additional information  
[beholdthelamb129@gmail.com](mailto:beholdthelamb129@gmail.com)  
or [beholdthelamb.com](http://beholdthelamb.com)

Be our Guest!

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace ~ Isaiah 9:6



# Who knew Santa's workshop was in Downtown Noblesville?



Reporter photo

Noblesville's Santa Claus was spotted downtown on Friday afternoon toiling away at toymaking in the window of Caravan Classes. Artist Geoff Davis was recently featured on WISH-TV where he talked about his love of making handcrafted wooden toys for children – in addition to bringing the magic of S. Claus to life right here in Hamilton County. [Click here](#) to see that feature story on WISH-TV.com.

# Carmel's new bid process enhancements offer efficiencies & savings

## The REPORTER

The City of Carmel's adoption of **OpenGOV**, a state-of-the-art procurement software, will revolutionize the city's bid process, fostering a more open and competitive bidding environment while reducing administrative costs and waste generated by a paper-based bid process.

The new system is set to launch in January 2025, ultimately benefiting contractors, residents and taxpayers alike through a more efficient bidding process.

"Currently, our bid process is somewhat restrictive," Mayor Sue Finkam said. "This makes it challenging to access information and results in a limited pool of recurring bidders, which hinders competition. With OpenGOV, we are providing a more efficient and accessible tool for interested vendors, city team members and the community."

The implementation of OpenGOV addresses several critical challenges for the city. Previously, each department managed its own procurement process, resulting in inefficiencies. Vendors had to pay for access to bid documents,

putting smaller businesses at a disadvantage, and there were significant costs associated with the paper-based process. The OpenGOV system provides multiple advantages for contractors, streamlining their interaction with the city's procurement process including simplified registration, easy online access, electronic submissions and a

cost savings. For residents, the OpenGOV system offers a more efficient and cost-effective approach to managing city projects. "OpenGOV offers a guided, step-by-step process designed specifically for government needs," Carmel City Clerk Jacob Quinn said. "Automated processes will bring significant time savings and reduce administrative burden. Comprehensive lifecycle management will allow us to capture solicitation lifecycles in a single location, for a more



Finkam



Quinn

organized procurement. Thanks to our administration, and specifically the city's purchasing analyst, Andrew Greeson, for the adoption of this software and diligence in getting it implemented."

The City of Carmel joins other major jurisdictions such as Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Orange County, and Orlando in leveraging OpenGOV to transform their procurement processes. This initiative underscores Carmel's commitment to transparency, efficiency and fiscal responsibility.

To sign up to become a registered vendor and receive notifications of upcoming opportunities, visit the City of Carmel's **OpenGOV portal**. There is no cost to register or use OpenGOV. You may also contact Jacob Quinn at [jquinn@carmel.in.gov](mailto:jquinn@carmel.in.gov) or Purchasing Analyst, Andrew Greeson at [agreeson@carmel.in.gov](mailto:agreeson@carmel.in.gov).

## SIGNS

from Page 5

changes in appetite or appearance, or a decrease/lack of interest. It can be any one or combination of the signs on the list. No two suicides are exactly alike. A more extensive list of examples and explanations can be found on The Jason Foundation's website, [JasonFoundation.com](http://JasonFoundation.com).

If you or someone you know are experiencing sui-

cidal thoughts this holiday season, there are resources available. 988 is the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. It is available to call or text at any time for people in need of assistance. The Trevor Project is a national resource for the LGBTQ community. They can be reached by calling 1-800-488-7386 or texting START to 678-678.

The Jason Foundation is a national resource for education and prevention of youth and young adult suicide. Learn more about suicide, find the closest Affiliate Office to you, and access educational trainings and materials at [JasonFoundation.com](http://JasonFoundation.com).

Mallory Wire is the Association Division Director at The Jason Foundation.

## The REPORTER

The City of Westfield and the Westfield Mayor's Council on Disabilities have partnered for an inaugural Sensory Skate Night on Sunday, Dec. 15 at the Ice Ribbon at Grand Junction Plaza, 225 S. Union St.

There will be two 45-minute skating sessions offered at 2:30 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. These sessions are free for individuals and their families who need a more sensory friendly skating experience. Attendees can also enjoy sensory ac-

tivities inside and near the Café building.

"We are happy to partner with the Council on Disabilities to offer a free Sensory Skate Night at the Ice Ribbon," Mayor Scott Willis said. "This event ensures that everyone in our community, regardless of ability, can enjoy the fun of skating in an inclusive, welcoming environment."

The ice ribbon is a synthetic ice, which creates an easier skating experience for individuals of all abilities. Skate aids will be

available, and wheelchairs will be allowed on the ice. In addition, there will be no music playing throughout the duration of the event.

If there is inclement weather, the Sensory Skate Night will be rescheduled for 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17. Those who reserved tickets will be notified via email of the change.

Please email [westfield-welcome@westfield.in.gov](mailto:westfield-welcome@westfield.in.gov) for further questions and ticket information.

Ticket reservations can be made at [this link](#).

**Pancakes with Santa & HOLIDAY MARKET**

HOSTED BY Noblesville Sunrivers Kwanis Club

DECEMBER 7, 2024  
8AM TILL 11AM

FOREST PARK INN  
701 CICERO RD  
NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060  
(behind the carousel)

SEE SANTA FOR FREE  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST \$7 PER PERSON, CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER EAT FREE  
Visit our Facebook page for more information

Performances by Noblesville Elementary School Choirs

**ICE RIBBON**

**NOVEMBER 23 - JANUARY 4**  
THURSDAYS - SATURDAYS

SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS!

@WESTFIELDWELCOME WESTFIELD WELCOME

**HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER**  
Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper

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



# ‘Stronger Veterans, Stronger Communities’ facilitator speaks at local DAR meeting

Submitted by Bill Doss  
Hamilton County  
Veterans Corporation

You probably know that military veterans have a higher suicide rate than civilians, but did you know that Indiana veterans have an even higher suicide rate?

These are just two of the multiple facts that Kristen Ludeker-Seibert presented at the Jonathan Jennings Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) monthly chapter meeting held Nov. 21 at Carmel’s VFW Post #10003.

Ludeker-Seibert is the facilitator of the “Stronger Veterans, Stronger Communities” (SVSC) Coalition on the Prevention of Suicide for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families/Caregivers. The Coalition has received crisis intercept training through the Department of Health and Human Services and worked in partnership with the Veterans Health Administration to develop veteran connection opportunities alongside the Indiana Department of Veteran Affairs.

Hamilton County’s SVSC was the first coalition in Indiana to receive funding from the state for suicide prevention efforts for service members, veterans, and their families and caregivers through the Governor’s Challenge.

Veteran suicides in Hamilton County were on an upward trend in 2021, and this was quickly recognized by those in public health. As we started bringing likeminded people and resources to the table, going over the data and discussing



Photo provided

**SVSC Facilitator Kristen Ludeker-Seibert spoke on Nov. 21 to the DAR Jonathan Jennings Chapter of Carmel about the work the organization does for local veterans.**

opportunities, we recognized the need for reaching out to those who were not connected. We had to find, create ways to bring the resources to the people, to make that connection for them so they might get answers to their questions, needs and concerns and live a better more fulfilled life here in Hamilton County. Thus the SVSC coalition was created and has continued to build from there.

Soon after creation, SVSC began working alongside the Indiana Department of Veteran Affairs. The purpose of the Coalition organically fit into the incoming Governor’s Challenge of suicide prevention efforts. SVSC has continued to build goals and projects that meet the needs of the Hamilton County veteran community as well as

requirements of the Indiana Governor’s Challenge. The more we all know about the resources available to address our concerns and needs, the stronger and more connected we will be as a community.

The SVSC coalition is a community comprised of organizations, veterans, active service members, family members, and volunteers, so all are invited to join us in the fight against death by suicide. If you are interested in joining, please contact Kristen Ludeker-Seibert at [kludeker-seibert@hamiltoncountypvhc.org](mailto:kludeker-seibert@hamiltoncountypvhc.org).

At the conclusion of the meeting, DAR presented \$460 in gift cards and several beautiful handmade quilts and crocheted blankets to the VFW for distribution to local needy veterans and their families.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a nonprofit, non-political volunteer women’s organization dedicated to preserving American history and whose mission is to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. DAR members throughout the U.S. volunteer their time to provide assistance to veterans in both Veterans Administration hospitals and non-VA facilities and provide more than 200,000 hours of volunteer time to veterans annually.

The Jonathan Jennings Chapter is based in Carmel, and the Chapter Regent is Heath Albert. The chapter currently has more than 90 members and welcomes any women interested in joining. For more information, visit [dar.org](http://dar.org) or email [jjdarregent@gmail.com](mailto:jjdarregent@gmail.com).

## Letter to the Editor

# The beauty of humanity we need to keep shining

Dear Editor:

One of the most beautiful attributes of humanity is how we care about and for one another.

As years go by and times change, this attribute might seem to fade or become dull. Not because anyone has given up on trying, there just seems to be more obstacles in today’s world that make it harder to reach and hear those we care about and wish to help.

Over the years, life’s downer moments, mobile phones, and COVID have created pockets of isolation among us which makes it harder to reach those who are not connected. To overcome this, we must be more adept and knowledgeable in how to reach those in our communities who are isolated and connect them with the resources and services that will make a positive impact in their lives.

God gave us eyes to see and ears to hear the beauty in the world around us, in ourselves, and in others. We need to actively and subconsciously be seeking, open-eyed, and listening to find those who might not ask for assistance or know where to find the help they need or have earned. So, listen for that happy or relieved song of finally being discovered, or for the weary sigh of those who are sad or depressed.

It is a beautiful and wonderful feeling to help others. Avail yourself to the resources and services in your community so if you come across someone who is struggling, encourage them to ask for help. Connect them to the resources and services they need, for their sake and for their loved ones. And ... let them know they are the ones giving back by allowing others to experience the beauty of being able to help.

Have a blessed day.

Bill Doss

Hamilton County Veterans Corporation

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

# Harrington family donates \$1.5M to United Way of Central Indiana

Gift will total \$3 million, thanks to Lilly Foundation match

## The REPORTER

Judy and Michael Harrington have donated \$1.5 million to United Way of Central Indiana, a gift that will go toward the nonprofit’s work in the areas of safe and affordable housing and basic needs, United Way announced Thursday.

The Harringtons’ gift will total \$3 million, thanks to a one-to-one match from the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation (Lilly Foundation) for eligible donations from Lilly employees and retirees. The Lilly Foundation is a tax-exempt, private foundation supported by donations from Eli Lilly and Company.

Michael Harrington worked for Eli Lilly and Company for nearly 30 years and retired in 2020 as senior vice president and general counsel. He is also a former chairman of United Way’s Tocqueville Society and a former member of the Board of Directors.

“We are incredibly thankful for Mike and Judy’s remarkable gift,” United Way President and CEO Fred Payne said. “Their generosity will have tangible impact in our community, distancing families from poverty and helping people live the lives they’re capa-



## United Way of Central Indiana

ble of living.”

In making their gift, the Harringtons included in the decision-making their three adult children, all of whom have witnessed firsthand the impacts of poverty and lack of safe and affordable housing in their communities.

Their daughter is a social worker in San Francisco, one son is a Marion County public defender, and the other works for a social services agency in Detroit.

“Each of them, in their own way, touches the issues of housing, and they’ve shared with us that they think that’s of critical importance, and we share their view,” Michael Harrington said. “We’ve included them in our conversations in each stage as we’ve put the project together ... We’re excit-

ed about the work that will happen in our community as part of this initiative. We’re really appreciative of the efforts that the staff and leadership of United Way have made to help us put together what we hope is a transformative gift that will address basic needs but will also bring some much needed innovations to the provision of safe and affordable housing in central Indiana.”

**ACCURATE  
BALANCED  
LOCAL  
NEWS**

Main Street Productions, Inc. Presents

# GREETINGS!

By Tom Dudzick

Directed by Jeremy Tuterow

## December 5th – December 15th, 2024

Thursday, Friday, Saturday Shows at 7:30 pm,  
Sunday Shows at 2:30 pm

Basile Westfield Playhouse  
220 North Union St., Westfield, IN - (317) 402-3341  
For reservations visit our website:  
[www.basilewestfieldplayhouse.org](http://www.basilewestfieldplayhouse.org)

my logo shop  
mylogoshop.com

**Hamilton County Reporter**

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# THE BEST

## LOCAL NEWS & SPORTS COVERAGE IN HAMILTON COUNTY



# 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 126<sup>th</sup> St Treasure Hunt Fri 8pm \$25K  
Fishers, in 46038  
317-842-5944 Breakfast 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun 8-11

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

Sheridan Post 67 Tom DeShon  
406 E 10<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:secretary@hamiltoncountyveterans.com)  
Meets 7pm the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 126<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:president@hamiltoncountyveterans.com)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:Tom.logan@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)  
Assistant CVSO – Robin Wilson  
[robin.wilson@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:robin.wilson@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)  
Assistant CVSO – Caroline Franz  
[caroline.franz@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:caroline.franz@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)  
Admin Assistant – Christina Ellis  
[christina.ellis@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:christina.ellis@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## Hamilton County Military Veteran

Christmas Tree Giveaway Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 9-11am at Twin Peaks 6880 E 82<sup>nd</sup> 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

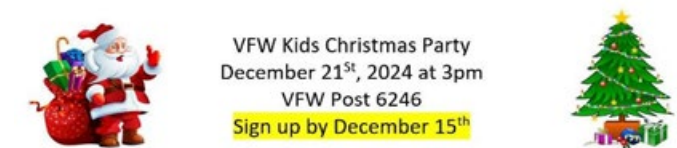
Come See Santa & Mrs Claus at the Carmel American Legion Dec 14<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm



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 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm – Sign up By Dec 15<sup>th</sup> by calling or stopping by the Post



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



## GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC.

A CSO PERFORMANCE IS THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT!

PERFORMING AT THE PALLADIUM AT THE ALLIED SOLUTIONS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

DECEMBER 15 | 2:00 PM  
HOLIDAY POPS MATINEE

Designed for families, this 1-hour concert has singalongs, excerpts from the Nutcracker with the Indiana Ballet Conservatory and cookies and crafts in the lobby.  
Presented by IU Health North Hospital

DECEMBER 15 | 7:00 PM  
A HOLIDAY IN VIENNA

Join us for holiday classics, singalongs and some elegant and romantic Viennese pieces evoking the old-world charm of Vienna.  
Presented by IU Health North Hospital

JANUARY 25 | 7:30 PM  
BREAKIN' CLASSICAL

Liven up your new year as the high-energy artistry of breakdancing meets the timeless inspiration of classical music.

Scan the QR codes, visit [CarmelSymphony.org](http://CarmelSymphony.org), or contact the Fifth Third Bank Box Office at (317)843-3800 for tickets.

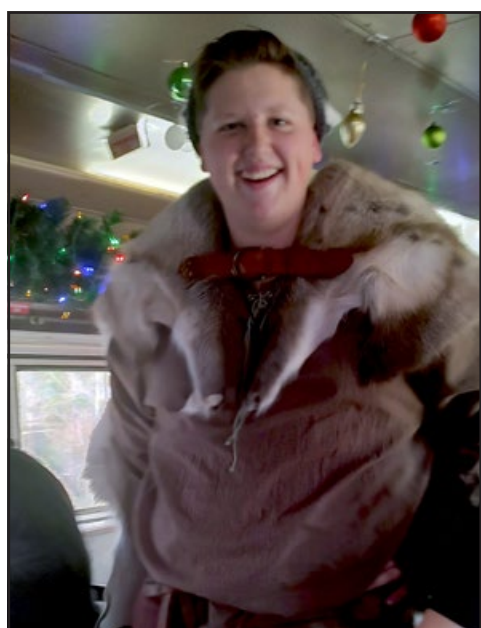
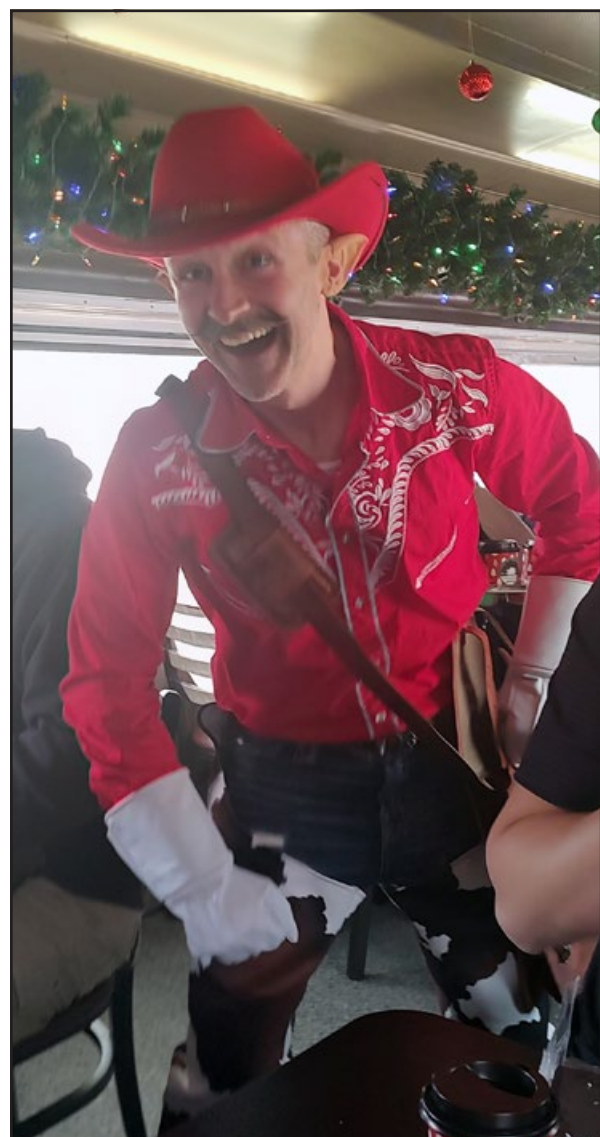
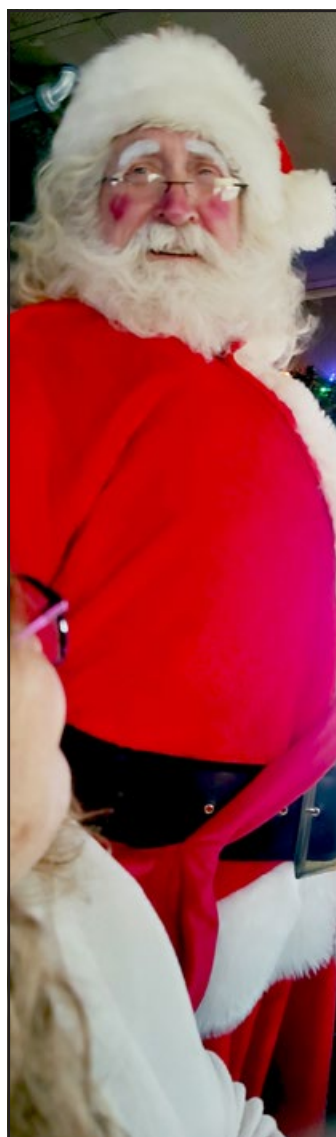


# Santa + Nickel Plate Express = happy people

It takes an incredible team who goes above and beyond to help Santa bring holiday magic to life on the Reindeer Express. This team works diligently spreading joy, delivering festive treats, and creating unforgettable memories for each and every rider. They're the true heroes behind the scenes, making sure every moment of your holiday adventure is filled with wonder and cheer. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, the Reindeer Express is a journey riders will never forget. Come experience the magic with the Nickel Plate Express – the team can't wait to share the holiday spirit with you! Head over to [NickelPlateExpress.com](http://NickelPlateExpress.com) to find tickets for more great rides. (Reporter photos by Bill Miller)



Photo provided by Nickel Plate Express





**NICKEL PLATE EXPRESS**

**ENJOY THE RICH HISTORY OF RAIL TRAVEL!**

Sit back and enjoy the sights, sounds and experience of a ride in our 1950s Santa Fe equipment.

The Nickel Plate Express operates on 12.5 miles of the former Nickel Plate Road between Noblesville and Atlanta.

Excursions board out of Noblesville at 825 Forest Park Drive.

[NickelPlateExpress.com](http://NickelPlateExpress.com)



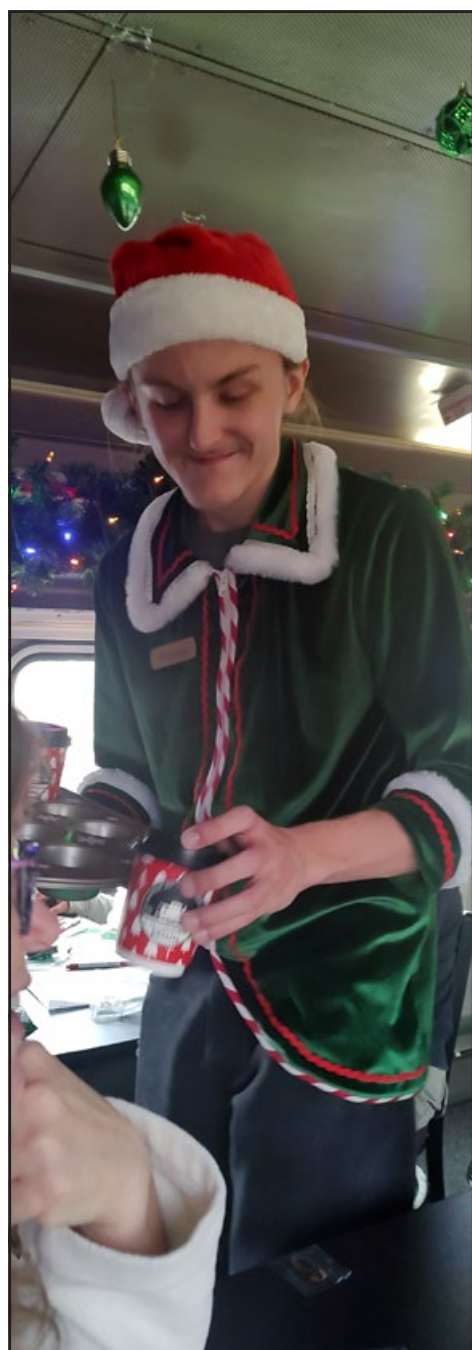
**All Aboard!**

**New Year's Eve Soul Train**

Step back in time to the sensational 1970s as you embark on a vintage train ride to Earthly Endearments in Atlanta. Don your best disco attire and get ready for a night of funk, fun, and fabulous memories.

December 31

[NickelPlateExpress.com](http://NickelPlateExpress.com)



**— WESTFIELD —**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Please be advised that the Westfield-Washington Township Plat Committee will meet at 11:00 a.m., Monday, December 16, 2024, at the Westfield City Services Center, 2728 E 171st St, Westfield, Indiana, or in a virtual format viewable at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofWestfieldIN>, for the purposes of holding a public hearing on the following petitions:

- 2409-SPP-08 & 2409-ODP-08; Union Street Towns; Generally located at 18700 N. Union Street, just Southwest of the N. Union & N. East Street intersection; Lennar Homes of Indiana, LLC by Weihe Engineers requests Primary Plat and Overall Development Plan review of a seventy (70) lot single-family attached subdivision on 11 acres +/- in the Midtown at Westfield PUD District.

Specific details regarding the requests may be obtained from the Westfield Community Development Department, 2728 E 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana or by calling (317) 804-3170.

Written suggestions or objections relative to the requests may be filed with the Secretary of the Committee at the Westfield Community Development Department, 2728 E 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana at or before the hearing. Oral comments concerning the proposals will be heard at the aforementioned public hearing. In the case of a virtual meeting, written comments concerning the proposals can be provided before and during the aforementioned public hearing by emailing [planners@westfield.in.gov](mailto:planners@westfield.in.gov). Such hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

Westfield-Washington Township Plat Committee  
Westfield Community Development Department  
2728 East 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074  
[www.westfield.in.gov](http://www.westfield.in.gov)  
R5385

12/7/24, 12/9/24

**Meeting Notices**

The Carmel Plan Commission will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square, Carmel.	The Hamilton County Airport Authority will meet in an executive session at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(D) Purchase or Lease of Real Estate. A public session will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.
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# Governor-elect Braun names three more cabinet appointees

*Lisa Hershman as Secretary of Management & Budget, Dr. Katie Jenner as Secretary of Education*

## The REPORTER

Governor-elect Mike Braun announced Wednesday the appointment of the Honorable Lisa W. Hershman as Indiana's Secretary of Management and Budget.

Hershman brings extensive experience in both government and private sector financial management, most recently serving as Chief Management Officer of the U.S. Department of Defense. "Lisa Hershman's track record of driving efficiency and innovation in both government and business makes her the ideal choice to oversee Indiana's financial management," Braun said. "Her experience transforming large organizations and delivering taxpayer savings will be invaluable to our state."

As the third highest-ranking Pentagon official from 2018 to 2021, Hershman managed a \$168 billion budget and achieved record-setting savings of \$37 billion through operational reforms. She led the completion of the Defense Department's first unified budget, merging 28 organizational budgets while implementing a customized approach based on mission and purpose.

"I sincerely appreciate the confidence Governor-elect Mike Braun has placed in me to serve as a steward of the state's financial resources," Hershman said. "Through collaboration with his team and the General Assembly, we will work to drive efficiency, accountability, and innovation in state government. Together, we will work to ensure that every taxpayer dollar is spent wisely and that Indiana remains a national model for fiscal responsibility and effective governance."

The Secretary of Management and Budget serves as the chief financial officer of the state, overseeing Indiana's budget, financial management, and administrative operations. Hershman will be responsible for developing the budget to realize the governor's vision, providing management of agencies in finance, technology, and shared services, and serving as operational oversight

across secretary verticals. Hershman will also serve as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

A Lafayette resident, Hershman previously served on the Indiana Commission for Higher Education from 2014 to 2020. In the private sector, she has held CEO positions at multiple companies, consistently achieving double-digit growth while reducing costs. She is qualified as a financial expert under SEC rules and currently serves on the board of directors for EchoStar/Dish. Hershman is also an internationally published author on business management reform.

Hershman holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and Management from Clarkson University and has completed advanced programs at the Wharton School, London School of Economics, IMD/MIT, and Cornell University.

\*\*\*

On Thursday, Braun announced Dr. Katie Jenner will continue serving as Indiana's top education official.

As Secretary of Education, Dr. Jenner will be responsible for establishing a unified, student-centered vision across the full spectrum of education, from Pre-K and K-12 to college, and will also retain her role as head of the Department of Education.

Under Dr. Jenner's leadership since 2021, Indiana has made significant strides in education, including securing the state's largest-ever investment in literacy, implementing a comprehensive teacher supply/demand marketplace, and increasing the statewide graduation rate. Her administration deployed Indiana's Graduates Prepared to Succeed initiative, which redefined how the state measures school performance and student achievement.

"Dr. Jenner's proven track record of elevating Indiana's education system



Braun

makes her the ideal choice to continue leading our state's academic initiatives," Braun said. "Her focus on literacy, STEM education, and workforce readiness aligns perfectly with our vision for Indiana's future."

In alignment with Governor-elect Braun's agenda, the Administration will focus on college and career readiness, improved literacy and math outcomes, universal school choice, and an increase in teacher base pay.

"I am grateful to Governor-elect Braun for the opportunity to continue serving Indiana's students, educators, and families as Secretary of Education," said Dr. Jenner. "Over the past several years, we have made significant strides in expanding educational opportunities and ensuring our students are prepared for success in the classroom and beyond. Working together with Governor-elect Braun, our dedicated teachers, school leaders, the General Assembly and stakeholders across the state, we will build upon this progress while addressing the evolving needs of our education system. I look forward to advancing this vital mission in the years ahead."

Dr. Jenner, who holds a doctorate in education from the University of Kentucky and an MBA from Indiana State University, currently leads the Department of Education and chairs the State Board of Education. She previously served as Governor Holcomb's Senior Education Advisor, Vice President of K-12 Initiatives and Statewide Partnerships for Ivy Tech Community College, and held various leadership positions at Madison Consolidated Schools, in addition to being a teacher.

\*\*\*

On Friday, Braun announced his intent to appoint former State Representative Mike Speedy as Indiana's Secretary of Business Affairs. Speedy brings extensive experience in business, law, and public

service to the role.

A second-generation real estate investor and graduate of IU's Kelley School of Business and McKinney School of Law, Speedy operates a multi-state real estate development company headquartered in Indianapolis. He concluded 14 years of service in the Indiana House of Representatives, where he chaired the Financial Institutions and Environmental Affairs committees and served as Vice Chairman of Roads and Transportation.

"Mike's combination of business acumen and public service experience makes him ideally suited to lead Indiana's business development initiatives," Braun said. "His background in real estate, finance, and law will help drive economic growth across our state."

In Speedy's role as Secretary of Business Affairs, he will be responsible for managing the state's regulatory framework and ensuring that businesses and industries operate safely, ethically, and efficiently.

"I look forward to working alongside Governor-elect Braun as Indiana's Secretary of Business Affairs," Speedy said. "Having served in the Indiana General Assembly, I've seen firsthand how smart policy and reduced regulation can help businesses flourish. Drawing on my experience as both a legislator and business owner, we will streamline government processes, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and create an even more business-friendly environment in Indiana. Together, we'll ensure Indiana remains one of the best places to do business in America."

In the Indiana General Assembly, he served on key committees including Judiciary, Employment, Labor & Pensions, and Utilities, Energy & Telecommunications. Prior to serving at the statehouse, Speedy served on the Indianapolis City-County Council for seven years, including as Chairman of the Public Works Committee. He maintains his law license and Certified Commercial Investment Member designation.

# Indiana residents weigh in on policy priorities in 2024 Hoosier Survey

## The REPORTER

The 2024 Hoosier Survey, conducted by the **Bowen Center for Public Affairs** at Ball State University, identifies Indiana residents' top three policy priorities heading into the new year: school safety, public safety, and healthcare.

Notably, this year's Hoosier Survey – an annual, non-partisan public policy study that gauges public opinion on key social and political issues – found that these priorities are shared across political affiliations, according to **Dr. Kevin Smith**, interim director of the Bowen Center for Public Affairs and associate dean of Ball State's **College of Sciences and Humanities**.

"The 2024 Hoosier Survey provides an essential look at the issues that matter most to Indiana residents," Dr. Smith said. "As we enter the new year, it's clear that Hoosiers want a focus on school safety, public safety, and healthcare – critical priorities that cross political lines. This survey serves as a valuable tool for guiding policymakers by reflecting the voices and concerns of everyday Indiana citizens."

The 2024 Hoosier Survey, conducted Nov. 6 and 7, included responses from 615 Indiana adults. Key findings from this year's survey included questions about:

### School Safety & Public Safety

Nearly 70 percent of respondents identified school safety as a "very important" priority, while public safety also ranked among the top issues across all demographics and political affiliations.

"School safety is a concern that resonates universally," Dr. Smith said. "These findings indicate that Hoosiers want to ensure their communities and schools are secure, regardless of political differences."

### Healthcare Access

Healthcare ranked as a leading issue for Hoosiers, with 68 percent marking it as "very important." Concerns over affordability, accessibility and especially transparency remain central themes in the public discourse. Only 20 percent of respondents report that healthcare providers often or always explain the costs associated with appointments/procedures, and only one in three report that providers explain whether appointments/procedures are covered by insurance.

"Ensuring accessible and affordable healthcare is consistently referenced as a priority, highlighting the challenges many Indiana residents face," Dr. Smith noted. "This data underscores the need for bipartisan efforts to address healthcare concerns effectively."

## Marijuana Legalization

Support for marijuana legalization remains robust, with 62 percent favoring recreational and medicinal legalization and an additional 25 percent supporting medicinal-only legalization. Support varies by education level, with 70 percent of those without college education favoring full legalization, compared to 51 percent of respondents with a four-year degree or higher.

"The growing support for marijuana legalization reflects national trends," Dr. Smith said.

## Abortion

More than 80 percent of respondents believe abortion should be legal in cases involving threats to the mother's life, rape, incest, or lethal fetal anomalies. However, opinions diverge by trimester: two-thirds support abortion rights in the first trimester, while the majority oppose them in later stages.

"The nuances in abortion views reflect Hoosiers' thoughtful struggle to apply their personal values to public policy concerns," Dr. Smith explained. "Hoosiers generally support exceptions, but there is growing consensus for restrictions as pregnancies progress."

## Gun Policy

Fifty-eight percent of respondents oppose carrying concealed firearms without a permit, and 59 percent support banning assault weapons. Meanwhile, 45 percent favor allowing teachers to carry guns in schools, compared to 36 percent who oppose it.

"Public opinion on guns reflects both safety concerns and respect for Second Amendment rights," Dr. Smith said. "Striking a balance here is a critical consideration for policymakers."

## Immigration

While 70 percent view undocumented immigration as a serious problem for Indiana, opinions on legal immigration are evenly split: half favor maintaining or increasing current levels, and half advocate reducing or halting it entirely. These views often align with political affiliation.

"Immigration remains a divisive issue, but the survey highlights areas of potential consensus, especially regarding undocumented immigration," Dr. Smith noted.

[Click here](#) to see part 1 of the survey results, and [click here](#) to see part 2.

## About the Bowen Center for Public Affairs

Founded in 2007, the Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University honors the legacy of Dr. Otis R. Bowen, former Indiana Governor and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. The center advances civic literacy, community involvement, and public service through research and training programs.

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# Giving back, supporting students & celebrating the Season

Last week, my team and I had the honor of volunteering at **Wheeler Mission**, an Indianapolis-based organization that provides vital support to individuals and families in need. From preparing meals to serving guests, we witnessed firsthand the compassion and dedication of those who make Wheeler Mission a lifeline for so many in our community.



**GUEST COLUMNIST**



DANIEL ELLIOTT

snacks or drinks, donors can “purchase” charitable gifts like meals, clothing, medical supplies, or even livestock for families in need. I was joined by community leaders and local non-profit organizations in celebrating the launch of this powerful campaign, part of the #LightTheWorld initiative.

The Giving Machine will remain in Clay Terrace throughout the holiday season.

\*\*\*

On Tuesday, I was privileged to participate in the **Make Good Decisions** press conference at Purdue University alongside state officials and student lead-



Photo provided

**The Giving Machine is at Clay Terrace until Jan. 5.**

ers. We gathered to highlight the impact of Indiana's Lifeline Law, which ensures students won't face prosecution for underage drinking if they call/text 911 to report a medical emergency and cooperate with authorities. This law saves lives by empowering young Hoosiers to prioritize safety without fear of legal consequences.

What stood out most was the voice of student leaders advocating for an important improvement: extending immunity to those seeking medical attention for substance overconsumption. Supporting initiatives like this reflects our Hoosier values – compassion, leadership, and commitment to

saving lives.

\*\*\*

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in our office in the Statehouse! This week, we were blessed with a beautiful Christmas tree, generously donated by **Oak Hill Tree Farm** in Crawfordsville. We couldn't be more thankful for their kindness and for helping us bring some holiday cheer to the Statehouse. There's just something about the smell of fresh pine that gets you in the Christmas spirit. A big shoutout to the Stine Family at Oak Hill Tree Farm for helping make our office holiday season brighter!

*Daniel Elliott serves as Indiana's Treasurer of State.*

# Taste of Carmel returns with “Dine at the Disco” theme

**The REPORTER**

Get ready to groove the night away with the Carmel Education Foundation (CEF) for the much-anticipated return of Taste of Carmel, Carmel's premier food and beverage event. This year's theme, “Dine at the Disco,” invites the community to enjoy a funky evening of delicious cuisine, refreshing drinks, and lively entertainment – all in support of Carmel Clay Schools.

The party is set for Friday, March 7, 2025 at the 502 East Event Centre. The First Taste VIP Party is at 5:30 p.m., with Main Event Entry at 6:30 or 7 p.m.

**Tickets now on sale – act fast to save with early bird pricing!**

- General Admission: \$75

- VIP Admission: \$175 (includes early entry, access to the exclusive State Bank First Taste VIP Party, and premium food and drink options)

- Reserved Table for 10: \$1,300

- Early Bird Discount: Purchase tickets by Jan. 12, 2025, to take advantage of discounted pricing. Don't wait – this event sells out every year. Tickets are available now at [tasteofcarmelindiana.com](http://tasteofcarmelindiana.com).

**Featured restaurants**

This year's lineup includes some of the best culinary talent in Carmel and beyond. Savor creations from Monterey Coastal Cuisine, Bier Brewery, Convivio, 1933 Lounge, Yats, and Aroma Experience, along with a wide array of other beloved local eateries, wineries, and breweries.

**An event with purpose**

Taste of Carmel is CEF's largest annual fundraiser, directly benefiting programs that enrich the educational experience for Carmel Clay Schools. Funds raised support scholarships, classroom grants, mental health initiatives, and innovative programs that prepare students for bright futures.

**Get involved – limited opportunities available**

- **Food and beverage providers:** Highlight your creations to an eager audience of local food enthusiasts and community leaders.

- **Sponsorship packages:** Partner with a signature event that combines fun with impact. Sponsors gain promotional exposure, VIP tickets, and recognition.

Join an amazing roster of partners, including Indy Facets, State Bank, Fanning Howey, Ascension St. Vincent, Towne Post/Carmel Magazine, Coasterstone, and more. Don't miss your chance to make a difference while connecting with the Carmel community. Visit [tasteofcarmelindiana.com](http://tasteofcarmelindiana.com) to secure your booth space or sponsorship package today.

**Celebrate at “Dine at the Disco”**

Don't miss an unforgettable night of culinary excellence, fun, and community spirit – all for a great cause. For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, or vendor inquiries, visit [tasteofcarmelindiana.com](http://tasteofcarmelindiana.com) or contact Jennifer Penix at [jpenix1@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:jpenix1@ccs.k12.in.us) or (317) 844-9961 ext. 2680.

Let's disco together to support the students of Carmel Clay Schools.



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-  **US Capitol and White House Tour Requests**  
My office can help arrange tours throughout our nation's capital.



# Kilwins Fishers invites you for hot chocolate & a picture with Santa

**The REPORTER**

Kilwins Fishers invites families to come celebrate the holiday season with a series of festive “Hot Chocolate and Photos with Santa” events. Families are encouraged to bring their children to enjoy a complimentary cup of Kilwins’ signature hot chocolate, freshly made in the store’s traditional copper kettle.

To add to the event, children will have the chance to meet Santa Claus and have their photos taken. Digital

images will be sent directly to families, creating a keepsake of this holiday moment.

Dates and times for the events are:

- Sunday, Dec. 8, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 15, 2 to 4 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 20, 4 to 6 p.m.

“We are thrilled to offer this opportunity for families



in our community to visit Kilwins and experience the joy of the season,” Store Owner Kirstyn Kallick said. “It’s a pleasure to welcome everyone to our store for a visit with Santa and to share our delicious hot chocolate, made fresh with Kilwins’ Heritage Chocolate shavings.”

Kilwins Fishers opened its doors on Nov. 18 and has already become a be-

loved destination for hand-made chocolates, caramel apples, hand-dipped treats, rich fudge, Original Recipe ice cream, and gifts. Conveniently located off 116th Street on Whistle Drive near Kura Revolving Sushi Bar and Torchy’s Tacos, Kilwins Fishers is proud to be a part of the community.

To learn more about the events and keep up with Kilwins Fishers, follow them at [Facebook.com/kilwinsfishers](https://www.facebook.com/kilwinsfishers) or at [Instagram.com/kilwinsfishers](https://www.instagram.com/kilwinsfishers).

## TODAY’S BIBLE READING

### THE COURTYARD

“For the entrance to the courtyard, provide a curtain twenty cubits long, of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen—the work of an embroiderer—with four posts and four bases. All the posts around the courtyard are to have silver bands and hooks, and bronze bases. The courtyard shall be a hundred cubits long and fifty cubits wide, with curtains of finely twisted linen five cubits high, and with bronze bases. All the other articles used in the service of the tabernacle, whatever their function, including all the tent pegs for it and those for the courtyard, are to be of bronze.

Exodus 27:16-19 (NIV)

### Louis Herman Gatlin Jr.

April 14, 1947 – December 3, 2024

Louis Herman Gatlin Jr., 77, Fishers, passed away on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at his home. He was born on April 14, 1947, to Louis and Margie (Newby) Gatlin in Memphis, Tenn.



Louis was a telecommunications engineer for Indiana Bell for many years, then in his retirement years, he worked at Kroger. He and his wife owned S&L Communications and S&L Concessions. Louis enjoyed going to casinos, playing golf, and loved all kinds of sports.

He is survived by his wife, Sylvia Gatlin; son, Ken Gatlin; daughter, Pamela Gatlin; grandchildren, Michael Gatlin, Kashmir Pharis, Trenton Pharis, Taylor Ratcliff, and Dakota Jessee; and great-grandchildren, Summer Pharis, Harper Miller, Parker Ratcliff, Olive Ratcliff, Stephen Jessee, Ava Jessee, Rayna Jessee, and newest to the family, Montgomery Gatlin.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and grandson, Stephen Harness Gatlin.

A celebration of life will be held from noon to 2 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers.

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](https://www.randallroberts.com)

# Consider these year-end financial moves

As we enter the holiday season, your life may well become busier. Still, you might want to take the time to consider some financial moves before we turn the calendar to 2025.

Here are a few suggestions:



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COREY SYLVESTER  
Cicero Edward Jones

money into your 401(k) before the year ends – including “catch-up” contributions if you’re 50 or older. You might also want to add to your health savings account (HSA) by the tax-filing deadline in April.

**Use your FSA dollars**

Unlike an HSA, a flexible spending account (FSA) works on a “use-it-or-lose-it” basis, meaning you lose any unspent funds at the end of the year. So, if you still have funds left in your account, try to use them up in 2024. (Employers may grant a 2½ month extension, so check with your human resources area to see if this is the case where you work.)

**Contribute to a 529 plan**

If you haven’t opened a 529 education savings plan for your children, think about doing so this year.

With a 529 plan, your earnings can grow tax deferred, and your withdrawals are federally tax free when used for qualified education expenses – tuition, fees, books and so on. And if you invest in your own state’s 529 plan, you might be able to deduct your contributions from your state income tax or receive a state tax credit.

**Build your emergency fund**

It’s generally a good idea to keep up to six months’ worth of living expenses in an emergency fund, with the money held in a liquid, low-risk account. Without such a fund in place, you might be forced to dip into your retirement funds to pay for short-term needs, such as a major car or home repair.

**Review your estate plans**

If you’ve experienced any changes in your family situation this year, such as marriage, remarriage or the birth of a child, you may want to update your es-

tate-planning documents to reflect your new situation. It’s also important to look at the beneficiary designations on your investment accounts, retirement plans, IRAs and insurance policies, as these designations can sometimes even supersede the instructions you’ve left in your will. And if you haven’t started estate planning, there’s no time like the present.

**Take your RMDs**

If you’re 73 or older, you will likely need to take withdrawals – called required minimum distributions, or RMDs – from some of your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA. If you don’t take these withdrawals each year, you could be subject to penalties.

These aren’t the only moves you can make, but they may prove helpful not only for 2024 but in the years to come.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

### The Reporter’s policy on obituaries

The Hamilton County Reporter does not charge families for publishing obituary notices in our pages. Every obituary appearing in online editions Wednesday through Saturday also appears in our Monday print editions. In order to continue to offer this as a community service, we ask that obituaries not exceed 500 words. The limitations of space may not allow for longer ones to appear in print.

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

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WESTFIELD

Beautiful 4 BR ranch on large lot with a fully fenced backyard. This home has been well maintained and has several recent updates!  
Listed at \$314,900

**SOLD!**

**1880 E. 75 NORTH**  
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Completely remodeled ranch on 1.06 acres just outside of downtown Lebanon. Beautifully decorated and move-in ready!  
Listed at \$339,900

**NEW LISTING!**

**1940 NANTUCKET DRIVE**  
CICERO

Immaculate lake house on Morse Reservoir. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, two living spaces, gas fireplace, kitchen with 2 pantries. All appliances included in the sale. Come take a look today!  
Listed at \$659,900

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**275 WYANDOTTE COURT**  
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Listed at \$264,900

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# REPORTER SPORTS WEEKEND

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

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

## Boys Basketball

# Hounds lead every quarter to beat Lawrence Central

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

**CARMEL** – Greyhounds are supposed to run fast, but the Carmel boys basketball team felt like things were getting too speedy at first against Lawrence Central.

The two teams met at the Eric Clark Activity Center Friday night. The 'Hounds were in a battle with the Bears during the first quarter, but thanks to hot shooting in the second quarter – and the second half – Carmel was able to break away to a comfortable 63-39 victory over LC and improve to 2-0 for the season.

"We were really ready to play," said 'Hounds junior Jamichael Fountain. Carmel played its first game 10 days ago and got a win over Zionsville, so the Greyhounds players had been going against the junior varsity squad for quite a while. "We're just very excited to play someone else," said Fountain.

Carmel's Evan Harrell got the game's first points with a hook shot at the five-minute mark. The two teams went back and forth for the remainder of the quarter, with Harrell scoring five points.

The Bears had the Greyhounds down 9-7 late in the first period before Alex

Couto drained a 3-pointer to finish the quarter and give Carmel a 10-7 lead. That began a 13-2 run that took up a good part of the second quarter and put the 'Hounds ahead 20-11. Couto finished the run with back-to-back triples.

Lawrence Central got back within 24-21 by halftime, but Carmel surged ahead in the third quarter. Harrell began the period with seven straight points, including a 3. Later, the Greyhounds quickly turned a 35-27 lead into a 41-27 advantage with Aiden Dickerson making an and-1 and Fountain hitting a triple.

"They sped us up a lot in the first half," said Carmel coach Ryan Osborn. "In the second half, we stuck with it."

Couto, Harrell and Fountain all made layins late in the third quarter for a 6-0 run to put Carmel ahead 47-29. LC's Dillon Wright finished the period with a 3, but Couto nailed a 3 to start the fourth. Fountain then threw in three triples during the fourth quarter.

Couto finished with 20 points, while Fountain scored 16 points. Both totaled four 3-pointers. Harrell also scored 16 points. Dickerson led the rebounds with eight, followed by Couto with seven and Fountain with five. Couto also dished out five assists.



Reporter photo by Richie Hall  
**Carmel's Evan Harrell scored 16 points for the Greyhounds during their win over Lawrence Central Friday.**

### CARMEL 63, LAWRENCE CENTRAL 39

Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF
Alex Couto	7-11	2-2	20	1
Julian Vogt	0-2	0-0	0	1
Aiden Dickerson	2-7	3-3	7	2
Ben Bremer	0-3	0-0	0	1
Evan Harrell	7-11	1-2	16	3
Zach Michaels	1-2	2-2	4	0
Jamicheal Fountain	6-7	0-0	16	1
Miles Wiley	0-2	0-0	0	0
Jack Perry	0-0	0-0	0	1
Totals	23-45	8-9	63	10

Lawrence Central	9	12	11	7-39
Carmel	10	14	23	16-63
Carmel 3-point shooting (9-21)	Couto 4-7, Fountain 4-5, Harrell 1-2, Bremer 0-3, Dickerson 0-2, Vogt 0-1, Wiley 0-1.			
Carmel rebounds (32)	Dickerson 8, Couto 7, Fountain 5, Harrell 4, Michaels 3, Perry 2, Vogt 1, Bremer 1, Wiley 1.			

"The team is really fun to coach," said Osborn. "I'm proud of all of them. This team went through a lot last year and grew up over the season. Really came together through the summer and in the pre-season. They like

being around each other. They cheer for each other. Everybody is excited when somebody else has success. Just hope we can keep getting better."

Carmel plays tonight at Plainfield.



Reporter photo by Julie Brown  
**Hamilton Southeastern's Braeden Totten scored 21 points for the Royals during their Friday game with Avon.**

# Royals fall in close conference opener

The **REPORTER**

Hamilton Southeastern's boys dropped a close Hoosier Crossroads Conference opener to Avon 51-48 in a Friday home game.

The Royals led 12-10 after one quarter, with Braeden Totten and Lucas Weemer both scoring four points. Southeastern led 24-23 at halftime and were up 36-32 after three quarters, with Totten pour-

ing in eight points during the third. But the Orioles came back in the fourth, scoring 19 points to pull ahead.

Totten finished the game with 21 points, while Weemer scored 13. Totten also collected six rebounds and dished out four assists, while Jack Jacobs pulled five rebounds.

The Royals are 0-2 and play at Marion tonight.

### AVON 51, HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 48

Southeastern	FG	FT	TP	PF
Jack Jacobs	2-7	1-1	6	1
Maverick Young	1-7	1-4	3	3
Braeden Totten	9-16	2-2	21	2
Landon Osswald	1-3	2-2	4	4
Lucas Weemer	5-8	2-2	13	3
Kian Kelly	0-1	1-2	1	1
Kallen Hoefft	0-4	0-0	0	3
Varschon Clark	0-0	0-0	0	2
Alexander Weber	0-1	0-0	0	0
Kendrick Pennybaker	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	18-47	9-13	48	19

Avon	10	13	9	19-51
Southeastern	12	12	12	12-48
Southeastern 3-point shooting (3-18)	Totton 1-6, Weemer 1-2, Jacobs 1-1, Young 0-5, Hoefft 0-3, Osswald 0-1.			
Southeastern rebounds (30)	Totton 6, Jacobs 5, Young 4, Weemer 4, Clark 3, Osswald 2, Kelly 1, team 5.			

# Tigers roar past Millers in HCC opener

By **RICHARD TORRES**  
For The Reporter

**NOBLESVILLE** – The defending state champion Fishers Tigers haven't lost a game since last January, and that trend didn't end for the state's top-ranked Class 4A team on Friday night.

Down 3-2 momentarily to 4A No. 4 Noblesville (2-

1) at The Mill, the Tigers (3-0) put together a 14-2 run in the first quarter and a 10-2 rally late in the second quarter to build an insurmountable lead en route to a decisive 74-40 win.

The Tigers won 13 straight games on their way to claiming the program's first-ever state title this past March and have opened the 2024-

25 campaign a perfect 3-0 to stretch their streak to 16.

"I felt like in the summer and fall at times, we weren't as locked in as we needed to be. A little bit stagnant at times and a little bit complacent, so it's really been something as a staff we've been harping on, we're not going to let this be the end of Fishers basketball," Fishers head coach Garrett Winegar said. "We have to keep growing, and I really feel like since this season has started our guys have responded."

The marquee matchup marked both teams' Hoosier Crossroads Conference opener, and the Tigers seized the early standings advantage behind a trio of double-digit scorers while shooting an impressive 73

percent overall.

Senior Justin Kirby paced the Tigers with 19 points on 8 of 8 shooting, including a 3-for-3 performance from 3-point range. Sophomore Jason Gardner finished with 15 points, and senior Jonathan Hall had 11 points on 5 of 7 shooting with four rebounds. Kirby posted a team-high five rebounds.

Sophomore point guard Cooper Zachary added six points, two assists and a steal. Gardner had four assists.

The Millers trailed 16-5 late in the first quarter, but they sliced the deficit to six points by the end of the frame on an Adam Fine seized the early standings advantage behind a trio of double-digit scorers while shooting an impressive 73

See Roar ... Page 14

### FISHERS 74, NOBLESVILLE 40

Fishers	FG	FT	TP	PF
Cooper Zachary	1-2	3-4	6	2
Jason Gardner Jr.	6-8	2-2	15	1
Justin Kirby	8-8	0-0	19	1
JonAnthony Hall	5-7	0-0	11	1
Nathan Baker	2-2	1-2	6	1
Millen McCartney	2-4	0-0	6	2
Logan Sigler	0-1	0-0	0	0
Tommy Williams	1-1	0-0	3	1
Torey Breland	1-2	0-0	2	1
Jon-Jon L'Homme	1-2	0-0	3	0
Jalen Campbell	1-1	0-0	3	0
Totals	28-38	6-8	74	10

Fishers 3-point shooting (12-17) Kirby 3-3, McCartney 2-4, Zachary 1-2, L'Homme 1-2, Williams 1-1, Gardner 1-1, Hall 1-1, Campbell 1-1, Baker 1-1, Sigler 0-1.

Fishers rebounds (19) Kirby 5, Hall 4, Gardner 2, Williams 1, McCartney 1, Zachary 1, Sigler 1, Baker 1, team 3.

Noblesville	FG	FT	TP	PF
T.J. Davidson	1-3	2-2	4	1
Justin Curry	2-8	0-0	5	2
Aiden Brewer	2-2	0-0	4	2
Ryan Vctor	0-4	1-2	1	4
Baron Walker	5-8	5-5	15	0
Adam Fine	2-4	0-1	5	2
Max Miller	0-0	0-0	0	0
Luke Fogg	0-0	0-0	0	0
Luke Davis	1-1	0-0	3	0
Max Flanagan	1-1	0-0	3	0
Totals	14-31	8-10	40	11

Noblesville 3-point shooting (4-13) Curry 1-5, Fine 1-2, Davis 1-1, Flanagan 1-1, Walker 0-2, Davidson 0-1, Vctor 0-1.

Noblesville rebounds (8) Davidson 1, Fine 1, Curry 1, Davis 1, Brewer 1, Vctor 1, Walker 1, Flanagan 1.

Fishers	18	21	20	15-74
Noblesville	12	9	7	12-40

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## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### Saturday, Dec. 7

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Carmel at Plainfield, 7:30 p.m.  
Fishers at Mount Vernon, 7:30 p.m.  
Greenwood Christian Academy at University, 7:30 p.m.  
Guerin Catholic at Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.  
Hamilton Southeastern at Marion, 7:30 p.m.

#### BOYS WRESTLING

Guerin Catholic at Elwood Super Duals, 8:30 a.m.  
Carmel, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Noblesville at Westfield Shamrock Duals, 9 a.m.  
Hamilton Heights at Howard County Super 6, 9 a.m.

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

University at Lapel, 12:30 p.m.  
Covenant Christian at Guerin Catholic, 1:30 p.m.  
Hamilton Heights at Connersville, 1:30 p.m.  
Richmond at Carmel, 3:30 p.m.

#### (Evansville) North Basketball Showcase

Fishers vs. Floyd Central, 11 a.m.  
Hamilton Southeastern vs. Evansville North, 12:30 p.m.  
Fishers vs. Gibson Southern, 6 p.m.

#### GIRLS WRESTLING

Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet, 8:30 a.m. at Franklin Central  
Sheridan at Christel House Academy, 9 a.m.

#### SWIMMING

Brownsburg at Hamilton Southeastern, 9 a.m.  
Hamilton Heights at Western Diving Invitational, 10 a.m.  
Noblesville Invitational, 10 a.m.  
University at New Castle (with Muncie Burris), noon

### Monday, Dec. 9

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Sheridan at Faith Christian, 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, Dec. 10

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

University at Cardinal Ritter, 7:30 p.m.

#### BOYS WRESTLING

Brebeuf Jesuit at Sheridan, 6 p.m.  
Guerin Catholic at Western Boone, 6 p.m.

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Logansport at Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.  
Pendleton Heights at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.  
Westfield at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

#### SWIMMING

Noblesville at Lawrence North, 5:30 p.m.  
Guerin Catholic at North Central (with Eastern Hancock), 6 p.m.  
Hamilton Southeastern at Westfield (with Franklin Central), 6 p.m.

Please email schedule changes or corrections to [sports@readthereporter.com](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com).

## Basketball



Photo by Dwight Casler

The Sheridan boys basketball team held off Clinton Prairie 59-58 to win its Hoosier Heartland Conference opener.

## Blackhawks earn HHC sweep

### The REPORTER

The Sheridan basketball teams swept a Hoosier Heartland Conference doubleheader with Clinton Prairie Friday at Larry Hobbs Hall.

The girls went first, and the Blackhawks breezed past the Gophers 58-18. Sheridan led 16-7 after the opening quarter and 32-9 at halftime. A 19-point third

quarter gave the 'Hawks a 51-17 lead.

Kenzie Garner scored 28 points, including four 3-pointers, and made six steals and grabbed five rebounds. Mackenzie Smith added nine points; both she and Sadie Timme collected seven rebounds each. Brielle Garner drained 2 triples on her way to eight points. Cecilia Smith handed out

seven assists.

The Sheridan boys' game was closer, but the 'Hawks pulled out a 59-58 victory in their HHC opener. The first quarter finished in a 14-14 tie, with Sheridan pulling ahead 33-29 at halftime. Caleb Wright nailed three first-half 3s and scored 11 points, while Trey Page's three triples gave him nine points. Devon Hamilton scored eight in the first half.

The Blackhawks led 41-37 after three quarters. The Gophers outscored Sheridan

21-18 in the fourth period, but the 'Hawks held on for the win. Page made a steal to seal the Sheridan victory; he totaled six 3s for 18 points.

Damon Winston and Hamilton both scored 14 points, while Wright scored 11 points.

The Sheridan girls are 2-0 in the conference and 6-1 overall. Their next game is Thursday at Ross-ville, another HHC contest.

The Sheridan boys are 2-1 and play Monday at Faith Christian.

GIRLS GAME				
SHERIDAN 58, CLINTON PRAIRIE 18				
	FG	FT	TP	PF
Sheridan				
Nova Cross	1	2-2	5	4
Kenzie Garner	10	4-5	28	1
Cecilia Timme	1	2-6	4	0
Brielle Garner	3	0-0	8	1
Sadie Timme	1	0-0	2	1
Shelby Eaton	1	0-0	2	1
Mackenzie Smith	4	1-2	9	1
Mak Southerland	0	0-0	0	0
Brooklynn Conley	0	0-0	0	0
Sammy Smith	0	0-0	0	0
Alivia Gould	0	0-0	0	0
Carla Gonzalez Calvo	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	21	9-15	58	9
Score by Quarters				
Clinton Prairie	7	2	8	1-18
Sheridan	16	16	19	7-58
Sheridan 3-pointers (7) K. Garner 4, B. Garner 2, Cross.				

BOYS GAME				
SHERIDAN 59, CLINTON PRAIRIE 58				
	FG	FT	TP	PF
Sheridan				
Trey Page	6	0-0	18	0
Caleb Wright	4	0-0	11	3
Damon Winston	6	1-1	14	0
Devon Hamilton	7	0-0	14	3
Carson Wright	1	0-1	2	4
Chance Spencer	0	0-0	0	1
Jax Peerman	0	0-0	0	0
Dayne Voegel	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	24	1-2	59	11
Score by Quarters				
Clinton Prairie	14	15	8	21-58
Sheridan	14	19	8	18-59
Sheridan 3-pointers (10): Page 6, Cal. Wright 3, Winston.				

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## Girls Basketball

## Royals keep their perfect record, 9-0

### The REPORTER

The Hamilton Southeastern girls basketball team used a big third quarter to pull away from Class 3A No. 6 Evansville Memorial Friday in the 4A No. 2 Royals' first game at the Evansville North Showcase.

Southeastern outscored the Tigers in each quarter. The Royals led 15-7 after one quarter and 28-12 at halftime, then dominated the third quarter by a 25-8 margin to take a 53-20 lead.

Maya Makalusky earned a double-double of 25 points and 10 rebounds, also making three 3-pointers and dishing out four assists. Kayla Stidham scored 12 points and collected seven rebounds. Kennedy Holman totaled six points, five rebounds and four assists for the game.

Southeastern is 9-0 and plays the Showcase host, Evansville North, this afternoon in its second game of the event.

HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 62, EVANSVILLE MEMORIAL 28				
	FG	FT	TP	PF
Southeastern				
Maya Makalusky	9-20	4-6	25	1
Kayla Brinley	1-3	0-0	3	2
Kennedy Holman	3-6	0-2	6	2
Kayla Stidham	4-12	1-2	12	1
Addison Van Hoesen	1-4	0-0	2	3
Abby Brown	3-3	0-0	6	1
Antoinette Green	1-1	1-2	3	2
Maine Hooks	1-2	0-0	3	0
Ava Kashani	1-4	0-0	2	1
Abby Orme	0-2	0-0	0	1
Totals	24-57	6-12	62	14
Score by Quarters				
Evansville Memorial	7	5	8	8-28
Southeastern	15	13	25	9-62
Southeastern 3-point shooting (8-26) Makalusky 3-9, Stidham 3-8, Brinley 1-3, Hooks 1-1, Kashani 0-2, Orme 0-2, Van Hoesen 0-1. Southeastern rebounds (39) Makalusky 10, Stidham 7, Holman 5, Hooks 4, Brinley 4, Van Hoesen 4, Brown 2, Orme 2, Kashani 1.				

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## ROAR

from Page 13

Another 3-pointer by junior Justin Curry II brought the Millers within two possessions, 21-17, in the second quarter, but the Tigers surged ahead to lead by 23 points in the third quarter and 30-plus by the fourth.

"Sometimes after winning state, it takes until after Christmas until you feel everybody is locked back in, but I give credit to these guys for doing what they needed to do to get back in focus and get back to preparation to get better," Winegar said.

"We say every day, we're most dynamic together and the together part is we don't care who scores. We have a lot of guys on this team capable of going for 25 or 30 points, and to their credit, they don't care. They want to win. They love their teammates. They want to find the best shot, and they're willing to give up good shots for great shots."

The Millers shot 45 percent as a group and were 4 of 13 from 3-point range. Fishers converted 12 of 17 jumpers from beyond the arc.

"We had a couple of turnovers to start the game, and we were able to cut it to six, but you just can't turn it over against them," Noblesville head coach Scott McClelland said. "There were way too many, and then we couldn't score in the half court. We just couldn't score at all, and then you magnify that by the fact that we didn't guard anybody, but I think it's a great example of how all that stuff magnifies. Not only does it affect your defense, but it affects your offense."

Junior Baron Walker scored a team-high 15 points for the Millers, followed by Fine with six points. Curry II had five points, and senior Aiden Brewer chipped in four points.

"They just did a really good job of taking us out of what we wanted to do, and they just have a lot of weapons," McClelland said. "They can play, and they just popped us. There's not a lot to say. They just kicked our tails all night, and we didn't adjust or handle it very well. We just have to get back at it and learn from this and kind of go from there."

The Millers host 4A No. 6 Carmel next week on Friday before traveling to Southport to face 4A No. 2 Jeffersonville on Saturday, Dec. 14.

The Tigers cap their back-to-back weekend at 4A No. 16 Mt. Vernon (Fortville) tonight before heading to Southport on Saturday, Dec. 14 to play 3A No. 1 Indianapolis Crispus Attucks.

"We talk about expecting to win, and once you actually win, you really start to feel confidence in that, and we have five seniors back. All of them got minutes last year, two sophomores that played a ton as freshmen, so you have seven guys back from the state championship team," Winegar said. "That's pretty rare to have. Obviously, we lost some key pieces, but those guys almost have a year-and-a-half of experience. In close games and important games, conference games, rivalry games, they can lean on that experience."



Boys Basketball

Rocks fall to Zionsville

The REPORTER

Westfield dropped its first game of the season Friday, as the Shamrocks were edged out 60-57 in their Hoosier Crossroads Conference opener at Zionsville.

Westfield led 6-5 after one quarter, but the Eagles took over in the second period, jumping ahead to a 26-16 halftime lead. Drew Haffner scored 10 points in the first half for the 'Rocks.

Zionsville added to its lead in the third quarter to

go up 38-26 as the game entered the fourth quarter. Westfield went on a tear in that period, pouring in 31 points, including 19 from Haffner. Brock Detamore scored eight points in the fourth. But the Eagles held on for the win.

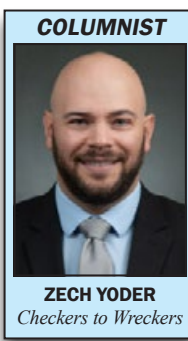
Haffner totaled 29 points, including six 3s. Detamore finished with 12 points.

The Shamrocks are 2-1 and host Guerin Catholic next Friday.

ZIONSVILLE 60, WESTFIELD 57				
Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Will Harvey	1	0-0	2	0
Drew Haffner	11	1-2	29	3
Jalen Malone	0	3-4	3	5
Rylan Rauch	1	0-0	2	2
Brock Detamore	5	1-2	12	3
Durante Morton	3	3-3	9	5
Logan Sumpter	0	0-0	0	1
Luke Vandegriff	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	21	8-11	57	19
Score by Quarters				
Westfield	6	10	10	31-57
Zionsville	5	21	12	22-60
Westfield 3-pointers (7) Haffner 6, Detamore.				

NASCAR's outlook for 2025

NASCAR has experienced a lot of change in the last 12 months, probably nothing more significant than the closing of Stewart Haas Racing, a team with dozens of wins and two Cup Series Championships. With the closing of Stewart Haas Racing and the conclusion (almost) of the NASCAR "silly season," what is the outlook for 2025?



ZECH YODER  
Checkers to Wreckers

For the 2025 season. While 23XI has its driver lineup set, Front Row Motorsports has only announced two of its three drivers for 2025. 23XI will be adding Riley Herbst in the number 35 car. Herbst spent

several years in the Xfinity Series and shown significant improvements over the last two years. He comes with the backing of Monster Energy, which also has sponsorship ties with his 23XI teammate, Tyler Reddick, and Joe Gibbs Racing counterpart, Ty Gibbs. In his limited Cup Series starts in the last couple years, Herbst has shown maturity and consistency. While I don't expect him to take the Cup Series by storm, he may be a surprise playoff driver. Front Row Motorsports will add Noah Gragson for 2025. Gragson, who is with his third team in three years, showed marked improvement with SHR in 2024. As Front Row Motorsports is in an upward trajectory, I expect Gragson will be close to or in the top 10 for a majority of races in 2025.

As one might expect, I don't foresee the power dynamic in NASCAR change much for 2025. Hendrick, Gibbs, and Penske will be strong like in years past. As I said above, I do believe RFK Racing will continue making strides and are poised to put themselves back into the top echelon of the Cup Series. What I am most interested to see is the performance of Legacy Motor Club. Legacy's performance in 2024 was disappointing, especially when considering the change in manufacturers from Chevy to Toyota. I think year two with Toyota will come with a giant boost in performance and I would even venture to guess that Erik Jones picks up a win enroute to the playoffs.

Only two months until the 2025 NASCAR season begins. What will we see?

Zech Yoder is a local resident, an attorney at Adler Attorneys in Noblesville, and a lifelong race fan.

Blazers win in season opener

The REPORTER

The University boys basketball team played its opening game on Friday, holding off host Seton Catholic 58-54 in a Pioneer Conference North Division game.

The Trailblazers led 15-14 after one quarter, with Josh Henderson scoring six points off the bench. The game slowed down in the second quarter, with the Cardinals working their way back to tie it at 22-22 by halftime.

University surged ahead 39-30 after three periods,

with Max McComb hitting two 3-pointers and scoring eight in that quarter. Faisal Mohamud went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line. The 'Blazers held firm during a 24-point fourth quarter from Seton Catholic; Mohamud made two free throws with 39 seconds left to help clinch the game.

McComb finished with 17 points, while Mohamud scored 15. Blake Gray totaled 11 points, scoring in all four quarters.

University plays its first home game tonight against Greenwood Christian.

UNIVERSITY 58, SETON CATHOLIC 54				
University	FG	FT	TP	PF
Zien Bland	1	0-0	2	0
Max McComb	7	1-2	17	3
Blake Gray	5	0-3	11	0
Faisal Mohamud	3	8-9	15	4
Cooper Cammack	0	0-0	0	5
Noah Cortez	1	0-0	2	2
DJ Willis	1	0-0	3	1
Peter Morales	0	0-0	0	0
Josh Henderson	3	2-2	8	4
Totals	21	11-16	58	19
Score by Quarters				
University	15	7	17	19-58
Seton Catholic	14	8	8	24-54
University 3-pointers (5) McComb 2, Gray, Mohamud, Willis.				

Huskies jump ahead early, keep ahead of New Castle to win

The REPORTER

Hamilton Heights picked up a win at New Castle on Friday, by the score of 74-66.

The Huskies sprinted out in front to a 22-14 lead after one quarter. Heights extended that advantage to 38-28 by halftime and stayed ahead for the entire second half. A 20-point third quarter kept the Huskies up 58-49 going into

the fourth. Tyler Champion poured in 26 points, draining three 3-pointers. Gavin Saunders totaled 13 points, seven rebounds and five assists, while Rees Knapp scored 11 points and collected six rebounds. Drew Duncan also had six rebounds.

Heights is 2-1 and hosts Guerin Catholic tonight.

HAMILTON HEIGHTS 74, NEW CASTLE 66				
Heights	FG	FT	TP	PF
Tyler Champion	10-15	3-6	26	2
Rees Knapp	4-9	2-2	11	4
Dreydin Serna	3-9	0-0	6	1
Drew Duncan	3-5	0-0	6	4
Gavin Saunders	5-7	3-4	13	4
Jack Kakasuleff	3-6	3-5	9	3
Carson Felger	0-0	0-0	0	5
Aidan Unger	1-1	0-0	3	1
Chris Nobbe	0-1	0-0	0	0
Totals	29-53	11-17	74	24
Score by Quarters				
Heights	22	16	20	16-74
New Castle	14	14	21	17-66
Heights 3-point shooting (5-15) Champion 3-5, Knapp 1-3, Unger 1-1, Serna 0-2, Kakasuleff 0-2, Saunders 0-2.				
Heights rebounds (31) Saunders 7, Knapp 6, Duncan 6, Felger 3, Kakasuleff 3, Champion 2, Unger 2, Nobbe 1, Serna 1.				

Swimming

Southeastern boys & girls sweep dual meet

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Southeastern swim teams swept a dual meet with Avon Tuesday.

The Royals girls won 138-94, placing first in 11 of 12 events. Freshman Kendall Dieckman was a double winner in the 200 freestyle and breaststroke. Other winners were Kiley Zoeller in the individual medley, Zoe Rehm in diving, Naomi Haines in the butterfly, Ellason Miller in the 100 free, Mia Henderson in the 500 free, Jocelyn Graham in the backstroke and all three relays.

Southeastern's boys won 129-54, taking nine events. Derek Robison was first in the 200 free and backstroke, while Jihoon Jung was the winner of the IM and breaststroke. Also placing first were Gavin Tucker in diving, Camden Bailey in the 100 free and all three relays.

GIRLS MEET

Team score: Hamilton Southeastern 138, Avon 44.

200 medley relay: 1. Southeastern "A" (Naomi Haines, Kiley Zoeller, Ellason Miller, Mia Henderson) 1:49.33, 2. Southeastern "B" (Izzy Schmitt, Jocelyn Graham, Payton Walker, Ella Chesterfield) 1:55.06, 3. Southeastern "C" (Hayden Bunch, Lauren Ing, Gabby Johnson, Emerson Bunch) 1:58.15.

200 freestyle: 1. Kendall Dieckmann 1:53.82, 2. Lacey Huston 2:06.69, 3. Kelsey Graham 2:08.46.

200 individual medley: 1. Zoeller 2:14.54, 2. Miller 2:15.45, 4. Schmitt 2:22.64.

50 freestyle: 2. Haines 25.26, 3. Henderson 25.85, 4. Chesterfield 26.76.

One-meter diving: 1. Zoe Rehm 186.70, 3. Juliet Pearce 120.10.

100 butterfly: 1. Haines 1:00.24, 2. Kinsey Bogaards 1:01.85, 4. Schmitt 1:07.19.

100 freestyle: 1. Miller 55.03, 3. Brooklyn Penn 57.23, 4. Walker 58.64.

500 freestyle: 1. Hender-

son 5:24.56, 2. Zoeller 5:30.43, 4. Scarlett Fanger 6:09.70.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Southeastern "A" (Dieckman, Haines, Chesterfield, Bogaards) 1:42.63, 2. Southeastern "B" (Walker, Anissa Lammie, Graham, Anna Irish) 1:47.26, 3. Southeastern "C" (Ing, Ryan Murphy, Fanger, Bunch) 1:52.64.

100 backstroke: 1. Graham 1:02.21, 3. Bunch 1:06.67, 4. Penn 1:07.13.

100 breaststroke: 1. Dieckman 1:06.88, 2. Bogaards 1:13.02, 3. Huston 1:16.15.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Southeastern "A" (Zoeller, Miller, Henderson, Dieckman) 3:36.59, 2. Southeastern "B" (Schmitt, Penn, Graham, Bogaards) 3:51.68, 4. Southeastern "C" (Sarah Cooper, Madelyn Onufro, Bunch, Fanger) 4:08.22.

BOYS MEET  
Team score: Hamilton

Southeastern 129, Avon 54.

200 medley relay: 1. Southeastern "A" (Jacob Frey, Collin Huston, Jihoon Jung, Zach Marchisin) 1:36.96, 2. Southeastern "C" (Ivan Semko, Grayer Belaire, Carter Nelsen, Josh Lawrence) 1:47.81, 5. Southeastern "B" (Nolan Pugh, Aiden Stivers, Alden Sealls, Xander Goss) 2:00.87.

200 freestyle: 1. Derek Robison 1:52.98, 2. Jagger Chan 1:55.15, 5. Bryce Salvadori 1:56.05.

200 individual medley: 1. Jung 1:54.10, 2. Camden Bailey 2:04.71, 4. Semko 2:10.10.

50 freestyle: 2. Huston 22.76, 3. Goss 24.67, 4. Sealls 24.80.

One-meter diving: 1. Gavin Tucker 252.55, 3. Joseph Justice 95.65.

100 butterfly: 2. Pugh 56.04, 3. Frey 56.39, 4. Sealls

56.75.

100 freestyle: 1. Bailey 49.80, 2. Pugh 52.52, 3. Lawrence 54.13.

500 freestyle: 2. Huston 5:04.61, 3. Marchisin 5:13.33, 5. Chan 5:27.09.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Southeastern "A" (Bailey, Chan, Goss, Frey) 1:33.81, 3. Southeastern "B" (Lawrence, Nelsen, Belaire, Pugh) 1:39.69.

100 backstroke: 1. Robison 1:00.37, 3. Salvadori 1:01.38, 4. Goss 1:03.25.

100 breaststroke: 1. Jung 58.69, 2. Lawrence 1:06.08, 3. Stivers 1:09.58.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Southeastern "A" (Robison, Bailey, Huston, Jung) 3:19.42, 2. Southeastern "B" (Sealls, Salvadori, Semko, Marchisin) 3:32.33, 5. Southeastern "C" (Clive Bourff, Cade Breske, Luke Fletcher, Lucas Cochran) 3:58.98.

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**Wed Dec 4 - Girls Basketball & Wrestling**

**Upcoming Broadcasts**

6:00 pm Hamilton Southeastern vs Noblesville | JV | Girls Basketball | HCTV Sports

7:30 pm Hamilton Southeastern vs Noblesville | Varsity | Girls Basketball | HCTV Sports

6:30 pm Fishers vs New Palestine | Wrestling | Fishers Sports Network

7:15 pm Hamilton Southeastern vs Avon | Wrestling | Southeastern Sports Network

**Thurs Dec 5 - Girls Basketball**

7:20 pm Connersville vs Mt Vernon | Girls Basketball | Indiana SRN

**Fri Dec 6 - Boys Basketball**

6:00 pm Fishers vs Noblesville | Junior Varsity | HCTV Sports

7:15 pm Hamilton Southeastern vs Avon | Varsity | Southeastern Sports Network

7:20 pm Covington vs Covenant Christian | Indiana SRN

7:20 pm Roncalli vs Heritage Christian | Indiana SRN

7:30 pm Fishers vs Noblesville | Varsity | HCTV Sports

**Sat Dec 7 - Boys Basketball**

7:20 pm Franklin vs Seymour | Boys Basketball | Indiana SRN

**Mon Dec 9 - Boys Basketball**

7:20 pm Phalen vs Washington | Boys Basketball | Indiana SRN

**Tues Dec 10 - Girls Basketball**

7:15 pm Hamilton Southeastern vs Pendleton Heights | Southeastern Sports Network

7:20 pm Heritage Christian vs Covenant Christian | Indiana SRN

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