

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18, 2024

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Rain and snow showers, mainly in the morning. Some sun in the afternoon.
 Tonight: Mostly cloudy.



HIGH: 42 LOW: 25

Santa visits Barker Cabin

The gift of giving

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

One might be inclined to think that Santa Claus visiting Westfield's Barker Cabin wouldn't be historically accurate.

However, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," known today as *The Night Before Christmas*, by Clement Clarke Moore, was first published in New York's *Troy Sentinel* in 1823.

A little more than 10 years later, Nicholas Barker built a cabin for his family in Westfield in 1835. So, it is reasonable to believe that St. Nicholas may have visited the home of his namesake to place something in the stockings of the Barker's nine children.

Regardless of whether St. Nick visited the Barker family in the 1800s, Santa Claus stopped by the cabin, now situated at 136 Penn St., on Saturday, Dec. 14. He welcomed



(LEFT) Karlee Witcher came all the way from Brownsburg to see Santa at the cabin. **(RIGHT)** Oak Trace Elementary School first grader Miles Gorsky knew just what to tell Santa he wants for Christmas.

children, asked them what they wanted for Christmas, and handed out candy canes.

Volunteers of the Westfield Washington Historical Society were on hand to tell the kids and

their parents a little about what life would have been like in the cabin nearly 200 years ago.

Reporter photos by Amy Adams

COLUMNIST



MEGAN RATHZ
When Nature Speaks

We are at the point in the season where Christmas break is a mere few days away and the excitement is palpable. Being the mom of two little ones and teaching first grade, we are knee-deep in elves, hoping for what Santa will bring, sugar cookies, and all things magic.

While my husband and I try to impress on our children that the true meaning of Christmas is the birth of Jesus, they cannot help but dream about Christmas morning and the hopeful presents that await. We've got our Christmas pj's ready to go and are chomping at the bit for an excuse to have another cup of hot cocoa and watch yet another classic movie.

As much as my husband and I try to refocus the attention of our children on the birth of Jesus, we also try to use this time as an opportunity to remind our kids that there are other people in the world, too. If there is one thing, I want my kids to not only understand is that yes, it's exciting to have Santa come and be spoiled by Grandma, but nothing feels better than giving to others. Like many other families, we take our children to the toy store and have them buy toys for other children in need. We talk about the children who will receive the gifts they purchase and try to instill in them a sense of not only giving, but also gratitude. It's hard because they are still little and while we don't want to rob them too much of their innocence, they do need to realize that they are blessed and to whom much is given, much is expected.

My heart was touched when I saw the excitement on their faces when picking out toys for others that they will likely never meet. They didn't ask for anything for themselves and understood that the shopping trip was not about them. I want my kids to understand that giving is where we receive a full heart.

See *Gift . . . Page 2*

More than 500 volunteers shop, wrap & deliver Christmas to local families in need

The REPORTER

Last Saturday, Dec. 14, over 500 cheerful volunteers gathered early at Meijer to serve 81 families in need as part of "Secret Families Day" in Hamilton County.

This single-day event – which supports families with children referred by local schools – provides presents for every member of the family, fully-decorated live trees, food certificates, and essential items that will make a meaningful impact on their lives.

The "Secret" name originated from the donors wanting to keep their sponsorship of a family a secret. But it also means those being served are kept a secret as well. Struggles can occur to anyone, anywhere, and the goal is to help those neighbors

with discretion and dignity.

"These are our neighbors: children whose parents are battling illness, families who have lost a breadwinner, or households facing the aftermath of a natural disaster," Secret Families Executive Director Jay Kern said. "We exist to help these families experience the joy and hope of Christmas during their toughest days and at the same time show them that their neighbors care about them."

The day began at Meijer in Westfield, where teams of volunteers are assigned a family to shop for. They were provided a list of needs and wants for each family member and allocated money based on the size of the family. Once shopping was

See *Secret . . . Page 2*



Photo provided
Hundreds of happy volunteers gave their time to help make Christmas brighter for their fellow human beings.

Noblesville Schools names two new award-winning football & soccer coaches

The REPORTER

Noblesville Schools announced Tuesday the hiring of state championship coaches John Hebert and Thomas Doering to respectively lead the Noblesville football and boys soccer programs.

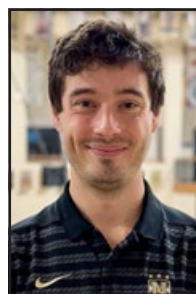
Hebert has 10 years of experience as a 6A division head varsity football coach for Carmel High School and will replace former Noblesville High School coach Dave Sharpe. Hebert is one of only a few 6A head coaches in Indiana with two or more state championships, and boasts multiple state championships as an assistant, as well

as several semi-state, regional, and sectional championship titles under his leadership.

"We had over 50 candidates apply for our football position and Coach Hebert rose to the top thanks to his strong relationships with athletes, families and the community, his high integrity, and his outstanding track record of winning," Noblesville High School



Hebert



Doering

recommendations he has received from around the state made him the strongest choice, and we couldn't be more excited to have him lead our Millers into their next football chapter."

Hebert expressed his excitement about the new role.

Athletic Director Leah Woolridge said. "His years of leadership in the 6A division and the caliber of the recommendations of the

"I'm eager to start this new journey at Noblesville and begin the process of building a football program that regularly competes for championships," he said. "All the traits that define a 'football community' apply to Noblesville – great student athletes, strong feeder program, dedicated community support, school spirit, and top facilities."

New soccer coach Doering has won three state championships with Millers boys soccer and is being promoted from

See *Coaches . . . Page 2*

Threats do not stop Noblesville Common Council

The REPORTER

The Morse Village development has become such a contentious issue that there have reportedly been threats against Noblesville city officials and employees leading up to the Tuesday Common Council vote on two ordinances relevant to this project.

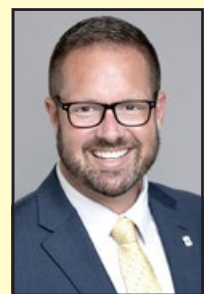
Ordinances 73-11-23 and 73-11-24 passed 6-3 with Mark Boice, Mike Davis, and Evan Elliott voting against.

You can read more in-depth coverage of the meeting in tomorrow's edition of *The Reporter*.

In response to the threats to city officials, six Noblesville police officers were present at the Tuesday council meeting in the interest of public safety.

Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen released the following statement Monday regarding those threats:

Threats, including threats of violence, have been received by elected officials about the proposed Morse Village Project that the Noblesville Common Council is considering. We take those threats seriously, and the Noblesville Police Department is actively responding to address them as appropriate.



Jensen

It is concerning and disappointing that some individuals who have strong opinions on this matter have lowered themselves to the level of threatening physical violence. We respect opinions and perspectives on all sides of public issues, and I have consistently said and demonstrated through my actions that constructive voices will always have a seat at the table for input and adjustments. The citizens' voice in all public policy matters is paramount.

However, no public official or public employee should ever have to live under the threat of retaliation for doing their jobs to the best of their abilities. I commend the many residents who have conducted themselves honorably and respectfully on this matter and call on everyone to engage with civility and mutual respect.

Metropolitan Youth Ballet previews *The Nutcracker* at Carmel Clay Public Library

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

Families braved the short-lived snow squall Wednesday evening, Dec. 11, to catch a glimpse of Clara and her nutcracker at the Carmel Clay Public Library.

The Metropolitan Youth Ballet of Indiana, formerly Ballet Theatre of Carmel Academy, performed excerpts from their upcoming performance of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* for the crowd of around 250.

Before the performance, MYB Artistic Director Jane Hachiya-Weiner invited children from the audience to come forward and learn a toy soldier dance. MYB dancers Sam Baskin, Ezra Casimiro,



Reporter photo by Amy Adams
Artistic Director Jane Hachiya-Weiner, far right, teaches the children a toy soldier dance.

and Antonios Kafantaris led the boys and girls in marching and jumping to the music, ending with a big bow.

Once the kids were seated again, Carmel High School freshman Haley Corsaro performed Clara's Act I solo with

her large nutcracker. In addition, guests watched dances

See *Ballet . . . Page 2*

Interactive Nativity returns to Ascension St. Vincent Carmel

The REPORTER

Ascension St. Vincent Carmel Hospital invites the community to a heartwarming evening of faith, tradition, and festive cheer at its Interactive Nativity event. Taking place from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, this family-friendly experience brings the Christmas story to life in a unique and engaging way.

The hospital is excited to bring back the Interactive Nativity for the first time since 2010, reviving a cherished tradition that celebrates the spirit of the season. The event will take place in the parking lot of Ascension St. Vincent Carmel at the far end of Door 4.

Step back in time to the humble scene of the Nativity, where the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem unfolds. Participants will:

- Interact with live animals that may have been present at the birth of Jesus Christ, including donkeys, a camel, sheep, goats, and a calf.

- Feed and brush the animals for a hands-on connection to the setting.
- Enjoy live performances of Christmas carols and hymns by talented local choirs.
- Hear readings of the Nativity story that inspire reflection on the meaning of the season.
- Warm up with hot chocolate while enjoying the festive atmosphere.

Adding to the magic of the evening, a six-foot star visible from U.S. 31 will light the way to the event.

"We are thrilled to bring back the Interactive Nativity after so many years," said Chad Dilley, President of Ascension St. Vincent Carmel Hospital. "This event not only brings joy and togetherness to our community but also connects us with the true spirit of Christmas. We can't wait to share this meaningful tradition with everyone."

Crews will be on site to help direct parking. The event is free and open to the public.

GIFT

from Page 1

I also want them to understand and appreciate the gift of time they have with their family. They will not remember the toys they got this Christmas as an adult. They will remember the traditions spent with their family, and hopefully, instill in their own children a spirit of giving and gratitude for the time they have with loved ones.

This holiday season is an extra special one because my nephew, Noah, who was adopted this year, will be part of the memories we make as a family. The kids finally have a "cousin crew." I cannot wait for the cousins to be in their matching pajamas on Christmas Eve and to enjoy a beautiful spread on Christmas Eve at my sister's house.

I treasure the time watching them hear *The Night Before Christmas* read to them, and watching my sister finally get her turn to be a mom on Christmas morning.

May this Christmas be one of giving, gratitude, and peace. Do not lose sight of what the day and season is about. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

Megan Rathz is a wife, mother, and teacher. She says everything she has ever learned in life came from her Master Gardener mother.

COACHES

from Page 1

assistant coach to head coach, replacing Ken Dolaske who is relocating out of state.

"Coach Doering has been an integral part of our soccer program's outstanding success these past seven years and is more than ready to step up to head coach," Woodridge said. "His strong tactical knowledge and calm leadership bring out the best in his players and I'm looking forward to what he can accomplish with the future of this program."

Doering added that he is "incredibly honored to be chosen for this leadership role and can't wait to continue the team's tradition of excellence as we reach new heights in the years to come."

Doering will continue in his role as a Spanish teacher at the high school and Hebert will join the NHS staff to teach wellness.

Both coaches were approved by the school board Tuesday evening and will begin leading their teams in January.

Noblesville Lions present Miyamoto Fellowship Award



Photo provided by Jake Doll, Noblesville Lions Club
On Dec. 11, the Noblesville Lions Club presented Lion Rollin Cutter with a Miyamoto Fellowship in recognition of his many years of active service to the club. The Miyamoto Fellowship is an award from the Indiana Lions for Speech and Hearing and recognizes Dr. Richard Miyamoto, whose work at Indiana University helped develop the cochlear implant. Lion Gary Chastain brought the award, as a trustee of the Indiana Lions for Speech and Hearing. (From left) Rollin Cutter, Gary Chastain, and Lion President Jeff Kozicki.

SECRET

from Page 1

complete, the gifts were transported to a shopping workshop at CrossRoads Church at Westfield, where volunteers wrapped the presents and selected additional items donated from toy drives throughout the year. Once the wrapping was complete, the volunteers were given Bibles for the children, a bag of toiletries and household items, a gift card for groceries, and a tree, which all were delivered to the family.

This is truly a county-wide event that serves families across all six public school districts. Likewise, Secret Families is supported by several local organizations across the county, including The Hotel Carmichael in Carmel (volunteer snacks), Wasson Nursery in Fishers (tree donation), Sheridan Fire Department (volunteer support and sponsorship), and Kiwanis of Westfield (volunteer support and sponsorship).

Secret Families relies solely on donations and this effort would not be possible without generous sponsorships from the community. Learn more at secretfamilieshc.org.



About Secret Families of Hamilton County

While Hamilton County is often seen as a prosperous community, the reality is that more than 15,000 people live below the poverty line. This is larger than the entire populations of 11 Indiana counties. Since 2014, Secret Families of Hamilton County has worked with local elementary schools and Hamilton County Youth Assistance to identify and support these families in need. This may be due to the illness or death of a parent, loss of a job, natural disaster or any other number of circumstances.

Secret Families was founded in 2004 in Muncie



out of an agreement between a husband and wife to purchase gifts for a struggling family instead of each other. Twenty-one years later, the charity now supports

over 350 families annually in Delaware County and has launched six independent affiliates throughout other counties in central Indiana – including Hamilton County.

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BALLET

from Page 1

choreographed to some of the iconic Act II music including Spanish Chocolate, Arabian Coffee, Chinese Tea, Russian Nesting Doll Cookies, and French Peppermints. Miriam Danek, a senior at Cardinal Ritter High School, closed out the performance, dancing as the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Metropolitan Youth Ballet is a pre-professional ballet school with students from ages three through 18.

Hachiya-Weiner said that the school recently changed its name to better represent their dancers who come from all over the area. In addition, the studio has moved from its former location of 2,300 square feet to a new location at 6210 Technology Center Drive in Zionsville. Hachiya-Weiner said the board determined that, due to a smaller space, the school had to put too many dancers on a waitlist.

"More space means we have lots of room for new students," she said.

Performances of *The Nutcracker* will be Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 21 at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. at STAR Bank Performing Arts Center in Zionsville. For tickets and more information, visit my-ballet.org.



Reporter photo by Amy Adams
(ABOVE) The Nutcracker cast poses with children following their performance at the Carmel Clay Public Library. (BELOW LEFT) June and Clara Vande Bosche are ready to dance. (BELOW RIGHT) Miriam Danek closed out the performance, dancing as the Sugar Plum Fairy.



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.



INDIANA
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



Pacers Sports & Entertainment brings holiday joy to Noblesville with annual JAKKS Pacific Big Toy Giveaway

The REPORTER

On Monday, Dec. 16, representatives from Pacers Sports & Entertainment joined Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen, community leaders, faculty and staff at the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville (BGCN) for one of PS&E's most impactful and anticipated traditions, the annual JAKKS Pacific Big Toy Giveaway.

"We are overjoyed that we've received such a large donation through JAKKS and the toys that they have picked for our youth couldn't be more perfect," BGCN Director of Club Operations Abigail Stutesman said. "We know that it's going to put a lot of smiles on their faces, and we can't thank Pacers Sports & Entertainment enough for making sure that they're pulling off this toy delivery for our club."

For the 15th consecutive year, the annual partnership provides toys to hundreds of local organizations throughout Indiana and impacts thousands of Hoosier families each year. This year, Noblesville is one of eight celebrations hosted by PS&E around the state to spread the spirit of the season.

The partnership stems from the long-time friendship between JAKKS Pacific founder and Chief Executive Officer Stephen Berman and PS&E owner Herb Simon, and it has grown year after year thanks to Berman's immense generosity. The program tipped off in 2009 and since then, hundreds of



Indiana Fever mascot Freddy Fever and members of the Indiana Pacemates sign autographs, take photos and distribute free toys to children on Monday, Dec. 16 at the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville as part of the 15th annual JAKKS Pacific Big Toy Giveaway.

Photo provided by PS&E

thousands of toys have been delivered to families in need through a network of more than 100 local nonprofit organizations around the state.

"Stephen has made thousands of Hoosier children so happy over the years, and those are memories they will carry with them for the rest of their lives," Simon said. "He is always thinking about how we can grow the program and make it reach more families, and I am so grateful to him for his generosity and his friendship."

"We are excited and honored to be a part of this substantial initiative again

this year with the Indiana Pacers," Berman said. "The recent years have posed significant challenges and had a notable socio-economic impact on children and families. JAKKS remains committed to contributing as many resources and products as we can to help ease the burden. We look forward to exploring further opportunities to support and to our continuing partnership with the Pacers for many years to come."

On several other occasions, PS&E and JAKKS Pacific have expanded the Big Toy Giveaway beyond the Holiday season in support of those impacted by emergencies. Following the devastating tornado that ravaged Henryville in the spring of 2012, the partners celebrated "Christmas in July" and sent more than 14,000 toys for distribution to local families in southern Indiana.

Additionally, JAKKS Pacific sent toys to Orlando, Houston, and Miami when families in those NBA cities were impacted by severe hurricanes in 2017. Finally, in 2022, PS&E and JAKKS Pacific worked with Morris, who previously served as head of the World Food Programme, as well as the World Food Programme itself and several Ukraine-based nonprofit partners to deliver thousands of toys to children in camps and orphanages in the war zone.

About Pacers Sports & Entertainment
Pacers Sports & Entertainment is the corporate identity exemplified by the Indiana Pacers, Indiana Fever, Indiana Mad Ants, Pacers Foundation, Inc., and Gainbridge Fieldhouse. Its team of inspired and dedicated employees promises to deliver quality entertainment and unparalleled service.

American Water announces state leadership changes & new customer strategy role

The REPORTER

American Water, the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the U.S., announced last week a number of state leadership changes and the development of a key customer strategy role.

Lynnae Wilson will join American Water as Senior Vice President, Customer Strategy, a new role that will focus on the effective strategic coordination of customer service and technology. In today's world of virtual interaction and communication, the effective utilization of technology in all aspects of providing a superior customer experience is vital. American Water's Customer Service and Information Technology (IT) organizations will be led by Wilson, as Matt Prine, currently President of Indiana American Water, has been named Chief Customer Officer, and Deb Degillio, has been named Chief Technology and Information Officer.

Wilson has more than 20 years of extensive operations experience in the utility space. Most recently responsible for all aspects of electric operations at CenterPoint Energy, her proven expertise includes leading an integrated technical and operational team serving millions of customers in multiple states.

Prine has led Indiana American Water since 2019, and his state operational experience will enhance the connection between customer service and operations. Degillio has been working with American Water's IT team to implement many technology-supported customer ser-

vice systems. She will bring her deep knowledge of customer service processes to IT.



Prine



Suits

Barry Suits, currently President of Maryland and Virginia American Water, will replace Prine as President of Indiana American Water. Laura Runkle, currently serving as Vice President of Operations for Iowa American Water, will replace Suits as President of Maryland and Virginia American Water.

Suits has led Maryland and Virginia operations since 2015 and has been with American Water since 1999, starting out with Illinois American Water. Runkle has been with American Water since 2010 in various roles with increasing responsibility in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Iowa.

To allow for adequate transition of the various roles, particularly in state leadership, all of the changes will be effective Jan. 13, 2025.

"This is an exciting day for our company to be able to promote highly experienced, long-time American Water employees as well as bring on someone like Lynnae, who has deep utility and operations knowledge," said Cheryl Norton, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of American Water. "All are fully committed to our purpose of delivering safe, clean, reliable and affordable water and wastewater services. They know how to build teams effectively and they understand the importance of putting our customers first while making the communities we serve stronger."

For more information, visit amwater.com.

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Photo provided

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office celebrates 12 promotions

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office announces a series of well-deserved promotions across multiple divisions. These outstanding individuals have consistently demonstrated exceptional performance in their roles and have made significant contributions to their teams' success.

During the promotion ceremony on Monday, Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush spoke on the importance of family. He emphasized the critical role that families play in supporting those in leadership positions, urging the newly promoted individuals to prioritize time with their loved ones. Family is

the foundation of strength and success.

Jail Division

- Dustin Castor – Jail Captain
- Justin Rennaker – Assistant Jail Commander

- Dalton Ballard – Lieutenant
- Kirstin Wagoner – Sergeant
- Ryan Mosley – Sergeant
- Teresa Woods – Sergeant
- Luke Dietz – Sergeant
- Allen Henricks – Sergeant

Patrol Division

- Adam Leckrone – Sergeant
- Austin Rumer – Sergeant

Juvenile Services Division

- Ryan McClain – Captain

Support Division

• Bryan Melton – Sergeant
Promotion ceremonies are steeped in military tradition. Awards are generally presented to them by a superior, a family member, or a mentor. Hamilton County is fortunate that these outstanding men and women have chosen to bring their considerable talents to the Sheriff's Office.

Congratulations to all the individuals on their achievements. The Sheriff's Office looks forward to seeing the positive impact of their leadership in the months and years to come.

Westfield police arrest man after vehicle pursuit, theft investigation

By JAY ADKINS
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Westfield Police Department officers on Wednesday arrested a man after a nearly two-month theft investigation, the department said in a Saturday news release.

On Oct. 28, at 1:40 a.m., a Westfield officer observed a suspicious vehicle at a construction site near Park and Poplar Streets. When the vehicle left the area with

its headlights off, the officer initiated a traffic stop. The suspect vehicle fled, leading to a lengthy pursuit that included driving through yards in the 600 block of Birch Street. Officers lost sight of the vehicle, but later located it, unoccupied, at Washington Woods Elementary School.

The vehicle, reported stolen on Oct. 25 by Noblesville police, was spray-painted to disguise its appearance. A search of the vehicle uncov-

ered a stolen table from the construction site.

After investigating the case, investigators identified and connected Jon Pastorius Jr. to the theft. An arrest warrant was issued for resisting law enforcement, criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon, theft with a prior conviction, unlawful possession of a syringe, theft, reckless driving, and habitual offender enhancement.

On Wednesday, Westfield

officers and Noblesville officers located Pastorius Jr. at a residence in the 3000 block of Westfield Road. After initially refusing to exit, Pastorius Jr. was taken into custody without incident and booked in the Hamilton County Jail. His bond is set at \$50,000.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/crime-watch-8/westfield-police-arrest-man-after-vehicle-pursuit-theft-investigation.

Community First Bank grows its team: welcome Hall, Ulis & Reed

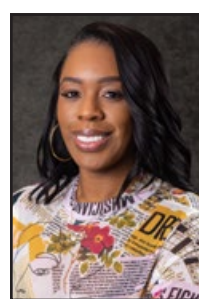
The REPORTER

Robb Blume, President and CEO of Community First Bank of Indiana (CFB), welcomes Brittany Hall, Mercedes Ulis, and John Reed to the team.

Brittany Hall has joined as Assistant Vice President, Branch Manager in a role that will support all eight branches throughout Hamilton, Howard, and Marion counties. She is a dedicated advocate for women in business and an experienced banker with over 21 years in the retail banking industry specializing in consumer lending, sales management, and business development. She is deeply passionate about helping individuals and communities gain access to financial education that can lead to lasting economic stability and growth.

"My commitment to this cause drives my efforts to provide personalized financial solutions and guidance, ensuring that clients not only meet their immediate needs but also build a solid foundation for their future," Hall said.

Mercedes Ulis has



Hall



Ulis



Reed

joined as Vice President, Branch Manager/Business Development Officer of the Meridian North Banking Center located at 93rd & Meridian streets in Indianapolis. She brings nearly a decade of experience in branch management and bank leadership. Known for her operational excellence, she combines accuracy and reliability with a passion for helping clients. Financial literacy is also especially dear to her heart.

"Growing up in Elkhart, Ind. a small town with limited financial education resources and one of the highest unemployment rates in the state, I saw firsthand the impact of financial literacy on community well-being," Ulis said. "I'm focused on fostering growth and helping my community mem-

bers achieve their financial goals."

"We're thrilled to have Brittany and Mercedes join the team," Branch Administrator Calee Ozminowski said. "As CFB continues to grow and open new local branches, our team has expanded as well. Continued growth means continued opportunities for our employees and excellent experiences for our customers."

To support this continued growth, the bank's Credit department has also expanded with the hire of John Reed as Vice President, Senior Credit Officer. John is based out of the bank's newest office in Fishers. He brings an inspiring 33 years of commercial underwriting and credit administration experience,

Happy holidays from Great American Songbook Foundation

Submitted

This season, we're sharing a very special piece of musical history preserved in the Songbook Library & Archives: a **test recording** of "The Snowman" from Bing Crosby & Sons' *A Crosby Christmas* (1950).

In this audio clip, stand-ins for the voices of Bing Crosby and his sons can be heard, offering a fascinating glimpse into the early stages of the song's development before the final recording

came to life. Found in the Johnny Burke collection, this rare recording showcases the brilliance of Burke and Jimmy Van Heusen, whose partnership brought timeless hits to the Great American Songbook.

The audio has been carefully digitized as part of our mission to preserve and share the timeless treasures of American music. Test recordings like this offer a glimpse into the creative process – a tradition that

shaped the music we love and continues to inspire musicians today.

Listen on Spotify to enjoy the fully realized final version, capturing the magic of Bing Crosby's performance and the seamless artistry of the songwriting duo of Burke and Van Heusen.

We hope this bit of musical magic adds a little sparkle to your holiday season!

Warm wishes,
The Great American Songbook Foundation Team

Fishers Arts Council issues callout for artists with disabilities

The REPORTER

During March 2025, in celebration of Disability Awareness Month, Fishers Arts Council (FAC), in collaboration with the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability and Ignite Studio at Hamilton East Public Library, seeks to exhibit artwork created by artists with developmental or intellectual disabilities.

The artwork will be featured at the Art Gallery at City Hall in Fishers Municipal Center and Ignite Studio. This exhibit highlights the importance of art to celebrate 2025's theme of Disability Awareness Month, "Connected Through Language," during March in the City of Fishers.

Deadline for submission

Artists interested in participating must submit a request by 3 p.m. Jan. 24, 2025, to info@fishersartscouncil.org indicating their desire to participate or fill out the online form at fishersartscouncil.org/submit and select EXHIBIT March Disabilities Awareness from the drop down menu.

For email submissions, please make your subject line "March Awareness" and include the following:

- Artist's name
- Full physical mailing address
- Phone number
- Email address
- Two or three samples of artwork in JPEG or PDF format. Please limit the file size of each image to 2MB or less. (Do not embed images in your email.)

Eligibility

- Artists must:
- Have a developmental or intellectual disability
 - Be a 2D or 3D visual artist,
 - Be able to provide at least two to six pieces of family-friendly art for exhibit
 - Agree that Fishers Arts



Council or Ignite Studio may alter artwork for proper hanging and installation in the galleries if said artwork is not properly equipped for display.

• Artists may also be represented by organizations that serve individuals with disabilities.

Selection process

Representatives from Fishers Arts Council will review submissions and select artists for the exhibit.

Notification

Artists will be notified of their acceptance into the exhibit by Feb. 3, 2025.

Delivery

Artists will be required to deliver artwork to the Fishers Municipal Center at 1 Municipal Drive from 3 to 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, or from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 1, 2025. Additional drop off dates may be added and selected artists will be notified.

For more information, email info@fishersartscouncil.org.

About the Fishers Arts Council

Fishers Arts Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to support, advocate, and cultivate visual and performing arts opportunities that educate and/or enhance the lives of those who live, work, and visit Fishers. Visit the brand-new gallery space inside Fishers Municipal Center at 1 Municipal Drive. FAC also maintains the FAC Hub Gallery at the Collaboration Hub at Hamilton County Community Foundation, 11810 Technology Drive, Fishers. Check out [FishersArtsCouncil.org](https://fishersartscouncil.org) or call (317) 537-1670 for more information.

Hamilton County Veterans Community Page

Hamilton County Veteran Service Organizations

American Legion Posts

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

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

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

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

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

VFW Posts

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

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

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

Non-Profit Veteran Orgs

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

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

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

Hamilton County Veteran Service Officers

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

Hamilton County Military Veteran

American Legion & VFW Post & Restaurant Hours

Carmel Legion
M-T 3-10pm, W 10a-10p, Th-F 10a-11p, Sa 8-11p,
Su 8a-8p. **Restaurant – Breakfast Sa Su 8a-12p,
Lunch W-F 11a-2p, Dinner Tu-F 5-8p**

Carmel VFW
Su-Sa 11a-11p. **Restaurant - Breakfast 2nd & 4th Sa
8a-11a, Lunch 11a-2p & food service till 8p daily**

Cicero Legion
M-Th 3-10p, F-Sa 12-11p, Su 12-10p.
Restaurant Tu, W, F 4-8pm

Fishers Legion
M 3-10p, Tu-Su 12-10pm or when empty.
**Restaurant Breakfast 1st & 3rd Sun 8-12, Food
Served Su, Tu, W, Th, F 12-8p, Sa 12-5p**

Noblesville Legion
M-Th 11a-10p, F 11a-12p, Sa 12p-12a, Su 12p-8p
**Restaurant M 6-8pm wings, Tu-F 530-830p,
Sat 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/12 Breakfast 730-930a
Dinner 530-830p, Su 12-8p**

Noblesville VFW
M-Th 11a-10p, F 11a-12a, Sa 12p-12a, Su 12p-8p
Restaurant M-F 6-9p

Sheridan Legion
M 3-9p, Tu-Th 11-9p, F Sa 11-10p, Su 1-6p
Restaurant Lunch Tu-F 11a-2p, food service till close

Good Samaritan Network Needs Your Help This Christmas, Food, Goods and Donations



Holiday \$\$ Donations to Good Samaritan Network

Funds raised go directly to support your neighbors for Thanksgiving, Christmas and year round. GSN's signature Holiday Assistance program significantly impacts thousands of families every year. Families may receive food baskets for both Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. Additionally, families receive new or gently used toys, clothing and goods for the Christmas season as part of our Christmas Distribution.

Thank you for your kind donations, especially this year in the face of job loss and insecurities, and for making the Holidays a little brighter for Hamilton County families!

Please donate here:
<https://gsn.live.kincaid.com/?campaign=1080400>

Apply for Donations here. If you and your family live, work or attend school in Hamilton County, Indiana, and are in need of Holiday Assistance, apply here. For Thanksgiving, please submit your application by the first Sunday in November. For Christmas, please submit it by the last Sunday in November. **ONLINE** applications must be completed by the first Sunday in December.
https://gsn.formstack.com/forms/holiday_assistance_registration_2024_online_copy

Good Samaritan Network Serving Hamilton County Since 1980

Every Weekend Breakfast - Carmel American Legion



Schoolhouse 7 Café - Coffee with a Vet On The Last Sat of the Month 8am-9am



Last Saturday of the month, 8am-9am
@ Schoolhouse 7 Cafe
12125 Cyntheanne Rd,
Fishers, IN



Activities & Events

Indy Vet to Vet Come Check Us Out Dec 21 2-8pm

VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST
2PM-8PM
317-737-6927

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FORTVILLE, IN
46040

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CONTACT: AARON SHAW
QUESTIONS 317-737-6927

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HERO HUT

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Vision: We want every American veteran to find a sense of connectedness, support, and hope after service.

“I wish they had Hero Hut at every event because this is phenomenal for Veterans to come, connect with other veterans and resources.” – Arlene, Milwaukee Irish Fest

Serve. Unite. Celebrate.

[HEROHUT.ORG](https://www.herohut.org)

Recovery Café of Hamilton County Dec 17 5-8pm

Recovery Café
Hamilton County

OPEN HOUSES
FOR VETERANS
DECEMBER 10 AND 17
5:00PM - 8:00PM

Recovery Cafe Hamilton County
The Eller House | 7050 E. 116th Street
Suite 100, Fishers, IN 46038

Stop by Recovery Cafe Hamilton County and experience Radical Hospitality in our beautiful, safe, drug and alcohol free space that anchors people on their recovery pathways. Light appetizers and hot beverages will be served. Questions? Email recoverycafehc@gmail.com

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State Comptroller votes for pension fund to hire alternative asset manager to BlackRock

Submitted

State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla voted last week to affirm the existence of comparable asset managers as an alternative to BlackRock in providing Global Inflation-Linked Bonds for the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS).

This action was taken pursuant to Indiana House Enrolled Act 1008 from the 2023 legislative session, and the vote was unanimous. INPRS is now responsible for selecting a different asset manager for these bonds.

"I commend State Treasurer Daniel Elliott for his thorough research regarding BlackRock's involvement in broad reaching priorities that are non-fiduciary and focused on social and

environmental policy initiatives," Nieshalla said. "State retirees and employees deserve to benefit from investment managers who focus solely on fiduciary duty."

Board members were presented with solid evidence based on documents BlackRock filed with the SEC that demonstrate its engagement with an ESG focused agenda.

"I do commend BlackRock's recent action to discontinue its affiliation with Climate Action 100+, but more needs to be done including ending its support of Net Zero and similar initiatives to demonstrate a refocused commitment of prioritizing beneficiaries over a political agenda."



Nieshalla

Governor-elect Braun names Dr. Gloria Sachdev as Secretary of Health & Family Services

The REPORTER

Governor-elect Mike Braun announced on Thursday his intent to appoint Dr.

Gloria Sachdev as Indiana's Secretary of Health and Family Services.

Dr. Sachdev currently serves as president and CEO of the Employers' Forum of Indiana, where she has led initiatives to improve healthcare transparency and affordability.

Under her leadership, Dr. Sachdev commissioned groundbreaking hospital cost transparency studies and developed Sage Transparency 2.0, a public dashboard for healthcare cost and quality data. Her advocacy has resulted in over two dozen state laws to improve healthcare affordability, including legislation to restrict facility fees for off-campus hospital services.

"Dr. Sachdev's proven track record of transforming healthcare delivery and costs makes her the ideal choice to lead Indiana's health initiatives," Braun said. "Her expertise in pharmacy, healthcare policy, and coalition-building will be invaluable as we work to improve health outcomes for Hoosiers."

Dr. Sachdev will be responsible for improving coordination across constituent-facing health and well-being services and ad-

ministering public health policy holistically in her role as Secretary of Health and Family Services. The Braun

Administration plans to confront rising healthcare costs and limited access to care, particularly in rural areas, while protecting coverage for pre-existing conditions and reforming mental health treatment to reduce the burden on the criminal justice system.

"Drawing on my healthcare expertise, I am committed to improving health outcomes and access to care for all Hoosiers," Dr. Sachdev said. "Under Governor-elect Braun's leadership, we will work tirelessly to ensure that every Indiana resident has the resources and support they need to live healthy, productive lives. I am grateful to Governor-elect Braun for entrusting me with this critical role."

A Doctor of Pharmacy graduate from the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Sachdev has served as a clinical associate professor at Purdue's College of Pharmacy and the Indiana University School of Medicine. She founded courses in health policy and established a healthcare policy rotation at the Indiana Statehouse. Her work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and other national media.

Schmuhl will not seek re-election as Indiana Democratic Party Chair

Submitted by Indiana Democratic Party

Indiana Democratic Party Chair Mike Schmuhl announced to the State Central Committee on Saturday morning that he will not seek another term as Chairman of the Party. He will serve as Chair until his term ends when a new Chair is elected on March 15, 2025.

Schmuhl's remarks follow.

"I want to thank the State Central Committee and Democrats across Indiana for entrusting me with this role almost four years ago. I know how hard it can be to be a Democrat in Indiana, and over the past four years we have placed our party on a path to future success by protecting what we have and building new bases of support."

"It was my goal as Chair for our party to be present in every part of our state, listen, and show that Democrats can get results for Hoosiers. I also know what we are up against: some of the lowest voter turnout in the Midwest, highly gerrymandered maps, no citizen-led referendums, and superminority status. Despite the headwinds, we've made progress, our bench is bigger, and our party has more tools and more people involved in the political process to be successful."

"More Hoosiers have a Democratic mayor now than they did last year. We

nominated great candidates for public office every year and I was privileged to work with a fantastic and dedicated team. We also tripled our overall number of donors from four years ago to boost our overall organizational strength and competitiveness. I want to thank Hoosier Democrats for allowing me to do this work, and I look forward to the day when Indiana has a more balanced government to serve the people of our great state."

Under Schmuhl's leadership, the State Party rebounded from a low in votes and support in the 2020 election. Democrats held their 30 seats in the State House of Representatives through the 2024 elections, with a number of close races in the most recent cycle and also in 2022.

On the local level, Indiana Democrats flipped six of Indiana's 50 largest cities, including Evansville, West Lafayette, Lawrence, Michigan City, Terre Haute, and Hobart, while also winning historic council majorities in Valparaiso and Muncie. Democrats also took over 42 percent of the vote in Carmel's mayoral election in 2023, the closest mayoral contest in the city's history.

Schmuhl's leadership on both the Democratic



Schmuhl

National Committee Executive Committee and the Association of State Democratic Committees Executive Committee brought more national funding to Indiana for staffing, data, communications, research, and organizing programs. He will continue to advocate for this support in his final months in office.

Moreover, national Democratic funding came to the state's gubernatorial contest, which was widely considered as uncompetitive heading into the 2024 cycle. The race ended up as the third-closest gubernatorial contest nationally in 2024, and Mike Braun's 13.3% victory was the smallest Republican margin in a statewide race in six years. Jennifer McCormick also earned over 200,000 more votes than Democrats did in the same race four years earlier.

Nationally-targeted by Republicans, Rep. Frank Mrvan won reelection to his northwest Indiana district in 2022 and by an even larger margin in 2024. Rep. Andre Carson also expanded on his margin from two years ago as he cruised to reelection this year.

Schmuhl led two successful union contract negotiations with party staff, which led to pay increases and strong health benefits.

Staff came from across the Hoosier State and expanded due to increased fundraising.

The State Party now heads into 2025 and 2026 with an opportunity to build on the gains made under Chairman Schmuhl. Democrats continued to make inroads in the suburbs of Indianapolis – one of the only places in the entire Midwest where Democrats did better in 2024 than 2020. In total, nine Indiana counties shifted more Democratic than four years ago. The same cannot be said for any neighboring states.

In 2022, State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn and State Sen. JD Ford both won in their suburban districts, and in 2024, Garcia Wilburn became the first Democrat to win their portion of Hamilton County on the state level.

The State Party also held over 150 events in every corner of Indiana over the last four years, working to rebuild local party organizations and recruit candidates for office.

Schmuhl previously served as Campaign Manager for Pete Buttigieg's 2020 Presidential Campaign, and for former Sen. Joe Donnelly during his 2010 reelection to Congress. He first joined the State Central Committee in 2011 at the age of 28 and rejoined 10 years later when he was elected chairman in 2021.

Central Indiana Orthopedics celebrates 3,000 successful surgeries with Mako SmartRobotics

The REPORTER

Central Indiana Orthopedics (CIO) recently announced it has expanded its robotic joint replacement capabilities with the acquisition of a fifth Mako SmartRobotics, the latest surgical technology in total hip and total/partial knee replacement.

This innovative medical tool helps those suffering from painful arthritis of the knee or hip and enables patients to have a more predictable experience when undergoing replacement surgery. To date, CIO has used this technology to help more than 3,000 patients get back to doing what they love.

Mako robotic-arm assisted technology combines 3D CT-based planning software with AccuStop haptic technology, allowing surgeons to know more about the patient's anatomy before and during surgery. The robot enables the surgeon to cut within pre-planned guidelines, preserving tissue, and saving healthy bone.

"The precise placement of the implant can lead to improved post-surgical

movement and flexibility, while also reducing the risk of surgical complications," CIO Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. John Martin said. "Having this technology allows us to offer patients personalized surgical plans, often leading to quicker recovery."

The Mako robot also enables CIO to meet the growing demand for hip and knee replacements due to osteoarthritis. As the population ages, the prevalence of osteoarthritis in hip and knee joints increases, leading to a higher need for

total replacement surgeries. With this latest acquisition, CIO's surgeons now have access to more Mako robots than any other orthopedic group in the state, creating expanded surgery opportunities to better serve the Central Indiana community.

CIO continues to be a pioneer of outpatient joint replacement in the region, after becoming the first orthopedic practice to adopt Mako technology in 2016. With this latest addition, CIO's surgeons have access to five Mako robots, three owned by CIO and

two owned by Ascension St. Vincent Hospital, where CIO's surgeons serve as the orthopedic team.

"We're proud to be leading the way in orthopedic care," CIO Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Steven Herbst said. "Improving access to the latest in joint replacement technology is representative of CIO's commitment to offering patients the most advanced, personalized care possible."

For more information about CIO and its Mako-assisted surgeries, visit ciocenter.com/mako.

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Who clears snow from Carmel's many sidewalks, paths & trails?

The REPORTER

Carmel city officials remind all residents, property owners, and business owners that it's important to keep your sidewalks clear of snow and ice. Carmel is a city that embraces a spirit of walkability – whether that is for a walk to school, the grocery store, or just to get out and exercise during these frigid winter months.

Help continue this tradition of keeping the community walkable, no matter what the weather holds. Please shovel your sidewalks or arrange for others to help so that your friends and neighbors can continue to make their way – safely – around the city.

The 'No-Bus Zones' created in 2021 has increased the number of students walking to school, even on snowy days. Residents, businesses, and property owners within that roughly one-mile radius of schools should keep this in mind as they are maintaining sidewalks.

Many residents may not realize that the city is responsible for plowing the streets and many trails and pathways, but it is the responsibility of residential



Photo provided by City of Carmel

property owners to clear their own sidewalks of all snow and ice within 72 hours of a major snowfall. If you own a business, the timeline is by noon the day after.

Paths located along city roadways are cleared by the Carmel Street Department as soon as possible after streets are cleared. In most cases, they are cleared along with the adjacent section of

roadway.

It should be noted that the Street Department does not clear trails outside of normal business hours, and depending on the depth of snow, it may take two or three days to clear the paths. Additionally, in some areas, trails are not cleared on both sides of the roadway.

Trails and greenways are cleared by the Carmel Clay Parks Department, which

begins clearing operations shortly after the end of the snowfall. Trails in Carmel are cleared but are not salted. No salt is used due to the threat of killing vegetation along the trails, causing injury to the paws of pets, and the potential damage to the asphalt.

Questions regarding snow removal on sidewalks can be directed to Code Enforcement at (317) 571-2491.

Franciscan Health updates hospital visitor restrictions for central Indiana

The REPORTER

With increasing activity of respiratory viruses such as flu, COVID-19, and RSV, Franciscan Health hospitals in Indianapolis, Mooresville, and Carmel are implementing updated visitation restrictions.

These changes only affect inpatient areas and do not apply to outpatient departments. The following policy took effect Tuesday, Dec. 17:

- Visitors must be at least 18 years of age.
- Only two visitors per patient are allowed to visit at a time (excluding clergy who are part of the care team).
- If visiting a patient who has respiratory symptoms, visitors are asked to keep a mask on and do not visit the cafeteria, coffee, and gift shops or waiting rooms.
- Those having symp-

ptoms suggestive of respiratory illness, including, but not limited to: cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, diarrhea, tiredness, headache, and vomiting, will not be allowed to visit.

- Visitors should continue to practice good hand hygiene.
- Visitation hours are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The updated policies are being implemented with input from Franciscan Alliance leadership and in accordance with guidelines from the CDC, Indiana Department of Health, and Marion County Health Department.

Franciscan Health urges everyone age six months and older to get a flu shot as the first and most important step for protecting against flu viruses.



WESTFIELD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Westfield Chamber asks members to take End of Year survey

The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber of Commerce thanks its partners and for everything they been able to accomplish together in 2024.

One of the Chamber's goals is to continuously improve and properly serve its membership. To reflect on 2024 and strive for a successful 2025, the Chamber

would appreciate a few moments of members' time to provide feedback on experiences in an anonymous End of Year Survey.

After the survey is completed, members will have the opportunity to enter a drawing for a Westfield gift card package.

[Click here](#) to take the survey.

Obituaries

Richard Lee

September 30, 1942 – December 11, 2024

Richard Lee, 82, Sheridan, passed away on Wednesday afternoon, December 11, 2024, at Riverview Hospital in Noblesville. Born on September 30, 1942, in Indianapolis, he was the son of the late Paul Howard and Mary Ann (Dee) Lee.



He was a 1961 graduate of Sheridan High School, and a faithful attendant of the Sheridan First Christian Church.

Richard honorably served his country as a soldier in the United States Army. During part of his time in the service, he was stationed in Germany.

A tinkerer at heart, Richard could fix just about anything you put in front of him. He learned by doing – take it apart, see what was wrong, fix it, and put it back together (hopefully). It sounds so simple, but it takes quite a bit of tinkering, over quite a few years, to get it right. Years of experience is part of the secret, and Richard spent those years fixing and building things, surrounded by people who had years of experience under their own belts.

He worked for several years at Warren Millikan's Sinclair Station in Sheridan, learning the ins and outs of things before going to work at Hare Chevrolet in Noblesville. Richard also worked for 30 years as a machinist and internal grinder for Biddle Precision Components in Sheridan. These skills were put to excellent use out in the garage, where he loved to restore antique cars and Corvettes. He also spent many, many hours working on his moped and loved every minute of it. Richard loved zooming all over the place on that thing.

When it was time to relax, he could often be found watching an old western or one of his sci-fi favorites, like *Star Trek*.

Richard had a patient and easy-going nature, a strong faith that helped guide every decision he made, and a kind and gentle soul that could instantly put you at ease, quietly letting you know that everything was going to work itself out. When it came to his family, he loved them more than anything in this world, especially when it came to his grandson.

Richard is survived by his loving wife, Elizabeth Ann "Beth" (Bundy) Lee. She and Richard were married on August 10, 1975, and would spend the next 49 years by each other's side. He is also survived by his daughter, Kari E. Lee (Bob Thorn) of Sheridan; grandson, Shane M. Joyner of Sheridan; two sisters, Carol Gerber (Jim) of Lapel and Rebecca Lunde (Lynn) of Florida; brother-in-law, Michael B. Bundy (Malinda) of Sheridan; sister-in-law, Emily K. Pearson of Cicero; nieces and nephews, Avery Bundy of Sheridan, Autumn Hoffman (Parker) of Flora, Jennifer Gerber of Lapel, and Myron Gerber of Pendleton; two great-nephews, Brandon Gerber, and Callan Hoffman; and by his special friends, Jeannie McKay, Marinda McKay, Benny Gray, Kathy Gray, and their wonderful families.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul Howard and Mary Ann (Dee) Lee; his sister, Lorna Hess; father-in-law and mother-in-law, William T. and Mary K. Bundy; brother-in-law, Jimmie "Finney" Pearson; and by his canine BFF, Sissy.

Richard's family asks that you help honor his memory by dressing casually for his funeral. This was one of his final requests.

Services with military honors will take place at 2 p.m. Thursday, December 19, 2024, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan, with visitation from noon until the time of service. Burial will follow at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan. Pastor VJ Stover will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Sheridan First Christian Church, 107 W. 3rd St., Sheridan, IN 46069.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

Adrian Luis August Graham

November 23, 2004 – December 11, 2024

Adrian Luis August Graham, 20, passed away on December 11, 2024, at Riley Children's Hospital after his battle with leukemia. He was born on November 23, 2004, in Indianapolis.



Adrian was a source of laughter to all that he spent time with. He loved playing basketball (especially shooting 3's), spending time outdoors, and playing guitar. He was an attentive and fun-loving brother, a loyal friend, and a thoughtful listener. He was known for his contagious smile and frequent, warm hugs. He graduated high school from New Morning Christian Homeschool in 2023. Adrian accepted Jesus Christ into his life and we find comfort in the confidence that we will see him again. He attended and was loved by the Indianapolis Apostolic Christian Church.

He is survived by his parents Ben and Suzanne Graham; Tristan (sister), Elias (brother), Mikaya (sister), Claire (sister), Cutler (brother), and Locklen (brother). Also survived by Shane Davis (brother), Angel Davis (sister), Tanika Davis (birth mother), Virginia Zeller (grandmother), and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his beloved "Mamaw," Christine Davis (grandmother); Dick and Jeanette Graham (grandparents); Brandon Graham (uncle) and H. Eric Zeller (grandfather).

Services will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday December 20, 2024, at Apostolic Christian Church, 7540 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday December 19, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers. Additional visitation service from 9 to 9:45 a.m. on Friday. Burial will follow at Union Chapel Cemetery in Indianapolis.

In lieu of flowers please send memorial contributions to Foundation for the Marooned (foundationforthemarooned.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Meeting Notices

The Hamilton County Commissioners will meet at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, 2024, in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The Jackson Township Board will hold its annual organization meeting at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, at the Jackson Township Trustee's Office, 506 W. Main St., Arcadia.

Send Meeting Notices to:
News@ReadTheReporter.com

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NickelPlateExpress.com

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December 31
NickelPlateExpress.com

LOCAL NEWS? LOCAL SPORTS? We keep you covered.
THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Brian Alan Hoffman

March 17, 1977 – December 9, 2024



Brian Alan Hoffman, 47, Sheridan, passed away unexpectedly on Monday evening, December 9, 2024, at Riverview Hospital in Westfield. Born March 17, 1977, in Indianapolis, he was the son of Charles Alan "Pete" Hoffman and Marianna (Pettigrew) Hoffman.

After graduating from Clinton Central High School with the Class of 1996, Brian hit the ground running. For 10 years he worked as an electrician with Jones Electric. He was also the owner and operator of LB Engineering, where he worked as a machinist. Brian also took great pride in his gunsmithing abilities, a true labor of love.

Brian loved everything the great outdoors had to offer, no matter what weather Mother Nature offered up. Every season had something to offer, and Brian was always ready to soak up as much as he could. Hunting (including mushroom hunting) was always at the top of the list, and there was a special place in his soul that was reserved for hitting the open road on the Harley. Brian also had a competitive side as well, and as you could have guessed, it involved being outside. Competitive shooting and tractor pulls were among his favorites.

Though he had many interests in his life, his true passion was his family. If the kids were involved in it, it became his new favorite activity. Brian loved watching and following their sporting adventures. From basketball games to Karate matches, he was always there, taking in every moment. And when it was time for some quality family alone time, trips to the beaches of Michigan were a welcomed adventure.

Brian had a deep love for the land, and an even deeper love for his family and friends. He will be truly missed by all who knew him.

Brian is survived by his loving wife, Deanna (Fisher) Hoffman. She and Brian were married on July 14, 2007. Also surviving is his mother, Marianna (Pettigrew) Hoffman; son, Charles Waylon Hoffman of Sheridan; daughter, Morgan Irene Hoffman of Sheridan; sister, Jessica L. Hoffman of Jacksonville, Fla.; two nieces, Kenadi Warm and Ronna White; nephew, Drew Warm; and by his maternal grandfather, Shirley Arnold Pettigrew of Kirklint.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Alan "Pete" Hoffman; paternal grandparents, Charles A. "Chuck" Hoffman and Pauline H. (King) Hoffman-Fox; step-grandfather, Robert Fox; and maternal grandmother, Mary Arlene Pettigrew.

A celebration of Brian's was held Monday evening, December 16, 2024, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan, with visitation from 4 p.m. until the time of service. Pastor Rich Barker will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the American Heart Association.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

Eugene Sigurd Monks

October 19, 1934 – December 12, 2024



Eugene Sigurd Monks, 90, Noblesville, passed away on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at his home. He was born on October 19, 1934, to Charles and Anna (Mealy) Monks in Oil City, Pa.

Gene was an electrical engineer and worked 30 years for Republic Steel as the superintendent for the finishing inspection and shipping departments (FIS) where he developed novel nondestructive testing systems for the inline inspection of steel bars, coils, rods, tubes, plates and billets. After retirement from Republic Steel, he did a brief stint at Lone Star Steel in Texas before joining General Electric Aircraft Engines in Evandale, Ohio, where he was responsible for developing inspection techniques for military aircraft engines, having visited every U.S. ally's Air Forces to train them in the inspection processes to assure air worthiness and readiness.

Gene met the love of his life, Dorothy Gallaher, in 1953 in Elwood City, Pa., marrying the following year on August 21, 1954. He was very proud to have celebrated their 70th anniversary of marriage this year and having turned 90 in October. Gene loved spending time with Dorothy and their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was an active member at numerous churches through the years, serving many duties at First Christian Church Lansing, Ill., First Church of Christ Highland, Ind., White River Christian Church Noblesville, and finally Venture Church Noblesville.

Gene is survived by his wife, Dorothy Monks; four sons, Greg (Sue) Monks, Brian (Debi) Monks, Mark (Ruth) Monks, and Jeff Monks; 22 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Robert Monks and William Monks; sisters, Beverly Tyson and Sandra Laurain; and his grandsons, Bradley Monks and Chase Monks.

Visitation will be from 3 to 6 p.m., with services at 6 p.m., on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Timothy Monks will officiate. Burial will be at Sylvania Hills Mausoleum in New Brighton, Pa.

Memorial contributions may be made to Riley Children's Foundation, P.O. Box 3356, Indianapolis, IN 46206-3356 (rileykids.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

OTHER PRIESTLY GARMENTS

"Make the robe of the ephod entirely of blue cloth, with an opening for the head in its center. There shall be a woven edge like a collar around this opening, so that it will not tear. Make pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet yarn around the hem of the robe, with gold bells between them. The gold bells and the pomegranates are to alternate around the hem of the robe. Aaron must wear it when he ministers. The sound of the bells will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the Lord and when he comes out, so that he will not die.

Exodus 28:31-35 (NIV)

Linda Lou Mendenhall

October 8, 1936 – December 14, 2024



Linda Lou Mendenhall, 88, Westfield, passed away on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at Compass Hospice in Indianapolis. She was born on October 8, 1936, to Ernest and Martha (Macy) Kirkman in Indianapolis.

For 25 years, Linda worked for Westfield Elementary School's cafeteria, retiring as Head Cook. She enjoyed quilting, baking, and decorating cakes. Linda was also a talented artist, having learned oil painting by watching artists on television.

She is survived by her son, Timothy J. Mendenhall (Kathy Blackford); daughter, Tina J. Mendenhall (Kevin Faulkner); grandsons, James Mendenhall (Jenn Hagen) and Isaac Mendenhall (Jana Jin); sister, Sue Trent; and her brother, Charles Kirkman.

In addition to her parents, Linda was preceded in death by her husband, James F. Mendenhall; and her infant siblings, Jimmy and Joyce.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with services at 1 p.m., on Friday, December 20, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Chaplain Christopher Suder will officiate. Burial will be at Summit Lawn Cemetery in Westfield.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

The Reporter's policy on obituaries

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

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<p>NEW LISTING!</p> <p>18794 PRAIRIE CROSSING DRIVE NOBLESVILLE</p> <p>Two-story home in Prairie Crossing. Lot borders the golf course. 4 BR, 2.5 BA home has many updates. Mature trees and landscaping. Listed at \$354,900</p>	<p>SOLD!</p> <p>540 ZEPHYR WAY WESTFIELD</p> <p>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</p>	<p>SOLD!</p> <p>1880 E. 75 NORTH LEBANON</p> <p>Completely remodeled ranch on 1.06 acres just outside of downtown Lebanon. Beautifully decorated and move-in ready! Listed at \$339,900</p>	<p>NEW LISTING!</p> <p>1940 NANTUCKET DRIVE CICERO</p> <p>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</p>	<p>SOLD!</p> <p>275 WYANDOTTE COURT NOBLESVILLE</p> <p>This well cared for ranch is energy efficient and on a very large lot in a quiet neighborhood. 3 BR, 2 BA with a sideload garage and a mini barn. Listed at \$264,900</p>
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REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

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

Girls Basketball

Tigers win by 1 over Pendleton Heights

The REPORTER
The Fishers girls basketball team won a hard-fought game Monday at Pendleton Heights, 48-47.

The game was tied 11-11 after the first quarter, with the Tigers jumping ahead 26-22 by halftime. The Arabians came back in the third period to lead 36-35, and led 47-46 with seconds to go, but Makayla Triplett made a rebound basket at the buzzer

to get Fishers the win. Nevaeh Dickman led the Tigers with 22 points, also collecting five rebounds. Allison Scheu reached double-double status with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Riley Schellhammer added six points, while Triplett scored five. Fishers is 9-4 and plays Hamilton Southeastern Friday in the Mudsock game at the Fishers Events Center.

More girls basketball results will appear in our Thursday edition.

IBCA girls basketball poll – Week of Dec. 16

Rank	School	Points	Record
1	Lawrence Central (22)	440	12-0
2	Hamilton Southeastern	411	12-0
3	Warsaw	392	11-0
4	Homestead	349	10-1
5	South Bend Washington	335	10-1
6	Northridge	319	10-1
7	Greensburg	297	12-0
8	Center Grove	275	9-1
9	South Knox	255	12-0
10	Brownsburg	207	9-2
11	Floyd Central	203	9-0
12	Columbia City	193	9-2
13	Bloomington South	186	10-1
14	McCutcheon	164	11-2
15	Noblesville	156	7-3
16	Silver Creek	132	7-2
17	Plainfield	92	7-3
18	Lawrence North	48	5-4
19	Washington	40	10-2
20	Fishers	34	8-4

First place votes are in parentheses.

Other schools receiving votes, with records

Austin (9-1), Avon (8-4), Belmont (10-1), Bluffton (11-1), Brownstown Central (9-1), Corydon Central (7-2), Danville (8-2), Eastern Hancock (10-0), Franklin Central (8-5), Northeastern (11-0), Norwell (7-4), Penn (6-4), Pike (6-2), Rensselaer Central (10-1), Valparaiso (7-4).

IBCA boys basketball poll – Week of Dec. 16

Rank	School	Points	Record
1	Fishers (22)	440	5-0
2	Lawrence North	388	3-1
3	Crispus Attucks	376	6-2
4	Greenfield-Central	310	4-1
5	Cathedral	297	5-2
6	Carmel	287	3-1
7	Warsaw	286	4-0
8	Crown Point	282	3-0
9	Noblesville	268	4-1
10	Jeffersonville	263	3-2
11	Pike	225	4-0
12	South Bend St. Joseph	196	5-0
13	Anderson	187	4-0
14	New Palestine	122	3-1
15	New Albany	116	3-0
16	Northridge	99	5-0
17	Ben Davis	85	2-2
18	East Chicago Central	72	4-2
19	Bishop Luers	61	3-0
20	Westfield	59	3-1

First place votes are in parentheses.

Other schools receiving votes, with records

Avon (4-1), Blackhawk Christian (4-1), Brownstown Central (4-0), Columbia City (4-1), Columbus East (5-0), Evansville Memorial (2-0), Evansville Reitz (2-0), Fort Wayne South Side (5-0), **Guerin Catholic** (5-1), Indianapolis Lutheran (1-0), Kokomo (5-0), Northwood (5-0), Plainfield (3-2), Princeton Community (5-0), Parke Heritage (5-0), Shelbyville (5-0), Silver Creek (6-0), South Bend Riley (4-1), Southridge, Terre Haute North Vigo, Wapahani (5-0), Warren Central (2-2), 21st Century Charter School – Gary (4-0)

Boys Basketball

Guerin Catholic works hard to take down Pendleton Heights

By **RICHARD TORRES**
For The Reporter

NOBLESVILLE – On paper, Tuesday night's matchup with Class 4A Pendleton Heights seemed like another double-digit win in the waiting for 3A No. 3 Guerin Catholic.

The Arabians (1-5) had other plans, however, forcing the Golden Eagles (6-1) to survive their first tightly-contested game of the season, 62-59, inside The Nest.

Through GC's past five wins, the program triumphed by a margin of 15-plus at minimum each time with a pair of 30-point victories as well.

Against the Arabians, Guerin Catholic's largest lead stood at 10 points, but PH made it a two-possession game throughout and had a chance to tie the game on its final possession before a turnover and a steal by senior Ryne Paris sealed victory No. 6.

"I think it's good for us to be in games like this. Our whole season right now is us being in a process of trying to improve every single day," GC head coach Bobby Allen said. "I'd rather be in games like this than being in games where you win by double figures. I thought we grew tonight."

Their growth came with some frustration, as the Golden Eagles shot 5 of 18 from 3-point range with PH doubling 6-foot-7 big man Bryson Cardinal, who finished with 16 points, five rebounds, three assists and a steal.

Cardinal had six points by halftime with the Arabians tying the Golden Eagles six times in the game and leading five times.

By halftime, GC led 29-24 despite shooting 1 for 10 from behind the arc.

"We're working every single day, trying to get our guards more confidence. We have no problem with them taking those shots, but obviously when we're in a situation where it's tight games, our strength is getting the ball inside," Allen said. "Even when we do get it inside, Bryson is getting doubled, so we have to learn to make sure he has options on who to pass it to. Sometimes, we get caught staring a little bit."

In the second half, the Golden Eagles built three possession leads and were up 59-49 with 4 minutes, 39 seconds left in the game.

However, 10 of 23 shooting from deep by PH and a trio of double-digit scorers kept the contest at two and one possession in the final minutes.

Paris countered PH's defensive attention with a



Photos by Mike Navarro
(ABOVE) Guerin Catholic's Ryne Paris scored 19 points for the Golden Eagles during their win over Pendleton Heights Tuesday at the Eagles Nest. **(BELOW)** Bryson Cardinal scored 16 points.

game-high 19 points with five rebounds and two assists. The senior shot 6 of 8 from the floor and buried 7 of 8 free throws, including the game's final two points with 6.3 seconds remaining.

Cardinal entered the night with three 20-plus point performances. He had back-to-back 30-point games this month.

"He's had some big-time games, and he's deserving of that attention, but we can't rely on him to have to bail us out every situation," Allen said. "We do have guys who are inexperienced right now but look at Ryne Paris tonight. A senior, and he was incredible for us."

The Golden Eagles' resilience late paid off as PH funneled its offense through junior Cooper Sims (team-high 16 points) and seniors Joe Estes (12 points) and Evan Mazingo (14 points).

The PH Arabians shot 48 percent overall compared to GC's 47 and tallied 30 points off 3-pointers. The Golden Eagles countered with 17 of 23 free throws made, while PH went 7 of 9 from the foul line.

"It's just a process for us right now, and we will continue to work on their confidence whether it's from the perimeter or whether it's Bryson inside making some great plays for us," Allen said. "They play very hard, and they're very



GUERIN CATHOLIC 62, PENDLETON HEIGHTS 59				
Guerin Catholic	FG	FT	TP	PF
Jake Grissom	2-8	1-2	5	2
Ryne Paris	6-8	7-8	19	3
Hayden Rogers	2-5	0-0	6	1
Bryson Cardinal	5-8	5-9	16	4
Carter Murans	2-7	0-0	5	2
Jack Toles	2-5	2-2	6	2
Malcolm Houze	1-1	2-2	5	3
Jack Linden	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	20-42	17-23	62	17
Score by Quarters				
Pendleton Heights	13	11	15	20-59
Guerin Catholic	13	16	16	17-62
Guerin Catholic 3-point shooting (5-18), Rogers 2-5, Murans 1-4, Cardinal 1-2, Houze 1-1, Grissom 0-4, Paris 0-2.				
Guerin Catholic rebounds (24) Paris 5, Toles 5, Cardinal 5, Murans 5, Grissom 1, Houze 1, Rogers 1, team 1.				

well coached. They hit 10 3-pointers tonight, so they shot the ball well. They did some really good things, but at the same time, we had situations where we simply didn't make plays."

A 3-pointer by Sims with 7.5 seconds left cut GC's lead to 60-59. A dagger 3-pointer by Hayden Fox, who had seven points, with 43 seconds left pulled PH within three points, 59-56.

Jake Grissom split a pair of free throws with 19.4 seconds on the clock to increase GC's lead 60-56 before Paris knocked down a pair and recorded the final steal, marking the Arabians' 13th turnover of the game.

Guerin Catholic faces 4A Evansville Harrison on Saturday in Evansville before heading to the Lawrenceburg Tournament on Dec. 27. This season, GC has gone 4-1 against teams classified 3A or 4A with a 2-1 mark against their larger opponents.

"We want to make sure we're putting ourselves up against those guys because we want to find out where we are. I think our guys feel like they belong a little bit, and we're getting the opportunity to prove it," Allen said. "We just need to be more consistent with what we're doing, and I think that'll come."

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Swimming

Heights girls & boys teams both win at Husky Invitational

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Heights swim teams won both trophies at the Husky Invitational, which took place last Saturday.

Team scores were not available, but the Huskies won both the girls and boys meets. Heights' girls won 10 of the 12 events, with the Heights boys winning six events.

In the girls meet, Amira Leer (200 freestyle and butterfly), Ayla Madara (individual medley and 500 free) and Sophia Hulén (50 and 100 freestyles) were all double winners for the Huskies. Campbell Lively and Illiana Bowyer finished 1-2 in diving and Heights swept all three relays.

In the boys meet, Aiden Clarke was a double winner in the IM and butterfly. Rudy Bowman was first in the 200 free, Gabe Roosa won the backstroke and Heights placed first in the 200 and 400 free relays.

Guerin Catholic also competed at the meet. The Golden Eagles won two events in the girls meet: Christiana Dunasky triumphed in the backstroke and Taylor Tragesser won the breaststroke.

Guerin Catholic's boys team won four events. Will Ladine was a double winner in the 100 free and breaststroke, Sam Holl was first in the 500 free and the Golden Eagles began the meet with a victory in the medley relay.

GIRLS MEET

200 medley relay: 1. Heights (Audrey Cain, Amira Leer, Ayla Madara, Sophia Hulén) 2:00.53, 2. Guerin Catholic (Christiana Dunasky, Taylor Tragesser, Kara Vanwoerkom, Ellie Gove) 2:11.78.

200 freestyle: 1. Leer (HH) 1:59.84, Dunasky (GC) 2:20.70, 3. Allie Bushey (HH) 2:27.76.

200 individual medley: 1. Madara (HH) 2:16.47, 2. Vanwoerkom (GC) 2:34.99, 3. Adi Gould (HH) 2:50.42, 6. Molly Deppen (GC) 2:54.20.

50 freestyle: 1. Hulén (HH) 25.62, 4. Rachel England (HH) 29.69, 7.

Ella Capofari (GC) 32.54.

One-meter diving:

1. Campbell Lively (HH) 238.60, 2. Illiana Bowyer (HH) 205.65, 3. Anna Ososki (GC) 202.05, 4. Grace Reynolds (HH) 182.85, 6. Fiona McDonald (HH) 130.90.

100 butterfly: 1. Leer (HH) 1:02.18, 3. Deppen (GC) 1:17.91, 4. Quinn Thompson (HH) 1:20.33.

100 freestyle: 1. Hulén (HH) 55.88, 3. Cain (HH) 1:03.56, 5. Tragesser (GC) 1:05.10, 7. Capofari (GC) 1:14.13.

500 freestyle: 1. Madara (HH) 5:19.05, 2. Vanwoerkom (GC) 6:01.29, 3. Bushey (HH) 6:36.66.

200 freestyle relay: 2. Heights (Gould, Bushey, Anna Monnin, England) 1:59.87, 3. Guerin Catholic (Deppen, Capofari, Tragesser, Gove) 2:03.58.

100 backstroke: 1. Dunasky (GC) 1:00.15, 3. Cain (HH) 1:16.28, 6. Selah Heuer (HH) 1:33.27.

100 breaststroke: 1. Tragesser (GC) 1:22.10, 4. Monnin (HH) 1:28.83, 6. Gould (HH) 1:32.23.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Heights (Hulén, Cain, Leer, Madara) 3:53.25, 2. Guerin Catholic (Gove, Deppen, Vanwoerkom, Dunasky) 4:29.11.

BOYS MEET

200 medley relay: 1. Guerin Catholic (Lucas Morse, Will Ladine, Joey Kunkel, Sam Holl) 1:50.63, 2. Heights (Gabe Roosa, Hudson Holt, Aiden Clarke, Rowan Donald) 1:57.69.

200 freestyle: 1. Rudy Bowman (HH) 2:03.07, 3. Kunkel (GC) 2:19.05, 5. Abram Gould (HH) 2:32.81.

200 individual medley: 1. Clarke (HH) 2:05.51, 2. Holl (GC) 2:09.93, 4. Roosa (HH) 2:21.24.

50 freestyle: 5. Cole Martin (HH) 24.98, 6. Isaac Correll (HH) 25.90, 8. Kunkel (GC) 27.94, 9. Jacob Gaskill (GC) 31.37.

100 butterfly: 1. Clarke (HH) 56.01, 4. Lucas Morse (GC) 1:04.10.

100 freestyle: 1. La-



Photos by Allison Madara

The Hamilton Heights swim teams swept the trophies at their Husky Invitational last Saturday. The Heights girls won 10 events, while the Huskies boys won six events.

dine (GC) 51.12, 3. Donald (H) 52.61, 5. Martin (HH) 55.96.

500 freestyle: 1. Holl (GC) 5:08.92, 2. Bowman (HH) 5:53.06, 5. Jack Powell (HH) 6:42.16.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Heights (Correll, Martin, Holt, Donald) 1:39.74, 4. Guerin Catholic (Morse, Kunkel, Ladine, Holl) 1:41.91.

100 backstroke: 1. Roosa (HH) 1:02.12, 3.

Morse (GC) 1:11.23, 5. Owen Eshelman (HH) 1:20.55.

100 breaststroke: 1.31.36.

1. Ladine (GC) 1:05.75, 5. Owen Semester (HH) 1:21.52, 8. Gaskill (GC) 1:31.36.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Heights (Bowman, Martin, Clarke, Donald) 3:39.94.

Holiday Pickleball Fest happening in Westfield through end of December

By COLIN BAILLIE
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Play pickleball, America's fastest growing sport, for a cause. The Holiday Pickleball Festival is underway now in Westfield through the end of December.

The event features multiple tournaments for all skill levels, all to help local organizations.

"We have a whole month of not-for-profit tournaments, court rental, and open play," Co-Founder of the Holiday Pickleball Festival Birch Dalton said.

Dalton said events like these help grow the sport

and build up Grand Park.

"It's a great sport for the young, old and everything in between," Dalton said.

Events this month

• Dec. 20 | Dink 'Til You Drop – All-day Pickleball for one low price with open play, clinics, challenges, and more. A portion of your fee benefits Heart & Soul Free Clinic.

• Dec. 21 | Winter Pickleball Team Smash – Co-ed adult teams of all levels can participate in this tournament hosted by GNRC benefiting Damar Services.

• Dec. 27 | Westfield Youth Assistance Program – A family day of

fering a clinic and an opportunity to learn the skills and get introduced to the sport.

• Dec. 29 | Westfield Youth Sports – A day all about the kids and the ones who raise them. Participate in a clinic, then show what you learned in an optional tournament.

The festival offers a New Year's Slam and business partnerships for hosting tournaments or employee outings.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/local-news/holiday-pickleball-festival-westfield.

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7:20 pm Chatard vs Washington | Varsity Basketball | Indiana SRN

Fri Dec 20 - Boys & Girls Basketball

5:45 pm **Fishers** vs Hamilton Southeastern | Girls Basketball | Southeastern Sports

5:50 pm Covenant Christian vs Greenwood Christian Academy | Db|hd| Indiana SRN

7:15 pm **Fishers** vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Boys Basketball | Southeastern Sports

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

Sat Dec 21 - Boys/Girls Basketball

11:00 am Tri-State Evansville Bosse Shoot-Out | Boys Basketball | Indiana SRN

12:00 pm **Westfield** vs **Noblesville** | Junior Varsity | Girls Basketball | HCTV Sports

1:30 pm **Westfield** vs **Noblesville** | Varsity | Girls Basketball | HCTV Sports

7:20 pm Indianapolis Shortridge vs **Fishers** | Boys Basketball | Fishers Sports Network

7:20 pm South Putnam vs Covenant Christian | Girls Basketball | Indiana SRN

Fri Dec 27 - Noblesville High School Boys Varsity Tourney

10:00 am Brebeuf vs **Noblesville** | Game 1 | HCTV Sports

11:45 am Crown Point vs 21st Century of Gary | Game 2 | HCTV Sports

6:00 pm Consolation | Game 3 | Noblesville Boys Holiday Tourney | HCTV Sports

7:45 pm Championship | Game 4 | Noblesville Boys Holiday Tourney | HCTV Sports

Sat Dec 28 - Noblesville High School Girls Varsity Tourney

10:00 am Norwell vs **Noblesville** | Game 1 | HCTV Sports

11:45 am Valparaiso vs Ft Wayne Snide | Game 2 | HCTV Sports

6:00 pm Consolation | Game 3 | Noblesville Girls Holiday Tourney | HCTV Sports

7:45 pm Championship | Game 4 | Noblesville Girls Holiday Tourney | HCTV Sports

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Photo by Jennifer Kauffman

Hamilton Heights' senior Sophia Hulen has signed a letter of intent to swim for the DePauw University Tigers in Greencastle this fall.

Hulen signs to swim for DePauw University

The REPORTER

Hamilton Heights senior Sophia Hulen has signed a letter of intent to swim for DePauw University in Greencastle this fall. DePauw is a member of the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) and a NCAA Division III athletic institution. She is the daughter of Christopher and Lisa Hulen.

Hulen said DePauw stood out to her because of its strong academic programs and the opportunity to compete in college-level sports in a supportive environment.

"The strong balance between high-level academics and athletics made DePauw a perfect fit for me," said Hulen, who plans to follow the university's pre-law pathway. Hulen intends to pursue a major in communications and double minor in business administration and philosophy then attend law school after graduation.

Hulen, a multi-sport athlete (cheerleading, track and field), has had a strong passion for swimming since the beginning of high school. Since then, she has dedicated a great deal of time investing in her future as a competitive athlete while training at Hamilton Heights and through the Fishers Area Swimming Tigers (FAST) club. She is highly recognized as a competitive swimmer and holds numerous school records including the 200 Relay

Medley and 400 Free Relay record holder, 2024 State Qualifier, Hoosier Conference 50 Free, 100 Free, 200 Medley Relay, 440 Free Relay record holder, 2024 Hamilton Heights Hoosier Conference Winter Sport Athlete, and 2021-22 Hamilton Heights High School Girls Swimming & Diving Rookie of the Year.

Hulen is as strong in the pool as she is in the classroom. She is Senior Class Vice President, a member of the National Honor Society, Hamilton Heights Business Professionals of America (BPA) Chapter, and Llama Trekkers 4-H Club. She serves as a Husky Ambassador, Hamilton County Llamas Youth President, and was Miss Hamilton County 1st Runner Up.

She credits her parents for playing a large role in supporting her inside and outside the pool. In addition, she wanted to recognize her coaches Brett Riley, Venni Clarke, Trey Harrison, and Joe Keller for their guidance and encouragement to be the best athlete she could be.

"Sophia is one of those athletes who quietly gets the work done and leads by example," Hamilton Heights High School Athletic Director Kurt Ogden said. "She's an outstanding student, a very polite young lady and an excellent role model for what we want to see in our Hamilton Heights athletes. We will miss her, but we wish her well at DePauw University."

Wrestling



Photo provided

The Hamilton Southeastern boys wrestling team won the Mudsock meet on Tuesday, beating Fishers 36-29.

Royals reign at Mudsock

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Southeastern boys wrestling team triumphed in the Mudsock dual meet, beating Fishers 36-29 at the Tiger Den.

The Royals won eight of the 14 matches. Nick Anderson won the 120-pound match with a pin, while Dylan Lane took the 145-pound bout by fall. Southeastern also picked up three technical falls, from Cale Beattie at 106, Chris Casler at 150 and Cohen Davis at 165. Matt Billet won the 138-pound

HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 36, FISHERS 29	
106: Cale Beattie (HSE) def. Ryland Smith (F) by technical fall, 15-0	157: Landon Hicks (HSE) def. Andrei Bogdan (F) by decision, 11-5
113: Will Lakes (HSE) def. Seth Lamb (F) by decision, 9-8	165: Cohen Davis (HSE) def. Diego Carabano (F) by technical fall, 18-3
120: Nick Anderson (HSE) def. Owen Ingalls (F) by fall	175: Xavier Smith (F) def. Grady Wafford (HSE) by technical fall, 21-6
126: Will Hruskoci (F) def. Xander Huynh (HSE) by fall	190: Chris Quarles (F) def. Reid Snider (HSE) by fall
132: Chayce Yant (F) def. Roben Randhawa (HSE) by fall	215: Julian Burgett (F) def. Evan Lawhead (HSE) by decision, 6-1
138: Matt Billet (HSE) def. Ellis Burns (F) by major decision, 16-7	285: Camden Funk (F) def. A.W. Vankirk (HSE) by decision, 4-1
145: Dylan Lane (HSE) def. Goyito Morales (F) by fall	
150: Chris Casler (HSE) def. Zeke Kramer (F) by technical fall, 15-0	

match by a 16-7 major decision, with Will Lakes (at 113) and Landon Hicks (at 157) winning by decision.

Fishers had three victories by fall. Will Hrusko-

ci got the pin at 126 and Chayce Yant followed him with a fall at 132. Chris Quarles won the 190-pound match with a pin.

Xavier Smith took the 175-pound match with a technical fall, and Evan Lawhead (at 215) and A.W. Vankirk (at 285) were decision winners.

Rocks have perfect showing at Columbus North Invitational

The REPORTER

The Westfield boys wrestling team finished a perfect 5-0 at the Columbus North Invitational last Saturday.

The Shamrocks triumphed in all five of their duals, beating Columbus North 46-12, Cascade 62-12, Bloomington North 69-6, Monrovia 65-10 and Brown County 84-0.

Five Westfield wrestlers went 5-0 in their matches: Connor Maddox at 106 pounds, Porter Temples at 120, Trevor Humburg at 126, Eli Turner at 175 and Cam Echarad at 215. In addition, Job Mavricks was 4-0 at 285 pounds and Carter Niccum was 3-0 at 132 pounds. Four more Sham-



Photo by Manford Photography

Westfield's Job Mavricks was 4-0 for the Shamrocks during the Columbus North Invitational last Saturday.

rocks were 4-1 for the day: Saez at 144, Graydon Staley at 150 and Max Brown at 138.

165. Alic Washburn was 3-1 at 138.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Dec. 18

BOYS WRESTLING

Frankton at Hamilton Heights, 6 p.m.
Carmel at Center Grove, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tipton at Sheridan, 7 p.m.
Guerin Catholic at New Palestine, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS WRESTLING

New Palestine at Hamilton Heights, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 19

BOYS WRESTLING

Westfield at Noblesville, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Bishop Chatard at University, 6 p.m.

SWIMMING

Guerin Catholic at New Castle (with New Palestine), 5:30 p.m.
University at Lebanon (with Purdue Polytechnic), 6 p.m.

Please email schedule changes or corrections to sports@readthereporter.com.

Pittman signs to University of Toledo



Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

Atley Pittman has committed to the University of Toledo women's soccer team. (Front row, from left) Craig Pittman (father), Atley Pittman, and Julie Pittman (mother). (Back row, from left) Noblesville Girls Soccer Head Coach Mike Brady and Noblesville Girls Soccer Assistant Kristin Hetzel.

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— Hamilton the Kitten

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