

THURSDAY, JAN. 16, 2025

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy. Morning snow showers. A dusting is possible.
 Tonight: Mostly to partly cloudy.

HIGH: 33 LOW: 22



Tony Cook recognized for life of public service

Submitted by Kathryn Cook

On Jan. 8, then-Governor Eric Holcomb personally selected Cicero's own Tony Cook to receive a Sagamore of the Wabash award.

While Cook was surprised by the award, he has had a lengthy and successful period of service to Indiana, both through his service in the Indiana House of Representatives for eight years, his service as Hamilton Heights High School Principal (particularly during the matriculation of Ryan White), as well as assistant superintendent and superintendent at Hamilton Heights School Corporation – a total of 25 years – and his service as Noblesville High School Principal for seven years.

Following his retirement from public office, Cook was named the Executive Director of the Indiana Coalition for Growing and Suburban Schools in late 2023, with the goal of identifying, clarifying, addressing, and advocating for the interests of the growing and suburban schools (currently 24 school corporations) as chief spokesperson to the state legislature.

Well done, Tony Cook!



Photo provided Governor Eric Holcomb (left) presented the Sagamore of the Wabash Award to former State Representative and longtime educator Tony Cook on Jan. 8.

Dr. C

COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN
 Disability in the City

Some of you may remember the column I wrote last year about my fourth-grade teacher Mrs. B who was a powerful figure in my young life. While only in my life for a brief period, she made a lasting impression.

Growing up, searching for a diagnosis, I went from doctor to doctor, constantly introduced to someone new. It felt like most were just assessing me as another person to check off their list.

During my first appointment with Dr. C, I knew he was different. I was about 17 years old at the time. He worked for the Muscular Dystrophy clinic at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. I was not yet diagnosed with MD, but someone along the way thought it would be a good idea for me to see Dr. C. They thought he could possibly give my family and I some answers we had been searching for.

Dr. C. did not "figure me out" diagnostically speaking, but he did help me to figure myself out on a level of self-understanding and introduced me to the value of connections. He also gave me glimpse of what self-confidence felt like. He was charismatic, funny, and incredibly kind. He spoke directly to me, not just my parents. I felt seen and heard in a way I had not before in the medical community. That was one doctor's appointment that I always looked forward to.

A few visits in, Dr. C. suggested something to me that I was not expecting. He proposed the idea of me being a camp counselor at the Muscular Dystrophy Association's summer camp. At first, I thought that seemed like a bad idea. I wondered how I would wrangle a group of kids when I could barely wrangle myself.

He explained further that it was a camp for kids that live with Muscular Dystrophy and that I would be assigned to one camper for the week. MDA Camp is an opportunity for kids with Muscular Dystrophy to connect with others like them without worry of being judged or bullied by children who do not understand their differences – a place safe to be themselves and have the rare opportunity to spend time with other kids who live with Muscular Dystrophy. It is also a place where many different recreational activities are accessible and allow for opportunities these kids may not often get. It is incredible.

See Dr. C . . . Page 2

Community Corrections executive director retiring after 35 years

Kevin Mulroony ready to succeed Ralph Watson

The REPORTER

Ralph Watson, Executive Director of Hamilton County Community Corrections, will retire this Friday, Jan. 17 after dedicating 35 years to public service in the county.

Watson has served as the agency's sole executive director since its inception in 1990. Under his leadership, it has developed a reputation for excellence in managing residential and community-based correctional programs that help rehabilitate offenders and support public safety.

Watson says his decision to retire comes at a time when the

county is poised for new opportunities.

"It's a good time for me to step back," he said. "The county has a lot of new possibilities ahead of it, and I'm confident that the agency will continue to thrive."

Watson began his career with the Hamilton County probation department as a juvenile probation officer in 1984. Reflecting on his tenure, he said, "Hamilton County has always been proactive in looking toward the future and wanting to try new things. It's been

See Retiring . . . Page 2



Mulroony



Photo provided

(From left) Peggy Nation, County Clerk Kathy Kreag Williams, Ralph Watson, Kathy Moorhous, Councilman Steve Nation, and retired judge Daniel Pflugging during Watson's retirement party last Friday, Jan. 10.

Angels' Attic & Meijer team up to feed hungry local families

The REPORTER

Angels' Attic of Arcadia has begun a partnership with Meijer to provide much-needed relief to local families facing food insecurity through the retailer's customer-driven hunger relief program, *Simply Give*.

The new store at Noblesville Promenade has given us the opportunity to become a part of a program that has impacted Hamilton County's hunger situation over the years," Angels' Attic Executive Director Kimberly Beaver said. "While the need in Jackson and White River Townships increases, so does the supply, thanks to programs like this."

Each Meijer *Simply Give* campaign feeds hungry families by replenishing the shelves of more than 270 food pantries in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Wisconsin. The program encourages customers to add a \$10 *Simply Give* donation card to their cart, which is then converted into a Meijer food-only gift card and given to a local food pantry in the store's community. If desired, this \$10 donation card may be scanned multiple times to allow Meijer shoppers to give even more generous donations.

See Feed . . . Page 2



Noblesville Common Council awards 'Stake in the Ground' to city engineers

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Common Council recognized Assistant City Engineer Jim Hellmann and Project Manager Andrew Rodewald as the 2024 Stake in the Ground honorees at its meeting Tuesday night.

The "Stake in the Ground" Award recognizes city employees – typically at the director level – who go above and beyond in their roles by "putting a stake in the ground" and significantly impacting the community. Each councilor makes a nomination, and then all members vote on the award.

"It was very well deserved," said Council Member Mark Boice, who nominated the duo. "City Engineer Ali Krupski won the award in 2022, and she gave all the credit to her team, including Jim and Andrew. When Ali went on family leave to have a baby earlier this year, both did a phenomenal job, and we took it for granted how

well they did while she was gone."

Boice identified several significant infrastructure projects the engineering department completed over the past year. The city opened the first phase of the Reimagine Pleasant Street project and continues the work on phases 2 and 3. Hellmann's work with private development was pivotal in supporting the city's success in housing and economic development. Rodewald oversaw a majority of the city's capital projects that are in design and construction and led the Noblesville Safety Action Plan and the city's annual resurfacing programs.

"I am so proud of and thankful for Jim and Andrew," City Engineer Ali Krupski said. "Their leadership and support within the engineering department, city hall, and public are unmatched. The city and engineering department have



Photo provided by City of Noblesville

Assistant City Engineer Jim Hellmann, left, and Project Manager Andrew Rodewald were selected as the 2024 "Stake in the Ground" recipients at the Noblesville Common Council meeting Tuesday night.

completed major goals and milestones these last five years, and it would not have been possible without them."

Combined, the two have worked for the city for 41 years – 22 for Hellmann and 19 for Rodewald.

The Feeding Team launches pantry No. 77



Photo provided

The Feeding Team recently launched its 77th pantry, located at Suburban Estates on State Road 19 just north of 206th Street. In partnership with Gaylor Electric, Pastor Ben Stafford, and Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Noblesville, this pantry will serve neighbors in Northern Noblesville and Cicero. FeedingTeam.org is a local 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity that focuses on delivery of non-perishable meals to hungry families throughout central Indiana.

RETIRING

a great place to grow and make a difference.”

Kevin Mulroony, who has served as the agency's Director of Administration since 2014, will step into the role of Executive Director. He has worked closely with Watson for many years and brings a wealth of experience to the position. Prior to joining Hamilton County

Community Corrections, he served in various roles with the Indiana Department of Corrections, including as Deputy Warden at the Miami County Correctional Facility. A Ball State University graduate with a degree in criminal justice, Mulroony said he is excited to make a meaningful impact on the community.

“The Hamilton County

Community Corrections Department is at the forefront of changing lives and improving public safety, and I look forward to building on Ralph's legacy,” Mulroony said. “This agency wouldn't be where it is today without Ralph's leadership, and my goal is to continue expanding our services to meet the growing needs of the county.”

from Page 1

DR. C

from Page 1

I did not know that week would change my life, but I cautiously accepted his offer. That is the first time I did something that far outside of my comfort zone – well, other than speech class in high school! He cheered me on, assuring me I was capable of my role as camp counselor. He even told me he planned to make an appearance at the end of the week dance party.

It did not take long for me to settle in once at camp. I finally felt at home somewhere. Confident, just as I was, not pretending to make others around me more comfortable. By suggesting this role for me, Dr. C helped me to see that I had value and that as a disabled person, I could make

a difference for others. I did not just need help; I could also be a helper. That led me to my career path. I fell in love with helping others in a way that also helped me to feel confident. In my work, I was able to share with many families whose children had disabilities – my expertise as someone who had lived life with a disability. I am pretty sure my smile at the camp dance assured him that he made the right choice by suggesting this role to me.

Dr. C is another person I wish I could give a giant hug and thank him for investing in me. It is not that I spent a lot of time with him. It is that the time we spent together was used in a way that had a monumental impact on my life.

Often, we think the only people we are helping along the way are those we invest a lot of time in. That is not true. One encounter with someone could be a huge steppingstone for them. Never discount the fleeting moments you have with others who you do not know all that well. Those experiences can change someone's life or instill something in them that they will be able to tap into later.

Until next time ...

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

FEED

from Page 1

Customers shopping online using Meijer Pickup or Home Delivery can also include *Simply Give* donation cards as an add-on to their order.

Angels' Attic will be the recipient of the donation cards at the Noblesville Promenade Meijer store at 5956 Promenade Shops Blvd. – located at the intersection of State Road 32 and Little Chicago Road – now through March 29. In addition, Meijer will double match all customer cards activated on Saturdays, March 1 and 22, effectively tripling the contributions made on both days.

According to Beaver, “prolonged hardships and significant inflation have taught us all the importance of neighbors supporting one another; therefore, we encourage you, the members of our community, to give a food donation each time you shop by adding a *Simply Give* card to your shop-

ping cart or online order. If you would like, you may choose to give in multiples of \$10 - simply tell your cashier the amount of your gift, which will help us provide nutritious food for our neighbors in need in northern Hamilton County. Meijer will see that Angels' Attic receives it and will effectively triple it on the two double-match days in March!”

Meijer recognizes that issues of food insecurity are growing throughout the entire country.

“What's special about the Meijer *Simply Give* program is each contribution stays local and directly impacts neighborhood food pantries to help feed families in need,” said Melissa Conway, Director of Community Partnerships & Giving at Meijer. “Food insecurity remains a national issue and at Meijer, we're grateful for our customers and team members who continue to support this program, now

in its 16th year.”

Angels' Attic has served mainly Jackson and White River townships through its food pantry for over 15 years. Accompanied by a free “donated goods” store, Angels' Attic is a mission of Arcadia Christian Church that receives support from across the area. Cicero Christian Church provides funds and faithful volunteers, as do other churches, foundations, and community groups. In addition, Angels' Attic rescues food from Hamilton Heights Schools and benefits from food drives held by the students.

“Even with all the support that we receive, we have seen the needs increase proportionally,” Beaver said. “Thankfully, this opportunity for the community to *Simply Give* will grant us the ability to fully fund our Angel Meals crock pot program and provide more fresh produce in our pantry.”



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Obtain commemorative flags flown over the US Capitol from my office.



Military Academy Nominations

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



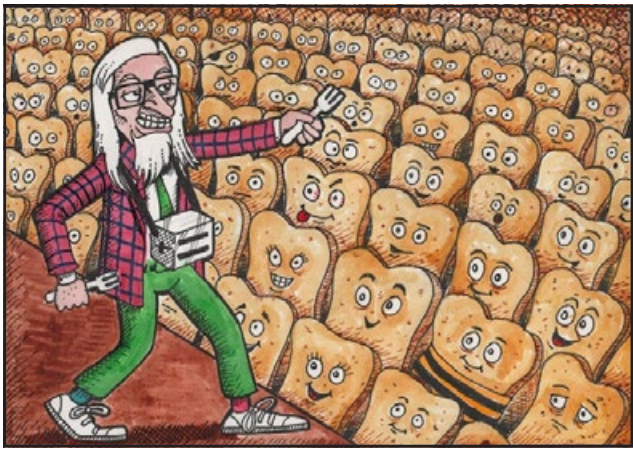
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Art provided

“Now there’s no secret to toasting perfection – there’s a dial on the side on you make your selection. Push to the dark or the light and then, if it pops too soon, press down again. *Make toast.*”

Twisted, inventive & just plain bizarre

Enjoy wry & dry humor of the great Heywood Banks this month at Feinstein’s

Submitted

You’ve heard him on *The Bob and Tom Show*, but now you can see him live at Feinstein’s in Carmel ... the always hilarious Heywood Banks.

Not surprisingly, he was born on April Fool Day. On his website he describes himself as “obnoxious” and a “class clown.” He’s still writing songs and still making people laugh, and on Friday, Jan. 24 and Saturday, Jan. 25, he’s heading back home again to Indiana to share the good times with you.

Banks is a standup comedian and songwriter. He has eight CDs and two books you can check out on his website, HeywoodBanks.com.

Get ready for two nights of laughs, music, and wry humor as Heywood Banks takes the stage. Banks is simply one-of-a-kind, almost impossible to describe,

with a style his very own. Equal parts genius and buffoon, this songwriter-comic-singer-poet-musician has become a cult hero and a pop icon with a show that appeals to college students, stoners, businessmen, yuppies, rednecks, punks, kids, or your own grandmother.

Banks intersperses his humorous observations of life with twisted, inventive, bizarre songs, sung and played in a variety of styles from folk to country to rock to pop and way beyond.

You have to be pretty keen to get Banks at his deepest level (he demands a high level of pop culture literacy), but you can also enjoy him just for his vocal style impersonations, expert musicianship, and just plain silliness.

Get your tickets to these shows at feinsteinsc.com. Browse the website for even more stupendous shows coming in 2025.

Still time to get tickets for Westfield Lantern Awards

The REPORTER

The Westfield Lantern Awards are only two weeks away. This year’s Awards Ceremony will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30 at the Prairie Waters Event Center, 4180 Westfield Road (State Road 32).

Come celebrate the Westfield community at a semi-formal cocktail reception designed to bring the city together for an eve-

ning of fellowship while recognizing and honoring outstanding residents and businesses.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit nominations and uplift your peers for their achievements in 2024. Please plan to attend to see the reveal of this year’s finalists at the Lantern Awards.

[Click here](#) to purchase tickets.

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Meeting Notice

The Noblesville Firefighter Merit Commission meeting scheduled for 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025, has been canceled due to lack of a quorum.

Send Meeting Notices to:
News@ReadTheReporter.com

Fishers Parks invites you to commemorate MLK Jr. Day

The REPORTER

Create your unique “I have a dream” yard sign to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This passive activity offers up space at the Fishers Parks HQ, 8100 E. 106th St., to customize your free yard sign with provided art supplies.

Drop in anytime between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. through Friday, Jan. 17 to make your yard sign before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 20. Signs will be available on a first-come, first-served

basis. All materials will be provided at no cost.

All participants are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for donation to the city’s annual MLK Day of Service food drive.

City-wide commemoration & service opportunities

Fishers’ 2025 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration offers residents ways to give back and celebrate the message of kindness from Dr. King. With local food pantries experiencing an increase in demand and a de-

crease in supply, the city is holding a community-wide food drive. Last year, the community donated 20,000 pounds of food.

Through Jan. 17 (business hours)

- Fishers City Hall (1 Municipal Drive)
- Fishers Art Center (1 Municipal Drive)
- Hamilton East Public Library (5 Municipal Drive)
- Fishers YMCA (9012 E. 126th St.)
- Fishers Parks HQ (8100 E. 116th St., Suite 150)

Select from the Hamil-

ton Southeastern Schools that students and their families can donate to: Thorpe Creek Elementary School, Fishers Elementary School, Fishers Junior High School, Southeastern Elementary School, Riverside Intermediate School, Riverside Junior High School, and Fall Creek Junior High School.

Monday, Jan. 20 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

- Kroger (9799 E. 116th St.)
- Kroger (11700 Olio Road)
- Kroger (7272 Fishers Crossing Drive)

Republicans gather for first breakfast meeting of 2025



Photos provided

The Hamilton County Republican Party Chairman’s Breakfast was held Wednesday morning at Matteo’s Ristorante Italiano, 40 N. 9th St., Noblesville. The guest speakers at this month’s breakfast were the Noblesville Common Council members, who discussed what they hope to accomplish in the next term. (ABOVE LEFT, from left) Noblesville attorney Ray Adler, Superior Court No. 5 Judge David Najjar, and Carmel attorney Paul Sweeney. (ABOVE RIGHT) Hamilton County Prosecutor candidate Josh Kocher (left) and Superior Court No. 6 Judge Stephanie Gookins.

Break into 2025 with unique experience of new dance set to timeless music with Carmel Symphony Orchestra

The REPORTER

Guest Conductor Mélisse Brunet leads the Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in an unforgettable evening combining the high-energy artistry of breakdancing with the timeless energy of classical music.

Breakin’ Classical with the CSO is set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at The Palladium in Carmel.

“It is mesmerizing to see two very distinctly dif-

ferent art forms combine for a totally new experience,” Brunet said. “This is exactly what is needed to ignite the senses during the winter months!”

Brunet is a French American conductor enchanting audiences worldwide. She was featured in the David Letterman-backed film *Maestra* which focused on groundbreaking female conductors.

Repertoire for the evening includes “Hoe Down”



by Aaron Copland, “Hungarian Dance No. 6” by Johannes Brahms, “L’Arlesienne Suite No. 2” by Georges Bizet and other timeless pieces that will have you tapping along. [Click here](#) for tickets.

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♠♥ Food

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To guarantee your seat, please email Your Name, Cell # and E-mail to Phi Beta Psi at:

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Bring your Dollar Bills!

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Braun issues order mandating state workers return to the office

By **JASON RONIMOUS**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

With one of his first official executive orders, new Governor Mike Braun has issued an executive order bringing state workers back into the office.

The order recognizes that the state of Indiana took swift action in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the lives and health of Hoosiers by allowing state agencies to function to the best of their ability amidst the ongoing pandemic, including allowing state employees to work remotely.

The order says the Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 was ended in Indiana on March 3, 2022. According to the order, remote work was appropriate during the pandemic, but that since the pandemic has ended, Hoosiers expect their elected leaders to promptly restore the public servant workforce to its pre-pandemic status and return to work in person.



Photo by Garrett Bergquist, WISH-TV

The order directs all state agencies to require all full-time employees to work in the office, facility or field location assigned by their agency, and not from a remote location by July 1, 2025.

The order directs all state agencies to require all full-time employees to work in the office, facility or field location assigned by their agency, and not from a remote location by July 1, 2025.

Click [here](#) to read the executive order.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/indiana-state-workers-return-office.

Young & colleagues reintroduce concealed carry reciprocity bill

The REPORTER

U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and John Cornyn (R-Texas) have reintroduced the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, which would allow individuals with concealed carry privileges in their home state to exercise those rights in any other state that allows concealed carry, while still abiding by that state's laws.



Young

"The Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act will protect the constitutional rights of Hoosier gun owners by ensuring any individual who legally owns a gun in Indiana can transport or possess the firearm legally in other states without fear of prosecution," Sen. Young said.

More specifically, the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act would:

- Allow individuals with concealed carry privileges in their home state to exercise those rights in any other state with concealed carry laws;
 - Treat state-issued concealed carry permits like drivers' licenses where individuals can use their home-state license to drive in another state but must abide by that other state's speed limit or road laws; and
 - Protect state sovereignty by not establishing a national standard for concealed carry.
- The Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act is endorsed by the National Rifle Association, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and Gun Owners of America.



Don't miss Festival of Ice this weekend in Carmel

The REPORTER

Top ice carvers from around the country will be in Carmel this weekend for demonstrations, the People's Choice sculpture competition and, of course, the fan favorite: speed carving.

Friday, Jan. 17
4 to 8 p.m.
Carmel Arts & Design District

See ice carving demonstrations at multiple locations along Main Street.

Saturday, Jan. 18
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Carter Green

• People's Choice: Vote for your favorite sculpture



Photos provided by City of Carmel

from noon to 5 p.m.

• Taste-test and vote for your favorite chili at the annual Carmel Fire Department Chili Cook-Off from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 19
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Carter Green

See the Speed Carving competition, as well as the announcement of the People's Choice winners.

Wiles elected new president of Noblesville Common Council

The REPORTER

On Tuesday evening, during the first Noblesville Common Council meeting of 2025, Megan Wiles was elected as its new president. The council also elected Mike Davis as vice president.

Wiles is in her third term and served as the council's vice president last year and was previously president in 2017 and 2022. She served as the co-chair for the city's Bicentennial Committee and works as Vice President, Foundation and Community Affairs for Riverview Health.

Councilor Mike Davis is in his second four-year term as a council member. He serves as the chairman of the Finance Committee and represents District 1, which includes a large portion of the northwest side of Noblesville around Morse Reservoir.

"This year, Noblesville will see several projects

come to fruition that we have been working on for many years and I'm excited to lead the council as they happen," Wiles said. "We have a lot of major infrastructure and economic developments happening this year throughout the city with more opportunities in front of us. I can't wait to continue to make smart investments for the people of Noblesville and make this the best community to live, work and play in."

Wiles is the representative from District 6, includes a large portion of the east side of Noblesville - Stony Ridge, Sagamore, Chapel Woods, Stony Creek Highlands, Silo Ridge, Deer Path, and the business areas of Stony Creek Marketplace, Hamilton Town Center, and Innovation Mile.

"I look forward to



Wiles

working alongside Megan and the Noblesville Common Council to continue to move our community forward through infrastructure projects, enhanced connectivity for our residents, and economic development opportunities," Mayor Chris Jensen said. "Megan brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the council and will lead with professionalism, integrity, and a deep sense of pride for our community."

Council meetings are open to the public and held on Tuesdays that follow the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 16 S. 10th St. The Council's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 28. For more information, visit noblesville.in.gov/council.

IU Kokomo honors part-time students who make dean's list

The REPORTER

Indiana University Kokomo honors part-time students who have earned a place on the dean's list for 2024. To qualify for the dean's list, each student must

maintain a minimum 3.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale.

Those honored, listed by hometown, are:

- **Arcadia:** Ella Rose Shields and Lauren Johnson
- **Carmel:** Johnna Lea

- **Fishers:** Tayah Nicole Irvin
- **Noblesville:** Emily Milligan Pyle and Sarah Good
- **Westfield:** Kyle Kimmel

HYPOTHERMIA

Warning Signs:

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Shivering

Fumbling Hands

Memory Loss

Drowsiness

Slurred Speech

If you notice any of the above signs, immediately take your temper. If it is **BELOW 95°**, seek medical attention

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Your Hometown Weatherman!

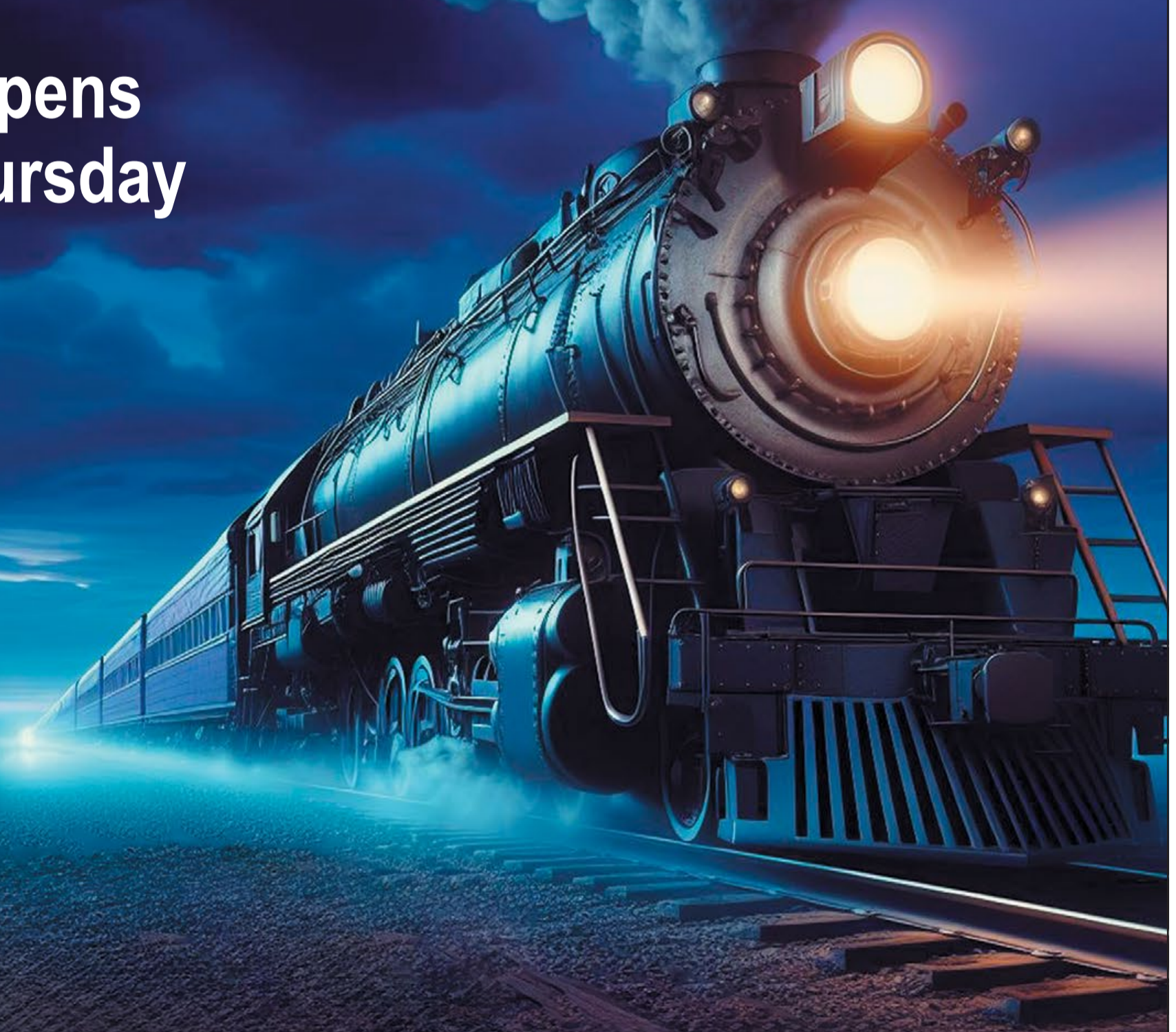
Agatha Christie's

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS



Adapted by
Ken Ludwig

Opens
Thursday



Beef & Boards
DINNER THEATRE

Celebrate National Popcorn Day at Emagine Noblesville

The REPORTER

Celebrate National Popcorn at Emagine Noblesville, 13825 Norrell Road, located in Hamilton Town Center.

For one day only, Sunday, Jan. 19, all Emagine Rewards Members are invited to visit and get a free small popcorn. The free small popcorn will be for all freshly popped classic movie-style popcorn. Guests can choose to upgrade their classic style

popcorn to a medium for \$1 or a large for \$2.

In addition, if you've never had Emagine's Gourmet Popcorn, now is your chance to try it. Emagine will also offer free samples of Gourmet Caramel, Cheddar, and OlivEpop Popcorn flavors. *Limit one gourmet popcorn sample per flavor; per guest.*

Here is your opportunity to indulge in Hollywood's favorite snack while you watch a movie at Emagine.



Photos provided

WalkerHughes Insurance acquires Independent Brokers Agency

Submitted

WalkerHughes Insurance, a privately held, founder-led retail insurance brokerage business headquartered in Indianapolis, has acquired Independent Brokers Agency LLC (IBA), a St. Louis, Mo.-based insurance agency which offers personal lines, commercial lines, and employee benefits. IBA represents WalkerHughes' first acquisition outside of Indiana.

For more than three decades, IBA has been family-owned and operated. IBA's ownership saw an opportunity to accelerate their growth through the investment and support of WalkerHughes. IBA Principal Heather Wessels and IBA Partner Mike Swatske will continue managing the St. Louis office as valuable members of the WalkerHughes team.

"We are excited to have IBA become part of the WalkerHughes story as we continue to expand our capabilities and geographic footprint," WalkerHughes CEO Benjamin Schoettmer said. "IBA has an excellent reputation in their local

community. WalkerHughes is proud to bring them on-board and welcome Heather and Mike as key leaders in our expansion to Missouri."

The IBA team will join the WalkerHughes family with Wessels and Swatske assuming local leadership and continued business development roles as Regional Directors, focused on supporting the agency's continued expansion efforts in Missouri.

"We met WalkerHughes and realized nearly immediately that our values and heart for people, community and service aligned beautifully with theirs," Wessels said. "We found in them an amazing partner with which we can enhance our client service through our combined expertise and shared culture. We are so excited for the next steps together!"

Swatske added, "Joining WalkerHughes opens a world of opportunities for clients, allowing us to provide even greater value. We are thrilled to bring WalkerHughes to Missouri and build a differentiated regional platform."

For more information, visit WalkerHughes.com.

Vendors needed for 2025 Indiana Peony Festival

By KELLY McVEY

Indiana Peony Festival

Attention florists, small businesses, artists, restaurants, and more...

We have officially opened our Vendor Applications for the 2025 Indiana Peony Festival. Can you believe we are only four

months away from our fifth annual festival?

To celebrate our fifth year, we are focusing on highlighting traditions big and small. That being said, we are seeking businesses who play a role in honoring Hoosier traditions. We are in search of prized peony goods, scrumptious sugar

cream pies, Indy race day collections, Midwest popcorn, hearty tenderloins, and more. We're excited to announce this as a new and improved section of the festival: Hoosier Row. What better place to be than Indiana in May, right?

If interested in applying, please [click here](#) visit our

website under the Callout tab at IndianaPeonyFestival.com. Applications will be open from now until 11:59 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15. Please be sure to read through all rules & guidelines before applying.

Should you have questions or concerns, please reach out to ipfkateh@gmail.com.

Fishers Art Center opens summer camp registration

The REPORTER

Even though snow is on the ground, it's time to think about summer camps for kids aged 4 to 14. Registration is open for art camps at the Fishers Art Center.

All camps are half-day, so campers can enroll in both a morning and an afternoon camp, making it a full day of art-making. Campers can mix & match their morning and afternoon camps for their own unique experience. Full-day campers have outdoor breaks and time for lunch.

Some of the camps include:

- Printmaking
- Science and art
- Ceramics
- Digital art



Photo provided

- Beaded jewelry
- Music and art

- Watercolor painting
- Sculpture sampler

Learn more at [Fishers ArtCenter.org/camps](http://FishersArtCenter.org/camps).

Obituary

Rose Carmella Nelson

August 22, 1926 – January 12, 2025

Rose Carmella Nelson, Indianapolis, passed peacefully at the age of 98, on January 12, 2025.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children, Bill Nelson (Debbie), Jeanne Nelson, Andrea Sachs, Mark Nelson (Debbie), and Donna McCurdy (John); her 11 grandchildren, Kaleigh, Corey, Matthew, Jacqueline, Stephanie, Rachel, Venetia, Rachelle, Audrey, Jordan, and Brendan; her 14 great-grandchildren; her sister, Tina DeMarco; nieces, Gina DeMarco and Christa Rice (Peter); and her two great nephews.

Rose will be dearly missed by her loving friends from Fairfield Glade, Tenn., and from Nora Commons on the Monon where she lived the last 11 years.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband of 51 years, William Andrew Nelson; granddaughter, Stephanie Sachs; brother-in-law, Robert DeMarco; and her parents, Nicholas and Isabella Cassano.

Everyone who met Rose saw her young spirit and spunk. She was a social butterfly and loved helping a good cause when needed. She was especially passionate about recognizing our veterans and helped create a memorial/gratitude wall in her apartment building.

Visitation will be from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., with services at 2:30 p.m., on Friday, January 17, 2025, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers with Father Jordan Boone presiding. Graveside service will immediately follow at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens in Indianapolis.

Mom rarely wore black and loved color, so please feel free to wear your bright colors in memory of her.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Disabled American Veterans at P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301, or online at help.dav.org.

The family wishes to send a special thank you to the loving care she received at Compass Hospice.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

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Roberta Louise Yohe

August 6, 1925 – January 13, 2025

Roberta Louise Yohe, 99, Arcadia, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 13, 2025. Born on August 6, 1925, in Curtisville, Ind., to the late Harry and Elsie (Hill-an) Parr, Roberta lived a long, full, and vibrant life that touched many hearts. On February 25, 2000, Roberta married the love of her life, Jackie F. Yohe, and they shared 12 years of marriage. Roberta had a strong work ethic and worked hard for everything she had in life. She retired as a Retail Sales associate but never stopped enjoying the sales world, especially her love for Avon.

Known for her outgoing personality, Roberta was a member of the Elwood Professional Business Women's Club and the Elwood Community Services. She was always up for a good time, whether it was taking leisurely rides on the golf cart, sharing her cooking talents with family and friends, or just enjoying a moment of lighthearted conversation. She had a heart of gold, always kind and compassionate to both friends and strangers alike.

Roberta leaves behind her son, David (Richard) Briscoe; her stepdaughters, Sandy (Glenn) Murray and Joa (John) Griffith, both of Elwood, Ind.; grandchildren, Brenda Briscoe of Jeffersonville, Ind., and Brent Briscoe of Evansville, Ind.; loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and a host of loving extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her father, Harry Franklin Parr, mother, Elsie Elsie Parr, son, Stephen R. Briscoe, and her husband, Jackie F. Yohe.

Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, January 17 at Hartley Funeral Home, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero, with a funeral service to celebrate Roberta's life at 1 p.m., with Mark Knapp officiating. Burial will follow in Curtisville Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Curtisville Christian Church.

You will be deeply missed, but your legacy of kindness, hard work, and love will live on forever in the hearts of all who knew you.

Condolences may be made at hartleyfuneralhomes.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.

Aaron Thomas Etherington

December 13, 1999 – January 13, 2025

Aaron Thomas Etherington, 25, Noblesville, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, January 13, 2025. Born in Noblesville on December 13, 1999, to Brett and Missy (Smith) Etherington, Aaron lived a life full of adventure, laughter, and love, bringing joy to everyone who crossed his path.

A standout basketball player, Aaron's athletic talents were widely recognized. He played basketball for Hamilton Southeastern High School and then went on to play collegiately for Toledo, UIndy, and St. Francis in Fort Wayne, always leaving a mark with his energy and determination on and off the court. But Aaron's passion wasn't just reserved for sports – he had a zest for life that made him the life of any party. Whether he was out on the lake, at a concert with friends, or spending time with his beloved dogs, Ripley and Koda, Aaron's presence always lit up the room.

Aaron's fun-loving and outgoing nature made him the best brother, son, and friend anyone could ask for. He worked as a Construction Worker at Independent Restoration Services, but his heart was always with those he loved most – his family and friends. His huge heart, playful spirit, and love for adventure made him unforgettable to all who knew him.

Aaron is survived by his parents, Brett (Michelle) Etherington of Lapel, and Missy Sue (Tony Bobinac) Etherington-Bobinac of Pendleton; brothers, Austin Charles (Faith) Etherington of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Alexander "Alex" Ward (Santana) Etherington of Noblesville; his beloved grandmother, Carol Smith of Kokomo; grandparents, Tom & May Etherington of Russiaville, and Jack & Vicki Smith of Kokomo; his niece, Ivy Etherington, one future niece, and one future nephew; stepsisters, Brooklynn Boles and Breanna (Devon) Dowden; aunts, Angela (Josh) Hall of Kokomo, and Tammy (partner Randy Bogue) Adair of Kokomo; uncle, Adam (Robbin) Smith of Fort Wayne and Tracy Etherington of Russiaville; and several cousins.

Aaron's infectious laughter, boundless energy, and love for life will forever be remembered by all who knew him. He was truly one of a kind, and his memory will live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2025, at Arcadia Christian Church, 26901 State Road 19, Arcadia. A service to celebrate Aaron's life will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 18, 2025, at Arcadia Christian Church, with J.R. Moffatt officiating. Burial will follow at Cicero Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to your local Humane Society in Aaron's name.

Aaron's care has been entrusted to Hartley Funeral Homes in Cicero and online condolences may be made at hartleyfuneralhomes.com.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE SABBATH

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the Lord, who makes you holy.

"Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it is to be put to death; those who do any work on that day must be cut off from their people. For six days work is to be done, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day is to be put to death. The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant. It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed."

When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

Exodus 31:12-18 (NIV)

William Jr. Higgins

October 21, 1929 – January 14, 2025

William Jr. Higgins, 95, Westfield, passed away on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at Springhurst Health Campus in Greenfield, Ind. He was born on October 21, 1929, to Gaither and Martha (Hensley) Higgins in Erwin, Tenn.



Bill proudly served his country in the United States Army and Navy during World War II. He worked as a welder and retired from Sears as a stock clerk. Bill enjoyed gardening, doing crossword puzzles, and watching westerns. He loved playing guitar and listening to country music. Bill loved his hometown of Erwin, Tennessee.

He is survived by his daughter, Judy (Bob) Aschliman; son, Rudy (Alison) Cline; two granddaughters, Melissa (Chris) McGee and Alexandra (Zahran) Elwell; three great-grandchildren, Tommy, Mikey, and Lizzie; and his favorite niece, Martha Tipton.

In addition to his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Ella Faye Higgins, in 2019.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, January 20, 2025 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

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REPORTER SPORTS THURSDAY

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

Boys Wrestling



The Westfield boys wrestling team won the Paul Loggan Invitational last Saturday at North Central, and followed that up on Wednesday with a 51-21 dual-meet win over Carmel.

Photo by Kelley Tanner



Sheridan's Ryker Ream finished the day as champion at 190 pounds at the Tipton Invitational last Saturday, where he also set a new record for takedowns in a season. Ream is pictured with coaches Steve Leonard (left) and Jason Pedigo (right).

Photo by Sara Ream

Westfield beats Carmel in dual meet, first time in over 10 years

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

WESTFIELD – The Westfield boys wrestling team picked up a dual-meet victory over Carmel on Wednesday.

The Shamrocks beat the Greyhounds 51-21 at CSI Gymnasium; it was the first time in over a decade that Westfield had beaten Carmel in a dual meet. The Shamrocks' solid lightweights started the meet off with a bang, and that carried Westfield through to the win.

"I definitely think starting where we started with the heart of our lineup there,

that really gave us a lot of momentum," said 'Rocks coach Tom Griffin.

Westfield won the first seven matches of the meet. Connor Maddox received a forfeit at 106 pounds, then Brayden Head edged out Carmel's Carlo Federici in a 6-5 decision at 113. Porter Temples came up next at 120 pounds, and he got a quick fall, the first of five pins for Westfield in the meet.

Trevor Humburg won a 16-1 technical fall at 126 pounds, then 132-pounder Carter Niccum got a fast pin. Alic Washburn won at 138 by major decision, and Jake Saez picked up a 10-3

WESTFIELD 51, CARMEL 21 Meet started at 106 pounds

- 106: Connor Maddox (W) won by forfeit
- 113: Brayden Head (W) def. Carlo Federici (C) by decision, 6-5
- 120: Porter Temples (W) def. Sully Mahar (C) by fall, 0:44
- 126: Trevor Humburg (W) def. Elliott Leonard (C) by technical fall, 16-1
- 132: Carter Niccum (W) def. Cedric Sylva (C) by fall, 0:55
- 138: Alic Washburn (W) def. Tyler Elliott (C) by major decision, 14-5
- 144: Jake Saez (W) def. Brayden Mack (C) by decision 10-3
- 150: Eli Penquite (C) def. Graydon Staley (W) by decision, 7-5
- 157: Padraig Oatis (W) def. Jude Wright (C) by fall, 1:15
- 165: Max Brown (W) def. Eli Ison (C) by fall, 4:56
- 175: Michael Major (C) def. Sam Travis (W) by fall, 0:49
- 190: Adel Navarette (C) def. Riley Davison (C) by fall, 2:36
- 215: Will Massey (C) def. John Stryker (W) by fall, 3:05
- 285: Job Mavrick (W) def. Jackson Bui (C) by fall, 5:53

on the board at 150, with Eli Penquite getting past Graydon Staley in a 7-5 decision. Westfield then got

157-pound winner and Max Brown won at 165.

See *Rocks* . . . Page 10

Sheridan's Ream sets takedown record

The **REPORTER**

Sheridan wrestler Ryker Ream had a record-setting day last Saturday when the Blackhawks boys team competed in the Tipton Invitational.

Ream was one of two Sheridan champions at the event, going undefeated with a 5-0 record at 190 pounds. During the tournament, Ream set a new record for takedowns in a season; he finished the tournament with 69 takedowns,

easily surpassing the old record of 65.

"This means a lot, the record was 30 plus years old, and to come from not even wrestling varsity my freshman year to breaking a record and planning to wrestle in college, it really means a lot," said Ream.

Alex Cravens also finished the day as champion, as he was perfect at 157 pounds with a 5-0 mark.

See *Ream* . . . Page 10

Carmel High School unveils Bill Shepherd Court

First family of Carmel High School basketball comes together to honor the patriarch

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

The Shepherds are the first family of Carmel basketball. Last Saturday, they came together to honor the patriarch.

The basketball court at the Eric Clark Activity Center was officially renamed the Bill Shepherd Court last week, and a ceremony took place during halftime of the Carmel-Westfield boys basketball game. Members of the Shepherd family attended the ceremony, including all four of his children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bill Shepherd served as the coach of the Greyhounds from 1958 to 1970. During his tenure, Carmel broke a 41-year drought by winning a sectional title in 1966, starting a nine-year run of sectional championships. In 1970, the 'Hounds made their way to the state championship game, marking their first appearance at state since 1925.

Along the way, Shepherd coached both of his sons, who went on to become Indiana Mr. Basket-

balls and score over 2,000 points for their careers. Billy Shepherd graduated from Carmel in 1968 and David Shepherd graduated in 1970.

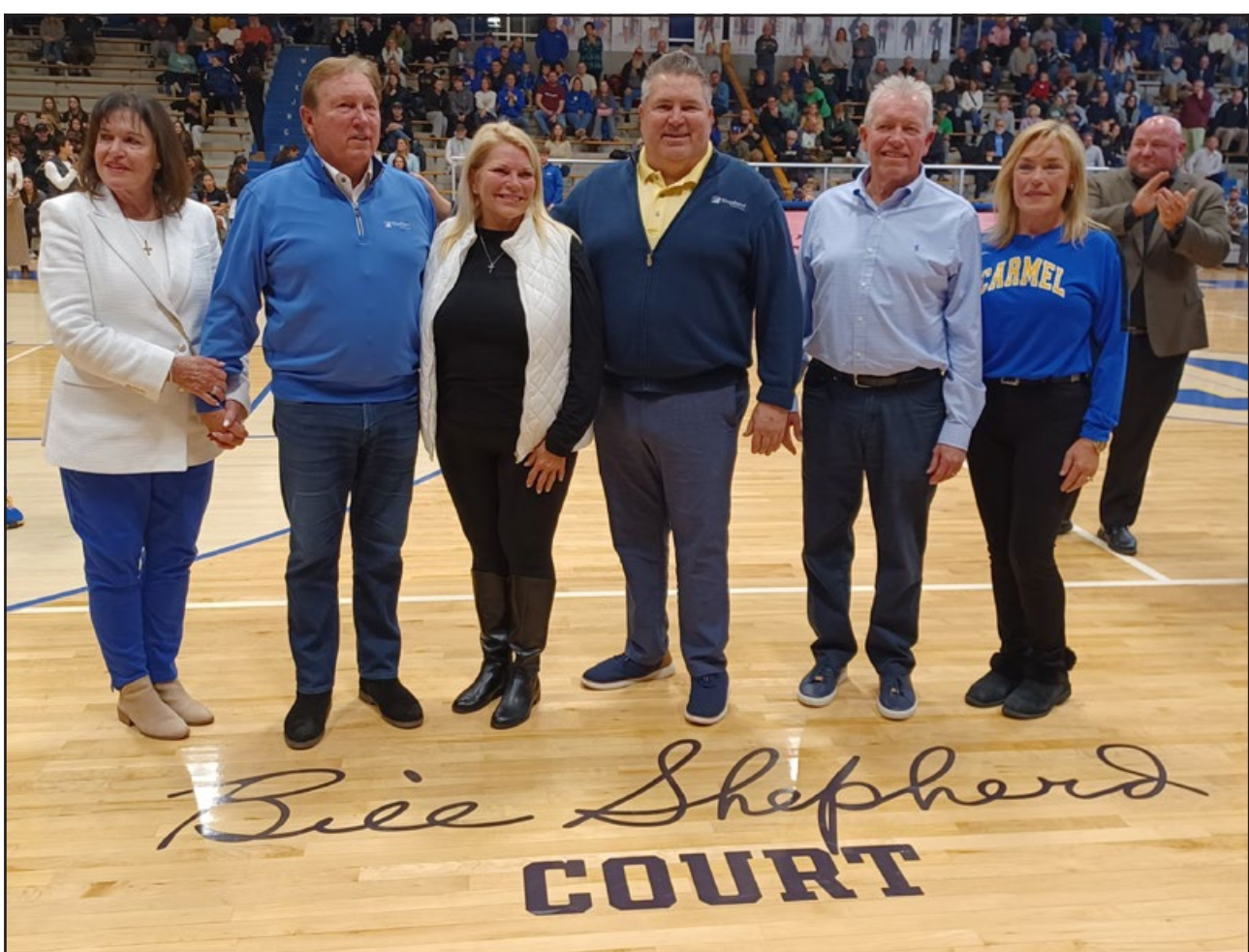
"It was just a great evening to celebrate a lifelong feeling of basketball and sharing basketball with my family," said Billy Shepherd. "With brothers and sister, kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews. It was just a fun evening and just very satisfying."

Billy Shepherd said that anytime there's "an opportunity in this state to have a gymnasium or a basketball court named after you, it's quite an honor, because there's no better state around than the state of Indiana" for high school basketball.

"So, for this to happen, it just brings recognition to the family, but more important, it brings recognition for my father," said Billy Shepherd.

In addition to being a championship coach, Bill Shepherd was a championship player as well. He graduated from Hope High School in 1945 (since

See *Shepherd* . . . Page 10



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

The children of Bill Shepherd happily show off their father's signature, as it marks the renaming of the basketball court as Bill Shepherd Court at Carmel's Eric Clark Activity Center. The renaming was celebrated last Saturday during a ceremony at halftime of the Greyhounds' boys basketball game with Westfield. Pictured: Sally Shepherd (wife of David), David Shepherd, Cindy McCurdy, Steve Shepherd, Billy Shepherd, Connie Shepherd (wife of Billy).

Read about the new
**Noblesville High School
Athletic Hall of Fame
inductees in the Friday
edition of The Reporter.**

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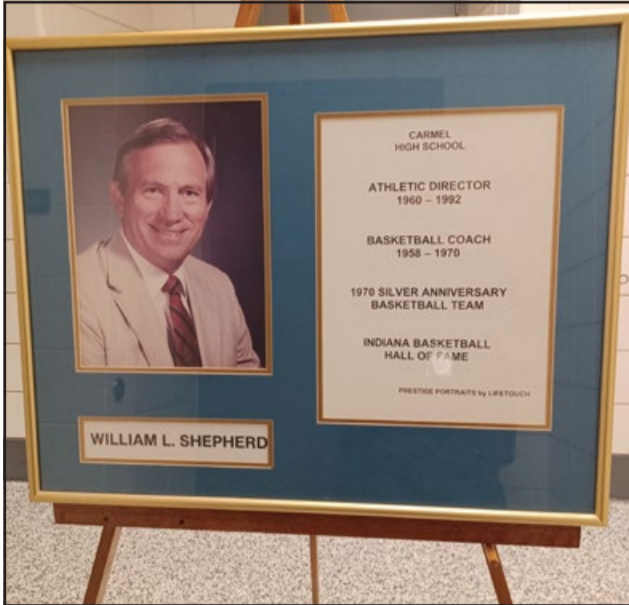
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SHEPHERD

from Page 9



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

A plaque shows Bill Shepherd's accomplishments.

consolidated into Hauser) and led Hope to its lone sectional and regional titles in 1945.

Shepherd went on to play basketball at Butler University, was named to

the 1970 Silver Anniversary Team and was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1975. Shepherd also served as Carmel's athletic director from 1960 until his retirement in 1992.

Decker commits to Trine University



Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

Noblesville's Lance Decker has committed to the Trine University men's golf team. (Front row, from left) Jeremy Decker (father), Lance Decker, and Amanda Decker (mother). (Back row, from left) Noblesville Boys Golf Head Coach Gary Deakyne and Luke Decker (brother).

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, Jan. 16

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sheridan at Speedway, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

Hoosier Conference diving meet, 5 p.m. at West Lafayette

Carmel at Pike, 6 p.m.

Guerin Catholic at Westfield, 6 p.m.

North Central at Hamilton Southeastern, 6 p.m.

Zionsville at Noblesville, 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 17

BOYS BASKETBALL

Fishers at Pike, 7:30 p.m.

Hamilton Heights at Lapel, 7:30 p.m.

Marion at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

University at Muncie Burris, 7:30 p.m.

Westfield at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.

Zionsville at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Fishers at Brownsburg, 6 p.m.

Westfield at Hamilton Southeastern, 6 p.m.

Zionsville at Noblesville, 6 p.m.

GIRLS WRESTLING

IHSAA state finals, 10 a.m. at Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum

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

Oladipupo commits to Boston College



Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

Noblesville's Israel Oladipupo has committed to the Boston College football team. (Front row, from left) Sunday Oladipupo (father), Israel Oladipupo, and Motunrade Oladipupo (mother). (Back row, from left) Jason Shonkwiler (Noblesville Football Assistant), Eric Sturgeon (Noblesville Football Assistant), Colin Jasper (Noblesville Football Assistant), Dave Sharpe (Noblesville Football Head Coach), Adam Metzler, Praise Oladipupo (brother), and Mike Campbell (Noblesville Football Assistant).

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REAM

from Page 9

Three other wrestlers went 4-1: Camdyn Vespa at 106, Caleb Alexander at 132 and Eli Smith at 150.

Another four Sheridan wrestlers were 3-2 for the day. They were Ethan Harbaugh (at 126), Asher Barrick (at 138), Brady Hammack (at 175) and Doug Earley (at 215).

The Blackhawks finished 3-2 as a team. Sheridan beat Northwestern 64-18, Indianapolis Lutheran 52-21 and Pendleton Heights 60-18. The Blackhawks' two losses were to Tipton 50-26 and Noblesville 71-12.

On Tuesday, Sheridan dropped a dual meet at Lebanon 61-15. Harbaugh (at 126) and Ream (at 190) both won by pin, while Alex Cravens got a decision victory.

Thanks for reading!

ROCKS

from Page 9

Carmel took the next three bouts by fall, with Michael Major (at 175), Adel Navarette (at 190) and Will Massey (at 215) all getting pins. Westfield's Job Mavrick won the 285-pound match; after a tight first two periods, Mavrick took control late in the third to get a pin with seven seconds left.

"I think the whole team is really starting to come together," said Griffin. "We got a lot of guys in the middle there that are new to our lineup, but as the year's going on, they just continue to progress. You look at our records, nobody on our team's got a losing record right now."

"There were matches in there that we thought going into them we could compete with, and West-

field a little bit outthusted us," said Carmel coach Ed Pendski. "We're going to go to work. And we know this is a good team. Their team is much more mature than ours. They did a great job of hustling and fighting. So, we've got things we've got to work on in our room, to go into the state tournament series."

Westfield is coming off a victory at the Paul Loggan Invitational, which took place last Saturday at North Central. The Shamrocks will compete in another big tournament on Saturday, traveling to Noblesville for the Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet. Carmel heads north on Saturday to the Garrett Invitational.

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