

**FRIDAY, JAN. 17, 2025**

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



**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Today: Mostly to partly sunny and not as cold!  
 Tonight: Rain showers after about midnight.

HIGH: 39 LOW: 34



# Storybook Kitchen serves up *Green Eggs & Ham* for Westfield students

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

As it turns out, a group of Westfield students may not be willing to eat green eggs and ham, but they were thrilled to read the book and spend some time experimenting in the kitchen.

Sixteen elementary students from across Westfield Washington Schools recently got the opportunity to participate in the first ever Storybook Kitchen offered at Westfield High School. On Tuesday, Jan. 14, the students gathered in the area outside the WHS Culinary Arts Lab Classroom to read *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss and engage in activities inspired by the book.

Planned and executed by WHS culinary students who are members of Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), the Green Eggs and Ham class marked the first in a series. Sophomores Aurora Ajiboye and Anthony Martz and junior Jayden Belyew designed the program in preparation for the FCCLA state conference in late February. Falling under the FCCLA Focus on Children category for competition, the series of classes aims to promote literacy,



Participants gathered in the Westfield High School Culinary Arts Lab Classroom to whip up omelets with green veggies.

creativity, and fine motor skills through hands-on learning that pairs language and culinary arts.

WHS Academic Coach for FCCLA Foodies Rock and Culinary Instructor Nikki Heflin said the FCCLA Focus on Children rubric requires the student to meet education and literacy standards.

"We had to pick an English standard, and we picked literacy

skills," Belyew said. "Then we picked books that we liked."

Heflin said once they got the books approved by the WHS administration, the students had to put together age- and book-appropriate literacy lessons.

For the Green Eggs and Ham class, participants began by enjoying a snack of green fruit followed by an icebreaker activity. Then, Abjiboye, who wants to

be a teacher, led the students through reading, rhyming, and writing exercises. Other FCCLA volunteers helped the students with worksheets as needed.

Following the phonics lesson, students took to the kitchen to whip up an omelet with green veggies, like spinach and onions, and, of course, diced ham.

See *Green* . . . Page 2

# It's time to embrace winter

I'm in complete disbelief and shock that I just typed that headline. Some readers may recall that I am a self-professed "summer girl." Or, lately due to menopause, a "spring girl." But in recent years, I've realized that it's not good to complain and be grumpy during winter.

It hit me in my late 40s that I, since winter in Indiana typically lasts not just three, but four months, I was spending a *third of my life* grumbling about the weather/darkness. I used to dream about moving to Florida for the winter and escaping the cold.

However, I'm married to a man who loves winter. (Weird, I know.) John's not a fan of becoming a snowbird. And since I love him and all, I realized that perhaps I could start adopting more of his attitude towards the season.

I began by learning about and embracing hygge – pronounced HOO-guh – a Danish/Norwegian concept that describes a feeling of contentment and coziness. I've written about this in a past column, but a reminder couldn't hurt.

Hygge involves rituals like lighting candles throughout the home, enjoying a fire, wearing fuzzy socks, baking, and sharing warm comfort food with those we love. We now have both battery-powered "candles" and the real things going every evening. I always turn on our "fireplace" each night . . . which is just a fake one in our little entertainment center. But it looks nice and even has a heater feature, so I'm content.

See *Embrace* . . . Page 2

# Cicero police captain, wife & father-in-law charged in drunk driving cover-up

By **MICHAELA SPRINGER & KYLA RUSSELL**  
[WISH-TV | wishtv.com](http://WISH-TV.com)

Formal charges have been filed against the **Cicero Police Department captain** who crashed his police SUV while driving drunk – and against two people who helped try and cover it up.

**Capt. Edwin Hodson** was placed on administrative leave immediately after the incident. It was unclear if he would return to the position anytime soon.

"This is an example of the system working the way that it should . . . there was a thorough investigation. The Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office asked for a special prosecutor promptly upon that investigation, and they worked a thorough case," Madison County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Andrew Hanna, selected as the special prosecutor for the case, said. "Here we are charging that officer to hold him accountable, just like you would anyone else."

Online court records show Ed Hodson, his wife Lora, and father-in-law Charles Johnston all face misdemeanor charges for the Christmas night crash that happened around 7:17 p.m. in the 9900 block of East 206th Street in Noblesville.

Probable cause affidavits shared with News 8 say Hamilton County deputies responded to the scene and found a marked Cicero police SUV on the side of the road, with its hazard lights on and visible damage to the vehicle. They also noted tire tracks in the mud, and a damaged AT&T cable box.

Ed Hodson's wife, Lora, was in the SUV when they arrived. She told the deputies she'd been driving her husband's police vehicle because he'd been drinking.

At some point, Lora Hodson says they got in an argument, and she crashed the car. Ed Hodson then left and was found walking along East 206th Street.

After reviewing interior camera footage from the police vehicle and speaking with the involved parties in, including a crash witness, investigators developed a timeline.

See *Charged* . . . Page 3



Photos provided

FLY Dance Company (above left) will bring its "theatrical hip hop" to The Palladium, combining with classical selections under the direction of Guest Conductor Mélisse Brunet (above right). The show is set for 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25.

# Breakin' Classical: the chocolate & peanut butter of musical fusion

**The REPORTER**

Prepare to be amazed as two art forms collide in *Breakin' Classical*, when Guest Conductor Mélisse Brunet leads the Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in an unforgettable evening combining the high-energy artistry of breakdancing with timeless classics from the musical canon.

Houston-based FLY Dance Company will bring their unique "theatrical hip hop" style to The Palladium at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, creating a stunning visual and auditory experience.

"It is mesmerizing to see two very distinctly different art forms combine for a totally new experience," CSO Executive Director Anne Marie Chastain. "This is exactly what is needed to ignite the senses during the winter months."

Reserved seats start at \$79. Senior and student discounts available. [Click here](#) to get tickets.

Meet & Greet the dancers and musicians for this performance at the CSO After Party in

the Brham Founders Club. Tickets are available as a \$25 add-on to the regular ticket price, or available as a season benefit to Gold Level donors to the Carmel Symphony Orchestra.

**About Mélisse Brunet**

Mélisse Brunet is one of the five conductors featured in the documentary *Maestra* by the Director Maggie Contreras and produced by David Letterman and Melanie Miller ("Navalny"). *Maestra* garnered second place in the 2023 Tribeca Film Festival Audience Award for Best Documentary.

The film's exploration of Brunet's daring journey at the international La Maestra competition and has received rave reviews in the press, including two articles in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Hollywood Reporter*.

Renowned as a conductor of "uncommon emotional intensity" (Marie-Celine) and a "force at the podium" (Eugene Scene), American conductor Brunet is a native of Paris, France, with Spanish and Italian roots. She is quickly gaining attention on



Photo provided

The 65-member Carmel Symphony Orchestra will perform as part of *Breakin' Classical* next Saturday.

both sides of the Atlantic as a skilled and polished conductor. In July 2022, she became the fifth Music Director of the Lexington Philharmonic, and the first woman to hold the position. She is also in her fifth season as the Music Director of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic. Learn more at [melissebrunet.com](http://melissebrunet.com).

**About FLY Dance Company**

FLY Dance Company is an all-male theatrical hip-hop dance

company based in Houston. The company is known for its high-energy performances with clever staging to a variety of music including classical, jazz, pop, hip hop, experimental, drumming, and live sound effects. The Propellerheads, Debussy, James Brown, Michael Jackson, The Flamingoes, Nat King Cole, and Vivaldi are a few of the music's artists and composers.

See *Breakin'* . . . Page 3



EMBRACE

from Page 1

GREEN

from Page 1



Photo provided by Amy Shankland  
Even Elli Shankland enjoys getting out in the winter.

I'm the queen of fuzzy socks and enjoy baking, especially pies. There's no better feeling than getting all warmed up after being outside in the cold, hot chocolate or tea in hand. And we always have family over for a comfort food dish on Sunday evenings in the winter.

This year I'm doing other things to help me embrace winter. I strive to bundle up with our dog Elli and get out for a walk at lunchtime every day. It may only be 15 minutes, but going around our block a couple of times admiring the snow and sunshine does wonders for us both.

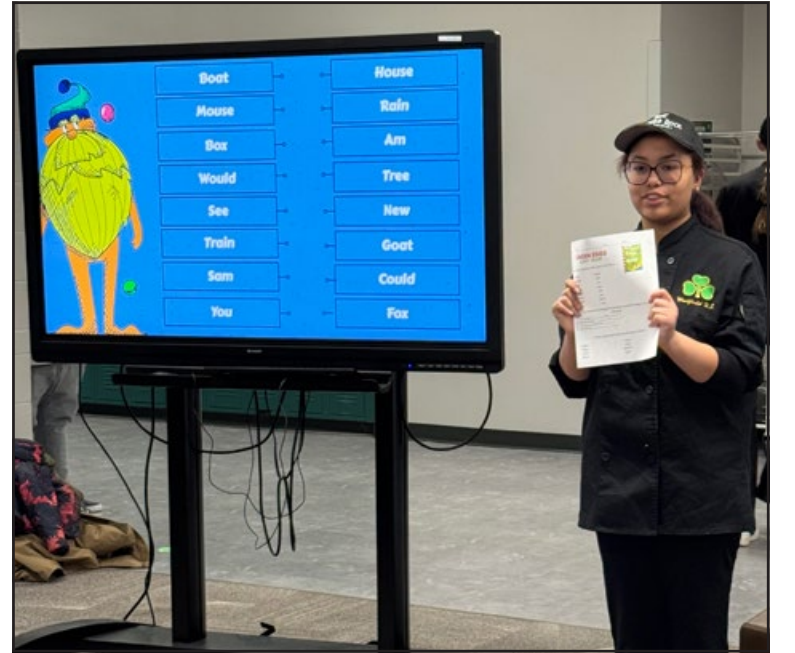
And everything looks so pretty with the snow - well, the stuff that isn't in the street. The world looks bright and clean. I must admit, I much prefer snow in winter to rain and grey skies. I strive to really admire the sights we don't ordinarily

witness in warmer weather like the sparkling snow on the trees and bushes and the glimmering icicles.

Do you ever bundle up at night and look up at the sky? The stars and planets practically jump out at you! I always love to look up when I let our dogs out at night and see the spectacular view.

Let's try to reduce our complaining and start to count the blessings of winter from now on. Go one step at a time. It's taken me years to slowly incorporate all these ideas. But even with baby steps, we can start to be happier and healthier this time of year.

Amy Shankland is a writer and fundraising professional living in Noblesville with her husband John, two sons, two dogs, and a cat. You can reach her via email at [amys@greenavenue.info](mailto:amys@greenavenue.info).



Reporter photos by Amy Adams  
(From left to right, top to bottom) Senior Arabella King, junior Lilly Koontz, and sophomore Anthony Martz were on hand to help participants with their literacy lesson and cooking class. Sophomore Aurora Ajiboye leads participants through a rhyming exercise. Second-grader Emmi Abrahms beats eggs for her omelet. Shamrock Springs student Ava Kramer completes her literacy worksheet. Fourth-grader Liam Morley works on his plate art and creates a "tiny appetizer."

Heflin said the FCCLA students put together the recipe. She helped guide them in creating the instructions, and they eventually realized they needed to use images as well as words.

However, the project goes much deeper than planning lessons and recipes. Heflin said they had to basically develop a business plan that included everything from budgeting to setting up registration forms, payment links, attendance policies, and plans for inclement weather.

"They're really learning a lot of business skills, communication skills, as well as customer service," Heflin said. "They're also learning a lot of skills from an educator's standpoint, having to work through the mind of a teacher. I've been able to step back, and I'm just coaching them and helping them think of things they haven't thought about. They are taking ownership and promoting Family & Con-

Upcoming Classes	
Jan. 28	James and the Giant Peach
Feb. 4	Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
Feb. 11	Dragons Love Tacos
March 4	I Really Like Slop
March 28	The Giant Jam Sandwich
April 15	Blueberries for Sal
April 29	If You Give a Pig a Pancake
May 6	The Three Little Pigs
May 13	The Princess and the Pizza

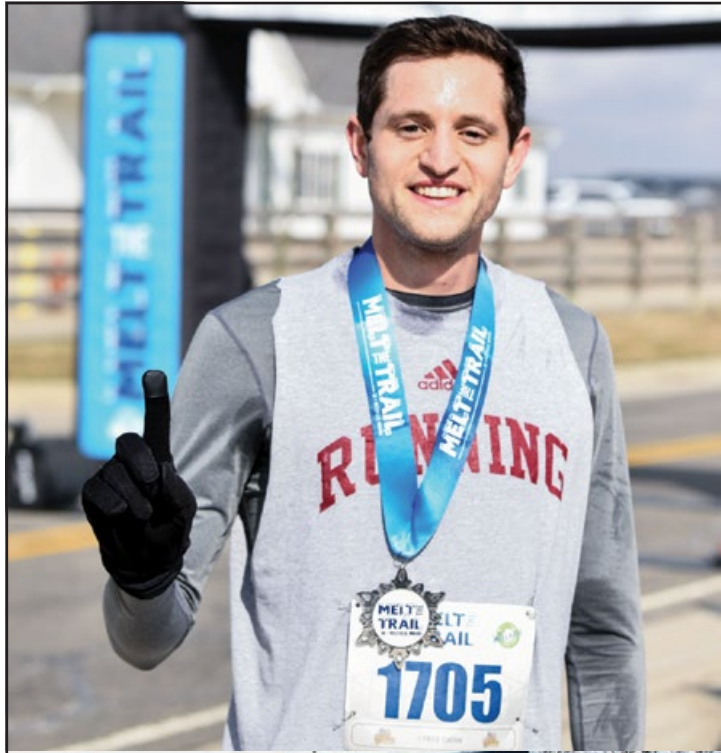
sumer Sciences throughout the district. The students are also tying into community service and service leadership, giving their time to better their school district."

Belyew said they planned 10 classes that tie it into the culinary program. The coming dates and classes are listed in the green box above.

Advanced registration is required, and the classes are \$25 each. The cost goes to provide a copy of the book to each participant as well as ingredients for the recipe.

For more details, follow [WHS Culinary Arts on Facebook](#) and email [JaydenBelyew@icloud.com](mailto:JaydenBelyew@icloud.com) with questions.

**Hello, Hamilton County With Mr. Weatherman, Paul Poteet**



# MELT THE TRAIL

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# Aguilar makes dean's list at Bucknell University **BREAKIN'**

from Page 1

**The REPORTER**

Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa., has released the dean's list for outstand-

ing academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year. Ava Aguilar of Fishers

is among the students on the dean's list. A member of the Class of 2025, she is studying political science.

A student must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

# Divis & Robertson make dean's list at Northern Illinois University

**The REPORTER**

Northern Illinois University announces its fall 2024 dean's list students.

Two Hamilton County students made the list. They are:

- Samuel Divis of Noblesville, who is studying pre-physical therapy; and
- Aubrey Robertson of Fishers, who is studying nutrition, dietetics, and wellness.

To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade-point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or

a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

## CHARGED

"There was a conversation between Edwin Hodson, and his wife, sort of deciding how Mr. Hodson would leave that scene of that accident, and that Lora Hudson, would ... claim that she was operating the vehicle to law enforcement in her way to alleviate that responsibility for Mr. Hodson, but fortunately that evidence exists, and we were able to bring charges in this case," Hanna said.

The police captain was the only passenger during the crash, his wife nowhere to be seen.

Court documents say the camera caught Ed Hodson weaving and moving through lanes erratically before running off the road and hitting a rock and the cable box. The SUV reentered the road but became undrivable.

Less than a minute after the crash, Lora Hodson arrived at the scene. Through the SUV camera audio, she's heard saying "If the cops end up here, we're in trouble."

The audio also captured

**Thanks for reading The REPORTER**

Lora Hodson calling her father, Charles Johnston, asking for him and his wife Denise to come get them. She also told her husband he shouldn't have been driving: "'You've been drinking, and you're driving.'"

Soon after, Charles and Denise Johnston arrive. Audio recordings catch Lora Hodson asking her father to make her husband get out of the driver's seat.

Charles Johnston then speaks, demanding Ed Hodson gets out of the SUV. "This is not an option," he states, followed by an expletive.

At some point, Lora Hodson tries to make Ed Hodson get in the passenger's seat. They exchange words, and Ed Hodson leaves, walking west on 206th Street.

A witness living in a home about 200 feet from the crash told deputies he was washing his dishes when he saw the crash through his window. He says he was standing outside his home watching when Ed Hodson left the scene.

Denise Johnston later told investigators she picked up the captain and dropped him off at home. Charles Johnston said he brought his daughter home, but didn't know if Ed Hodson was there.

Investigators learned that he was home, but didn't contact police until three hours later. When approached by detectives, Ed Hodson appeared unsteady, slurred his words, and spoke repetitively, court documents say.

With Capt. Hodson leaving the scene, investigators say he violated two obligations under **Indiana Code** regarding vehicle accidents: he failed to report the damaged property to the owner, and he also left the scene of the crash.

"I have all the respect in the world for law enforcement our community, but with great power comes great responsibility, and I think that law enforcement are held to an even higher standard, because those are who we entrust in our communities to enforce our laws," Hanna said.

"The town is cooperating and has cooperated with the Indiana State Police and the Hamilton County Prosecutors Office (and will continue to do so)," a member of the Cicero Town Council said. "Officer Hodson remains on administrative leave and his employment status will be addressed separate from the criminal matter."

Charges were filed against the Hodsons and

Charles Johnston on Wednesday.

• **Edwin A. Hodson, 38, Cicero:** Operating a vehicle while intoxicated (Class C misdemeanor); Operating a vehicle while intoxicated, endangering a person (Class A misdemeanor); Leaving the scene of an accident (Class B misdemeanor)

• **Lora L. Hodson, 39, Cicero:** False informing (Class B misdemeanor); Aiding, inducing or causing a leaving the scene of an accident (Class B misdemeanor)

• **Charles S. Johnston, 65, Noblesville:** Aiding, Inducing or Causing a Leaving the Scene of an Accident (Class B misdemeanor)

A special prosecutor out of Madison County has been assigned to the case, the Hamilton County prosecutor confirmed to News 8's Kyla Russell.

As of Thursday, no arrests have been made. It was unclear if Denise Johnston would face any charges.

A court hearing is set for Feb. 13.

*News 8 has reached out to the Cicero Police Department for comment.*

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wish-tv.com/news/crime-watch-8/cicero-police-captain-charged-in-drunk-driving-cover-up](http://wish-tv.com/news/crime-watch-8/cicero-police-captain-charged-in-drunk-driving-cover-up).*

Labeled an artistic phenomenon, FLY crosses street dance with classical choreographic principles. Their technique is hip-hop – very creative, gymnastic, and highly masculine. FLY's concerts are clean-cut, wholesome artistry designed to cross all audience boundaries – young and old, men and women, sophisticated and unsophisticated – with pieces combining styles and cultures to reflect contemporary Americana.

In 2012, FLY Dance Company returned to the Houston scene under the partnership of Jorge Casco, Chris Cortez, Don Lee Rivera and Adam Quiroz. FLY is currently advised by world renowned choreographer/legend Rennie Lorenzo Harris. Recently, FLY has toured the U.S., partnered with the U.S. Embassy to take their programs and concerts overseas, and celebrated their 20th anniversary with the return of Kathy Wood as Artistic Director.

As well as inspiring the youth with its educational shows through its brother company Houston Healthy Hip Hop, founded by Chris Cortez (FLY Director), HHH also provides after school programs in over 10 school districts inside and outside the Houston area. The HHH staff includes members of

FLY Dance Company and is a training ground to build passionate instructors and performers. FLY has also introduced "FLY KIDS," the dance and performance training program for younger students. FLY builds their confidence, teamwork, teach positive values and provide a positive environment to help students succeed in the performing arts. Students are also eligible to audition for FLY Dance Company after completing this program and graduating from school. Learn more at [flydance-company.com](http://flydance-company.com).

**About Carmel Symphony Orchestra**

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is a Resident Company of the Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. The 65-member orchestra of professional musicians performs at The Palladium, a 1,500-seat concert hall at the Center. Founded in 1976, the CSO performs concerts featuring an eclectic repertoire of some of the world's greatest symphonic music. The CSO is committed to enhancing our community's quality of life through creative, artistically excellent performances and educational experiences for diverse audiences of all ages. Learn more at [carmel-symphony.org](http://carmel-symphony.org).

**Program**

- Dvorak | "Carnival Overture"
- \* Copland | "Hoe Down" from "Rodeo"
- Bizet | "Carmen Suite No. 2, XI: Danse Boheme"
- Mascagni | Intermezzo from "Cavalleria Rusticana"
- \* Brahms (arr. Parlow) | "Hungarian Dance No. 6"
- Strauss | Overture to "Die Fledermaus"
- ~ intermission ~
- Beethoven | Symphony No. 5, Mvt. I
- \* Bizet | "L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2: Farandole"
- de Falla | "Spanish Dance" from "La Vida Breve"
- Chabrier | "Espana"
- \* Debussy (arr. Caplet) | "Claire de lune"
- Bizet | "Carmen Suite No. 1, V: Les Toreadors"
- \* Stravinsky | "Introduction" and "Infernal Dance" from "The Firebird"
- Williams | "Raider's March" from "Raiders of the Lost Ark"
- \* With FLY Dance Company



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**VICTORIA SPARTZ**  
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**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.



**US Capitol and White House Tour Requests**

My office can help arrange tours throughout our nation's capital.

West District Office: (317) 848-0201

East District Office: (765) 639-0671

[www.spartz.house.gov](http://www.spartz.house.gov)



# Hamilton County Veterans Community Page

## Hamilton County Veteran Service Organizations

### American Legion Posts

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

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

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

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

**Sheridan Post 67** Tom DeShon  
406 E 10<sup>th</sup> St  
Sheridan, In 46069  
317-758-5007

### VFW Posts

**Carmel Post 10003** Darin Bibeau  
12863 Old Meridian St  
Carmel, In 46032 Breakfast 2 & 4 Sat 8-11  
317-846-0917 Thurs Treasure Hunt 7pm  
**Noblesville Post 6246** Eric Behrends  
654 S 9<sup>th</sup> St  
Noblesville, In 46060  
317-773-9956

### Non-Profit Veteran Orgs

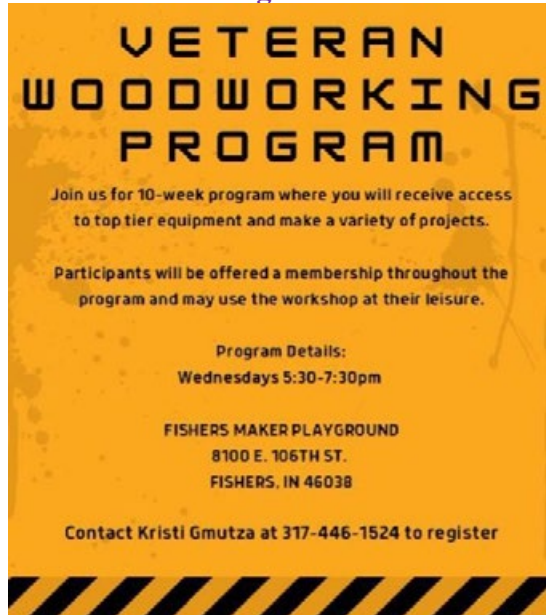
**Hamilton County Veterans Corp**  
P.O. Box 503  
Noblesville, in 46061  
[secretary@hamiltoncountyveterans.com](mailto:secretary@hamiltoncountyveterans.com)  
Meets 7pm the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday Monthly at the Fishers American Legion. Our website <https://www.hamiltoncountyveterans.com/> has 40 pages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

**Navy Club Ship 29**  
Noblesville, In  
[president@hamiltoncountyveterans.com](mailto:president@hamiltoncountyveterans.com)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs 630pm at Gingers 1804 Conner St Noblesville

### Hamilton County Veteran Service Officers

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

### Fishers Woodworking Program Through the VA



**VETERAN WOODWORKING PROGRAM**

Join us for 10-week program where you will receive access to top tier equipment and make a variety of projects.

Participants will be offered a membership throughout the program and may use the workshop at their leisure.

Program Details:  
Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm

FISHERS MAKER PLAYGROUND  
8100 E. 106TH ST.  
FISHERS, IN 46038

Contact Kristi Gmutza at 317-446-1524 to register

## Hamilton County Military Veteran

**FREE PGA HOPE Golf for Veterans at Highland Golf on 52<sup>nd</sup> St Indianapolis - Sign Up NOW!**



PGA HOPE IS THE FLAGSHIP MILITARY PROGRAM OF THE PGA OF AMERICA. DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE GOLF TO VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL TO ENHANCE THEIR SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING. THIS INCLUSIVE PROGRAM WELCOMES INDIVIDUALS OF ALL AGES, BRANCHES, SERVICE ERAS, RENDERS, AND ABILITIES. FOSTERING CAMARADERIE AND ENJOYMENT ON THE GOLF COURSE. NO GOLF EQUIPMENT IS REQUIRED, BUT IF PARTICIPANTS HAVE THEIR OWN CLUBS OR SPECIALIZED GEAR, THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING THEM.

NO PRIOR GOLF EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.

NO VA BIGABILITY RATING REQUIRED.

VETERANS DO NOT NEED TO HAVE COMBAT EXPERIENCE OR DEPLOYMENTS TO PARTICIPATE.

ALL EXPENSES RELATED TO PGA HOPE ARE COVERED.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 20

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QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT INDIANA GOLF DIRECTOR OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT, ANDREW JENT 317.739.3012 [AJENT@INDIANAGOLF.ORG](mailto:AJENT@INDIANAGOLF.ORG) [HTTP://INDIANAGOLF.ORG/](http://INDIANAGOLF.ORG/)

DATES	
February 12	9:00am - 10:30am
February 19	9:00am - 10:30am
February 26	9:00am - 10:30am
March 5	9:00am - 10:30am
March 12	9:00am - 10:30am
March 19	9:00am - 10:30am

## January Hamilton County Veterans Care Package Drive for Our Deployed Hoosiers - We Need Goods and Donations

**Hamilton County Veterans Corp Care Package Drive for our Deployed Hoosiers**



Please help us collect items to send care packages to our deployed Hoosier troops. Purchase items on the list below and bring them to your local Hamilton County VFW or American Legion Post where they will be collected and brought to the Fishers American Legion Post on January 25<sup>th</sup> for packaging. We also need to raise money for shipping costs, so please donate online at <https://donorbox.org/hamilton-county-veterans-corp> or drop off funds at the Legion & VFW where you leave the goods for the care packages. We need the good and funds delivered by January 24, 2025. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!!**

Here are your local Hamilton County VFW & American Legion Post's addresses.

Carmel American Legion Post 155 - 852 West Main St, Carmel, In 46032

Carmel VFW Post 10003 - 12863 Old Meridian St, Carmel, In 46032

Cicero American Legion Post 341 - 50 Washington Ave, Cicero, In

Fishers American Legion Post 470 - 9091 E 126<sup>th</sup> St, Fishers, In

Noblesville American Legion Post 45 - 273 S 8<sup>th</sup> St, Noblesville, In 46060

Noblesville VFW Post 6246 - 654 S 9<sup>th</sup> St, Noblesville, In 46060

Sheridan American Legion Post 67 - 406 E 10<sup>th</sup> St, Sheridan, In

Care Package Items Needed for Our Deployed Troops

<p><b>Hygiene and Personal Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deodorant</li> <li>Toothpaste</li> <li>Toothbrush</li> <li>Shampoo/Conditioner</li> <li>Body Wash</li> <li>Wet Wipes</li> <li>Female Hygiene Products</li> <li>Hand Warmers</li> <li>Manicure Set</li> <li>Back Scratchers</li> <li>Socks (no tube socks), foot powder</li> <li>Hand Sanitizer</li> <li>Cleaning Cloths/Spray (for glasses/goggles)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Snack Items – cont</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gum</li> <li>Candy</li> </ul> <p>*All food items must be store-bought.</p> <p><b>Down-Time Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small Balls or Footballs</li> <li>Puzzle Books</li> <li>Travel-Sized Games</li> <li>Coloring Books</li> <li>Pens/Pencils</li> <li>Colored Pencils</li> <li>Pencil Sharpeners</li> <li>Letters thanking them for their service</li> </ul>
<p><b>Snack Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Microwavable popcorn</li> <li>Microwavable noodle cups/mac &amp; cheese</li> <li>Fruit Cups/Anchors/crackers</li> <li>Protein Bars</li> <li>Jerky or Meat Sticks</li> <li>Sunflower Seeds</li> <li>Freeze-Dried Fruit (Single Serve)</li> <li>Hot Sauce Packets</li> <li>Single-Serve Peanut Butter or Nutella</li> <li>Single-Serve Cereals (Boxes or Cups, no bags as they will crush easily)</li> <li>Pop-Tarts</li> <li>Nuts/Trail Mix (Single Serve Preferred)</li> <li>Powdered Drink Mixes like Crystal Light or Sports Drinks (Single Serve)</li> </ul>	<p>Please AVOID the following items as we will not be able to include them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NO AEROSOLS or SPRAYS IN CANS</li> <li>No Pork or Pork By-Products (Slim Jims are OK)</li> <li>Tobacco or Alcoholic Beverage Products</li> <li>Bars of Soap</li> <li>Anything packaged in glass</li> <li>Sharp Objects (Knives, Tools, Safety Pins, etc.)</li> <li>Pornography or other culturally sensitive material</li> <li>Bagged Potato Chips (they are too easily crushed)</li> <li>Unwrapped Candies</li> <li>Nail Polish</li> <li>Perfume or Cologne</li> </ul>

Questions or if you wish to volunteer for packaging day, please contact;

Lynn at [treasurer@hamiltoncountyveterans.com](mailto:treasurer@hamiltoncountyveterans.com)

Tracy at [auxiliarypost470@gmail.com](mailto:auxiliarypost470@gmail.com)

If your local American Legion or VFW Posts are not wanting to help collect goods for this Care Package Drive, bring them to the Fishers American Legion Post 470.

## Activities & Events

Roudebush VA Resource Fair Jan 25, 10am-2pm

## VETERANS BENEFITS & RESOURCE FAIR

ARE YOU CONNECTED?



- Enroll in VA healthcare
- File disability claims
- Toxic exposure screening
- Specialty care services:
  - Mental Health
  - Woman's Health
  - And more!



**JOIN US!**  
Saturday, January 25, 2025  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Roudebush VA Medical Center  
1481 West 10th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Representatives will be on-site to answer your questions about VA Eligibility & Enrollment, PACT Act, Federal and State VA Benefits, Filing Claims, and MyHealthVet. Toxic Exposure Screening will also be available.

[www.va.gov/indiana-health-care/](http://www.va.gov/indiana-health-care/) [f](https://www.facebook.com/IndyVAMC) [@IndyVAMC](https://www.instagram.com/IndyVAMC)

## Indy Vet to Vet Meetings Every Week Day See Where and When

<https://indyvettovet.org>

### ★ MEETING RULES

#### 1. THE RULE OF SAFETY

We promise to do no harm to ourselves or others.

#### 2. THE RULE OF ANONYMITY

What is said here stays here. (Unless we hear of someone in danger of violating Rule #1, in which case we owe it to that fellow Veteran to help keep him or her safe.)

#### 3. THE RULE OF HONESTY

Say what you mean. Mean what you say. We are not here to try to impress each other with our military service or combat experiences. We are all in this together.

#### 4. THE RULE OF RESPECT

Please arrive on time. Please do not engage in side-conversations during the group. Please mute cell phones. If we do not see eye to eye, we can agree to disagree

### ★ PEER FACILITATORS

Our group facilitators are Veterans, just like you. We are not employees of the VA.



To be a peer facilitator, all you need is interest, drive, motivation, a commitment to sobriety, and some experience navigating the mental health system.

If you are interested in becoming a peer facilitator, please talk with the facilitator of any meeting you attend.

### GROUP LOCATIONS

#### MONDAYS 10AM-11AM

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

611 NORTH CAPITOL AVE

#### TUESDAYS 6PM-7PM

NEIGHBORCARE OF CHAPEL HILL

230 WELCOME WAY BLVD

#### WEDNESDAYS 6PM-7PM

VETERANS VILLA

3731 STATION ST

#### THURSDAYS 6PM-7PM

Lincoln Apartments

530 North Holmes Ave

#### FRIDAYS 8AM-9AM

ASSESSMENT & INTERVENTION CENTER

2878 E PLEASANT RUN PKWY NORTH DR

Donations are needed for us to continue to do our work, help veterans, maintain our non-profit, and travel the state for outreach. Indy Vet to Vet presently has five weekly meetings all over the city and holds outreach events monthly. Our volunteer force of dedicated veterans matches our all-volunteer force of dedicated soldiers and sailors, past, present, and future who have kept us free and safe. Donations provide support for Veterans of any age and of any way.

For general questions, contact Aaron Shaw at

**317-737-6927**

## Veteran's Coffee Social the Last Saturday at 8am



## Veterans Coffee Social

A gathering to get to know veterans in our community

Last Saturday of the month, 8am-9am

@ Schoolhouse 7 Cafe

12125 Cynthianne Rd,

Fishers, IN



Thank you to our sponsor: Cliff Morlan, University Veterans Post 360

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# Gov. Braun signs executive order eliminating DEI in state government

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

Newly sworn-in Indiana Gov. Mike Braun (R) on Wednesday issued an executive order eliminating diversity, equity, and inclusion practices from within the state's government.

The order comes from abiding by the **Equal Protection Clause** under the Fourteenth Amendment and by "ensuring all Hoosiers have equality of opportunity by eliminating DEI in state government."

Instead, Braun ordered the initiative be replaced with MEI, or "merit, excellence, and innovation."

Under the order, state agencies will not:

- Support diversity, equity, and inclusion positions, departments, activities, procedures or programs if they grant preferential treatment based upon one person's particular race, color, ethnicity, or national origin, over that of another person.

- Require any person to participate in or receive any training, instruction, procedures, or programming

if they endorse preferential treatment of one person's particular race, color, ethnicity or national origin, over that of another person.

- Require any applicant for employment to provide a statement relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion or provide any applicant for employment preferential treatment for providing such a statement, over another person.

- Mandate any person to disclose their pronouns.

Agencies will also be required to review their DEI programs, positions, activities, and departments for compliance and must "eliminate or revise" them by April 30.

"The Chief Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunity Office in the Governor's Office is hereby closed," the order reads.

The order did not clarify what "merit, excellence, and innovation" programs would include or how they would be implemented.

Braun said all of the orders he signed Wednesday, including the DEI order, are meant to make state government more responsive and

more cost-effective.

"In my campaign, I've had such a breadth of support from the entire spectrum of Hoosiers that embrace that idea of freedom and opportunity," he said.

Then-Gov. Eric Holcomb established the office by executive order in 2020 amid nationwide racial justice protests. NAACP of Indiana legal counsel TyJuan Garrett said the office's real value came in having someone with a seat at the table who could point out state government's blind spots. He said loss of diversity initiatives means a loss of diversity of thought, which he said would undercut the very innovation Braun says he's looking for.

"You can easily get insular in decision-making, particularly if everyone tends to have the same perspective, the same viewpoint, look the same, come from the same socioeconomic background," he said. "As a lawyer, going through the law process, I know how to navigate that but I have no idea how to navigate the medical field."

Rep. Robin Shackleford,

D-Indianapolis, a member of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, said she wonders what kind of signal Braun's order sends to businesses. The state's most recent disparity study, conducted in 2020, found minority-owned businesses win state contracts at a rate far below their relative share of Indiana's overall business population. Shackleford said that shows relying on merit alone isn't enough.

"It sends out a message to other states that we are not welcoming, we are not open, we are not looking for a diverse train of thought, that we are happy just being within ourselves," she said.

This is one of 19 orders put in place Wednesday. Others include eliminating or reducing the number of licenses needed in certain fields, removing educational requirements for state jobs, and the creation of nine different offices.

Click here to read the executive order.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/politics/indiana-government-diversity-order](http://wishtv.com/news/politics/indiana-government-diversity-order).

# Indiana Senate Democrats denounce Governor Braun's elimination of DEI initiatives

Submitted by **Indiana Senate Democrats**

The Indiana Senate Democratic Caucus denounces Governor Mike Braun's executive order eliminating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives within state government. This regressive action ignores the proven benefits of DEI efforts and threatens to undermine Indiana's progress toward building a state that works for all Hoosiers.

"Governor Braun's decision to dismantle DEI programs is a devastating misstep of Indiana's values and potential," said Sen. Shelli Yoder (D-Bloomington). "DEI initiatives add immense value to every corner of our state – they foster innovation, attract top talent and create opportunities that strengthen families, businesses and communities alike. Eliminating these programs is more than a misstep; it's a deliberate choice to ignore what makes Indiana stronger and more competitive. DEI doesn't just improve lives; it transforms them, breaking down systemic barriers and ensuring that every Hoosier has the chance to succeed. This regressive decision endangers our progress and undermines the inclusive future we should all be working toward."

The elimination of DEI initiatives disregards overwhelming evidence that diversity strengthens organizations. A McKinsey study found that companies in the top quartile for racial and ethnic diversity are 35 percent more likely to outperform their peers. Additionally, inclusive workplaces are linked to increased innovation, better decision-making and improved financial performance – benefits that could directly enhance state government's ability to serve its constituents effectively.

"This decision is not just a step backward; it's a direct attack on the values of equi-

ty and inclusion that should define us as a state," said Sen. Andrea Hunley (D-Indianapolis). "Inclusion isn't just a buzzword – it's a necessity for Indiana to thrive in the modern era. Stripping DEI efforts is a disservice to every Hoosier who believes in fairness and opportunity."

Diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives have addressed systemic inequities and improved public trust. Under Dr. Karrah Herring, Indiana's first chief equity, inclusion and opportunity officer, initiatives like the Equity Data Portal increased transparency, equity training programs reached hundreds of stakeholders and hiring practices opened pathways for underrepresented groups. Eliminating these programs jeopardizes Indiana's workforce and education progress, including efforts to address teacher shortages and declining college enrollment rates.

The Indiana Senate Democratic Caucus, which proudly represents the diversity of Indiana, remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing policies that promote equity, opportunity and inclusion for all. This is not a partisan issue – it's a matter of ensuring our state's future success.

"By dismantling DEI efforts, this administration is ignoring the realities faced by millions of Hoosiers," said Sen. Rodney Pol Jr. (D-Chesterton). "Our government should be a model of fairness and opportunity, not a barrier to it. This is not about politics; it's about doing what's right for every Hoosier."

The Caucus calls on Governor Braun to reverse this harmful decision and work with lawmakers to strengthen policies that reflect the values of fairness, respect and inclusivity. Hoosiers deserve a government that recognizes diversity as a strength, not a liability.

# West Virginia education leaders pay visit to Noblesville Schools



Photo provided by Noblesville Schools

Executives from the West Virginia Department of Education were in town Wednesday to learn from Noblesville Schools business staff and benchmark the district's financial systems. (From left) Noblesville Schools Director of Finance Susan Wilson, West Virginia Department of Education's Josh Harner, West Virginia Department of Education's Uriah Cummings, Noblesville Schools Chief Financial Officer David Hortemiller, and Noblesville Schools Payroll and Benefits Supervisor Jenny Shierant.

# Westfield Winter Market returns to West Fork Whiskey Co. Jan. 18

The **REPORTER**

The Westfield Winter Market, presented by Duke Energy, will kick off the 2025 season on Saturday, Jan. 18. The indoor, family-friendly market will run every Saturday through March 29 (excluding March 1) from 9 a.m. noon at West Fork Whiskey Co., 10 E. 191st St.

More than 50 vendors whose offerings include fresh produce, coffee and breakfast foods, locally sourced meat products, handcrafted artisanal goods, and more will participate in the market.

Popular returning vendors include Eagle Creek Apiary, Mary D Jellies & Preserves, Heritage Homestead Farms, Hap-

py Mutt Pet Bakery, and Atchley Farm. New vendors joining the market include Tulip Tree Creamery (cheese), Sprinkle Joy Bakes (macarons), Bramble Nut Butter (artisan nut butters), and Watch Us Farm (microgreens and edible flowers).

This season marks the first under the City of Westfield's management. In addition, the Westfield Mayor's Council on Disabilities (WMCD) will participate at each of the 10 markets. WMCD members and community volunteers will be on-site to provide information to get involved with the council and their initiatives, distribute free promotional items, and loan out sensory headphones that market



Graphic provided

attendees can 'check-out' from their booth to utilize while they are at the market to improve their event experience.

The Westfield Winter Market thanks additional sponsors, including Community First Bank of

Indiana, Renewal by Andersen, BMO Bank, and Xfinity.

To learn more about the Westfield Winter Market or to view the weekly lineup of vendors, please visit [westfieldwelcome.com/westfield-winter-market](http://westfieldwelcome.com/westfield-winter-market).

# Come meet Friends of Hamilton North Public Library

The **REPORTER**

The Cicero Library will hold a Friends of the Library Meet and Greet from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 25. Those interested are encouraged to drop in, meet current members, enjoy coffee and a sweet treat, and register for door prizes.

The Hamilton North Pub-

lic Library Friends organization holds events throughout the year, including programs by local authors, craft classes, and popular fundraising events such as the Chili Cook-Off and annual spaghetti dinner. Funds are used for library programs, including the summer reading program and a recent landscap-

ing upgrade.

The Hamilton North



Public Library is located at 209 W. Brinton St., Cicero.

**Live Music At Pasto Italiano**  
Music every Wednesday & Friday  
1/2 Price Bottles of Wine On Wednesdays  
Reservations Recommended  
**317-804-2051**  
3150 East State Rd. 32, Westfield  
Catering: [PastoItalianoWestfield@gmail.com](mailto:PastoItalianoWestfield@gmail.com)

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See you in the parks!  
MyHamiltonCountyParks.com  
317.770.4400

**Euchre Fundraiser**  
hosted by  
Phi Beta Psi / Theta Alpha Upsilon  
**PARTNER WITH US TO BEAT CANCER!**  
Saturday, February 22nd, 4 PM  
Noblesville First Christian Church  
16377 Herriman Blvd, Noblesville, IN 46060

♠♥♦♣ \$15 Entry Fee  
♠♥♦♣ Food Available

To guarantee your seat, please email Your Name, Cell # and E-mail to Phi Beta Psi at:  
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Ways to pay: Zelle, Paypal or Venmo instructions available by email at [pbnoblesville@gmail.com](mailto:pbnoblesville@gmail.com) or pay Cash at the door.  
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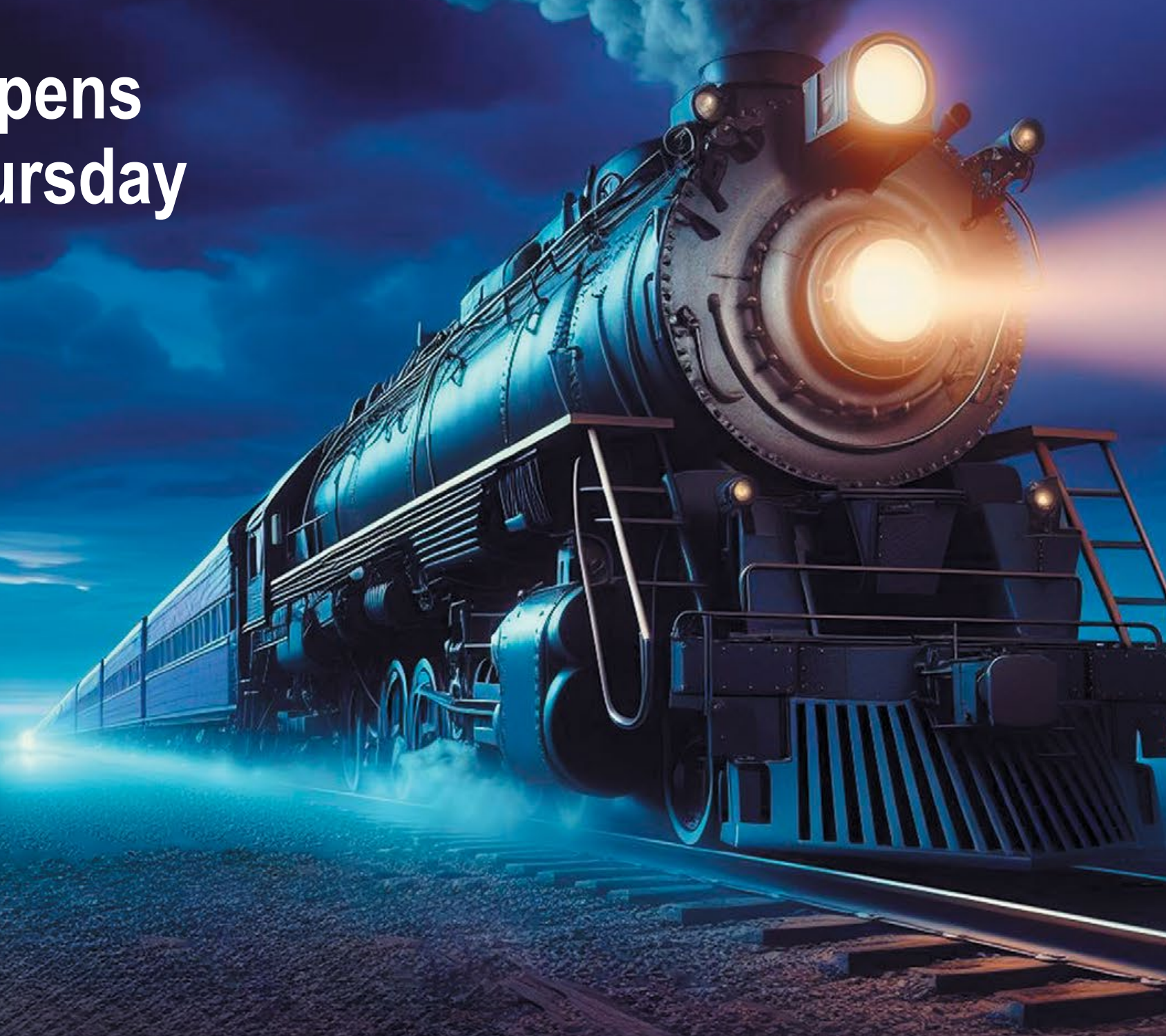
*Agatha Christie's*

# MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS



Adapted by  
Ken Ludwig

Opens  
Thursday



**Beef & Boards**  
DINNER THEATRE



# Refuge Christian Church welcomes pastor Alston Geers

**Submitted**  
Refuge Christian Church welcomed Alston Geers as the new senior minister on Jan. 1.

Geers has a Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Theology from Johnson University in Knoxville, Tenn. He also has a Masters of Arts in Sports Administration from Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, Ky.

Prior to coming to Noblesville, he and his wife Kacey lived in Frankfort, Ky. He served as the Youth Minister at Graefenburg Christian Church in Frankfort from 2017 through 2024. In addition to his du-

ties as the Youth Minister he served as Athletics Director and Physical Education and Health Teacher at Christian Academy of Lawrenceburg, Ky., since 2022.

"I'm thrilled to be here and honored to serve the Noblesville community," Geers said. "My wife and I are eager and excited to build meaningful relationships, and share in the love of Jesus Christ in the community."

Refuge Christian Church holds worship service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. The church is located at 11772 E. 196th St., Noblesville.



Photo provided

# Braun's budget: find more efficiencies, eliminate child care waitlist, tax relief

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

Gov. Mike Braun on Thursday said he plans to continue Indiana's recent track record on government spending with a business-minded approach.

Not quite 72 hours after taking the oath of office, Braun unveiled his first two-year budget Thursday morning. It includes a 2 percent increase in basic public school funding for the 2026 budget year followed by another such increase for the 2027 budget year. It also removes all remaining limits on eligibility for School Choice vouchers. Minimum teacher salaries would rise to \$45,000 per year, up from the current \$40,000. In addition, Education Scholarship Accounts, which help students with disabilities pay for programs and services, would get an extra \$30 million.

On health care, Braun's plan would set aside \$362 million to eliminate the waitlist for Indiana Child Care Development Fund vouchers, which pay for child care for families making less than 150 percent of the federal poverty line. It also ful-

ly funds the state's Medicaid forecast. That means \$680 million for the 2026 budget year and \$1 billion for the 2027 budget year.

In addition, the plan incorporates his property tax cuts and elimination of taxes on retirement income. Braun said at a minimum, he wants caps going forward on how much property taxes can rise in a given year.

Braun's budget depends in part on his goal of a 5 percent across-the-board reduction in the state's operational and administrative expenses by the end of the 2027 budget year. State Budget Director Chad Ranney later told the State Budget Committee that would work out to about \$700 million in savings. Braun said those savings could be used either to bolster spending for state services or to offset revenue lost to tax cuts.

"We're not just looking in one area, we're looking across the board, and we're going to have each cabinet secretary find where that's going to be in their own domain and that's going to be something we flesh out over the next three months," Braun said.

Braun further clarified



Braun

### Braun's Budget Highlights

- **K-12 Education:** Universal Choice Scholarships for all families, increased funding for K-12 schools, and a 2 percent increase in tuition support each year.
- **Tax Relief:** Elimination of the tip tax, phased-out tax on retirement income, and new sales tax holidays.
- **Public Safety:** Increased funding for school safety, law enforcement, and state police salaries, along with a major investment in the Indiana National Guard.
- **Fiscal Integrity:** Increase the FY26 rainy-day fund by \$400 million, slow the growth of government expenses, put Indiana in a strong fiscal position for the future.

some agencies might not be able to make as deep cuts in others and it would be up to the cabinet to figure out those numbers.

Two potential clouds hang over the budget: an expected slowdown in state revenue growth in 2027 and possible federal spending cuts by the incoming Trump administration. Two state representatives serving on the State Budget Committee, Democrat Ed DeLaney of Indianapolis and Republican Craig Snow of Warsaw, said the Braun administration would have to be prepared to respond to those spending cuts, possibly by using some of the state's financial reserves.

"Depending on the program, we get between 70 percent and 90 percent support from Washington," DeLaney told Ranney at the end of an early afternoon budget briefing. "If they cut it, or if they got this block

grant system, I hope you'll be prepared, as some of that could happen before we're out of here at the end of April. We might pass the budget in March and then find ourselves undercut."

So far, Braun has played a hands-on role in the budget negotiations. He said he met with House Speaker Todd Huston and Senate President pro tem Rod Bray, both fellow Republicans, earlier this week to go over budget details and his property tax plan, which is currently in the Senate as Senate Bill 1. Huston has said the Senate will focus on property taxes during the first half of session while the House concentrates on the budget.

It will be up to the House Ways and Means Committee to work on the budget over the next month. The House has until Feb. 20 to send the budget bill to the Senate.

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/braun-budget-find-more-efficiencies-eliminate-child-care-waitlist](http://wishtv.com/news/braun-budget-find-more-efficiencies-eliminate-child-care-waitlist).*

— WESTFIELD —		
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION		
Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the City of Westfield, Hamilton County, Indiana, that the City Council at their regular meeting place at Westfield City Hall at 130 Penn Street, in Westfield, IN at 7:00 PM, on the 27th day of January, 2025, will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year.		
Additional appropriations to be added:		
640 - Sports Campus Operating Fund		
Major Budget Classification:		
Grand Park Department (#015):		
Personal Services Line item #	640015111 -	\$72,500
Personal Services Line item #	640015119 -	\$4,000
Personal Services Line item #	640015120 -	\$1,700
Personal Services Line item #	640015121 -	\$3,900
Supplies Line item #	640015224-	\$20,000
Supplies Line item #	640015226-	\$1,000
Services and Charges Line item #	640015341-	\$6,000
Services and Charges Line item #	640015342-	\$2,500
Services and Charges Line item #	640015343-	\$2,000
Services and Charges Line item #	640015345-	\$2,000
Services and Charges Line item #	640015349-	\$2,674,906
Services and Charges Line item #	640015366-	\$500
Capital Outlays Line item #	640015472-	\$9,000
Sports Campus Indoor Event Ctr Department (#023):		
Personal Services Line item #	640023111-	\$21,500
Personal Services Line item #	640023119-	\$500
Personal Services Line item #	640023120-	\$270
Personal Services Line item #	640023121-	\$639
Services and Charges Line item #	640023328-	\$6,000
Services and Charges Line item #	640023331-	\$68,000
Services and Charges Line item #	640023341-	\$12,000
Services and Charges Line item #	640023342-	\$2,500
Services and Charges Line item #	640023343-	\$2,000
Services and Charges Line item #	640023345-	\$122,000
Services and Charges Line item #	640023349-	\$16,300
Capital Outlays Line item #	640023451-	\$202,546
Total for Sports Campus Operating Fund		\$3,254,261
254 - Mayor's Grand Gala Fund		
Donation line item #	254004439 -	\$499,901
Total for Sports Campus Operating Fund		\$499,901
101 - General Fund		
Parks Department (#005):		
Personal Services Line Item #	101005349 -	\$22,015
Economic Development Department (#006):		
Personal Services Line Item #	101006334 -	\$37,000
Total for General Fund		\$59,015
Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard on the additional appropriation.		
R5555		1/17/25, 1/20/25

### NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF PUBLIC WAYS

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the City of Westfield, Hamilton County, Indiana of a public hearing at City Hall in the Assembly Room (130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074) at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2025. At that time, the Common Council will consider a proposed ordinance authorizing the vacation of public ways under the provisions of Indiana Code §§ 36-7-3-12 and 5-14-1.5 ("Ordinance"). Garrett Patrick Ryan and Karen Ryan have filed a Petition to Vacate Public Ways or Public Places Located Entirely Within the Corporate Boundaries of the City of Westfield, Indiana. The existing public way is located generally east of 1441 E. 151st Street and is more particularly described below:

A PART OF THE NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST QUARTERS OF SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 18 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST, IN HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA, BEING DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 13; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST (BASIS OF BEARINGS PER INDIANA STATE PLANE COORDINATES EAST ZONE) ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID QUARTER SECTION A DISTANCE OF 190.52 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF GREYHOUND PASS, LINE "B" PER LOCATION CONTROL ROUTE SURVEY PLAT RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT #201301717, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER IN HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA (THE FOLLOWING 9 COURSES FOLLOW SAID LINE "B" AND LINE "A" PER SAID ROUTE PLOT); (1) THENCE SOUTH 85 DEGREES 50 MINUTES 01 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 252.52 FEET TO A POINT ON A TANGENT CURVE TO THE RIGHT HAVING A RADIUS OF 410.00 FEET AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD BEARING SOUTH 76 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 139.99 FEET; (2) THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID CURVE AN ARC DISTANCE OF 140.68 FEET; (3) THENCE SOUTH 66 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 28 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 69.93 FEET TO A POINT ON A TANGENT CURVE TO THE LEFT HAVING A RADIUS OF 490.00 FEET AND BEING SUB TENDED BY A CHORD BEARING SOUTH 78 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 211.73 FEET; (4) THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID CURVE ON ARC DISTANCE OF 213.41 FEET; (5) THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 16 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 373.21 FEET; (6) THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 88 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 16 SECONDS EOST, 0 DISTANCE OF 53.14 FEET TO A POINT ON TANGENT CURVE TO THE LEFT HAVING A RADIUS OF 272.00 FEET AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD BEARING NORTH 79 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 48 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 85.80 FEET; (7) THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID CURVE ON ARC DISTANCE OF 86.16 FEET; (8) THENCE NORTH 70 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 21 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 403.31 FEET TO 0 POINT ON A CURVE TO THE RIGHT HAVING A RADIUS OF 475.00 FEET AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD BEARING NORTH 85 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 59 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 236.96 FEET; (9) THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID CURVE ON ARC DISTANCE OF 239.49 FEET TO A POINT ON EAST LINE OF A PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED IN DEED RECORD 266, PAGE 356 IN SAID RECORDER'S OFFICE; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 49 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 91.27 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING;

THENCE SOUTH 56 DEGREES 50 MINUTES 44 SECONDS WEST 29.60 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 79 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 55 SECONDS WEST 61.97 FEET; THENCE NORTH 66 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST 37.39 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 49 SECONDS EAST 148.37 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF LOGAN WOODS SECTION 1 PER INSTRUMENT No. 2023026326, IN PLAT CABINET 6, SLIDE 415 IN THE OFFICE OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY RECORDER; THENCE ON SAID SOUTH LINE THE FOLLOWING 3 COURSES: 1) THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 25 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 30.02 FEET; 2) THENCE NORTH 38 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 59 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 107.60 FEET; 4) THENCE NORTH 68 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 06 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 24.51 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 0.28 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

The public is invited to provide commentary on the Ordinance and proposed vacation and shall be heard at the public hearing. Documents related to this Ordinance and proposed vacation can be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's office located at 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074, during regular business hours.

Dated this 17th day of January, 2025.

Clerk Treasurer's Office  
City of Westfield, Indiana  
1/17/25, 1/20/25

# January means renewed commitment to mental wellness

By MALLORY WIRE  
Guest Columnist

January means many things to people: a fresh start, new opportunities, and a reason to make changes, just to name a few.

It is also Mental Wellness month. The first month of the year, dedicated to caring for our mental and emotional wellbeing while reducing the stigma around mental health, exemplifies the importance of the topic.

Mental wellness has not always been openly discussed. While discussions have increased in recent years to help reduce stigma, there is still work to be done. For example, youth suicide is often referred to as the "Silent Epidemic" due to the lack of awareness surrounding the issue. Youth suicide is the third leading cause of death for ages 12 to 18. On average, 125 young people die by suicide each week. However, studies show that four out of five youth considering suicide exhibit verbal and/or behavioral warning signs. Therefore, 80 percent of youth suicides are preventable.

A nonprofit dedicated to preventing the "Silent Epidemic" of youth suicide through educational and awareness programs. They provide free training videos for educators, parents, youth workers, and other community groups across the country. The courses cover a wide range of topics related to youth suicide. These videos, along with additional information and resources, are available on The Jason Foundation's website at [JasonFoundation.com](http://JasonFoundation.com).

Warning signs are crucial for preventing youth suicide. These include threats of suicide, increased irritability, sudden change in appetite, depression, making final arrangements, and more. A more detailed list of warning

signs can be found on The Jason Foundation's website.

There are multiple resources for individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts. The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, 988, is available 24/7 by call or text. For more information, to learn about national and local resources, order materials, find the closest Jason Foundation Affiliate Office, or enroll in online training, visit [JasonFoundation.com](http://JasonFoundation.com).

Start your new year prepared to help someone at risk of dying by suicide. Let's work together to reduce the national suicide rate in 2025.

*Mallory Wire is the Associate Division Director of The Jason Foundation.*

Meeting Notices	
The Town of Atlanta Plan Commission will meet at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month at Atlanta Town Hall, 105 E. Main St.	The Atlanta Town Council will meet at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in 2025 at Atlanta Town Hall, 105 E. Main St.
The Hamilton County Election Board will meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025, in the Conference Room at the Hamilton County Clerk's Office, located in Suite 106 at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.	The Atlanta Festival Committee will meet on the second Monday of each month immediately following the regular scheduled council meeting.

Send Meeting Notices to:  
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## Braun signs order removing degree requirements from some state jobs

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

Hoosiers who want to work for the state of Indiana might not need a college degree to get hired.

Gov. Mike Braun on Wednesday signed an executive order directing the Indiana State Personnel Department to review job postings, determine if a college or graduate degree is necessary to perform the job duties, and “remove degree requirements to the extent possible.”

The degree requirements are to be replaced with “skills or experienced-based alternatives,” the governor’s office said in a release.

According to the order, a shift toward skills-based hiring practices will reduce “unnecessary barriers to state jobs” while providing opportunities to the two-thirds of Indiana residents who do not have a college degree or higher.

Hiring managers are encouraged to emphasize skills-based abilities and experience such as apprenticeships, career and tech-

nical certifications, on-the-job-training, and military service rather than degree requirements.

Braun says this will help Indiana address ongoing labor shortages while preparing Hoosiers for high-demand, high-wage careers.

Braun, who in the order describes Indiana as a “hub of world-class educational institutions,” says the state “acknowledges the significant value of postsecondary education while equally recognizing” the contributions of workers who have developed their skills in other ways.

The executive order does not apply to a job classification or posting that is required by law to have specific professional licensure or education, or where performing certain job duties without specific licensure or education would be criminal, illegal, or unethical.

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

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/indiana-news/indiana-gov-job-degree-requirements](http://wishtv.com/news/indiana-news/indiana-gov-job-degree-requirements).*



Photo provided

Get your tickets now to see Brittany Brumfield this Saturday at Feinstein’s at Hotel Carmichael.

## Key to fun & musical Saturday can be found at Feinstein’s

### Submitted

Dueling Pianos presented by Brittany Brumfield & Baby Grand Entertainment is coming to Feinstein’s at the Hotel Carmichael this Saturday, Jan. 18.

Have you ever been to a concert and wished you could pick the set list? This is your chance. Often referred to as a living jukebox, dueling pianos is the show where the audience takes control. You pick the song, artist, genre, and era – they play it.

This will be a lively, interactive show for the whole family. Whether you’re cele-

brating a special occasion or just a night out on the town, come out to sing along, laugh along, and maybe even get on stage.

Brittany Brumfield is a true talent at the piano and a real entertainer. She knows how to involve the crowd and create a fun atmosphere for a great night out. She will be joined by an equally gifted pianist to assist and to duel her at every moment.

Get your tickets at [feinsteins.com](http://feinsteins.com). Browse the website for even more stupendous shows coming in 2025.

## Curt Whitesell joins OneZone Chamber Board of Directors

### The REPORTER

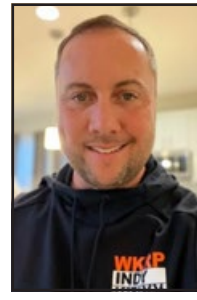
OneZone Chamber has announced the addition of Curt Whitesell to its Board of Directors. Whitesell brings a wealth of experience and an understanding of local businesses’ challenges and opportunities.

“Having Curt Whitesell join the OneZone Chamber Board is an incredible opportunity for our organization,” OneZone Chamber President & CEO Jack Russell said. “As a small business owner, Curt brings a unique perspective and invaluable insight into our local businesses’ challenges and opportunities. His dedication to our community and entrepreneurial spirit will be tre-

mendous assets as we continue to drive growth and collaboration across Hamilton County.”

Whitesell owns WKRP Indy Real Estate and Greek’s Pizzeria in Westfield and Sheridan.

“I am honored to join the OneZone Chamber Board of Directors and look forward to contributing to the continued success of this incredible organization,” Whitesell said. “Supporting our local busi-



Whitesell



Russell

nesses and fostering economic growth in Hamilton County has always been a priority for me, and I’m excited to bring my experience and ideas to the table.”

The OneZone Chamber Board of Directors comprises business and community leaders dedicated to advancing the chamber’s mission to strengthen and grow the local economy. Whitesell’s addition underscores the chamber’s commitment to ensur-

ing diverse representation and fostering a strong connection with the small business community.

For more information about the OneZone Chamber of Commerce and its Board of Directors, visit [onezonechamber.com](http://onezonechamber.com) or call (317) 900-2144.

### About OneZone Chamber

OneZone Chamber serves over 1,200 members across Hamilton County and the region, providing opportunities for businesses to connect, engage, and grow. With a mission to be the voice of business and a catalyst for economic growth, OneZone Chamber leads efforts to create a vibrant community where businesses thrive.

## Candy Martin joins Howard Bailey Financial’s Carmel team

### The REPORTER

Howard Bailey Financial has announced the addition of Candy Martin as the firm’s new Office Manager at its Carmel location.

Martin’s extensive background and dedication to excellence will play a pivotal role in enhancing client interactions and streamlining office operations.

In her position, Martin will be responsible for coordinating scheduling, overseeing client communication, and managing data input. She will also actively collaborate on marketing initiatives and client-centric events, ensuring memorable and impactful experiences for all. As part of the Howard

Bailey team, she will work closely with Financial Advisors, clients, and the Client Service Team to help foster seamless communication and support.

“I was in search of a new challenge and am thrilled to be able to bring my experience and skills to Howard Bailey,” Martin said. “I want to be able to help make this company one of the top leading retirement specialists in the Indy area.”

Martin joins Howard Bailey with more than 14 years of experience in administrative support. Most



Martin

Her strong commitment to service and attention to detail align seamlessly with Howard Bailey’s mission to make a meaningful impact in the lives of clients, team members, and the broader community.

“Candy’s experience and dedication to client service will greatly enhance our team’s capabilities,” said

recently, she served as an Executive Office Manager for the City of Carmel, where she worked with various departments, assisted residents, and supported community organizations.

Her strong commitment to service and attention to detail align seamlessly with Howard Bailey’s mission to make a meaningful impact in the lives of clients, team members, and the broader community.

“Candy’s experience and dedication to client service will greatly enhance our team’s capabilities,” said

Learn more at [howard-bailey.com/our-culture/visit-carmel](http://howard-bailey.com/our-culture/visit-carmel).

## Pharmaceutical companies spike EpiPen prices 600 percent

*Attorney General Todd Rokita sues pharmaceutical companies over anticompetitive acts related to EpiPen*

### Submitted by Office of the Attorney General

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has filed a lawsuit alleging that Mylan and Pfizer have conspired to increase EpiPen’s price by more than 600 percent in order to continue to profit from EpiPen prescriptions and prevent other similar products from coming to market and being available to consumers.

EpiPens are potentially life-saving devices used to inject adrenaline into patients to combat severe allergic reactions.

“Pharmaceutical companies have prioritized profits over patients,” AG Rokita

said. “Many Indiana residents rely on these medications to stay alive. Hoosiers deserve to know that the prices they pay for epinephrine arise from free and fair competition.”

The complaint alleges the companies and their subsidiaries have violated the Indiana Deceptive Consumer Sales Act, the Indiana Antitrust Act, and the Medicaid False Claims Act by continually increasing the price of EpiPens and providing payments to pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs)



Rokita

to exclude competition.

“Hoosier families are suffering enough already from the economic decline experienced during the Biden administration,” AG Rokita said. “For these companies to add to the pain by scheming against people with medical conditions is absolutely unethical.”

The lawsuit also asserts the companies have paid doctors to endorse their decision to launch a two-pack of the EpiPen and claim it is medically necessary – allowing the companies

to cease selling individual EpiPens.

This is just one of the many times AG Rokita’s office has taken on dishonest companies that harm Hoosier patients. Since Rokita took office, he has obtained a \$66.5 million settlement against Centene for their failure to disclose true costs, won a \$573 million multistate settlement against McKinsey & Co. for its role in “turbocharging” the opioid epidemic with Purdue Pharma, and secured \$49.1 million in settlements against Heritage Pharmaceuticals and Apotex for price fixing related to generic drugs.

## WGU offers \$2,500 New Year Scholarships to new students in 2025

### The REPORTER

According to YouGov.com, about **34 percent of U.S. adult citizens** made at least one New Year’s resolution at the start of 2024. For those resolving to jump-start their education in 2025, nonprofit online Western Governors University has announced a **New Year Scholarship** valued at \$2,500, credited to recipients at \$625 per six-month term and renewable for up to four terms.

According to the **U.S. Department of Education**, by 2027, 70 percent of jobs will require education or training beyond high school. Additionally, research completed by the **Indiana Commission for Higher Education** shows that as of 2024, 53 percent of Indiana working-age adults have obtained a credential or college degree.

An accredited online

university, WGU has rolling terms enabling students to enroll at any time and potentially start classes on the first day of the following month. WGU offers more than 80 bachelor’s and master’s degrees and certificates in business, I.T., healthcare and K-12 education. The university currently has more than 6,000 students and nearly 16,000 alumni throughout Indiana.

Tuition is around \$4,000 per six-month term for most degree programs at WGU, and each student is assigned a program mentor who will work with them until graduation. The average time to complete a bachelor’s degree at WGU is 2.5 years, depending on the transfer of any existing college credits and WGU’s competency-based model, which allows students to progress through courses at their preferred pace once

they demonstrate mastery of the course materials.

“Higher education continues to be the proven path for Hoosiers who aspire to climb the career ladder and increase their earning potential,” WGU Regional Vice President Alison Bell said. “Far too often, the financial burden of tuition and the lack of manageable options create a barrier between individuals and degree completion. WGU’s asynchronous, competency-based approach appeals to working adults who want the flexibility to study at their preferred time and pace, and opportunities such as our New Year Scholarship go a long way towards our already affordable tuition.”

Prospective students can learn more about the New Year Scholarship and apply at [this link](#). To learn more about Western Governors University, visit [wgu.edu](http://wgu.edu).



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**Thanks for reading The Reporter!**



# AARP Indiana to hold virtual event discussing property taxes

Submitted by  
**AARP Indiana**

Property taxes are critical to the well-being of Indiana's communities, but older Hoosiers cannot always afford them. This is especially true when they are experiencing property tax increases on top of other rising monthly expenses like utilities, groceries, and

healthcare.

To better understand how increasing property taxes impact older homeowners in Indiana, AARP commissioned a poll of Indiana voters aged 50 and over who own a home in the state. Some of the results will be highlighted during an upcoming virtual discussion at 10 a.m. Wednesday,

Jan. 22. During the event, experts and state leaders will also discuss how property taxes in the state got to this point and what actions the Indiana General Assembly may take.

Joining the event will be:  
• Larry DeBoer, Emeritus Professor, Agricultural Economics at Purdue University

• Ryan Hoff, Director of Government Relations and General Counsel, Indiana Association of Indiana Counties

• State Senator Travis Holdman, Chairman, Senate Tax & Fiscal Policy Committee

[Click here](#) to sign up and receive the link to attend the virtual event.

# Bill would revoke hospitals' nonprofit status for overcharging Hoosier patients

Submitted

Indiana lawmakers on Tuesday filed the strongest bill to date to crack down on nonprofit hospitals that exploit their tax-exempt status while charging Hoosier families and employers some of the most outrageous prices in the country.

HB 1004 strips nonprofit status from hospitals that charge more than 200 percent above what Medicare pays for the same services.

Devin Anderson, a board member for Hoosiers for Affordable Healthcare applauded the bill, saying it's a bold move to address the fact that Indiana has the ninth-highest hospital prices in the nation.

"HB 1004 puts real teeth into the effort to hold nonprofit hospitals accountable for the ninth-highest prices while having billions in cash reserves," Anderson said. "This bill sends a clear message from the Indiana House of Representatives Leadership: Lowering prices is not optional - it's a demand on behalf of the Hoosiers they represent who can't afford skyrocketing prices from hospitals who masquerade as nonprofits."

## Indiana's big five hospitals face major price cuts

Authored by Representative Martin Carbaugh (R-Fort Wayne) and co-authored by Representatives Ben Smaltz (R-Auburn) and Julie McGuire (R-Indianapolis), the bill directly targets Indiana's big five nonprofit hospital systems, which would need to make massive price cuts to maintain their nonprofit status:

• Ascension St. Vincent: Reduce prices by 40.5 percent

• Community Health Network: Reduce prices by 34 percent

• Deaconess Health System: Reduce prices by 23 percent

• Franciscan Health: Reduce prices by 30 percent

• IU Health: Reduce prices by 40.6 percent

• Parkview Health: Reduce prices by 40.8 percent

"Nonprofit hospitals have enjoyed tax exemptions for years, yet many are charging more than triple what Medicare pays for the same services," Anderson said. "HB 1004 forces these hospitals to decide - either behave as a nonprofit hospital by lowering your prices or lose the

benefits of nonprofit status."

**Key provisions of HB 1004**  
• **Nonprofit Status at Risk:** Hospitals charging over 200 percent of Medicare rates will lose their nonprofit status.

• **Stricter Community Benefit Standards:** Limits what hospitals can claim as community benefits to justify their tax exemptions.

• **Mandatory Transparency:** Hospitals must disclose pricing data compared to Medicare rates and make unredacted Form 990 Schedule H publicly available.

• **Annual Audits:** Nonprofit hospitals will face yearly audits by the Secretary of State to verify compliance.

HB 1004 demonstrates that House Leadership is serious about tackling Indiana's exorbitant hos-

pital costs and it brings much-needed accountability to a system that has long prioritized profits over patients.

"This bill is a wake-up call for Indiana hospitals: stop exploiting Hoosiers, or lose your nonprofit status," Anderson said. "It's that simple."

Hoosiers for Affordable Healthcare urges lawmakers to support HB 1004 and take a stand for Indiana families, businesses, and employers burdened by excessive healthcare costs.

**About Hoosiers for Affordable Healthcare**

Hoosiers for Affordable Healthcare is a coalition dedicated to advocating for transparency, accountability, and fair pricing in Indiana's healthcare system. For more information, visit [H4AHC.com](http://H4AHC.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](mailto:obits@ReadTheReporter.com).

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

### THE GOLDEN CALF

*When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."*

*Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."*

Exodus 32:1-4 (NIV)

## John Mark Morris

March 2, 1958 – January 16, 2025

John Mark Morris, 66, Noblesville, passed away on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born on March 2, 1958, to John and Audrey Morris in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.



Mark had a long career in the aerospace industry, most recently working as a Senior Contract Manager for Vertex Aerospace. He was a member of Northview Church and was a humble man who loved God. The foundations of his life were his unabashed love for Jesus and his family. Mark enjoyed sailing, gardening, and spending time outdoors. He was always looking for the next adventure. Mark liked exploring his artistic talents and working with his hands over the years. He could fix anything and had a vast knowledge about a lot of things, so he was definitely someone you wanted on your Trivial Pursuit team. Mark was a man of great wisdom, he loved people, and was often sought out for his advice and guidance. Most importantly he loved to laugh, and always wanted to share his love for Jesus.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Cindy Morris; daughters, Carley (Ray) Varo and Emily (Luke) Adams; son, Adam (Samantha) Morris; grandchildren, Tommy Varo, Truman Varo, and Lilly Morris; sisters, Sue (Tom) Peters and Eileen (Mark) Ball; brother, Andrew (Shawna) Morris; mother-in-law, Kay Hester; and numerous friends. Mark will be dearly missed by many.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Margo Prieto.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to: A Light of Hope ([alightofhopescv.org/donate](http://alightofhopescv.org/donate)), Northview Church, 12900 Hazel Dell Pkwy., Carmel, IN 46033.

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)



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PENDING!



18794 PRAIRIE CROSSING DRIVE  
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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**

SOLD!



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

SOLD!



1880 E. 75 NORTH  
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**Listed at \$339,900**

ON THE WATER!



1940 NANTUCKET DRIVE  
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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**

NEW LISTING!



67 APPLE TREE CIRCLE  
FISHERS

Adorable 4 BR, 2.5 BA brick home situated on .38 acres in the heart of Fishers. Updated kitchen with granite counters, farm sink, stainless appliances. Updated HVAC and more.  
**Listed at \$344,900**



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# REPORTER SPORTS FRIDAY

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

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

## Girls Basketball



Photo by Dwight Casler

The Sheridan girls basketball team celebrated its seniors during the Blackhawks' game with Speedway on Thursday. Sheridan beat the Sparkplugs 48-24 for its 14th consecutive win.

# Blackhawks score big win on Senior Night

### The REPORTER

The Sheridan girls basketball team picked up another huge win on Thursday, beating Speedway 48-24 in the Blackhawks' Senior Night game.

Sheridan dominated from the start, leading 19-2 after one quarter. Kenzie Garner hit three 3-pointers during that period, with Cecilia Timme and Shelby Eaton each adding four points. Mac Smith scored two points.

The 'Hawks shut out the Sparkplugs in the second quarter, giving them a 27-2 halftime lead. The second half was closer, but

Sheridan still outscored Speedway in both the third and fourth quarters. Garner poured in another 13 points in the third.

Garner finished the game with 26 points and four 3s; she also collected 14 rebounds for a double-double and blocked three shots. Timme added eight points and pulled six rebounds, with Eaton and Smith both scoring six. Smith also had seven rebounds. Nova Cross scored two points in the fourth.

Sheridan is 16-1 and plays Tuesday at Guerin Catholic.

SHERIDAN 48, SPEEDWAY 24				
	FG	FT	TP	PF
<b>Sheridan</b>				
Nova Cross	1	0-0	2	0
Kenzie Garner	10	2-2	26	1
Cecilia Timme	4	0-0	8	2
Brielle Garner	0	0-0	0	1
Sadie Timme	0	0-0	0	2
Shelby Eaton	3	0-0	6	2
Mac Smith	2	2-4	6	1
Mak Southerland	0	0-0	0	0
Brooklynn Conley	0	0-0	0	0
Sammy Smith	0	0-0	0	0
Alivia Gould	0	0-0	0	0
Sophie Schlogl	0	0-0	0	0
Carla Gonzalez Calvo	0	0-0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4-6</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Score by Quarters</b>				
Speedway	2	0	10	12-24
Sheridan	19	8	14	17-48
Sheridan 3-pointers (4) K. Garner 4.				

## Swimming

# Vohs breaks school record for backstroke, boys win four events in dual meet with Zionsville

### By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

**NOBLESVILLE** – The backstroke is not a usual event for Noblesville's Haddie Vohs, but she put her name on it Thursday evening.

Vohs set a new Millers' school record in the event during the team's dual meet with Zionsville at the Noblesville aquatic center. The junior swam the race in 57.51 seconds.

"That was a really good race," said Vohs. "Not what I was expecting at all. I did not expect that to happen."

Vohs credited "hard training" and "working hard at practice" for achieving that new record.

"I was really excited about it," said Vohs. "And just seeing my teammates excited too, it's just really fun and exhilarating."

"It's great," said first-year Millers coach Jess Preston. The coach pointed out that it is Vohs' second school record of the year, as she set a new mark in the butterfly race at the beginning of the season.

Preston said that the backstroke is a secondary race for Vohs, "so for her to get a school record in a non-primary event, it's pretty awesome."

Vohs had earlier won the 50 freestyle race, making her a double winner for the meet. Eryn McMahon had Noblesville's third event victory, as she placed first in diving.

The Millers boys team won four events. Joshua Naas was first in the 200 free, Aiden Kless won diving, Brayden Wright paced the butterfly race and Drew Setmeyer led a 1-2-3 sweep in the 500 free.

Zionsville swept both the team standings in the dual meet, winning the girls competition 119-66 and the boys race 104-79.

Noblesville is in the midst of a busy week, having already competed in a dual at North Central on Tuesday. The Millers will head to Brownsburg on Saturday for another dual meet. And the post-season isn't far away: the girls sectional begins on Feb. 6 with the boys sectional set to start on Feb. 20.

"We're starting to see the results from all the hard work," said Preston, who noted that his swimmers are starting to drop time as they get closer to the post-season.

"I think we're right on track to having a great state tournament, so we're excited for that," said Preston.

### GIRLS MEET

**Team score:** Zionsville 119, Noblesville 66.

**200 medley relay:** 2. Noblesville "A" (Haddie Vohs, Ellie Hayward, Kyra Blackwell, Julia Santerre) 1:54.14, 4. Noblesville "B" (Olivia Motz, Elyse Biddle, Mallory Mehringer, Anna

Miller) 2:02.26, 6. Noblesville "C" (Audrey Brown, Katie Sutton, Alli Knott, Meredith Nicklroy) 2:06.74.

**200 freestyle:** 3. Exley Tricker 2:00.64, 5. Ava Middleton 2:08.46, 6. Stella Cramer 2:17.38.

**200 individual medley:** 4. Santerre 2:25.61, 5. Knott 2:25.81, 6. Norah Mathes 2:33.83.

**50 freestyle:** 1. Vohs 24.56, 3. Blackwell 26.68, 6. Mehringer 28.08.

**One-meter diving:** 1. Eryn McMahon 263.30.

**100 butterfly:** 2. Motz 1:03.75, 3. Santerre 1:08.30, 6. Jackson 1:18.60.

**100 freestyle:** 3. Hayward 59.12, 4. Sutton 59.51, 5. Nicklroy 1:00.36.

**500 freestyle:** 2. Tricker 5:29.97, 4. Blackwell 5:55.58, 6. Mathes 6:15.13.

**200 freestyle relay:** 3. Noblesville "A" (Motz, Blackwell, Knott, Tricker) 1:45.40, 4. Noblesville "B" (Sutton, Miller, Mehringer, Cramer) 1:52.07, 6. Noblesville "C" (Rowen Foster, Elyse Biddle, Alexis Jackson, Mathes) 1:57.02.

**100 backstroke:** 1. Vohs 57.51, new school record, 3. Hayward 1:08.17, 6. Middleton 1:11.19.

**100 breaststroke:** 3. Sutton 1:18.45, 4. Cramer 1:20.13, 5. Biddle 1:21.14.

**400 freestyle relay:** 2. Noblesville "A" (Vohs, Tricker, Santerre, Motz) 3:42.75, 5. Noblesville "B" (Middleton, Jackson, Hayward, Nicklroy) 4:11.23, 6. Noblesville "C" (Brown, Mathes, Avery Sloneker, Cramer) 4:23.27.

**BOYS MEET**  
**Team score:** Zionsville 104, Noblesville 79.

**200 medley relay:** 2. Noblesville "A" (Brayden Wright, Liam Hayward, Jackson Teske, Oliver Mark) 1:44.15, 5. Noblesville "B" (Adam Hill, Reed Haney, KJ Gordon III, David Walters) 1:58.25.

**200 freestyle:** 1. Joshua Naas 1:48.10, 3. Isaiah Vohs 1:52.16, 6. Wes Arnold 2:25.18.

**200 individual medley:** 3. Wright 2:10.11, 4. Drew Setmeyer 2:10.76, 5. Hill 2:19.51.

**50 freestyle:** 2. Hayward 23.21, 5. Haney 25.48, 6. Walters 28.25.

**One-meter diving:** 1. Aiden Kless 268.95, 3. Gordon 80.00.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Wright 57.03, 3. Mark 1:00.13, Gordon 1:02.48, 5. Hill 1:03.90.

**100 freestyle:** 2. Vohs 50.69, 5. Brady Monger 1:00.70, 6. Richard Cunningham 1:03.27.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Setmeyer 5:14.15, 2. Hayward 5:19.08, 3. Teske 5:23.43.

**200 freestyle relay:** 2. Noblesville "A" (Wright, Vohs, Setmeyer, Teske) 1:33.21, 5. Noblesville "B" (Walters, Haney, Arnold, Cunningham) 1:52.79.

**100 backstroke:** 2. Naas 55.14, 3. Mark 1:00.98, 6. Monger 1:10.03.

**100 breaststroke:** 2. Wright 1:06.26, 4. Teske 1:09.48, 5. Haney 1:16.18.

**400 freestyle relay:** 2. Noblesville "A" (Naas, Setmeyer, Hayward, Mark) 3:22.39, 5. Noblesville "B" (Vohs, Monger, Hill, Walters) 3:51.75.



Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

# Meet latest inductees to Noblesville High School Athletic Hall of Fame

### The REPORTER

Noblesville High School formally inducted its Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2024-25 during a ceremony at last Saturday's boys basketball game.

In order to be considered, past Noblesville athletes/graduates must be

nominated. A committee then votes on those nominations. Information and nomination forms can be found online at the Noblesville High School Athletic site.

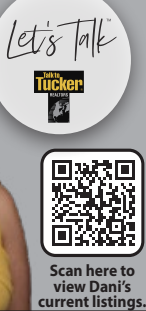
This year's inductees are Ashley Auld (2008) for soccer, Jeff Chap-

man (1999) for basketball and golf, Lacey Boutwell Schnell (2001) for swimming, Debbie King Woodward (1973) for gymnastics and the 1985-86 boys basketball team, which consisted of players Jeff Blackford, Matt Cook, Robin Davis, Shane Deering, Bill

Dodd, Craig Hawley, John Karaffa, Mike McLochlin, Dan Nicholson, Jeff Oman, Mark Roberts, Larry Simmons and Chris Stapleton; head coach Dave Nicholson and assistant coaches Jim Sparks, Tony Oilar, Ron McIntosh and Mike Chesser.

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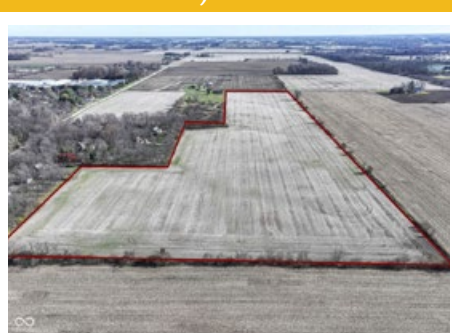


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## Lily Ault commits to DePauw University



Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

Noblesville's Lily Ault has committed to the DePauw University women's soccer team. (Front row, from left) Sherry Ault (mother), Lily Ault, and Kevin Ault (father). (Back row, from left) Noblesville Girls Soccer Head Coach Mike Brady, Palmer Ault (brother), Sophie Ault (sister), and Noblesville Girls Soccer Assistant Kristin Hetzel.

## Luke Hagelskamp commits to Black Hawk College



Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

Noblesville's Luke Hagelskamp has committed to the Black Hawk College baseball team. (Front row, from left) Charlie Hagelskamp (father), Luke Hagelskamp, and Beth Hagelskamp (mother). (Back row, from left) Noblesville Baseball Head Coach Justin Keever, Lyla Hagelskamp (sister), and Emma Hagelskamp (sister).

## Long-time Indiana AD's memory honored with scholarship

Denny Lewis Legacy of Advocacy Scholarship to be awarded in Spring 2025

**The REPORTER**  
As a fervent champion of education-based athletics, Dennis "Denny" Lewis worked tirelessly to protect and grow the opportunities for Indiana's high school student-athletes. The late, 37-year educator left a lasting impact on communities around the state. Serving in multiple roles, most notably as Athletic Director at Jasper High School for the final 17 years of his career, Denny inspired his players, students, and peers to live lives based on the teachings of education-based athletics.

In honor of this work, the IHSAA and IHSAA Foundation proudly announce the Denny Lewis Legacy of Advocacy Post-Secondary/Training Scholarship. Thanks to family, friends, former students, and community support, this new \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in perpetuity to honor and continue Denny's legacy. Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, one student-athlete from an IHSAA member school will be selected who best exemplifies the qualities that Denny worked to instill and actively continues to promote the values of educa-

tion-based athletics. "My father was the epitome of an advocate for high school athletics and the benefits in which they bring - both the qualities that you immediately see in a developing high school student and those that you look back on in 30 years," says IHSAA Assistant Commissioner, and son of Denny Lewis, Brian Lewis. "He led every day with the same vim, vigor, and gusto that you'd see on the sidelines for his family, his community, and especially his students. Dad was truly a champion of high school sports. This scholarship is

his next and last step in investing in the future of our great state." Students interested in applying for this scholarship should visit the scholarship's webpage for criteria and additional information. Each student-athlete must be nominated by their school's principal or athletic director, to be initiated on IHSAA's membership portal (www.myihsaa.net). Recipients of the Denny Lewis Legacy of Advocacy Post-Secondary Scholarship will be recognized and celebrated at the IHSAA Foundation's Impact Awards.

## Swimming Royals sweep North Central

### The REPORTER

Hamilton Southeastern's swim teams swept a dual meet with North Central on Thursday.

The Royals' girls team won 94-92, taking seven of the 12 events. Kendall Dieckman was a double winner in the 100 freestyle and backstroke. Also getting victories were Ellason Miller in the 200 free, Naomi Haines in the 50 free, Lacey Huston in the butterfly, Kinsey Bogaards in the 500 free and Southeastern's 400 free relay.

In the boys meet, the Royals won 123-57 with eight event victories. Collin Huston was a double winner in the butterfly and breaststroke races. Other first-place finishers were Nolan Pugh in the 200 free, Jihoon Jung in the 100 free, Zach Marchisin in the 500 free, Jacob Frey in the backstroke and HSE's medley and 200 free relays.

### GIRLS MEET

**Team score:** Hamilton Southeastern 94, North Central 92.

**200 medley relay (names not available):** 2. Southeastern "C" 1:55.50, 4. Southeastern "A" 2:00.15, 5. Southeastern "B" 2:11.27.

**200 freestyle:** 1. Ellason Miller 1:58.02, 2. Izzy Schmitt 2:01.43, 4. Brooklyn Penn 2:03.96.

**200 individual medley:** 2. Mia Henderson 2:18.76, 5. Jocelyn Graham 2:24.90, 6. Sarah Cooper 2:31.59.

**50 freestyle:** 1. Naomi Haines 24.60, 3. Miller 24.76, 6. Maddy Page 27.13.

**One-meter diving:** 2. Zoe Rehm 185.05, 4. Juliet Pearce 146.35, 5. Abigale Earl 77.05.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Lacey Huston 1:00.27, 2. Kinsey Bogaards 1:01.33, 5. Payton Walker 1:07.89.

**100 freestyle:** 1. Kendall Dieckman 53.25, 4. Penn 57.25, 6. Schmitt 58.75.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Bogaards 5:35.22, 4. Ella Chesterfield 5:45.54, 6. Madelyn Onufrock 6:01.96.

**200 freestyle relay:** 2. Southeastern "C" (Walker, Schmitt, Gra-

ham, Anna Irish) 1:44.81, 5. Southeastern "A" (Kelsey Graham, Elle Edison, Tellia Gansman, Kiley Zoeller) 1:58.17, 6. Southeastern "B" (Page, Juli Goss, Gabby Johnson, Sophia Croy) 2:06.36.

**100 backstroke:** 1. Dieckman 1:01.42, 4. Henderson 1:02.63, 5. Huston 1:05.87.

**100 breaststroke:** 1. Zoeller 1:06.73, 3. Haines 1:09.58, 6. Graham 1:20.17.

**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Southeastern "A" (Henderson, Dieckman, Miller, Bogaards) 3:37.14, 3. Southeastern "B" (Penn, Irish, Chesterfield, Haines) 3:49.80, 6. Southeastern "C" (Isabel Ransom, Anaya Lammie, Gansman, Goss) 4:28.01.

### BOYS MEET

**Team score:** Hamilton Southeastern 123, North Central 57.

**200 medley relay:** 1. Southeastern "A" (Jacob Frey, Jihoon Jung, Derek Robison, Collin Huston) 1:38.04, 2. Southeastern "C" (Xander Goss, Nolan Pugh, Alden Sealls, Camden Bailey) 1:43.82, 4. Southeastern "B" (Bryce Salvadori, Ivan Semko, Josh Lawrance, Zach Marchisin) 1:49.22.

**200 freestyle:** 1. Pugh 1:53.86, 2. Lawrance 1:56.20, 4. Lucas Cochran 2:03.47.

**200 individual medley:** 2. Salvadori 2:07.64, 3. Semko 2:11.39, 5. Aiden Stivers 2:21.64.

**50 freestyle:** 2. Bailey 22.39, 4. Frey 23.96, 5. Goss 24.62.

**One-meter diving:** 2. Joseph Justice 98.85.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Huston 54.46, 2. Robison 54.94, 3. Sealls 56.88.

**100 freestyle:** 1. Jung 47.60, 2. Bailey 49.23, 3. Jagger Chan 51.55.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Marchisin 5:06.54, 2. Lawrance 5:09.68, 3. N. Pugh 5:17.25.

**200 freestyle relay:** 1. Southeastern "A" (Robison, Jung, Bailey, Marchisin) 1:29.96, 2. Southeastern "B" (Huston, Chan, Ryland Williams, Sealls) 1:36.11, 4. Southeastern "C" (Connor Pugh, Brody Hayes, Justice, Graham Weier) 1:52.94.

**100 backstroke:** 1. Frey 53.87, 3. Salvadori 1:02.54, 4. Semko 1:05.56.

**100 breaststroke:** 1. Huston 58.18, 2. Chan 1:02.87, 4. Grayer Belaire 1:11.51.

**400 freestyle relay:** 2. Southeastern "A" (N. Pugh, Robison, Cochran, Goss) 3:32.55, 3. Southeastern "B" (Chan, Semko, Carter Nelsen, Lawrance) 3:35.34, 4. Southeastern "C" (Stivers, Belaire, Luke Fletcher, Williams) 4:01.38.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### 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](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com).

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