

THURSDAY, JAN. 23, 2025

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy, with scattered snow showers. Little or no accumulation.
 Tonight: Clearing, and colder again.

HIGH: 27 LOW: 7



Carmel honors gold medalist Sky Simpson with his own boulevard

The REPORTER

On Tuesday, Mayor Sue Finkam, City Councilor Shannon Minnaar, city leaders, friends, family members, and other supporters greeted Sky Simpson and his father Steve as they arrived at Penn Station East Coast Subs in one of Carmel Fire Department's engines.

Simpson, a 2020 Carmel High School graduate and Penn Station employee, was honored with the designation of "Sky Simpson Blvd.," a temporary renaming of the street sign at Monon Green Boulevard and Range Line Road.

Simpson, a Special Olympian and hometown hero, won gold medals at the International Powerlifting Federation's World Open Equipped Powerlifting Championships in Iceland in November.

Simpson's success in his chosen sport has been supported by his coach and friend, Kyle Moran, owner of Moran Academy, who has been working with Simpson since 2020.

"It's pretty special to see not only Sky's physical but social development," Moran said.

Simpson has been a Penn Station team member since 2022 and, in 2024, was the face of



(From left) Mayor Sue Finkam, Steve (Sky's father), Sky Simpson, Nancy (Sky's mother), and Coach Kyle Moran.

their annual Round Up for Down Syndrome campaign.

Todd Roush, Penn Station's Indianapolis area representative attended yesterday's event and shared that supporting the Down Syndrome community is

a passion that is "near and dear" to Jeff Osterfeld, founder and chief operating officer of Penn Station East Coast Subs. Since 2014, Penn Station has been fully funding the National Down Syndrome Adoption Network to

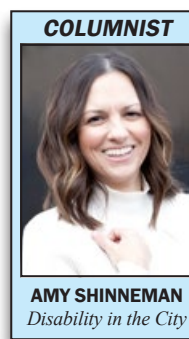
raise awareness and funds for the Down Syndrome community.

Simpson's next competition takes place on Feb. 2, where he will compete in the Powerlifting America Groundhog's Day Grind.

Photo provided

Dear Fear

Some of you may remember my "Dear Muscular Dystrophy" column I wrote. I was finally able to put into words the complicated feelings that living with Muscular Dystrophy cultivates. It took me so long to finally do that. Today, I am writing about my fear living with Muscular Dystrophy. It's something I do not talk openly about too often because, again, it has been hard to put into words what living with that fear my entire life has been like. Here is my attempt to put that into words.



AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

Dear Fear,
 You certainly are not a stranger. You have always been there, lurking, waiting to destroy me. Even as a little girl, you were there. I wasn't able to begin to process you at that point. I wasn't even sure what I was afraid of at the time. I was just left feeling uneasy and often scared. You were far too much for my young mind to comprehend. A beast is frightening to a child, and that you were.

Most of the time, I have been able to tuck you away. Stuff, stuff, stuff – down you would go into your space I created for you to stay. Sometimes you would resurface, but I would shove you back down. Deep down and close the "door."

Recently, you have become much more of a nuisance. Before you weren't tangible; you felt distant most of the time. I could escape you. Now you are just here, breathing

See Dear Fear . . . Page 2

Westfield Rotary supports Student Impact with \$5K donation

The REPORTER

The Westfield Rotary Club has once again demonstrated its commitment to the children of Westfield by awarding \$5,000 to Student Impact to purchase healthy snacks for its after-school programs.

This generous donation was revealed in a fun and interactive way during a special event. Rotary President Leane Hieber and GIS Technician Matt Harrison added excitement by tossing a Rotary figure with a blue-and-gold parachute into the air. As students eagerly caught the figure, the \$5,000 check amount was unveiled, sparking cheers and celebration.

The Westfield Rotary Club continues to focus on making a difference in the lives of local children.

"We welcome anyone with a passion for helping children to join us," Hieber said.

The Rotary's primary fundraiser is the sale of its renowned bratwurst during the Cool Creek Park Concert Series, with proceeds supporting initiatives like this one.

Student Impact, a nonprofit



Photos provided

A generous \$5,000 check to fund healthy snacks was delivered by a parachuted Rotary figure, much to the surprise of these excited Student Impact kids.

organization based in Westfield, is dedicated to creating safe, supportive environments where students can thrive. Its mission is to build relationships grounded in love and acceptance, fostering hope and healing for students in need.

"We are committed to loving, accepting, and supporting every student we encounter, helping them grow into their full potential," representatives of Student Impact said.

For more information on the Westfield Rotary Club

and how to get involved, visit westfieldrotaryin.com. To learn more about Student Impact and their mission, visit therockwestfield.org. Together, these organizations are transforming lives in the Westfield community.

Hamilton County Leadership Academy announces Angela Frazier as Class of 2026 Dean

The REPORTER

Hamilton County Leadership Academy (HCLA) has announced that Angela Frazier will serve as dean for the Class of 2026. Applications for HCLA's 35th cohort of community leaders will open on Friday, Feb. 28.

"I am truly honored to be selected as Hamilton County Leadership Academy's next class dean," said Frazier, business development director at American Structurepoint. "My 2020 HCLA classmates and many other alumni have become like family to me. I am fortunate to be part of such an outstanding group of leaders, and I look forward to helping the next class foster education, leadership, philanthropy, and collaboration to better serve

the Hamilton County community."

HCLA has been educating leaders and cultivating community networks for over 30 years. Since its inception in 1991, more than 900 community leaders have graduated from HCLA. The organization is anchored by its mission to inspire and empower participants and alumni to drive and amplify community impact through unique access to knowledge, leaders, and organizations.

The dean plays a critical role in shaping class culture and connectivity while providing meaningful insight throughout the HCLA experience. Deans also serve as



Frazier



ambassadors for the program, working closely with the executive director and board to create an engaging and thought-provoking learning environment.

"HCLA is fortunate to have a legacy of deans who model community leadership and impact," HCLA Executive Director Diana Coyle said. "Angela is a perfect addition to that legacy. As an HCLA volunteer and class day speaker, she consistently brings connectivity, wisdom, and passion for Hamilton County and we are excited

to see her share those gifts with the Class of 2026."

With over 15 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, Frazier says she is passionate about connecting with others to make a difference in Hamilton County. She currently serves on the Hamilton County Community Corrections Advisory Board, Fishers Arts and Culture Commission, Fishers Advisory Plan Commission, and the Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) Corporate Member Advisory Council. She is also

See Frazier . . . Page 2

HEPL celebrates national Take Your Child to the Library Day

The REPORTER

On Saturday, Feb. 1, Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) will join other libraries across the country in celebrating national Take Your Child to the Library Day. As essential connectors in their communities, this day encourages parents and caregivers to visit their local library and check out all they have to offer.

At both HEPL locations, there will be activities available for families to do together. Special scavenger hunts, photo ops, themed book bundles, and giveaways will be available on this special Saturday during normal business hours.

"When caregivers come to the library, we hope that they leave with something they need, either in their heart, their hands or their heads," HEPL's Children's Program Coordinator Allison Kartman said. "A wonderful program that they can bond with their child over, a new book or another material, or some knowledge that they gained while exploring our many resources. We exist to serve the community in which we were created, we hope everyone has a bit of a discovery during their visit."

The library is a great place to find books to help boost your child's early literacy skills and set them up for success in all aspects of learning. Here are some tips from Reading Rockets for reading aloud:

- Choose books that are appropriate for your child's age and interests
- Allow your child to choose books that interest them-especially as they get older
- Make your read-alouds interactive and fun
- Talk about the pictures as you read
- Build vocabulary by focusing on and talking about new words
- Connect the story to your child's world
- Ask questions about the story and encourage your child to ask what they are wondering about
- Make reading aloud a regular part of your routine – just 15 minutes each day can make a big difference in raising a reader

For more information about Hamilton East Public Library programs and services, please visit hamiltoneastpl.org.

Garcia Wilburn files 2025 bills focused on public safety, strong families & public health

Submitted

State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D-Fishers) has filed her legislation for Indiana's 2025 legislative session. Her nine bills focus on keeping Hoosiers safe, supporting public safety officials, promoting public and mental health, championing families, and working with young advocates.

House Bill 1093 will expand sexual assault victims' rights by increasing annual reporting with the goal of eliminating institutional silos standing in the way of justice for survivors.

"I am proud that HB 1093 is the result of many conversations with sexual assault survivors, advocates, law enforcement and prosecutors," Garcia Wilburn said. "Right now, institutional barriers are preventing us from getting a full picture of how well the state is ensuring that sexual assault cases are prosecuted and justice is served. HB 1093 will help us fully assess our successes and failures so we can better deliver results for survivors in the future."

Garcia Wilburn filed two bills to support public safety officials. **HB 1091** will enhance the penalty for sexual battery against a law enforcement officer on duty. **HB 1092** will build upon her 2023 law to implement first responder mental health and wellness training by providing sustainable funding for the program into

the future.

"Our community cares deeply about supporting the first responders who keep us safe," Garcia Wilburn said. "No law enforcement officer should have to fear sexual violence while on the job, but it's a sad reality that some people want to harm our LEOs. HB 1091 will serve as a deterrent against this. Additionally, a day on the job as a first responder is often more difficult and traumatic than civilians experience over the course of years. We need to continue building on 2023's **House Enrolled Act 1321** to ensure that police, fire and EMS are sustainable careers for the brave men and women in them."

HB 1090 would make joint custody the standard in custody proceedings unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that joint physical custody is not in the child's best interests. **HB 1107** establishes the Family Recovery Court Fund. The bill also would ensure that family recovery courts target cases of abuse or neglect where a parent or primary caregiver suffers from a substance use disorder or co-occurring disorders.

"Ensuing families can thrive in Indiana is a priority for me," Garcia Wilburn said. "This year, I



Garcia Wilburn

plan to continue this mission with HB 1090 and HB 1107. HB 1090 requires that every parent who is capable and can be trusted to care for their child can do so. This bill would require courts to find clear and convincing evidence that joint custody is not in the child's best interest. HB 1107 establishes the Family Recovery Court Fund to ensure that the justice system prioritizes the wellbeing of children who may have experienced abuse or neglect as a result of a parent's substance use disorder."

Building on Garcia Wilburn's work on **HB 1053** last session, she is co-authoring **HB 1167**, which decriminalizes fentanyl test strips.

"The CDC approximates that 1,877 Hoosiers died from a drug overdose last year, a 22 percent decrease from the previous year," Garcia Wilburn said. "Every one of these people likely had family and friends and were members of our communities. I co-authored HB 1167 to continue reducing these tragic deaths by protecting harm-reduction methods that have the potential to save lives."

Here is the full list of Garcia Wilburn's proposed legislation:

1. **HB 1089**: Grow the workforce by expanding

workforce ready credit-bearing grants to English as a second language courses

2. **HB 1090**: Makes joint custody the standard in custody proceedings

3. **HB 1091**: Increases the penalty for sexual battery against a law enforcement officer

4. **HB 1092**: Provides additional funding for the first responder mental health training first introduced by **Garcia Wilburn's 2023 law**

5. **HB 1093**: Expands sexual assault victims' rights

6. **HB 1107**: Establishes the Family Recovery Court Fund

7. **HB 1154**: Offers a tax credit to behavioral health practitioners who provide a preceptorship

8. **HB 1237**: Designates the Indiana bat as the official state mammal

9. **HB 1238**: Expands Medicaid reimbursement to schools offering medically necessary reimbursable services

"I am honored to receive the privilege of representing District 32 again," State Rep. Garcia Wilburn said. "It's the same community where my husband served and we raise our three children. I don't take this opportunity lightly, and I will use it to advocate for the needs of our community on the House floor and advance legislation that makes our communities safer and stronger."

Westfield economic development director to speak at Chabmer's February luncheon

The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber invites business leaders, community members, and guests to attend its February Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 at The Club at Chatham Hills.

Jenell Fairman, Director of Economic Development for the City of West-

field, will speak at the luncheon.

Westfield is going through a series of economic development and planning updates, including a comprehensive plan, downtown development plan, and a



Fairman

master plan for the Grand Park District. Fairman will provide an overview of the status of each of these efforts, her vision for developing a city designed to facilitate walkability and alternative transporta-

tion strategies, strategically grow the commercial tax base, and deliver community centers that foster relationships and business success.

Click here to register. Discounted Partner tickets and Non-Partner tickets are available. Corporate reserved tables (seating for eight) are also available.

DEAR FEAR

from Page 1

down my neck. Trying your best to trap me. It is becoming harder to shove you back down, the weaker my muscles become. The more strength you seem to gain. You are desperate to wreck my internal peace. Relentlessly showing up during my quiet moments of calm. There you are. Trying to take over. An evil shadow, just longing to engulf me.

You have changed. You seem much more forceful. Still beast-like. That is scary for an adult, too.

I used to be afraid of the dark. At times, I still am. You feel much like that scary darkness. I can't see what exactly is happening. What is coming towards me? Terrifying.

You produce unwelcome thoughts in my head. "What will become of me? Will I be left alone? Who will take care of me when I can't care for myself?" I am supposed to be that person for so many people in my life, not the other way around. Often, I feel so powerless.

Awakened in the night by you, I wake in a panic. I know you need to be managed, but I don't want to deal with you. I silently pray for you to just go away.

Even in the moments when I do my best and use all the skills I've ever learned to manage you, you randomly send me a message. I trip, fall into a counter, narrowly missing hitting the ground. You mix well with pain, like two peas in a pod. My racing heart gives me away. You think you are winning.

But faith. My faith is ready to fight. Not afraid to face you head on. You see, faith is powerful, too. Used correctly, you have no defense against faith. It can render you helpless, like you are trying to do to me. Faith isn't perfect. It's something that must be practiced, polished daily. It wavers,

and is sometimes lost. But time and time again, I have found it.

When you destroy hope, faith, like a superhero, swoops in and restores it. Where you lurk like an evil and dark presence, faith is waiting to overcome and outshine you at any given moment. There are countless, powerful examples of this in the world. Seemingly impossible situations, ridden with fear, suddenly overturned by the power of faith. Of hope. Unexplained peace.

As the years march on, and my disease progresses, I expect you will be there to greet me daily. Eager to take advantage of my fragile feelings. But there is one thing you have always misunderstood about me: I crave a challenge. I live humbled and courageous. My kryptonite in this lifetime.

In many ways, you are forcing me to live better, with much more appreciation for the little things that have big meaning. You create a sense of urgency that's meant for harm, but actually is becoming a positive, driving force in my life. I feel the need more than ever to live my life the best I can. Each day, I am grateful. Grateful to walk, grateful for one more evening stroll in the snow, clinging tightly to my husband and my son. My son gently lowering me to the ground to make a snow angel memory.

Plot twist: turns out, you are capable of producing goodness. Does that take you by surprise? I hope so.

Love,

Amy

Until next time ...

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

FRAZIER

from Page 1

a current Hamilton County Connector through the HCLA and Invest Hamilton County partnership.

In her role at American Structurepoint, Frazier serves as a liaison between the company's technical professionals and local governments and public service providers in Indiana. She frequently collaborates with elected and appointed officials, advising on planning, engineering, and architectural services to help communities achieve economic development, capital improvement, and quality-of-life goals.

Before joining American Structurepoint, Frazier gained leadership experience working for Mayor Andy Cook in the City of Westfield as director of Westfield Welcome and assistant director of the Westfield Public Works Department and Grand Park Sports Campus. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a Master of Public Management from Indiana University Kokomo.

Frazier resides in Fishers and enjoys traveling, trail running, studying history and politics, and spending time with family and friends.

Applications for the HCLA Class of 2026 will close on April 1, 2025, and the cohort will be an-

nounced in June.

HCLA will also host meet-ups for prospective applicants to learn more about the program and application process. Meet-ups include:

- Tuesday, March 11 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Songbird Social House (Carmel)

- Tuesday, March 18 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Collaboration Hub (Fishers)

- Wednesday, March 26 from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at Westfield Washington Township Office (Westfield)

To learn more about HCLA, its community impact, and share interest in the Class of 2026, visit hcla.net.

About HCLA

Hamilton County Leadership Academy (HCLA) unites, inspires, and empowers confident leaders from varied industries to support Hamilton County. The 10-month program provides those who work or live in Hamilton County with unique access to knowledge, community leaders, and local organizations. HCLA graduates gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the county; create meaningful, lifelong connections with their peers, HCLA alumni, and community leaders; and are inspired and empowered to drive and amplify community impact. Learn more at hcla.net.

ON-LINE ONLY PUBLIC AUCTION

Combined Personal Property
with Charlie & Gwen Wilburn

BIDDING OPENS: Friday, Jan. 17th @ 3pm

SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, Feb. 1st @ 6pm

PREVIEW DAY: Thursday, Jan. 30th from Noon - 6pm

PICK-UP DAYS: Monday, February 3rd from Noon - 6pm

Tuesday, February 4th from Noon - 6pm

Ford 351 Windsor Motor ; (Completely Re-Built); 1998 2-Axle Trailer; 2007 Quality Utility Trailer; 2019 Cargo Mate Utility Trailer; Morgan Dollars, Proof Sets & Coins, Casino Tokens; Hoosier Lottery & Gambling Items, Pacers & Sports Collectibles; Elvis Presley, Harley-Davidson, Signs, Advertising, Jewelry; Depression Glass, Antiques & Uniques; NEW Small Appliances, Kitchen, Canning Jars, Household & Furniture; Salt & Pepper Shakers, Cast Iron, China, Mirrors & Decor, Avon; Frigidaire Side by Side, Electronics, Cameras, Soft Goods, Longaberger; Crocks & Pottery, Toys, Dolls, Comic Books, Leather Jackets; Mounted Buck, Hornets Nests, Outdoor Patio Furniture; Hand Tools & Tool Boxes, Power & Woodworking Tools; Air Compressors, Ladders, Weldmate 100 Portable Welder; Electrical Box Lots, 3-Phase Lathe, Industrial Pedestal Bench Grinder; Mi-T-M Hot Water Pressure Washer; Chicago Electric 3-1/2 Gallon Parts Washer; Fimco 60-Gallon Sprayer, Stihl 250 Chainsaw, Yard Carts & Utility Trailers; Flat-Bottom John Boat & Fishing Gear; (2) 8' x 12' Storage Sheds, Shelving & Storage Cabinets, Totes

To View Complete Sale Bill Including Pictures & Terms and to Register & Start Bidding:

Click the Calendar Link @ www.cripesauction.com

Absentee Bidding is still Available

PREVIEW - PICKUP & PAY AT

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www.cripesauction@yahoo.com

Wade Cripe, Auctioneer

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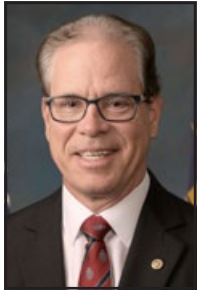
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... and more readers!

Gov. Braun signs executive orders related to healthcare

Submitted by Office of the Governor

Governor Mike Braun has signed nine executive orders aimed to improve healthcare for Hoosiers. These Executive Orders seek to deliver on Gov. Braun's promise to make Indiana healthier by driving down healthcare costs, increasing access, and increasing transparency.



Braun

savings these hospitals receive, ensuring these institutions fulfill their commitment to public service.

- **25-23 – Healthcare Affordability Measures:** Directs state agencies to prioritize tackling surprise billing, pharmacy benefit managers, and high drug prices to make healthcare more affordable for Hoosiers.

- **25-20 – Faithful Execution of Pro-Life Laws:** Directs the Indiana Department of Health to ensure compliance with state pro-life laws, including reporting on terminated pregnancies, to make certain state laws are followed and enforced.

- **25-21 – Improve Price Transparency:** Directs state agencies to enhance price transparency across healthcare services, empowering Hoosiers with clear, upfront pricing to make informed decisions.

- **25-22 – Hospital Charity Care:** Calls for an evaluation of the value of non-profit hospital charity care compared to the tax

- **25-24 – Assessing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse:** Directs the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) and the State Personnel Department (SPD) to conduct independent audits of healthcare expenditures in Medicaid and the State Employee Health Plan respectively, and report findings in order to root out inefficiencies and misuse of taxpayer dollars.

- **25-25 – Health and Family Services Dashboard:** Directs the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to develop an interactive dashboard to streamline healthcare programs, reduce redundancy, and improve the

Indiana Right to Life applauds Gov. Braun's executive order on abortion law compliance

Submitted

Indiana Right to Life President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Fichter issued the following statement Wednesday regarding Governor Mike Braun's executive order directing the Indiana Department of Health to ensure compliance with Indiana abortion laws.

"Governor Braun's action today ensures Indiana's abortion law will be enforced under his ad-

ministration. In directing the Indiana Department of Health to ensure compliance with pro-life laws, including reporting laws, abortion providers are on notice that there is no tolerance in Indiana for illegal abortions, or acts leading to the injury or deaths of women. We are thankful for Governor Braun's swift and decisive move in support of Indiana's law that has ended 98 percent of abortions in our state."

quality and cost of care for Hoosiers.

- **25-26 – Agency Data Sharing:** Encourages state agencies to collaborate and share data to improve efficiency, and ensure better outcomes for Hoosiers.

- **25-27 – 340B Program:** Directs state agencies to examine the use of the 340B program by hospitals in order to make sure participating facilities are eligible for the program and serving needy populations,

and to ensure the system is not exploited for profit.

- **25-28 – Split Risk Pools:** Directs the Department of Insurance to take steps necessary to allow health insurers to offer split risk pools for insurance, providing Hoosiers with more tailored and cost-effective insurance plans.

A full list of Executive Orders signed by Gov. Braun can be found at in.gov/gov/newsroom/executive-orders.

Central Indiana Dance Ensemble celebrates patrons' support in 25 years of educating youth in art of dance

Submitted

Central Indiana Dance Ensemble's (CIDE) 25th Anniversary performance of *The Nutcracker* was worthy of this momentous year: a stunning portrayal of CIDE's young dancers' dedication to their art.

The dancers' efforts, however, would be diminished without the outstanding support of CIDE's wonderful patrons. CIDE is filled with gratitude for each ticket purchased, and they continue to be humbled by the community's faithful patronage. On behalf of the Artistic Staff, CIDE's young performers, their volunteers, and their families, CIDE offers a heartfelt "Thank you – we could not continue without you."

CIDE is the longest running pre-professional ballet company in the Indianapolis Metropolitan area. Founded in 1999 by artistic director Suzann DeLay,

the company started from humble beginnings. CIDE has gone from having only eight main company members to a company of over 60 dancers aged 8 to 18. In the original production of *The Nutcracker*, CIDE had only 35 dancers in the original cast. The cast for the December 2024 performance was made up of over 135 dancers.

CIDE is also currently celebrating 25 years of providing cultural and educational enrichment to the central Indiana community. To commemorate the 25th anniversary, and to celebrate the continued support of their patrons, CIDE will hold an Anniversary Gala from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at Iron & Ember, 12120 Brookshire Pkwy., Carmel. The event promises an evening of elegance, memories, and inspiration.

This celebratory event will be hosted by Carmel City Councilor Jeff Wor-



Photo provided

rell and will include drinks, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, a champagne toast, and a performance by the Senior Company. There will be silent and live auction items available to bid on. The proceeds will go to support

the future growth of CIDE.

Individual tickets are on sale for the event, as well as sponsorship level tables. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets.

Learn more about CIDE at CIDEdance.org.

'Closing the Gap' report shows Indiana made steady progress in 2024 to access to high-quality early learning

The REPORTER

Indiana continues to make steady progress in access to high-quality early learning, according to Early Learning Indiana's 2024 Closing the Gap report. Since the first report in 2021, the state has experienced incremental increases in capacity, quality, and choice; however, this year's report also indicates that more than one-third of children in Indiana who likely need care do not have access to it.

The annual report provides a detailed examination of families' ability to access high-quality, affordable early learning opportunities statewide, helping community leaders and early learning and child care providers better understand their community's needs and leverage local funding to support child care access efforts.

"Access to high-quality early learning opportunities is foundational to a child's success in kindergarten and beyond," Early Learning Indiana President and CEO Maureen Weber said. "While notable progress has been achieved over the past four years, attaining comprehensive early learning access for all Indiana families will require continued focus and collaboration across state agencies, philanthropic organizations, businesses, and local communities."

Key findings from the report include:

- **Capacity:** The number of young children who can be served by existing early learning programs has increased from 55.8 percent in 2021 to 62.3 percent in 2024. Over the past four years, 61 out of 92 counties have improved their capacity sufficiency rates. Currently, there are enough seats to serve about 203,000 of the roughly 326,000 children likely needing care (62.3 percent).

- **Quality:** High-quality programs, defined by Indiana's Paths to QUALITY™ rating system, have also seen a rise. More than half of the total program capacity (52.7 percent) now exists within these top-tier programs, up from 46.1 percent in 2021. This steady increase highlights ongoing efforts to elevate the standards of early learning across the state.

- **Affordability:** Af-

fordability remains a critical factor for families. In 2024, the average cost of care for one child was \$8,590, with the amount increasing for multiple children or specialized types of care. On average, a family can expect to allocate 11.2 percent of their income for one child in care, with this figure varying between 5.3 percent to 14.9 percent depending on the county.

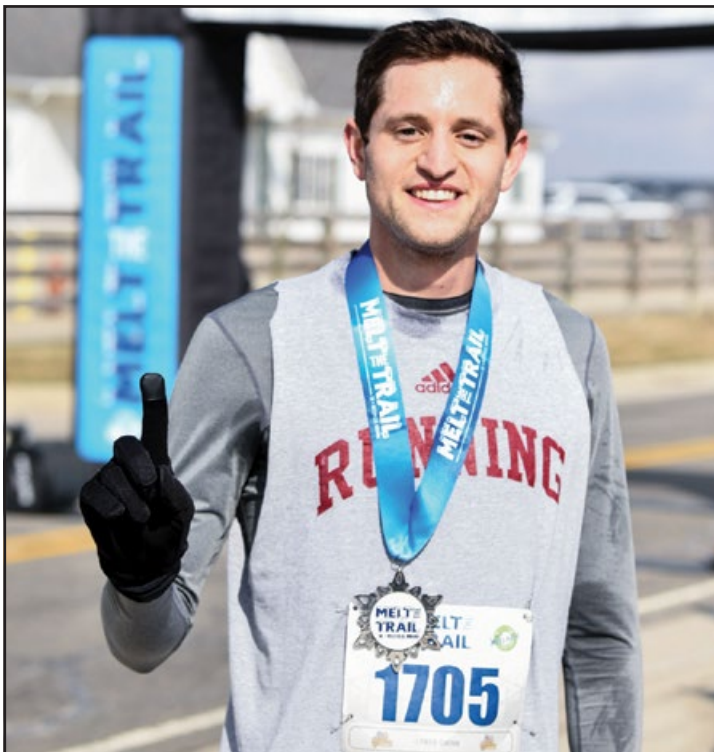
- **Access Index:** Combining capacity, quality, affordability, and choice, the Early Learning Access Index has shown modest improvement, increasing from 60.6 in 2021 to 63.8 in 2024. While this composite score reflects steady gains in families' access to high-quality early learning, significant variations exist at the county level. Currently, 27 counties have moderate access to care (scores between 60 and 80) and no counties have adequate scores (scores higher than 80).

Additionally, the report highlights a series of collective efforts implemented in 2024 to enhance early learning access in Indiana, including state-awarded Child Care Expansion Grants, Employer-Sponsored Child Care Fund grants, philanthropic support through the Early Years Initiative grants and Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) grants and matching funds.

[Click here](#) to read the full report and access scores for all Indiana counties.

About Early Learning Indiana

Early Learning Indiana works statewide to provide leadership, advocacy and early childhood education services that continually improve the early learning landscape in Indiana. Early Learning Indiana operates 12 nationally accredited, high-quality Day Early Learning centers, a network of premier community-based centers used to advance the science of early learning, train the next generation of teachers and leaders, and instill knowledge and skills in the children we serve. Through regional and statewide programs, the organization works to ensure young children are empowered with essential skills to thrive in kindergarten and beyond. Learn more at EarlyLearningIN.org.



MELT THE TRAIL

5K • WESTFIELD, INDIANA

SATURDAY, MARCH 1
RACE BEGINS AT 10:30 A.M.
GRAND JUNCTION BREWING CO.
 1189 E 181st Street

PRESENTED BY THE FARMERS BANK

@WESTFIELDWELCOME

WESTFIELD WELCOME



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!

Hamilton County Veterans Community Page

Hamilton County Veteran Service Organizations

American Legion Posts

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

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

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

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

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

VFW Posts

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

Non-Profit Veteran Orgs

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

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

Hamilton County Veteran Service Officers

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

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 52nd 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

HIGHLAND GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 1050 WEST 52ND STREET, INDIANAPOLIS IN 46228

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT INDIANA GOLF DIRECTOR OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT, ANDREW JENT 317.739.3012 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 25th 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 126th St, Fishers, In

Noblesville American Legion Post 45 - 273 S 8th St, Noblesville, In 46060

Noblesville VFW Post 6246 - 654 S 9th St, Noblesville, In 46060

Sheridan American Legion Post 67 - 406 E 10th St, Sheridan, In

Care Package Items Needed for Our Deployed Troops

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

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

Lynn at treasurer@hamiltoncountyveterans.com

Tracy at 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/ [f](#) [x](#) [@](#) [i](#) [@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




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OneZone Chamber welcomes Soula Banich to its 2025 Board of Directors

The REPORTER

OneZone Chamber has announced Soula Banich's appointment to its 2025 Board of Directors. She serves as Vice President and Chief Operations Officer for Indiana University Health, North, and Saxony Hospitals' Indianapolis Metro Region.

Banich brings extensive expertise in healthcare operations and community engagement to OneZone's mission of fostering a thriving business environment in Hamilton County. Her leadership experience and dedication to health and wellness will help strengthen OneZone's role as a key

resource for businesses and community leaders.

"I am honored to join OneZone's Board of Directors," Banich said. "It's a privilege to take the IU Health mission outside the walls of our hospitals, and I'm looking forward to partnering with OneZone to continue fostering a vibrant, healthy, and prosperous community."

OneZone Chamber President and CEO Jack Russell expressed his enthusiasm for Banich's addition to the Board.

"We are thrilled to wel-



Banich

come Soula to our Board of Directors," Russell said. "Her exceptional leadership at IU Health and her commitment to enhancing the well-being of our communities align perfectly with OneZone's vision. We look forward to her insights and contributions as we continue to build a stronger, healthier Hamilton County."

The OneZone Chamber Board of Directors comprises diverse leaders who help guide the organization's strategic priorities, programs, and initiatives.

Banich's appointment reinforces OneZone's commitment to driving innovation, collaboration, and positive impact across the region.

About OneZone Chamber of Commerce

OneZone Chamber of Commerce is a trusted partner and advocate for businesses in Hamilton County. With a mission to foster economic growth and community engagement, OneZone provides resources, programs, and connections to support a thriving business environment. For more information about OneZone Chamber and its Board of Directors, visit onezonechamber.com.

Crew Carwash recognized as one of best places to work in U.S.

Submitted

Crew Carwash has once again been named a winner of Glassdoor's 17th-annual Employees' Choice Awards, recognizing the **Best Places to Work 2025**. Crew Carwash is honored to be ranked No. 2 out of 100 on Glassdoor's Best Places to Work U.S. Large list.

"As a family-owned business, we are honored to receive recognition as one of the best places to work," said Sally Grant, third-generation family business leader and Executive Vice President of Crew Carwash. "This accomplishment stands as a testament to the dedication of our exceptional team members, whose embodiment of our people-focused, values-driven culture fosters an outstanding work environment. We're immensely proud of what we are building together and are dedicated to our goal of being the service industry leader."

The Glassdoor Employees' Choice Awards are based on the input of employees who voluntarily provide anonymous feedback on Glassdoor by completing a company review about their job, work environment and employer over the past year. When employees **submit reviews** about their employer on Glassdoor, they are asked to share their opinions on some of the best reasons to work for their employer, any downsides, and are encouraged to provide advice to management. In addition, employees are asked to rate how satisfied they are with their employer overall and rate their CEO and key workplace attributes including career opportunities, compensation and ben-

efits, culture and values, diversity and inclusion, senior management, and work-life balance.

"The Best Places to Work award is more than just recognition – it's a trusted guide for job seekers striving to find not only a great workplace but also a better work life," Glassdoor CEO Christian Sutherland-Wong said. "By showcasing companies where employees truly thrive, this award empowers professionals to choose employers that align with their values and priorities. It also highlights the critical role of transparency and feedback in shaping a future where work supports a fulfilling life."

The Glassdoor Employees' Choice Awards Best Places to Work 2025 employer ratings are determined based on the quantity, quality, and consistency of Glassdoor-approved company reviews submitted by U.S.-based employees between Oct. 17, 2023, and Oct. 16, 2024. During the year-long eligibility period, employers considered for the large list must have received at least 75 ratings for each of the nine workplace attributes (overall company rating, career opportunities, compensation and benefits, culture and values, diversity and inclusion, senior management, work-life balance, recommend to a friend, and six-month business outlook).

The final list is compiled using Glassdoor's proprietary algorithm and considers quantity, quality, and consistency of reviews.

For the complete list of the Glassdoor Best Places to Work winners in 2025, please visit gldr.co/BPTW.

Students encouraged to apply for STAR Bank's Future of Agriculture scholarship

The REORTER

STAR Financial Bank has announced the launch of the fourth annual Future of Agriculture college scholarship, continuing its commitment to supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders.

STAR will award five Indiana students a \$1,000 scholarship to apply toward their post-secondary education. Students passionate about agriculture and wanting to make a difference in the industry are strongly encouraged to apply.

To qualify, applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be a high school senior planning to enter a trade or collegiate program within two years of earning the scholarship.

- Be currently enrolled in college or trade school with at least one year remaining in their program as of Fall 2025.

Applicants must complete the online application form on STAR Bank's website and submit a 250-word essay. This year's essay question asks: "How do you plan to impact agriculture as it pertains to the past, current or future generations of farmers?"

The deadline to submit applications is April 21, 2025. The contest is open to students who reside or attend school in one of the following Indiana counties: Allen, Blackford, Boone, DeKalb, Delaware, Grant, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Huntington, Howard, Jay, Madison, Marion, Noble,



Randolph, Steuben, Tipton, Whitley, or Wells.

Submissions will be reviewed and judged by a panel of STAR Agricultural Banking representatives and winners will be selected and notified in May 2025. Since its inception, the Future of Agriculture scholarship program has provided 15 scholarships to students across Indiana.

"At STAR, we recognize the vital role agriculture plays in our state's economy and communities," STAR Bank Senior Commercial

Banker Chris Stark said. "By supporting students who are passionate about agriculture, we're investing in their futures and in the future of an industry that sustains us all. This scholarship reflects our commitment to fostering growth, innovation, and leadership in agriculture across Indiana."

For additional questions about the scholarship program, please email STAR Bank Senior Marketing Communications Manager Brad Saleik at brad.saleik@starfinancial.com.



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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

Bill to provide Medicaid relief for hospitals clears first legislative hurdle

HB 1586 passes House Public Health Committee 11-0

Submitted by Indiana Hospital Association

Members of the Indiana House Public Health Committee voted unanimously 11-0 Wednesday in favor of **House Bill (HB) 1586** to provide significant Medicaid relief for Indiana hospitals and improve access to care for Hoosiers if passed this session.

According to the Indiana Hospital Association, it's been over 30 years since Indiana raised its Medicaid base rates paid to hospitals, which are reimbursed only 57 cents on the dollar on average for every Medicaid patient they serve. This results in \$2.7 billion in unpaid statewide health care costs each year.

Authored by Chairman Rep. Brad Barrett (R-Richmond), HB 1586 would allow Indiana hospitals to be assessed up to the federally allowable maximum through the Hospital Assessment Fee (HAF) to leverage additional federal funding that would raise Medicaid reimbursement for hospitals at no cost to the state. The federal model, called a State Directed Payment Program, has been enacted in 38 other states or territories across the U.S., including in all of Indiana's surrounding states.

"Thanks to Chairman Barrett and members of the House Public Health Committee, we have an opportunity to maintain and

improve access across the state through this important legislation and decrease the reliance of hospitals on higher reimbursement from employer-sponsored health plans," Indiana Hospital Association President Scott B. Tittle said. "The current shortfall in unpaid Medicaid costs not only hurts our state's hospitals, but harms consumers, who must pay increasing premiums to cover this cost-shifting gap."

According to Kaufman Hall, Indiana hospitals operated on less than a 1 percent operating margin cumulatively in 2023, lagging below the national average of 2.3 percent. Meanwhile, hospital operating expenses exceeded national growth,

creating unsustainable financial conditions that make it difficult to maintain access to necessary services, IHA said.

Since 2019, 13 birthing units have closed in Indiana with nine of those having closed within the past two years.

"Without immediate assistance, ongoing Medicaid underpayments will only exacerbate the closure of health care services across the state," Tittle said. "HB 1586 would allow Indiana to join our surrounding states and utilize a federal program that would boost these low rates and protect access to care in all communities."

To learn more about HB 1586, visit IHAconnect.org.

Bird flu detected in Hamilton County

Public health risk is low, extra precautions encouraged if interacting with waterfowl

The REPORTER

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) as the cause of death in waterfowl in Gibson County in December and suspects HPAI as the cause of waterfowl deaths in Allen, Benton, Hamilton, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Pike, Porter, Starke, Tippecanoe, and Vermillion counties over the last six weeks.

The recent positive detections of HPAI H5 are part of 98 positive detections across the state in waterfowl since 2022. DNR began this testing in waterfowl and raptors in 2022 and increased testing in hunter harvested waterfowl with assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. With this increased testing, additional detections of HPAI are to be expected.

Most waterfowl species affected are snow geese and Canada geese, but Indiana DNR has also noted deaths in mute swans, tundra swans, mallards, American white pelicans, common goldeneyes, and double crested cormorants.

If you find wild waterfowl that are dead for no obvious reason, or showing any of the following signs, report it online at on.IN.gov/sickwildlife.

Signs of HPAI in waterfowl include:

- Sudden death
- Neurological impairment (e.g., lack of coordination, swimming in circles, tremors, twisted neck)
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Swelling of the head, neck, and eyes
- Nasal discharge, cough, sneezing, lack of coordination, and diarrhea.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends that waterfowl hunters wear protective clothing such as face masks and gloves to process birds, and to process birds in a well-ventilated area or outdoors. Meat harvested from waterfowl should be cooked to an internal temperature of 165°F before consumption.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the public health risk for HPAI is low. However, it is possible for humans to contract HPAI. Members of the public should avoid contact with sick waterfowl and other sick wildlife whenever possible. If a carcass must be handled, wear disposable gloves and a mask, and wash hands with soap and water immediately afterward.

Please contact your

healthcare provider if you come into contact with waterfowl and develop flu-like symptoms, including fever, chills, cough, sore throat with or without conjunctivitis within 10 days of exposure.

Some domestic and agricultural animals are also known to be susceptible to HPAI, including poultry, cattle, and cats. If you have these animals at home, be sure to process any harvested waterfowl away from your animals and practice good biosecurity measures.

For more information on HPAI, visit on.IN.gov/avian-flu.

For more information about poultry biosecurity measures, [click here](#).

If you see any of your poultry acting sick or find any dead, please report it to the Board of Animal Health at [this link](#).

Older Hoosiers express financial concerns, support property tax relief in AARP survey

The REPORTER

After seeing steep increases in property taxes over the past several years, older Hoosiers are increasingly worried about the financial pressure these taxes are causing – and they are looking for state leaders to provide some relief.

These concerns were part of the findings released Wednesday from a recent AARP Indiana survey of Indiana voters aged 50 and over who own a home.

"Property taxes are critical to the well-being of our communities," AARP Indiana Legislative Director Ambre Marr said. "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 health care. This session, state leaders have an opportunity to provide tax relief that should be targeted to those who need it most and help older Hoosiers stay in their homes and communities as they age."

According to the survey, 84 percent saw an increase in property taxes in the past three years and 66 percent believe the amount they pay is high. Nine in 10 (90 percent) believe it should be a priority for lawmakers to lower property taxes in 2025.

Other key findings from the survey include:

- **Policy proposals**
 - Ninety-three percent agree that increased communication about existing

state property tax relief programs is essential.

- Seventy-four percent support allowing all Hoosiers to pay property taxes on a monthly basis.

- Seventy-six percent support the implementation of a new statewide tax credit for older homeowners.

Financial concerns

- Forty percent of respondents describe their current financial situation as fair or poor.

- Fifty-five percent express concern about having enough money to be financially secure throughout their retirement years.

Rising costs

- Seventy-nine percent have seen their homeowner's insurance premiums rise.

- Forty-one percent of

older Indiana homeowners now pay more than \$2,000 annually in property taxes.

- Forty-four percent are worried about their ability to pay property taxes in the future.

Impact of potential property tax increases

- Sixty-three percent say it would make it difficult to afford home repairs and maintenance.

- Fifty-seven percent say it would make it difficult to afford homeowner's insurance.

- Fifty-six percent say it would make it difficult to afford mortgage payments.

- Fifty-four percent say it would make it difficult to afford utilities.

To view the full survey results visit aarp.org/IN-PropertyTaxPoll.

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Meeting Notices

The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District Board and Advisory Committee will hold a joint meeting at noon on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

Send Meeting Notices to:
News@ReadTheReporter.com

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St.

The Carmel Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Hearing Officer meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square. A regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m. in the same location.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE
 Honda Shadow motorcycle
 If not claimed, vehicle will be towed at owners expense.
 Vehicle is located at 3214 E. Thompson Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46227
 R5584 1/22, 1/23, 1/24, 1/25, 1/27, 1/29, 1/30, 1/21, 2/1, 2/3/25

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS
 Pursuant to IC 5-3-1-2(b) Notice is hereby given that the Hamilton County Council of Hamilton County, Indiana will meet Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at their regular meeting place of One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The regular meeting of the Hamilton County Council will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom. The Hamilton County Council will meet in a work session prior to their regular meeting in Conference room 1A. The Purpose of this work session is for discussion of how to finance upcoming major projects.
 R5585 1/23/25, 1/27/25

PUBLIC NOTICE DEADLINE
5 p.m. Friday
for Monday
publication
PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com

The Ice Rink at Holliday Park extends 2025 programming

The REPORTER

The **Ice Rink at Holliday Park**, a Northside Indianapolis wintertime tradition, remains open to the public for the ice skating season with scheduled programming through Saturday, March 1. **Tickets** are on sale now and include ice skate rental.

The second annual **Valentine's Day Skate** returns from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 for a "Hallmark movie" date night, featuring: merchandise discounts, a free drawing for restaurant gift cards and creating a free bouquet with flowers presented by Willow & Star Flowers.

The ice skating season concludes with a special Thank You Skate event on

Sunday, March 2 with free skating sessions for all visitors.

The Hockey House returns with eight weeks of **Learn to Play Hockey**, a fun and dynamic way to get kids free, basic skating and hockey lessons from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Tuesdays and from 6:15 to 7 p.m. for ages 5 to 15, sponsored by the OrthoIndy Foundation. Space is limited, so RSVP to save your spot now. Additionally, guests can rent the Rink for three-on-three pond hockey on Tuesday nights for \$25 per person, 20 people max.

This winter, **Learn to Skate** lessons are back, offering sessions on Mondays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Lessons must be reserved through the Winter Club of Indianapolis [here](#).

Homeschool Skate sessions are available from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Friday to students and their families. In the evening, students of any age can skate for half price with their student ID from 7 to 8:30 p.m. to kick off the weekend.

Skate aids can be rented for \$10. Guests requiring any accommodations are encouraged to contact rink staff directly at (463) 202-3232 before their visit to ensure an enjoyable and safe skating experience.

MashCraft will provide concessions for skaters, including beer and wine, every Friday through Sunday. The

Ice Rink may be rented at a rate of \$400 an hour with the option to have MashCraft available. Proceeds from the Ice Rink at Holliday Park will go to the Holliday Park Foundation to allow the park to continue to grow, evolve, and serve the community.

The Ice Rink is located in the heart of Holliday Park, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. The outdoor rink offers skaters a winter experience in nature with the park's historic Ruins beautifully lit in the background. Operating hours vary by date, so visit hollidaypark.org/rink for the full schedule or follow along on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Tickets are available at [this link](#).

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE GOLDEN CALF

When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"

Exodus 32:19-21 (NIV)

Dixie L. Swadener Gough

March 5, 1939 – January 21, 2025



Dixie L. Swadener Gough, 85, Noblesville, passed away on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at her home. Dixie was born on March 5, 1939, in Mount Vernon, Ohio, to the late Lloyd K. Swadener and Margaret Mary (Price) Swadener Pahl.

She was salutatorian of Mt. Vernon High School in 1957 and placed first in Knox County and ninth in the State of Ohio in scholastic achievements in accounting. She studied accounting at

Ohio State University. Dixie married Thomas E. Gough in 1960 and was a loving mother and devoted wife for 64 years. She was the Financial Controller of the Capital Improvement Board of Managers of Marion County, Ind., for over 37 years, retiring in 2009. Dixie and Tom lived in Indianapolis for 30 years before moving to Noblesville in 1988.

Dixie is survived by her husband, Thomas; sons, Bradley (Elissa) Gough, Brian (David Price) Gough, and Noel Todter; two granddaughters, Erika (Dylan) Zwier and Rachel (Sergio) Gomez; one great-granddaughter, Camila Gomez; one step-granddaughter, Holly Wigell; and her beloved canine daughter, Gabby. Dixie is also survived by her sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Rozie Short, and Robert and Janie Gough; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; stepfather, Charles Pahl; parents-in-law, Albert M. and Gladys L. Gough; her sisters, Leisle Pfouts and Mary Jo Peck Bauer; brothers-in-law, Francis Pfouts, Donald Peck, William Keyler, and Albert E. Gough; her sisters-in-law, Alice Keyler and Marilyn Gough; and her daughter-in-law, Sharon Todter.

Visitation will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, January 26, 2025, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville. Services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, January 27 at the funeral home. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at randallroberts.com.

James "Jim" Lynn McCauley

July 1, 1947 – January 20, 2025

James "Jim" Lynn McCauley, 77, Fishers, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2025, surrounded by his loving wife and his two sons.



Born on July 1, 1947, to Clyde and Emily McCauley in Akron, Ohio. Jim grew up in a household with his older and younger sisters. He graduated from North High School in 1965, attended The Ohio State University, and proudly served six years in the Army Reserves.

In 1985, Jim and his family moved from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, to Fishers, where he embarked on a long and successful career as a traveling salesman in the restaurant equipment industry. He retired in 2013, leaving behind a legacy of professionalism, hard work, and cherished relationships with colleagues and clients.

Jim was known for his sharp wit, quick humor, and ability to make everyone around him feel at ease. He could brighten even the dullest moments and knew that laughter is oftentimes the best medicine.

A devoted sports fan, Jim's passion for the Ohio State Buckeyes and Cleveland sports teams was unmatched. Even after moving to Indiana, his loyalty as a former Browns season ticket holder never wavered. Later in life, his favorite teams became those his beloved grandchildren played on, and he was their biggest supporter, cheering on every sport and activity with pride.

A lifelong golfer, Jim cherished an annual 40-year tradition of traveling to Myrtle Beach with his Ohio buddies. In retirement, he could often be found on the course at Sahn Golf Club, where he played nearly every day and achieved his only hole-in-one on the fourth hole.

Jim's creativity extended beyond the golf course; he had a talent for woodworking and took great pride in building furniture, shelves, and other "honey-do" projects – many of which he lovingly branded with his "Simpler Times" mark.

Above all, Jim was a family man whose love, humor, and wisdom left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him. We will miss the man who went by Jim, Muck, Dad, and Poppy. He was loved by so many people.

Jim is survived by his devoted wife of 55 years, Mary Ann "Krispie" McCauley; his sons, Scott (Katie) McCauley of Fishers and Patrick McCauley of Big Sky, Mont.; and his adored grandchildren, Madeline and Declan. He is also survived by his sister, Becky Jarzenski, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by his sister, Barbara Laughlin.

Jim will be laid to rest at Chestnut Hill Cemetery in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date, where family and friends can gather to honor his remarkable journey and the love he shared.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Jeffrey Kenneth Toutant

March 18, 1955 – January 17, 2025

Jeffrey Kenneth Toutant, 69, Westfield, passed away on Friday, January 17, 2025. He was born on March 18, 1955, in Dearborn, Mich., to Kenneth J. and Frances G. (Blieler) Toutant.



Following his 1973 graduation from Saint Francis High School in Traverse City, Mich., he continued his education at Farris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Health Systems Management in 1983. He joined the U.S. Navy as an Air Traffic Control Specialist, serving from 1973 to 1978. During his service time in the U.S. Navy, Jeff was awarded the First Good Conduct Award and the National Defense Service Medal Award.

On July 13, 1974, Jeff married Grace Ann Garno, his high school sweetheart. In 2016, Jeff began employment with the Department of Defense as a Retirement Technician GS6 and was actively working until his passing.

Jeff enjoyed spending time with his family and friends discussing politics and world news. He looked forward to camping trips. He was a sports enthusiast, especially watching golf, football, basketball, and car racing. He was a die-hard Lions and Colts fan. He found the beauty in working with wood as he refinished furniture throughout his life. He loved God and was passionate about our country.

In addition to his parents, Jeffrey was preceded in death by his sister, Judith Rivard; and his brother-in-law, La Sal Rivard.

Survivors include his loving wife of 50 years, Grace Ann (Garno) Toutant; daughter, Denise (Gerald John) Hopkins; grandsons, Clarence Jeffrey "CJ" (Jordan) Jenkins, and Zachary Adam Hopkins; great-grandchildren, Carter Michael Jenkins, Jentezen Clarence Jenkins, and Westlynn Noel Jenkins; sister, Joan (John) Miller; and many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will gather at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at Radiant Christian Life Church, 16162 Carey Road, Westfield, where the Funeral Service will begin at 3:30 p.m.

In memory of Jeffrey, donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project. Envelopes will be available at the service.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to assist the family with arrangements.

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.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.

Thanks for reading, Hamilton County!

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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.
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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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Completely remodeled ranch on 1.06 acres just outside of downtown Lebanon. Beautifully decorated and move-in ready!
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ON THE WATER!

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REPORTER SPORTS THURSDAY

Sports Editor Richie Hall | Sports@ReadTheReporter.com | Twitter @Richie_Hall

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

Swimming

Heights girls place second, boys place third at conference meet

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Heights swim teams competed in the Hoosier Conference meet last Saturday at Purdue University.

In the girls meet, the Huskies placed second with 370 points, winning eight of the 12 events. West Lafayette won the meet with 432 points. Heights had three double individual winners: Ayla Madara in the 200 freestyle and butterfly events, Sophia Hulen in the 50 and 100 freestyles, and Amira Leer in the individual medley and the 500 free.

Hulen, Leer and Madara all teamed with Audrey Cain to finish the meet with a victory in the 400 freestyle relay. Campbell Lively-Mason won the diving event.

In the boys meet, the Huskies finished third with 296 points. Aiden Clarke won the backstroke for Heights. Western dominated the meet by scoring 488 points and winning six events, followed by West Lafayette with 344 points and two event wins.

GIRLS RESULTS

200 medley relay: 3. Heights (Audrey Cain, Amira Leer, Ayla Madara, Sophia Hulen) 1:56.65.

200 freestyle: 1. Madara 1:54.37, 7. Allie Bushey 2:18.03, 8. Anna Monnin 2:20.63.

200 individual medley: 1. Leer 2:13.36, 9. Adalynn Gould 2:42.20, 14. Quinn Thompson 2:58.32.

50 freestyle: 1. Hulen 24.84, 13. Hattie Hattison 30.09, 16. Zoe Pickett 31.43.

One-meter diving: 1. Campbell Lively-Mason 340.65, 3. Illiana Bowyer 292.25, 4. Grace Reynolds 277.55.

100 butterfly: 1. Madara 58.55, 10. Thompson 1:18.81.

100 freestyle: 1. Hulen 53.90, 6. Cain 1:02.31, 21. Saleh Heuer 1:23.78.

500 freestyle: 1. Leer 5:11.41, 8. Bushey 6:18.64.

200 freestyle relay: 5. Heights (Monnin, Bushey, Gould, Hattison) 1:58.48.

100 backstroke: 7. Cain 1:12.28, 10. Gould 1:15.07, 17. Heuer 1:29.93.

100 breaststroke: 9. Monnin 1:29.53.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Heights (Hulen, Cain, Leer, Madara) 3:43.95.

BOYS RESULTS

200 medley relay: 3. Heights (Gabe Roosa, Hudson Holt, Aiden Clarke, Rowan Donald) 1:45.83.

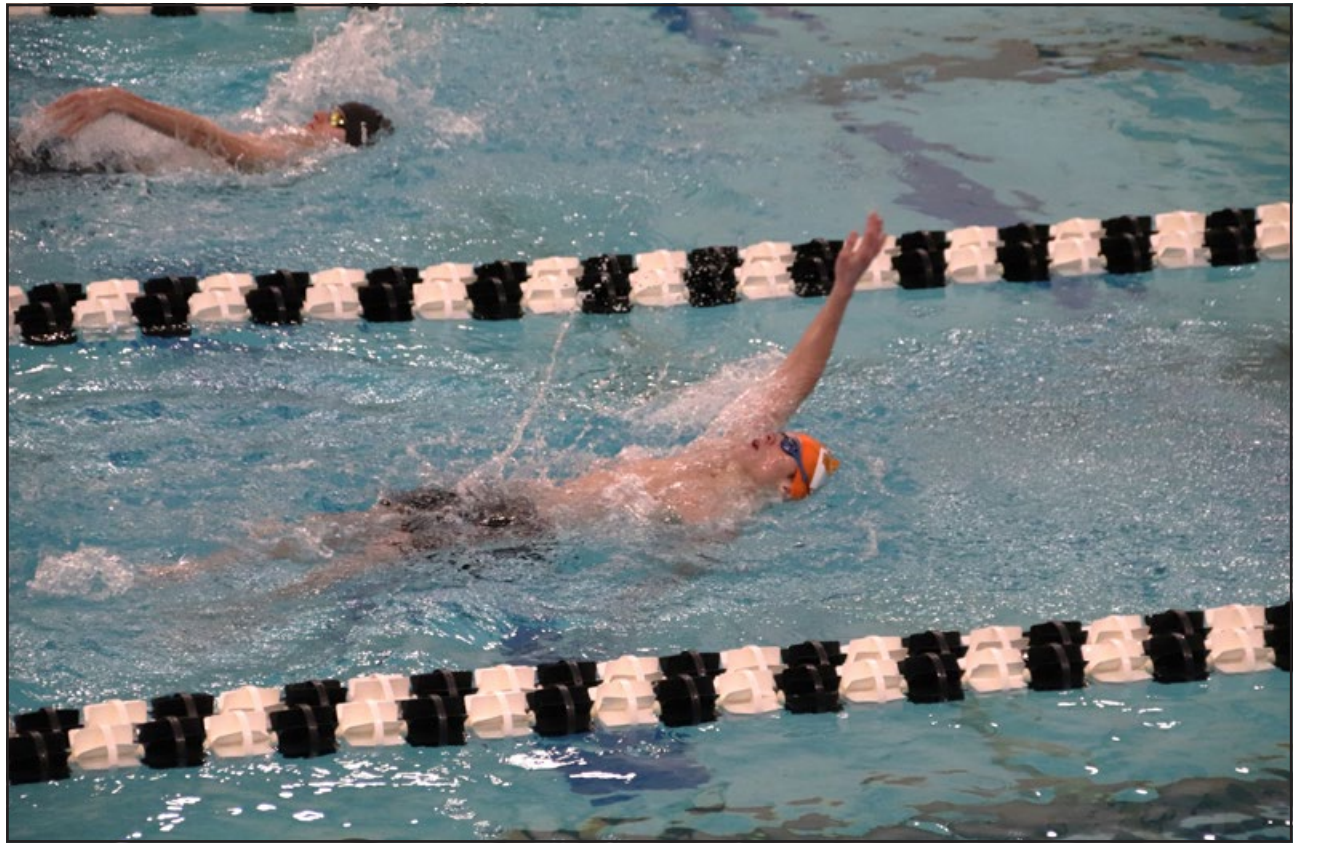


Photo provided

Hamilton Heights junior Hudson Holt swims in the individual medley event during the Hoosier Conference meet, which took place last Saturday at Purdue University.

200 freestyle: 4. Rudy Bowman 1:54.36, 13. Owen Eshelman 2:28.48, 14. Abram Gould 2:30.26.

200 individual medley: 2. Roosa 2:13.49, 10. Holt 2:27.48.

50 freestyle: 4. Cole Martin 23.74, 11. Isaac Correll 26.01, 12. Eli Heuer 26.70.

100 butterfly: 2. Clarke 53.77, 15. Will Monnin 1:36.43.

100 freestyle: 3. Donald 51.50, 7. Martin 54.69.

500 freestyle: 4. Bowman 5:17.26, 12. Jack Powell 6:16.56.

200 freestyle relay: 3. Heights (Donald, Correll, Martin, Holt) 1:38.56.

100 backstroke: 1. Clarke 56.20, 5. Roosa 59.41, 15. Eshelman 1:20.03.

100 breaststroke: 4. Holt 1:08.10, 13. Owen Semester 1:21.37, 17. Jake Watts 1:34.94.

400 freestyle relay: 2. Heights (Bowman, Martin, Clarke, Donald) 3:30.08.

Boys Wrestling

Royals finish regular season with win over Greyhounds

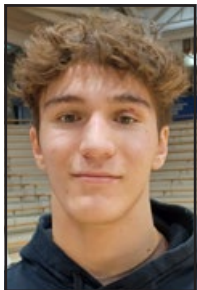
The REPORTER

The Hamilton Southeastern and Carmel boys wrestling teams finished up their regular seasons by facing off in a dual meet on the Greyhounds' Bill Shepherd Court at the Eric Clark Activity Center.

The Royals won the meet 45-20. The competition began with Southeastern and Carmel trading pins; HSE's Cole Beattie won at 106 pounds and the Greyhounds' Carlo Federici won the 113-pound winner. But the Royals won the next five matches to take a 28-6 lead at the halfway point of the match. Nick Anderson started the run with a pin at 120 pounds.



Anderson



Major

The Royals would go on to claim 10 of the 14 matches. Grady Wafford also got a pin at 175, with Chris Casler (at 144) and Landon Hicks (at 157) each winning by technical fall. Parker Culp (at 132) and Matthew Billet (at 138) were major-decision winners, while Aidan Smalley (at 126), Evan Lawhead (at 215) and A.W. Vankirk (at 285) took their matches by regular decision.

"We wanted to see how we matched up," said HSE coach Nick Brobst. The coach said his team hadn't gotten to see Carmel before this time, except for "one or two weight classes" at the Mooresville holiday tournament.

HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 45, CARMEL 20 Meet started at 106 pounds

- 106: Cole Beattie (HSE) def. Joshua Velarde (C) by fall
- 113: Carlo Federici (C) def. Raj Nagra (HSE) by fall
- 120: Nick Anderson (HSE) def. Sullivan Mahar (C) by fall
- 126: Aidan Smalley (HSE) def. Elliott Leonard (C) by decision, 13-8
- 132: Parker Culp (HSE) def. Cedric Silva (C) by major decision, 16-3
- 138: Matthew Billet (HSE) def. Tyler Elliott (C) by major decision, 15-7
- 144: Chris Casler (HSE) def. Braydon Mack (C) by technical fall, 15-0
- 150: Elijah Penquite (C) def. Aiden Blackmore (HSE) by major decision, n/a
- 157: Landon Hicks (HSE) def. Jude Wright (C) by technical fall, 15-0
- 165: Michael Major (C) def. Cohen Davis (HSE) by medical forfeit
- 175: Grady Wafford (HSE) def. Harrison Grant (C) by fall
- 190: Adel Navarette (C) def. Reid Snider (HSE) by major decision, 12-3
- 215: Evan Lawhead (HSE) def. Will Massey (C) by decision, 8-5
- 285: A.W. Vankirk (HSE) def. Jackson Bui (C) by decision, 2-1

what we needed to work on, what we need to prepare for possible sectional matchups," said Brobst, who also said his team "wrestled really well" at the meet.

Carmel picked up two major-decision victories from Elijah Penquite at 150 and Adel Navarette at 195. Michael Major won the 165-pound match by medical forfeit.

"Tonight's goal was real-

through a state tournament series," said 'Hounds coach Ed Pensoski. "Michael has been wrestling really well, Carlo finishing matches is our key through here. (Will) Massey did a really good job against a guy (Lawhead) that throttled him a couple times last year."

Both teams will compete at the Frankfort sectional, which takes place on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Boys Basketball

Millers travel to Park Tudor, bring home big win

The REPORTER

The Noblesville boys basketball team traveled to Park Tudor on Wednesday and came home with a 62-43 win.

The Millers outscored the Panthers in all four quarters, starting with a 14-6 lead after the first period. Noblesville extended its lead to 31-14 at halftime, then held a 48-27 lead after three quarters.

Baron Walker had a solid

game for the Millers, scoring 20 points, pulling five rebounds and dishing out four assists. Justin Curry had 16 points and collected six rebounds. Aiden Brewer led the rebounds with seven. Curry, Walker and Max Flanagan all made two 3-pointers.

Noblesville is 10-4 and travels to Franklin Central on Friday for a Hoosier Crossroads Conference game.

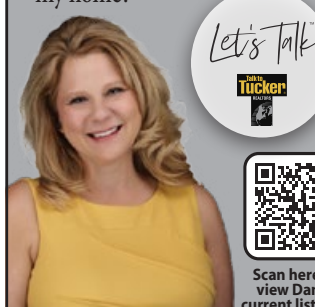
NOBLESVILLE 62, PARK TUDOR 40

Noblesville	FG	FT	TP	PF
TJ Davidson	1-3	0-0	3	1
Adam Fine	1-4	0-0	3	1
Justin Curry	7-15	0-1	16	2
Aiden Brewer	4-5	0-2	8	2
Baron Walker	7-11	4-5	20	2
Ryan Vetur	1-1	0-0	2	0
Max Flanagan	2-4	0-0	6	1
Max Miller	1-1	0-0	2	1
Luke Davis	1-1	0-0	2	2
Luke Fogg	0-0	0-0	0	0
Score by Quarters				
Noblesville	14	17	17	14 - 62
Park Tudor	6	8	13	13 - 40

Noblesville 3-point shooting (8-17) Curry 2-6, Flanagan 2-4, Walker 2-3, Davidson 1-2, Fine 1-2.
Noblesville rebounds (27) Brewer 7, Curry 6, Walker 5, Davis 4, Flanagan 2, Davidson 1, Fine 1, Vetur 1.

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Photo provided

You can win a chance to be Drew Brees pickleball partner at the match on Jan. 28 in Noblesville.

The Picklr Noblesville opens Jan. 25, celebrates with Drew Brees on Jan. 28

The REPORTER

The Picklr, North America's fastest-growing and largest indoor pickleball franchise, headquartered in Kaysville, Utah, has announced that its second club in Indiana – **The Picklr Noblesville** – will open at noon on Saturday, Jan. 25.

The 57,000 square-foot club will feature 19 fully fenced indoor courts featuring patent-pending, high-quality outdoor-style court surfacing; three championship-sized courts with permanent grandstands; a mezzanine viewing and lounge area; a full pro shop; and private event space. Club membership will include free court reservations, unlimited Picklr leagues, tournaments, and open play. Private coaching, clinics, youth academies, and private/corporate events will also be available.

The Grand Opening event will host a range of activities from noon to 5 p.m., including:

- Free Open Play
- PPA Pros Exhibition Play
- Noblesville Police & Fire Dept. Matches
- Wingfield Demonstrations
- Food from Local Partners
- Raffles and Prizes

The Picklr Noblesville is a joint venture between NFL Hall of Famer Drew Brees' BV Pickleball Clubs LLC and Pickle Indy LLC, owned by Ron Brock and David Gilreath, both Indianapolis businessmen. Drew Brees was announced in January 2024 as a national brand ambassador for The Picklr and an area developer of 30 Picklr locations across the Midwest.

The Picklr Noblesville will also host an exclusive members-only event with Drew Brees on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Noblesville Founder Members purchasing **Annual Memberships** on or before the grand opening are eligible to **win the**

chance to be Drew Brees' pickleball partner for one match at the special Jan. 28 event, be an honorary coach or assistant coach for the match, and get autographed swag. The event is open to all members of The Picklr.

"Our vision for The Picklr Noblesville is to create a community where people of all ages and skill levels can come together to play this fast-growing sport," said Drew Brees, NFL Hall of Famer, an avid pickleball player, and co-owner of The Picklr Noblesville. "This location will be the Midwest's premier pickleball club, and we look forward to building the area youth program as well as attracting both amateur and professional tournaments."

"Noblesville is the second of at least six Picklr locations we will be opening in the central Indiana area," Ron Brock and Dave Gilreath said. "We are excited to partner with Drew Brees and his local team on

this location and give more people who love pickleball a top-notch indoor playing experience."

Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen said, "This premium-quality facility will have a positive economic impact for our community in addition to adding health benefits for our residents."

The Picklr Noblesville Unlimited Memberships are available in limited quantities at discounted Founder Membership pricing prior to the grand opening, after which membership reverts to regular pricing. Membership benefits include access to all of The Picklr locations nationwide. Additionally, The Picklr offers **Junior Membership** at all locations, giving youth unique programming targeted to grow their skillset, starting at age 8.

The Picklr Noblesville is located at 9847 Cumberland Pointe Blvd. Learn more at thepicklr.com/location/noblesville.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, Jan. 23

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Sheridan at Delphi, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

Avon at Westfield, 6 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern at Zionsville, 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 24

BOYS BASKETBALL

Avon at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.
Brebeuf Jesuit at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
Brownsburg at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.
Carmel at Pike, 7:30 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern at Zionsville, 7:30 p.m.
Noblesville at Franklin Central, 7:30 p.m.
Sheridan at Delphi, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Avon at Fishers, 6 p.m.
Brebeuf Jesuit at Guerin Catholic, 6 p.m.
Brownsburg at Westfield, 6 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern at Zionsville, 6 p.m.
Pike at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.
Hoosier Conference third-place game
Hamilton Heights at Lafayette Central Catholic, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

Carmel, Hamilton Southeastern at
Warren Central Warrior Diving Invitational, 6 p.m.
Fishers Tigers College Events Classic, 6:30 p.m. at IU Natatorium

Saturday, Jan. 25

BOYS BASKETBALL

Fishers at Fort Wayne Carroll, 4:30 p.m.
Brownsburg at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.
Hamilton Heights at Maconaquah, 7:30 p.m.
Mount Vernon at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
Muncie Central at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.
Purdue Polytechnic North at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS WRESTLING

Hoosier Heartland Conference meet, 9 a.m. at Delphi

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Noblesville at Franklin Central, 12:30 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern at Center Grove, 7:30 p.m.
Homestead at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

GYMNASTICS

Noblesville at Concordia Lutheran Carter Classic, 11:30 a.m.

SWIMMING

Noblesville, Fort Wayne Carroll at Fishers, 1 p.m.
Pioneer Conference meet, 1 p.m. at Ball State University

Sunday, Jan. 26

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Pairings show, 5 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 27

GYMNASTICS

Westfield at Logansport (with Huntington North), 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 28

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seccina at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Decatur Central at University, 6 p.m.

Anderson at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.

Ben Davis at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.

Carmel at Cathedral, 7:30 p.m.

Clinton Central at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.

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

Lawrence North at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

Guerin Catholic, University at Schools with No Pools meet, 5:45 p.m. at IU Natatorium

Hamilton Heights boys at Anderson, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sheridan at Southmont, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 30

GIRLS BASKETBALL

University at Speedway, 6 p.m.

Hamilton Heights at Heritage Christian, 7:30 p.m.

Pendleton Heights at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.

GYMNASTICS

Fishers, Lapel, Westfield at Noblesville, 6 p.m. at Hollywood Cheer and Tumble

Friday, Jan. 31

BOYS BASKETBALL

Anderson Prep Academy at University, 7:30 p.m.

Ben Davis at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

Franklin Central at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Sheridan at Taylor, 7:30 p.m.

Westfield at Avon, 7:30 p.m.

Guerin Catholic at Lafayette Central Catholic, 8 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Guerin Catholic at Lafayette Central Catholic, 6 p.m.

Sheridan at Taylor, 6 p.m.

Carmel at Ben Davis, 7:30 p.m.

Franklin Central at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 1

BOYS BASKETBALL

Noblesville at Guerin Catholic, 2:30 p.m.

Carmel at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

University at Indianapolis Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS WRESTLING SECTIONALS

Carmel, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Sheridan, Westfield at Frankfort

Guerin Catholic, Hamilton Heights, Noblesville at Elwood

GYMNASTICS

Noblesville at Bloomington South Invitational, noon

Westfield at Shelbyville, 10 a.m.

SWIMMING

Noblesville, Westfield at Hamilton Southeastern Reserve Championships, 9 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 3

BOYS BASKETBALL

University at Bishop Chatard, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Fishers, Guerin Catholic, Noblesville at New Palestine, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

BOYS BASKETBALL

KIPP Legacy at Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.

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

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Men's Basketball Mad Ants drop back-and-forth Tuesday night contest in Arizona

The REPORTER

The Indiana Mad Ants hit the road for a Tuesday night meeting with the Valley Suns. The two clubs battled throughout the contest with multiple ties and lead changes. Despite trailing by 10 points heading into the fourth quarter, the Mad Ants captured the lead during the fourth quarter. However, Valley pulled away on their way to a 117-114 victory. Jahlil Okafor led the team with 25 points while Cameron McGriff posted a double-double off the bench.

Kyle Mangas scored the first points of the night for the Mad Ants. The Indiana native banked in a mid-range jump shot. Two possessions later, Obadiah Noel drained a three-pointer for his first points of the night.

Indiana led 16-12 with 6:30 remaining in the first quarter. The two clubs went back-and-forth for most of the quarter with Valley pulling away late. The Mad Ants trailed 34-27 after the first quarter. Kyle Mangas led Indiana with eight points in the quarter.

Josiah-Jordan James scored the first points for the Mad Ants in the second quarter. The former Tennessee Volunteer made a turnaround jumper for his first two points of the game. Halfway through the quarter, Indiana cut the deficit to one point after a one-for-two free throw from Dakota Mathias.

Down the stretch, the two clubs continued to battle with the Mad Ants capturing the lead at the 2:41 mark. Noel was fouled and converted the one-for-two free throw to give Indiana a 51-50 lead. At the end of the first half, the game was

led 58. Mathias led the team with 14 points.

James scored the first points of the second half for Indiana. He regained the lead for the Mad Ants with a fadeaway jumper. A three-pointer from Noel and a hook shot from Jahlil Okafor extended the lead to five points for Indiana early into the third quarter.

The two clubs changed leads throughout the third quarter before the Suns pulled away in the final few minutes. The Mad Ants trailed 90-80 after the third quarter. Mangas led the Mad Ants with 15 points at that point.

In the fourth quarter, Mathias scored the first points for Indiana with a three-pointer. De'Vion Harmon made a layup on the next possession to continue cutting into the deficit.

With seven minutes to go in regulation, Indiana cut the deficit to three points with a hook shot from Okafor. A minute and a half later, the Mad Ants trailed by one point following a one-for-two free throw from Mathias. Valley led 104-103.

Indiana fought back to tie the game with 2:23 to go in the fourth quarter. Harmon drew a foul and converted the one-for-two free throw. Down the stretch, Valley regained the lead and Indiana's comeback attempt fell short.

The Indiana Mad Ants will continue their brief road trip and face-off with the Birmingham Squadron on Saturday. Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m. The next home game for Indiana will be Tuesday against the Motor City Cruise. Tip-off for that game is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Dumas signs with Walsh University

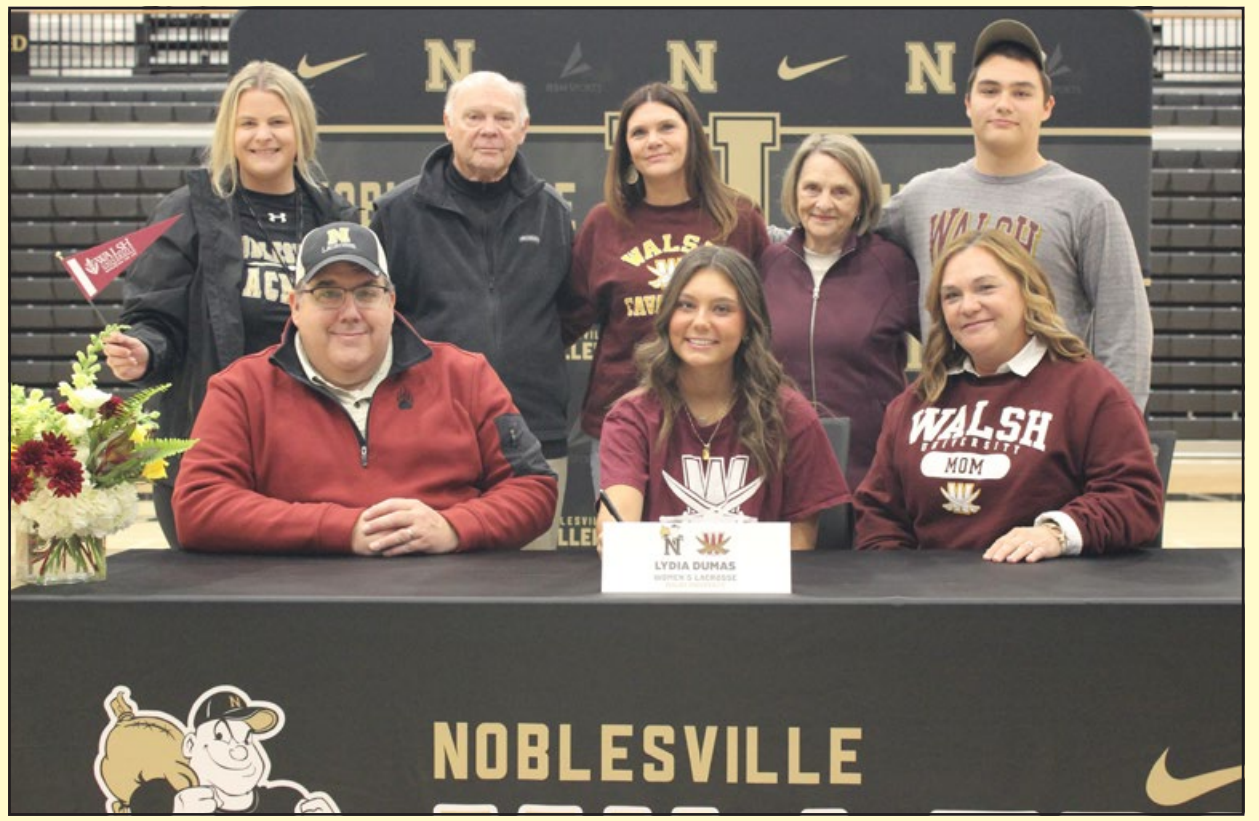


Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

Noblesville's Lydia Dumas has committed to the Walsh University women's lacrosse team. (Front row, from left) James Dumas (father), Lydia Dumas, and Caroline Dumas (mother). (Back row, from left) Noblesville Girls Lacrosse Head Coach Morgan Soderholm, Sumter DaVega (grandfather), Anne Ely (aunt), Lorrie DaVega (grandmother), and Jackson Dumas (brother).

Fulk signs with Purdue Fort Wayne



Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

Noblesville's McCoy Fulk has committed to the Purdue University Fort Wayne baseball team. (Front row, from left) Travis Fulk (father), McCoy Fulk, and Jill Barnes (mother). (Back row, from left) Noblesville Baseball Head Coach Justin Keever, Ron Fleming (grandfather), Jean Fleming (grandmother), Will Barnes (brother), and Alan Barnes (stepfather).



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