

THURSDAY, FEB. 20, 2025

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly sunny. Breezy.

Tonight: Partly cloudy.

HIGH: 19 LOW: 8



School board honors men for good work & heroism



Photo provided by Noblesville Schools

Noblesville Schools maintenance employees Mike Kirby, Dave Absher, Scott Godsman, and Nick Watson were honored Tuesday night by the school board. Kirby was also given a Public Health Hero award from the Hamilton County Health Department for quick action to save the life of colleague Doug Durr when he experienced a medical emergency at work. (From left) Doug Durr, Jim Ginder with the Hamilton County Health Department, Mike Kirby, Jason LeMaster with the Hamilton County Health Department, and Nick Watson.

The beauty within

You know those people you meet, whose beauty that lives within them overflows to their outward appearance? Their smile, their eyes, the way they carry themselves, or their ability to make those around them feel instantly comfortable. Their beauty is not just something you see, but more so something you feel. I am always in awe of those people. It is not something that can be faked, it's authentic. It is not their makeup or the clothing they wear, it's just ... them.

As a child, people told me I was cute. They liked my brown eyes and my olive skin that got especially tanned in the summers, as I spent most of my waking hours outside. As far back as I can remember, I told myself they were just saying that because they felt sorry for me because of my physical disability. They were trying to help me feel good about myself is what I believed.

As time went on, people told me I was beautiful. Again, I thought, they were trying to build me up because they assumed I had low self-esteem, which was definitely true. I would relentlessly pick myself apart piece by piece, never really satisfied. Always striving to be prettier. *Maybe then others wouldn't notice my disability so much*, I thought to myself. I felt ashamed of who I was. I felt like my disability made me ugly. That's hard to even type out, but it's the truth. I spent a lot of time wishing I was anyone but me.

At 50, it seems like every day I stare at myself in the mirror and notice a new line or spot on my face. Youth is certainly wasted on the young. We don't appreciate our smooth skin or more agile bodies in the moment. When we are younger we think it will last forever. As we age, we start to understand beauty encompasses more than vanity. Again, I'm reminded of those whose beauty comes from within. Timeless beauty. Many of us, myself included, slather all kinds of lotions and potions all over trying to slow the speeding freight train that is aging.

See Beauty . . . Page 2

Braun suggests he'd veto property tax proposal in its current form

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
 WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Gov. Mike Braun on Wednesday said he's "likely" to veto the property tax package and call a special session if he doesn't believe it provides enough relief.

When the Senate passed **Senate Bill 1**, the legislation containing Braun's property tax relief plan, on Monday, it did so without including a provision to allow all homeowners to either reset their property tax rates to 2021 levels or take a 60 percent deduction. The Senate's package still includes expanded tax deductions for low-income seniors and disabled veterans, plus a tax credit for first-time homebuyers with an income of less than \$75,000 who buy a house assessed at less than \$250,000. It also limits the rate at which a property tax levy approved through a referendum can grow.

In a statement posted to social media on Tuesday, Braun said the legislation slows down how fast bills will increase, but doesn't cut taxes for homeowners hit hardest by inflation. During a Wednesday news conference, he said local governments know how much costs and taxes increased since 2021. He said local governments and school districts need to take a hard look at what expenses over the past four years have truly been necessary and be honest with taxpayers about those findings.

"When you ask the taxpayer to do more than what they can afford, you're going to hear an uproar like we did over the last two years," Braun said.

See Veto . . . Page 2

Carmel forms housing commission

Submitted by
 City of Carmel

Sparked by the impressive work of the Carmel Housing Task Force and its initial report, Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam announced on Wednesday the formation of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Housing.

The initial work of Commission members will focus on considering and implementing the recommendations of the task force, which was formed in February 2024, with members then issuing a key

recommendations report to the mayor in September.

Commission members include:

- Barbara Eden, Carmel resident
- Todd Fenoglio, Carmel Clay Schools
- Matt Kaercher, Merchants Capital
- Shannon Minnaar, City Council member
- Chris Pryor, MIBOR
- Sarah Spencer, First Financial Bank
- Christine Zoccola, Carmel



Finkam

el Plan Commission "This commission is another significant step forward in addressing our housing needs and I am grateful to these residents for their willingness to serve," Mayor Finkam said.

"We have clearly defined the challenges we face and are now taking steps to ensure the long-term sustainability of diverse housing options for future generations."

The commission will facilitate and update the Housing Strategy and Vision resulting from the task force's initial recommendations, with the goal of meeting Carmel's housing objectives. Among their plans are strategizing options for protecting existing single-family neighborhoods, assessing current zoning regulations pertaining to housing, and studying options and strategies for new affordable housing.

Commission members will meet twice monthly. [Click here](#) to learn more.

INDOT eyes roundabouts to curb crashes on Hamilton-Madison county border

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
 WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Roundabouts are being considered due to speeding motorists and a high number of crashes along parts of a rural stretch of State Road 13 on the border of Hamilton and Madison counties, the Indiana Department of Transportation says.

One goal of the roundabouts would be to reduce the high frequency of T-bone crashes resulting in injuries. Another goal would be to improve the flow of traffic along the rural stretch of highways.

One roundabout would be along State Road 13 at its intersection with Strawtown Avenue in Hamilton County and West Eighth Street Road in Madison County. That's just south of the White River and the unincorporated community of Perkinsville.

That intersection currently has east-west traffic stopping at State Road 13.

From 2017 to 2019 at that intersection, 22 crashes have happened, with eight of those injuring one or more people. The severity and number of crashes is above average compared to similar intersections, INDOT says. Possible causes of the crashes have been excessive speed, the offset alignment of Strawtown Avenue and West Eighth Street Road with State Road 13, and a hill obstructing sightlines for north-bound traffic.

Another roundabout would be at the intersection of State Roads 13/37, 296th Street in Hamilton County, and State Road 128, which goes east to the Madison County town of Frankton. The intersection sits about a mile south of the Madison County city of Elwood. The roundabout also sits on the southeastern corner of Tipton County.

That intersection currently has east-west traffic stopping at State Roads 13/37.

From 2017 to 2019 at that intersection, 18 crashes have happened, with seven of those injuring one or more people. Again, the severity and number of crashes is above average compared to similar intersections, INDOT says. Possible causes of the crashes include excessive speeds on State Roads 13/37, reduced sightlines for motorists on State Roads 13/37, and an increase in traffic volume.

On Wednesday, INDOT was giving a **presentation on the projects** and was having a public hearing on the project at Lapel High School.

INDOT considered other alternatives, including all-way stops and traffic signals, but its planners think the roundabouts would significantly reduce the severity of crashes at the intersections.

See Roundabouts . . . Page 2

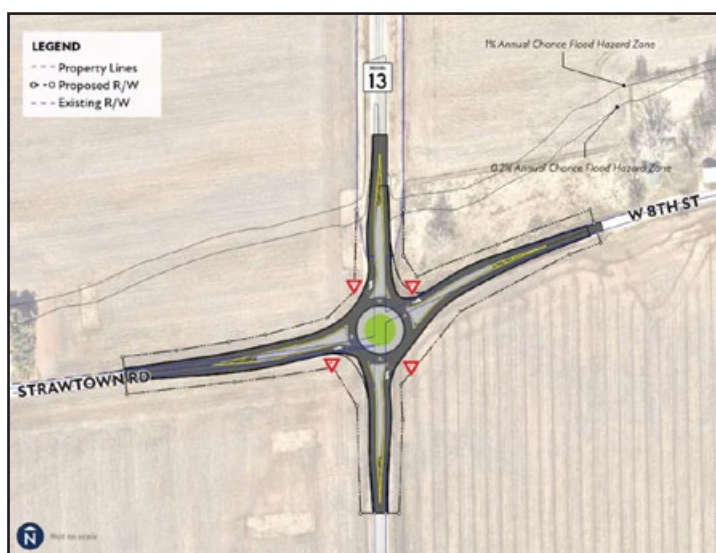


Photo illustrations provided by INDOT

(TOP) State transportation planners want a roundabout at the intersection of State Roads 13/37, 296th Street in Hamilton County, and State Road 128, which goes east to the Madison County town of Frankton. (ABOVE) Planners also want a roundabout along State Road 13 at its intersection with Strawtown Avenue in Hamilton County and West Eighth Street Road in Madison County.

ROUNDBOUTS

from Page 1

Contracts on the projects could be let as soon as October, with construction from spring to fall 2026. Road closings could last from one to four months.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/local-news/roundabouts-state-road-13-hamilton-madison-county.

VETO

from Page 1

When News 8 asked Braun if he would consider either vetoing SB 1 if it reaches his desk in its current form or calling a special session over property taxes, the governor replied, "If it doesn't improve, I'm likely to do both of them depending on what you need to do to actually get real relief."

The House has not yet held its own hearings on SB 1. Senate President pro tempore Rod Bray, R-Martinsville, said last week SB 1 reflects the Senate's wishes as things currently stand, but his caucus is willing to continue working with the Braun administration on the bill.

Braun had kinder words for the budget bill the House finalized Wednesday and will vote on Thursday. The budget approved by House Republicans adds extra funding for the Department of Correction and Department of Child Services, but otherwise largely follows the governor's requests. He said based on the House's spending plan, Indiana will be in a good financial position regardless of spending decisions at the federal level.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/braun-suggests-hed-veto-property-tax-proposal-in-its-current-form.

From the desk of Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood

Update No. 145

At last week's Superintendent Advisory Group meeting, Jack Russell, President and CEO of OneZone, was our guest presenter. He shared his work with and perspective on our Reaching New Heights initiative. Jack did an excellent job enlightening the group about the program from a business perspective and as a parent with a child enrolled at Hamilton Heights.

I thought this would be a good opportunity to share an overview of this exciting new initiative at Hamilton Heights and its future impact. We are now in our third year of developing and transitioning the educational landscape for Heights students. We began the



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Heights Superintendent

process by learning how to better align experiences and learning programming with high school graduation pathways. We started with a community conversation around college and career preparedness and the types of experiences, skills, and competencies our students need to truly be ready for success beyond high school.

We involved a strong and growing contingent of community partners to form a network dedicated to supporting our efforts to implement rigorous and relevant learning experiences as an integral component of this initiative. From here we developed a "Portrait of a Graduate" that reflects the expectations our community desires for our students who graduate from HHHS and set forth a collaborative, community-driven approach that engages students with the real-world problems and challenges faced by employer partners.

We created a well-thought-out Master Plan to serve as the Reaching New Heights initiative roadmap. This is our strategic guide as we continue to transform

the educational experience for students in PreK through 12th grade going forward. The plan, which we consider a living document, will continue to evolve as we work to ensure all students are well prepared for life after high school graduation. This includes enrolling in college or a trade school, enlisting in a branch of the military to serve their country, or gaining employment in a local high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand profession with an entrepreneurial mindset. Through this initiative our graduates will be ready for the next step.

Reaching New Heights has four core focus areas: **Learn, Grow, Explore, and Serve.**

1. Learn: Provides opportunities for communication in a global world, financial literacy and applied math, and time management and organization. Students learn by participating in hands-on learning opportunities and connecting with industry professionals.

2. Grow: Through project-based learning, students learn resilience, collaboration and team building, and personal wellness and mental health.

3. Explore: Students get hands-on experience with different professions

through onsite and offsite career outreach experiences.

4. Serve: Students learn integrity, community service projects and civic responsibility through collaboration with local businesses, organizations, and educational institutions to provide students with real-world insights and opportunities.

The goal of Reaching New Heights is to engage all students by connecting them to their passions and purpose at Hamilton Heights and beyond. This will help prepare them for the demands of the modern workforce empowering them to achieve their full potential and contribute to our community's prosperity.

Throughout this amazing process, we have had students, staff, administrators, board members, parents, and members from the business community get onboard to help be a part of transforming the secondary school experience using this community-driven approach. It's working and making a difference! Thank you for your continued commitment to our school's mission and vision. Together, we are creating a brighter future for our students and our community.

#WeAreHuskies

3 COMEDIANS, 1 FREE EVENT

Pizza & Punchlines

Derrick Tennant
From Coma to Comedy

Brynn Cummings
AGT Semi-finalist

Chad Thornsberry
From Teacher to Comedian

PIZZA 6 PM | SHOW 7PM | SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Held at **WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**
DOOR # 44 | 18250 N UNION STREET | WESTFIELD

Pizza by **Greek's Pizzeria Westfield**
231 Park St | Westfield | eatgreeks.com

No Pre-Registration | Just Show Up for Fun!

Sponsored by: **CrossRoads Church at Westfield**
19201 Grassy Branch Rd | Westfield | ForOurNeighbor.Life

TASTE OF COMMUNITY
JOURNEY OF A DISH... WHERE EVERY RECIPE TELLS A STORY.

We invite YOU to share your stories, experiences, and traditions about food and its power to connect us across cultures and generations.

Highlights:

- Share the meal that reminds you of home.
- Tell the story behind your family's treasured recipe.
- Reflect on how food has shaped your identity and community.

Share & **SUPPORT** **CLICK HERE**

CLICK TO SHARE AND CONNECT

FOR MORE INFORMATION TASTEOFCOMMUNITY25@GMAIL.COM

Paul Poteet...
Your Hometown Weatherman!

BEAUTY

from Page 1

Our bodies change along with our faces. It seems like my body is a different shape than it used to be, and I often feel like I'm looking at a stranger in the mirror. I think, "who is this?" and then realize, "oh, it's me!"

My disability fast tracks the physical aging process. Physically, I feel like I have more in common with those in their 80s and 90s. Once again, I feel like I don't fit where I should. The things people my age are complaining about physically are just not where I'm at. It's isolating.

Working on inner beauty is where I believe true contentment lies. I'll always

strive to look nice, and practice healthy habits. Nothing wrong with presenting my best self. Working on inner beauty is certainly more fulfilling than disguising a wrinkle or two. It's lasting and it makes a difference in other's lives when we are beautiful inside. We have more kindness to share, more peace to exude, things that never go out of style. Something the world needs more of.

I want to smile with my eyes and mean it. I want to exemplify God's beauty and grace. Lord knows, I will never be perfect at it. I will undoubtedly still struggle with trying not to inwardly groan each time I see a new

wrinkle or spot or whatever it may be. But, just as I've grown to love my scars and the stories they tell, maybe I can learn to embrace the wrinkles and the stories they tell too. Appreciating the life I was given as it comes. Continuing to strive to create lasting qualities that can have a positive impact on the lives of others. I hope you can, too.

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.

"Christmas in June" Care Package Drive for our Deployed Hoosiers - Feb 12th till May 10th

Please help us collect gifts to send care packages to our deployed Hoosier troops for a "Christmas in June". Purchase gifts 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 for wrapping and packaging on May 10 at 5pm. 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 your Legion & VFW where you leave the goods for the care packages. We need the gifts and funds delivered by May 2nd 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 Gifts Needed for Our Deployed Troops

Suggested items requested by those deployed include Card games (Phase 10, Uno...), Puzzles, small boxes of Keurig cups, Graphic t-shirts Men's and Women's (Sizes S - 3x), water bottles, throw blankets, Decorations -Christmas lights, signs, banners as people love to decorate their living quarters or office space. If you've been deployed, bring what you wanted back then.

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

Lynn at treasurer@hamiltoncountyveterans.com
Tracy at auxiliarypost470@gmail.com

Fishers' own Whitney Coker honored by Super Lawyers: Rising Stars

The REPORTER

Whitney Coker, an attorney who grew up in Fishers, has been named an Indiana Super Lawyers: Rising Stars Honoree for the fourth year.

Coker graduated from Hamilton Southeastern High School and went on to study at Indiana University in Bloomington. She graduated with a degree in social work in 2007. As a social worker, she focused on working with children and families. During her time as a social worker, she saw the impact dedicated and knowledgeable attorneys have when they fight for their clients.

Coker went on to attend Indiana University McKinney School of Law and received her Juris Doctor degree in 2015. During law school, she served as an editor for the *Indiana Health Law Review*, board member of Equal Justice Works, and received the Norman Lefstein Award of Excellence for pro bono service.

She began working as a law clerk for Craig, Kelley & Faultless, where she became an attorney after being accepted to the Indiana Bar. Today, she is a partner at the firm, working alongside other lawyers to represent

the victims of serious commercial vehicle wrecks.

Craig, Kelley & Faultless is a personal injury and wrongful death law firm headquartered in Indianapolis, with offices throughout Indiana and in St. Louis. Coker and the other attorneys help injured people receive financial compensation after they've experienced a wreck caused by a semi or other large truck.

The firm has attorneys licensed to practice in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky, Iowa, and Tennessee. Coker works with clients after litigation has begun, through mediation and all the way through trial if their cases do not settle.

This year, Coker was named on the Indiana Rising Stars list by Super Lawyers – an honor that only 2.5 percent of the state's attorneys receive. To qualify for the list, an attorney must be younger than 40 or in their first 10 years of practice. They must be nominated by another lawyer, researched by Super Lawyers, and evaluated by peers.

Coker is one of 10 attorneys at Craig, Kelley & Faultless, all of whom are 2025 Indiana Super Lawyers or Rising Stars honorees.



Coker

Noblesville resident Brian Majava opens Dream Vacations franchise

Submitted

Brian Majava is a Noblesville resident and retired officer who served on both Active Duty and as a full-time member of the Indiana National Guard with three combat deployments. He sought to become a business owner focused around something he was passionate about and a business that supported Veterans.

His research landed on Dream Vacations.

Majava recently completed an intensive training program to become a certified Dream Vacations travel agent in the Indianapolis area. As a result of being part of the nation's leading home-based travel agent franchise network, he has access to the best cruise and land vacation deals and Dream Vacations' ex-

clusive, elite product and service offerings.

To complete the certification program, Majava participated in in-depth training and workshops including sales and marketing seminars; product briefings by major cruise lines; hands-on computer systems orientation introducing new agents to CruiseControl, a proprietary customer relationship manager, sales reporting, and reservation system; and onboard ship inspections at the state-of-the-art Dream Vacations training center in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Consumers can browse Brian's new Dream Vacations website, VacationsByBrian.com, complete with a live search engine and booking capabilities, or contact him for expert, personalized



Majava



guidance in planning memorable vacations. Vacations by Brian walks clients step-by-step through the entire booking and planning process, from selecting destinations and excursions based on clients' interests to providing packing lists and enhancing special occasions.

As a Dream Vacations franchise owner, Majava is now part of the World Travel Holdings family of brands, one of the top travel retail networks in the world with incredible buying power with every major cruise line and many tour operators, resulting in exceptional low prices and exclusive offers such as upgrades, discounts and more.

For more information or to book a dream vacation, please call (463) 278-9285 or visit VacationsByBrian.com.

About Dream Vacations
Travel agents with the top-ranked home-based travel agency franchise Dream Vacations have the resources to plan and create seamless vacation experiences for their customers while offering the best value. A member of the International Franchise Association, Dream Vacations is part of World Travel Holdings and has received franchise partner of the year, a top-ranking status, by all the major cruise lines as well as national recognition for its support of military veterans.

Dhruveer Singh of Fishers graduates from Wichita State University

The REPORTER

More than 1,240 students completed a total of 1,378 degrees and certificates at Wichita State University in fall 2024.

Among the graduates was Dhruveer Singh of Fishers, who earned Master of Science degree in Management Science and Supply Chain Management.

Adam Bauer of Westfield makes dean's list at University of Minnesota

The REPORTER

The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has announced its dean's list for Fall Semester 2024.

Among the students on the list is Adam Bauer of Westfield, a sophomore studying for a degree in

chemical engineering in the Swenson College of Science and Engineering.

Students on the dean's list have achieved a grade-point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

Kane & Stein of Fishers make president's honor roll at University of Wyoming

The REPORTER

The University of Wyoming has released its 2024 fall semester President's Honor Roll.

Among the students on the list are Addison M. Kane and Alexandra Stein, both of Fishers.

The President's Honor Roll consists of regularly enrolled undergraduates who earned a 4.0 ("A") grade-point average for the semester. To be eligible, students must have been enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours taken for letter grades.

Kilwins Fishers ready to kick off Grand Opening Celebration Week

Ribbon cutting & week-long 'Dessert to Donate' community giveback initiative

The REPORTER

Kilwins Fishers will celebrate its official Grand Opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 21 at its location in The Station at Fishers District, between Torchy's Tacos and Kura Sushi.

The event will feature Mayor Scott Fadness, OneZone Chamber representatives, Kilwins Fishers store owners, and other community members.

As part of its commitment to the Fishers community, Kilwins will also present its first donation check to Mudsock Youth Athletics from sales of the store's signature ice cream flavor, Mudsock Mud.

Guests can enjoy special deals and giveaways throughout the weekend including Kilwins' hand-crafted confection treats, fudge, and original recipe ice cream.

"After opening our doors in late 2024, we are excited to host our official ribbon-cutting ceremony," Store Owner Adam Kallick said. "In addition to celebrating our Grand Opening, we are looking forward to giving back to the community through our 'Dessert-to-Donate' initiative, supporting five local nonprofit organizations with a portion of sales going to that organization. Kirstyn and I feel that it is important to be good partners with the local community, the same community that we hope will embrace and support our family business."

As part of its Grand Opening Celebration Week, Kilwins Fishers will hold "Dessert-to-Donate" from



Photo courtesy BW Construction

Feb. 24 to 28, where a percentage of the store's entire sales each day will be donated to a featured local nonprofit each day.

- Monday, Feb. 24 – benefiting Mudsock Youth Athletics

- Tuesday, Feb. 25 – benefiting Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County

- Wednesday, Feb. 26 – benefiting Fishers Youth Initiative (FYI)

- Thursday, Feb. 27 – benefiting Hamilton South-

eastern Education Foundation (HSEF)

- Friday, Feb. 28 – benefiting The Fifty Club of Fishers

Follow Kilwins Fishers at Facebook.com/kilwinsfishers or Instagram.com/kilwinsfishers.

Small businesses need the MOST love



"Please, Hamilton County, shop local!"
— Hamilton the Puppy

NOBLESVILLE, IN

Nickel Plate

HERITAGE RAILROAD

20 **EST** 17

ENJOY THE RICH HISTORY OF RAIL TRAVEL!

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

The Nickel Plate Express operates on 12.5 miles of the former Nickel Plate Road between Noblesville and Atlanta.
Excursions board in Noblesville at 825 Forest Park Drive.

Trailer Park Tragedy
Dust off your best trailer park attire and get ready for an evening of laughs, suspense, and unforgettable fun! In this interactive murder mystery, guests are the actors. Enjoy the show plus a BBQ dinner.

March 29 and 30

Easter Express
All aboard for a springtime Easter adventure. Enjoy an interactive story with the Easter Bunny and Farmer Brown, a sweet treat and our special Nickel Plate bunny punch.

April 12, 13 and 19

Spring Field Trip Days
Learn about railroad history, safety and more aboard the historic Nickel Plate Express. Take a 45-minute train ride, talk with the Conductor and Engineer and see history in action. Tickets are just \$12 per person.

April 29 and May 13

Railbike Season
Bike the historic line north and south from Forest Park using unique "railbikes" that operate on the existing railroad tracks. The NPX Railbike is the first of its kind in Indiana and one of the few available in the Midwest!

Opens April 4!

NICKELPLATEEXPRESS.COM

ALL ABOARD! NICKELPLATEEXPRESS.COM

New Works 2025 commission winners announced

Submitted

Three Indiana performing artists and one visual artist have been selected to receive cash awards and public premiere opportunities through Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts' New Works commission project, now in its fourth season.

The 2025 New Works Premiere Performances will take place Saturday, May 31, at the Tarkington theater and will be livestreamed on Allied Solutions Center's website and social media accounts. Free tickets are available now at TheCenterPresents.org and (317) 843-3800. The event also will include the unveiling of this year's winning visual artwork.

The New Works project is designed to promote and sustain the area's working artists and artistic communities by supporting the creation of new works in the performing and visual arts disciplines. The proposed performance works are limited to 20 minutes each and must reflect the Center's organizational core values of integrity, excellence, innovation, collaboration and inclusion. Each winning proposal receives a \$2,500 cash award, technical support in adapting the piece for the stage, onstage rehearsal time prior to the performances, and access to the archived event video for promotional use.

The winning performance proposals selected by the judging panel are:

Wild Stories: Native Ecosystems Retold

Emma Hedrick, Carmel

Hedrick is an award-winning vocalist and composer who holds a master's degree from the Royal Conservatoire in the Netherlands. *Wild Stories* will comprise multiple original music pieces for voice (Hedrick) and jazz piano (Christopher Pitts) to be accompanied by projections of photographs shot specifically for the performance by environmental scientist and nature photographer Mitch Korolev. The compositions will be informed by research into Indiana's native ecosystems and will challenge the audience to notice the nuance in the environment around them.

Blueprint of a Point Ascending

Abby Marchesseault, Mishawaka, Ind.

Marchesseault is a dancer and choreographer who studied dance at Southern Methodist University and many New York City-based dance companies. *Blueprint of a Point Ascending*, set to vocal music by composer Caroline Shaw, is a three-part modern dance work for four performers that features an interactive stage set with two long elastic bands. It draws inspiration from sculptor/engineer Kenneth Snelson's work on "tensegrity" (integrity resulting from tension) to explore how tensions sustained within individual notions of identity lead to upward growth and stability.



Photo by Joshua Hasty

Winners of the 2025 New Works arts commissions at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts are (from left) Abby Marchesseault, Emma Hedrick, Boxx the Artist, and Ming Joi Washington.

Suffragist Sisters: Naomi Anderson and Lillian Thomas Fox

Ming Joi Washington, Valparaiso, Ind.

Ming Joi is a poet and curator who holds an art history degree from Spelman College. *Sister Suffragists* is a choreo-poem honoring Anderson and Fox, two black women writers and activists who campaigned for social justice in Indiana in the during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. The text will be informed by research into their published writing as well as contemporaneous news coverage of their travels and speaking engagements. The produc-

tion will include projected images and live music.

The three pieces will be performed publicly for the first time at the 8 p.m. May 31 event, and the artists will join in a talkback discussion to close the evening. Tickets are free to reserve at the Center's Fifth Third Bank Box Office at the Palladium, online at TheCenterPresents.org and by phone at (317) 843-3800. The livestream and recorded video of the performance will be available free on the Center's website and social media channels.

This event also will include the public unveiling

of this year's winning visual arts proposal:

Movements Like a Verse Unwritten

Boxx the Artist, Indianapolis

Originally from Gary, Ind., Boxx the Artist is an award-winning visual artist based in Indianapolis and named 2024 Artist of the Year by Noblesville Creates. With a dual degree from Purdue University, she brings a unique fusion of academic insight and creative expression to her work. *Movements Like a Verse Unwritten* will be a mixed-media painting on canvas based on her original photography. The work

will blend realistic details with expressive brushstrokes, abstract forms and vibrant colors to create a dynamic tribute to the power of artistic expression. Following the event, the painting will hang in the Palladium's South Lobby for one year, to be viewed by thousands of patrons and other visitors.

More information is available at TheCenterPresents.org/NewWorks.

Activities are made possible in part by Noblesville Creates, a regional partner, Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



CONGRESSWOMAN
VICTORIA SPARTZ
PROUDLY SERVING **INDIANA'S 5TH DISTRICT**

Constituent Services



Help with Federal Agencies

I can help you when dealing with federal agencies, including:

- Social Security issues
- Medicare claims
- Veterans benefits
- Passport assistance
- IRS questions



US Flag Requests

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



Military Academy Nominations

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



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

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 Trivia Wed 6pm
 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
 317-773-9985 Trivia every 1 & 3 Sat 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

Indy Vet Center Is At Recovery Café on Tuesdays, 8am-6pm, to Help Our Hamilton County Veteran Community

Recovery Café Hamilton County
 We are all recovering from something

SUPPORT WITH:
 • Substance Use Recovery
 • Mental Health Challenges
 • Trauma, Loss, Grief
 • Life Transitions

Indy Vet Center onsite Tues 8a-6p

BENEFITS
 Free Membership
 Coffee, Snacks, Meals
 Weekly Recovery Circle
 Monthly Social Events
 Community Resources

In The Eller House
 7050 E 116th St, Suite 100
 Fishers, IN 46038
 Contact recoverycafehcc@gmail.com
<https://recoverycafehcc.com>

Hours
 Mon, Wed, Thurs: 4pm-8pm
 Fri: 10am - 3pm
 Tues 8am-6pm

Veterans Crisis Line
 DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

Hamilton County Military Veteran

Our Hamilton County Professional Sports Teams are Working with our Military Veteran Community and Hero Hut, so don't miss your chance to be a part of history! Witness volleyball's biggest stars on one stage at the inaugural All-Star Match February, 22 at the Fishers Event Center. Get your tickets here - <https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/0500622A838A116A>



Coffee With a Vet at Schoolhouse 7 Café
 INDY WARRIOR PARTNERSHIP

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

Heart Hero CPR Class Feb 25th - Sign Up NOW!

HEART HERO

February 25, 2025
 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

JUVENILE SERVICES CENTER
 18106 CUMBERLAND ROAD
 NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060

Registration Is Required

HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 9-1-1

Purple Star School Program Invite Schools to Join

Purple Star Schools are public or charter schools who have shown a commitment to supporting the unique academic and social-emotional needs of military-connected children and their families during times of transition.

Purple Star Schools. Take the Step.

Activities & Events

American Legion & VFW Bar & Restaurant Hours
Carmel Legion
 M,Tu 3-10pm, W,Th 10a-10p, F 10a-11a, Sa 8a-11p,
 Su 8a-8p. **Restaurant – Sa 8a-8p, Su 8a-12p**
Lunch W-F 11a-2p, Dinner W-F 5-8p

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

Cicero Legion
 M-Th 3-10p, F-Sa 12-11p, Su 12-10p.
Restaurant Tu, W, F 4-8pm, Public P/U Tu-W, F eat in or carry out

Fishers Legion
 M 3-10p, Tu-Su 12-10pm or when empty.
Restaurant Breakfast 1st & 3rd Sun 9-12, Food 12-8 Tu, 5-9 W, 12-9 Th, F 3-8 Sa, 12-5 Su

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

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

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

Christmas In June Care Package Drive

“Christmas in June” Care Package Drive for our Deployed Hoosiers - Feb 12th till May 10th

Please help us collect gifts to send care packages to our deployed Hoosier troops for a “Christmas in June”. Purchase gifts 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 for wrapping and packaging on May 10 at 5pm. 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 your Legion & VFW where you leave the goods for the care packages. We need the gifts and funds delivered by May 2nd 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 Gifts Needed for Our Deployed Troops
 Suggested items requested by those deployed include Card games (Phase 10, Uno...), Puzzles, small boxes of Keurig cups, Graphic t-shirts Men's and Women's (Sizes S – 3x), water bottles, throw blankets, Decorations -Christmas lights, signs, banners as people love to decorate their living quarters or office space. If you've been deployed, bring what you wanted back then.

Questions or if you wish to volunteer for packaging day, please contact:
 Lynn at treasurer@hamiltoncountyveterans.com
 Tracy at auxiliarypost470@gmail.com

Hamilton County Health Department is Listening!!! Tell Them Your Health Needs Thursday February 27th, 6pm till 730pm Sheridan Elementary School 24795 Hinesley Road, Sheridan, In

We want to hear from you!
 Your voice matters in shaping our plan for community health

Community Listening Session
 Thursday, Feb 27th
 6pm - 7:30pm
 Sheridan Elementary School
 24795 Hinesley Rd, Sheridan, IN

Light refreshments & childcare provided!
 Registration required by Feb 20
[Click to Register or Scan Below](#)

HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 Facilitated by Hamilton County Health Department in Partnership with Sheridan Community Schools

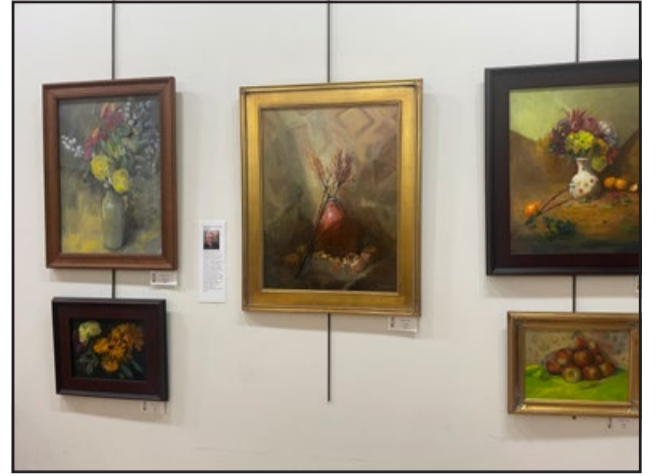
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3150 East State Rd. 32, Westfield
 Catering: PastoItalianoWestfield@gmail.com



Photos provided by Hamilton County Artists' Association

The Hamilton County Artists' Association is featuring the works of its newest members right now at the HCCA Gallery, located at 195 S. 5th St., Noblesville.

See works from HCAA's newest members

By **WALTER THACKER**
Hamilton County
Artists' Association

The Hamilton County Artists' Association recently juried in seven new artists and a photographer to our organization.

While our regular mem-

bers are having an exhibition at Noblesville City Hall this month, our new members are on display at our gallery at 195 S. 5th St., Noblesville:

- **Denese Stachowiak** is an oil painter who is inspired by nature's natural beauty and her work re-

fects this bright and colorful paintings.

- **Dawn Michaels** is a mixed media artist who uses different techniques to build up the surface for a 3-D effect. Her paintings are in a way like sculptures.

- **Heather Ray Boelke** adds a cheerful and whimsical style to her work and her artwork is cheerful and uplifting. She also teaches classes right here at the HCAA.

- **Caroline Hays** is an art teacher at Noblesville High School and knows a lot about art. Her favorite is abstract art and she has her own unique style.

- **Sue Eckl** is an artistic photographer who painstakingly comes up with these striking compositions.

- **Jaelyn Schillinger** is an artist who uses oils acrylics and colored pencils and puts much small details

in her creations.

- **Michael Levine** is a still life painter whose real-life paintings are almost touchable. His subtle style and choice of colors gives his paintings a distinctive feel.

Please come by for a visit and be "enlightened."

Westfield Youth Assistance Program's third annual Christine D. Brown Memorial Scholarship application now live

The **REPORTER**

The Westfield Youth Assistance Program's (WYAP) application for the third annual Christine D. Brown Memorial Scholarship is now available at [this link](#).

The Memorial Scholarship is in honor of WYAP Early Intervention Advocate Christine Brown, who passed away in August 2022. Her family, the board of directors, and generous donors have established the Christine D. Brown Memorial Scholarship with one annual \$5,002 scholarship. Christine worked with 502 youth over her 10 years with WYAP and touched countless lives in the

Westfield community and beyond.

"I'm thankful to Christine Brown for all the opportunities she has given me," said Reis Middleton, former WYAP youth and winner of the 2024 Christine D. Brown Memorial Scholarship. "And I'm thankful for how the Youth Assistance Program has changed me for the better."

The annual scholarship is open to all current and former graduates 25 and under who attended Westfield Washington Schools or resided in the township. Prior involvement with WYAP is not a requirement for the

scholarship, and a complete list of scholarship eligibility requirements can be found on the [scholarship application page](#).

WYAP has worked for the last 15 years to connect Westfield youth with services like mentoring, tutoring, mental health counseling, medical services, enrichment activities, and more. The scholarship highlights WYAP's emphasis on giving back to the youth in the Westfield community. This scholarship works to achieve WYAP's long-term goal of giving youth every advantage to be successful and grow into adults who

largely contribute to their community.

The application deadline for the scholarship is Tuesday, April 1. The recipient will be notified by April 20 and invited to attend the WYAP Youth Recognition Breakfast at IMMI on May 7.

Previous Recipients include Ashley Ice (2023) and Reis Middleton (2024).

About the Westfield Youth Assistance Program

The Westfield Youth Assistance Program (WYAP) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, located at 2728 E. 171st St., serving youth aged 3 to 17



who are facing challenging life circumstances. WYAP takes a holistic approach to coordinate the community's vast array of talents, services, and resources to help youth and empower parents and caregivers. 2025 marks the organization's 16th anniversary. Visit westfieldyap.org for more information.

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Tickets & sponsorships available for Westfield Chamber golf outing

The REPORTER

Get ready to tee off with the Westfield Chamber of Commerce's 22nd annual Golf Outing on Monday, May 12, presented by **Abbott, Bondry Consulting, Community First Bank of Indiana**, the **City of Westfield**, and **Community Health Network** at The Bridgewater Club, 3535 E. 161st St.

This event is open to all community members and organizations in Hamilton County, with a special discounted rate for Westfield Chamber Partners. The golf outing is much more than just a round on the course but an opportunity to network and discover what makes Westfield thrive in central Indiana.

Not a golfer? There are plenty of sponsorship opportunities available for you to gain exposure at the Chamber's most anticipated event of the year. Player spots will go quickly, so please [click here](#) for all registration options.

About the course

The Bridgewater Golf Club facilities feature a challenging Pete Dye-designed 18-hole Championship Course, a nine-hole Executive Course, a 23-acre practice range, a six-acre short game area, covered and heated hitting stalls, an indoor hitting and putting room, and state-of-the-art high-tech equipment.

Course members can put their skills to the test in a wide variety of Juniors, Couples, Women's & Men's golf tournaments offered throughout the season.

Golfer information

The Westfield Chamber is grateful to The Bridgewater Club for the opportunity to host the 22nd Annual Golf Outing.

Prices include a round of golf on the 18-hole Championship Course. Additionally, golfers have access to the practice range before the Golf Outing begins, two golf carts per foursome, a free Bloody Mary Bar, a lunch buffet before the shotgun start, complimentary beverages throughout the day, and a ticket to the 19th Hole Reception at the end of the day, where golfers will have the opportunity to win excellent prizes from the 18-hole sponsors. It is also



where the first-, second-, and third-place winners will be announced, as well as the prized Dimple Cup to the winning team. Proceeds from this event support the Westfield Chamber of Commerce.

Available packages

- **Foursome Team** (\$1,600 Partner / \$2,600 Non-Partner): four players included; two golf carts

- **Three Player Team** (\$1,200 Partner / \$1,950 Non-Partner): three players included, plus one golfer assigned to the team; two golf carts

- **Two Player Team** (\$800 Partner / \$1,300 Non-Partner): two players included, plus two golfers assigned to the team; two golf carts

- **Individual Golfer** (\$400 Partner / \$650 Non-Partner) one player included; will be assigned to a team to create a foursome. Shared golf cart.

[Click here](#) to golf. Email info@westfield-chamberindy.com with any registration questions.

Sponsorship opportunities

[Click here](#) to purchase a sponsorship opportunity on the Westfield Chamber website. Once your payment is received, a Chamber Staff Member will reach out to obtain a high-resolution version of your company's artwork. Arrival and setup instructions will be sent the week prior to the event. Email info@westfield-chamberindy.com with any sponsorship questions.

Volunteer at the outing

There's an opportunity for the non-golfers in your office to participate. To pull off a successful golf outing, the Westfield Chamber needs more than two dozen volunteers on the day of the event. Volunteers will be needed to help people check in, help to marshal the sponsors to their holes, driving volunteers on the course, ground support across the course, 19th Hole Reception set up, and much more. [Click here](#) to sign up to volunteer.

Indiana mom calls on leaders to change abortion records policy

By KYLA RUSSELL
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A Hamilton County mom is emotionally calling on state leaders to rethink recent moves to **make abortion records public** after her unborn baby was given a fatal diagnosis.

In September, Amber Martin shakily moved her hand to reveal something many families pray for — two red lines on a positive pregnancy test. The mom of three boys was elated. She and her partner, Michael Dowd, had experienced a miscarriage earlier that year.

Their baby, lovingly named Arlo, would be Dowd's first child.

"I fell apart, because this is not a decision that any of us wanted to make, it's not something that anybody wants to have happen to them," Martin told I-Team 8. "It's crazy, because the day that we found out we were pregnant, we were actually scheduled to go to a fertility clinic that day. So, I called and I was like, 'I have a positive pregnancy test.'"

But, that hope soon turned to hardship.

"We came in here in this office for trivial things like just having the ultrasound that would have been a normal 20-week ultrasound," Martin said. "It's not trivial."

She and Dowd soon received a crushing diagnosis.

At 20 weeks, Arlo had no brain activity and would not survive in utero, birth, or in life.

Martin was given very few choices. Doctors told her she could wait to deliver the baby naturally, knowing he would suffocate during labor or almost immediately after. She could also choose to have an early induced delivery, the technical definition of abortion, **according to the World Health Organization**.

If she waited too long to decide, Indiana law would require her to go out of state for help.

"I knew that I wasn't going to be coming home with this little boy," Martin said.

Doctors told her she needed to get to medical providers that could help right away.

With her own life at risk, along with baby Arlo's, she made the hard choice to terminate the pregnancy.

Martin was immediately inundated with over a dozen pages of paperwork asking for extensive information, including her address, medical history, occupation, race, and religion. All information collected was to be included in a **Terminated Pregnancy Report** or a TPR.

In January, Gov. Mike Braun signed an **executive order** calling for the **Indiana Department of Health** to follow Attorney General Todd Rokita's requests for TPRs to be public record.

It comes amid a **long battle between IDOH** and an anti-abortion group seeking access to TPRs. A recent settlement required IDOH to release the records, but a Marion County Superior Court judge granted two providers a temporary restraining order. This means reports will not be released until the case has been litigated.

"The gist of it is that you're being questioned," Martin said. "Then you're being warned that if you're picking this and you're picking these procedures that at some point in time,

they can come back to you, and you can be charged with a felony or potentially murdering your child."

Martin's operation was deemed medically necessary. The doctors told her Arlo would not feel anything from the procedure. She says having it gave her the chance to honor her son's short life.

Rokita says the reports aren't medical records and making them public simply allows him to ensure providers are following state law.

"These pregnancy reports were always for public health research and data," Liane Hulka, Co-Founder and Board Chair at Our Choice Coalition said. "They were never meant to be what our Attorney General, Todd Rokita, says ... to be turned over to the public citizen to police abortion providers."

Our Choice Coalition is a bipartisan Political Action Committee that seeks to elect leaders aimed at supporting reproductive rights, including abortion.

Hulka says there used to be thousands of reports

made every year, before abortion was banned in the state. In the third quarter of 2023, **only about 40 abortions were allowed in the state**.

"These are private medical records of patients," Hulka said. "If you're turning them over now, it's just for witch-hunt purposes."

Martin believes the information on the TPR would be enough to find her. Despite the risk, she's not afraid to say that having an abortion saved her life and meant Arlo would not suffer.

"I remember just coming back from the procedure and wanting to be able to hold him, and not being able to," Martin said.

Martin plans to begin advocating for better education on abortion and what might lead a woman to that choice.

Gov. Braun did not respond to I-Team 8's Kyla Russell's request for comment.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/indiana-mom-calls-on-leaders-to-change-abortion-records-policy.

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Gov. Braun signs executive order meant to contain soaring costs of ABA therapy to state

Submitted by Office of the Governor

Governor Mike Braun signed an executive order Wednesday to contain rapidly rising Medicaid costs for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy while maintaining quality of care for thousands of Hoosier children and young adults who use the treatment.



Braun

ABA is a therapy for the early treatment of autism, helping improve quality of life for the individual and their family and friends.

Indiana Medicaid payments for ABA exploded by a factor of eight in a two-year period from 2017 to 2019, from \$14.4 million to \$120 million. Payments are expected to increase by a factor of five over the next year, with \$645 million projected to be spent on ABA for approximately 8,000 Hoosier children in 2026.

The U.S. Office of the Inspector General conducted an audit of Indiana's ABA payments in 2019 and 2020 to determine why costs had soared so dramatically. The audit found Indiana

made at least \$56.5 million in improper Medicaid payments for ABA, largely due to problems with credentialing for providers and a lack of evaluations, referrals, and documentation.

"Indiana's \$1 billion Medicaid budget shortfall last year means we need to take bold action to contain costs where they are clearly getting out of hand. When the price our state pays for one service is soaring from \$14 million to \$120 million in just two years, with over \$39 million of improper payments identified in an independent audit, something is clearly wrong and needs to be addressed immediately," Gov. Mike Braun said. "We're taking decisive action to contain these massive cost increases while maintaining quality of care for the Hoosiers that rely on these treatments."

Gov. Braun's executive order establishes a working group of parents, legislators, subject matter experts, physicians, and ABA therapy



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Graphic provided by Carmel Christkindlmarkt

Ice skates inspire 2025 mug design for Carmel Christkindlmarkt

The REPORTER & WISH-TV

Carmel Christkindlmarkt has unveiled the 2025 mug design, resulting from the organization's 2025 Mug Design Competition.

The competition's winning artist was 12-year-old Anika Rupp, of the greater Indianapolis area, whose

design turns the iconic boot mug into an ice skate, creating a cute and timeless collectible for Market-goers to purchase during the 2025 season.

"We are thrilled with this selection for our 2025 mug," Carmel Christkindlmarkt President and CEO Maria Adele Rosenfeld. "Anika's design stood out

to us among the dozens of creative entries we received, and we know our Market guests will love this mug as much as we do."

"Anika is excited to see her mug design in use at the 2025 Market and to imagine them going home with visitors," said Keri Rupp, Anika Rupp's mother. "This is such a fun ac-

knowledge of her creativity."

The mug will be available for purchase for \$6 on-site only at the Market during its 2025 season. Opening day for the Market will be Nov. 22.

In 2023, the market sold \$9.1 million in goods and had about 475,000 visitors during its monthlong run.

Live Nation ends Lawnie Pass at Ruoff

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The Lawnie Pass at Ruoff Music Center is no more.

Fans who got season tickets in 2024 to sit on the lawn for shows at the Noblesville amphitheater learned this week that Live Nation Entertainment ven-

ues in 2025 will not have Lawn Pass. Live Nation had touted the pass as "the only way to enjoy concerts all summer long."

For \$239, the Lawnie Pass in 2024 let music lovers into every show from one of the 18,000 lawn seating spots at the venue that opened in 1989. On average, that price would have allowed fans to see musicians for about \$10 a concert.

The Lawnie Pass sales began as early as 2022.

Live Nation on Tuesday afternoon **posted a statement on social media** that goes to Lawn Pass ticket buyers at its venues:

"We are working on new and exciting programs for summer concert season. While there

will not be a Lawnie Pass program in 2025, previous Lawnies will be the first to hear about these new offerings.

"We are so grateful to our Lawnie community and we can't wait to share more with you soon. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming show this summer."

The social media post did not allow fans to leave comments, although some did on other platforms. Most fans did not react positively to the announcement from Live Nation, which owns and operates the Noblesville amphitheater. Fans also noted that Live Nation announced in November that it'll begin charging for parking, which used to be included in the ticket price.

es, starting in 2025.

Prices for parking will start at \$20 per vehicle if purchased online in advance, and go up to \$125 for "VIP parking." Limos and oversized vehicles will be charged \$200 each.

Ruoff posted Tuesday morning that season tickets will be available in 2025, as well as exclusive seating offers, and premium amenities including "premium parking, private entry, elevated menus, VIP club access, and more."

News 8 reached out to Live Nation on Tuesday but received no response by Wednesday afternoon.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/entertainment-news/live-nation-ends-lawnie-pass-at-ruoff-music-center.

Epcon Communities will soon offer upscale townhomes in Westfield

Submitted

Epcon Communities has announced The Courtyards of TowneRun in Westfield. The Courtyards of TowneRun is Epcon's first offering of luxury townhomes in the Indianapolis region.

The Courtyards of TowneRun will offer two home designs ranging from 1,350 to 2,850 square feet. Starting from the low \$400,000s, the community will offer 40 homesites. Amenities include a lounge with covered porch and fireplace, parkette, and walkability to new retail shops and Life Time Athletic Country Club.

"This exclusive townhome community offers everything buyers love in an Epcon home – single-level living, private courtyards and a low-maintenance lifestyle – at a desirable price

point to reach a broader market," said Robyn Crawford, regional president for Epcon Communities in Indianapolis.

Homesite reservations will start this month, followed by sales in March. The first homes, including the model, are expected to be completed early this summer.

"Our townhome products are unique with main level living and private courtyards offering private outdoor space," said Kara Shipman, regional sales manager for Epcon Communities in Indianapolis. "The Courtyards of TowneRun offers an elevated lifestyle because of the location. We envision homeowners taking golf carts and living an active lifestyle with a lot of time outdoors, in the nearby retail area and with family, friends and neighbors."

Epcon also has four other active communities in the Indianapolis area.

Since 1986, Epcon has built homes with smart, innovative designs and the most desirable of modern amenities. Epcon builds luxury ranch homes with private courtyards that are popular with 55+ buyers. Epcon communities offer low maintenance living with many communities offering amenities like clubhouses, pools, pickleball courts, walking trails, fitness centers, and more based on the size and the location of the community.

More than 35,000 families and individuals call an Epcon community "home," making Epcon one of the top lifestyle-rich home developers in the country year after year.

For more information, visit EpconIndianapolis.com.

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ABA

from Page 7

providers to find solutions that will contain the soaring costs of ABA to Medicaid without compromising care quality.

Specifically, the working group is tasked with evaluating the following solutions, and presenting Gov. Braun with three actionable recommendations for ABA cost containment while maintaining quality:

- The best clinical care models to provide the right

therapy, at the right ages, in the right setting, to best serve children and families;

- Recommendations for a better coordinated experience for children who need ABA therapy services, but in a financially sustainable manner;

- Proper transitions for children as they grow in their educational, family and social settings;

- Quality metrics for ABA therapy services;

- Potential caps on hours of therapy services provided per week;

- Potential caps on the number of months a child can receive therapy services;

- Creating an appeals process for extenuating circumstances; and

- Establishing new provider enrollment and billing requirements for ABA providers to address issues identified in the federal audit.

Eric "Rick" Hawkins

June 29, 1946 – February 17, 2025



On this day, February 17, 2025, we celebrate the life and legacy of Eric Hawkins, affectionately known as "Rick" to his close-knit circle.



Born on June 29, 1946, in Tipton, Ind., Eric was a beacon of resilience, a testament to a life well-lived, and a man who found pleasure in the simple joys of life. His quick wit and keen intellect were as legendary as his sense of humor; Eric had an uncanny ability to turn even the ordinary into something extraordinarily funny. He was a man who always responded with his favorite phrase, "Pretty Adequate," when asked how he was doing, a reflection of his unique blend of humor and humility.

Eric was a devoted millwright in a production factory who took great pride in his work. He was an embodiment of tenacity and perseverance, an example he set not just at his workplace but also in his personal life. His resilience was further demonstrated during his time in the Army, where he was awarded the 3rd Armored Division Certificate of Achievement, a testament to his dedication and commitment. When he returned home, he became an active member of the Cicero American Legion Post, where his infectious wit and humor will be missed. In his retirement, Eric found joy tinkering in his barn and spending time with his beloved dogs, Sadie, and most importantly, Molly. His love for his furry companions was a sight to behold, a bond that was rooted in unconditional love, companionship, and a steady dose of watching Fox News. Eric was also an avid ship enthusiast, Eric's love for boats and the open water was evident when he was able to spend time on his sailboat.

Eric is survived by his daughter, Melanie Engle; grandkids, Ashleigh Engle, Levi Engle, Riley Engle, Boyce (Darla) Hawkins, and Brook (Shane) Sczesny; son, Jerrald (Maki) Hawkins; brother, John Hawkins; and sister, Vickie Olney. He was preceded in death by his parents, Wanda and Robert Hawkins, and his loving wife, Debra Hawkins. Eric's life was a testament to the verse in the book of Proverbs 17:17 (NIV) which says, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." Eric was not just a family man but a friend and a pillar of strength during adversities. As we mourn the loss of Eric, we find solace in the words of Matthew 5:4, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

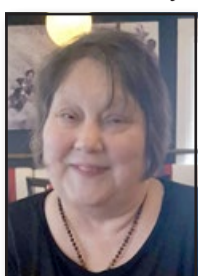
We invite all who knew Eric to join us for the visitation at noon on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at Hartley Funeral Homes, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero. The funeral service will follow at Hartley's at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Cicero American Legion Post 341, 50 Washington Ave., Cicero, IN 46034.

Condolences: hartleyfuneralhomes.com

Denise Mary Miller

June 29, 1951 – February 15, 2025



Denise Mary Miller, 73, a charismatic and adventurous spirit, passed away at her daughter's home on February 15, 2025. Born on June 29, 1951, in Detroit, Mich., to William Carter Ellixson and Edwardine Louis Kumm, Denise was a beacon of resilience and a source of endless support to those who were fortunate to have shared in her life.

Widowed from her beloved husband Thomas, whom she married on May 7, 1971, Denise was a loving mother to her 10 children and a treasured grandmother to her more than 20 grandchildren, all of whom will miss her dearly. As Albert Schweitzer once said, "The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others." Denise embodied this spirit in every aspect of her life.

Denise was a woman of many talents and interests. She loved to explore antique stores, hunting for unique treasures and enjoyed the simple pleasures of going out to eat with her family. Denise lived with her son in Cadiz, Ky., and the house was filled with the joyful noise of family gatherings, laughter, and the sound of her grandsons seeking her help with their homework. This empathetic woman took great joy in spending time with her family, whether in Cicero with her daughter Alison Dunder or in Cadiz with her sons. She was a woman of strong faith, a quality that was evident in the life she lived.

Denise's generosity and caring nature were known to all. She was a steadfast support to her family and friends, always willing to lend a listening ear or offer words of encouragement. Her adventurous spirit led her to create unforgettable memories and instill a love for life in her children and grandchildren. Denise's love, compassion, and kindness were indeed felt in the hearts of all who knew her.

She is survived by her children, Sean, William, John, Patrick, Susan Roe, Jamie Lineberry, Wanlyn Berich, Christina White, Nicole Dixon, and Alison Dunder; and her cherished grandchildren. Denise was preceded in death by her parents, William Ellixson and Edwardine Kumm; her husband, Thomas Miller; and her daughter, Lori Miller.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, February 24, 2025, at Cicero Cemetery, located on Jackson Street in Cicero.

We encourage friends and family to share photos and memories of Denise on her memorial page at hartleyfuneralhomes.com. Your stories and pictures will serve as a comfort to all who loved her and will help us celebrate her extraordinary life.

Denise's care has been entrusted to Hartley Funeral Homes, Cicero.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE TABERNACLE

All those who were skilled among the workers made the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, with cherubim woven into them by expert hands. All the curtains were the same size—twenty-eight cubits long and four cubits wide. They joined five of the curtains together and did the same with the other five. Then they made loops of blue material along the edge of the end curtain in one set, and the same was done with the end curtain in the other set. They also made fifty loops on one curtain and fifty loops on the end curtain of the other set, with the loops opposite each other. Then they made fifty gold clasps and used them to fasten the two sets of curtains together so that the tabernacle was a unit.

Exodus 36:8-13 (NIV)

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 submit obituaries at ReadTheReporter.com/obitform.

Meeting Notices

The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District Board will meet at noon on Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The Hamilton County Commissioners will meet at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet in an executive session at 3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, 2025. A regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m. at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St.

**Send Meeting Notices to:
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18794 PRAIRIE CROSSING DRIVE
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SOLD!



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ON THE WATER!



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Girls basketball semi-state preview: 4A Frankfort

By **CRAIG ADKINS**
For The Reporter

Hamilton Southeastern keeps on winning and making its way down the tournament trail.

The Royals won their first sectional and regional titles since 2019 over the last two weekends and will go for their first semi-state title in six years this weekend.

The No. 1-ranked Royals (26-0) play the first game of the Class 4A northern semi-state on Saturday at Frankfort's Case Arena against Valparaiso (19-7) at 10 a.m., followed by the No. 3 Warsaw Tigers (24-1) facing the McCutcheon Mavericks (24-3) at approximately noon. The championship will be at 7:30 p.m.

The Vikings and Royals have met 14 times with HSE with a commanding 13-1 mark. The last meeting was during the 2019-20 season with Southeastern winning handily 73-22. This will be the first meeting between the two in the state tournament.

"Just knowing what we have. We started preparing for this in July. This wasn't just a February thing, so trusting our work and who we are," Makalusky said. "We know we're good enough. We know this team is good enough, if we're just us. I think trusting in each other, calming down and playing our game, because the only team that's going to beat us is us."

No. 1 Hamilton Southeastern (26-0) vs. Valparaiso (19-7)
Southeastern is making its second semi-state appearance in program history. Following its sixth sectional crown two weeks ago, the Royals won their third regional title last week. In its previous appearance in 2019, Hamilton Southeastern routed Crown Point in

the La Porte semi-state 61-28 on the way to defeating Lawrence North in the 4A state championship, 55-44.

This year's regional win at Marion was against third-ranked Homestead, 65-48. HSE got through the gauntlet that is Sectional 8 with wins over Fishers (46-30), Zionsville (59-40) and Westfield (46-38).

The Royals are led by Makalusky's 22.3 points and 7.0 rebounds. Kennedy Holman runs at 12.0 points, 5.2 boards, 5.8 assists and 2.0 steals per game. Kayla Stidham chips in with 10.2 points, 4.5 rebounds and 2.3 assists. HSE also gets steady contributions from starters Addison Van Hoesen and Kayla Brinley, along with Abby Brown and Antonette Green off the bench.

It hasn't been easy going undefeated, but the Royals managed marquee wins over Lawrence North, Cathedral, Noblesville, Pendleton Heights, South Knox, Lawrence Central, Plainfield, Center Grove and Pike.

Hamilton Southeastern has the state's longest winning streak at 26 games, just ahead of Greensburg (25-0). According to MaxPreps, HSE is nationally ranked at No. 9 in the country.

Valparaiso is making its second consecutive appearance in the semi-state and 13th overall. Last year, the Vikings lost in the La Porte semi-state semifinal to Noblesville, 59-42. Valpo also has five semi-state titles, which all resulted in state runner-up finishes in 1982, 1991, 1992, 1996 and 2000.

The Vikings advanced to the semi-state after a Regional 1 win over Hammond Central, 55-37. They grabbed three Chesterton sectional wins over Hobart (64-33), Portage (62-22) and Chesterton (33-26).

Head coach Kelly Kratz is in her first season at Val-



Joshua Herd / File photo

The Hamilton Southeastern girls basketball team travels to Frankfort on Saturday to go for its first semi-state title since 2019. Pictured for the Royals (from left): Maya Makalusky, Kayla Brinley, Kennedy Holman.

paraiso and is 59-44 overall in four years. Her previous three years were at Merrillville (40-37) from 2021-24.

Starting 2-4, Valpo won six before dropping three of four to Hammond Central, Noblesville and Lawrence North and currently has a 10-game winning streak.

Valpo is led by junior Lillian Barnes' 22.2 points, 7.4 rebounds, 5.5 assists and 4.8 steals per contest. Barnes is complemented by classmate Cadynce Clark (11.1), sophomores Delilah Kincaid (9.2) and 4.7 boards and Chyanne Brown (7.9) with 3.8 rebounds. Bri Fincannon has 5.1 rebounds.

No. 5 Warsaw (24-1) vs. McCutcheon (24-3)

The Warsaw Tigers have a rich girls basketball history with 18 sectional championships. Warsaw won the first-ever IHSAA state championship 50 years ago in 1976 over Bloomfield at

Butler's Hinkle Fieldhouse.

The Tigers have seven regional and four semi-state crowns. Warsaw won its second in 1978 over Jac-Cen-Del. They were runner-up to Bedford North Lawrence in 1991 and in 2004 to North Central.

Warsaw lost once to Homestead 67-55 just one month ago. The Tigers have quality wins over Norwell, Fort Wayne Snider, Valparaiso, Penn, Columbia City and Northridge.

Warsaw drew the sectional bye, beating Elkhart in the semifinal 67-36 and Northridge in the championship, 71-54 and then South Bend Washington for the Regional 2 championship, 53-43.

Head coach Lenny Krebs is in his eighth season (136-54) at Warsaw. Overall, he is 266-228 in 22 years, spending his first 14 seasons at Goshen, where he went 130-174.

The Tigers are led by juniors Joslyn Bricker (18.6 points) and Brooke Zartman (18.0), along with senior Brooke Winchester (12.9). Bricker grabs 5.3 rebounds, dishes 3.0 assists and 2.7 steals. Zartman has 3.1 steals per contest and shoots 48 percent from downtown. Zartman also joined the 1,000-point club in recent weeks.

Winchester averages a double-double with 10 rebounds. Junior Alexis Neely is key at 9.8 points, 4.5 rebounds and 4.0 assists. Seniors Abbey Peterson and Braylie Chastain and junior Kyra Kiser all pitch in.

McCutcheon also has 18 sectional titles, along with eight regional and one semi-state. They lost the 1993 state championship to Kokomo, 70-60.

The Mavericks have won nine straight and have three losses to Plainfield, Valpo and Columbia City.

Head coach Jeff Knoy is 298-183 in his 20th season. The Mavs have several quality wins, including two victories over Fort Wayne Snider, Lafayette Central Catholic and Rensselaer Central. McCutcheon has also beaten Marquette Catholic, Lafayette Jefferson and Danville.

McCutcheon won two sectional games over Kokomo and Lafayette Jeff and won the regional over Snider.

Super sophomore Lillie Graves steers the Mavericks with 19.1 points, 4.5 rebounds, 3.4 assists and 4.1 steals. Fellow soph Keara Lipscomb-Allen (12.1) and juniors Chloe Finney (7.3) and Braelyn Williams (5.1) and senior Rylea Wetz (4.7) help make up a majority of McCutcheon's scoring.

Saturday's semifinal is the first-ever meeting between Warsaw and McCutcheon.

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Gymnastics — Rocks win HCC gymnastics meet, Millers place second

THE REPORTER

The Westfield gymnastics team won the Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet on Tuesday.

The Shamrocks scored a season-high total of 101.475 points. Senior Isa Galan led Westfield by placing second in the all-around with a score of 33.875 points.

Noblesville finished second at the HCC meet with a season-high score of 99.475 points. The Millers improved their previous season best by over four points.

Valorey Bittles finished first on the uneven bars with a score of 8.85, while Hailey Nobbe won the balance beam by scoring 8.95. Both

were named to the all-conference team. Bittles also placed second on the floor exercise (8.75), seventh on the beam (7.875) and was third in the all-around standings (33.675).

Emmerson Leckrone placed second on bars (8.475), giving the Millers a 1-2-3 finish in that event. Leckrone was also seventh on the vault (8.30) and totaled 32.30 in the all-around for sixth place. McKenna Watson placed third on the vault (8.55). She totaled 29.175 for the all-around.

Last Saturday, Noblesville competed at the Connersville Invitational, plac-

ing sixth as a team with a score of 95.85 points.

Bittles had the highest place and score for the Millers, finishing fourth on the floor with a 9.25. Bittles also finished eighth in the all-around competition. Watson was fifth on the vault, scoring 8.75.

All-around scores: 8. Valorey Bittles 33.425, McKenna Watson 29.425, Ethan Rivers 28.925.

Vault: 5. Watson 8.75,

Bittles 8.45, Lydia Blackwell 7.95, Rivers 7.75, Alexis Mitcham 7.30.

Uneven bars: Bittles 8.125, Hailey Nobbe 7.60, Rivers 6.525, Watson 5.575, Blackwell 5.125.

Balance beam: Nobbe 8.325, Bittles 7.60, Watson 7.25, Lilly Martin 6.65, Rivers 6.475.

Floor exercise: 4. Bittles 9.25, Rivers 8.175, Watson 7.85, Blackwell 7.375, Mitcham 7.125.

Soccer — Indy Eleven women's team announces 2025 schedule

By **JOSH BODE**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) — The Indy Eleven women's team announced its 2025 schedule on Tuesday.

They play 10 games this summer in May and June, with five home games at home at the Grand Park Events Center.

The Indy Eleven are looking to win their fourth straight division championship in 2025. Last season, they went 7-1-2 and won the Valley Division.

Here is the full 2025 Indy Eleven schedule:

- May 16 – vs. Lexington SC (7 p.m.)
- May 21 – at Dayton Dutch Lions FC (7 p.m.)

- May 27 – Racing Louisville FC (6 p.m.)
- May 31 – vs. Kings Hammer FC Cincinnati (7 p.m.)

- June 6 – vs. Lexington SC (7 p.m.)
- June 11 – at Kings Hammer FC Cincinnati (7 p.m.)

- June 16 – at Dayton Dutch Lions FC (7 p.m.)
- June 20 – at Lexington SC (7 p.m.)

- June 24 – vs. Racing Louisville FC (7 p.m.)
- June 27 – vs. Dayton Dutch Lions FC (7 p.m.)

Tickets for home games are not available at this time.

This story originally appeared on WISH-TV at wishtv.com/sports/indy-eleven/indy-eleven-womens-2025-schedule.

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5.4% Price Increase 1/24 vs. 1/25	Months of Inventory Change 30.3% 1/24 vs. 1/25	Interest Rates 30-Year Fixed 7.0% With an APR of 7.117%

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Hamilton Sales Up 7.8%
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Max Bowman to join Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College cross country & track team

The REPORTER

Hamilton Heights senior Max Bowman has signed a letter of intent to run cross country and track for Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC), just outside of Terre Haute, Ind., this fall. SMWC is a member of the United States College Athletic Association (USCAA) and an NAIA athletic institution. He is the son of Kelley Cain.

Bowman chose to go to SMWC because of its teaching program, campus, and how uplifting and welcoming the team was during his visit. He plans to study mathematics and education and ultimately become a high school math teacher.

A multi-sport athlete (swimming and Unified Bocce Ball), Bowman was a recipient of the Husky Award for Cross Country. Bowman, who has been running since the sixth grade, also attended an All Star Cross Country camp and ran with multiple coaches to better his skills and endurance. He is a member of the Hamilton Heights Chap-

ter of Business Professionals of America (BPA) and the youth group at Cicero Christian Church.

Bowman credits his papa, Tom Jarvis, who has been a major influence in his development over the years.

"He has taught me many things that have helped me with decision making and taking care of myself," Bowman said. "I would also like to thank my mom for everything she has done for me. I would like to thank my coaches for giving me this opportunity. I can't wait to see where this step in my life will take me."

"Max has been a dedicated track team member for four years and he is always willing to help the team out when needed," Boys & Girls Track Team Coach Todd Jones said. "Max even did 300 hurdles one year because we needed someone to fill that spot at a track meet."

"We are very happy for Max to receive this opportunity to continue his cross country and track & field career at Saint Mary-of-the-



Photo by Jen Kauffman

Hamilton Heights senior Max Bowman has signed a letter of intent to run cross country and track for the Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Pomeroy's this fall. Bowman (seated) is pictured with Joan Jarvis (Mimi) and Thomas Jarvis (Papa).

Woods," Hamilton Heights Athletic Director Kurt Ogden said. "He is such a gentleman and a tremendous role model for other athletes here at Hamilton Heights. He will be a great addition to their teams, both academically and athletically."

"Max was a varsity runner throughout his four years on the HH Cross

Country team," Boys Cross Country Coach Bill Trachtman said. "This past season he was our Mental Attitude award winner. Max always had a positive disposition no matter how he finished a race. Max has a special way of connecting to his peers on the team and making everyone feel like they are a vital part of our program."



Photo by Jen Kauffman

Hamilton Heights senior Tyler Champion has signed a letter of intent to play football for the University of Saint Francis Cougars in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Tyler Champion signs to play football at University of Saint Francis

The REPORTER

Hamilton Heights senior Tyler Champion has signed a letter of intent to play football for the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Ind., this fall. The University of Saint Francis is a member of the Crossroads League and a NAIA athletic institution. He is the son of Thomas and Patricia Champion.

Champion, who plans to study business management and pursue a career as a business consultant, said he chose Saint Francis because it has one of the best business programs in the state. In addition, during his campus visit, he said the football coaches and team felt like a family.

A multi-sport athlete (basketball), Champion earned accolades and awards for his performance on the field. He was an All-Conference and Team Offensive Player MVP three times, named to the Hamilton County Second Team All-State 2024, holds six school records, and helped take the Huskies to a 2023 Hoosier Conference Championship title.

"I have been passionate about football since I was a kid," said Champion, who always had a dream of playing football in college. "I worked hard in the weight room and on the field to better myself to get opportunities at the next level."

He credits his parents

and teammates as being the most influential in his life.

"My parents worked hard to help me succeed and sacrifice things in their own lives so I could have this opportunity," Champion explained. "My teammates have always been there to push and support me through everything, and I will cherish those relationships forever."

"Tyler has been an integral part of our success the past four years," Hamilton Heights Head Football Coach Jon Kirschner said. "He is a tenacious, selfless player who, with his style of play, could make the tough catches look routine and keep the defense on their toes at all times. Tyler is a big play threat every time the ball goes to him. Tyler loves the game of football and sold out for his teammates and Husky Football each week. He is going to do great things at St. Francis, and I wish him nothing but the best at the next level."

"Tyler is one of the most athletic student/athletes to walk the halls of Hamilton Heights High School," Hamilton Heights Athletic Director Kurt Ogden said. "He is a great competitor, a solid student in the classroom, and a very respectful and polite young man. The University of Saint Francis is certainly getting a good one. We wish him well."

Rudy Bowman signs with Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College cross country & track team

The REPORTER

Hamilton Heights senior Rudy Bowman has signed a letter of intent to run cross country and track for Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC), just outside of Terre Haute, Ind., this fall. SMWC is a member of the United States College Athletic Association (USCAA) and an NAIA athletic institution. He is the son of Kelley Cain and Jacob Bowman.

Bowman chose SMWC because it is a faith-based community, offers a strong academic program in his field of interest, and has a large, peaceful campus for a small school. During his visit, he found the cross country coach to be inviting and caring toward his runners. He also said the students and athletes were welcoming and made him feel included right away. Bowman plans to earn a degree in kinesiology and become a physical therapist.

Bowman is active inside and outside the classroom earning recognition and accolades as a runner. He ran varsity all four years of high school, received the Most Valuable Runner Award for cross country, Mental Attitude Award and Most Valuable Runner Award for track. He placed 20th at the Noblesville Sectionals, 39th at the Shelbyville Regional, 152nd at the 2024 IHSAA State Championship, ran consistently under 17:00 for the 5K with a personal record of 16:15, All State Competition Class 3A. He participated in the indoor state track meet all four years, has a mile personal record of 4:34 and 800 personal record of 2:02.

Bowman is a four-year member of Hamilton Heights Student Government, Hamilton Heights Chapter of Business Professionals of America (BPA), and Huskies for the Cross. He is also a member of Cicero Christian Church and its youth group.

His passion for the sport began his freshman year. Since that time, Bowman invested time in the summer and winter to train for the upcoming seasons.

"I have learned grit and patience with my sport," he said. "I have trained hard in-season to achieve my goals, listened to my body when it hurt and needed a break to avoid injury. I eat healthy to gain the nutrients and energy needed for my running career."

Bowman credits his papa, Tom Jarvis, as being the biggest influence as a runner.

"He has taught me valuable lessons to strengthen my running skills like mental toughness, grit, and attitude," said Bowman, who believes none of this would be possible if it wasn't for his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "I would also like to thank my high school coaches, Bill Trachtman and Bill Bowen. They have taught me many things about not only running as a sport but also the family and friendships of the sport. They have been a big part of the person I am today."

"Rudy has been a dedicated distance runner for the track program for four years," Boys & Girls Track Team Coach Todd Jones said. "Rudy has become the leader of the distance run-



Photo by Jen Kauffman

Hamilton Heights senior Rudy Bowman has signed a letter of intent to run cross country and track for Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Pomeroy's in southern Indiana this fall.

ning group."

"Rudy had a fantastic senior year in cross country," Hamilton Heights Boys Cross Country Coach Bill Trachtman said. "He was our team MVP and qualified for the IHSAA State Cross Country Meet. He worked hard each and every day and always had a positive attitude. He was a true leader on our team!"

"Rudy is a prime example that hard work pays off," Hamilton Heights Athletic Director Kurt Ogden said. "He really attacked his off-season plan for improvement the past few years and now he's rewarded with the opportunity to continue his passion of cross country and track at the next level. We wish him the best at Saint Mary of the Woods."

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, Feb. 20

BOYS SWIMMING SECTIONAL PRELIMINARIES
Fishers, Hamilton Heights at Hamilton Southeastern, 5:30 p.m.
Guerin Catholic, Noblesville, Westfield at Carmel, 6 p.m.
University at Lawrence North, 6 p.m.

GYMNASTICS
Fishers at New Palestine, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 21

BOYS BASKETBALL
Edinburgh at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern at Brownsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Noblesville at Avon, 7:30 p.m.
Warren Central at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.
Westfield at Franklin Central, 7:30 p.m.
Zionsville at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.
Hoosier Conference playoff third-place game
Twin Lakes at Hamilton Heights, 8 p.m.

BOYS WRESTLING
IHSAA state finals at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, 3 p.m.

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

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