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Friday, Feb. 28, 2025

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly to partly sunny. Winds gusting to 45 mph!

Tonight: Partly cloudy evening. Mostly cloudy overnight.

HIGH: 63 **LOW**: 28

paulpoteet.com

Abraham Lincoln visits Sheridan

Historical Society sponsors special elementary school event

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

On Tuesday, Feb. 25, the students of Sheridan Elementary School (SES) were in for a unique and educational experience, as Abraham Lincoln himself visited the school.

Sponsored by the Sheridan Historical Society, this event brought the 16th president of the United States to life, providing fourth graders with a first-hand opportunity to learn about one of the nation's most influential figures.

Dressed in period-accurate clothing, the actor portraying Abraham Lincoln, Danny Russell, shared fascinating stories about his life from birth until his death, including the Civil War, and his presidency, engaging the students with his powerful speeches and profound wisdom. The event was designed to bring history to life and deepen students' understanding of Lincoln's leadership and legacy. In fourth grade, students learn about the Civil War and how it impacted Indiana, so this experience helps to tie in what the students are learning in class.

Photo provided

Abraham Lincoln speaks to Sheridan Elementary School fourth graders on Feb. 25.

The Sheridan Historical Society, known for its dedication to preserving and sharing local history, organized the event as part of its mission to educate young minds. By sponsoring this experience, the Historical Society hoped to inspire the students to explore history beyond the classroom and appreciate the significant events that shaped the country.

The fourth graders were able to ask questions, interact with "Lincoln," and gain insights into his presidency and life. For many, it was a memorable experience that sparked an interest in history and a deeper respect for the past.

Thanks to the Historical Society's commitment to educational outreach, SES fourth graders will surely carry the lessons of this extraordinary day with them for years to come.

Inside jokes

COLUMNIST

AMY SHANKLAND
Perfectly Imperfect

When you've been married for as long as I have (26-plus years), there are bound to be a few inside jokes between you, your spouse, and your kids if you have them. Well, in our case, dozens of them.

Last Sunday I was sitting next to my husband John and I gave his arm a squeeze. He reached over, squeezed my arm twice, rubbed it up and then down, and then gave my arm a pat. I burst into laughter.

When we were dating almost 28 years ago, I reached over in the car one time and did that same thing to John's arm – squeeze, squeeze; rub, rub; pat. Why I did this, I have no clue. For some reason he thought that pattern was funny, and he teased me about it. We've done that to each other ever since as a secret "code" between us.

If we ever sat down and listed them, I swear we could have close to 100 inside jokes within not just our marriage, but our entire family.

One of our favorites, which is appropriate for this time of year, is when I was in our minivan with John and our sons about 10 years ago. John was driving, and as he was turning to go down an alley, I saw a gigantic pothole ahead.

We were so close to hitting it, I couldn't even get a complete sentence out. All I could do was cry out, "Big, Deep! Big, Deep!" My crazy shouting did help us avoid the pothole, but afterwards, John just looked at me and said, "Big deep, big deep?" Jonathon and Jacob gave me their own questioning glances.

So of course, all these years later, when we see a crater, pothole, or just some giant gap somewhere … John has to cry out, "Big Deep, Big Deep!"

My own family growing up had some fun jokes. I remember during a road trip with Mom and Dad one time that Dad commented on the song by Eddie Rabbit, "I Love a Rainy Night." While he enjoyed the song, he thought it was quite funny how often the artist said the title. There's a bit of … repetition.

We decided to count how many times he sang it when we heard the song next, which didn't take long because it was quite popular at the time (1981) and was a favorite for disc jockeys on the radio. I think we stopped counting when we reached 29! It gave us a lot of laughs whenever we heard the song after that.

John and I have said that if one of us were ever in a coma and couldn't speak, we'd be able to let the other spouse know we were okay and listening with just one "squeeze, squeeze; rub, rub; pat" arm maneuver.

What are some of your family's inside jokes?

See *Jokes* . . . Page 2

The remarkable power of public schools

By DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Superintendent, Hamilton Heights School Corporation

As the superintendent of Hamilton Heights School Corporation, I am honored to serve a community that embraces the transformative power of public education. Our public schools are truly remarkable institutions, and I am continually inspired by the dedication and passion of our educators, students, and families.

My experience in a public school helped me to become the best version of myself by giving me opportunities, experiences, role models, and mentors. It also helped pave the way for a career in education. I became a classroom teacher and continued my education earning advanced degrees and certifications to become an administrator. Ultimately, I came full circle to serve as Superintendent of Hamilton Heights School Corporation in 2014, the district and community that made such an impact on my life during those formative years.

Strong public schools are the foundation of success for young people across Indiana and across the country. In fact, public schools are a destination of choice for 90 percent of Hoosier students and are what make our communities stronger. Public schools are places where dreams are nurtured, potential is realized, and futures are built.

Photo by Jen Kauffman

Hamilton Heights School Corporation Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood has a front-row seat to the profound impact public schools have on its students and community. Public schools provide limitless opportunities and transform lives within the community.

We want to recognize and celebrate the many reasons why children in our public schools are thriving and why investing in Indiana's public schools pays a lifetime of dividends for its students and the communities in which they live, work, and play. Here are just a few of the reasons:

• Public schools are the epitome of inclusivity. They welcome students from all walks of life, providing equal opportunities for every child to learn, grow, and thrive.

• The heart and soul of our public schools are the dedicated educators who work tirelessly to nurture and guide our students. Their unwavering commitment to excellence and their genuine care for each child's success are what make our schools exceptional. Our teachers not only impart knowledge but also inspire a lifelong love of learning, fostering curiosity and creativity in every student.

• Public schools offer a comprehensive education that prepares students for a wide range of future paths – from rigorous

See *Power* . . . Page 2

Fishers breaks ground on White River Park

New park at 96th & Allisonville will offer new kayak launch & trail connectivity along city's southwest side

The REPORTER

Fishers city officials broke ground Thursday on Fishers White River Park, the latest addition to the city's parks system. The 120-acre park is located west of the 96th Street and Allisonville Road intersection and adjacent to the White River, one of the region's greatest natural assets.

Fishers White River Park will feature 5,000 feet of riverfront, including a kayak launch and creek-stomping area, and provide expanded trail connectivity. Along with 2.5 miles of trails within the new park, a trail connection will also be established with the nearby Fishers Heritage Park at White River. A pedestrian bridge is currently under construction between Fishers Heritage Park and Carmel's Hazel Landing Park, and once completed this summer, it will provide trail connectivity between Fishers and Zionsville.

Fadness

"Fishers White River Park is part of the city's initiative to revitalize the Allisonville Road and 96th Street corridors and ensure that the area remains a dynamic destination for recreation and business for years to come," Mayor Scott Fadness said. "The area is transforming from an outdated and stagnant corridor to a vibrant gateway on the city's west side. With roadway and greenspace improvements, refreshed housing options like Balmoral Village, enhanced trail connectivity with the Nickel Plate Trail bridge over 96th Street, and updated amenities like the new Kroger store at 116th Street and Allisonville Road, this area is primed for Fishers' next chapter."

The White River Park is made possible with funding from the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) program. Through the program, led by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, the White River region was awarded $20 million in READI 1.0 funding and allocated $4.7 million to the project in 2022.

The park is anticipated to open this fall.

Notice of Assessment forms now available electronically

Deadline to submit digital request is March 25

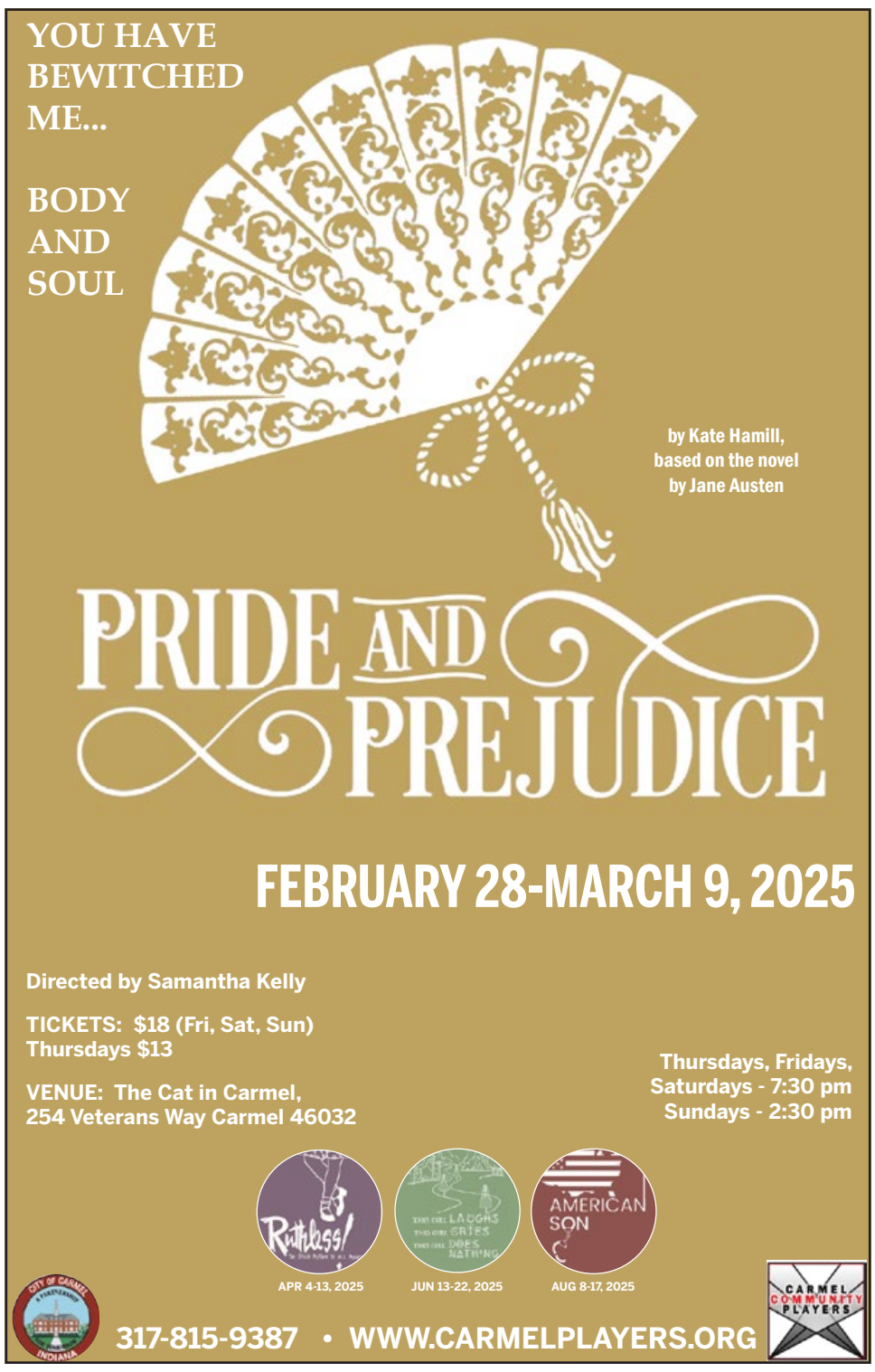
The REPORTER

Hamilton County property owners now have the option to receive their Notice of Assessment of Land and Improvements (Form 11) electronically rather than by mail. The Assessor's Office has traditionally mailed the forms in April, but residents can now opt to have them emailed instead.

Form 11 details the assessed value of a property, which serves as the starting point for calculating annual property tax bills. Assessed values may change due to new construction, additions, remodeling, or changes in land use as well as for reassessments and annual market value trending.

Property owners interested in receiving their Form 11 via email must submit the request by the end of the day on Tuesday, March 25. Both electronic and mailed notices will be sent on April 30.

Property owners can complete the online form on the Hamilton County **Assessor's website** or at **hamiltoncounty.in.gov/2073/F-11-Email-Notification-Request**.



CCP's *Pride & Prejudice* opens tonight, tickets selling quickly

Submitted

Tickets for Carmel Community Players' (CCP) production of *Pride and Prejudice*, directed by Samantha Kelly, are selling quickly, but you can still get yours before it's too late.

There is little hope for the four Bennet sisters beyond "ensnaring" a wealthy future husband, but Lizzy dreams of more than the schemes and games of courtship. A quirky and comedic take on the classic novel by Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* reminds viewers that first impressions can be deceiving.

Due to high demand, CCP scheduled an additional performance. Consider attending the 2:30 p.m. matinee on Saturday, March 8. Alternatively, take advantage of a $5 discount on tickets for Thursday, March 6. CCP doesn't keep a wait list for sold-out performances, so don't delay –a secure your spot before it's too late.

Click here to purchase tickets now. All performances are at The Cat, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel.

Show Dates

- Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m.
- March 1 at 7:30 p.m. – SOLD OUT
- March 2 at 2:30 p.m. – SOLD OUT
- March 6 at 7:30 p.m.
- March 7 at 7:30 p.m.
- March 8 at 2:30 p.m.
- March 8 at 7:30 p.m.
- March 9 at 2:30 p.m.

TODAY: Westfield Fire invites you to "push-in" for new engine

The REPORTER

The Westfield Fire Department invites the public to share in today's celebration of the new Ladder 384, being ceremoniously placed in service, with a traditional "push-in" at noon at the Westfield Public Safety Building, 17535 Dartown Road.

Dating back to the days of the horse and buggy, firefighters will wash the new apparatus and "push" it into its new home. This tradition is a family and public experience, as this truck will safely carry and return firefighters home while serving the community in its emergencies.

The new ladder truck, manufactured by Pierce, is a 100-foot mid-mount platform aerial device, that can be supplied water by an engine, to flow 2,000 gallons of water per minute. It will be staffed with a minimum of four firefighters.

This truck will also provide Advanced Life Support, as at least one firefighter will also be a paramedic, along with the other firefighters who are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT).

Currently responding from the old fire headquarters on Dartown Road, the truck will be responding from a new firehouse anticipated for mid-year 2026. That station will be located at 1315 E. 191st St., the fourth firehouse for Westfield.

Today's ceremony will last about 20 minutes.

Power

from Page 1

academic programs to diverse extracurricular activities, our schools provide a well-rounded education that helps students discover their passions and talents.

• Public schools are the cornerstone of our communities. They bring together families, educators, and local organizations to create a supportive network that ensures the well-being of every child. Our schools serve as community hubs, hosting events, programs, and services that enrich the lives of students and their families. This sense of community fosters a strong connection and a shared commitment to the success of our students.

• Public schools are continually evolving to meet the changing needs of our students and society. Through innovative teaching methods, technology integration, and forward-thinking initiatives, our schools are at the forefront of educational excellence. We are committed to providing our students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in an ever-changing world.

• The impact of public education extends far beyond the classroom. Our public schools lay the foundation for a brighter future by preparing students to be informed, engaged, and responsible citizens. The education they receive today will empower them to shape a better tomorrow for themselves and their communities.

Every day I get to be inspired by our educators, staff, students, families, and community partners who work together because they share in the belief that strong public schools are the foundation of success for young people, the growth of our communities, and instrumental to our country's future. Every day I see successes, accomplishments, achievements, large and small, among both our students and staff – from what I think is one of the best seats in the house. These accomplishments take place on and off our campus, many of which there is little public fanfare but nonetheless incredibly important.

This week and every week let's appreciate the incredible contributions of our public schools and the profound impact they have on our lives. Together, we will continue to support and champion public education, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

#PSW25
#WeAreHuskies

Jokes

from Page 1

I think inside jokes are some of the glue that holds families together. They're part of the fun stories that make up activities, vacations, family dinners, parties, or just hanging out at home together.

I hope you and your family enjoy your inside jokes and create many more in the years to come!

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

JERSEY BOYS

This Tony Award winner for Best Musical includes:

“Sherry”

“Big Girls Don’t Cry”

“Can’t Take My Eyes Off You”

“Workin’ My Way Back To You”

“My Eyes Adored You”

Now on stage — Saturday matinees added!

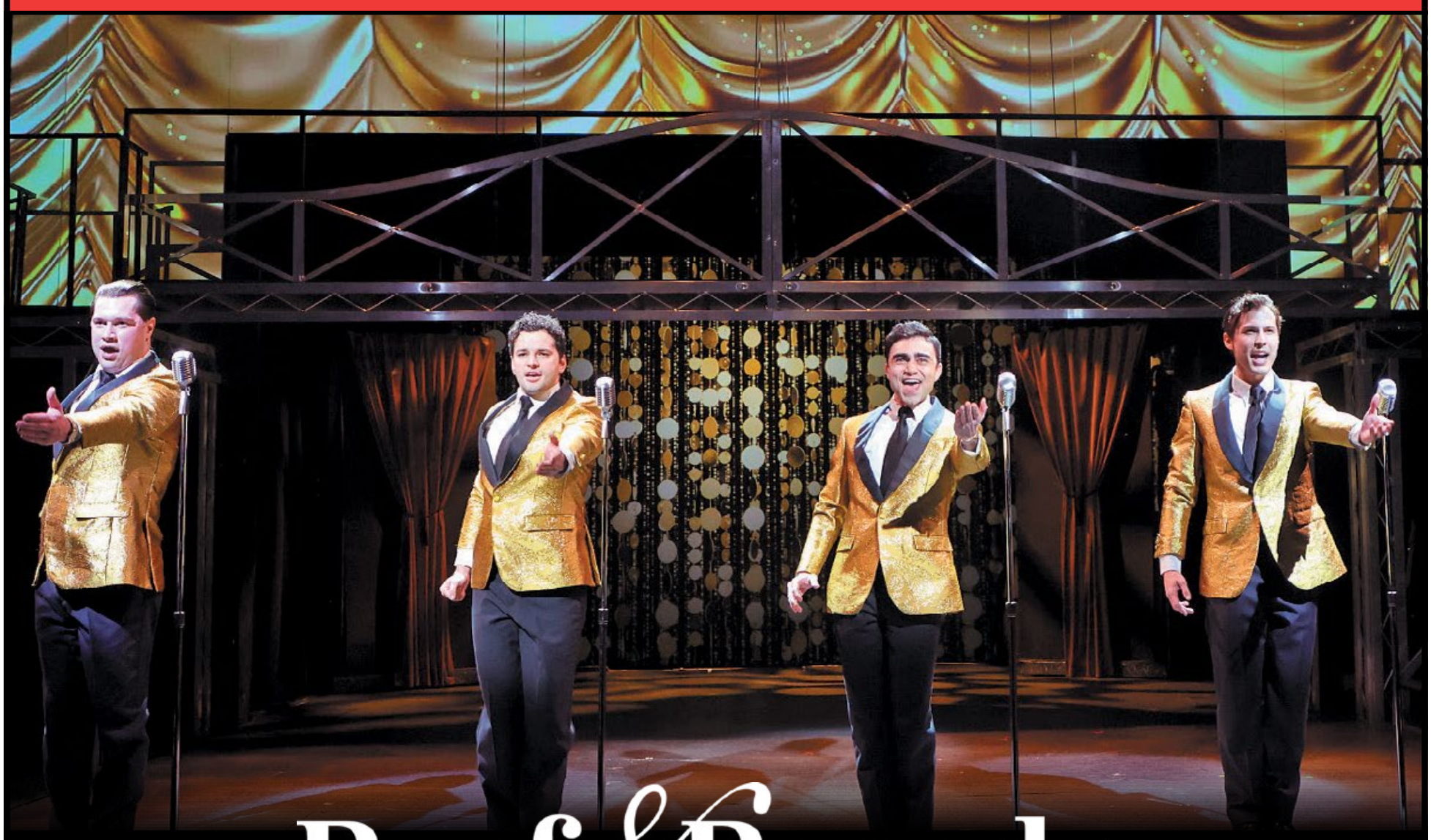


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Photo provided

The Steven Nation Community Pathway as it exits White River Campground. This aerial photo was taken while looking west along 234th Street towards Cicero.

Indianapolis MPO awards Hamilton County $7.8M for three key projects

Two intersections & a pathway will benefit from federal funding

The REPORTER

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Policy Committee has awarded $7,813,948 to Hamilton County to fund three key transportation projects.

Hamilton County was awarded $3,788,423 to convert a three-leg intersection at 113th Street and Olio Road into a multi-lane roundabout. It also received $897,600 in funding to replace existing signals and adjust the left-turn lanes at 146th Street and Marilyn Road. Both projects are scheduled to start in 2028.

Heirbrandt

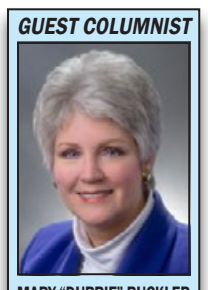
"These are much-needed improvements," Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt said. "This funding is an important next step in allowing us to address the growing congestion and safety issues at these intersections."

The county was also awarded $3,127,925 to complete Phase 2 of the Steven Nation Community Pathway. The dollars will be used to build a 3.9-mile trail/pathway from Potters Bridge in Noblesville to 234th Street. Also included will be a trailhead at the corner of Cumberland Road and 234th Street. That project is expected to begin in late 2028.

Every year, the Indianapolis MPO (IMPO) receives transportation funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and/or the State of Indiana, which is funneled through the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). The IMPO then distributes this funding to local public agencies, including cities, towns, counties, and transit organizations, to support transportation improvement projects such as roads, bridges, trails, and transit systems within its planning area.

Protect access to Medicare Advantage

GUEST COLUMNIST



MARY "DUBBIE" BUCKLER

For more than 34 million Americans, Medicare Advantage makes access to quality healthcare affordable to older adults, retirees on fixed incomes, patients with disabilities, low-income individuals, minority patients, and a growing number of veterans. Safeguarding Medicare Advantage will help make, and keep, America great.

Medicare Advantage goes beyond traditional Medicare by offering comprehensive, integrated coverage that includes vital supplemental benefits like vision, dental, hearing, fitness programs, in-home support, meal delivery, and transportation to medical appointments. These services don't just improve health outcomes. They allow the ever-growing senior population and others with Medicare Advantage plans to maintain their independence and quality of life.

I strongly believe in protecting and strengthening all forms of Medicare, including Medicare Advantage, and I appreciate that President Trump has committed to protecting these programs that we have all earned. With enrollment now surpassing half of all Medicare beneficiaries, Medicare Advantage isn't just a choice, it's the preferred option for the 34 million Americans who rely on its affordability and flexibility.

Despite its success, Medicare Advantage has repeatedly been targeted for funding cuts, a move that has already led to higher premiums and reduced benefits for enrollees. Further cuts would put seniors and patients with disabilities at risk, forcing them to pay more for care or lose access to critical services altogether.

Protecting Medicare Advantage is also an investment in our communities and local economies. A healthier, more active senior and special needs population leads to stronger, more vibrant neighborhoods and a more resilient workforce of family caregivers who rely on these benefits to support their loved ones.

That's why it's crucial that Indiana's Congressional delegation and Senators Todd Young and Jim Banks support Medicare Advantage and ensure it remains well-funded and fully protected. With enrollment growing year after year, keeping this program on stable financial footing needs to be a top priority for Washington policymakers.

Medicare Advantage is one of the most successful, widely used, and effective programs available today. Seniors and Medicare-eligible patients must stay informed about their options and voice concerns about the potential consequences if these benefits are diminished. In the best interest of millions of Americans who also want America to be great, lawmakers must stand firmly to safeguard it.

Mary "Dubbie" Buckler is a civic leader and an organizational effectiveness consultant. She formerly served as the Marion County Treasurer.

Letter to the Editor

Shaffer opines on property tax metrics

Dear Editor:

All the crocodile tears being shed over property tax cuts omits the scam at the root of the system.

Your soon-to-arrive 2025 property tax bill will be based, like its predecessors, on the assessed value of your home.

"Assessed value" means what your place is worth in today's market.

That, in turn, is the sum of what you paid for the place and the equity built up since you bought it.

In other words, instead of taxing you on what you actually paid, the county bills you on unrealized capital gain – or puff.

If and when the housing bubble bursts, it will take years for the county to factor in your "loss" in assessed value.

Bill Shaffer
Carmel

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to ***News@ReadTheReporter.com****. Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.*

Noblesville Schools Education Foundation's Miller-Palooza fundraiser set for March 14

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Schools Education Foundation (NSEF) will soon hold its largest annual fundraiser, Miller-Palooza, on Friday, March 14 at Embassy Suites in Noblesville.

This historic school-spirit-themed fundraiser supports all 10 Noblesville schools and will further the Foundation's mission of promoting and investing in Noblesville Schools through grants, scholarships, strategic partnerships, and volunteer support.

Miller-Palooza starts at 5:30 p.m. and will feature dueling pianos with Felix & Fingers, food stations, spirits, a large auction, and awards honoring partners of Noblesville Schools and the first class in the Noblesville Schools Hall of Fame.

Mayor Chris Jensen will serve as master of ceremonies. The dress code is casual school spirit and vintage or throwback items are encouraged.

NSEF volunteers are hoping to beat last year's numbers and raise over $125,000 to support all 10 Noblesville schools. This is a age 21-and-over event, and tickets start at $125 each. Tickets can be purchased at **onecau.se/miller-palooza**.

NSEF expects an estimated 375 attendees and will feature many local businesses as sponsors. The top presenting sponsor of the event is Blades Audio Video Security. Gold-level sponsors are Craig & Christi Crosser, CSO Architects, Don Smock Auctions, Duke Energy, Ed Martin Automotive, Dr. Joe Forgey, T&T Sales & Promotions, and TMG Construction.

Photo provided by Noblesville Schools

Funds raised at the annual Miller-Palooza support all 10 schools in the district.

About the Noblesville Schools Education Foundation

The Noblesville Schools Education Foundation was created in 1987 to support Noblesville Schools by investing in academic excellence. NSEF is governed by a volunteer board of directors who give their time and energy to accelerate the Foundation's mission of funding grants, awarding scholarships, and expanding resources for Noblesville Schools.

Tickets on sale now for CSO's *Appalachian Spring* at the Palladium

The REPORTER

Join the Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) to celebrate the arrival of spring with a concert inspired by nature, nostalgia, and beauty. Under the baton of Conductor Joel Smirnoff, this unforgettable evening features a program filled with lush melodies and vibrant orchestral colors.

The concert is set for 7 p.m. Saturday, March 15, 2025, at the Palladium at the Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts.

Program

• *Irish Tune from County Derry*, *Molly on the Shore*, and *Shepherd's Hey* and Percy Grainger

• *Appalachian Spring* by Aaron Copland

• *Symphony No. 6* "Pastorale" by Ludwig van Beethoven

Tickets

Reserved seating starts at $67, with senior and student discounts available. **Click here** to purchase tickets.

Enhance your evening

Meet and greet the musicians after the performance at the CSO After Party in the Brham Founders Club. Add-on tickets are available for $25 or included as a Premier Giving & Subscriber benefit.

Find out more at **CarmelSymphony.org**.

Weather is unpredictable . . . but Paul Poteet certainly isn't. *Your Hometown Weatherman!*

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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
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

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
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 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
M 3-10p, Tu-Su12-10pm 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 Post 45 Gil Soria
273 S 8th St Fri 645pm Treasure Hunt
Noblesville, in 46060
317-773-9985 Trivia every 1 & 3 Sat 7pm
M-Th 11a-10p, F11a-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

Sheridan Post 67 Tom DeShon
406 E 10th St
Sheridan, In 46069
317-758-5007
M 3-9p, Tu-Th 11-9p, F Sa 11-10p, Su 1-6p
Restaurant Lunch Tu-F 11a-2p, food service till close

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

Noblesville Post 6246 Eric Behrends
654 S 9th St
Noblesville, In 46060
317-773-9956
M-Th 11a-10p, F 11a-12a, Sa 12p-12a, Su 12p-8p
Restaurant M-F 6-9p

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 Hamilton County Ship 29
Meets 4th Wed 530pm dinner 630pm meeting at Gingers Cafe 1111 S 10th St Noblesville

Hamilton County Veteran Service Officers

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

Hamilton County Military Veteran

Learn 3 Steps On How To Control Bleeding at Carmel Fire Dept HQ March 13

March 18 Job Fair Downtown Indy from 10am till 2pm at Frederick Douglass Park Family Center

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Fund Raiser for Recovery Café of Hamilton County March 21, Raise Your Paddle and Make a Bid

Noblesville American Legion Weekend Breakfast

Activities & Events

National Vietnam War Veterans Day Mar 29, 2025

★ FIND ★ THANK ★ REPAY ★

We Will Never Forget...

Watch 'The Journey Home' Movie Trailer
https://vimeo.com/521654918

Volunteer to help Honor, Remember and Welcome Home our Vietnam Veterans
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4CA4AD2BA6F85-55185776-march#/

Since August 2015, our mission at Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans has been to **FIND, THANK and REPAY** Hoosier Vietnam Era Veterans. WHVV & community partners have held over 250 special "Welcome Home" events in ALL 92 Indiana Counties with the Indiana Vietnam Veterans Gift Program, *A TIME TO HONOR book & DVD set.* This extremely successful statewide outreach program honors, remembers and preserves the memories of Hoosier Vietnam Era Veterans. A 2021 collaboration with Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution has been a key component to many of these community events taking place ensuring all Indiana public libraries and high schools have a donated copy of *A Time To Honor*. We connect Veterans to earned benefits and resources. We have impacted over 20,000 military families!

Our final "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" appreciation event with this Vietnam Gift Outreach will be on **National Vietnam War Veterans Day, Saturday, March 29th, 2025**. This is the *last year* for the Department of Defense 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War. The event will take place at the **Johnson County Indiana National Guard Armory, 325 Minuteman Way, Franklin, Indiana, 46131.**

Highlights include a luncheon, Huey Helicopter Flights provided by Columbus Indiana Huey, a special viewing of The Journey Home documentary. All attendees will receive a copy of *A Time To Honor—Stories of Service, Duty and Sacrifice* book/DVD. Our Honored Guest is Indiana's own Medal of Honor Recipient Sammy L. Davis. Invited special guests include former Vice President Mike Pence, Governor Braun, The Adjunct General of Indiana Larry Muennich, Senator Aaron Freemen, Franklin Mayor Steve Barnett, Indiana State Daughters of the American Revolution Regent Elaine Sholty, MG Ret. R. Martin Umbarger, Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Director Jake Adams, and officials from the Department of Indiana American Legion, VFW Department of Indiana, Indiana DAV, AMVETS, Civil Air Patrol, DAR Leadership, IMMHG, and others. It is free and open to the public.

We hope you will consider joining us to make this a very special day for Indiana Vietnam Veterans

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

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Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana establishes unprecedented 'Satisfaction Guarantee'

The REPORTER

Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana President and CEO Fred Glass announced Thursday that Gleaners has established a new Satisfaction Guarantee for its partners, as well as everyone else it serves.

The announcement came during Glass' presentation at the eighth annual Hunger and Health Breakfast hosted by Gleaners and the Indianapolis Business Journal.

The Gleaners Satisfaction Guarantee, believed to be the only such guarantee provided by any food bank in the nation, provides that:

Gleaners guarantees that the food it provides will, upon delivery to any partner or neighbor, have a reasonable "shelf life" assuming proper storage, to their reasonable satisfaction, or we will promptly replace it.

"The Gleaners Satisfaction Guarantee is based on our belief that everyone we serve deserves to receive good quality food, whether through our pantry and other partners or directly to our neighbors in need," Glass said. "While Gleaners has always sought to provide good quality food, we have made new investments and instituted additional policies and practices to even better ensure the quality of the food we provide."

Gleaners' new food-quality investments have included promoting industry-expert Nichole Louis to the newly expanded role of Food Safety and Quality Assurance Director; creating the new position of Food Safety and Quality Assurance Specialist and filling it with another food-quality professional; enhancing comprehensive and integrated food quality and safety training for all Gleaners staff; establishing a robust food quality inspection system, where the food is inspected upon receipt, in inventory, through order fulfillment, and during transportation; developing a new Consumer Complaint Tracking System; creating a weekly expiration report to track food retention dates more frequently; and establishing internal Quality Assurance Team meetings.

In addition, Gleaners continues to embrace daily inspections of its Protein Repack Center by an on-site USDA inspector; regular safety training for staff and network partners; temperature monitoring during receiving, inventory, shipping, and transportation; and daily environmental swabbing tests for potential contaminants. As a food distribution organization, Gleaners also receives annual inspections from the Indiana Department of Health and bi-annual AIB food safety audits.

The Gleaners Satisfaction Guarantee

Gleaners believes that everyone it serves deserves good quality food, whether through our pantry and other partners or directly to our neighbors in need (collectively our "Partners"). Thus, Gleaners guarantees that the food it provides will, upon delivery to any Partner, have a reasonable "shelf life" assuming proper storage to their reasonable satisfaction, or we will promptly replace it (the "Satisfaction Guarantee").

The Satisfaction Guarantee does not extend to food provided to network pantry partners through the Direct Agency Pickup program (DAP) as that food is not physically controlled or provided by Gleaners. Any network pantry partners having food quality issues through DAP should nevertheless contact Gleaners, and we will endeavor to help address the situation with the DAP provider.

Partners should inspect food provided by Gleaners upon delivery, document by photograph any unsatisfactory food, and immediately notify Gleaners. We will pick up and dispose of any such food and replace it with similar, satisfactory food. Likewise, any neighbors receiving food directly from Gleaners (such as through the drive-thru pantry), who upon receiving it discover food that is not of satisfactory quality may return it to be replaced by Gleaners. Neighbors who receive unsatisfactory food from Gleaners through a Partner, should contact the Partner which, if appropriate, should address the situation with Gleaners.

* * *

Learn more and donate at **Gleaners.org**.

Gov. Mike Braun's latest executive orders aim to reduce unemployment fraud & increase work search requirements

Submitted by Office of the Governor

Governor Mike Braun signed two executive orders on Thursday to reduce fraud and promote work search activities for Hoosiers on unemployment insurance.

Unemployment insurance is an important temporary safety net for Hoosiers who lose their jobs and are seeking re-employment, and the Governor says these steps will enhance accountability, ensuring no one is taking advantage of this program and thus protecting its integrity.

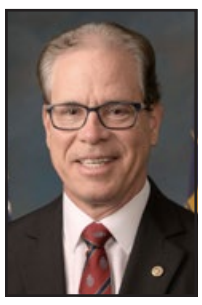
Cutting down unemployment fraud & abuse

Executive Order 25-33 directs the Department of Workforce Development to take steps to identify fraud and abuse in the unemployment insurance program.

These measures include:

- Verifying applicant eligibility through the use of state and federal new hire directories
- Cross-checking applicant eligibility through state and federal incarceration records, state death records, and the Multi-State Integrity Data Hub
- Conducting additional review and investigation of claims filed from a single internet protocol address using a similar mailing address or bank account
- Ensuring claims made from out-of-state applicants are appropriately verified prior to approval and payment

The Department of Workforce Development will provide quarterly progress reports to the Governor on its findings and the amount of improper payments prevented by these data-focused efforts to prevent fraud and abuse.



Braun

"We need to crack down on fraud in unemployment insurance to protect the integrity of the program and the taxpayer dollars that fund it," Gov. Braun said. "Today's executive order will empower the Department of Workforce Development to use data cross-checking tools to find fraudulent activity and stop improper payments."

Turning the safety net into a springboard: increasing work search requirements to promote a culture of work

Research from the U.S. Department of Labor found that unemployment programs with more stringent work search requirements were more likely to find work, found work more quickly, spent fewer weeks receiving unemployment insurance, and exhausted re-employment benefits at a lower rate.

Executive Order 25-32 requires additional work search activities for recipients of unemployment insurance, requires recipients to make contact with a Work One office about searching for work in the first week of enrollment, and tasks the Department of Workforce Development to more rigorously audit work search activities to ensure compliance.

This executive action also seeks to turn the safety net of unemployment into a springboard to gainful employment by identifying recipients at the highest risk of exhausting their unemployment benefits and tailoring re-employment services to support them in finding work.

"Unemployment insurance is an important temporary safety net, but it should be exactly that: temporary assistance while searching for a new job," Gov. Braun said. "Research shows more rigorous work search requirements lead to unemployment recipients finding work faster; even just sending notices reminding beneficiaries of work search requirements led to fewer weeks on unemployment. Today I'm signing an executive order to require more meaningful work search activities to encourage workforce participation, grow our state economy, and promote a culture of work."

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church of Christ

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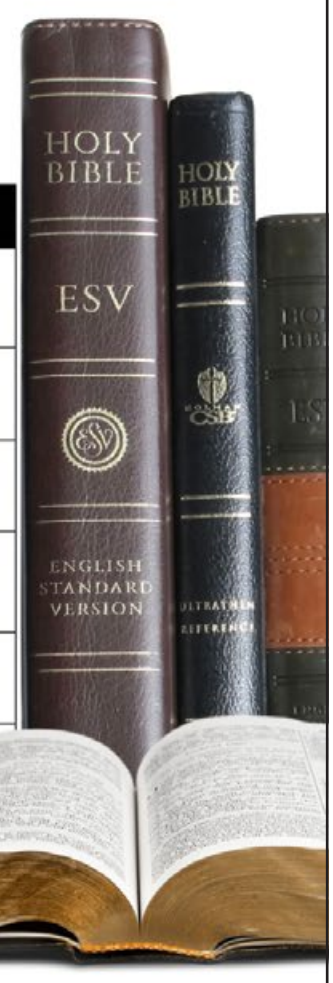
The Bible Reveals...	Passage Found.	Date Science Discovered.	Years prior.
There was an origin of creation and life.	Genesis 1:1; 2:7 (1440-1400 BC)	1920's	3,300+
Earth is free floating.	Job 26:7 (7th to 4th Century BC)	1650's	2,000+
Earth is round.	Isaiah 40:22 (740-681 BC)	16th century (first practical proof)	2,200+
First law of Thermodynamics.	Genesis 2:1 (1440-1400 BC)	1850's	3,200+
The Hydrologic Cycle.	Ecclesiastes 1:7 (930 BC)	1580's	2,500+
Life is in the blood.	Leviticus 17:11 (1440-1400 BC)	1620's	3,000+



And those are just a few of many examples.

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Sunday Worship | 11:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 PM

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HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER
Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper

Graphic provided by Westfield Chamber of Commerce

Westfield Chamber celebrates 'Women Who Rock' in March

The REPORTER

In honor of Women's History Month, the Westfield Chamber invites business leaders, community members, and guests to attend the March Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 27 at The Club at Chatham Hills, 1100 Chatham Hills Blvd., Westfield. That's near the intersection of Tomlinson Road and East 203rd Street, west of U.S. 31.

Come hear from a dynamic panel of movers and shakers in Westfield. The Chamber is pleased to bring together an amazing group of women who come from all walks of life and varying levels of experience. There are many incredible women in the city, and the Chamber wanted to highlight this specific group of women based on their recent achievements. Please plan to attend for what should be an insightful and inspiring afternoon.

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

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West District Office: (317) 848-0201 East District Office: (765) 639-0671
www.spartz.house.gov

Meet award-winning author Varian Johnson at Fishers Library

The REPORTER

The Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) will soon welcome award-winning author Varian Johnson to the Fishers Library, 5 Municipal Drive.

Johnson

Young readers and families are invited to a special author visit at the Fishers Library at 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 11. Johnson will be sharing stories, answering questions, and signing books in an engaging and interactive event perfect for elementary-teen readers.

Johnson is the author of several novels for children and young adults, including *The Parker Inheritance*, which won both Coretta Scott King Author Honor and *Boston Globe*/Horn Book Honor awards; *The Great Greene Heist*, an ALA Notable Children's book and Kirkus Reviews Best Book; and the graphic novel Twins, illustrated by Shannon Wright, an *NPR* Best Book.

"We are excited to host award-winning author Varian Johnson at our Fishers Branch," HEPL Children's Program Coordinator Allison Kartman said. "Hearing from an author firsthand can bring literature to life and help kids connect with the written word in a dynamic way. We hope everyone will come out to hear from this great author and support a local Indy bookstore, Loudmouth Books by buying some of Mr. Johnson's titles. Mr. Johnson will be available after the program to sign and personalize books!"

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required but is requested for an accurate head count. Following the program, Johnson will be available to sign books and LoudMouth Books will be onsite with a selection of books for purchase.

For more information about Varian Johnson's author visit, please visit **hamiltoneastpl.org**.

About Varian Johnson

Varian Johnson was born in Florence, S.C., and attended the University of Oklahoma, where he received a BS in Civil Engineering. He later received an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts and is honored to now be a member of the faculty. He lives outside of Austin, Texas, with his family.

Award-winning slider brand Smalls Sliders coming to Indiana

Submitted

Smalls Sliders, the cheeseburger slider brand rapidly growing across the country, is continuing to spread its signature Smorange hue nationwide, this time through its first development agreement inked with esteemed operating group, Indy Craves, led by entrepreneurs Ellen Broyles and Justin Ruetz, while also supported in consulting by Alex Yeater.

The latest deal details 15 Cans coming to the Midwest state, with the first expected to open in the next 12 months.

Broyles and Ruetz each bring a diverse array of experiences and skills to the group's venture with Smalls Sliders. Spanning various industries, including financial services, insurance, and the QSR (quick-service restaurant) space, the group is well equipped to bring the groundbreaking brand into the Indiana market and is eager to make an immediate impact with their first Can. They also plan to engage with the community by becoming active members of their local chambers of commerce and supporting other local charities & organizations.

"Smalls Sliders has been taking the nation by storm, and we were immediately drawn to its unique people-driven approach," Ruetz said. "The brand's simple yet extremely effective model has proven success, and it was a no-brainer to get on board. Smalls is a movement, and we're thrilled to officially bring the unique experience to communities across Indiana."

Smalls Sliders is eyeing growth across the Midwest in 2025, and this agreement in Indiana with Indy Craves is a clear sign for the impressive expansion ahead. The seasoned operating group behind this latest agreement is currently eyeing communities such as Fishers, Noblesville, Carmel, Lafayette, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Muncie, Pendleton, Avon, Plainfield, Greenwood, Terre Haute, Bloomington, and Columbus for Cans.

"Seasoned operating groups like Indy Craves truly differentiate us from other concepts in the QSR space," said Don Crocker, Chief Development Officer of Smalls Sliders. "This agreement is a great way to kick off 2025 and an even better milestone for the brand as we continue to push into the Midwest. Indiana is wide open for development, and we're excited to introduce our concept to guests across the state."

Smalls Sliders opened its first signature 'Smorange' colored Can in 2019. Since its inception, Smalls Sliders has disrupted the QSR industry with its stacked leadership team and robust development pipeline, furthering its rapid growth trajectory with more than 375 Cans open or under development. The brand continues to garner high-level industry recognition, with Nation's Restaurant News featuring Smalls Sliders in its "Breakout Brands of 2023," and *QSR Magazine* ranking the brand in its annual QSR 50 Contenders list in 2023 and 2024. Other accolades include ranking on *Entrepreneur* magazine's "Top New & Emerging Franchises" list in 2023 and 2024 and landing on Technomic's 2024 Future 50 Growth Chains which highlights the fastest-growing restaurant chains.

For more information on Smalls Sliders, go to **SmallSliders.com** or visit **smallssliderfranchising.com** to learn more about franchising opportunities.

Thanks for reading The Reporter!

Carmel's own Hannah Kim earns spot as executive intern at Bucknell University

Program provides work experience to students in 11 executive offices

Submitted

Each year, the Undergraduate Executive Internship Program (UEIP) at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa., offers 10 to 12 highly motivated students the ability to work alongside a mentor in one of the university's executive offices. The unique program helps interns sharpen their professional skills and build relationships with senior staff of the university. It annually attracts driven students who are interested in gaining campus work experience and are dedicated to making a positive impact on campus.

Photo by Gordon R. Wenzel

Undergraduate executive interns 2024-25. (Back row, from left) Ibrahim Tahir, Alma Ledwidge, Sarah Downey, Waina Ali, Maddy Grieco, Kayla Howie, and Saniya Brown-Baptiste. (Front row, from left) Hannah Kim, Julia Reynolds, and Dylan Reiff.

UEIP was established in 2007, and interns are hired from among a pool of applicants in various executive offices. This year, the executive interns are using their talents and skills in the Office of the President, Office of the Dean of Students, Office of the Provost, Division of Marketing & Communications, Office of the Dean of Arts & Sciences, Office of the Dean of Engineering, Office of the Dean of the Freeman College of Management, University Advancement, Office of Athletics & Recreation, Division of Library & Information Technology, and for the first year, the Division of Equity and Inclusive Excellence.

"UEIP is an impactful opportunity that is mutually beneficial for the members of the program and Bucknell," said Kayla Howie '25, who works in the Office of the President. "As interns, we get to learn more about the behind the scenes of the University and truly understand how each office works independently and together to allow Bucknell to function. Additionally, the program allows these offices to hear student voices directly."

The interns can use that connection to develop projects they think will be impactful to Bucknellians.

"I applied to UEIP because I have an interest in working in higher education in the future," said Alma Ledwidge '25, who works in the Office of the Provost. Over the year, Ledwidge developed a student transcript that includes extracurricular activities to offer employers a better understanding of how Bucknellians engage on campus. "My mentor listened to what I was interested in – projects that outwardly and effectively benefit the student experience – and let me take those on."

The role also puts the students – who hail from different disciplines – together, allowing collaboration across colleges and offices. The students typically work on a larger project, which wouldn't be possible without their combined knowledge and connections on campus. Past projects have included a 'Bye to the 'Burg' downtown event for departing seniors and the Market Street shops.

"Institutional change cannot be accomplished from one person or one department; it is the joining of forces that will allow for widespread impact," Howie said. "As Bucknell is moving into strategic planning for 2030, student voices are critically important, and we have the potential to use this platform to make sure students' voices are heard and valued in this process and afterward."

The 11 executive interns participating in the program are listed below with their offices, areas of study and hometowns.

• Office of the President: Kayla Howie '25; global management and Spanish majors; Center Valley, Pa.

• Office of the Dean of Students: Julia Reynolds '25; chemistry and environmental science majors and women's & gender studies minor; Linwood, N.J.

• Office of the Provost: Alma Ledwidge '25; history major; New City, N.Y.

• Division of Marketing & Communications: Sarah Downey '25, Italian studies and political science majors and creative writing minor; Allentown, Pa.

• Office of the Dean of Arts & Sciences: Maddy Grieco '26, English—literary studies & Italian studies; East Hanover, N.J.

• Office of the Dean of Engineering: Hunter Gehman '25; computer engineering major; Mount Joy, Pa

• Office of the Dean of the Freeman College of Management: Saniya Brown-Baptiste '27; markets, innovation & design and critical Black studies majors; Bowie, Md.

• University Advancement: Waina Ali '26; political science major; Bloomsburg, Pa.

• Office of Athletics & Recreation: Dylan Reiff '26; international relations and French majors; Milton, Pa.

• Division of Library & Information Technology: Ibrahim Tahir '26, computer science & economics majors; Lahore, Pakistan.

• **Division of Equity and Inclusive Excellence: Hannah Kim '25, mechanical engineering major; Carmel**

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Wiggle your way into latest new musical presented by ATI's LabSeries

The REPORTER

Actor's Theatre of Indiana's (ATI) Lab Series returns with *Kannon Gets the Wiggles* at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15 at Carmel Clay Public Library, 425 E. Main St.

This show is by Gavin Thomas Drew and Chapman Shields, with music by Rolin Mains, lyrics by Drew and Mains. This show, sure to appeal to kids and grownups alike, is adapted from the book *Sometimes I Get the Wiggles: Be a Seizure Hero* by Andee Cooper.

Synopsis

Kannon is just like any other second grader. He loves his mom, his dog Murphy, and comic book superheroes. When Kannon has a seizure at his new school and is diagnosed with epilepsy, he has to find the courage to face this battle as Super Kannon and empower others to be epilepsy heroes as well. This touching and funny theatre-for-young-audiences piece teaches everyone that with friends, family and courage you can face any battle!

History

Cooper wrote the book based on the true story of her son, Kannon, who has a rare form of epilepsy called Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome. Shields has known the Cooper family for years and thought that the book would be a great piece of educational theatre.

Writing began in January 2022. A reading of the first draft was held at Oklahoma State University on April 27, 2022, and was attended by Cooper, who gave her blessing to continue development. The show will make its first full production debut in Shields' and Cooper's hometown of Bristow, Okla., in the summer of 2025, followed by a school tour to raise epilepsy awareness.

The Lab Series program is ATI's way to show commitment to nurturing new plays and playwrights. Chosen plays enjoy a reading and a talk-back session with ATI audiences, staff, cast, and the playwright at the Carmel Clay Public Library.

The public reading event is free, but seats should be reserved at **this link**.

Graphic provided

Obituary

Carla Marie Stowe

April 26, 1954 – February 21, 2025

Carla Marie Stowe, 70, passed away at her home in Sheridan on Friday, February 21, 2025. Born April 26, 1954, in Lafayette, Ind., she was the daughter of the late Carl Heinz and Nancy Ellen (Henderson) Wetzel.

She was a 1972 graduate of Frankfort High School and never tired of letting people know how proud she was to be a Hotdog. She later earned her BA in Education at Ball State University, as well as a new nickname while she was there, Sunshine.

Carla spent the first part of her career as a pre-school teacher, helping children get a good start in their school years. Carla used her special gifts and talents to positively influence their young lives.

After many years in early childhood education, Carla decided to make a change in the form of opening her own business. Carla's Cupboard was a small antique shop located right on Main Street in Sheridan. Carla was a "collector" of just about everything, including, but certainly not limited to: ceramics, stained glass pieces, cardinals, books (which she did read before adding them to her collection), vinyl records, do-dads and what-nots. There were even some actual antiques up at the shop as well. Carla never met a stranger and loved the time she spent sharing her varied collection(s) with anyone who came into the store. If you didn't find what you were looking for, you at least left with a good back story on some of the pieces in her inventory.

After 10 years in business, Carla closed the antique store and went to work at the Noblesville Walmart. It didn't take long before she had gotten to know just about everybody who worked there. In 2019, Carla decided to retire, but even in retirement, she made sure that her Walmart family stayed close and kept in touch with each other, as a family should.

Retirement afforded Carla more time to devote to things that made her feel complete, and those were (in no particular order) her grandchildren, her animals, and being one with nature and the universe. She was a hippie and a free spirit who loved long walks in nature. She felt that the best way to heal and stay connected to Mother Earth was to take some of those walks barefoot. She cared deeply for the animals that added so much love and beauty to the world, and she tried her best to rescue as many as she could. She also loved attending concerts; it's hard to say just how many shows she went to over the years, but there is most definitely a box of ticket stubs, just itching to be found in her collection, and waiting to tell the story of her musical journey.

She was a member of Zion Evangelical Church in Indianapolis, where she especially enjoyed Christmas services. She was a woman of strong faith, reading her bible daily. She never felt that she had to be at church to worship, choosing to do so at home, or out on a walk where she could talk to God in the beauty of His creation. Carla always claimed that all she needed was God and the Earth, and the rest would take care of itself.

Her greatest joy in life came from her family. She loved spending as much time as she could with her grandchildren and instilled in them her love for history and animals. She also loved sharing stories about her life, especially about the time she got to meet Elvis. The Good Witch of the North also passed along her love for Halloween. Carla leaves a legacy of love that will live on in all who knew her.

Carla is survived by her daughter, Paulee Marie Stowe of Sheridan; stepson, Jordan Stowe (Ashley) of Avon; three grandchildren, Carl Stowe, Makenzie Setters, and Aaliyah Sumpter; brother, C. Mark Wetzel of Carmel; niece, Lauren Wetzel of Carmel; her former husband, Paul Stowe; and her feline BFF, Mr. Snuggles.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Carl Heinz and Nancy Ellen (Henderson) Wetzel; son, Travis Carl Setters; and sisters-in-law, Jennifer Wetzel.

Services will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 2, 2025, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan, with visitation from 2 p.m. until the time of service. Per Carla's request, everyone should come dressed in bright colors, or in your favorite costume.

She will be laid to rest at a later date at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Humane Society for Hamilton County, 10501 Hague Rd., Fishers, IN 46038.

Condolences: **kerchevalfuneralhome.com**

Mary J. Blige to make tour stop at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in April

The REPORTER

Grammy and Emmy award-winning and Oscar-nominated "Queen of Hip-Hop Soul" Mary J. Blige has added four new shows to her highly anticipated "The For My Fans Tour."

Produced by Live Nation, the now 40-city tour will make a stop in downtown Indianapolis at Gainbridge Fieldhouse on Monday, April 21. Tickets are available starting at 10 a.m. today, Feb. 28, at **Ticketmaster.com**.

Blige is full steam ahead on her 2025 tour bringing her iconic style to each stage and treating fans to an incredible blend of classics like "Be Without You," "Family Affair," and "Real Love," alongside tracks from her new album *Gratitude*.

"The For My Fans Tour" journeys from Blige's beginning to where she is today and genuinely expresses that this couldn't have been done without the love and support of those fans.

The tour will also offer a variety of different VIP packages and experiences for fans to take their concert experience to the next level. Packages vary but include premium tickets including reserved booths and tables, access to the VIP Lounge, exclusive VIP merch item, limited edition VIP poster & more. For more information, visit **vipnation.com**.

Obituary

John Allen Klepfer

December 18, 1952 – February 25, 2025

John Allen Klepfer, a humble and spirited soul, was born on December 18, 1952, in Lebanon, Ind., to Robert Klepfer and Opal (Michael) Harmon. John passed away on February 25, 2025.

He spent his life in the service of others, generously giving his time and energy to his family, friends, and community. His life was a testament to the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson: "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

John was a dedicated pressman, working tirelessly for the Indianapolis Newspapers until his retirement. He found joy in simple pleasures, such as tending to the lawns at the country club, playing the farming game on his computer, and following his hobbies of trains and motorcycles. His love for bowling was evident in his active participation in several leagues. John was also an avid Washington Redskins football fan. A proud and dedicated 50-year member of the Cicero American Legion, he served as Department Southern Vice Commander, Past District, and Past Post Commander. His commitment to service was further demonstrated in his 50-year membership in the Masonic Lodge, where he held the title of Past Master.

John is survived by his loving wife of nearly 50 years, Deborah Klepfer; his children, Jason and Courtney Klepfer; his granddaughters, Brooklyn Klepfer and Natalie Klackle-Klepfer; his great-grandson, Greysen Boisseau; his half-brothers, Jerry (Denise) and Gary Klepfer; his half-brother, Jay (Jennifer) Harmon; sister-in-law, Terry Klepfer; and several nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Steve and Michael Klepfer.

A visitation for John will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Hartley Funeral Homes – Cicero, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero. This will be followed by a funeral service at 2 p.m. with Pastor Jodi Brown officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion Legacy Foundation, The American Legion, Donation Processing, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

We encourage those who knew John to share their memories, stories, and photos on his memorial page. Despite our loss, let us remember that "Life is eternal, and love is immortal, and death is only a horizon; and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight" (Rossiter Worthington Raymond).

Condolences: **hartleyfuneralhomes.com**

— TIPTON —

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF TIPTON BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
CTI-V-02-25 City of Tipton

Notice is hereby given that the City of Tipton Board of Zoning Appeals, on the 12th day of March 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Tipton City Building, 216 South Main Street, Tipton, Indiana, will hold a public hearing to consider the following:

CTI-V-02-25 City of Tipton, owner, Tipton Main Street, petitioner, requests one (1) use variance to construct a 22' x 16' outdoor stage in the B-1 Traditional Downtown Business zoning district.

The property is a parcel currently utilized as City green space, located at or near 107 East Jefferson.

The property is more fully described as:

A part of Lots 1, 2, and 3 in Block 10 of the Original Plat of the City of Tipton, Tipton County, Indiana, being described as follows:

Beginning at the Southwest corner of said Lot 3, thence North 01 degree 27 minutes 50 seconds West (Indiana State Plan Coordinate System – East Zone) along the East Right of Way line for Court Street, a distance of 198.00 feet to the Northwest corner of said Lot 1, thence North 88 degrees 37 minutes 24 seconds East along the North line of said Lot 1, a distance of 127.13 feet; thence South 01 degree 27 minutes 50 seconds East a distance of 123.37 feet; thence North 88 degrees 37 minutes 24 seconds East a distance of 27.37 feet; thence South 01 degree 27 minutes 50 seconds East a distance of 0.63 feet; thence North 88 degrees 37 minutes 24 seconds East a distance of 43.50 feet to the West Right of Way line for Independence Steet; thence South 01 degree 27 minutes 50 seconds East along said West Right of Way line, a distance of 8.00 feet to the Northeast corner of aforesaid Lot 3; thence South 88 degrees 37 minutes 24 seconds West along the North line of said Lot 3, a distance of 99.00 feet; thence South 01 degree 27 minutes 50 seconds East a distance of 66.00 feet to the South line of said Lot 3; thence South 88 degrees 37 minutes 24 seconds West along said Sough line, a distance of 99.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.55 acres, more or less.

Interested persons desiring to present their views upon this case will be given an opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place or comments or objections may be submitted in writing in the Planning Office at 101 East Jefferson Street, Tipton, Indiana 46072 prior to 4 p.m. on the day of the hearing.

The proposal may be viewed in the Planning Office prior to the hearing. The hearing may be continued from time to time.

Tipton Board of Zoning Appeals

R5792 *2/28/25, 3/3/25*

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF TIPTON PLAN COMMISSION
CTI-ZO-03-25

Notice is hereby given that the City of Tipton Plan Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Meeting Room of Tipton City Hall, 216 South Main Street, Tipton, Indiana, to consider the following:

An amendment of the City of Tipton Zoning Ordinance concerning additions or changes to Article 2, entitled "Definitions". Specifically, the amendment is intended to add or change language to the zoning ordinance definitions.

This amendment will apply to the entire jurisdiction of the City of Tipton Plan Commission.

The proposed amendment may be viewed in the Plan Commission Office at 101 East Jefferson Street, Tipton, Indiana prior to the hearing.

Interested persons desiring to present their views regarding the proposed amendment, either verbally or in writing, will be given an opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place; or comments or objections may be submitted in writing in the Plan Commission Office prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the hearing.

The hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

City of Tipton Plan Commission

R5793 *2/28/25, 3/3/25*

— CICERO —

PC-0325-03-CP

Legal Notice
Plan Commission

Comprehensive Plan Update

A public hearing to discuss the proposed new Town of Cicero and Jackson Township Comprehensive Plan shall be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12th, 2025, at 70 North Byron; Cicero, IN 46034.

Written comments will be accepted until 3:00pm on March 3, 2025.

The proposed new Comprehensive Plan revision, in summary, contains the following items and information: land use policy, housing, transportation, utilities and community facilities, natural, agricultural and cultural resources, economic development, and implementation. The Comprehensive Plan is a guide for public officials and private citizens to use in making informed decisions affecting the community.

A copy of the new Town of Cicero and Jackson Township comprehensive plan may be inspected in office located at 331 East Jackson Street; Cicero, IN 46034 or request for digital copy may be made to Frank Zawadzki at fzawadzki@townofcicero.in.gov.

The Hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

Petitioner's Name: Cicero/Jackson Township Plan Commission

Date: 02/24/2025

R5800 *2/28/25, 3/3/25*

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

The Ark

He made the atonement cover of pure gold—two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. Then he made two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. He made one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; at the two ends he made them of one piece with the cover. The cherubim had their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim faced each other, looking toward the cover.

Exodus 37:6-9 (NIV)

Waltraud Christina Flynn

October 22, 1938 – February 26, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved family matriarch, Waltraud Christina Flynn, known affectionately to many as Traudie.

Born in Kassel, Germany, on October 22, 1938, Waltraud embodied resilience and strength, having moved to the U.S. at the tender age of 19. She was a beacon of light in our family, her humor and generosity inspiring all those around her. Waltraud was a woman of great faith, deeply involved in St. Mary's Catholic Church, where she found great comfort and solace.

Waltraud was a loyal and dedicated homemaker who took immense pride in nurturing her family. Her home was a warm and welcoming sanctuary filled with laughter, love, and the mouthwatering aroma of her cooking. Her hobbies ranged from shopping, watching her favorite shows, to daily walks at Mounds State Park. Waltraud had a special affinity for traveling, especially back to her native Germany, carrying with her the love for her homeland. A member of the Onward and Upward Extension Homemakers Club, she found joy in serving her community and was a steadfast friend to many.

Waltraud is lovingly remembered by her children, Patricia (Jonathan) Burman, Uwe Flynn, Robert (Sandra) Flynn, Sabrina (Brad) Sollberger, Nicole Flynn, Christopher Flynn, Joshua (Margaret) Flynn, and Alexis (Benjamin) Dunkelberger. She also leaves behind her sister, Edelgard Hartung. She was preceded in death by her parents, Adam Steinmetz and Elizabeth Hartung; her beloved husband, Donald Flynn; her daughter, Tammy Flynn; and her brother, Roland Hartung.

"Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.'" (Proverbs 31:28-29)

Please join us in celebrating Waltraud's life by sharing your memories and photos on her memorial page. Her legacy of love, resilience, and generosity will continue to live on in the hearts of those she touched. Your stories and pictures will offer comfort and serve as a reminder of Waltraud's remarkable life.

Visitation will be held from noon to 2 p.m. Monday, March 3 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 302 E. 11th St., Anderson, Ind., with a Funeral Mass immediately following at 2 p.m.

Condolences: **hartleyfuneralhomes.com**

Thomas Joe Heck

April 30, 1935 – February 21, 2025

Thomas Joe Heck, 89, Lake Placid, Fla., went home to be with his Lord on Friday, February 21, 2025, at the Good Shepherd Hospice House in Sebring, Fla.

Thomas was born on April 30, 1935, in Hancock County, Ind. He was the son of Ruth (Bingham) and Donald Heck. Thomas served is country with honors in the Indiana National Guard. He worked for many years in the tool and die manufacturing industry before retiring. He has been a resident of the Lake Placid area for the past 19 years, moving there from Indiana.

Thomas was of the Baptist faith, and he enjoyed coaching little league sports, scouting, and wood working. Thomas enjoyed spending time with his family and friends whenever they could get together, especially time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Thomas is preceded in death by his two children, Theresa Pickett and William; and he is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Margaret; son, Steven; nine grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

The family will celebrate Thomas' life at a later date.

Robin Lyn Hunter

December 29, 1959 – February 19, 2025

Robin Lyn Hunter, 65, Noblesville, passed away on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, surrounded by family at her home. She was born on December 29, 1959, to Robert and Verona (Walker) Hunter in Atlanta, Ga.

Robin was a lifelong resident of Noblesville and was a member of the first rifle corps of Noblesville High School, class of 1978. Robin was passionate about, and served as an administrator for, her metastatic breast cancer support group. She loved to cook and her Thanksgiving dinners (particularly her mac and cheese) will be fondly remembered. Robin was exceptionally proud of her children, Josh and Kelsey, and wanted nothing more than to see them lead a happy, successful life. She was a fiercely loving and loyal mother, friend, sister, and daughter, and will be missed dearly.

She is survived by her mother, Verona (Mark) Cook; daughter, Kelsey Hilton; son, Josh (Katie Rowe) Hilton; sister, Amy (Dave) Lunn; nephew, Hunter Rayle and his son Gunnar; niece, Megan Lunn; and sister, Susan (Randy) Buhr.

She was preceded in death by her father.

The family would like to extend a special gratitude to Teri and Rich Santos, Joe Moore, and Jeri Clos, cousins by blood and siblings by love, who went above and beyond to support both Robin and her family during her battle.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 18 at the Osprey Pointe Pavilion at Morse Park and Beach, 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville. The Hunter Family has entrusted Randall & Roberts Funeral Home with Robin's care.

Memorial contributions may be made to METAvivor Research and Support, 7780 Elmwood Ave., Suite 130, Middleton, WI 53562 (**metavivor.org**).

Condolences: **randallroberts.com**

David "Dave" James Chandler

December 22, 1964 – February 25, 2025

With heavy and weary hearts, we announce the unexpected passing of David J. Chandler on Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

David (Dave) was more than a beloved person; he was deeply cherished by his family and friends. Dave was a loving son and brother, admirable father and grandfather, adoring husband, and devoted friend. More so, Dave was a son of God and lived every day committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with everyone around him. Dave and his surviving wife Sharon worked tirelessly to provide for their children and grandchildren and built a family together on a foundation of faith and unconditional love.

For many, Dave was a mentor, ensuring he invested in others and going above and beyond to lend a helping hand or a comforting hug. Dave, also known as Pap, had eight grandchildren and cherished each one deeply. Pap's purpose was to teach his grandchildren about Jesus and how to love others as he did. Dave especially enjoyed camping with his family and playing ball with his beloved dog Ozzy.

Dave's authentic self left lasting impressions in our hearts, and while his death feels sudden and unjustified, as a family we find solace in Dave's never wavering faith in God and trust in God's plan. We will forever relish the memories of Dave's witty humor and charm, reminding ourselves of the passion he had for living life. We are now only left to honor Dave's memory by sharing with others his eternal love for God and family.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon Chandler; children, Jason Chandler (Jordan), Megan Voorhies (Hayden), Nathan Chandler (Hope), Dianna McNutt (Joe), Marissa Davidson (Bret), Gabriella Mangin (Gage), and Isabella Mangin (Cole); grandchildren, Joselyn, Reese, Piper, Cooper, Damon, Coralee, Owen, Hudson; parents, John and Barb Chandler, of Elwood, Ind.; sister, Colleen Gallik (Richard); niece, Kayla Gallik of Brookfield, Ill.; brother, Robert Chandler (Nancy); nieces, Emily and Samantha Chandler; nephew, Jeffery Chandler of Huntley, Ill.; brother, Eric Chandler of Plano, Texas; nephews, Austin and Michael French of Muncie, Ind.; aunt, Judi Carey of Wheeling, Ill.; and cousin, Kristen Schmidt (Michael).

Dave was preceded in death by his sister, Carrie Chandler; and cousin, Jeffery Carey.

Please join us at noon on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at CrossRoads Church, 19201 Grassy Branch Road, Westfield, where the service to celebrate the life of David James Chandler will begin at 1 p.m.

Following the service, there will be a meal and a time for sharing memories.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to care for the Chandler family.

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 submit obituaries at **ReadTheReporter.com/obitform**.

Thanks for reading the Hamilton County Reporter!

HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

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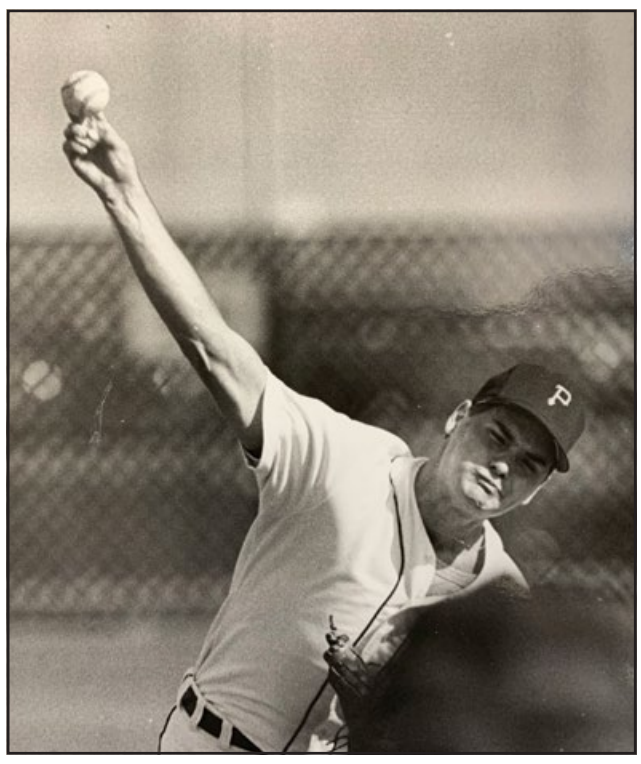
Carmel, Fishers, Guerin Catholic, Hamilton Heights, Hamilton Southeastern, Noblesville, Sheridan, University, Westfield

Gingerich awarded Purdue Baseball Alumnus of the Year

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com



Photos courtesy Chariot Automotive Group

(ABOVE LEFT) Rex Gingerich threw in 54 games with 26 starts, totaling 204 innings pitched. (ABOVE RIGHT) Gingerich's family was there to see him receive the Baseball Alumnus of the Year award. He is pictured with his daughter Tori (left) and wife Kara.

In the 1980s, Rex Gingerich helped the Purdue University baseball team make history.

Gingerich returned to Purdue on Feb. 1 to speak at the First Pitch Dinner and also pick up a prestigious award. Gingerich was recognized as the Purdue Baseball Alumnus of the Year for his steadfast commitment to the university and Purdue Athletics over the years.

Gingerich, the founder and CEO of Chariot Automotive Group and a 40-year veteran of automotive sales, pitched for the Boilermakers from 1984-87, helping lead the program to a then program-record 37 wins in 1986 and the team's first NCAA Regional bid in 1987.

"Forty years ago, you're not thinking about ever being in that position," said Gingerich, who now lives in Westfield. "To get recognized like that is very humbling. I was very honored and humbled and appreciative to be recognized, for sure."

Gingerich was a star at Kokomo High School before heading to Purdue, where he established himself as a solid pitcher for the Boilermakers. He threw in 54 games with 26 starts, totaling 204 innings pitched. From 1984 to 1987, Purdue compiled a record of 135 wins, 102 losses and three ties.

"It was a great honor, great privilege," said Gingerich. "I've always thought that it was a special way to be able to go to college, to be a part of the baseball team and have the relationships with all the players and coaches that I had and still have 40 some years later."

Gingerich graduated with a general management degree from the Krannert School of Management. He remembers that the curriculum included "marketing, there was finance, business law, accounting, economics."

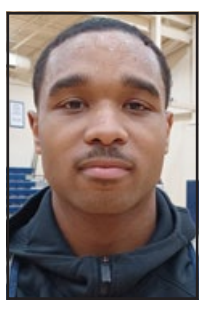
See *Gingerich* . . . Page 13

Boys Basketball

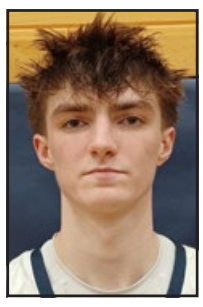
Blazers beat Phalen on Senior Night

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com

CARMEL – The University boys basketball team finished its regular season Thursday with an exciting Senior Night win.



Bland



McComb

The Trailblazers beat Phelan Academy 64-55 at the U Center. The game was played at a fast, hectic pace during all four quarters and was even in the first half. University made a run in the third quarter to get a lead and held off the Falcons in the fourth.

"We're not in our regular routine, we have the Senior Night stuff," said University coach Justin Blanding. "When we get out of our routine, we can get a little uncharacteristic. We settled back in pretty well."

The Trailblazers' first run came in the first quarter, a 6-0 spurt that got University ahead 8-4. Faisal Mohamud made two free throws, then senior Max McComb scored two layins, the second off a Mohamud steal.

Phelan came back to tie the game at 10-10 by the end of the first quarter. The second period was an equally tight quarter, with the Falcons leading 26-22 late. The 'Blazers used another 6-0 run to lead 28-26; Mohamud scored off another steal, then a McComb basket and Cooper Cammack layin pushed University ahead.

Blake Gray finished the half with a 3-pointer, giving the Trailblazers a 31-27 lead at the break. Phelan Academy tied the game at 33-33 early in the third quarter, after which University used a 9-2 run to take control of the game.

McComb went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line during the spurt, and also made a steal that Cammack turned into a layin. Gray finished the run with his third 3 of the game. Senior Zien Bland also made a 3 in the quarter.

"We're such a good shooting team that when shots aren't going in, we get deflated," said Blanding. "But once we start making them, then we turn into a different team. So, we were fortunate enough to get it going at the right time."

Gray drained his third triple of the game later in the quarter. He was also part of an 8-0 run that bridged the third and fourth periods, scoring three points to finish the third and put University up 51-42.

Reporter photo by Richie Hall

University's Faisal Mohamud scored 10 points and made six steals for the Trailblazers during their 64-55 win over Phelan Academy on Thursday.

McComb made a traditional three-point play with 6:30 left in the fourth to get the 'Blazers a double-digit lead, then made two more free throws to put University ahead 56-42. The Falcons were within 57-48 with less than three minutes left, but the Trailblazers had one more run left, a 7-1 spurt that put the game out of reach.

McComb finished the game with a double-double of 20 points and 12 rebounds. Gray totaled 15 points and blocked two shots, while Mohamud scored 10 points and made six steals. McComb had four steals. Josh Henderson collected six rebounds and Cammack had five.

University is 14-9 and travels to Park Tudor on Tuesday for Class 2A Sectional 42 play. The Trailblazers take on Covenant Christian at 6 p.m.

UNIVERSITY 64, PHELAN ACADEMY 55

University	FG	FT	TP	PF
Zien Bland	2-4	2-2	7	1
Max McComb	6-14	8-9	20	0
Blake Gray	4-13	4-6	15	0
Faisal Mohamud	4-8	2-2	10	1
Cooper Cammack	2-4	1-4	5	4
Noah Cortez	0-3	0-0	0	2
DJ Willis	0-0	0-0	0	2
Peter Morales	1-3	0-0	3	1
Josh Henderson	1-5	2-2	4	1
Totals	20-54	19-25	64	12
	Score by Quarters			
Phelan Academy	10	7	15	13 – 55
University	10	21	20	13 – 64

University 3-point shooting (5-23) Gray 3-9, Bland 1-3, Morales 1-3, McComb 0-4, Mohamud 0-2, Cortez 0-1, Henderson 0-1.
University rebounds (34) McComb 12, Henderson 6, Cammack 5, Bland 4, Gray 3, Willis 1, Morales 1, Mohamud 1, team 1.

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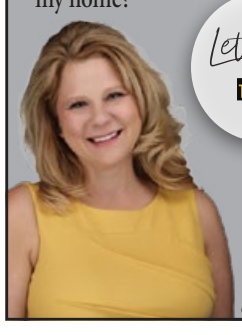

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GINGERICH

from Page 12

Photo courtesy Chariot Automotive Group

Rex Gingerich received the Purdue Baseball Alumnus of the Year award at the Boilermakers' First Pitch Dinner on Feb. 1. Gingerich was a star for Purdue, helping lead the program to a then program-record 37 wins in 1986 and the team's first NCAA Regional bid in 1987. He is pictured at left with current Boilers coach Greg Goff.

Working ahead

He also took an entrepreneurial class, in addition to the core curriculum as well. Gingerich managed his education well with playing baseball. Some of the keys to that were having a relationship with his professors and learning time management, which included being prepared to work ahead.

"There was an added value to the education of life and getting things done," said Gingerich. "I always looked at it as a real privileged and a treat and was honored to have that experience."

Technology and computers were becoming more widespread in the 1980s, but college student-athletes were still decades away from being able to take online classes, although Gingerich thinks studying online is harder to do.

"We had a block so we could get in classes," said Gingerich. "Primarily, our classes were in the morning. Then we would have the afternoons free. If there was a home game during the week, we could go to class in the morning and not miss anything. If we were on the road, we would have to miss classes. They would allow you to turn your work in early or turn it in late. That was a skill set that you learned, to be able to communicate, stay in front of things so you don't get in a big hole."

Gingerich already had automotive sales experience before getting to college. He began working for his family's dealership, McGonigal Buick Cadillac GMC, while still in high school. Rex's father Ivan Gingerich, 95, is still one of the owners of McGonigal, having started working there in the late 1940s.

"He's been officially employed there for 71 years," said Rex Gingerich.

In 1991, Rex Gingerich participated in the General Motors Dealership Management Development program, which provides training and education on how to run a car dealership. He continued his dealership education in 1994 by attending the National Automobile Dealers Association's "Dealer Candidate Academy."

"That program really gave me the confidence to manage and operate and own a car dealership," said Gingerich. "I bought my dad's partner out in 1995. The degree from Purdue and my on-the-job training gave me the confidence to move forward."

Gingerich bought three more dealerships over the next 25 years, purchasing the fourth one in 2020, the year that Chariot Automotive Group was formalized. "That's our umbrella company that provides support to the dealership," he said.

Meanwhile, Gingerich still maintains ties to the Boilermakers. He said he still stays in touch with "five or 10" teammates and mentioned that there is an alumni weekend every spring, "so you catch up with a lot more guys." One of Gingerich's teammates, Doug Schreiber, was the Purdue coach from 1998 to 2016.

There was also a second-generation Gingerich on the Boilermakers' team. Wes Gingerich, Rex's son, played for Purdue from 2020 to 2024.

"That was extremely gratifying," said Rex Gingerich. Being able to do that in my career, to play there was such an awesome thing. Just to see your son be able to have that same kind of experience 40 years later, that's another dream come true. To succeed and to thrive, continue to be the best version of himself, it's pretty neat."

"I grew up a big Purdue fan," said Wes Gingerich. "It was my dream school to go and play there." Wes said when he got offered, he was "super excited. I was just happy to make my dad proud and to follow in his footsteps."

Wes Gingerich also played all four years at Purdue, graduating last May with a degree in selling and sales management.

"He played outfield," said Rex Gingerich. "He was primarily center field, but he would play any position in outfield."

Wes Gingerich had one more year of eligibility after graduating from Purdue, so he is currently playing as a graduate student at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., and participating in a one-year program called not-for-profit leadership.

Wes also returned to Purdue a few weeks ago to see his father speak and receive his award.

"I think it's awesome," said Wes Gingerich. "He loves Purdue and he loves baseball. It meant a lot to him to receive the award. It was good for him to think about his time playing and reflect on that. I enjoyed hearing him speak at the First Pitch dinner."

Adams commits to DePauw

Photo courtesy Carmel Athletics

Carmel senior Brandon Adams has committed to the DePauw University football team.

Clancy commits to Spalding

Photo courtesy Carmel Athletics

Carmel senior Patrick Clancy has committed to the Spalding University men's lacrosse team.

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Girls Basketball

Heights sixth-grade team wins Husky Invite

Submitted

The sixth-grade Lady Huskies basketball team fought its way to victory at the 2025 Husky Invitational last Saturday. The team showcased its incredible talent and teamwork in two outstanding games.

In the first matchup against Frankton, the girls worked together seamlessly to establish an early lead and held strong for a well-earned victory. The championship game against Western was a battle from start to finish. With only a one-point lead at halftime, the girls came back with focus and intensity, demonstrating their unity and resilience to secure the Championship title!

"From the very beginning, we knew that reaching our goal of winning the Championship would require hard work and commitment," Head Coach Laurie Prater said. "The girls embraced the challenge, dedicating six days a week to practice, pushing themselves to improve every single day. Their determination paid off in the best way possible!"

Prater added, "We couldn't have done it without the energy and support of our amazing 6th-grade cheerleaders and the incredible fans who cheered us on every step of the way. Their encouragement helped fuel our team's determination until the final buzzer."

Prater said this season has been an absolute joy for the coaches.

"Taylor and I have had the privilege of coaching most of these girls since second grade, with the exception of last year when we moved up to coach sixth grade," Prater said. "Having them back on our team, along with getting to know the new players, has made for an incredible season filled with growth, dedication, and fun. I'm beyond proud of all 14 girls and can't wait to see them finish the season strong in our final two games."

Photo provided

The Hamilton Heights Middle School sixth-grade girls basketball team are the 2025 Husky Invite champions. The team is pictured with their spirit-filled cheer squad.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb. 28

BOYS BASKETBALL
Sheridan at Waldron, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING
IHSAA state prelims, 6 p.m. at IU Natatorium

GYMNASTICS SECTIONALS
Fishers, Noblesville at Franklin Central, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 1

GYMNASTICS SECTIONALS
Guerin Catholic, Westfield at Lafayette Jefferson, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, March 4

BOYS BASKETBALL
Sectional 8 at Carmel
Carmel vs. Noblesville, 6 p.m.
Westfield vs. Fishers, 7:45 p.m.
Sectional 24 at New Castle
Jay County vs. Yorktown, 6 p.m.
Connersville vs. Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.
Sectional 25 at Frankfort
Frankfort vs. Danville, 7 p.m.
Sectional 39 at Frankton
Taylor vs. Tipton, 6 p.m.
Elwood vs. Frankton, 7:30 p.m.
Sectional 42 at Park Tudor
University vs. Covenant Christian, 6 p.m.
Park Tudor vs. Cardinal Ritter, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5

BOYS BASKETBALL
Sectional 25 at Frankfort
Lebanon vs. Guerin Catholic, 6 p.m.
Brebeuf Jesuit vs. Crawfordsville, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 7

BOYS BASKETBALL
Sectional 8 at Carmel
Hamilton Southeastern vs. Carmel-Noblesville winner, 6 p.m.
Zionsville vs. Westfield-Fishers winner, 7:45 p.m.
Sectional 24 at New Castle
Delta vs. Jay County-Yorktown winner, 6 p.m.
New Castle vs. Connersville-Hamilton Heights winner, 7:30 p.m.
Sectional 25 at Frankfort
Tri-West vs. Frankfort-Danville winner, 6 p.m.
Lebanon-Guerin Catholic winner vs.
Brebeuf Jesuit-Crawfordsville winner, 7:30 p.m.
Sectional 39 at Frankton
Sheridan vs. Taylor-Tipton winner, 6 p.m.
Lapel vs. Elwood-Frankton winner, 7:30 p.m.
Sectional 42 at Park Tudor
Monrovia vs. University-Covenant Christian winner, 6 p.m.
Riverside vs. Park Tudor-Cardinal Ritter winner, 7:30 p.m.

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

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Kojtein commits to Calvin

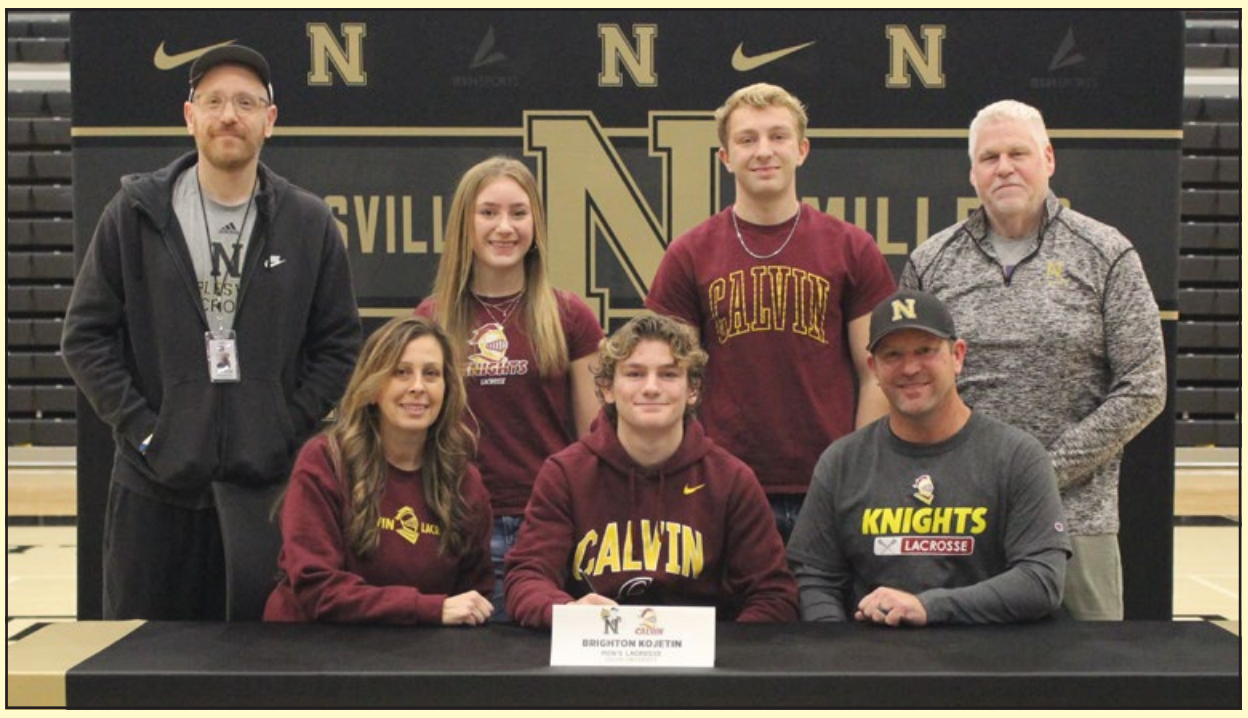

Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

Noblesville's Brighton Kojtein has committed to the Calvin University men's lacrosse team. (Front row, from left) Michele Kojetin (mother), Brighton Kojetin, and David Kojetin (father). (Back row, from left) Mark Milam (Noblesville Boys Lacrosse Head Coach), Layla Kojetin (sister), Logan Kojetin (brother), and Richard Atkins (Noblesville Boys Lacrosse Assistant Coach).

Couch commits to Rose Hulman

Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

Noblesville's Brooklyn Couch has committed to the Rose Hulman Institute of Technology women's cross country and track & field teams. (Front row, from left) Stephanie Couch (mother), Brooklyn Couch, and Jonathan Couch (father). (Back row, from left) Aaron Becker (Noblesville Girls Cross Country Head Coach), Kiley Couch (sister), and Jim Pearce (Noblesville Girls Track & Field Head Coach).