READTHEREPORTER: COM Facebook.com/HamiltonCountyReporter

# Wednesday, March 12, 2025

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





## TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH: 68 LOW: 46





# Heights FFA Team impresses at National Western Roundup

#### The REPORTER

Recently, members of the Hamilton Heights FFA made an outstanding showing at the National Western Roundup at the Denver Stock Show in Denver, Colo.

The students' hard work and dedication in the Livestock Judging events were evident as they competed against the top 15 teams from across the nation, showcasing their skills and expertise in various events.

The results are as follows:

- Sheep Division: 5th Place Team Overall: 1st Overall Team, 1st Place individual (Kaden Derrer) and 2nd Place individual (Cooper Rollins).
- Swine Division: 5th Place Overall Team; 6th Place individual (Quentin Derrer).
- Kaden Derrer, Quentin Derrer and Cooper Rollins all placed in the Top 20 as well.
- · Team Members included Kaden Derrer, Quentin Derrer, Cooper Rollins, Caden Hine, and Lauren Happel. Coach Spencer Carson also traveled with the group to the event.



Photo provided

HHHS Livestock Judging team (from left) Coach Spencer Carson, Kaden Derrer, Quentin Derrer, Caden Hine, Lauren Happel, and Cooper Rollins.

The individual and team's highlighted the strong agriculto the Hamilton Heights FFA

impressive performance not tural education and leadership members for their remarkable only brought hometown pride, development programs at Ham-achievement in Colorado. accolades to the district and ilton Heights. Congratulations

See FFA ... Page 2

# Living the Lions Clubs' charge

# First Aid for the Blind offers life-changing skills

## The REPORTER

Kurt Deichmann, a member of the Westfield Lions Club, walks the talk of Lions Clubs International's charge to be "Knights of the Blind."

Not only does Deichmann regularly serve alongside his fellow Lions, but he does so while being 100 percent blind and running his own business. He started First Aid for the Blind (FAFTB) in 2023 to help those on a journey of vision loss to learn valuable individual living skills.

On March 6, Deichmann was the speaker at the Westfield Lions' monthly "Program Night" to introduce his FAFTB efforts. FAFTB provides training and tools to help blind and visually impaired people learn to live life to the fullest. The training includes 25 lessons trainers who bring unparalleled compassion and knowledge to each session. The program also allows for a "training buddy," usually a family member or friend, who can attend the lessons with the client to offer moral support and get a firsthand look at the new skills and adaptations that are possible for



Photo provided by Westfield Lions Club

Kurt Deichmann was the speaker at the Westfield Lions' monthly "Program Night."

FAFTB is to replace fear of the unknown with feelings of hope and confidence.

Echo device, and a digital recorder. The devices FAFTB provides, along with the training fees, run \$3,500. So far, the majority of his clients have been able to obtain grants for the training from the State of Indiana's Vocational Rehabilitation department, meaning they

blind folks. The ultimate goal of have received FAFTB assistance without needing to front the cost.

Deichmann's original goal when he started FAFTB was to FAFTB-approved devices help 10 clients during his first taught over Zoom by blind include an \$800 iPhone with year. He ended up completing unique software, an Amazon training for 50 clients located across Indiana. He is now looking to expand his service and impact further by developing a 501(c)(3) organization that will raise funds to provide scholarships that can help cover the costs of the train-

ing and the equipment. Deichmann, who suffers from retinitis pigmentosa, has

embraced the challenges of his blindness and found ways to utilize technology to significantly improve his quality of life. One of his favorite devices is the hightech Ray-Ban Meta Smart Glasses, which have built-in cameras and speakers and connect to the internet. The glasses can tell him what he is looking at and take pictures of the scene in front of him, while also telling him the weather forecast, the score of the Cubs game, and more.

See *Knights* . . . Page 2

# The Adventures of Two Bad Dogs

One thing that those close to me and my wife, Megan, know is we are dog people. We love our two dogs, Elsa and Lucy, and pretty much any dogs we come across. We love puppy kisses and are great at doggy snuggles. One thing we suck at ... training. We pret-



ty much expect a newborn puppy to know how to sit, roll over, and play the trumpet by the time they make it into our home.

So, this means we are full of disappointment when there's dog poop hanging from the rafters and my eighth pair of shoes are half-eaten by the time I make it downstairs to greet them in the morning. Of course, by the time they give me the puppy dog eyes and greet me like they haven't seen me in years, all is forgiven, and the vicious cycle starts all over again.

Megan, who is also a columnist for the Hamilton County Reporter, recently wrote about this little adventure, and I was challenged to write my side of the story. So, here it is.

This doggone tale takes place last August. It was a Saturday, and we were happily looking forward to a leisurely morning of staying in sweats and slippers. Megan left to go pick up some muffins and bagels for us and the kids. I let the dogs outside to do their normal routine. You know, do their business and then immediately chew up one of our lily plants. I typically leave them outside for a few minutes to play when it's a nice day, which it was, not taking into consideration that there was a big wind storm the night before (foreshadowing!!).

Megan came home and asked where the dogs were. I told her I left them outside to play. She opened the back door to call them inside. Crickets. I raced upstairs in case the kids had let them in, and they managed their way up. No Elsa. No Lucy.

A frightening thought came to me. What if the windstorm damaged our old wooden fence and the dogs got out? I raced to the backyard again and saw, to my horror,

See Adventures . . . Page 2

# Fishers debates 10% rental cap designed to protect neighborhoods

By DANIELLE ZULKOSKY

WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Two meetings in Fishers on Monday tried to explain the proposed housing rental cap in city neighborhoods.

The proposed ordinance, first unveiled in February, would require a 10 percent cap on rental houses and townhomes in neighborhoods across the city. It would go into effect at the beginning of 2026 and would grandfather in all existing rental homes.

The city government had an online informational meeting at noon.

In the evening, a separate community-led meeting was at the Fishers branch of the Hamilton East Public Library.

The meetings were organized to allow residents to express their concerns to the council about the proposed rental cap, which some believe will negatively impact home values and community diversity.

Steve Ladig, a real estate broker, said, "Putting a 10 percent rental cap on homes will decrease the value of many of the homes, especially in the neighborhoods that have a high concentration of rentals. They've experienced a great appreciation."

Republican Mayor Scott Fadness said that the proposal was developed in response to concerns from residents about the increasing number of rentals in neighborhoods.

"We had heard from a number of neighborhoods that were concerned about this issue, and so we've tried to be as thoughtful over the last year and a half and come up with a solution that doesn't create a great deal of bureaucracy but does ensure that none of our neighborhoods get to a point of saturation on rentals," Fadness said. "We've heard time and time again from people who live there who've spent their live savings, and we want to make sure that neighborhood keeps its integrity and vibrancy for the long term."

See Rental Cap... Page 2

# Health Department to offer four webinars on children's health

# Topics range from internet safety to teen vaping

## The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Health Department will hold a series of free webinars focused on children's health in 2025. The webinars, led by experts in the field, aim to provide valuable information and resources to parents and caregivers in the community.

The webinars will cover a range of topics crucial to children's well-being. Each session will take place from 6 to 7 p.m.

# **Scheduled webinars**

• March 19: How to Tell said the webinars are de-

Teen Vaping • June 4: CPR Instruction for

Children June 18: Internet Safe-

LeMaster ty Class for Parents

School Immunizations Health Department Administrator Jason LeMaster



empower parents and care-

healthier

commu-

goal is to

Ginder with the knowledge they • Aug. 20: Back to need to ensure the well-being of our children," Le-Master said. "These webinars provide a platform for

valuable discussions and

signed to insights from experts in the foster a field."

Health Education Out-Coordinator reach Ginder added, "We believe that informed parents and caregivers contribute significantly to the overall health of our community. These webinars are designed to address common concerns and provide practical guidance."

All webinars will be hosted virtually. Registration details can be found at tinyurl. com/childrens-health-webinars.

# RENTAL CAP—from Page 1 FFA-

Johnson, a Norma long-time Fishers resident, voiced opposition, suggesting the proposal aims to exclude certain demographics from the community.

"When I moved here in 2001 there were very few people of my complexion here," Johnson said. "You hear comments like 'We don't want to end up like Indianapolis' or 'We don't want to end up like Lawrence.' But I know the code word, and the code word is 'We don't want a whole lot of 'those people' moving out here.""

Andrea Davis, executive director of the Hamilton County Affordable Housing Directive, emphasized the need for a variety of housing options to support community growth.

KNIGHTS-

In 1925, Helen Keller

challenged Lions Clubs Inter-

national to become "Knights

of the Blind" – to assist those

with vision-related issues and

to help fund ways to elimi-

nate the causes of blindness.

Kurt Deichmann has risen to

Deichmann is available

the challenge.

"We firmly believe that in order to thrive, our community needs a wide variety of housing along the housing continuum," Davis said.

She says the variety includes single-family homes, townhomes, duplexes, and apartments or condos, some to rent and some to buy, to support the community in all phases of life.

The council will hear public comments on the proposal at its April 21 meeting.

Organizers of the community-led panel say they plan to send all of its feedback to the council before the proposal is up for a vote.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/ fishers-rental-cap-proposal.

to speak at events and pro-

grams to spread the word

on FAFTB's life-changing

service. If your club or or-

ganization is interested in

having him speak at one of

your meetings, please con-

tact him at admin@faftb.

com or visit FAFTB's web-

site at faftb.com.

from Page 1

both 4-H and FFA member delegates, as well as volun-

"Attending a national livestock judging event is a feat that only a few in the state are able to accomplish," Coach Spencer Carson explained. "From competing and qualifying last May, these young individuals have set the pace to continue preparing for their National Contest. It's easy to coach young people like these five when they have a willingness to learn and a drive for competition."

"This is a huge accomplishment for their futures as well as our FFA program and our state FFA association," Hamilton Heights Agriculture Educator and FFA Advisor Emilie Carson

State Livestock Judging occurs in May of each year. The state contest was held at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds where Heights' Livestock Judging team qualified. Hamilton Heights last qualified and competed at the National Western event in 2004.

About the National Western Roundup at the Denver Stock Show

Participation is open to



(ABOVE) Several of the HHHS Livestock Judging members along with Coach Spencer Carson are pictured at the Judging Workout that took place in Colorado. (BELOW) HHHS Kaden Derrer is pictured judging goats at the Denver Stock Show in Denver, Colo.

teer leaders and Extension/ FFA professionals approved by their respective state offices. Each participating youth and adult participate in one or more contests and/ or workshops. Competition is for both individuals and teams. The Western National Roundup provides a place for youth to compete nationally while encouraging teamwork and self-confidence, and while focusing on the 4-H mission mandates: science, engineering, technology, mathematics, healthy living and citizenship. Educational tours and entertainment are all a part of the mix.



# **ADVENTURES**

from Page 1



# **Dedication Program**

A tribute for every chapter of life

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation offers a unique opportunity for you to pay tribute to someone you love, commemorate an event, or celebrate a friend or family member through the gift of a dedication tree, bench, or brick.

By making a donation to the fund, you are not only supporting the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department, but you are also taking an active role in preserving and protecting Hamilton County's forests, parks, trails, and public gardens.



Contact Hamilton County Parks and Recreation for more information:

317-770-4400 | hamilton.parks@hamiltoncounty.in.gov myhamiltoncountyparks.com



Photo provided

corner of the fence. Megan called her sister to come sit with the kids, while I ran around the neighborhood, screaming the dogs' names like a madman, still in my sweats and slippers. There was no sign of them any-

Her sister came and Megan and I jumped in our cars and split up to cover more ground. Luckily, we learned from others in the neighborhood that two dogs were spotted romping and running around together, like they were on a crime spree. The bad news was, they were seen crossing Brooks School Road, which can be a very busy street. Knowing how little common sense our dogs have; I was immediately frightened for their lives. The good news was, however, that they seemed to still be together.

We both drove around, asking anyone outside if they had seen the dogs. Many had, so I felt like we

a gaping opening in the far were on the trail like they were Carmen Sandiego. good Samaritans Some jumped in their truck and joined in the search after speaking to Megan. In all honesty, they were probably just tired of a deranged woman in a robe screaming at the top of her lungs in

their neighborhood. At this point, I had parked my car and was on foot because I got a hot tip that they were in the area. The Samaritans in the truck stopped me and said the perpetrators were near a neighborhood lake, right next to Brooks School Road. They offered to drive me there. I jumped right in, and they drove near the lake. "THERE THEY ARE!!!"

I did a tuck and roll as I dove out of the speeding truck. Ok, I didn't do that, but it makes me sound cooler. I ran to the edge of the lake and there they were. The problem was, they were on the opposite side. I yelled for them, thinking they would stay right there while I ran to them. Not the result I was hoping for. They both immediately jumped in the lake and tried to paddle to me. I know these dogs. They've never been near water in their lives. This was bad.

I was one second from jumping in myself to go save them, but luckily, they both realized they couldn't swim and jumped back on land. Now I had to get to them, fast. I started running to the far corner of the lake, and to my surprise, they were running parallel to come to me. The problem was, they are a lot faster than me. I was afraid they would run right around the edge and out into traffic.

My adrenaline kicked in. My slippers, which are

too big for my feet, were a large hindrance to my gazelle-style running. I kicked them up high into the air in one smooth motion, just as I saw a police car on Brooks School with its lights on and all traffic stopped. I can only imagine what the people in those cars were thinking. They were watching a middle-aged man in sweats and socks, sprinting at full speed in the grass, along a lake, with a cop now watching me. Commence the "Yakety

Sax" music. I made it to the corner of the lake at the same time as the dogs, who were completely soaked from their little dip. I threw myself on the ground and grabbed them and held on with all my strength. I was somehow able to pull my phone out and call Megan to tell her I had them and I need someone to come help me. Oh yeah, and I also might be arrested.

Turns out, the cop was my police officer brotherin-law who had come to help. Megan arrived and we were able to get them in the car and back home safely. I was sopping wet and completely out of breath, but my doggies were safe. I walked back down the lakeside to retrieve my oversized slippers and went back home to collapse.

In conclusion, I have bad dogs. But I love them. Helpers in the neighborhood are awesome. And it helps to have a police officer in the family.

The moral of the story is ... For goodness' sake, check your fence after a storm!

Tim Rathz can be reached at 40somethinginfishers@gmail.com. Follow on Facebook or Instagram.



# I'm more than a can of green beans

For this edition of The Feeding Team Feature, Greenie the Can of Green Beans is filling in for Feeding Team Founder Mark Hall. Enjoy this story of Greenie's travels and how he hopes to help a neighbor in need in Hamilton County.



Good morning! My name is Greenie. I'm a can of green beans living in some temporary yellow housing in Noblesville.

My journey to get here was exhausting. I'm a proud can of vegetables, fresh packed, four inches tall, and I weigh 14 and a half ounces. My 60 calories represent a small portion of what people are supposed to eat every day. As a can of green beans, I sit silently among cans of soup, boxes of pasta, and jars of peanut butter. My bunkmates are some interesting characters that come from all over the world. As diverse as we all are, we share the same purpose. After traveling to our forever home, we'll help someone to have a better day.

From my window to the world, I witness firsthand the struggle of hunger faced by families who depend on the generosity of strangers. Last Tuesday, I left the factory, traveling from Canada on a truck bound for Indiana. A couple of days later I found myself in a large dark storage shed along with hundreds of my friends. Then it happened: a nice young lady picked me up and drove me to a big yellow pantry. It tickled as she spun me around checking my born-on date, gave me a bath, and tattooed my UPC code. Then up on the shelf I go. Wow! What a view!

In my short time here so far, I've watched humans from all walks of life visit the pantry. Some arrive with sense of gratitude and eyes filled with hope. Some show up and drop off more friends temporarily join me. Still others who open the door seem sad, filled with the desperation of

their situation. This is the moment when the painful soul of hunger reveals itself.

Early this morning right after midnight, a mom and two children pulled up to my pantry. Carefully and quietly, she looked to make sure no one was watching as she hurriedly placed a few items in a small plastic bag before jumping back into her car. She motioned to the kids in the back seat and then almost as if to say goodbye she pointed towards me in the pantry, driving away.

The shame of judgment is real; it changes the behavior of people who find themselves in need. I've seen longing gazes and hesitant steps, as people battle their demons, wrestling with their pride and the fear of being labeled. If I could talk, I'd shout to them, "HEY! You are not alone, people care, we are here for your people."

From my perch in the pantry, hunger is more than a mere sensation. It is a silent battle fought by individuals; their lives deeply impacted by the absence of food. As a can of green beans, I know that I'm a temporary solution for someone, and I'm okay with that life. In my time on the shelf, I've learned that while providing meals, my pantry is also a symbol of community solidarity. People find comfort in knowing that they are not alone in their fight against hunger. The humans who put me here describe it as



Photo provided

many

across Ham-

ilton Coun-

ty. In future

Greenie was found on the top shelf of this Feeding Team pantry, where he dictated his story to Mark Hall. What, you thought a can of beans could type, too? Just be impressed he can talk.

**Facts** 

and something about Neighbors serving Neighbors.

We11, thanks for

thoughts of a can of Great Value Green Beans. I've been here nine days waiting to go to my forever home ... maybe today. Stay tuned.

With over 44,000 food-challenged neighbors in Hamilton County, FeedingTeam.org is a registered 501(c)(3)not-for-profit organization that provides outdoor 24/7/365 no-questions-asked free food pantries throughout the county.

The pantries exist to meet the food insecurity needs of gap families, neighbors who may not qualify for public assistance and could use a few meals before payday. The pantries serve as many food-challenged neighbors as possible, and our hearts are with those who, like my family, could not always make ends

Thank you for supporthumanity, honoring God, ing the pantries. We love by calling (317) 832-1123.

serving with FeedingTeam.org neighbors

77 pantries 14,000 meals per month Over 30 volunteer families

columns, taking the time to read the we will share more stories about how your generosity served neighbors in times of need. The face of hunger in Hamilton County is not what you may think.

> In practical terms, this straightforward way to help neighbors is having real impact on lives, families, and our communities. Thank you. A few meals can change the course of a person's life. A can of green beans means so much more when you have nothing to feed your kids.

> Would you like to get involved? Volunteer opportunities are available. We are evaluating new pantry locations. If you think you have a potential location, please contact us.

Mark and Lisa Hall are the Founders of Feeding Team. They and Greenie may be reached at lisa@ feedingteam.org and mark@feedingteam.org or

# APARTMENTS

Affordable housing that is income-based

Now accepting applications for 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments

Senior one-bedroom apartment waiting list is currently closed

Applications can be picked up **Monday through Thursday** 8-12 and 1-4

780 Noble Run • Noblesville (317)773-6133

# Now Hiring

Carmel Dads' Club

is seeking to fill a

# full-time

**Grounds Maintenance** 

position on our Facilities Team. Candidates should contact Facility Superintendent Josh Blackmore at

(317) 846-1663 X 3315 to set up applications and interviews.

Full-time candidates must have a clean driving record and no physical limitations due to the job requiring manual work in all weather conditions. Sports field maintenance, landscaping and/or equipment maintenance experience a plus.

The position is full-time, year-round, with a very competitive wage and full benefits package.

# Ignite Studio to hold second annual Make-Off Competition on March 29

The REPORTER

Showcasing the variety of wonderful, artful things a person can create in its makerspace, Ignite Studio at the Fishers Library will hold its second annual Make-Off. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 29 at the Ignite Studio located in the Fishers Library, 5 Municipal Drive.

Selected artists will compete to make an original piece of art related to Ignite equipment, kits, or other in-house materials to highlight the creative possibilities involved in making. Artists will be given six hours to complete a work of art which will culminate in the awarding of monetary

prizes. Visitors will be able to watch the process of creating take part hands-on activities, and participate in

public maker challenge. The the breaking down of art first 50 patrons to attend will even receive free art kits!

"Ignite Studio is excited to hold its second annual Make-Off," Ignite Studio Arts Engagement Coordinator Kris Hurst said. "The Make-Off is a great opportunity for patrons to see local artists at work and get inspiration for their own creative art-making endeavors using equipment and supplies found in Ignite Studio."



HAMILTON EAST PUBLIC LIBRARY

tition, involves into its primary elements: dot, line, shape, form, color, value, space, and texture. The focus is on the building blocks of art rather than the fidelity to the subject seen in traditional, realistic landscapes, portraits, and still life. Abstract art makes no effort to capture the real

world perfectly, frequent-

ly prioritizing the convey-

ance of emotion or meaning

through gestural mark mak-

blocks of art.

Abstract art,

in this compe-

This year's ling. Abstract art pieces can serve as an investigation of theme is abstract art: using the elements of art. Interested visual artbuilding

ists had between Jan. 28 to March 3 to submit their application to be considered to compete in the Make-Off and ten artists were chosen. Winners will be selected by a panel that includes past winner Craig Helming. All work will be displayed in the Fishers Library Lobby Gallery from April 5 to May 16.

All ages are invited to join us for this unique opportunity to witness the artistic process at work, while participating in your own art projects. Visit ignite.hamiltoneastpl.org for more information.

# THE HONEY BAKED Kame

**Specialty Grocery** Lunch



Through March 31st, take \$10 off any catering order totaling \$100 or more!

Boxed Lunches -

Sandwich Trays - Buffet Platters - Delivery Available

Celebrating 30 years at these locations!

Carmel 2001 E. Greyhound Pass 317-580-9080

Indy - North 3905 W. 96th Street 317-872-2795

www.honeybaked.com/stores/1705 www.honeybaked.com/stores/1704



Expires 3/31/2025 Must present coupon at time of purchase. When ordering online, enter promo code 729447. Coupons can not be accepted at time of pick-up or delivery for pre-paid orders. May not be combined with other offers. No cash value.

4 News

# Help Christkindlmarkt find the final four

# **MARKET MADNESS**



Photo provided

The Carmel Christkindlmarkt's second annual Market Madness campaign is fully off and running. Now through March 28, participants can take place in three rounds of voting on Facebook and Instagram. The totals from both platforms will be combined to determine the overall winner for each round. The first-round matchups are: Raclette vs. Döner Kebab; Hot Chocolate vs. Gluhwein; Pretzel vs. Käsespätzle; and Crepe vs. Swiss Flatbread Pizza.





# "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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

# Reports cite positive contribution of tourism to local economy

Visitor spending exceeds \$1 billion

#### The REPORTER

For the first time, annual tourism spending by visitors exceeded \$1 billion in local Hamilton County businesses.

A new study released by the **Indiana Destination Development** Corporation (IDDC) and conducted by Rockport Analytics shows the tourism industry's role throughout 2023 as a driver of economic vitality in Hamilton County. Tourism directly supported more than 10,000 jobs and generated \$1.1 billion in spending. The net economic impact totaled nearly \$690 million.

"In 2023, the earliest year we have for this data, pent-up demand for travel was still at an all-time high as the industry recovered from COVID-19's restrictions," Hamilton County Tourism, Inc. President and CEO Karen Radcliff said. "We knew we were getting close to the billion-dollar tipping point, and it happened in 2023. The nation saw complete recovery to 2019 levels in 2024, and Hamilton County followed suit with a strong

leisure travel sector driving the way."

Hamilton **County** Tourism, Inc. plays a pivotal role in the county's tourism economic growth, both through marketing and promotion as well as product development.

#### **Data-driven insights**

Hamilton County Tourism manages a robust data and research program to help manage growth and provide insights into the market. The program delivers viable master planning, digital marketing analysis, visitor demographics and arrivals, advertising effectiveness, resident sentiment, and economic impact, among other activities.

#### Residents value tourism's contribution to quality of life

Providing intelligence is a hallmark of the organization and an important value offered to community. When asked in a survey of the importance of tourism to Hamilton County, 94 percent of residents rated tourism somewhat, very or extremely important to the



local economy. In the same survey, tourism was highly regarded by residents as a strategy that provides opportunity, revenue and quality of life for community. (MMGY Global)

#### **Marketing efforts** factor into economic impact

The Hamilton County Tourism's destination advertising proved effective in 2023 with key messages driving mid-week visitation when the hospitality industry needed the business. A post-campaign analysis showed 24 percent destination awareness generated in Chicago and Cincinnati, as well as \$446 spent in market for every dollar spent on advertising. (SMARI Insights)

To learn more about Hamilton County Tourism's strategic plans and future initiatives, go to VisitHamiltonCounty.com/About-Us.

# \$1.2M in Community Crossings **Grants awarded to Carmel**

#### The REPORTER

The State of Indiana last week awarded more than \$200 million in matching funds to 245 cities, towns and counties for local road projects through Community Crossings, a partnership between the Indiana Department of Transportation and Hoosier communities.

The City of Carmel received \$1.2 million for imbetween Illinois Street and Guilford Road.

Main Street from Illi-Street will be resurfaced and Meridian Street to Guilford dents."

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS MATCHING GRANT Road will be reconstructed.

This includes new storm drainage, replacement of aging roadside ditches and the addition of new ADA compliant pedestrian facilities.

"We're incredibly grateprovements on Main Street ful for the Community Crossing Grant," Engineering Director Bradley Pease said. "These funds are vital nois Street to Old Meridian for not only improving our roads, but also for ensuring the stretch of Main from Old accessibility for all resi-

The city was also awarded \$980,000 in Federal Highway Administration Highway Safety Improvement Program funds to upgrade the crosswalks at the roundabouts at Hazel Dell Parkway and Main Street and 116th Street and Range Line Road. The addition of raised crosswalks at these intersections is part of a larger initiative that will enhance safety and accessibility throughout the city.

# Westfield Chamber celebrates 'Women Who Rock' in March

## The REPORTER

In honor of Women's History Month, the Westfield 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

203rd Street, west of U.S. 31.

Come hear from a dy-Chamber invites business namic panel of movers and leaders, community mem- shakers in Westfield. The bers, and guests to attend Chamber is pleased to bring the March Luncheon from together an amazing group of women who come from ets and non-partner tickets all walks of life and varying levels of experience. There are many incredible women in the city, and the Chamber

of Tomlinson Road and East 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 tickare available. Corporate reserved tables (seating for eight) are also available. Click here to register.

# ReadTheReporter.com























# 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 126<sup>th</sup> St Treasure Hunt Fri 8pm \$25K Fishers, in 46038 Trivia Wed 6pm 317-842-5944 Breakfast 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Monday Monthly at the Fishers American Legion. Our website https://www.hamiltoncountyveterans.com/ has 40 pages of resources for our Military Veteran community

**Navy Club Hamilton County Ship 29** Meets 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

Mar 22 VA Claims Day 10-2p Brownsburg VA Clinic Please RSVP via the QR Code for the Event

VETERANS APPRECIATION **&OUTREACH EVENT** ARE YOU CONNECTED?







#### JOIN US!

-And more!

-Woman's Health

Saturday, March 22, 2025 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Brownsburg VA Clinic** 557 Pit Road, Brownsburg, Indiana 46112

Representatives will be on-site to answer your questions about Federal and State benefits. **Scan** to **RSVP** for this event

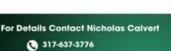
#### **f** № @ @IndyVAMC

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





- Employment Opportunities
- Community Resources
- Education and Training info



Ncalvert@ednamartincc.org



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



Friday, March 21, 2025 are Township Community 9094 E 131st St, Fishers Coffee Bar and Appetizers at 6:00PM Paddle begins at 6:30PM





# Noblesville American Legion Weekend Breakfast

Fishers American Legion - Post 470 Lowell Beaver - Fishers, IN 9091 East 126th Street, Fishers, IN 46038, (317) 842-5944



JOIN US THE 1ST AND 3ND SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH!

9:00am to 12:00pm OPEN TO THE PUBLIC / KID FRIENDLY





#### **Activities & Events**

National Vietnam War Veterans Day Mar 29, 2025

★ FIND ★ THANK ★ REPAY ★

VETERANS











#### We Will Never Forget...

INDIANA

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

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,

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 F 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

# Nickel Plate HERITAGE RAILROAD

# **ENJOY THE RICH HISTORY OF RAIL TRAVEL!**

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

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

# **Trailer Park Tragedy**

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

March 29 and 30

## Easter Express

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

April 12, 13 and 19

# Spring Field Trip Days

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

April 29 and May 13

## Railbike Season

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

Opens April 4!

NICKEL PLATE EXPRESS, COM

ALL ABOARD! NICKELPLATE EXPRESS.COM

Letter to the Editor -

# Passing meaningful property tax relief

Dear Editor:

Recently, the Indiana Senate rolled out our property tax relief package, which contains historic growth-control measures and is projected to provide \$1.4 billion in property tax relief for Hoosiers over the next three years.

We understand the frustration voiced by many Hoosiers who are experiencing substantial year-overyear increases in their property tax bills, largely caused by inflationary increases in property assessed values. An important aspect when considering these types of tax cuts is that property taxes are set and used at the local level, so it is critical we find a balance that meets the needs of both the taxpayers and the budgets of schools and local governments.

As an author of **Senate Bill 1**, I believe the Senate Republican property tax relief package is offering a strong plan to provide property tax relief for all Hoosiers - especially homeowners – while maintaining a fair balance with the budget realities of local governments.

Noteworthy relief efforts featured in the current version of SB 1 include:

 Homeowners over 65 years old with an income under \$60,000 for single homeowners (or \$70,000 for joint filers) and in homes valued

at less than \$300,000 receive an in- use property taxes to pay off debt creased deduction amount. These income and value levels will be indexed to growth in the economy.

• Disabled veterans in homes valued at less than \$300,000 would also receive an increased deduction amount, with the home value level indexed.

• First-time homebuyers with less than \$75,000 of household income in a home assessed at less than \$250,000 will receive a credit such that they would pay little to no property tax on the dwelling for the first five years. The only exception is voter-approved referendum.

· Local units' operating spending is flatlined for 2026 at the 2025 level. This will limit the total amount of money collected by local govern-

· Capital projects referendum debt will be subject to a one-year cooling-off period for renewal.

I believe these are wins for Hoosier taxpayers that will not create unintended difficulties by severely cutting local budgets. The original version of SB 1, which reflected a proposal from Gov. Braun, would have cut property taxes more, but it might actually lead to an unfavorable shift in taxes for ordinary Hoosiers.

The governor's plan would reduce local governments' ability to for capital projects, bridge and road improvements, and sewer and utility infrastructure projects. However, that debt would still need to be paid off somehow, so the only recourse for local governments would be to increase the local option income tax.

Large businesses and corporations pay local property taxes, but they do not pay the local option income tax. If local governments shift their tax burden from property taxes to the local option income tax, it would increase taxes on households and small businesses while reducing taxes on large businesses.

This tax shift could be substantial. The current local income tax rate for Hamilton County is 1.1 percent, but local officials are allowed to increase that rate to a maximum of 3.75 percent. If Hamilton County maxed out its local income tax rate, it would represent an almost 241 percent increase which would be roughly \$694

SB 1 is still moving through the legislative process, meaning the language of the bill could change. No matter what, I am committed to passing meaningful legislation that will provide real property tax relief for all

**State Senator Scott Baldwin** *R-Noblesville* 

# Fishers' own **Sydney Parrish joins** "Team Fifth Third"

Fifth Third Bank announces 2025 Name, Image & Likeness program

The REPORTER

Fifth Third announced on March 3 "Team Fifth Third," a Name, Image and Likeness athletes who make up Team

program comprised of 26 student athletes that will give fans an all-encompassing look at the personal stories and personalities of each student athlete. the

Among members of Team Fifth Third is Sydney Parrish, a Fishers native who plays on the Indiana University women's basketball team

The social media video series will highlight each athlete's journey and show what it takes to play Division I college basketball.

"College basketball fans are some of the most passionate supporters in sports, and Fifth Third shares that same enthusiasm for supporting the student athletes who represent their schools, hometowns and their families." said Carolyn David. head of marketing at Fifth Fifth Third at 53.com/ Third. "This NIL program **TeamFifthThird**.

gives Fifth Third the privilege to amplify the stories of the 26 amazing student

Fifth Third, each giving 166.7 percent effort on and off the court!"

While Team Fifth Third is new to the college sports scene, Fifth Third has a long-standing relationship with college athletics,

with naming rights for Fifth Third Arena at the University of Cincinnati and Fifth Third Stadium at Kennesaw State University. Fifth Third also is the Official Bank of University of Dayton Athletics, with Fifth Third proudly emblazoned on the Flyers' basketball court. The NIL program enabled new partnerships between Fifth Third and student athletes at Indiana University, University of Florida, University of South Carolina and Xavier University.

Learn more about Team

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.

# Ascension St. Vincent recognized for excellence in infant & maternal health

The REPORTER

Ascension St. Vincent has been recognized by the Indiana Hospital Association (IHA), in partnership with State Health Commissioner Lindsay Weaver, M.D., FACEP, for its commitment across all of its delivering hospitals to infant and maternal health at the fifth annual INspire Hospital of Distinction recognition program.

INspire, funded by the

Indiana Department of at Ascension St. Vincent Health's Safety PIN grant, was developed to implement the delivery of best practice care for Hoosier moms and babies and recognize hospitals for excellence in addressing key drivers of infant and maternal health.

Ascension St. Vincent Anderson, Carmel, Evansville, Fishers, Kokomo, Randolph, and the Women and Infants Hospital

earned an INspire Hospital of Distinction recognition based on implementing best practices in key areas, including infant safe sleep, breastfeeding, perinatal substance use, social drivers of health, obstetric hemorrhage, and maternal hypertension.

'We are incredibly proud to receive this award from the Indiana Hospital Association," said Kevin Speer, JD, Senior Vice President, Ascension and Chief Executive Officer, Ascension St. Vincent Indiana. "As a vital community resource, this hospital further expresses our commitment to the health and well-being of our communities and responding to the healthcare providers to imneeds of individuals. This recognition highlights the dedication and hard work of our entire team in implementing best practices and

to all we serve."

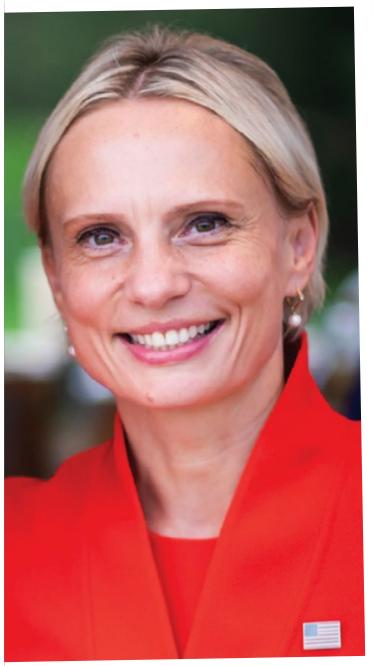
The Indiana Department of Health remains committed to working with providers and hospitals.

"The Indiana Department of Health remains focused on working with prove outcomes for Hoosier moms and babies," said State Health Commissioner Lindsay Weaver, M.D., FACEP. "We are grateful

providing exceptional care to have hospitals across the state support initiatives, such as the Indiana Perinatal Levels of Care and obstetrical emergencies training, that have contributed to improvements in both maternal and infant health."

> Indiana Hospital Association serves as the professional trade association for more than 170 acute care, critical access, behavioral health, and other specialized hospitals in Indiana.







# **Help with Federal Agencies**

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

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



# **US Flag Requests**

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



# **Military Academy Nominations**

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



# **US Capitol and White House Tour Requests**

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

# Fishers' own Izzy Alexander awarded highest student honor at University of Tennessee

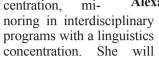
#### The REPORTER

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, has announced that Fishers native Izzy Alexander has been named a Torchbearer, the university's highest student

Awarded annually to seniors and recent graduates, those selected as Torchbearers have demonstrated academic excellence and a commitment to service and leadership during their

time at UT.

Alexander is studying both English with a rhetoric and writing concentration and honors and world languages and cultures with a German concentration,





fending her thesis on the political, communicative, and social rhetoric of separation.

Alexander is president and captain of UT's women's rugby club team, where she mentors and

supports her fellow leaders and teammates. She is also a member of the Changraduate in May after de- cellor's Honors Program

Rugby men's regional

#### and Leadership Knoxville Scholars and has held various leadership positions with Ignite, a program that welcomes new Vols to campus. While a student, Alexander has volunteered with community organizations like Knoxville Rookie Rugby and the Knoxville Museum of Art

as well as at Knoxville's annual National Collegiate

# **GRIMMZ** Fairy Tales tells children's stories infused with hip-hop

Young introduces bill

to preserve Air Force

intro-

#### The REPORTER

GRIMMZ Fairy Tales that centers on two modern-day street performers, Jay and Will, who bring the time-honored stories of the Brothers Grimm to life with a contemporary urban spin.

Performed in hip-hop style amid a brick landscape with graffiti and flashing lights, the featured tales include "Cinderella Remix," "Rapunzel" and "Snow White

& the Seven Shawties."

The show will begin at is a new play for children 5 p.m. Sunday, March 23 at the Palladium at the Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel.

> The production was developed by the New Jersey-based Experiential Theater Company in partnership with the North Carolina-based Children's Theatre of Charlotte.

> Click here to purchase your \$25 tickets.

# Would you rather not know up front who stands with which political party?

to serve as a member of the HSE School Board of Trustees, as well as a Precinct Committeeman. I am writing to express my strong support Senate Bill for



I firmly believe that politics have no place in the classroom. However, the argument made by opponents of Senate Bill 287 - that the bill would inject politics into school boards and class-

rooms – is unfounded. As we all know, politics already play a role in both areas. I would not have sought a seat on the HSE School Board to address this issue in our community had politics not already found its way into our schools.

The reality is that the role of politics in the classroom is inappropriate, and we must work to ensure that this is minimized, not further entrenched.

Why are we attempting to deceive voters? Currently, school board is the only elected position that does not require candidates to declare a party affiliation. This lack

an issue that needs to be addressed.

Across the United States, we are witnessing a growing mistrust government. Voters and media outlets are increasingly focused on

what is happening in our schools and the decisions that affect our children. As a state, our greatest asset is our youth. So, why are we withholding transparency when it comes to the governance that oversees and serves them?

A candidate should have no objection to openly adhering to their moral or ethical code, just as they should be transparent about their political party, unless they have something to hide.

Senate Bill 287 would also allow school board candidates to run in primaries, providing them with more time to engage with voters and address the finer details of their campaigns and the voters voice.

This extended campaign period would benefit voters, allowing them to make more informed decisions. The increased transparency pro-

of transparency is vided by this bill gives voters a clearer picture, helping them make more confident and informed choices in the voting booth.

As a Precinct Committeeman, it is my duty to ensure that voters have the most honest and equitable voting experience possible. Requiring school board candidates to declare a party affiliation would also increase voter turnout and build greater voter confidence. In fact, North Carolina's experience shows that partisan affiliation in school board elections has led to higher voter participation.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 287 addresses an important issue for straight-ticket voters: if they vote straight ticket and complete their ballot without selecting school board candidates, those races are skipped entirely. This is a gap we should be working to close, not perpetuate. Why would we want to prevent a higher voter turnout?

Why should we withhold transparency regarding school board candidates, the governing body of our state's most important asset - our

Senate Bill 287 presents

that promotes transparency, boosts voter confidence, and increases voter turnout.

When testifying on behalf of the bill at the Statehouse, I asked the Representatives to help me understand why there were no objections to candidates having a party affiliation when they ran for the seats they currently hold. Why is this any different for school board candidates? The Representatives had no comments.

It's time to streamline transparency for the voters. As elected officials, it is our duty to serve the voters, and it is their right to make informed decisions.

Opposing Senate Bill 287 sends a clear message: the goal is not to increase voter turnout. It suggests that there is little interest in enhancing voter confidence. Not supporting this bill would be an insult to the voters.

Tiffany Pascoe serves on the Hamilton Southeastern Schools Board of Trustees representing District 1, as well as a Precinct Committeeman in Wayne Township.

This statement reflects Tiffany Pascoe's opinion and hers alone.

# Fighter structure U.S. Senators Todd

Young (R-Ind.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) duced the Fighter Force Preservation and Recapitalization Act, which would preserve U.S. Air (USAF) Force fighter force structure and prioritize the recapitalization of

the 39 service-retained, combat-coded fighter squadrons available to the U.S. Secretary of Defense to respond globally to world events.

Of the 25 Air National Guard Squadrons in the U.S., 15 do not have recapitalization plans. This bill would require the USAF to establish recapitalization plans for those units, including the 122nd Air Wing in Indiana, to ensure that they can maintain their fighter missions for years to come.

"Our military's readiness and ability to respond to global threats depend on maintaining highly-trained and capable forces," Sen. Young said. "This bill will safeguard the future of Air

National Guard units, including the 122nd Fighter Wing in Ft. Wayne, ensuring our forces are prepared

for any challenge they may face and remain strong in the face of threats posed by adversaries abroad."

The Fighter Force Preservation and Recapitalization would:

Raise the minimum number of fighters in the USAF inventory, requiring nearly two-thirds

· Establish a robust reporter requirement to track Air Force Fighter force structure, giving Congress oversight authority of force

of aircraft to be combat ca-

 Prioritize recapitalization of Active Duty, Reserve, and ANG units that are "service-retained" (i.e. not assigned to combatant commander) to maximize fighter assets; and

structure modifications;

 Require a report on recapitalization of ANG fighter squadrons.

Click here to read the full text of the bill.

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# **Humane Society** works to end breed discrimination with pit bull adoption special

#### **Submitted by HSHC**

Every March, the Human Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) plays host to Pit Bull Education Month, a campaign that touches every aspect of HSHC's mission: saving lives, educating communities, and completing families. During Pit Bull Education Month adoption fees for all Pit Bulls and Pittie Mixes will be \$25

The world hasn't been kind to Pit Bulls or bully breeds. These dogs represent the largest number of victims of animal cruelty and neglect that arrive at HSHC.

We are proud to be a shelter that does not discriminate against Pit Bulls, or any other breed," Community Engagement Manager Lily Darling said. "We can't change hearts and minds without help from

you, our community. This is your chance to help us give back to a breed that has already been through so

All eligible dogs will be spayed/neutered, microchipped, and be up-to-date on age-appropriate vaccinations. (Some exclusions apply.) Adoptions include a starter bag of food and a complimentary wellness exam with a participating veterinarian.

Looking to adopt during Pit Bull Education Month? You can complete an application online at hamiltonhumane.com/application to speed up the process.

#### Things to bring

- All family members in the home
  - Dogs for dog meet and
  - Pet policy (if you rent) • Government-issued ID

# **Live Music At Pasto Italiano** Music every Wednesday & Friday 1/2 Price Bottles of Wine On Wednesdays Reservations Recommended 3150 East State Rd. 32, Westfield Catering: PastoltalianoWestfield@gmail.com



Wendy Stevens CPA, CGMA, MSA Certified Business Advisor

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**ACCURATE. BALANCED.** You're reading

# Bank of America opens financial center in Westfield

#### The REPORTER

of Bank America (BofA) announced last Friday the opening of a new financial center in Westfield. This new financial center further represents Bank of America bringing retail banking, lending, and small business services to local clients, along with investing and personalized financial guidance from Merrill.

Nationally, BofA financial centers host around 450,000 client visits per day – up nearly 4 percent year-over-year – illustrating the ongoing value the network provides.

The new financial centers in Westfield at 14933 Thatcher Lane will showcase the latest in technology, private offices to assist clients one-on-one, and on-site financial specialists who work as one team to understand a client's unique priorities and goals, and to provide personalized guidance. The location is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. It is closed on Sunday.



age their financial lives." To celebrate the opening of these two new financial centers, Bank of America is partnering with Gleaners Food Bank to collect nonperishable food items at all 21 financial centers, supporting Gleaners' network partners - Light and Life Food Pantry in Avon and Merciful HELP Center in Carmel – to help address food insecurity in these communities.

In Indianapolis, BofA currently serves clients through 21 financial centers and 77 ATMs and its more than 300 local employees.

Clients in central Indiana than 24,000 hours.

also have access to Bank of America's industry-leading digital capabilities which serve the banking, lending and investing needs of more than 58 million verified digital clients. The bank's digital leadership has been recognized with more than 208 digital-related accolades in

Photo provided

Since 2018, BofA has invested nearly \$12 million in Indianapolis through grants to local nonprofits, employee matching gifts, sponsorships and other investments. **Employees** have volunteered more

# Trump administration cuts grant for Indiana housing group

By TIM SPEARS

WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Cost-cutting efforts by the Trump administration's newly-formed **Department** of Government Efficiency (DOGE) will cost an Indiana housing advocacy group significant funding.

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) offers counseling services to connect people with resources and housing options, advocates for housing access, and publishes reports on housing issues in Indiana.

what it sees as discriminatory housing practices.

**FHCCI provided News** 8 with a letter from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), stating at the direction of DOGE, effective Feb. 27, the remainder of a \$138,889 grant expected to last through June 30, 2025, is now terminated.

FHCCI Executive Director Amy Nelson expects the decision to cost the organization about \$50,000.

The looming fear for The nonprofit also leads Nelson and other housing ing, that despite the Con-

legal efforts to challenge advocates is the potential for additional federal funding cuts.

> Nelson told News 8 about 85 percent of the Fair Housing Center's funding is secured through HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) grants. Nelson said FHCCI applied for \$840,000 worth of 2025-2026 FHIP grants, already appropriated by Congress, but HUD has yet to announce awards.

would have been announced by now," Nelson said in an email. "It is our understand-

gressional appropriation, these grants are part of the funding freeze."

"Loss of these funds would be devastating to our organization."

This comes as HUD cuts staff and has frozen at least \$60 million in Section 4 grant funding, predominantly intended for affordable housing, according to the Associated Press.

This story was origi-"Typically, these grants nally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/ politics/trump-administration-cuts-grant-for-indiana-housing-group.

# Huse Culinary to open new 1933 Lounge by St. Elmo in Carmel

## **Submitted**

upscale restaurant group behind Indiana's iconic St. Elmo Steak House, will welcome its third **1933 Lounge** by St. Elmo in Carmel on Tuesday, April 1.

The new cocktail lounge and restaurant offers an opulent dining atmosphere, seamlessly blending rich history with modern luxury. Guests can enjoy the same refined menu as 1933 Lounge Fishers, featuring expertly crafted cocktails, premium steaks and fresh seafood.

been our vision, as the city embodies a deep appreciation for exceptional dining and craftsmanship," Huse Culinary CEO Craig Huse said. "This expansion reflects our commitment to excellence – not just in the food and cocktails we serve but in the atmosphere we create. Every detail of this inviting ambiance, was designed to offer a sophisticated yet comfortable gathering place for the community."

The 8,200 square-foot space offers seating for 200 guests indoors and 70 on a covered patio, enveloped in a rich blend of bold hues, dramatic textures and laydome over the bar houses fixture, casting a warm glow over a sleek bar with blackened steel and antique brass accents. Guests can bring 125 to 150 jobs, with unwind by a double-sided, blackened steel fireplace that serves as a dramat-

"Bringing the 1933 into the custom curved 1933 Lounge Fishers, will Huse Culinary, the Lounge to Carmel has long banquettes and high-back take on the same role in Carlounge chairs in rich gold and olive fabrics patterned with leopards.

> With eight private and semi-private dining spaces, the restaurant offers flexible options for gatherings of various sizes, accommodating groups from seven to 58 guests. Thoughtfully designed with warm, inspace, from rich textures to viting details, these spaces feature elements like live-edge wood tables and ample natural light, creating an elegant setting for any occasion. A sunroom with operable windows brings in natural light and can transform into a private event space while the covered patio, overlooking ered design elements that Range Line Road, features evoke an air of intrigue and fire pits, lounge seating, sophistication. A large gold outdoor dining tables, heated floors, overhead heating a custom concentric light and fans - ensuring yearround comfort in an elegant al fresco setting.

> The new location will seasoned Huse Culinary talent filling leadership roles. Wendy VanVelzen, previic room divider, or settle ously general manager at

mel. Jason Chesky, formerly Harry & Izzy's Northside executive chef, will oversee

the kitchen. "As we continue to grow with intention, our priority remains delivering an elevated experience while fostering strong connections within the communities we serve," Huse added. "Beyond the menu and ambiance, we're excited to create career opportunities, invest in local talent and provide a place where guests can celebrate everyday moments and special

occasions." An extension of the historic St. Elmo Steak House, 1933 Lounge Carmel builds on the legacy of the original 1933 Lounge, which debuted above the world-famous St. Elmo Steak House in 2011. The new location will offer lunch and dinner exclusively to guests 21 and older.

Huse Culinary partnered with Adam Hill of LOR Corp. and Capitol Construction, the same development and construction team behind 1933 Lounge Fishers, to bring this vision to life in Carmel.

The restaurant, located at 175 S. Range Line Road, Carmel, welcomes walkin guests starting Tuesday, April 1, with reservations available beginning Monday, April 14. Hours of operation are Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m. Reservations are recommended and can be made online or by calling (317) 751-1933.

For more information about 1933 Lounge by St. Elmo, visit 1933Lounge.com.



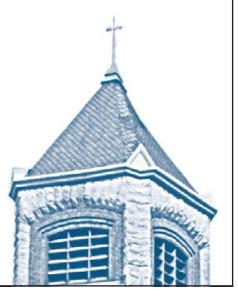
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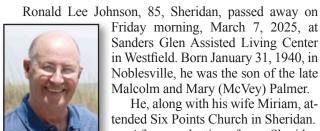
Contact Kim Watson at 317-773-1974 for details.





#### **Ronald Lee Johnson**

January 31, 1940 – March 7, 2025





Noblesville, he was the son of the late Malcolm and Mary (McVey) Palmer.

He, along with his wife Miriam, attended Six Points Church in Sheridan.

After graduating from Sheridan High School with the Class of 1958, he continued his education at General Motors Institute (now Kettering University). Two years into his studies at GMI, he was called to service. Ronald honorably served his country during

the Vietnam era as a medic with the United States Army. After his return, he eventually found his way back to the automotive industry in a way that fit him perfectly. For 40 years he worked as a self-employed salesman for Midwest Wheeltronics, selling equipment to the automotive service and repair industry. His infectious smile and genuine personality, with a little bit of ornery thrown in for good measure, made him an excellent salesman. With so many years in the business and all of the trips that were made to visit his clients, Ronald knew just about every "secret" place in his territory that had a slice (or two) of peach pie, or a scoop (or two) of butter pecan ice cream, so delicious it made you think you were tasting it for the first time.

It wasn't all work and no play with Ronald. He always loved finding activities that got him outside. From hunting and fishing to golf and gardening, there never seemed to be enough time to get it all in – but he sure tried. When it was time to slow down a bit, lounging in front of the TV watching his favorite programs was how he spent his time. He loved older shows like *The Andy Griffith Show* and *M\*A\*S\*H* the best and was always up for a John Wayne western. However, if the Cubs were playing, all of that went out the window; nothing took precedence over a Cubs game.

Ronald is survived by two sons, Daniel Lee Johnson (Marylou) of Hudson, Fla., and Michael Allen Johnson (Laura) of Sheridan; his daughter, Mary Kathleen "Kathy" Elliott (Michael) of Westfield; and by his four grandchildren, Michelle Martinkovic (Matt), Amy Talbott (Jared), David Johnson (Darbie), and Ashley Elliott; and four great-grandchildren, Natalie, Mason, Jack, and Luke. He loved and cherished every minute he was able to spend with them. Their presence always helped keep their "Grandpa Ryan" focused on the time they were lucky enough to have together. Also surviving are two brothers, Steve Palmer (Sandy) of Madison, Ind., and Robert Palmer (Kay) of Noblesville; and his sister, Lylith Lardon of Indianapolis.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Malcolm and Mary (McVey) Palmer; and by his loving wife of 62 years (and high school sweetheart), Miriam (Childers) Johnson, on January 15, 2021. She and Ronald were married on February 18, 1961. He was also preceded in death by his Jack Russell terrier (and constant companion), Miss Macy. If you ask the kids, they would jokingly tell you that dad loved her more than them most of the time.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan, with visitation from noon until the time of service. Burial with Military Honors will follow at Spencer Cemetery in Sheridan. Pastor Paul Mumaw will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Special Olympics of Indiana.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

#### **Thomas Lee Templeton**

May 30, 1936 – February 28, 2025

Thomas Lee Templeton, 88, Indianapolis, passed away peacefully, on Friday, February 28, 2025. Tom was born May 30, 1936, in Anderson, Ind., to Herbert and Edythe (Stiner) Templeton.



Tom and his devoted wife Virginia were married for 67 ½ years. A loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and uncle; he is survived by his wife, Virginia, his four children, Gregory Templeton

(Helen), Scot Templeton (Vickie), Tamara Coomer (Mark), and Thomas Templeton (Tamara); six grandchildren, Ryan (Victoria), Matthew (Jessica), Sasha (Eric), Cassandra (Joey), Megan (Dustin), and Kyle (Ashtin); 15 great-grandchildren; his sister-in-law, Ingrid Templeton; and his special nephew, Dave Nadler (MarySue) and nieces and nephew. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Herb Templeton.

Tom graduated from Anderson High School (1953), completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Ball State University (1957), and his Master of Science Degree in Education from Indiana University (1965). He held many licenses including those for Language Arts, Speech and Hearing, Principal and Director of Special Education.

Tom's professional career began by teaching in Flint Michigan Public Schools as a Speech and Hearing Therapist in 1957. In 1959, Tom started the Speech and Hearing Therapy Program at MSD Perry Township, then became the Director of Special Education and developed the RISE Program for children with special education needs, becoming the RISE Learning Program Director encompassing three Marion County townships, MSD Perry, MSD Franklin, MSD Decatur, and Beech Grove.

In 1973, Tom joined Indianapolis Public Schools as the Principal of Cold Springs School. This was the largest school in the nation at that time, for special education students. In 1986, Tom took the role as Principal of John Marshall Jr. High School, transitioning the school from a high school. In 1988, Tom was the Asst. Principal at Merle Sidener Jr. High until his retirement in 1992.

Tom served on many professional boards throughout his career including President for the Indiana Federation Council for Exceptional Children, President of Indiana Special Olympics Board of Directors, Chairman of Central Indiana Mental Health Planning Commission, Chairman ISTA Special Education Division and Secretary for the Indiana Council of Administration for Special Education.

In addition, Tom was honored and recognized with many awards for his service which included the Governor's Commission on Handicapped and Boss of the Year from the American Business Women Association.

Tom's interests included playing cards, working on small engines, rehabbing housing properties, raising beagles for field trials, hunting, fishing, traveling, camping, and attending grandchildren's after school activities. Family will always hold precious memories at their Raccoon Lake cabin.

Visitation for Tom was held March 7, 2025 at Little and Sons Funeral Home, 4901 E Stop 11 Road, Indianapolis, Indiana. Additional visitation was held Saturday morning, March 8, 2025 followed by a Celebration of Life service at 11am. Burial at Anderson Memorial Park, 6805 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Anderson, IN 46013 immediately followed the services.

Memorial donations may be made to the Indiana Special Olympics.

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE COURTYARD

Next they made the courtyard. The south side was a hundred cubits long and had curtains of finely twisted linen, with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases, and with silver hooks and bands on the posts. The north side was also a hundred cubits long and had twenty posts and twenty bronze bases, with silver hooks and bands on the posts.

The west end was fifty cubits wide and had curtains, with ten posts and ten bases, with silver hooks and bands on the posts. The east end, toward the sunrise, was also fifty cubits wide. Curtains fifteen cubits long were on one side of the entrance, with three posts and three bases, and curtains fifteen cubits long were on the other side of the entrance to the courtyard, with three posts and three bases. All the curtains around the courtyard were of finely twisted linen. The bases for the posts were bronze. The hooks and bands on the posts were silver, and their tops were overlaid with silver; so all the posts of the courtyard had silver bands.

The curtain for the entrance to the courtyard was made of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen—the work of an embroiderer. It was twenty cubits long and, like the curtains of the courtyard, five cubits high, with four posts and four bronze bases. Their hooks and bands were silver, and their tops were overlaid with silver. All the tent pegs of the tabernacle and of the surrounding courtyard were bronze.

Exodus 38:9-20 (NIV)

#### The Reporter's policy on obituaries

The Hamilton County Reporter does not charge families for publishing obituary notices in our pages. Every obituary appearing in online editions Wednesday through Saturday also appears in our Monday print editions. In order to continue to offer this as a community service, we ask that obituaries not exceed 500 words. The limitations of space may not allow for longer ones to appear in print. Families and funeral homes are asked to submit obituaries at ReadTheReporter.com/obitform.

#### **Meeting Notice**

The Jackson Township Board will meet to discuss general township business at 10 a.m. Monday, April 14, 2025, at the Trustee's Office, 506 W. Main St., Arcadia.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE

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Send Meeting Notices to: News@ReadTheReporter.com



# HAMILTON County REPORTER

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## Girls Basketball -



Hamilton Southeastern's Kennedy Holman was named as one of the six players in the Core Group of the IndyStar Indiana girls' Junior All-Stars for 2025.

# HSE's Kennedy Holman among Indiana Girls Junior All-Stars

The REPORTER

Hamilton Southeastern's Kennedy Holman is among the 18 players that have been selected to the IndyStar Indiana girls' Junior All-Stars for 2025, All-Stars games director Mike Broughton announced last Sunday.

Holman is one of the six players in the Core Group. lian Barnes of Valparaiso, at Goshen. Joslyn Bricker of Warsaw, Myah Epps of Homestead, Lola Lampley of Lawrence Central and Brooklynn Renn of Silver Creek.

In addition to the core group, six players each were chosen for squads labeled Red Group and Blue Group.

The Red Group players are Komari Booker of Pike, Mollie Ernstes of Jennings County, Gracy Gilliard of Center Grove, Maddy Shirlev of Evansville Central, Ava Wheeler of Borden and Berkeley Williams of Plain-

The Blue Group players are Ke'Adriah Butler of Lawrence North, Aniyah McKenzie of Lawrence Central, Gabby Helsom of Homestead, Vanessa Rosswurm of Norwell, Laniah Wills of Lapel and Brooke Zartman of Warsaw.

Lenny Krebs of Class 4A state runner-up Warsaw will be the head coach and Amy Shearer of Columbia City will be the assistant

coach for the 2025 Indiana Indiana Seniors. girls' Junior All-Stars.

Krebs has compiled a 138-55 record in eight seasons at Warsaw, including a 26-2 mark with Northern Lakes Conference, sectional, regional and semi-state titles in 2024-25. The Fairfield High School graduate is 268-229 in 22 seasons as a head coach, including a The other players are Lil- 130-174 mark in 14 seasons

> Shearer is 221-142 in 15 seasons at Columbia City, her alma mater. Her Eagles went 24-5 this past season, capturing sectional and regional crowns before falling in a semi-state final to eventual Class 3A state champion Norwell.

The Junior All-Stars will play one game against the Kentucky Junior All-Stars on Sunday, June 1 at a site to be announced. The Junior All-Stars also will play one game against the Indiana All-Star senior girls on Wednesday, June 4 at Greenfield-Central High School. Both games will be doubleheaders with the 2025 Indiana boys Junior All-Stars, who will be chosen later.

The players listed as Core Group players each will play in two games. The players listed in the Red and Blue groups each will play in one game, the Red Group on June 1 against the Kentucky Juniors and the Blue Group on June 4 against the

The Indiana senior All-Stars will play the Kentucky senior All-Stars on June 6 at a site to be announced. The Indiana senior All-Stars will play Kentucky's seniors again on June 7 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

The annual third *IndyStar* Indiana All-Star "Futures Games" doubleheader will be played on Junior All-Stars. In 2021, Gymnastics Company last now follow. June 2 at Fishers High School. The Futures Games will be a girls-boys doubleheader with Indiana-only squads of sophomores and freshmen in a North vs. South format. The Futures Games rosters will be an-

nounced later. The 2025 Indiana girls' Junior All-Star team was selected through a process that allows all IBCA-member head coaches to nominate players through the IBCA all-state process. The IBCA 22-member Indiana Basketball Coaches Association all-state committee reviewed and voted on players for the 2022 IBCA/Franciscan Health girls All-State teams that were released on Thursday (March 6).

The 22 all-state committee members also provided input to a five-person IBCA committee appointed by IBCA executive director Marty Johnson and chaired by IBCA assistant director Brandon Bradley. That

committee finalized the selections for the 2025 girls' Junior All-Stars.

The Indiana Junior All-Star program was founded in 1996 by former Indiana All-Star games director Patrick Aikman. In most years, 18 players have been chosen to the Junior All-Stars. In five years (2005, 2006, 2007, 2018 and 2019), 24 players were chosen to the just 12 players were chosen to the Junior All-Stars.

In games from 1996 through 2024 (with no games in 2020 because of COVID-19), the Indiana Senior girls lead the Indiana Junior girls 41-12 and the Indiana Senior boys lead the Indiana Junior boys 42-11. In seven years of games against the Kentucky Juniors, the Indiana Junior girls lead 12-1 and the Indiana Junior boys lead 8-5. Games against the Kentucky Juniors previously have been played in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

The Indiana portion of the All-Star Games is organized and produced by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association. The Indianapolis Star, with its IndyStar brand, is the title sponsor. Hoosier Shooting Academic is a presenting partner for All-Star Week. Energy Systems Group is a presenting partner of the Saturday doubleheader against Kentucky.

Men's Basketball———

# Purdue's Braden Smith named Big Ten player of the year

By ANGELA MORYAN WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Back-to-back-to-back. The Purdue Boilermakers once again have the Big Ten Conference's Player of the Year. This year, the honor goes to point guard Braden Smith. The last two years, center Zach Edey won the award.

The Westfield native and former Mr. Indiana Basketball was also named to the first team All-Big Ten with fellow Boilermaker teammate Trey Kaufman-Renn. Smith is also one of five finalists for the Bob Cousy Award, which is given to college basketball's best point guard each year. This is the second straight vear Smith has been a finalist for the prestigious honor.

Smith finished the Big Ten regular season averaging 16.3 points a game, the second-most on the Purdue roster behind only Kaufman-Renn who averages 19.7. The two stars helped lead the Boilers to the six-seed in the Big Ten Tournament, which takes place in Indianapolis' Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

Smith also became the Boilers' all-time as-

sists leader during his junior year. Currently, he's amassed 717 assists, 272 of those coming this season. Adding to the history, Smith is the first player in the NCAA to reach at least 1,500 points, 700 assists and 500 rebounds by the end of his junior season.

It's been another banner year for the former Westfield Shamrock. Last week against Rutgers, he set a new career-high after making seven three-pointers. Earlier in the season, he scored a career-best 34 points in a non-conference match against Toledo.

This is the second time Smith has been named first team All-Big Ten. He received the honor last year as he helped the Boilers reach the Final Four before ultimately falling to UConn in the national championship game.

Purdue will be back on the court Thursday as the Boilers face either 14-seed USC or 11-seed Rutgers in the quarterfinals of the Big Ten Tournament.

This story originally appeared on WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/purduesbraden-smith-named-bigten-player-of-the-year.

# Gymnastics-

# Rocks, Millers' Bittles compete at regionals

## The REPORTER

The Westfield gymnastics team and Noblesville's Valorey Bittles competed at their respective IHSAA regionals last weekend.

Bittles traveled to The Friday evening to compete in the Franklin Central regional as an all-around gymnast. She finished 10th with a total score of 33.575. Bittles' top event was the balance beam, where she tied for seventh with a score of 8.85. In the other events, Bittles scored an 8.225 on the vault, an 8.00 on the uneven bars and 8.50 on the floor exercise.

The next day, the Shamrocks traveled to Portage for their regional competition. Westfield placed fifth with a 7.975.

team score of 101.45.

Senior Isa Galan had the top result for the 'Rocks, tying for 11th on the balance beam with a score of 9.025.

Other Westfield results

**All-Around:** Galan 34.35

Vault: T23. Galan 8.825; Kelsey Atkinson 8.825, 25. Madie Doran 8.775, T26. Avery Mason 8.75.

Uneven bars: 17. Galan 8.25, 22. Mason 7.90, 27. Atkinson 7.175, 29. Harper Roy

Balance beam: T11. Galan 9.025, T19. Atkinson 8.60; Roy 8.60, 30. Evvi Menk 7.55.

Floor exercise: T13. Doran 8.775, 20. Mason 8.45, T23. Galan 8.25, 29. Layla Ryan

## Basketball-

# Four county players named IBCA Academic All-State

## The REPORTER

Four Hamilton Countv basketball players are among the 81 Indiana high school seniors -- 41 boys and 40 girls -- have been chosen as first-team Academic All-State for 2025 by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association, it was announced Monday.

Two county boys and two county girls were named Academic All-State. They are Guerin Catholic's Ava Bills and Bryson Cardinal, Noblesville's Meredith Tippner and Sheridan's Caleb Wright.

In addition, 197 more boys and 218 more girls were recognized as honorable

for 2025, IBCA executive director Marty Johnson said. In total, 496 players received some level of recognition in this year's IBCA Academic All-State program.

Local Honorable Mention players are as follows: **Boys** 

Nathan Baker, Fishers; Luke Davis, Noblesville; JonAnthony Hall, Fishers; Will Harvey, Westfield; Max McComb, University; Max Miller, Noblesville; Durante Morton, Westfield; Ryne Paris, Guerin Catholic; Rylan Rauch, Westfield; Jack Toles, Guerin Catholic; Ryan Vetor, Noblesville; Dayne Voege, Sheridan.

mention Academic All-State See IBCA... Page 11





11 **Sports** 



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# Eup commits to Marian



**Photos courtesy Carmel Athletics** 

Carmel senior Lincoln Eup has committed to the Marian football team.

# Keenan commits to Hanover



**Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics** 

Noblesville's Katelyn Keenan has committed to the Hanover College women's soccer team. (Front row, from left) Megan Keenan (mother), Katelyn Keenan, and Tom Keenan (father). (Back row, from left) Mike Brady (Noblesville Girls Soccer Head Coach), Cole Keenan (brother), and Kylee Keenan (sister).

# **IBCA**

**Girls** Kayla Brinley, Hamilton Southeastern; Olivia Brookshire, Fishers; Abigail Brown, Hamilton Southeastern; Madi Cain, Guerin Catholic; Abigail Clayton, Hamilton Southeastern; Mia Crask, Westfield; Nevaeh Dickman, Fishers; Shelby Eaton, Sheridan: Brookelyn Grayson, Noblesville; Reagan Haines, Guerin Catholic; Megan Hamilton, Westfield; Maine Hooks, Hamilton Southeastern; Madi Linville, Westfield; Annie Murphy, Guerin Catholic; Lauren Perry, Carmel; Allison Scheu, Fishers;

Mac Smith, Sheridan; Cecilia Timme, Sheridan; Lindsey Van Dyke, Westfield; Addison Van Hoesen, Hamilton Southeastern; Mackenzie

Woods, Carmel. The IBCA Academic All-State program is one where academic prowess and athletic prowess both are considered in the selections. Items such as grade-point average, academic class rank and SAT or ACT scores are considered along with athletic performance in areas such as points per game, rebounds per game and assists per game.

"The quality of these student-athletes shows that success in academics and success in athletics are not separate entities," Johnson said. "Rather, in many cases, a player's success in the classroom directly contributes to his or her success on the floor."

**IBCA-member** head coaches from schools across the state may nominate their senior student-athletes who meet criteria that include a 3.50 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale, a class rank in the upper 25 percent of one's class and either an SAT score of 1100 (on the reading and

# from Page 10

math sections) or an ACT composite score of 24. Once nominations were received, an IBCA committee reviewed the information and determined awards for first team and honorable mention.

Those selected will receive certificates from the IBCA for their honor. Plans are for certificates to be distributed in PDF form to coaches via e-mail during April for the coach to print. The coach then may present the certificate to each honored player sometime before the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year.

# All-conference teams announced

#### The REPORTER

The Hoosier Crossroads Conference announced its All Conference Boys Basketball team on Monday.

Here is a list of players from Hamilton County that received either First Team or Second Team honors.

JonAnthony Hall, Jason Gardner Jr., Justin Kirby, Cooper Zachary. Noblesville: Justin Curry, Baron Walker. Westfield: Drew Haffner, Durante Morton.

**Second team – Fishers:** Millen McCartney. Hamilton Southeastern: Braeden Totton, Lucas Weemer, Maverick Young. West-

#### field: Will Harvey. **Three GC players** named to All Circle **City Team**

Three Guerin Catho-First team – Fishers: lic boys basketball players were named to the All Circle City Conference team on Tuesday.

> Those players Bryson Cardinal, Jake Grissom and Ryne Paris.

# SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### Wednesday, March 12

**BOYS LACROSSE** 

Noblesville at Guerin Catholic, 6 p.m. Fishers at Hamilton Southeastern, 8 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Carmel, Noblesville, Sheridan at HSR Qualifier, 6 p.m. at University of Indianapolis

#### Thursday, March 13

GIRLS LACROSSE

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

TRACK AND FIELD Hamilton Heights at Purdue tournament, 5 p.m.

#### Friday, March 14

**BOYS LACROSSE** South Oldham (Ky.) at Hamilton Southeastern, 6 p.m.

Crown Point at Carmel, 8 p.m. Fishers at Noblesville, 8 p.m. **GIRLS LACROSSE** 

#### Center Grove at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m. Westfield at Bishop Chatard, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 15

**BOYS BASKETBALL REGIONALS** At Lebanon University vs. Triton Central, 1 p.m. At Greenfield-Central Guerin Catholic vs. New Palestine, 4 p.m. At Frankfort

Fishers vs. Harrison, 7 p.m.

**BOYS LACROSSE** Northridge at Westfield, 12:30 p.m. South Bend St. Joseph at Guerin Catholic, 1 p.m. Evansville Memorial at Hamilton Southeastern, 2 p.m.

#### Louisville St. Xavier at Carmel, 4 p.m. GIRLS LACROSSE

Fishers at Crown Point, 10:30 a.m. Kentucky Country Day at Carmel, noon Westfield at Evansville Memorial, 2:30 p.m. Evansville North at Noblesville, 4 p.m.

## TRACK AND FIELD

Carmel boys, Guerin Catholic at University of Indianapolis tournament, 10 a.m.

Carmel girls, Hamilton Heights, Westfield at Indiana Wesleyan tournament, 10 a.m. University at Purdue HSR qualifier, 10 a.m.

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





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