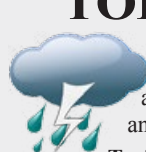


WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025

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



**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Today: Partly to mostly cloudy. Mid to late afternoon scattered showers and storms. A few could produce large hail and damaging wind. Wind gusting to 30 mph.  
 Tonight: Breezy, with evening showers and storms. A few could produce large hail and damaging wind.  
 HIGH: 66 LOW: 38



# History comes alive as Union soldier visits fourth graders

**The REPORTER**

On a memorable day in March, fourth-grade students at Hamilton Heights Elementary School (HHES) were transported back to 1864 as Kevin Stonerock, also known as Billy Yank, visited their classrooms to share fascinating stories from his time as a soldier in the Union Army.

Stonerock, portraying a soldier from an Indiana regiment, captivated the young audience with vivid tales from the Civil War. He spoke of his service in significant battles such as Shiloh and Stones River in Tennessee, recounting the harrowing experiences of marching for miles, facing the brutal realities of war, and the emotional toll of battle.

One of the highlights of Stonerock's presentation was his discussion on the daily life of a soldier. He explained the hardships of eating rations and the infamous hardtack – a dry, hard biscuit that soldiers often had to dip in water to soften. Students were especially fascinated when Stonerock passed around replicas of the hardtack for them to feel and see, giving them a tangible connection to the past.

In addition to battle stories and hardships faced, Stonerock shared the importance of camaraderie among soldiers and



Photo provided  
**Historical reenactor Kevin Stonerock, known as Billy Yank, captivates students at Hamilton Heights Elementary School in Arcadia with his vivid retelling of Civil War stories during a special on-stage presentation.**

how they relied on one another during difficult times. His engaging storytelling made history come alive for the students, sparking questions and conversations about what life was like during the Civil War.

The visit was part of the school's ongoing efforts to bring history to life for students and deepen their understanding

of American history through interactive learning.

"We are so grateful to have had Kevin Stonerock visit," HHES fourth-grade teacher Lauren Knapp said. "His enthusiasm and passion for history truly resonated with our students, making this a day they will remember for years to come."

The presentation, made possible by the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation, left the fourth graders with a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices made by soldiers and the significance of the Civil War in shaping the nation's history. It was a memorable and educational experience that brought the past to life in a way textbooks alone never could.

## What happened to them?

Every so often I see or hear something that resonates with me and makes me change my perspective. I came across a quote from Dr. Bruce Perry discussing childhood traumas. His message was instead of asking yourself what is wrong with this kid, ask yourself: *what happened to this child?* It is a simple thought, but truly profound when you stop and digest the meaning of it.

He was speaking about this from the lens of childhood trauma, but how many times as an adult can this apply to the way we interact with others? Rather than assuming someone has something "wrong" with them because they are different, ask yourself: *why are they the way they are?* My mom used to tell me growing up, you never know what happens in someone's home when they close the door, so just be kind to people.

Imagine how much kinder of a world we would live in if we approached everyone who is different from us and rather than judging them or assuming the worst, we ask ourselves what has happened to them in their life to make them that way.

Maybe they aren't rude – maybe they are shy because they had a parent who never validated them growing up and encouraged them to speak. Maybe they aren't unkept and don't care about their appearance – perhaps they are suffering from debilitating depression, and it was all they could do to even show up.

Maybe they aren't aloof – maybe they are worried about someone in the hospital. Maybe they aren't mad at you – they are frustrated with their own set of circumstances, and you were an easy target. Perhaps they don't have the picture-perfect marriage that is documented on social media – maybe she is in an abusive relationship and is terrified of someone finding out.

See *What Happened . . .* Page 2

## ABC recognizes Gaylor Electric as 'Highest Performing National Contractor'

**The REPORTER**

Gaylor Electric has earned multiple prestigious awards from Associated Builders and Contractors



(ABC) at the 35th annual Excellence in Construction Awards during ABC Convention 2025 on Feb. 26 in Las Vegas.

At the forefront of these achievements, Gaylor Electric has been named ABC's 2025 Contractor of the Year – one of the industry's most coveted honors. This award recognizes the company's outstanding commitment to corporate integrity, workforce development, safety, and innovation. Gaylor Electric is the first company in history to receive this honor twice.

"For 26 years, ABC has recognized a Contractor of the Year; Gaylor is the first company to be named ABC Contractor of the Year for a second time," said 2025 Chair of the ABC National Board of Directors David Pugh, partner, Bradley, Birmingham, Ala. "It is fitting that the nearly 40-year member would receive such an accolade during ABC's 75th anniversary because this contractor daily embodies the merit shop philosophy in the ways they win work, up-skill their workforce, defend fair and open competition, deliver projects safely and contribute meaningfully to communities. Join me in congratulating the entire Gaylor team, which demonstrates an unparalleled commitment to cultivating strong business relationships, resulting in continued client loyalty. ABC is a better organization because of members like Gaylor."

The Contractor of the Year is selected by ABC's National Executive Committee for embodying the values outlined in the association's bylaws. Gaylor Electric is an ABC Top Performer, an ABC Accredited Quality Contractor and has achieved the highest level in ABC's STEP Safety Management System, Diamond. The company has won numerous ABC National Excellence in Construction Awards and National Safety Excellence Awards.



Goodrich

# Create moments that matter at fifth annual Indiana Peony Festival

**Submitted**

It's time to celebrate the special moments in your life and ours!

The Indiana Peony Festival, celebrating five years, proudly announces the 2025 Indiana Peony Festival premier sponsor: Smith's Jewelers. Together, the Indiana Peony Festival and Smith's Jewelers – known for helping their customers create special moments of their own – highlight the beauty behind sentimental moments and festival traditions.

Here are some quotes and stories of cherished peony moments from previous festival attendees and why these moments are so special to them.

"We love the Peony Festival and how you have grown it each year, yet keeping Seminary Park as the anchor. The walkability and residential feel that connects to downtown is amazing and it is now becoming a great tradition for us to invite friends and family from across the Midwest."

– Tim Ingle

"I attended the Peony Festival for the first time this year with my sister and we are counting down the days



Photo provided  
**Tracy Renzi-Kopp and her mother and daughter have made the Peony Festival their annual retreat.**

until the 2025 festival! I will definitely try and attend the dinner Friday night too, that looks awesome! I loved walking around and seeing all the beautiful flowers. Since then, my sister and I have both started talking about growing more flowers ourselves and maybe one day we'll be able to join as a vendor! I also love how close-knit and supportive the community is. Can't wait for the 2025 festival! We've told all of our family and friends about it as well and hope to

have some first timers with us! Thank you for all of the hard work you put into this! It is beautiful!"

– Morgan Safford

Festival fan, Tracy Renzi-Kopp, her mom, and her daughter have made the Peony Festival an annual mother/daughter retreat. After coming out the first year, they came back the second year and made a weekend of it, attending the VIPP night & signing up to volunteer. We appreciate you, Tracy!

So whether you're creat-

ing standing traditions, initial memories, or annual retreats, we and Smith's Jewelers are here to help! Looking to create a special moment of your own this Spring? [Click here](#) to get in touch with Smith's Jewelers to help make an engagement, birthday celebration, girls trip, anniversary, graduation, or any occasion something memorable.

Stay up to date on the Festival – returning to Seminary Park in Noblesville on Saturday, May 17 – at [Indiana PeonyFestival.com](#).

# Hamilton County Tourism announces 2025 Tourism Gives grant recipients

**The REPORTER**

More than 40 Hamilton County organizations have received a total of \$122,000 in grant support provided by Hamilton County Tourism's 2025 Tourism Gives program. This program administers funds to tourism-focused non-profit organizations, art districts, events, and festivals based in the county.

Hamilton County Tourism launched its Tourism Gives program in 2005 and has provided more than \$15 million in grants and support funding to

date. The goal of the program is to use the tourism economy as a catalyst to give back to the community it serves.

"The Tourism Gives grant program provides support to organizations throughout Hamilton County that collectively create a vibrant, thriving community and destination for people to visit," Hamilton County Tourism Director of Community Engagement Sarah Buckner said. "It's inspiring to see the dedication of this year's grant recipients, and Hamilton Coun-



Buckner

ty Tourism is honored to play a part in helping them bring their projects to life."

Hamilton County Tourism's guidelines for the grant program reflect the organization's initiatives around regenerative



tourism. Each of the projects receiving grant funding must be centered around one of the following areas: planet, prosperity, people, or place.

See *Tourism . . .* Page 2

See *Gaylor . . .* Page 2



# Enjoy a spaghetti dinner, support Cicero library

**The REPORTER**

Spring is here, and that means it's time for the annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction at Hamilton North Public Library, 209 W. Brinton St., Cicero.

Join the Friends of the Library from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 27 for a delicious dinner, including pasta, breadsticks, salad, and hand-crafted desserts, all for a free-will donation. You'll also have the



**HNPL**  
Hamilton North  
Public Library  
*Your Friendly Library*

opportunity to put in your last-minute bid on a wide variety of gift baskets in the silent auction. The Silent Auction begins Monday, April 21, in the main library, with bidding ending at 1:45 p.m. Sunday, April 27.

All proceeds benefit the library's Summer Reading Program.

Maybe she isn't a bad mom – maybe she was never shown how to be a mother from her own experience as a child. Maybe he isn't dramatic with loud sounds when you read the complaints on Next Door – perhaps there is a traumatic experience associated with military combat and those sounds bring back PTSD.

Maybe that person who is obnoxious on social media and thinks everyone is a captive audience for their life is riddled with insecurities and doesn't have any real friends, so they seek validation from pretend "friends" because it makes them feel less alone.

Maybe that person who voted for someone different than you had a set of life experiences and upbringing different than you that made them believe things and see the world differently than you. Maybe they aren't stupid or bad people – maybe they just have a different opinion and believe in their heart that they are right.

Maybe she is always late because she is a single mom and doing the best she can. Perhaps it's not that she doesn't think being on time is important.

Maybe that lady at the grocery store who seems judgmental of your loud children actually isn't. Maybe

she actually really does love kids, but she's struggling with infertility and she is uncomfortable around children because it makes her sad to see you with yours.

Maybe the server at the restaurant who forgot your order is pre-occupied or just got a call about their child and is worried.

Maybe she isn't just a sloppy drinker every time you get together – perhaps she is riddled with anxiety and has an unhealthy relationship with alcohol. Maybe that obese person you see isn't lazy – they are a victim of childhood sexual abuse and food was the way they helped mask the pain.

from Page 1

Maybe the guy down the street who seems grumpy and always has his lights off for Halloween is grieving the loss of his own child from years before.

It's easy to sit on our perch and judge everyone. We all are guilty of it. Sometimes when you stop and think about why someone is the way they are – you can realize that there is a story to every single person you meet. "Be kind. For everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about."

*Megan Rathz is a wife, mother, and teacher. She says everything she has ever learned in life came from her Master Gardener mother.*

## TOURISM

"Hamilton County Tourism has supported us in many ways throughout the years, and this Tour-

ism Gives grant comes at a pivotal time as our event continues to grow in popularity and attendance," In-

diana Peony Festival CEO Kelly McVey said. "These funds will go toward expanding and enhancing

the experience for our visitors, ensuring we can provide even more memorable moments while fostering the vibrant, welcoming atmosphere the Indiana Peony Festival is known for."

Recipients of the 2025 Tourism Gives grant program include:

- 4-H Fair
- Actors Theatre of Indiana
- Atlanta New Earth Festival
- Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre
- CarmelFest
- Carmel Arts & Design District/ City of Carmel
- Carmel Clay Historical Society
- Carmel Community Players
- Carmel Klavier International Piano Competition
- Carmel International Arts Festival
- Carmel Jazz Fest
- Carmel PorchFest
- Carmel Symphony Orchestra
- Center for the Performing Arts

- Cicero Friends of Parks
- Conner Prairie
- Fishers Art Center
- Fishers Arts Council
- Fishers Music Works
- Great American Songbook Foundation
- Gregory Hancock Dance Theater
- Hamilton County Artists' Association
- Hamilton County Parks & Recreation
- Heartland Film Festival
- Indiana Peony Festival
- Indiana Wind Symphony
- Jackson Township Trustee
- Keep Noblesville Beautiful
- Lights Over Morse
- Museum of Miniature Houses
- Nickel Plate Express
- Noblesville Cultural Arts Commission (NCAC)
- Noblesville Cultural Arts District
- Noblesville Creates
- Noblesville Front Porch Music Festival
- Noblesville Main Street
- Noblesville Parks

- Roberts Settlement
- SERVE Noblesville
- Sheridan Historical Society
- Sheridan Main Street
- Spark!Fishers
- The Nickel Plate District
- Westfield Playhouse/Main Street Productions
- Westfield Welcome

For additional information on the grants program, contact Hamilton County Tourism Director of Community Engagement Sarah Buckner at [sbuckner@hamilton-countytourism.com](mailto:sbuckner@hamilton-countytourism.com).

**About Hamilton County Tourism**

Hamilton County Tourism Inc. is a nonprofit, destination management organization that promotes tourism growth through strategic marketing, hospitality and development initiatives providing hospitality to more than five million visitors to Hamilton County each year.

from Page 1

**Strawtown Koteewi Park**

**Adventure Area**

Strawtown Koteewi Park

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Horseback Riding Experience

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Strawtown Koteewi Park

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Strawtown Koteewi Park

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Koteewi Range has archery ranges, lessons, and equipment or all skill levels.

For more information on hours of operation, prices, and booking visit [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

## GAYLOR

Gaylor CEO Chuck Goodrich served as chair of the ABC National Board of Directors in 2016. Gaylor will be featured in an upcoming cover story of *Construction Executive* magazine.

"Our mission has always been to elevate the industry by championing excellence, integrity, and open competition," Goodrich said. "To be recognized as the National Contractor of the Year on our 40th anniversary – coinciding with the 75th year of ABC's remarkable legacy – is truly one of the greatest honors of my professional career. This achievement is a testament to our team's unwavering commitment to quality and the values that drive our industry forward. I am incredibly grateful to our employees, partners, and clients who have made this journey possible."

Established in 1984 as a merit shop electrical contractor, Gaylor has grown to a nearly \$1 billion company with approximately 3,500 employees spread

across 16 offices in seven states. The company offers design-build electrical construction and 24/7, on-demand electrical support and utility service.

**Honoring leadership Ray Wallace named ABC's 2025 Young Professional of the Year**

Adding to Gaylor Electric's celebration, Ray Wallace, Operations Manager for the company's Nashville office, has been named ABC's 2025 Young Professional of the Year. This award recognizes construction professionals under 40 who demonstrate outstanding leadership, career achievement, and dedication to the merit shop philosophy.

Wallace, a U.S. Army veteran who served in the 82nd Airborne Division, transitioned to the construction industry after his military service. Since joining Gaylor Electric in 2019, he has played a pivotal role in growing the company's Nashville operations by 60 percent, leading major projects such as Nashville Yards, Tanger Outlets, and Amazon distribution centers.

"Ray's unwavering determination and proactive approach to leadership sets him apart from the rest," Goodrich said. "His commitment to excellence and his team-focused mentality make him truly deserving of this prestigious honor."

In addition to his professional achievements, Wallace serves on the board of ABC Greater Tennessee, supports Go Build Tennessee, and is involved in Folds of Honor, which provides scholarships to the families of fallen and disabled veterans.

from Page 1

**Commitment to safety Gaylor Electric receives National Safety Pinnacle Award**

Gaylor Electric's dedication to maintaining the highest safety standards was also recognized with a National Safety Pinnacle Award, an honor shared by only 52 contractors nationwide. The award is presented to companies that exemplify exceptional jobsite safety practices and proactive risk management.

"Safety has always been our top priority," Goodrich said. "This award reinforces our commitment to ensuring that every team member goes home safely at the end of each day."

Pugh added, "Gaylor Electric exhibits an unrelenting commitment to jobsite safety. The leadership and employees at Gaylor make a choice every day to create a culture that refuses to compromise on safety, ensuring every employee leaves the jobsite in the same or better condition than they arrived."

**A legacy of excellence**

Founded in 1984, Gaylor Electric has grown into a nearly \$1 billion company with 3,500 employees across 16 offices in seven states and jobsites nationwide. The company continues to lead the industry through its design-build electrical construction, 24/7 on-demand electrical support, and utility services, all while maintaining a steadfast commitment to workforce development and safety.

Gaylor Electric will be featured in an upcoming cover story in *Construction Executive* magazine, further highlighting its leadership and achievements.

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AGES 6-12

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**CLUB DAYBREAK**



# Protesters demand steeper property tax cut

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

Frustrated homeowners on Monday said state lawmakers should restore a proposed rate reset in Gov. Mike Braun's property tax plan.

The rally at the Statehouse came as state lawmakers continue to argue over the provisions of **Senate Bill 1**, the bill carrying Braun's property tax relief proposal.

Brownsburg resident Sharlene Bersinger told News 8 her property tax bill is nearly \$3,000 per year higher than it was four years ago. She said this has cut into her ability to buy things for her children and grandchildren.

"I'm not getting ready to sell my house," Bersinger said. "I would like to leave it for my kids when I'm gone. But if taxes keep going the way they are, I don't know if I can do that."

The question of balancing meaningful property tax relief with the needs of public schools and municipal services has bedeviled lawmakers throughout the debate over SB 1.

Braun's original plan would have reset all homeowners' property tax rates back to 2021 levels. That proposal would have cost local governments more

than \$1 billion next year and more than \$1.5 billion a year by 2028. This would have included losses in the tens of millions for some school corporations. The Senate removed that provision from the bill, prompting outrage from Braun's supporters and a **veto threat from the governor**.

SB 1 is currently sitting in the House Ways and Means Committee, which **discussed a potential amendment to the bill last week** but did not vote on it. Committee Chair Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, has said he wants committee members to explore different options before they send the bill to the House floor. The committee has until April 10 to send the bill to the full House.

Braun headlined Monday's rally, which also included Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith, three House Republicans, and county commissioners from Brown and Marshall counties.

"I'm asking this state government to get back on track and run itself efficiently. It's not like we're asking locals and school districts to do anything more," Braun said.

The governor did not directly address proposed amendments to SB 1 but said he expects the final version will be more favorable



Reporter photo

to homeowners while still funding local services.

Marshall County Commissioner Jesse Bohannon told the crowd he disagrees with what many of his fellow city and county officials have told lawmakers about the potential impact of SB 1. He said governments like his already have significant cash reserves, some of which he believes should be refunded to taxpayers.

"If we set the right pri-

orities on the state and local levels, we can cut taxes and provide the effective, limited government that our people deserve," he said.

A small group of Indianapolis Public Schools music teachers had a previously scheduled event nearby, to which they included signs decrying the potential impact of SB 1. IPS would have lost more than \$19 million next year **under the original version of SB 1**.

"Right as I started playing, somebody shouted at me, 'You're taking our property taxes,' and I just thought, what are you talking about? Public school bands, school bands are taking your property taxes?" music teacher Adrea McCloud said. "The savings of an average of \$43 per homeowner isn't really going to benefit the public but fully funding our schools will." Bersinger said she

doesn't believe the argument that SB 1 endangers schools or municipal services.

"I'm from Brownsburg, and they tried the scare tactic with the school referendum and they're building like crazy," she said. "So that was just a scare tactic and gaslighting. I don't believe any of it."

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/indiana-property-tax-reset-rally](http://wishtv.com/news/indiana-property-tax-reset-rally).*



Reporter photos

People of many political persuasions filled the halls of the Statehouse Monday regarding Senate Bill 1, the property tax bill. From groups calling for the complete elimination of property taxes to those calling for full funding of public education, Hoosiers had a lot to say to state leaders. (ABOVE LEFT) WIBC's *The Kendall and Casey Show* were on the scene outside the Lieutenant Governor's office during the rally.

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**Hamilton County:  
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**Friday, March 28  
6pm-8pm**

**Delaware County:  
Muncie City Hall**

300 N High St, Muncie, IN 47305

**Saturday, March 29  
11am-1pm**

**Please join for updates on Congresswoman Spartz's recent work to:**

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- Reform Congress to balance the federal budget
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**Contact us at 317-848-0201  
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spartz.house.gov

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Photos provided (TOP) The 2025-26 officers and trustees of the Noblesville Elks Lodge #576. (ABOVE LEFT) Exalted Ruler Phil Anderson (left) receives Officer of the Year, presented by Past Exalted Ruler Steve Vallier. (ABOVE RIGHT) Mike (left) and Marta Sweitzer were both named Elk of the Year, presented by Past Exalted Ruler Steve Vallier.

## Noblesville Elks select new leadership

Submitted by **Terri Sigman-Kennedy**

Last Saturday night, members and guests of Noblesville Elks #576 gathered to witness the installation of the new team of officers for the coming year.

Officers for 2025/2026 are:

- Phil Anderson, Exalted Ruler
- Jerry Wides, Leading Knight
- Kim Koepfer, Loyal Knight
- Treva Vallier, Lecturing Knight
- Geoff Robinson, PSP, Secretary
- Mark Murphy, Treasurer
- Chris Ferguson, Inner Guard
- Lisa Robinson, Tiler
- Jeff Brown, PER, Esquire
- Michael Huber, Chaplain
- Steve Vallier, PER, Ed Koepfer, Blair

Carmosino, Trustees

Outgoing Exalted Ruler Steve Vallier awarded "Elk of the Year" honors to Mike and Marta Sweitzer. "Officer of the Year" honors went to newly installed Exalted Ruler Phil Anderson, and the "Citizen of the Year" honors went to Mark and Lisa Hall.

Looking ahead to an exciting year for the Elks, the Noblesville Lodge will celebrate 125 years in 2025. There are many events being planned to mark this milestone. The Elks will be open to the public in conjunction with the Peony Festival on Saturday, May 17 for tours or questions on the Lodge. Many more anniversary events will continue through the month, leading to the Finale on June 23.

For more information, check out [Elks.org](http://Elks.org).

## Spring Swing returns with Red Carpet Glamour April 19

The REPORTER

Get ready for an unforgettable night of fun, dancing, and glamour as Westfield Welcome's popular Spring Swing dance, presented by Centier Bank, returns to the Bridgewater Club ballroom on Saturday, April 19.

Spring Swing combines the long-standing tradition of the daddy-daughter and mother-son dances, and adds the "someone special" category, which is open to any child and their parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, mentor, or other loved one to ensure all families can participate in the fun.

In keeping with this year's theme, "Red Carpet Glamour," the Bridgewater Club ballroom will be transformed into a dazzling VIP experience fit for Hollywood royalty. Each dance session will feature a professional DJ spin-



Photo provided by City of Westfield

ning family-friendly tunes, themed crafts, delicious snacks and refreshments, outdoor games and activities suitable for all ages, and a professional portrait station to capture the memories.

Tickets are required for each attendee and are \$20 per person, regardless of age. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. today, March 19, and are expected to sell out quickly, so be sure to purchase yours while supplies last. The dance sessions

available are:

- **Someone Special Dance:** 2 to 4 p.m.
- **Mother-Son Dance:** 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Daddy-Daughter Dance:** 7 to 9 p.m.

Westfield Welcome recommends this event for children ages 3 to 10. However, older children are welcomed to join in on the fun as well.

For more information about Spring Swing or to purchase tickets, visit [westfieldin.gov/events](http://westfieldin.gov/events).

## State lawmakers push cybersecurity requirements for schools & local governments

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

Cybersecurity is a state and national security issue, cybersecurity professionals and local government representatives alike told a House panel Monday.

The **Indiana Office of Technology** already researches and publishes cybersecurity best practices, but there is no requirement to follow them. That could change under legislation working its way through the General Assembly.

Beginning in 2027, every unit of local government

in the state, along with all school corporations and public universities, would have to follow **cybersecurity rules** and policies developed by the agency. They also would need to carry cybersecurity insurance.

Bill author Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, said the bill originated out of conversations **surrounding school cybersecurity** but was later expanded to local government units.

"They are connected to the state, they have critical infrastructure, they have a lot of data on individuals, as do schools," Brown said.

Jeremy Miller, CEO of the Indianapolis-based cybersecurity firm Lionfish Cyber Security, said critical municipal-level systems such as water, sewer, and gas systems are vulnerable to cyberattack. He said the vast majority of Indiana's counties lack the resources to adequately protect their systems and the bill provides critical guidelines for local governments to follow.

Amy Krieg, of Accelerate Indiana Municipalities, which represents municipal governments, said the

**See Cyber . . . Page 5**



# Small group of vets, supporters take Federal Hill



A group of Veterans and allies gathered Tuesday afternoon along State Road 32 at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville with the theme of "Take Back Our Rights." They will march again from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday at the same location and welcome anyone who wants to join them. WISH-TV photos by Adele Reich

## Indiana Connections Academy opens enrollment for 2025-2026 school year

Submitted

Indiana Connections Academy, a tuition-free full-time public virtual school, is now enrolling students in grades K-12 for the 2025-26 school year.

Indiana Connections Academy provides students with the continuous support of highly-skilled teachers and a curriculum that focuses on both academics and helping to build fundamental life skills. This combination fosters an environment for students to gain the confidence they need to thrive in today's modern world.

The 2025-26 academic year will mark another year of its expanded College and Early Career Readiness program for middle and high school students. Building on its success, this refined offering integrates traditional academic subjects with industry-leading, career-focused options like IT, business, health sciences and marketing. This program equips students with durable skills like leadership, critical thinking and teamwork. Students can participate in career exploration and industry networking opportunities to build confidence, make connections and find direction to prepare for their future.

For more than a decade, Indiana Connections Academy has served thousands of students with a variety of needs. Students complete rigorous schoolwork with virtual instruction and support from state-certified teachers. Students develop a strong degree of intrinsic motivation and critical thinking while enrolled at Indiana Connections Academy.

The full-time online school empowers students to find their direction, build

confidence and make valuable connections through its college and early career readiness program. By combining traditional coursework, skills development and partnerships with leading companies and higher education institutions, Indiana Connections Academy offers students diverse opportunities to learn, grow, and shape their future.

Throughout the year, students can participate in a variety of in-person activities designed to foster community and build meaningful relationships. These include field trips, student government, National Honor Society, prom, an in-person graduation ceremony, Back to School Connections Week, Fall Fest, STEAM Day, Winter Formal and Spring Student Showcase. Indiana Connections Academy also provides a wide range of course options, including core subjects like math, science, language arts and social studies; extensive electives such as foreign languages, digital technology and career and technical education; as well as honors and AP courses. Additionally, students can join an array of online clubs, covering interests like robotics, gaming, poetry and art.

Enrollment for Indiana Connections Academy's 2025-26 school year is now underway for students in grades K-12. Interested families are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming online information sessions to find out if virtual school is the right fit for their students. For more information about Indiana Connections Academy or to begin the enrollment process, call 1-833-591-0251 or visit [IndianaConnectionsAcademy.com](https://IndianaConnectionsAcademy.com).

## Westfield Farmers Market accepting vendor applications



Photo provided by City of Westfield

The Westfield Farmers Market is now accepting applications from farmers, producers, and artisans for the 2025 summer season. Those who sell honey, bread, produce, baked goods, plants and flowers, cheeses, specialty beverages, meat, and pet food are encouraged to apply. The Market also welcomes vendors selling unique, high-end handcrafted items such as candles, ceramics, jewelry, art, soaps, etc. [Click here](#) to learn how to apply.

# SIGN UP FOR our e-newsletter

Be the first to receive Travel Westfield updates—your trusted source for the latest news on roadwork, trail projects, and construction developments shaping our growing community.



Scan the QR code to sign up or visit [westfieldin.gov/news](https://westfieldin.gov/news)

## CYBER

from Page 4

bill provides a healthy level of accountability for local governments.

The bill has already passed the Senate with near-unanimous support. The House Committee on Government and Regulatory Reform did not vote on the bill Monday morning due to concerns over a provision requiring individual units of government to share their cybersecurity plans with the state, some-

thing cybersecurity experts pointed out might make them vulnerable in the event of an external hack. Brown and House bill sponsor Rep. Matt Lehman, R-Berne, said they would work on language to either tighten or remove that provision.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wistv.com/news/politics/indiana-local-government-cybersecurity](https://wistv.com/news/politics/indiana-local-government-cybersecurity).



# 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-Su 12-10pm or when empty.  
**Restaurant Breakfast 1<sup>st</sup>&3<sup>rd</sup> Sun 9-12,  
Food 12-8 Tu, 5-9 W, 12-9 Th, F 3-8 Sa, 12-5  
Su**

**Noblesville Post 45** Gil Soria  
273 S 8<sup>th</sup> St Fri 645pm Treasure Hunt  
Noblesville, in 46060  
317-773-9985 Trivia every 1 & 3 Sat 7pm  
M-Th 11a-10p, F 11a-12p, Sa 12p-12a, Su  
12p-8p  
**Restaurant M 6-8pm wings, Tu-F 530-830p,  
Sat 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/12 Breakfast 730-  
930a Dinner 530-830p, Su 12-8p**

**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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:secretary@hamiltoncountyveterans.com)  
Meets 7pm the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday Monthly at the  
Fishers American Legion. Our website  
<https://www.hamiltoncountyveterans.com/>  
has 40 pages of resources for our Military  
Veteran community

**Navy Club Hamilton County Ship 29**  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wed 530pm dinner 630pm meeting  
at Gingers Cafe 1111 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Noblesville

### Hamilton County Veteran Service Officers

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

## Hamilton County Military Veteran

Apr 2, VA Claims & Veterans Career Day 3-7pm  
Carmel American Legion Post 155, 852 W Main St

**VA Claims and Career Day**  
ARE YOU CONNECTED?

- Enroll in VA healthcare
- File disability claims
- HamCo CVSO Onsite
- Indiana Wesleyan
- Indiana Tech
- Military One Source
- WorkOne Central
- VA Vocational Services
- Career Specialists

**JOIN US!**  
April 2, 2025 from 3-7pm  
Questions - [kludeker-seibert@hamiltoncountyphhc.org](mailto:kludeker-seibert@hamiltoncountyphhc.org)  
**Carmel American Legion Post 155**  
852 West Main St Carmel, In.

Representatives will be on-site to answer your questions about Federal and State benefits.  
Career professionals will be onsite to assist our Military Veteran Community to advance their career and find employment.

## March 26 Suicide Prevention Training in Fishers Talk Saves Lives

**SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING**  
TALK SAVES LIVES

Please join us  
Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention is a community-based presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to help save lives.

**Taught by:** Brittany Cheviron Smith LCSW, LSSW  
Fishers Health Department Social Worker

**When:** Wednesday March 26th 5:30-7:00

**Where:** Delaware Township Government Center  
9090 E. 131 St. Fishers IN 46038

Sponsored by:  
Fishers Health Department & Delaware Township Trustee

## March 28 Public Service Hiring Event

**2ND ANNUAL PUBLIC SERVICE HIRING EVENT**  
**FREE!**  
FRIDAY MARCH 28th 2025  
11AM to 2PM

GOVT NONPROFIT  
SCHOOLS and MORE!  
WorkOne INDY 4410 N Shadeland Avenue Indianapolis IN 46226

## Activities & Events

National Vietnam War Veterans Day Mar 29, 2025  
★ FIND ★ THANK ★ REPAY ★

**NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY**  
INDIANA

**WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS**  
WHVV.ORG  
FREE LUNCH SERVED

**Huey Helicopter Rides**  
Weather Permitting

**SPECIAL FEATURE**  
**The Journey Home**  
Army Auditorium Showtimes: 11:00am 1:00pm 3:00pm

**Music, Food, Beer Prizes and Special Recognition for Vietnam Era Veterans**

**DAR**  
Department of Indiana American Legion

**WHVV.ORG**  
Contact: Jill Fewell  
317-549-5900 [jillfewell@whvv.org](mailto:jillfewell@whvv.org)

**All event attendees receive a copy of A Time To Honor - Stories of Service, Duty and Sacrifice 1966-1975**

We Will Never Forget...

Watch 'The Journey Home' Movie Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/521654918>

Volunteer to help Honor, Remember and Welcome Home our Vietnam Veterans

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4CA4AD2BA6F85-55185776-march/>

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

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

Highlights include a luncheon, Huey Helicopter Flights provided by Columbus Indiana Huey, a special viewing of The Journey Home documentary. All attendees will receive a copy of A Time To Honor—Stories of Service, Duty and Sacrifice book/DVD. Our Honored Guest is Indiana's own Medal of Honor Recipient Sammy L. Davis. Invited special guests include former Vice President Mike Pence, Governor Braun, The Adjunct General of Indiana Larry Muennich, Senator Aaron Freeman, 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 12<sup>th</sup> till May 10<sup>th</sup>

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 126<sup>th</sup> St, Fishers, In  
Noblesville American Legion Post 45 - 273 S 8<sup>th</sup> St, Noblesville, in 46060  
Noblesville VFW Post 6246 - 654 S 9<sup>th</sup> St, Noblesville, In 46060  
Sheridan American Legion Post 67 - 406 E 10<sup>th</sup> St, Sheridan, In

**Care Package 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 5 - 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](mailto:treasurer@hamiltoncountyveterans.com)  
Tracy at [auxiliarypost470@gmail.com](mailto:auxiliarypost470@gmail.com)

NOBLESVILLE, IN

# Nickel Plate HERITAGE RAILROAD

20 EST 17

**ENJOY THE RICH HISTORY OF RAIL TRAVEL!**  
Sit back and enjoy the sights, sounds and experience of a ride in our 1950s Santa Fe equipment.

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

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

March 29 and 30

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

April 12, 13 and 19

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

April 29 and May 13

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

Opens April 4!

ALL ABOARD! [NICKELPLATEEXPRESS.COM](http://NICKELPLATEEXPRESS.COM)

NICKELPLATEEXPRESS.COM



# 3.14 times any normal level of fun

Thank you to the community for supporting Noblesville Schools students and teachers. The Noblesville Schools Education Foundation's signature Miller-Palooza fundraiser brought in a record \$160,000 this year, which will support a wide variety of enrichment, recognition, and support initiatives for educators and students. **Hall of Fame honorees** were announced at the event, and Superintendent Dan Hile and Mayor Chris Jensen even took pies in the face (from their wives!) to support the cause. (Photos provided by Noblesville Schools)



(ABOVE) Julie Jensen (left), wife of Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen (right) looked like she had been planning this moment for a loooooong time.



(ABOVE LEFT) Tony Oilar (left) and Kathy Kreag Williams (second from left) are among the inaugural inductees of the Noblesville Schools Hall of Fame. (ABOVE RIGHT) Superintendent Dr. Dan Hile eventually discovered no one was safe from the classic pie-to-the-face routine.



CONGRESSWOMAN  
**VICTORIA SPARTZ**  
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## Constituent Services



### Help with Federal Agencies

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

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



### US Flag Requests

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



### Military Academy Nominations

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



### US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

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

West District Office: (317) 848-0201

East District Office: (765) 639-0671

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



# Like life itself, this curious play has its own obstacles to overcome

By **LARRY ADAMS**  
*A Seat on the Aisle*

“Does that mean I can do anything?”

Twenty years ago, the late, eminent, pediatric neurologist Dr. Bradford Hale handed me a slim, red paperback in our office hallway and nearly wordlessly walked away. Though he had given me books before, this one was different. The cartoonish depiction of a dead dog on the cover, as well as the chapters marked by only prime numbers, drew me in, and after only a few pages I found I could not put it down.

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* was then and remains now a relatively obscure but fiercely championed book. Translated into 36 different languages and the winner of multiple awards since its publication, it may well be the most highly acclaimed book you’ve never read. But it’s one of those landmark sorts of books – once you’ve read it, you’re never really quite the same. It presents the world, at least that of its setting in and around London, in a fresh and revealing way: through the prism of its lead character Christopher Boone’s neurodivergent disorder. But that disorder (often theorized by readers to be Asperger Syndrome, though it is never specifically identified) is ultimately not all that important to the themes of the work.

Author Mark Haddon once wrote, “*The Curious Incident* is not a book about Asperger’s ... if anything it’s a novel about difference, about being an outsider” – and that is undoubtedly a good part of its appeal. We’ve all been there. We’ve all felt as if we don’t belong, lost in a world we don’t understand and that doesn’t understand us.

But it’s also more than that. It’s about limitations. It’s about family, about our shortcomings within the family dynamic, about the pain and guilt that inevitably ensues and that all of us, at one time or another, have

suffered in our lives and our relationships.

Although Haddon himself claimed his book was “unadaptable,” his friend and playwright Simon Stephens took on the challenge and adapted it to the London stage anyway in 2012, where it quickly became a sensation, garnering five Tony Awards, including “Best Play.” From there it has spread across the globe, landing now at Carmel’s Studio Theater for Civic Theatre’s outstanding production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*.

Let me say at the start that director Jay Hemphill has chosen a beast of a play for his debut at Civic. A seemingly endless succession of rapid-fire scene changes, a relatively small cast throwing on and off costumes and character roles with barely enough time to catch a breath, multimedia, choreography (yes, choreography!), and finally, finding a young actor with the chops to pull off a nearly uninterrupted, two-hour portrayal of a literally unfathomable character – these are just a few of the challenges posed by this production. It’s a show that doesn’t just allow for creativity, it demands it.

Fortunately, Hemphill, his cast, and his crew pull it all off to remarkably satisfying effect. Inspired lighting, scenery, and sound design choices work seamlessly with taut direction to keep the action moving in a play that could easily bog down under its own weight. A talented group of ensemble actors handle their brief but varied roles with aplomb, fleshing out the world of the show without distracting from the major points of the storyline.

The major supporting actors, save for a few instances of cringey, opening night overacting that I hope will be tamped down over the run of the production, all do a good job of giving the show the needed emotional depth that the protagonist Christopher inherently cannot provide. Shining



Photo provided by Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre  
**Eric Reiberg as Ed Boone (left) with Ozzy Heath as his son, Christopher.**

particularly brightly is Eric Reiberg as Christopher’s father, Ed, a man who inspires love, hate, compassion, and fear almost simultaneously. Navigating what is in some ways the most complex and sympathetic character in the story, Reiberg adeptly portrays a rough but loving father attempting to do the right thing, but who is clearly in over his head.

The success of *The Curious Incident*, though, ultimately hangs squarely on the shoulders of the actor playing young Christopher Boone – a role challenging perhaps not so much in range as in sheer endurance. Lebanon High School senior Ozzy Heath tackles this assignment in full, with an amazing mastery of dialogue, demeanor, and body language. I expect great things of this young man on the boards in the future.

Although Civic offers up a nearly flawless production here, the show itself is not without its faults. The original novel is a marvel, the stage adaptation not as much. A “play within a play” conceit comes seemingly out of nowhere at the start of the second act and frankly never really works. And although the first act builds nicely to a shocking emotional wallop by intermission, the second act tends to drag, partly because the central mysteries of the story have already been solved, leaving the cleanup to carry the weight of the entire second act, and partly because, at its heart, *The Curious Incident* violates one of the prime rules of fiction. Fiction, it is correctly said, is about change; therefore, a protagonist who, by design, doesn’t and cannot change is simply and ultimately unable to sustain an extended length novel, or a two-act play.

The poor balance between scenes in Act 2 doesn’t help, and again I lay

this at the feet of the playwright rather than the current production. A flashy but overly drawn-out depiction of Christopher’s journey to London, in which almost nothing of consequence to the plot occurs, consumes time that could have been better spent on character or theme development. The series of choppy and sometimes unrelated vignettes that follow do little to improve the situation. Characters and situations fly in and out so fast as to nearly defy any real coherence or meaning.

Finally, the playwright’s bafflingly celebratory “adendum” to the story seems, in my mind, to negate the otherwise incredibly poignant ending and, in fact, the entire premise of the show, and is in complete contradiction to the presentation of the same feature in the book. I may be the only person in the world who thinks this, though, so take it for what it’s worth. The audience thoroughly enjoyed it.

*The Curious Incident* is often cited as a celebration of difference, but I would praise it rather differently – as an insightful yet tragic realization of the isolation and limitations inherent in the human condition. “Does this mean I can do anything?” Christopher plaintively asks at one point. The answer, for Christopher – for all of us – is “no.” Not everyone can grow up to be President. Not everyone gets to be an astronaut. Not everyone gets a happy childhood or even a satisfying marriage.

In the end, *The Curious Incident* reminds us, we all take what small victories we can, bear the burdens we must – and just try to find a little meaning, love, and peace along the way.

Read more great play reviews from *A Seat on the Aisle* at [asota.wordpress.com](http://asota.wordpress.com).



Photo illustration by Shea Lazansky / IU Kokomo  
The students’ work will be on display in the gallery through April 2.

## Local high school artists’ work on display at IU Kokomo gallery

### The REPORTER

The creativity of nearly 70 north central Indiana high school juniors and seniors is showcased in the Indiana University Kokomo Art Gallery’s 27th Annual High School Art Exhibition.

The exhibition continues through Wednesday, April 2 in the Gallery, located in the IU Kokomo Library Building, 2300 S. Washington St.

The exhibition includes work by students from eight schools, in media including drawing, painting, ceramics, mixed media, and more.

Locally, 21 students from three high schools took part in the exhibition.

• **Guerin Catholic High School:** Abbie Beuter, Karen Molinar, Caroline Norvanis, Lilly Richardson, Annabelle Snyder, and Olivia Spomer

• **Sheridan High**

**School:** Noah Barrick, Lucy Cooper, Anna Knochel, Allison Luna, Alexis Muller, Zora Shepard, and Scarlett Wittbrod

• **Tipton High School:** Arabelle Capes, Lucy Lightfoot, Alliah Moore, Savana Morris, Adam Naden, McCartney Sherard, Lorelai Tragesser, and Taylor Turner

The exhibition is free and open to the public in the Gallery from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The Gallery is closed Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Visitors are invited to vote for the People’s Choice award winners by ballot available at the Gallery’s front desk. The winner will be announced in early April.

For more information about the IU Kokomo Art Gallery, visit [kokomo.iu.edu/gallery](http://kokomo.iu.edu/gallery).

## No Title Needed tackles film festival, where titles are needed

### Submitted

*No Title Needed* is a show celebrating the passions that enrich our lives. This week, *No Title Needed* welcomed Brian Wilkes (you know him as Chief Meteorologist at FOX59) and Jessica Chapman, both involved in The Heartland Film Festival.

Wilkes is the co-chair, along with his wife Gigi, for the second year. Learn about the major fundraiser coming up on April 11 with Cinemania as the signature event of said fundraiser. Hosted at Crane Bay, the theme is all about ‘80s dance films with a focus on *Purple Rain*. There will be a tribute band called The Breakfast Club. Some other movies will include *Footloose*, *Flashdance*, and others. Guests are being encouraged to embrace the theme and dress up – the event is sure to be full of big hair and big fun.

Hosts Cindy Collins and Scott Osborne also talk about Wilkes becoming a meteorologist and about his love of movies. Find out what led the class

clown to take on that job. Chapman joins in describing her attendance at the festival from an early age and how she “fell in love” right then.

The two discuss how to get tickets by going to [heartlandfilm.org/cinemania](http://heartlandfilm.org/cinemania) and they explain the ‘party pack’ option.

The Heartland Film Festival is the premier film festival in the Midwest and has been one of the top 25 film festivals in the world for the past two years.

Next week, tune in to meet Carmel City Councilman Adam Aasen. A councilman since 2019, Aasen is a communications specialist, a community volunteer, a former restaurant owner, and journalist.

You can listen to *No Title Needed* every week as Scott Osborne and Cindy Collins welcome a new guest and explore what fuels people and passions beyond the 9-to-5 grind.

Each week, the podcast will be recorded inside Feinstein’s at Hotel Carmichael and air at 8 a.m. on Mondays. Follow the podcast on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com).

### Meeting Notices

The Sheridan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold a work session at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 24, 2025, at the library, located at 103 W. 1st St.

The Westfield Plat Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2025, has been canceled. Business items will be carried over to a future meeting.

Send Meeting Notices to: [News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com)

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



**INSPIRATION SESSION**  
CreateWhatYouCrave.org

## Inspiration Session: Creative Panel

Wednesday, March 26 | 6 - 8 p.m.  
Brown Hound Studios, Carmel

We’re bringing together local creatives and visionaries for an intimate, facilitated conversation with live music, local artists, interactive activities, and meaningful connections in a vibrant, creative space.

Featuring a discussion panel of local creatives:

- **Scott Osborne**, Artist + Owner of Brown Hound Studios + Co-host of No Title Needed Podcast
- **Tori Witter**, Creative Director at TriAD CTV + Executive Director of Indy Design Week
- **Patrick Armstrong**, Host of Conversation Piece Podcast
- **Moderated by Anne O'Brien**, Founder of Create What You Crave

Guests will enjoy activities to reset and fuel their creativity, including:

- Live music featuring **Fred Miller**
- Light bites + drinks

create  
what you crave.  
a community for creatives





# Sun King Brewery breaks ground in Westfield



Photo provided by City of Westfield  
The City of Westfield and the Westfield Chamber of Commerce held a ceremonial groundbreaking last Friday, March 14 for the forthcoming Sun King Brewery. This Sun King will be part of the new Union Square development just north of Grand Junction Plaza.

**NOBLE BUSINESS ADVISORS**  
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**Wendy Stevens** CPA, CGMA, MSA  
Certified Business Advisor

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52 South 9th Street, Suite 3 • Noblesville, IN 46060  
[www.wstevenscpa.com](http://www.wstevenscpa.com)  
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See you in the parks!

MyHamiltonCountyParks.com 317.770.4400

## Indiana Democrats choose former State Senator Karen Tallian to lead

**The REPORTER**

Former State Senator Karen Tallian (D-Ogden Dunes) was elected by the State Central Committee last Saturday morning as the next Chair of the Indiana Democratic Party.

"I am honored and humbled by the State Central Committee's confidence in me to serve as Indiana Democratic Party Chair," Tallian said. "As we move forward, it is our job as Democrats to both reunite internally and reunite with the working Hoosiers who may feel left behind by the Party in recent years. I am ready to

get to work electing Democrats up and down the ballot."

Tallian served in the State Senate for District 4, and represented Porter, LaPorte, and Lake counties from December 2005 through November 2021. During her time in the Senate, she served as the Democratic Caucus Chair between 2016 and 2020.

As a state senator, Tallian earned the title "Champion of Labor" for her work building rela-



Tallian

tionships with labor leaders and fighting for working Hoosiers. She fought for the decriminalization of cannabis and to raise Indiana's minimum wage from the federal level of \$7.25 an hour.

Tallian says she looks forward to rebuilding the party, holding a town hall tour to hold Indiana Republicans accountable at the state and federal level, and preparing for the 2026 and 2028 elections.

Here are the other lead-

ers who were elected at Saturday's meeting for the 2025-29 term: Alex Nyirendah as Vice Chair, Erin Retif as Secretary, and Michael Griffin as Treasurer.

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## Indiana American Water shares tips to find and fix leaks during "Fix a Leak Week"

**Submitted**

Indiana American Water highlights U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Fix a Leak Week 2025 by providing tips to help customers find and fix leaks in their homes.

"As we celebrate Fix a Leak Week, it's crucial to recognize the significant benefits of addressing leaks in your home or business," Indiana American Water President Barry Suits said. "Fixing leaks not only conserves water, a precious resource, but also reduces your utility bills and prevents potential damage to your property. By taking proactive steps to repair leaks, we contribute to a sustainable future and ensure the reliability of our water systems. Let's work together to make every drop count."

According to the EPA, leaks are present in about 10 percent of households, which can waste 90 gallons of water or more per day. Below are a few common

places to check for leaks inside your home:

- **Toilets:** A defective plunger ball or flapper valve can waste water by causing the tank to continually drain and refill. To test, drop a dye-tracing tablet or a small amount of food coloring in the tank and wait five minutes. If the dye-colored water seeped into the bowl, you may have a leak and need to replace the defective part.

- **Faucets:** A leaky faucet can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water per year. If you notice one dripping, try closing it tightly. If it continues to drip, the washer may need to be replaced.

- **Washing machine:** If you see water on the floor under your washing machine, that could indicate a leak. You may want to call a repair service.

- **Bathtubs and showers:** Check the spout and shower head for dripping water. New washers may be needed on the faucet

handles.

- **Boiler system:** If the sound of running water is continuous and does not stop and start periodically, there may be a leak. Contact a professional to check it and perform repairs.

Indiana American Water invests nearly \$200 million each year across its service territories to replace new water mains, water and wastewater treatment facilities, hydrants, meters, and other distribution system upgrades to help make sure its 1.5 million customers receive safe, clean, reliable water.

Learn more and download Indiana Water's new leak detection kit [here](#). Customers can check for usage spikes and manage accounts through [MyWater](#), the company's online customer portal. Other ways to conserve and information about the value of water are located on Indiana American Water's website in the [Water Learning Center](#).

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**Ronald Lee Gerber**

*May 5, 1952 – March 15, 2025*

Ronald Lee Gerber, 72, Noblesville, passed away on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. He was born on May 5, 1952, to David and Alberta (Brantlinger) Gerber in Noblesville and was a lifelong Noblesville resident.

Ron worked for Fred's Frozen Foods in Noblesville for 25 years, Chrysler Casting Plant in Kokomo for 12 years, then Firestone in Noblesville for two years as a Journeyman Machine Repairman. He was a member of Strawtown Community Church. Ron was a Little League Coach, Boy Scout Leader, and a great storyteller. He enjoyed fishing, rabbit hunting, and drives through the country. Ron loved watching John Wayne movies and looking at old cars. He was a hard worker and always put his family first.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years and high school sweetheart, whom he met in 1969 and loved the rest of his life, Deborah A. Gerber (McConnell); sons, Jeffrey L. (Tammy) Gerber, Matthew S. (Kristin) Gerber, and Michael A. Gerber; grandchildren, McKenzie (Tyler) Jackson, Kennedy Gerber, Kendall Gerber, Evan Gerber, and Grant Gerber; great-grandchild, Conner Jackson; sisters, Roxanne Gerber and Tammy Eller; several nieces and nephews; sister-in-law, Robin Keith; and brother-in-law, Steve McConnell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; father- and mother-in-law, Darrell and Shirley McConnell; and brother-in-law, David A. McConnell.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville, with Pastor Rick Huffman officiating. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to the time of service at the funeral home. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Strawtown Community Church, 23165 Essig Ave., Noblesville, IN 46060.

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



**Rebecca Angeline Dell**

*August 14, 1927 – March 13, 2025*

Rebecca Angeline Dell, 97, Sheridan, passed away Thursday morning, March 13, 2025, at Maple Park Village in Westfield. Born August 14, 1927, in Tipton County, she was the daughter of the late Vern F. and Opal Gladis (Henderson) Partlow.

She attended Sheridan High School. Rebecca worked as a seamstress with Aero Drapery for 10 years before hiring on at Sheridan Healthcare Center. She eventually took over the role of head cook and quickly became a favorite of all the residents. Cooking was one of her gifts. She loved sharing her talents with everyone who lived there and always tried her best to cater to their special requests.

A woman of many talents, Rebecca also loved canning and gardening. She loved exploring outside her comfort zone and always enjoyed helping people in any way she could, which is exactly how she ended up keeping the books for her husband when he ran his milk routes.

Although she was a hard worker, she also knew how to relax. She loved watching *Wheel of Fortune*, and her hand-held solitaire game was never too far out of reach.

There was nothing more important to Rebecca than her family, both two-legged and four. She loved following her grandchildren and great-grandchildren's adventures, but sometimes it was the company of her pets (especially her feline BFF, Baby) that brought her the most comfort.

Rebecca is survived by her son, Charles William Dell, Jr. (Anita) of Sheridan; two daughters, Janet Sue Dell of Sheridan and Judy Ann Bohannon of Sheridan; four grandchildren, Scott Dell (Jen), Chris Dell (Michelle), Brian Dell (Kim), and Randy Dell (Olivia); 13 great-grandchildren, Decatur, Domanick, Donovan, Emma, Madelyn, Katelyn, Stella, Cora, Chloe, Leighton, Norah, Taylor, and Cody; and by her sister, Barbara Savage (Lester) of Sheridan.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Vern F. and Opal Gladis (Henderson) Partlow; two brothers (and sisters-in-law), Charles Partlow and wife Lou, and Kenneth "Pete" Partlow and wife Wilma "Chick" Partlow; sister (and brother-in-law), Marjorie Law and husband Donel; brother-in-law (and sister-in-law), Clark Dell and wife Gail; son-in-law, Robert Bohannon; grandson, Jordan Dell; and by her husband, Charles William Dell, Sr., on May 30, 1995. She and Charles were married on October 2, 1944.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, March 21, 2025, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan, with visitation from 11 a.m. until the time of service. Burial will follow at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan. Rev. Rex Dunning will be officiating.

In honor of a very special person, please plant a tree, bush, or flower in memory of Rebecca.

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



**TODAY'S BIBLE READING**

**THE PRIESTLY GARMENTS**

*From the blue, purple and scarlet yarn they made woven garments for ministering in the sanctuary. They also made sacred garments for Aaron, as the Lord commanded Moses.*

*Exodus 39:1 (NIV)*

**Steven Dale Heniser**

*November 10, 1945 – March 14, 2025*

On March 14, 2025, the world lost a dedicated and loyal soul, Steven Dale Heniser. Born in Portland, Ind., on November 10, 1945, Steven spent his vibrant life committed not just to his work but to the people and passions that brought him joy. He was a steadfast fixture in the news industry, having spent many years as a Printer and Single Copy Manager at *The News-Dispatch* in Michigan City, Ind., before his retirement in 2016. But



it was his reliability and wit that made him a beloved figure at work and in his community.

Residing in Cicero, Steven was known for his active lifestyle and diverse interests. A fervent sports enthusiast, he never missed the chance to watch a game, with basketball holding a special place in his heart. He loved playing corn hole and racquetball, tending to his yard and pool, and going for walks and bicycle rides. He cherished the time he spent watching his grandkids compete in athletic events and reading the newspaper. Staying connected with his childhood friends and traveling with his family to state parks were among his favorite pastimes. His dedication and loyalty extended to his role as a loving father, always present and active throughout his boys' youth. As the famous saying goes, "A man who does not spend time with his family can never be a real man."

Steven was a devoted husband to his wife Sharon since their marriage on July 8, 1972. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sons, Marc (Jen) Heniser and Michael (Shawna) Heniser; grandchildren, Alyssa (Lukas) Sipe, Kaylee, Ashley, Hope, and Beau; and great-granddaughter, Valerie. He is also survived by his sisters, Marilyn Shelby and Margo (Bill) Hamann. Steven was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and MaryEllen Heniser, and his brother-in-law, Lynn Shelby.

Steve's wishes were to be cremated and his care has been entrusted to Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please plant a tree in Steve's honor.

The memory of Steven's dedicated, loyal, reliable, and witty spirit will forever be cherished by his family, friends, and all who had the pleasure of knowing him. As we mourn his loss, we encourage you to share your memories of Steven and upload photos to the memorial page. Steven found his joy in service, and his legacy will continue to inspire those he left behind.

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

**The Reporter's policy on obituaries**

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

Families and funeral homes are asked to submit obituaries at [ReadTheReporter.com/obitform](http://ReadTheReporter.com/obitform).

**CARMEL**

**Notice**

Goddard Schools (10445 Commerce Drive, Carmel, Indiana 46032) is submitting a Notice of Intent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management of our intent to comply with the requirements of 327 IAC 15-5 to discharge storm water from construction activities associated with the Goddard School Noblesville project area located at 4903 Castamere Drive, Noblesville, Indiana 46062. Runoff from the project site will discharge to Vestal Ditch. Questions or comments regarding this project should be directed to Kelly Canter of Veridus Group (representative of Goddard Schools).  
R5916 3/19/25, 3/24/25

**HAMILTON COUNTY**

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R5876 3/8, 3/10, 3/12, 3/13, 3/14, 3/15, 3/17, 3/19, 3/20, 3/21/2025

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# REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

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

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

## Swimming



Richie Hall / File photo

Carmel Olympians Alex and Aaron Shackell were happy to hear the news that the Carmel High School Aquatic Center will be the first of three stops on the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup 2025 North American tour. Carmel will welcome swimmers Oct. 10 to 12.

## Carmel first stop for Swimming World Cup North American tour

### The REPORTER

After producing world-class talent for decades, Carmel will get a chance to host world-class talent this fall.

The Carmel High School aquatic center will be the first of three stops on the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup 2025 North American tour.

Each stop will feature three days of action-packed short-course (25-meter) racing, bringing additional high-intensity competition to the global swimming calendar.

Carmel will host the tour Oct. 10 to 12. The next two stops are in Westmont, Ill. Oct. 17 to 19, and in Toronto Oct. 23 to 25.

The Indianapolis area has hosted 11 previous World Aquatics events, including the **Swimming World Cup 2022 final**, the 2019 Champions Series, the **2017 World Junior Swimming Championships**, and the 2004 World Swimming Championships (25-meter) at what was then Conesco Fieldhouse, home of the NBA's Indiana Pacers.

For more than 50 years, Carmel has been a hub for swimming excellence, producing world-class athletes through a strong community-driven program. Three Team USA Olympians from the Paris 2024 Games hail from Carmel: **Drew Kibler**, and siblings **Aaron** and **Alex Shackell**.

Carmel's first Olympic swimmer, Drew Kibler, made history as the city's first World Championships medalist and champion. At Paris 2024, he earned Carmel's first Olympic swimming medal with silver in the men's 4x200-meter freestyle relay.

Alex Shackell won gold in the women's 4x100-meter medley relay and silver in the 4x200-meter freestyle relay at the Paris 2024 Olympics, while her brother Aaron was the only U.S. swimmer to reach the final of the men's 400-meter freestyle.

"I think it's amazing," said Aaron Shackell upon hearing the news of the Swimming World Cup coming to Carmel. "Swimming in Carmel – or Swim City,

USA as we like to call it – is an amazing town to swim. It's super supportive of the sport. I'm sure there will be lots of fans and no town deserves it more."

Added Alex Shackell: "It's so cool to have a World Cup event not just in the U.S., but right here in my hometown of Carmel! I grew up training at Carmel Swim Club, so seeing some of the world's best swimmers compete in this Carmel High School pool is really exciting. I know the local swimming community will bring tremendous energy, and I can't wait to see everyone experience what makes this place so special."

The first leg of the 2025 Swimming World Cup will take place at the Carmel High School Natatorium Complex, featuring a newly built 50-meter competition pool with high-performance filtration and recessed gutters—one of the fastest pools in the United States. The facility also includes spectator seating, an additional 50-meter training pool, and a hydrotherapy area.

"Hosting the 2025 World Aquatics Swimming World Cup at Carmel High School's new natatorium is a tremendous opportunity for Hamilton County," said Hamilton County Sports Authority Director Carl Daniels. "This state-of-the-art facility showcases Carmel's commitment to excellence in swimming and provides an outstanding venue for international competition. We're proud to partner with Carmel Swim Club to bring this prestigious event to our community."

More than 750 athletes from over 50 nations will compete for a share of the \$1.2 million prize pool. The popular World Record bonus of \$10,000 and the **coveted Crown bonuses** will again reward standout performances.

Last season, athletes capitalized on this opportunity, breaking eight World Records and claiming 18 crowns, contributing to a total prize payout of \$1.46 million.

See Cup . . . Page 12

## Girls Lacrosse



Photo by Mike Navarro

Guerin Catholic's Gabby Deer scored five goals for the Golden Eagles during their Tuesday win at Westfield.

## Golden Eagles continue perfect record, taking down Westfield

By **RICHIE HALL**  
sports@readthereporter.com

**WESTFIELD** – The Guerin Catholic girls lacrosse team continued its strong start to the 2025 season Tuesday.

The Golden Eagles beat Westfield 15-4 in an all-county game at the Shamrocks' field. Guerin Catholic quickly had control of the contest, running its record to 7-0 once the game was finished.

In all seven of their victories, the Golden Eagles have scored in double digits, ranging from a 12-4 victory over Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville to a 17-1 win at Roncalli. GC's defense has been solid too; the four goals scored by both Sacred Heart and Westfield are the most any team has been able to score on the Golden Eagles.

"I really like the way our defense is playing," said Guerin Catholic coach Joseph Bellflower. He also said goalkeeper Audrey Papay has been "fantastic" this season. Papay had 12 saves against the Shamrocks.

Guerin Catholic's offense also played well. Gabby Deer led the scoring with five goals and two assists, with Caroline Ford adding three goals. Lucy Esposito and Claire Flannagan both

had two goals, followed by one goal each for Camryn Carter, Jane Cline and Ella Capofari. Flannagan dished out two assists and Ford made one assist, while Flannagan led the ground balls with three.

Sophia Merriman scored three goals for Westfield, with Layla Six adding one goal. The Shamrocks are 1-3 for the season; they began the year with a 12-9 win over Brebeuf Jesuit on March 4, then dropped games to Zionsville and Bishop Chatard.

"You play a tough team like that, you just try to hang in there and try to match their intensity," said 'Rocks coach Kirk Reis. "For us, I've just been preaching all year, attitude and effort, and if we can give 100 percent on attitude and effort, we don't necessarily need to be focused on the scoreboard."

The Golden Eagles play three more games this week. Guerin Catholic hosts Cathedral on Thursday, then travels to the Columbus, Ohio area to take on Upper Arlington Friday and Worthington Saturday.

Westfield hosts two games on Saturday as part of a play day tournament. The Shamrocks take on Northridge at noon and Fishers at 4 p.m.



Photo by Mike Navarro

Westfield's Sophia Merriman scored three goals for the Shamrocks.

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## CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET

CENTRAL INDIANA STATISTICS FROM THE 16-COUNTY REGION

February 2024  
Median Sale Price  
**\$295,000\***  
compared to this time last year

Sales Decreased  
February pending home sales compared to this time last year  
**-4.5%**

**632**  
More Homes For Sale  
2/24 vs. 2/25

**-6.8%**  
Price Decrease  
2/24 vs. 2/25

Months of Inventory Change  
**17.9%**  
2/24 vs. 2/25

Interest Rates  
30-Year Fixed  
**6.75%**  
With an APR of 6.865%

**TOP COUNTIES**  
Johnson Sales Up 15.7%  
Hancock Sales 10.1%  
Hamilton Sales Up 3.4%

Data compiled 02.06.25 from MIBOR BLC®

**FAIR HOUSING CASES**  
Total-6  
Rental-8  
Sales-1  
Other-2

Fair Housing Awareness



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**Please join for updates on Congresswoman Spartz's recent work to:**

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Photo provided  
The Picklr Keystone Crossing location on 82nd Street in Indianapolis.

## The Picklr to open in Westfield early 2026

**Submitted**  
Westfield announced last week The Picklr, North America's fastest-growing indoor pickleball franchise headquartered in Kaysville, Utah, will open its third Indiana location in Westfield, just north of Grand Park Sports Campus, in early 2026.

The 32,000 square-foot Picklr will feature 12 courts, including two championship-sized courts, with high-quality proprietary outdoor surfacing from Just Courts, the official court layer for The Professional Pickleball Association (PPA) and The Picklr, as well as a full pro shop, private community/event room, and a patio for outdoor events.

"We know that Westfield will be a great location for The Picklr, and this will fill a need for courts that our residents are always asking for," Mayor Scott Willis said.

"Pickleball is wildly popular in Westfield and we look forward to working with them throughout the process to bring this to fruition."

The Picklr Westfield will be in a newly built, free-span building as part of a retail development project at 191st Street and Grand Park Boulevard, directly across from Grand Park Sports Campus. Members of The Picklr will have access to unlimited open play, league play, and tournaments, and an option to enroll in private and semi-private lessons and clinics by The Picklr's certified trainers.

Additionally, members will have the ability to use their membership at The Picklr locations nationwide.

"We are very excited to bring The Picklr to Westfield as our third location in central Indiana," commented Dave Gilreath and Ron Brock, local Indianapolis businessmen and managing partners of Pickle Indy, LLC. "This new location, across the street from Grand Park, the Midwest's premier sports campus with 5.5 million visits a year, is perfect for avid pickleball players and a great location for expanding the reach of this sport."

This new club continues The Picklr's commitment to meeting the demand for top-notch indoor pickleball experiences while partnering with enthusiastic franchise owners who support and nurture The Picklr's pickleball communities nationwide. This new club is part of The Picklr's national expansion, including more than 475 new locations with roughly 4,750 courts being built over the next few years.

Players can learn more about the Westfield location at [thepicklr.com/location/westfield-in](http://thepicklr.com/location/westfield-in).

## Special Olympics Indiana to hold 53<sup>rd</sup> annual State Basketball Tournament

**The REPORTER**  
Special Olympics Indiana's annual state basketball tournaments return to the hardwood with athletes and Unified partners from county programs across the state taking part during a pair of upcoming weekends.

The Indiana Youth Basketball Tournament is Saturday, March 29, at the University of Indianapolis. Competition is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and an Opening Ceremony begins at noon. Special Olympics Indiana conducts the only Special Olympics basketball tournament in the world dedicated solely to youth players.

The adult tournaments are April 5 and 6 at the Pacers Athletic Center at Grand Park in Westfield. The two-day format features separate divisions for men's, women's and Unified Sports. There also is an individual skills competition both days. Unified Sports brings together individuals with and without intellectual disabilities on the same teams.

The Men's and Women's State Basketball Tournaments is one of the largest Special Olympics basketball tournament in North America with more than 900 athletes involved.

Sectional tournaments take place this coming weekend. Once those are complete, brackets for the state tournaments will be available at [SOIndiana.org/basketball-tournaments](http://SOIndiana.org/basketball-tournaments).

Basketball is the third-largest sport that Special Olympics Indiana offers. In all, more than 2,000 athletes and Unified Partners participate across the state.

All Special Olympics Indiana State Basketball Tournaments are open to media and free to spectators. Learn more about how to volunteer at the men's and women's events by visiting [SOIndiana.org/volunteer](http://SOIndiana.org/volunteer).



**Special  
Olympics  
Indiana**

## CUP

*from Page 11*

Two of the biggest winners were **Kate Douglass** of the USA and **Leon Marchand** of France – the women's and men's overall Swimming World Cup titlists from 2024.

"Competing on the Swimming World Cup tour was the perfect way to close out my 2024 season," said Marchand, the 2024 World Aquatics Swimming Male Athlete of the Year. "Racing across three cities in front of passionate crowds kept the excitement going after the Paris Olympics, and coming out on top in an overall title race made it even more special. The competition level and atmosphere when you're on the Swimming World Cup tour are incredible!"

**UPCX Breakout Male Swimmer of the Year Noe Ponti** of Switzerland also capitalized on competing on the 2024 Swimming World Cup tour, using it as a springboard for winning three World titles in the **25-meter pool later that year in Budapest, Hungary.**

"Racing on the Swimming World Cup tour supercharged my 2024 season—it was the best and most rewarding of my career. Competing in three cities over three weeks was both thrilling and intense, preparing me perfectly for the World Swimming Championships (25-meter), where I experienced breakthrough after breakthrough," said Ponti. "I'm coming out of this season with even more confidence and can't wait to carry that momentum forward. See you at this year's Swimming World Cup!"




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# Atkins commits to Wabash



Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics  
 Noblesville's Montgomery Atkins has committed to the Wabash College lacrosse team. (Front row, from left) Ellisa Atkins (mother), Monty Atkins, and Richard Atkins (father). (Back row) Mark Milam (Noblesville Boys Lacrosse Head Coach).

# Galan named Academic All State

**The REPORTER**  
 Westfield gymnast Isa Galan was named to the Academic All State team by the Indiana Coaches of Girls Sports Association.  
 The award goes to seniors who have a minimum grade-

point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, and a minimum SAT score of 1110 or ACT score of 24. Galan was a part of the Shamrocks' regional-qualifying team this season and one of 15 gymnasts to earn Academic All State honors.

# Purdue's Braden Smith named to AP All-America First Team

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

Purdue University junior guard Braden Smith received another major accolade on Tuesday.  
 Smith was named to the Associated Press All-America First Team.  
 The Westfield High School graduate is averaging 16.1 points and 8.7 assists per game this season.

Here is a look at the five players who make up the AP All-America First Team:

- Duke's Cooper Flagg
  - Auburn's Johni Broome
  - Purdue's Braden Smith
  - Alabama's Mark Sears
- Florida's Walter Clayton, Jr.  
 It's the latest honor for Smith, who just last week was named the Big Ten Player of the Year.  
 Earlier this year, Smith became Purdue basketball's all-time leader in assists.  
 Purdue, which is a four seed in the NCAA Tournament, will play 13th-seeded High Point on Thursday in the first round. Tip-off is set for 12:40 p.m. EDT in Providence, R.I.  
*This story originally appeared on WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/sports/purdue-junior-guard-braden-smith](http://wishtv.com/sports/purdue-junior-guard-braden-smith).*

# SPORTS SCHEDULE

## Wednesday, March 19

### BOYS LACROSSE

- Brebeuf Jesuit at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.
- Carmel at Guerin Catholic, 8 p.m.
- Center Grove at Hamilton Southeastern, 8 p.m.
- Park Tudor at Noblesville, 8 p.m.

### GIRLS LACROSSE

- North Central at Fishers, 6:30 p.m.

### TRACK AND FIELD

- Carmel boys at Warren Central HSR Qualifier, 10 a.m. at University of Indianapolis
- Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet, 5:30 p.m. at Indiana State Fairgrounds

## Thursday, March 20

### BOYS LACROSSE

- Avon at Noblesville, 8 p.m.

### GIRLS LACROSSE

- Cathedral at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
- Center Grove at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
- Avon at Noblesville, TBD

### TRACK AND FIELD

- Carmel boys at Fishers, 5:30 p.m.
- Fishers girls at Carmel, 5:30 p.m.

## Friday, March 21

### BOYS LACROSSE

- Westfield at Bishop Chatard, 6 p.m.
- Carmel at Forest Hills Central (Grand Rapids, Mich.), 7 p.m.
- Center Grove at Fishers, 8 p.m.
- Hamilton Southeastern at East Grand Rapids, 8 p.m.

### GIRLS LACROSSE

- Guerin Catholic at Upper Arlington (Ohio), 7:30 p.m.
- Hinsdale Central (Ill.) at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

Please email schedule changes or corrections to [sports@readthereporter.com](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com).

# Mathison commits to U of Akron



Photo courtesy Carmel Athletics  
 Carmel senior Gabe Mathison has committed to the University of Akron baseball team.

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